

Salt

Spring/Summer 2011 • A Publication of the Sisters of Charity, BVM



... and this is what
Yahweh asks of us.
Only this ...

... and this is what Yahweh asks of us ... to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God. Micah 6:8

Mission Statement: We are the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a community of Catholic women called to live the mission of Jesus through our core values of Freedom, Education, Charity and Justice.

SALT is published three times per year for friends and family of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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2011 Calendar of Events

May

- 1 St. Mary Alumnae Luncheon, Chicago
- 22 Mass of Remembrance for Friends, Family of Deceased BVMs, Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

June

- 23 Women & Spirit Donor Event, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, Calif

July

- 29-31 Silver and Golden Jubilee Celebration, Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

August

- 3 Ice Cream Social, Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

For more information, visit:

www.bvmcong.org/whatsnew_calendar.cfm



BVM Website Feature:

Eighteen Sisters of Charity, BVM will celebrate jubilee anniversaries this year.

To read about these sisters and to send them a congratulatory message, visit:
www.bvmcong.org/whatsnew_jubs.cfm.

www.bvmcong.org



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On the cover: BVM Mary Wojnicki (Chester) lives the words from Micah, as she hugs Martha Grogan, BVM (Dominica), during one of her regular visits to Caritas Center at Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa. In the pages ahead, read how other BVM sisters act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God.

SEASONing

Annually, the Communications Advisory

Committee gathers to plan upcoming issues of *Salt*, each magazine focused around a theme that hopes to capture one facet of the prism that is BVM life and mission at this time.

Members listen . . . hoping to be attuned to

- the movement of God's Spirit at work in sisters and associates,
- the constancies and changes in ministries,
- realities of church and world that call for creative responses to emerging questions and needs of the human community,
- the subtle gifts, opportunities and challenges that manifest themselves at different points along life's journey.

What converged for the planners as stories of sisters' lives were shared was their fidelity to the insight and injunction of the prophet Micah:

"You have been told, O My People, what is good, and what Yahweh asks of you.

*Only this: to act justly,
to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with your God."*

Micah 6:8

In a diversity of responses, reflective of a God who lovingly creates and sustains a wondrous diversity of peoples and species, the BVMs profiled in these pages shine new light on the ancient revelation.

There's the BVM who walks with women who are incarcerated, nurturing a deepening relationship with Christ where they can carve out a space of inner freedom.

And the 90-something BVM who energetically and graciously shows high school students what aging with wisdom and grace is all about.

Persons in another culture suffering from a disease which also carries a social stigma are no deterrent to the BVM whose overflowing compassion and advocacy have brought hope and healing to hundreds.



BVM Leadership team members are (l. to r.) Teri Hadro, Mary Ann Zollmann and Mira Mosle.

Closer to home, those facing serious illness or death are comforted by a BVM hospital chaplain, while others assist with gentle hospice care.

A veritable "village" of BVMs lends hands and skills to immigrants navigating what appear to be insurmountable obstacles.

BVMs continue to share their love of learning with hundreds of older adults, stretching minds, sparking lively discussion and strengthening social networks.

This attentiveness to God's word has been essential to the BVM community from its beginnings days, as highlighted by the lives and skills of the "farm sisters."

It continues unabated in the countless quiet, thoughtful acts of kindness extended by sisters, associates, family and friends in the course of "ordinary time."

The stories here are a microcosm of the vast array of paths that all of us can freely choose—to be in right relationship, to reach out in compassion, to be grounded in and enfolded by the God with whom we walk.

Like sparkling jewels in the firmament, we are the prisms of light that can overcome the darkness.

We move freely, seeing possibilities, reflecting on consequences, making life-giving choices.

Through the presence of the risen Christ in us—the work of the Spirit in us—we become co-creators, helping give shape to our ever-expanding universe.

As we anticipate Pentecost, we celebrate the rich diversity of gifts we have received, and hear the call to develop new ones for the common good.

With Jan Richardson, we step to the threshold and pray,

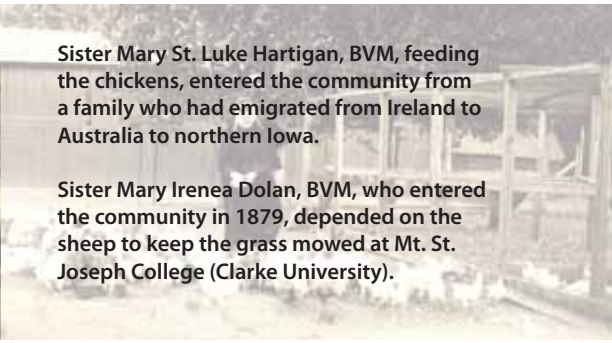
"May you have the vision to recognize the door that is yours,
the courage to open it,
the wisdom to walk through."

In the Sanctuary of Women

Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM

Mira Mosle, BVM

Teri Hadro, BVM



Sister Mary St. Luke Hartigan, BVM, feeding the chickens, entered the community from a family who had emigrated from Ireland to Australia to northern Iowa.

Sister Mary Irenea Dolan, BVM, who entered the community in 1879, depended on the sheep to keep the grass mowed at Mt. St. Joseph College (Clarke University).

Early BVM Survival Depended on ‘Farm Sisters’

by Kathryn Lawlor, BVM

There is a legend about Mary Frances Clarke, the BVM foundress, which is told to describe her humility.

When some early members had heard that European-based women religious congregations were divided into two classes, the choir sisters and the lay sisters, they suggested to Mary Frances that the BVMs do the same. The teachers would be the choir sisters and those who worked the farm would be the lay sisters. Mary Frances was reported to have answered, “If you wish to do this I will join with the lay sisters.”

There may be another interpretation of the story. Mary Frances knew, being the realist she was, that the actual survival of the congregation depended upon the sisters who did the farm work. She would choose to join them in sustaining the members who carried out its educational mission.

Scholastica McLaughlin, a novice at this time, wrote, “Mother Clarke to my remembrance did not come into the Novitiate during my thirteen months there, but I often saw her with the professed sisters helping to take the vegetables from the wagons and helping to store them in the caves.”

New Challenges

When the sisters moved from Philadelphia in 1843 to Dubuque, Iowa, a small, rough river town, they soon realized that if they hoped to open schools they needed to find ways to support themselves. By settling on a farm 10 miles south of town, they were able to maintain the congregation while carrying on their work of education.

