

# Honoring Our Jubilarians

Prayer is an essential element of the life of all consecrated religious. For the jubilarians on the following pages, those prayers have formed a beautiful tapestry of devotion through decades of faithful service. Along with thumbnail profiles briefly chronicling the accomplishments of each religious through time, there is a season to season reflection from one 75-year jubilarian on Page 19. The Editor's Report feature on Page 20 tells of the graces God has provided to two contemplative religious communities who now share one Beacon monastery. Some of the sisters are shown praying in the monastery's chapel, at right.



Sister Mary Jane Stefanik, O.Ss.R.

## *Sisters of the Resurrection, Castleton-on-Hudson*

### 60 YEARS

**Sister Cecilia Mary Berdar, C.R.**, now serves in the school office at Maria Regina High School, Hartsdale. From 1983 to 2002 she served there as a guidance counselor, assistant principal and then principal. She was provincial of the New York Province of the Sisters of the Resurrection, 2002-2011. She also taught at St. Casimir's School, Yonkers, 1957-1958 and 1977-1979, and was principal and superior, 1979-1983. She taught for two years at St. Clemens Mary School, Manhattan.

### 40 YEARS

Sister Danielle Marie Baran, C.R.

## *Religious of Jesus and Mary*

### 50 YEARS

**Sister Patricia Ryerse, R.J.M.**, who was born in Washington, D.C., has taught at St. John's School, Kingsbridge, the Bronx, since 2002. Born in Washington, D.C., she taught primary grades in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts from 1965 to 1972. She then taught first grade in Pa-coima, Calif., for 29 years, until 2001, when she was given a sabbatical year at Bethany Spirituality Center, Highland Mills.

**Sister Kathleen Scanlon, R.J.M.**, a native of Kingsbridge, the Bronx, now serves as the business secretary at St. Barnabas High School, the Bronx. In 1965, when she was known as Mother Mary Thomas, she taught third grade at her alma mater, St. John's School in Kingsbridge. After a year of study, she returned to St. John's where she taught junior high for four

years. She was then assigned to schools in Maryland and eventually took on additional responsibilities as campus minister at a high school and as vocation director for the U.S. Province and as a director of religious education in Maryland and New Jersey. She also served on the congregation's provincial council.

## *Maryknoll Sisters, Ossining*

### 85 YEARS

**Sister Margaret Frances Kulage, M.M.**, has been a missionary to prisoners, catechist and pastoral ministry worker in Hawaii and the Philippines. The native of St. Louis, Mo., is now 106 years old.

### 75 YEARS

**Sister Agnes Donovan, M.M.**, was a guidance counselor and teacher at Colegio Monte Maria, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 1970-2002. Born in Chicago, she also served as a novice mistress for Maryknoll Sisters for 16 years.

**Sister Timothy Marie Healy, M.M.**, taught at Maryknoll Grade School, Puna-hou, Hawaii, 1960-1986. Born in Hoboken, N.J., she also worked for The Field Afar magazine, 1946-1948, and Maryknoll Seminary, 1948-1953.

**Sister Lilla Marie Hull, M.M.**, is a member of the Maryknoll Contemplative Community at Maryknoll in Ossining. Born in Glencoe, Ill., she has traveled as a spiritual director to Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Korea, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, as well as the sisters' residence at Watch Hill, R.I.

**Sister Madeline Cecilia McHugh, M.M.**, a native of Elizabeth, N.J., served as director of vocations for the Maryknoll Sisters, 1965-1968, has worked as a teacher in Panama and was contempla-

tive community founder in Sudan.

**Sister Cecilia Wood, M.M.**, a physician who completed her internship at Grasslands Hospital, Valhalla, has served in the Philippines and Hawaii. Born in Seattle, Wash., she founded a paraplegic center for disabled youth and served as director of Our Lady of Victory Training Center in Davao, Philippines, and taught elementary school in Hawaii.

### 60 YEARS

**Sister Mary Sophia Aihara, M.M.**, has been a missionary in her native Japan since 1958. She has taught English, math and religion, worked in local Japanese parishes, and helped to translate content into Japanese for the Encyclopedia Britannica.

