

Currents of Change

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the Sisters of Charity, BVM

Peggy Nolan, BVM: 'Hello and Goodbye'

It would be difficult to find a ministry that Sister Peggy Nolan, BVM (Timothy Maura) hasn't served in, or someone at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, whose life she hasn't touched.

A native of St. Paul, Minn., Sister Peggy is the youngest in a family of three daughters and a son who all entered religious life. Her two sisters, Mary (Patricia Mary) and Pat (Frederick Mary), are also BVMs and her brother Tim is a diocesan priest.

The words of Mary Frances Clarke, "Go on steady and quiet," reflect the life of service lived by Sister Peggy, spanning years of teaching, serving as religious education coordinator, in pastoral work, and in the service of her community as regional representative and vice president of the congregation.

Her multicultural ministries brought her special pleasure. "I loved the four years I spent at the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador," she recalls, "and the five years of parish work at Blessed Sacramento ministry site in Chicago."

In 2009, Sister Peggy joined the Development Office, relishing her new duties.

"I learn anew each day how

our sisters have impacted people's lives," she says. She could have been speaking about herself.

Though illness has caused her to retire, Sister Peggy remains part of the Development Office team. Database Administrator Jane Schruck says, "Her presence, stories and bits of wisdom brought joy and compassion, not only to me, but our donors as well." Administrative Assistant Lori Hesselting feels that "Peggy is truly someone I would call friend." Shirley Brown, donor relations specialist, adds, "She was always a bright spot in the office."

Whether giving a "thumbs-up" while being wheeled into the Motherhouse Chapel to celebrate her golden jubilee in July, or offering a friendly wave and smile from her wheelchair to passersby on a sunny afternoon outside, Sister Peggy radiates faith, grace and dignity in her final ministry.

Perhaps Sister Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM, president of the congregation, sums it up best:

"Peggy loves poetry and she lives each day as if it is a line of poetry: with beauty,



Sister Peggy Nolan, BVM has served in many ministries and brightened many lives with her gentle spirit.

Photo by Jim Juckis

delight and depth of perception. When you come into Peggy's presence, her face lights up and you know that there is always space for you in her life.

"It has been a precious gift for me to serve on the BVM leadership team with Peggy and to develop a lasting bond of friendship with her."

In an email to the Development Office in January, Sister Peggy sent a greeting to her co-workers with *Hello and Goodbye* in the subject line. She shared these words of Kirpal Singh with them:

*"We never lose anything when we give.
When you give love,
do you find that you have
less love in your heart?"*

We must

be the

change

we wish to

see in

the world.

-Gandhi

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The information in this publication is not intended as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax professional or investment advisor.

Donor Profile Margaret Nelle: 'A Journey of Mindfulness'

Margaret "Becky" Molloy Nelle was born in Emmetsburg, Iowa, the middle child of seven. She attended St. Mary Grade School and Emmetsburg Catholic High School.

"My parents had close relatives in religious life, so it seemed comfortable to establish myself at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, following high school," she explains.

Growing up with little privacy, Margaret cherished having her own bed at Mount Carmel!

One of 150 in her Set of 1960, she says, "The education I embarked on then has been an unending treasure and the thirst for knowledge remains to this very moment."

Margaret loved the fresh theology insights as a result of post Vatican II. She became involved in civil rights and social justice issues.

She spent 12 years in the



Former BVM Margaret Molloy Nelle visits with (now deceased) Sister Ange T. Cadigan, BVM (Julia Partrice) on one of her trips to Mount Carmel.

BVM community, teaching and later working with other BVMs and religious sisters developing religious education programs for parishes in Butte, Mont.

After making her final vows in 1968, she became more and more mindful of her "whole self" during the next four years.

Margaret decided to leave the BVM community. "The BVMs helped me on my journey of mindfulness. I left with the assurance that I needed to move on."

Settling in Omaha, Neb., Margaret began team teaching

at Boys' Town, where she remained for the next 30 years. For most of those years, she taught eighth grade. "I loved it! There was never one day like the one before."

The team teaching approach was crucial for the students because "it left little room for loopholes." Students

lived in homes on the campus with "family teachers" who worked closely with the classroom teachers like Margaret.