The urban backgrounds of the first members, however, left them unprepared for what they attempted. When the original BVM settlers moved into the primitive log cabin on the prairie farm, their nightly

sleep was continually disrupted by what they called “dreadful dogs.” Taking sticks from the fireplace, they charged into the darkness and, striking right and left at the beasts, drove them into a ravine. When one of the sisters reported to a neighbor the next day about chasing the dogs away, he exclaimed, “Dogs! My God, woman, they were wolves! I wonder they didn’t devour you!”

Sisters Survive and Grow

The first convent built on the farm included a boarding school for girls. The daughters of local tradesmen paid their tuition in cash, while the girls attending from the neighboring sod houses bartered for their education with a pig, a lamb, a calf, a cluster of baby chicks, or a day’s labor. The teachers toted up each bartered item to determine the amount of schooling it provided and then the farm sisters decided about its future. Fortunately, when some of the neighboring daughters graduated and entered the congregation, they knew ways from their pioneer experiences to improve the farming conditions.

The early novices were trained by sisters who had emigrated from Ireland where penal laws prevented them from becoming literate and when the Great

Famine forced them from their homeland. Mary Frances welcomed these women into the congregation and they joined in its mission by working the farm. Later young women entering the convent from the urban centers of Chicago, Kansas City and San Francisco learned from the farm sisters how to milk cows, feed chickens, gather eggs, plant crops, harvest oats and husk corn.

This manual labor with the farm sisters had prepared the future teachers to survive when, after religious profession, they went on mission to hardscrabble frontier settlements. They had acquired the skills and self-confidence to establish schools under primitive conditions. They knew where the school’s water well should be dug, how to collect fire wood, and what to plant in the garden.

The farm sisters taught the young women how to provide for their basic survival needs of water, fire and food. These pioneer BVM mentors on the prairie farm modeled the words of the prophet Micah for all future members of the congregation.

About the author: Kathryn Lawlor, BVM (John Laurian) is an historian, author and member of the volunteer staff in the Mount Carmel Archives. She also teaches at the Roberta Kuhn Center.

Eileen Gallen, BVM

Three Decades at Xavier and Counting!

by Joan Nuckols, BVM



Imagine a DIAMOND JUBILARIAN continuing to minister to students and faculty through her weekly work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Xavier College Preparatory library in Phoenix, Ariz.

“Eileen Gallen’s enthusiasm, dedication, and pure enjoyment of her ministry are an inspiration to all she meets at Xavier,” says Principal Joan Fitzgerald, BVM (John Raymond).

Eileen Gallen, BVM (St. Eileen) catalogues all the new library entries: books, DVDs, videos and audio-books, as well as shelving magazines. Mary Harkins, head librarian, exclaims that Eileen’s “positive attitude, humor and her willingness to learn everything new in technology amazes me. Every day she is willing to learn . . . by her enthusiastic ‘show me’ attitude.” Mary shares that Eileen visits with her for a few minutes each day and then Eileen remarks, “Must get to work, I have a lot to do.”

At the opening all-school Mass of the Holy Spirit, the students presented Eileen with flowers and thanks for all that she means to them. Senior Emilie Kurth, representing the students, said thanks to her for “devoting the past 75 years of her life to serving God and being a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Emilie continued, “We students know her as the friendly face in the library, where

she has worked for part of her 29 years at Xavier, who is always there to help students find a much-needed book or complete a difficult assignment. Without her kindness and devotion to God and all of us students, Xavier would not be the same.” A spontaneous standing ovation by the students honored Eileen, much to her surprise.

It is not only the students who feel and acknowledge Eileen’s ministry, but also faculty members who admire and respect her. Mr. Glen Hestenes, teacher of math, physics and aviation, says, “Sister Eileen is a gentle soul, and I am comfortable being around her. I feel a peaceful, non-stressed atmosphere in her presence.”

Many remark about her wonderful example to all the students. Mrs. Rebecca Bostic of the campus ministry and theology departments reminds us that “Eileen is a beautiful witness of service and dedication for all the young women

she continues to serve with grace and love everyday.” Finally, Mr. Joe Beringer, teacher of computer science, liturgy and guitar, exclaims, “She is an inspiration to me because of her service. Eileen has more energy at her age than I do at mine!”

Whether she is working in the library, joining the Xavier community at the all-school liturgies or the faculty at community of faith Masses, or serving other sisters at Xavier convent, Eileen’s contribution to the ministry of education and presence is appreciated by all who meet her. Remi Fitzgerald McLean, assistant librarian, exclaims, “We don’t know what we would do without her!”

And why does Eileen do this? Her answer: “I enjoy it so much!”

About the author: Joan Nuckols, BVM serves as vice-principal, campus minister and teacher at Xavier College Preparatory in Phoenix, Ariz.



Eileen Gallen, BVM works at her computer inputting data on new books in the library. Top, left: Eileen helps Xavier senior, Kellie Hintze, with her research project.



Maria Teresa Ferrer becomes a U.S. citizen, with daughter Laura and BVMs Mary Martens (l.) and Mary Ellen Caldwell attending the ceremony.

Immigrant FAMILY

Journeys with God . . . and Friends

by Mary Martens, BVM

When one starts out on a journey “to walk humbly with God,”

an implicit sense of trust and openness is required. For *la familia* Correa—parents Juan Guillermo Correa and Maria Teresa Ferrer, and three young daughters—the walk has been long and often difficult.

They left their native Colombia in 2000 and entered the United States with refugee status. Like so many immigrants who arrive here, they came with little because of the need to escape danger. They had a major advantage in that both parents were university-educated professional people with strong family ties in Colombia. The attitude, “Welcome the immigrant you once were,” prevailed in most U.S. citizens they met.

In perhaps the first of many providential occurrences, a mutual friend of theirs and mine, also Colombian, had encountered them in Miami. He advised, “Go to Dubuque, Iowa. It’s a good place to raise a family. Contact Sister Mary Martens, BVM.”

New Life Begins

The family arrived one September afternoon in 2001 and we met in their motel room. The girls—Laura, Tatiana and Ana Maria—were already bilingual. Juan Guillermo could get by in accented English; Maria Teresa’s was very limited. We drove to Mount Carmel in Dubuque and walked about, meeting people. Maria Teresa confided that she would love to work in such a place.

Not long after their arrival, the family had rented an apartment and enrolled the girls in a local Catholic elementary school. The parents had found hourly jobs; Maria Teresa worked as a nurse aide at Mount Carmel.