**Sister Rose Marie Cecchini, M.M.**, works with the Native American Cultural Appreciation Program, Gallup, N.M., which she founded in 1986 to teach young Native Americans about their own culture. Born in Stockton, Calif., she is a sociology professor and peace activist, who also has served in Japan and Nepal.

**Sister Catherine Erisman, M.M.**, an educator, refugee worker and nurse, has served as a missionary in Tanzania, Kenya and Sudan. Born in Framingham, MA, she has been a teacher; worked with the AIDS ministry of the Archdiocese of Mwanza, Tanzania; and helped found and administer the Jesuit Refugee Service in Tanzania.

**Sister Martha Getchel, M.M.**, was a missionary to Peru for 49 years. Born in Minneapolis, Minn., she began as an educator in Lima, 1960-1969, and then was secretary-treasurer of the Juli Prelature, also working in its Catholic Education Office, 1969-1984. She worked in a family catechetics program in Tacn, Peru, 1984-2009.

**Sister Rosemary Huber, M.M.**, taught at Transfiguration School, Manhattan, in the early 1960s and was director of congregational health services at Maryknoll

Sisters Center, Ossining, 1992-1997. She also worked in hospitals and clinics in Korea, Indonesia, Jakarta, and East Timor, 1965-1992, and Nepal, 2000-2003.

**Sister Agnes Mary Joy, M.M.**, a native of Newburgh, is a clinical pastoral education specialist. She has taught in Panama, was technical director of a Jesuit boys school in Mexico, and was chaplain of Harris County Hospital District and supervisor of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, Ben Taub Medical Center, both in Houston, Tex.

**Sister Elsie Monge, M.M.**, is a human rights advocate and educator. Born in Quito, Ecuador, she taught in Guatemala and Panama, was executive director of the Ecuadoran Human Rights Commission and president of the Human Rights National Network of Ecuador, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her work.

**Sister Dora Rosa Nuetzi, M.M.**, a teacher at Transfiguration School, Manhattan, 1962-1965, has taught at schools in Hawaii and the Marshall Islands. She was one of three sisters to found several schools in the Marshall Island, where she served from 1985 to 2007. She was a religious education director in Hawaii, 1976-1978 and 1980-1985.

**Sister Marian Puszcz, M.M.**, born in Yonkers, is a physician who has served in New York City, California, Tanzania, Kenya, Nicaragua and Bangladesh. A 1949 graduate of New York Medical College, she worked at New York Medical, as well as Metropolitan Hospital, Covenant House and New York Foundling Hospital.

**Sister Miedal Stone, M.M.**, has spent 36 years ministering in hospitals and with the elderly in China. Born in Los Angeles, she was co-coordinator of the congregation's Chi-Rho Community in 2008 and contact for its China Region in 2013.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Maryknoll Sisters, Ossining**(Continued from previous page)*

**Sister Mary Lou Teufel, M.M.**, is a missionary, educator and peace activist. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, she served in Hong Kong for 36 years, teaching at Maryknoll Sisters School, 1957-1970, on the Maryknoll Hospital governing board, 1976-1999, and as associate director of the justice and peace center, Center for Progress of Peoples, 1983-1999.

**50 YEARS**

**Sister Joanna Chan, M.M.**, an award-winning painter and playwright and stage director for more than 40 years, grew up in China. She was twice honored by the New York City Council for her contribution to the arts and the Chinese community and received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Columbia University Teachers College.

**Sister Virginia Farrell, M.M.**, a nurse practitioner from Connecticut, served with Maryknoll at the U.S. Agency for International Development in Vietnam, the World Health Organization in Peru, and as nursing services director for Appalachian Regional Hospital and founder of the

Hazard/Perry County Community Hospice, both in Hazard, Ky.

**Sister Antoinette Gutzler, M.M.**, has served in Tanzania and Taiwan. A graduate of Fordham University, Bronx, with a doctorate in systematic theology, she is a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the American Academy of Religion (AAR), and the Justice and Peace Commission, Association of Major Religious Superiors in Taiwan.