"My life with the BVMs was one of my many gifts and had a lot to do with the rest of my life," she says. When Margaret married her husband Ray, he supported her desire to stay in touch with her BVM roots. She retired at age 60 and spent the last 10 years enjoying time with Ray, at home or traveling.

After 30 years together, Ray passed away in January 2011. Margaret has retained

her ability to look at life and want to know more, affirming that "I continue to believe in the goodness in the world."

In May, Margaret visited Mount Carmel for the annual Memorial Mass for family and friends of deceased BVM sisters. "Since retirement, my trips to Dubuque have been more frequent and on each visit, I am reminded of the BVM total commitment to the homeless, the hungry, the immigrant and all powerless peoples."

She has included the BVMs in her estate plans. "I love their hands on approach and because they are 'the light in the darkness' and 'the salt of the earth,' I want to make sure they have the monetary help that is needed to continue as such."

Margaret also remembers the BVMs with annual gifts. "In some small way, my contributions may show them my gratitude for taking in a little Iowa farm girl with big dreams to make the world a better place."

Sister Spotlight

Sister Paul Francis Bailey, BVM



"Striving to be faithful to the daily living of the Prayer of Mary Frances Clarke has

inspired me most as a vowed BVM," says Sister Paul Francis Bailey, BVM.

The call to become a sister was "a little nagging voice that kept coming back" until eventually she couldn't resist.

"I always wanted to be a teacher and played school as a child," she shares.

Though her first loves were English and history, she was assigned to teach economics—her gift of helping "petrified" economics students relax, laugh and learn exemplifies her years as professor of economics at Mundelein College and Loyola University Chicago.

Today, it would be easier to ask Sister Paul Francis what she doesn't do, rather than what she does. "I'm kind of creative and I love to put on

a show," she laughs, which wouldn't surprise anyone who knows this tiny, impish sister.

Her Halloween costumes are legendary, and she participates in the wellness program and activity projects like knitting caps for the local poor and making t-shirt diapers for babies in Madagascar and other underprivileged countries.

She can be found folding sheets in Marian Hall, working at the switchboard, driving other sisters to appointments, ministering at Mass, and writ-

ing letters for others. She is a prayer partner, member of the Hunger Fund Committee and takes classes at the Mount Carmel Roberta Kuhn Center, which offers enrichment opportunities for older adults in the Dubuque, Iowa, area.

Though she usually has a twinkle in her eye, Sister Paul Francis is reflective when she says, "My philosophy of life is to live with integrity, faithful to my vows, walking with gratitude in the love of God, serving him as a Sister of Charity, BVM."

Bill Hare—'Called to the Wounds of Christ'

An Iowa native, Bill Hare was born in Atlantic and grew up in Boone, where he attended Sacred Heart School.

When he was 11 years old, his father died, and Bill's anger and pain caused him to become a troublemaker at school. "The sisters tried to teach and give me an education, but I gave them a lot of trouble. As I got older, my conscience bothered me for many years."

A carpenter by trade, Bill and his wife Betty were married for 32 years, and had five children and 14 grandchildren.

After Betty died of cancer at age 55, Bill worked for several years and retired at age 60. "Prayer had been part of our lives; we prayed for what God wanted us to do."

Feeling lost without Betty, and following a period of discernment, Bill was led to the deaconate program. After four years of formation he was ordained a deacon in 2010.

"We were given an assignment in my last year of formation to involve ourselves in a social justice issue outside of the parish. I resisted the idea," Bill remembers.

He looked around, but couldn't seem to find a good fit for him. In a discussion with his sister, Bill recalled his family's neighbors in Boone, Iowa—the Conways. Sister Miguel Conway, BVM had ministered in Quito, Ecuador for years.

"I'd also been in correspondence with Development Director Diane Brondyke, sending a little money to the BVMs because of all the trouble I'd given them as a boy," Bill says. Diane put him in touch with Sister Lou Anglin, BVM. "All the pieces just kind of fell together for me, though it was not the kind of thing I ever thought I would do."

The 2010 service trip to Ecuador was Bill's first. "I can't put into words how much impact it had on me."

Before the Ecuador trip, Bill had been thinking and praying about the "doubting

Thomas" scripture. One day he was struck by the image of Thomas putting his finger in Christ's wound. The connection came to him: "Jesus calls us to the wounds of Christ."