It was this position which brought her in contact with BVM Mary Ellen Caldwell (Eugenio). Maria Teresa’s extroverted personality and her gift for rapid learning were matched by Mary Ellen’s gift for tutoring. And it didn’t hurt to be surrounded during the workday by former teachers, all delighting in a new conversation partner. The result was excellent progress in English proficiency.

Job at Mount Carmel Reveals Career

Drawing on her background in occupational medicine, Maria Teresa began helping with physical therapy for Mount Carmel sisters, a talent which was soon recognized by staff and patients alike. Her desire to professionalize began small and would involve a formal degree program. A family conference ensued, and the future was placed in the hands of God. Husband and daughters would provide moral support and understanding for Maria Teresa’s needs as she studied.

By the time this decision was made, Juan Guillermo’s prospects had improved to full-time employment at John Deere, the girls were all doing well in school, and the family had moved to a house. Adult friends of the parents and school friends of the girls enjoyed the hospitality and the cross-cultural experience of sharing time and traditions with the family.

Maria Teresa’s plans moved forward. With BVM connections already in place, others followed. Clarke University offered a doctor of physical therapy program. Financial assistance was available through

Clarke, Iowa student loans and a BVM scholarship.

The challenge of English proficiency loomed large, but regular sessions with Mary Ellen continued. Once again, Maria Teresa's medical knowledge helped; but the language skills necessary to read, listen, take notes, explain concepts and write exams in English were daunting. "Walking humbly with God" took on new meaning in the academic context.

Perseverance Pays Off

Her first semester at Clarke was a discouraging start; but Maria Teresa's determination intensified. Mentoring by Clarke faculty, vocabulary targeted to physical therapy material, and hours

of extra work produced slow but steady improvement. She excelled at anything that was "hands-on," and her classroom presentations impressed her younger peers. That she knew the material, in theory and practice, became evident in course after course.

Accommodation was made for the always-present language issue when it came to testing. To wrestle with putting what one knows into a second language is not an easy task. Allowing extra time or an oral response proved to professors that the student had mastered the material. By the final year of the program, internships at four different hospitals in eastern Iowa gave further proof of Maria Teresa's capability in her profession. She garnered fine

reviews by supervisors and gratitude from patients with whom she worked.

Maria Teresa persevered through three years at Clarke, supported by the encouragement of her husband and children and by her trust in God. She graduated in the spring of 2006, and her family and friends rejoiced with her at this milestone.

The Iowa state boards, however, did not permit the additional time she needed to test successfully. Maria Teresa was tantalizingly close to achieving licensure, but her score was insufficient the first time . . . and the second time . . . and the third time. Each retake meant a waiting period filled with more anxiety and study, and yet another exam fee.

Faith Helps Future Unfold

Finally, her consistent effort and steady confidence in God were rewarded with the State of Iowa license as a doctor of physical therapy. During the year between graduation and licensure while Maria Teresa was working under supervision, she had received several offers of a position even without the license. Her considerable expertise was valued, as were her bilingual ability and her mentoring skills. With the license she was assured of a good career path with a good salary.

Today the Correa family continues to walk humbly and gratefully with God and with many friends. Maria Teresa has been in practice as a pediatric physical therapist for three and a half years. She is currently supervisor of pediatric physical therapy in her own office in Coralville, Iowa. Juan Guillermo is working toward a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Iowa. Laura is graduating from Clarke University, Tatiana is completing her sophomore year at Iowa, and Ana Maria is finishing her junior year in high school.

Success can follow when the need of people to immigrate is met with a welcoming attitude. Long and difficult as their 11-year journey has been, this past winter the family was able to make their first return visit to Medellín, Colombia, carrying United States passports.

About the author: Mary Martens, BVM (Loras) is administrative assistant for the BVM congregation and a member of the Communication Advisory Committee.



Maria Teresa (center) does therapy with four-year-old Maggie Nass, and her parents Wendy and Mike.



Joan Newhart, BVM



Mary Martens, BVM



Sue Rink, BVM

Tradition of Learning Continues at Roberta Kuhn Center

by Sara McAlpin, BVM

Unless one is prepared to be totally hooked on learning, it is not wise to visit the Roberta Kuhn Center at Mount Carmel where courses, taught by “retired” BVMs and other volunteers, offer “enrichment opportunities for those 55 or older.”

In class after class, questions emerge that inevitably raise curiosity:

- Why does it take an entire year to build a Steinway concert grand?
- How do contemporary readers respond to a graphic poem about WWI?
- How does the translation of the Aramaic Our Father differ from the translation most familiar to many?
- How does one create a Word document?
- Who is Black Elk and what characterizes his mythology?

Questions like these and many more, equally enticing, arise constantly in classes filled with participants stretching their minds to embrace new topics, ideas, theories. One student, who attends three different classes, declares: “I’m keeping my mind moving forward!”

A few minds are temporarily awed in BVM Joan Newhart’s (Joan Michael) *Internet and Searching* class as she explains that an “old-fashioned floppy disk has 1MB of storage space” while a current flash drive “can store 30 times as much information or more.” Students absorb this discovery quickly, however, and move eagerly ahead to much bigger challenges like exploring the seemingly limitless possibilities of Google Earth.

Across the hall, Jean Byrne, BVM (Jean Francis), who has been teaching at the center since 1994, announces at the beginning of her *American History* class: “We’ll be building the Panama Canal today,” a claim she readily fulfills with her

own vast expertise plus maps, diagrams and political cartoons.

A different chunk of American history occupies BVM Kathryn Lawlor’s (John Laurian) class, *BVM Pioneers*, focusing on a long line of BVMs who established schools across the country in which they taught preschoolers through adults. Current retired BVMs treasure that tradition and vibrantly continue it as they share their talents at RKC.

Students committed to developing their artistic gifts relish the freedom and support they experience in two courses titled *Artist’s Choice*. In BVM Pat DaCosta’s (Patricia Ann) class, developing artists choose their own medium and subject and work independently, asking occasionally for advice from the teacher and other students. In a similarly relaxed environment of artistic creativity, Mary Paulino Crabb, BVM teaches specific design principles and offers informal critiques.

For those interested in refining their



Harriet Holles, BVM



Jean Byrne, BVM



Pat DaCosta, BVM

skills at bridge, BVMs Sue Rink (Michaela) and Jean Beste (Jean Allan) teach the basics in the fall session to students who then practice and obviously enjoy card playing during the spring session. One student's comment, "I love being able to come for the challenge and the sociability," is affirmed by many students.

Teachers also find delight in classes. In comments echoed by others, Pat DaCosta says, "I love what I do and look forward to my class." Kathryn Lawlor, too, is "richly rewarded for any time or effort the class requires because the participants are so interested . . . and they provide positive and encouraging feedback."