**Sister Maria Homberg, M.M.**, is the director of Maryknoll Mission Institute. She entered Maryknoll from Holy Rosary parish, Hawthorne, and has also served as assistant professor of nursing at Pace University, Pleasantville, 1973-1980; director of nursing services at St. Joseph's Hospital, Manapla, Philippines; and instructor at Maryknoll College Department of Social Work, Manila, Philippines.

**Sister Josephine Kollmer, M.M.**, an educator who spent 40 years in Africa, is founder of the national catechetical program for the Namibian Bishops Conference. Born in East Moriches, she has taught in Kenya, Zambia, Botswana and Lesotho, and worked with a leadership training team for South African women in Zimbabwe.

**Sister Marilyn Snediker, M.M.**, has served as a missionary to Tanzania and Guatemala. Born in Kankakee, Ill., she admin-

*Sisters of St. Dorothy***60 YEARS**

**Sister Mary Ferro, S.S.D.**, has served on Staten Island for 35 years. She has been pastoral associate of St. Patrick's parish there since 2008. She was principal of St. Patrick's School, 1986-2008. Before that, she taught there, 1977-1985 and 1962-1967. She also taught for a year at the Academy of St. Dorothy, Staten Island, and for nine years at a high school in Rhode Island and three years at a school in Massachusetts. She was coordinator of an international alumni convention in New York City in 1976.

istered a small rural hospital and taught English as a Second Language and biology in Tanzania and worked on a diocesan program providing pastoral care and courses in health, nutrition, handicrafts and basic evangelization to women in Guatemala.

**Sister Mary Vertucci, M.M.**, is the founder and director of Emusoi Center, a program providing opportunities for education to young Maasai women in Arushua, Tanzania. Born in New Brunswick, N.J., she has taught in Tanzania since 1972, served as Eastern Africa Coordinator for Dominican Sisters Africa, 1998-2004, and been treasurer since 1998.

**25 YEARS**

**Sister Jocelyn Fenix, M.M.**, co-formator of sisters for the Maryknoll Sisters, is a physician and health promotion specialist. Born in the Philippines, she has served for 21 years in Panama in pastoral ministry, holistic health promotion and care, and small project administration at the Santa Fe Pastoral Center, Darien.

**70 YEARS**

Sister Gemma Marie Berger, M.M.  
Sister Jennie Burke, M.M.  
Sister Beatrice Carvalho, M.M.  
Sister Rose Marie Franklin, M.M.  
Sister Virgeen Healey, M.M.  
Sister Frances Horan, M.M.  
Sister Rita Kane, M.M.  
Sister Camilla Kennedy, M.M.  
Sister Helen Phillips, M.M.  
Sister Margaret Sehlstedt, M.M.  
Sister Joan Cordis Westhues, M.M.

*Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, Germantown***60 YEARS**

**Sister Mary Ann Immaculate Wasilko, O. Carm.**, a native of Brooklyn, has been assigned to Carmel Richmond Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center on Staten Is-

*“When speaking of my religious life as a Sister of St. Dorothy, my heart is filled with gratitude. If I could go back to choose my vocation all over again, I would choose to serve the Lord in the same vocation. A vocation to the religious life is a rewarding, joy-filled gift from God.”*

— *Sister Mary Ferro, S.S.D.*

land since 1999. Trained as an LPN, she has served as prioress, administrative assistant, overseeing the adult day care program, and maintaining employee health records.

**50 YEARS**

**Sister M. Sean William of All Saints O'Brien, O. Carm.**, a native of Manhattan, has served at Mary Manning Walsh Home since 1997, first as administrator and then as executive director of Walsh Home under ArchCare. Having been trained as a registered nurse, she previously held nursing positions at St. Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm, the Bronx, and Madonna Residence, Brooklyn.

**70 YEARS**

Sister M. Therese of the Child Jesus Foley, O. Carm.