Arriving in Quito, a big city with over half of the people living in poverty, Bill was shocked.

"I felt like I had stepped into the wounds of Christ. Though far apart in physical distance, we are one. When one suffers, we all suffer. I had to admit then to myself that this exists. I am part of the problem if I look away."

Bill goes on to reflect: "I am sure it was my mother's prayers and the prayers of the BVMs that brought me to where I am today. On our life's journey we bring the treasure of the past into the present."



Bill Hare pauses during work as part of a "minga," or work crew, on the 2010 Ecuador service immersion trip.



2012 BVM Volunteer Opportunities

Ecuador –
March 12-21
Milwaukee –
April 27-29

For more information visit:
www.bvmcong.org/join_volunteer.cfm
or email:
newmember@bvmcong.org

Sister Spotlight

Sister Marcelia Maglinte, BVM



When she was in fifth grade, a movie about the life of Frances Xavier Cabrini inspired Sister Marcelia Maglinte, BVM to consider religious life. "I felt a call to do something with children, like she did." She is quick to add, "I really owe my vocation to

my mom, Marcela, who was a very religious person."

And of course the BVMs played their part. "I decided to join the BVM congregation because I knew them from my high school sodality, where Sister Dorita Clifford, BVM was moderator for many years," she says. "I also figured Iowa was not too, too far away from Hawaii!"

From Montana to California to Illinois, "Sister Marcy" found her niche teaching

elementary school children who loved her as much as she treasured them.

By 1983, she found herself back in her home parish of St. Catherine in Kapaa, Hawaii, readjusting to life "on the island" and ministering as CCD coordinator and director of religious education.

From 1985–2003, she taught in Hawaiian elementary and secondary schools, both parochial and private, until she retired from full-time teaching.

Living on Maui since 2001, Sister Marcelia still ministers as a substitute teacher, takes seniors shopping, and distributes Holy Communion to long term patients and housebound seniors.

Like the children she has lovingly taught and tended over the years, she enjoys growing things. "I love doing a little gardening with herbs and I am even raising a few orchids," she shares. "Life is good."

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is published for alumni and friends by the Development Office of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, Iowa.



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Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need. —Kahlil Gibran (1883 – 1931)

St. Joseph Alumnae Tours Chapel Space

On Monday, July 25, 2011, members of the St. Joseph Academy Alumnae Association of Dubuque, Iowa, viewed one of two special “chapel spaces” in use since January on the memory care floors of the Caritas Center, made possible by the association’s annual gifts to the Sisters of Charity, BVM.

“Our members give because they have such fond memories of being taught by the sisters,” explains one alumna.

Development Director Diane Brondyke accompanied the group as Pastoral Services Coordinator Deb Doyle showed them one of the new chapel spaces, complete with a seasonal liturgical banner and flat screen TV used for



Pastoral Services Coordinator Deb Doyle (far r.) points to the seasonal liturgical banner in one of the new chapel spaces used by the sisters in Caritas Center.

daily Mass viewing. “Having these chapel spaces gives the sisters spiritual comfort and fosters their connectedness to the familiar sense of liturgical ritual,” Deb noted.

The group agreed that the BVM connections are many.

Two alumnae discovered that both of them had ties to the BVMs at Xavier College Preparatory in Phoenix, Ariz., where one association member’s relative was taught and the other member’s daughter now teaches.

Two other alumnae were delighted to find that their second grade teachers, Sisters Eva Sheehan and Vincentia Kaefenstein, reside in another retirement area on the Mount Carmel campus.

“It’s really nice to see in person where your money is going,” commented one of the alumnae association members after the tour.

“Mount Carmel presents a superb example of a ‘model of care’ for sisters with memory impairment . . . by its use of environment, staff training and staff-to-sister ratio . . . the chapel space is just one example of integrating familiar and comforting rituals into the sisters’ environment,” Diane added.

The BVM Legacy Partner Program

BVM Legacy Partners are donors who remember the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in their estate plans through wills, bequests or gifts. Legacy Partners receive annual special recognition in Perspective, our annual report to donors; a certificate of recognition; and holiday, birthday and anniversary cards from the BVM congregation.

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