BVM Mary Martens (Loras), who teaches *Spanish for Adult Learners*, remarks, "I'm really enjoying it more than ever this year . . . It's wonderful to have such eager students who enjoy one another and the challenge." Among her students who enthusiastically help each other with pronunciation, is a man learning his sixth language!

Some students, according to RKC Director Carolyn Farrell, BVM (Lester), return each year to interact with others in the adventure of learning. Of the 500 current students, most are from Dubuque, though several travel from surrounding areas to participate in classes and also, in the words of one, "to become friends."

Friendly sharing is immediately evident in the intense discussion which arises

in BVM Pat Nolan's (Frederick Mary) *Short Story* class as well as in *Poetry Appreciation*, in which readers find disturbing similarities between past and present wars as they consider the vivid imagery of a 1920 poem by Wilfred Owen. In both classes, Pat notes, "Students take no tests and receive no grades—both a student's and a teacher's paradise."

Similarly, BVM Pat McNamara (Jane Joseph) is delighted that students in her class, *Encounters with Jesus*, are "enthralled with the wonders of scripture, its mysteries and challenges." Having carefully read various biblical stories, participants explore the lasting power of "totally life-changing" meetings Jesus had with others, concluding that such encounters are actually available to all.

The translation of the Aramaic Our Father, explains Harriet Holles, BVM (Agneda) in *Spirituality and the Cosmic Story*, is far more expansive than the familiar translation, "more open . . . and more consistent with contemporary understandings of the cosmic story." Despite the challenges of the new cosmology, Harriet finds "ongoing delight in the interest of the students, the connections they make and the information they bring from other sources."

Students benefiting from BVM Judy Callahan's (Eugene Mary) individualized instruction in *Beginning Computer* class learn a variety of "practical" skills beyond creating a Word document, as they strive to meet the goal of "being comfortable with word processing."

Students in BVM Bertha Fox's (Dolores) class, *Music Medley*, learn that building a Steinway concert grand requires

an entire year because 450 artisans use 12,000 parts to create an instrument with a unique "personality" which "speaks" to a performing artist and ultimately to an audience. In her second class, *Met HD Operas*, students prepare to enjoy the cinema event more fully by learning the stories, music and performers in each opera.

In *Mythology/Energetics of Healing*, BVM Jane Rogers (Jananne) introduces Black Elk as an extraordinary chief whose speeches provide "good spiritual reading" and whose mythology "reminds us of what Native Americans said so many years ago: We are all related." In a different arena, Jane facilitates a grief group supporting participants who have suffered recent loss.

In all of these classes and several others taught by volunteer colleagues, BVMs continue beyond official retirement to share their talents in what Sue Rink describes as "a ministry that reaches outward" to serve the local community in an enterprise that keeps both teachers and students hooked on learning!

About the author: Sara McAlpin, BVM (Philip Mary) is an archivist/professor emerita of English at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa.



BVM Shares Her Voice and Heart in Healing Ministry

by Judith Callahan, BVM

Ann Credidio, BVM first went to Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1985.

Later, while working in the preschool at Nuevo Mundo School, she volunteered time in “art therapy” for patients with Hansen’s Disease (leprosy) at the Hansen wing in the Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Guayaquil.

There, Annie saw many injustices . . .

Patients suffered from infestations of rats, roaches, lice, scabies and bed sores as well as malnutrition and anemia. The facilities lacked basic necessities and repairs, and had an unbearable stench. Patients had open sores due to the lack of bandages and salves. They lacked decent clothes, shoes and orthopedic devices. Many beds were missing springs, mattresses and sheets. Basics toiletries were not provided. Dental work and adequate wound care were sorely needed.



A Foundation Is Born

Recognizing the urgent need for action, but with no financial resources, Annie was encouraged by her friends at Nuevo Mundo, BVM Associates Celeste and Sonya Rendon, Pat McTeague and others. She began making contact with local people who could help her establish a foundation. She needed funding from the United States to make a difference, and with her friend Suzanne Belz, Damien House, Inc. was established in Chicago in 1991.

That same year, she left Nuevo Mundo to become completely involved with the patients in the Hansen wing. The following year, 1992, she founded the Fundación Padre Damián in Guayaquil with a group of Ecuadorian friends.

The Fundación “took over” the Hansen wing of the hospital. Like a whirlwind, Annie and the workers began to clean up everything. They employed staff for the kitchen, wound care, therapeutic activities, maintenance and other professionals as needed.

Annie met other challenges. Working

Ann Credidio, BVM watches as former patient, Teresita Rurales (l.), a Mary Frances Clarke Scholarship recipient, takes the blood pressure of a patient, Maria Bustos. Marlene García (r.), also a former patient and MFC Scholarship recipient, is now the manager of the pharmacy in Damien House.



alongside the Hospital for Infectious Disease staff and administration to provide for the needs of Hansen’s patients resulted in a power struggle. Disagreements about the use of donations as well as provisions for necessary repairs were at the heart of the problem. Such a partnership was further jeopardized by the constant turnover of hospital personnel.

Heartbreaking Challenges

Some situations and circumstances tugged at Annie’s heart strings. Among these was seeing patients die after surgery because pain medications and antibiotics were unavailable, having been sold on the streets. Patients died of bleeding stomach ulcers, in pain, because there was no money to send them to local hospitals. Patients that suffered from dementia were harassed by other patients and isolated in empty rooms to prevent them from wandering through the hospital. Patients went blind because there was no money for cataract surgery.

There were some patients in particular who called forth a loving, caring heart



BVM Ann Credidio helps Trinidad Cedeño get into the "Marius Mobile."



water and unsanitary conditions can cause recurrence of the disease if patients resume poor hygiene habits and/or fail to get regular checkups. Education on hygiene and proper medication help patients to recover and live healthy lives.

Hansen's Disease patients still have no rights or voice and are not well-received in local hospitals. Despite all the information available on the disease, the social stigma is still very strong today. Some of the elderly patients in the hospital are cured of the disease, but have no place to go, having been rejected completely by family. Presently there are 43 patients.

Support From Others

Annie recalls many successes since she began this ministry. She is buoyed up by the annual visits of medical teams, including orthopedic surgeons who do nerve compression surgeries, which prevent damage to limbs and restore the use of hands, feet, etc. Also, ophthalmologists perform eye surgeries while physical therapy teams work with the patients. Many visitors and volunteers come to

provide other services and activities for the patients. Many recipients of BVM Mary Frances Clarke Scholarships have procured work in hospitals, schools and other facilities.