*Sisters of St. John the Baptist, The Bronx***60 YEARS**

**Sister Gloria T. Meola, C.S.JB.**, has served as director of the Mount St. John Child Day Care Program in Purchase since 1996. An educator since 1955, she began as an early childhood teacher at St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island, where she returned from 1956 to 1965. She was then assigned to St. James School, Manhattan, for two years, and returned as principal, 1974-1980. She was principal at St. Roch's School and St. John Villa Elementary School, both on Staten Island. The native of Newark, N.J., also taught at several schools in New Jersey and one in Philadelphia.

**Sister Christina Pessolano, C.S.JB.**, was missioned to Santiago, Chile, soon after her first profession, serving six years there. She then taught at St. Roch's School, Staten Island. She later taught business subjects at a high school in Gloversville.

*(Continued at right)*



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(Continued from left)

Her business and organizational skills also served her well during a tenure as provincial secretary. From 1975 to 2011, she was a master teacher in the business department of St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island. She now serves part time at the convent there.

**Sister Mary Faith Chanda, C.S.JB.**, served in Zambia from 1955 to 1974. She then taught on Staten Island and the Bronx and New Jersey, and worked at Providence Rest Nursing Home, the Bronx. She was elected twice as a provincial councilor. From 1998 to 2006, she served as a pastoral associate at a parish in Stirling, N.J. She then served for six years at Mount St. John Convent in Purchase, where she had responsibility for elderly and infirm sisters. She resides at a convent in Livingston, N.J., where she does hospice care at a local hospital and teaches English as a second language.

**Sister Anne Michael Petito, C.S.JB.**, has taught primary grades and prepared children for the sacraments of reconciliation and First Communion since 1955. She taught at St. James School, Manhattan, as well as at schools in New Jersey and Philadelphia. She taught at St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island, 1975-1986. She also taught and tutored at St. Dominic's School, the Bronx, until 2011. She now resides at Providence Rest Convent, Bronx, where she uses her artistic gifts and carpentry skills.

#### 50 YEARS

**Sister Roberta Walsh, C.S.JB.**, was the longtime secretary/bursar at St. Joseph Villa, Peapack, N.J., where the sisters cared for elderly women in an independent assisted living environment. More recently, she served in the medical records office at Providence Rest Convent, the Bronx. She recently retired and moved to Mount St. John Convent, Purchase.

**Sister Eliza Marie Mc Loughlin, C.S.JB.**, has been an educator since 1966. She first taught in Gladstone, N.J., and then taught for four years at St. John Villa Academy elementary school, where she was assistant principal, 1973-1976, and principal, 1976-1985. She also taught at St. Dominic's School, the Bronx, and at St. James School, Manhattan, where she was later co-principal and local superior. In 2002, she began serving as a library assistant at St. John Villa Academy high school, where she remains.

#### 25 YEARS

**Sister Maria Jasmin Gotas, C.S.JB.**, is a native of the Philippines who came to New York in 1987. She first taught at a school in Newark, N.J., for nine years until she was sent to St. James School, Manhattan, 1996-

1999. She served as teacher, assistant principal and local superior at St. Dominic's School, the Bronx, 1999-2011. She then served for two years as bursar at St. Raymond's School, and now serves in the pastoral care department of Providence Rest Nursing Home, both in the Bronx.

**Sister Lydia Marie Ogalesco, C.S.JB.**, a native of the Philippines, was assigned to assist kindergarten students at St. John Villa Academy, Staten Island, after her arrival in the United States in 1987. She then served at Providence Rest Child Day Care before returning to St. John Villa to provide educational support. She later was an assistant teacher in the day care program at Mount St. John Convent, Purchase. Since 2005, she has served in the pastoral care department at Providence Rest Nursing Home, the Bronx.

#### 70 YEARS

Sister Joanne Marruso, C.S.JB.

#### 65 YEARS

Sister Jerome Cotruzzola, C.S.JB.

#### 40 YEARS

Sister Catherine Bwalya, C.S.JB.

### *Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottine Sisters)*

#### 75 YEARS

**Sister M. Kathleen Thompson, C.S.A.C.**, taught in the Bronx (Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 1940-41 and 1950-54) and Brooklyn (St. Fortunata, 1957-59; St. Stephen's, 1959-65 and 1967-71; Our Lady of Grace, 1971-77). She also served at Harriman College, 1978-1980, and as provincial, 1990-1996. She retired to Queen of Apostles Convent, Monroe, in 2005.