Annie has learned what it means to "walk humbly with God." Primarily it is the faith of the patients which motivates and supports her in her daily ministry. "They depend totally on God for their existence. Their doors, arms and hearts are always open. They receive everyone with pure joy. How can I be otherwise? They teach me to be grateful for what I have and never take for granted my health, my family and all of God's gifts."

When one accompanies Annie on her rounds, her strength, energy, enthusiasm and sheer love are evident in the smiles and hugs she receives from the patients. The daily scriptures help keep her rooted. "When I arrived in Ecuador, I was inspired by other amazing projects such as Nuevo Mundo and the Centro del Muchacho Trabajador. Associates Pat McTeague and Sonia Rendón, BVMs Cindy Sullivan and Miguel Conway and John Halligan, SJ continue to show me how much of an impact can be made with a dream and total faith in God."

She also draws strength from the support she receives from family, friends, her BVM family, benefactors, volunteers and visitors.

Annie's daily struggle to "keep on keeping on" is continually challenged by financial straits. A sagging economy in the United States as well as Ecuadorian economic deterioration and governmental coups have seriously affected donations. Transportation is limited to her "Marius Mobile," a 23-year-old car donated by deceased BVM Marius Mei, a successful mission fundraiser in the San Jose Diocese. The valiant Fiat has transported patients, wheelchairs, donations and even a coffin. It has survived El Niño and an accident, but like Annie, it keeps going!

For more information on Damien House, visit: www.thedamienhouse.org.

About the author: Judith Callahan, BVM (Eugene Mary) has served as educator, administrator, diocesan chancellor and parish minister. Currently she works as a tutor/translator in Dubuque, Iowa.

from Annie. Andres was a blind patient with no teeth, fingers or toes who, besides suffering from Hansen's disease, also had cancer. One day he went hungry because no one fed him. Nineteen-year-old José died of kidney failure because the doctors were giving him high doses of cortisone without monitoring the effects of the medicine on his system.

Hansen's Disease is curable. Patients receive a "chemotherapy cocktail" of three different drugs. Once cured, however, the conditions of poverty, non-potable



Gathering for a prayer service in the prison gym are (l. to r.) volunteer Deacon Bob Sullivan, inmate Sabra Rogers, volunteer Mary O'Brien and Sandy Rodemyer, BVM.

Prison Ministry Reveals the 'Story Behind the Story'

by Betty Voss, BVM



Prison ministry calls BVM Sandy Rodemyer (St. Philip)

to walk humbly with her God. For 19 years,

she has been a volunteer with the Residents Encounter Christ (REC) retreat program at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women.

Retreat Combines Spirituality and Fun

The REC retreat is based on the paschal mystery (the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus) and seeks to deepen the participant's relationship with Jesus. It is patterned on the "Cursillo" retreat program, which consists of talks (mostly given by inmates), scripture search, sharing, reconciliation and other activities—some spiritual and some just lots of fun. In addition to working on the weekend retreats, Sandy also sponsors two renewal days a year and a monthly reunion Sunday for women who have made a REC.

As the prison liaison for REC, Sandy must be in constant contact with the prison volunteer coordinator, informing her of the list of REC activities and dates for the year and providing her with the names of volunteers attending and materials used.

Prison rules can change at a moment's notice, requiring flexibility and creativity. The cancellation of a much loved sit-down dinner, held during the retreat, required the creation of an "Agape" prayer service with scripture reading, shared bread and grape juice, letters of support and a closing peace ceremony. Canceling the dinner was a bitter lemon, but the resulting spiritual meal was "real lemonade."

When REC first started, outside volunteers were able to touch the women—give hugs, lay a hand on a shoulder, hold a hand in prayer. Now there is a "no touch" rule, but Sandy was able to get permission for participants to shake hands at the sign of peace and to hold hands in a prayer circle.

Openness and Humility Are Key

When asked what characteristics are needed by a person going into prison ministry, Sandy lists openness as a priority. She says, "Apprehension is normal; be open to the experience. The inmates know that you are fearful and want to put you at ease."

Sandy knows this apprehension firsthand. She clearly remembers her trepidation at attending her first meeting.

"Here were these prisoners in their uniform blue shirts. One woman came up to greet me. She was so warm and welcoming. I was immediately put at ease. I remember thinking: 'She's not so bad.' That was an important moment for me, because I recognized her face and name. Her crime had been widely covered by the local media. But she didn't seem scary to me. That was my first meeting with Kathy Tyler." Many BVMs and associates have responded to Sandy's call for prayers for Kathy's daugh-

ter, who is suffering from cancer.

In addition to openness, Sandy advises humility, flexibility, patience and common sense. "Be humble and accepting. Don't think that you have come into the prison to save anyone. Jesus got there before you did . . . Meet the women where they are and minister to their needs. Be realistic. Not every woman is going to respond positively to REC . . . Don't judge. We have no idea what roads inmates have walked to get where they are. The news reports of crimes are never the full stories."

Let God Be the Judge

A husband and wife were convicted of first degree murder in the deaths of two elderly women. The crime was very brutal, touching Sandy deeply. Some time later, she was on the team for a REC retreat. The convicted wife, "Dolly" (not her real name) was a REC participant.

"During the reconciliation service, I suddenly had a sense of my own sinfulness," Sandy recalls. "I knew that I had no right to judge any of these women . . . that God would take care of any judging that

needed to be done. We were sitting in a circle and the spiritual director invited each of us to pair up and to move to a part of the gym where we would share our stories."

Sandy became aware that Dolly was still waiting to be chosen. "I struggled with my resistance, but the recent experience of facing my own sinfulness freed me to get up and choose her," Sandy says.

"As I listened to her story, I saw her, not as the monster that I had previously

envisioned, but as a frightened shell of a woman. Abused by her husband, she had confessed to the murders although she had not been guilty. She had no self-esteem. I heard *her* side of the story . . . the side that had never been reported. We formed a bond that day."

About the author: Betty Voss, BVM (Leonice) is a part-time in-home caregiver for the Seniors' Resource Center in Denver, Colo.



A group of volunteers and inmates exchange the sign of peace during the anniversary celebration.

SALT | BRIEFS



Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM was honored at the Loyola/Milwaukee basketball game on Feb. 10, 2011, at the Gentile Center, Loyola University Chicago. The first 900 spectators to present a valid ID received a Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM "bobblehead." Jean Dolores has been a fixture in the Loyola Community since 1961. In 1997 she became the only woman chaplain of the men's basketball team, combining a love of sports with her love of ministry. Photo: Mark Beane/Loyola University Chicago



Mary Anne Bradish, BVM (Leslie) was recognized March 29, 2011, by Mercy & Memorial Hospitals in Bakersfield, Calif., for her 25 years of service as hospital chaplain.



Ann Chaput, BVM has published a book and its accompanying teaching edition, *We Learn about Mary and Her Feast*

Days, by Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, designed to be used for second to fifth graders. The interactive book covers the feast days of Mary and features activities, fill-in-the-blanks, and drawings to color. For more information visit: www.LTP.org.



Joyce Cox, BVM (Petrine) received the "Hero of Faith Award" from Temple B'nai Torah on Friday, April 8, 2011, in a Shabbat (Sabbath) service in the temple in Bellevue, Wash. Rabbi James Mirel, senior rabbi of the Reform Jewish congregation, said, "Sister Joyce is very worthy of this award and she is the first woman, first Roman Catholic recipient." She serves as the archbishop's delegate in the Archdiocese of Seattle and is currently director of formation and spiritual direction at The Palisades Archdiocesan Retreat & Faith Formation Center in Federal Way.



Kathleen Maas Weigert, former BVM and current BVM associate, has been selected as the first holder of the Carolyn Farrell,

BVM Professorship in Women and Leadership at Loyola University Chicago, effective April 1, 2011. Dr. Maas Weigert has served as research professor of social justice at Loyola since July 2010. In addition to her appointment, she will serve as assistant to the provost for social justice initiatives and work with the Gannon Center director and BVM development executive council member, Janet Sisler, to promote women and leadership.

The Sisters of Charity, BVM were among the Catholic women religious communities recognized at the 16th Annual Bishop Maurice J. Dingman Peace Award celebration on April 2, 2011, in Ankeny, Iowa. Catholic Peace Ministry, based in Des Moines, presented the program and award to recognize women religious who have dedicated their lives and ministries to justice and peace efforts. BVMs have had a presence in the Des Moines Archdiocese since 1865.



A Presence in Time of Need— Chaplain Veronica Higgins, BVM

by Terese Shinnars, BVM

When the anguish of Jesus' final

hours began, he asked his best friends to accompany him to Gethsemane as he entered into conversation with his father. Peter, James and John were invited to be present to Jesus in a special, prayerful way.

Knowing the value of companionship in times of suffering and appreciating the privilege of being present to one who is suffering, Veronica Higgins, BVM (Rosine), has ministered to the ill and their families for more than 30 years.

In her earliest BVM years, Veronica ministered in schools. However, in the 1970s, she engaged in career assessment and dialogue with friends. Identifying her listening skills and unique sensitivity to the ill moved her to explore the possibility of a new ministry. Training in clinical pastoral education—both classroom and hands-on experiences—schooled her in specifics of hospital ministry.

Since then, Veronica has ministered in both community and denominational hospitals. She has seen profound changes in the health care system. When she began this ministry, surgical patients generally spent several days in the hospital, so hospital chaplains could establish a relationship with them. Now, many surgical procedures are outpatient.

Ministry Faces Challenges

Budget cuts have limited the number of chaplains and forced a reconfiguration of chaplains' roles. Patient visits continue to be the central part of each day and



Preparing for a patient/family conference are (l. to r.) RN Vicki Grillo, Dr. Michelle Schultz and Veronica Higgins, BVM.

may involve simply holding a patient's hand and giving assurance that a loving God is present.

Veronica has also been called upon to assist patients and family members in the formation of advance directives for health care decisions and is currently a member of a palliative medicine team. A typical day now might also include reports, committee



Clarke Alum Shares Her Experience with Veronica Higgins, BVM

Letter to Clarke University President Joanne Burrows, SC

Sister Joanne,

I just wanted to drop you a short email about an awesome experience I had yesterday. I am a 2009 Clarke nursing graduate and I work for a Catholic network of hospitals in St. Louis. I have eased my way into an ICU position over the past two years and often ask the Lord for help in getting my patients, families and myself through the day.

Yesterday I was taking care of the sickest patient I have ever taken care of in my career. We have a few wonderful nuns on our chaplain staff who are an essential part of our end of life care. I met a new one yesterday.

Her name was Sister Veronica Higgins, BVM.

As I was carefully explaining to the family what was happening to their very unstable mother, Sister Veronica walked in and put her arm around me. I didn't know her but I was glad she was there. She began to pray with the family as I cared for their mother.

At one point when Sister Veronica and I were discussing approaching the family about organ donation, I said to her, "Sister Veronica, this is the sickest patient I have ever taken care of," and I know she could sense my emotion. She put her arm around me and simply said, "You can do it, Mary Beth. You're doing great,"

and gave me a squeeze. I immediately thought of Veronica who wiped Jesus' face as he carried his cross. What an appropriate name for her!

The patient ended up dying, but Sister Veronica and I and the St. Mary's staff kept her alive until her husband and son arrived to say goodbye. Later, in conversation with Sister Veronica, she told me she was a BVM and I told her I went to Clarke. She and I were delighted to figure this out and she even exclaimed, "Oh! Those are my people!"

They're my people too!
Mary Beth Busch
Clarke University '09

meetings, family conferences, department meetings and worship preparation.

Blessings of her ministry include appreciation for the gift of life and her own good health, among many other rewards. In wrenching moments, when families are fearful and angry as a loved one is dying, Veronica tries to help them deal with powerful emotions and find hope, courage and peace when they are most vulnerable. The privilege of being with people in such a sacred and intimate moment is incredible and soul-stirring.

Working with other ministers, rabbis, priests and imams has also been very enriching. Veronica has found St. Mary Health Center in St. Louis, Mo., an inspiring place to work because of the amount of pro bono health care it provides and the palliative medicine team on which she serves—which works assiduously to provide the best possible physical, emotional and spiritual care for each patient.

Cherish Link to Founders

Reflecting on her ministry, Veronica remembers how early BVMs made visiting the sick an important part of their service to a school or parish. She loves this link to early sisters. Working with the weak, oppressed or marginalized brings her in closer touch with these sisters and with BVM shared values. Praying with patients in simple, loving words reminds her of the simplicity of the spirituality of Mary Frances Clarke.

These links and the opportunity to share her love of God are among her ministry's lavish gifts. She says, "It is important to remember that a family member never forgets the death of their loved one or what was said (or not said) in that experience. I consider each patient and family encounter sacred, intimate and personal. I am privileged to offer comfort, presence and prayer at a very personal time in the lives of those I serve."

Veronica has responded faithfully to the call to companion those in their own personal Gethsemane.

About the author: Terese Shiners, BVM (Ellena) ministers as a volunteer at St. Camillus Health Center in Wauwatosa, Wis.



BVMs Dorothy Gaffney (l.) and Kate Keating prepare for their day at Rainbow Ark Hospice.

Loss of Friend Becomes Gift

A friend's cancer diagnosis launched a new ministry for BVMs Dorothy Gaffney and Katherine "Kate" Keating (St. Wilma). As they companioned her through her illness and death in hospice care, they were deeply touched by the hospice staff's tender care.

An advertisement for Rainbow Hospice Ark, a nonprofit, community-based organization founded in 1981 and serving the metropolitan Chicago area, led them to consider this as a ministry in which they could make a difference. Experience in teaching, school administration and finance made them flexible enough and courageous enough to try this new kind of service.

Ongoing education under the auspices of Rainbow Hospice and a three-day workshop prepared them to work with patients in their homes, long-term care facilities, and at Rainbow Hospice Ark, where Kate and Dorothy volunteer one day a week. The Ark

provides compassionate, skilled care for patients and their families and friends in end-of-life issues. This solicitude for families and friends is available even after a patient's death.

Being with patients and their families during the dying process is an amazing gift. While knowing that those with whom they share their faith and hope may not be there when they return to the Ark, Kate and Dorothy feel blessed and honored to share in moments preceding a death.

The gentleness and respect shown the patients and the bonds formed by sharing this experience are profoundly rewarding. A favorite memory is of a 100-year-old woman from Ireland for whom they sang Irish songs.

Kate and Dorothy are grateful for the opportunity to share these intense moments with patients, their families and friends, and the staff of Rainbow Hospice Ark.



Pat Harrison displays the quilt given to her sister, BVM Cornelia Harrison, when she was a patient at Rainbow Ark.

"Her hallmark laughter keeps them guessing next door in development and brings sunshine to our windowless neighbors in information technology."

—Deanna Carr, BVM



Anita Therese Hayes, BVM is proud of the progress made in the archives the past 20-plus years.

Anita Therese Hayes, BVM

Keeper of the Past

by Judith Sheahan, BVM

BVM Anita Therese Hayes admits that she was surprised when, in the summer of 1990, she opened a letter from Kathryn Lawlor, BVM (John Laurian), secretary of the BVM congregation, inviting her to become the administrator of the BVM archives.

Anita was in the process of enjoying a sabbatical following her term as a regional representative. There was little in her experience as teacher, principal, superior and regional to prepare her for this new venture. She declined at first, but then, so typical of Anita Therese, she decided, "Why not give it a try?"

Treasures From Early Days

Anita became the official archivist on Jan. 1, 1991. Since the earliest days of the BVM congregation, the sisters had saved many possessions of the first members, especially items belonging to founders Mary Frances Clarke and Father Terence J. Donaghoe.

Anita remembers, from her novitiate days, a small room filled with boxes on the second floor of the Motherhouse. "We were never allowed to go in there but we understood the boxes held things the community used on the prairie, memorabilia from the earliest times."

Anita's concern about her ability to care for and handle aging materials was alleviated by several summer sessions at the University of Wisconsin and a certificate designating her as "Administrator of Archives." The two rooms labeled "Archives" on the bottom floor of the BVM Center became Anita's domain and the work became a new challenge.

"In the archives, you never run out of things to do. People write for information about a BVM relative who is part of the family history. Former teachers write for information about a school they taught in; graduates planning reunions want class lists. Our archives are a good source of information about parishes and missions that have closed. Researchers find good material for books and articles. There is always someone who wants something."

In an effort to ensure that early materials would not be lost, Anita, aided by Kathryn Lawlor and Maureen Whalen, (Mary Maurina, now deceased), micro-filmed all the documents from the beginning of the BVM congregation until 1900 . . . "a big chore." She also updated the policy book: the "who, what, when and where of archives." Anita, recognizing the value of sharing, helped organize the Iowa Conference of Catholic Institutions,

which still meets twice a year. As convents and schools closed, additional room for archival material was needed. During her 15 years as archivist, Anita opened and organized several new rooms.

Still Part of the Team

Anita retired as archivist in 2006 but she still arrives at the archives at 8:30 every morning. She says, "It gets in your bones." That she still shows up is a blessing for the archivists who followed her. Jean Byrne, BVM (Jean Francis) has worked with Anita for almost 20 years and is still amazed at Anita's ability to locate material. "When she is asked about something, she stands stock still and closes her eyes. Then she heads to the cabinet or file or whatever and returns with the item; sometimes, it is only a single piece of paper."

BVM Deanna Carr (Bernita), the present archivist, agrees. "Anita knows every

"When she is asked about something, she stands stock still and closes her eyes. Then she heads to the cabinet or file or whatever and returns with the item. . ."

—Jean Byrne, BVM

folder and box, every drawer and section of archival shelving like an old friend. No question is too obscure and no puzzle is too complex. It's impossible to stump her on climate control or relative humidity in the 'Collections Room.'

"She is especially good on relationships and if 'Jeopardy' (the TV show) ever had a category on women religious serving in remote towns in the Iowa Territory, she would be the 'Ken Jennings' of the show! Her hallmark laughter keeps them guess-

ing next door in development and brings sunshine to our windowless neighbors in information technology."

During Anita's lifetime as a BVM, she has watched the archives of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary grow from boxes in a second floor closet to archives that fill five rooms in the BVM Center. She is still excited about her work. "It is wonderful so much has been preserved since the earliest times. It is a privilege and responsibility to take care of the items that tell the BVM story of the past. That is the best part of working in the archives . . . and I love it."

About the author: Judith Sheahan, BVM has ministered as educator, administrator and BVM congregational employee. She is a member of the Sisters Development Network (SDN) and also contributes prayer services for various congregational meetings.



The archive team consults on a research project. They are BVMs (l. to r.) Anita Therese Hayes, Jean Byrne, Kathryn Lawlor and Deanna Carr.

'The Charity of the Congregation'—Ah, Yes Indeed!

by Jean Byrne, BVM

**There are many kindly actions that abound here
'On the Hill' at Mount Carmel. Read about four of them:**

Availability Plus



Mary Wojnicki, BVM (Chester) has a mission: she is always available, ready to provide whatever assistance she can to residents.

For one sister with limited vision, this means reading and discussing the gospel in preparation for the next day's Mass. For another, it may be reading and rereading aloud the cards and messages a sister has been treasuring, some of which are quite worn by now, but remain an important contact with a well-loved relative or friend.

Sometimes her mission means taking a patient for a jaunt in a wheelchair, keeping up an interesting monolog because the patient's ability to speak has been severely limited by a stroke.

Mary also discovered a Saturday afternoon apostolate at Kennedy Mall shopping center in Dubuque, Iowa. There, a group of mentally-challenged adults enjoy being in a different location for a while. Mary joins them, helping one to observe something, or another

to phrase a thought that just won't come out right. She will gently do whatever she can to help create a happy and hopefully, learning experience, for these new friends of hers.

Talented Cut-Ups



Carmelina Meyers, BVM

The BVM "Cut-Ups" at Mount Carmel make cheery birthday and seasonal decorations for dining room tables, residents' doors and bulletin boards.

One of their newer, more novel endeavors is the "diaper project:" making diapers for babies in Madagascar and other underprivileged countries. Used t-shirts are cut, pinned and sewn . . . and *voila* . . . little bottoms will soon be covered with soft and brightly colored t-shirts.

Under the tutelage of Activities Director Julie Wessels, a person of many talents, and her creative staff, the group of BVMs has also made baskets of all kinds, even a custom made "cookie-size" set. The group made the cookies, too! For quality control purposes, they had to sample some, but most of the cookies made it to their

designated baskets.

With "Cut-Up" projects going on for 11 years, it would be hard to find any type of decoration the group hasn't produced. They buy very little because they use material left over from other projects. (The item seemingly essential to almost anything they make comes from a homely household leftover: the core from a roll of Charmin or one of its lowly imitators).

The Happy Baker



At times the Motherhouse is filled with the aroma of baking cinnamon bread, coming from the former postulate area. This means that BVM Ann Lenore Eifert will appear, midmorning, carrying a very large loaf of bread, a knife and a cutting board into the area next in line for the treat.

Ann Lenore had always wanted to bake bread, and while caring for her widowed mother, learned what she needed to know. She uses that knowledge well, the recipients are appreciative, and Ann

Lenore, who calls the project "100 percent recreation," is happy to share the product of her knowledge, talent and energy.

Another talent that Ann Lenore shares to brighten the lives of others is photography; she takes photos of beautiful flowers that she then uses to make pictures or note cards as gifts for friends, adding cheer to their "winterbound" rooms and to the greetings they send.

All Lucky People



BVM Associate Marilyn Heinz, although retired from the Marian Hall activities department, is very active with the resident sisters there. Mondays and Thursdays, she is a Eucharistic minister, distributing Communion to those who attend Mass in their rooms via closed circuit TV.

Marilyn also companions residents to their appointments; "a good way," she says, "of keeping in touch with the sisters I know so well and whose friendship I cherish."

Her experience in activities

manifests itself in another of her choices to benefit Marian Hall residents. She and both of her young adult sons joyfully sponsor an annual “Bingo Night” in Loyola Hall. It is a high point for them, and an even higher point for the residents.

The following quote from Marilyn speaks volumes about her presence here: “I feel so privileged to be allowed to help out.” Marian Hall folk would phrase that in a slightly different way: “We are so privileged that Marilyn Heinz is staying close to us.”

Indeed, “The Charity of the Congregation” that we BVMs all asked for at our reception ceremony is obviously alive and well. And for many of us, that’s a very long time.

About the author: Jean Byrne, BVM (Jean Francis) has ministered as an educator and currently serves as researcher in the archives at Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa.



To help her see as she sews, Suzanne Judge, BVM holds a magnifying glass to sew a diaper.

IN LOVING MEMORY

“Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not taken away.”

Please pray for the Sisters of Charity, BVM who died Dec. 18, 2010 – April 25, 2011.

Loretta Larkin (Amata)
Sept. 28, 1923–Dec. 18, 2010

Delia M. Graham (Leonora)
Nov. 18, 1923–Jan. 4, 2011

Therese Beck (Philip Ann)
Dec. 25, 1930–Jan. 19, 2011

Realino Lynch
Dec. 23, 1919–Feb. 11, 2011

Margaret Dolan (Myles)
Oct. 31, 1921–March 10, 2011

Rosemary Reynolds (Gracelita)
Sept. 19, 1920–March 17, 2011

M. Helen Louise Young
Nov. 27, 1924–March 19, 2011

Aimee O’Neill (St. Aimee)
Feb. 1, 1917–March 29, 2011

Patricia M. Smith (St. Brendan)
Dec. 4, 1931–March 29, 2011

M. Danetta Buser
Feb. 12, 1921–April 5, 2011

Mary Immacula De Vlieger
Sept. 20, 1932–April 10, 2011

Katherine Ann Beckman
(Leonardette)
Jan. 7, 1925–April 13, 2011

Isabella Toher
Jan. 1, 1923–April 17, 2011

Diane M. Barabe (Damaris)
Jan. 21, 1933–April 18, 2011

Thomasita Ross
April 7, 1922–April 25, 2011

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association with the
University of Notre Dame
and St. Mary’s College, South
Bend, Ind.

Jan. 24, 2012 - June 3, 2012
The California Museum of
History, Women & the Arts,
Sacramento, Calif.

**For more information,
visit Women & Spirit:**
www.womenandspirit.org



To read a sister’s obituary/reflections, visit: http://www.bvmcong.org/whatsnew_obits.cfm. A memorial fund has been established for the sisters. If you would like to add to this memorial, please send your gift to the BVM Development Office. For online giving, go to www.bvmcong.org.



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Stations of the Cross Booklet Available

In tribute to BVM life at Wright Hall in Chicago, a second printing of *Stations of the Cross: Reflections by Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary* has been published and is now available as a keepsake of a treasured time and place.

The booklet depicts the mosaic Stations of the Cross created by Edmund Demers, then associate professor of art at Clarke College, who was commissioned in 1958 by Helen Wright, BVM.

For over half a century, Demers' extraordinary work has fostered personal spiritual encounters with the passion of Christ, and inspired the BVM authors' reflections in each of the booklet's Stations of the Cross.

Sara McAlpin, BVM (Philip Mary) served as project coordinator, Communications Director Angie Connolly designed and produced the booklet, and Lucy A. Kennedy photographed the mosaic art.

Order Form Stations of the Cross: Reflections by Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 1100 Carmel Drive
 Dubuque, IA 52003-7991

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