#### 60 YEARS

**Sister Ann Joachim Firreno, C.S.A.C.**, served as both teacher and principal at Our Lady of Mount Carmel/St. Benedicta, Staten Island, 1955-1963, 1968-1974 and 1977-1979, and at St. Lucy's, Manhattan, 1963-1966. She taught religious education at St. Finbar's parish, Brooklyn, 1979-2005, also serving as director of religious education from 1986. She is now house moderator for Queen of Apostles Convent, Monroe.

**Sister Adulce Marie Meneghetti, C.S.A.C.**, arrived in the United States in 1956, four years after entering the Pallottine Sisters. She served for more than 30 years caring for children in orphanages and nurseries. She is now retired at Queen of Apostles Convent, Monroe.

#### 70 YEARS

Sister Mary Mildred Scrivano, C.S.A.C.

## Religious Life, Through the Seasons

By **SISTER M. KATHLEEN THOMPSON, C.S.A.C.**



How does one respond to the meaning of religious life after having lived it for seven decades? Peppered with joy, sadness, blessings, difficulty, laughter, love and tears, it has been, after all, a journey through the seasons of my life.

In the "springtime" of my life I knew the intensity of my love for Christ and the desire to serve Him by serving others. I felt a deep sense of being "called" and "chosen." Through training I learned to live a simple, humble and obedient life, all within Gospel living. It was a youthful period filled with the adventure of new companions, new studies, new prayer forms and the laughter of recreation in the evening. It was also a time when you periodically ached in remembrance of the loved ones you left behind.

In the "summer" of my life the charisma of our founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, impelled me to become involved in the apostolic endeavors of our Pallottine community. This involved teaching, evangelizing and preaching the "Good News," reaching out in love to all. It was a time when our ability to function within the community was tested. Were we prepared, did we apply ourselves in earnest to the apostolate assigned us? Did we demonstrate a sense of joy in its fulfillment?

In the "autumn" of my life I knew that manner in which the Holy Spirit had enlightened me to take on responsibilities that may have puzzled me, but the saving grace was always, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13) This was my mantra through all the years of teaching and in administration.

Now in the "winter" of my life and with God's blessings of good health and agility, I can still function in a positive way—being aware of the aging process, learning to accept weakness, sickness and the aches and pains that accompany our every day normal routine. This is the time when we can look back on the long journey with Christ and see the heights to which He has been leading us.

I am on the mountain top awaiting Christ's call, "Come, my spouse, and enter your eternal home!"

*Sister M. Kathleen Thompson, C.S.A.C., is a 75-year jubilarian with the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottine Sisters).*

### *Sisters of Charity of New York*

#### 75 YEARS

**Sister Miriam Anne Brennan, S.C.**, first taught at a school in Brooklyn, and then at St. Margaret of Cortona School, the Bronx, 1940-1944. After becoming a registered nurse, she served at St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, as a nurse, department chairman and assistant director, 1947-1957. She was director of nursing at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Staten Island, 1957-1966, and director of the school of nursing, 1961-1966. She was the congregation's health coordinator, 1966-1970 and 1989-2002. She was director of the school of practical nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers, 1970-1978, and assistant director of nursing, 1978-1981. She was administrator of Mary the Queen Convent, Yonkers, from 1989 until her retirement in 2002. She has resided at Mount St. Vincent Convent, the Bronx, since 2008.

**Sister Angela Marie Rooney, S.C.**,

served in education for 40 years. In Manhattan she taught at Holy Trinity School, 1939-1940; Ascension, 1946-1949; and St. Joseph's, 1958-1961. In the Bronx she taught at Visitation, 1941-1946, and St. Athanasius, 1949-1952. She also taught at St. Francis of Assisi, Mount Kisco, 1952-1956; St. Denis, Yonkers, 1961-1979; and in Queens. She served for 25 years as staff secretary at Sisters of Charity Center, the Bronx, before retiring in 2005, and she continued to volunteer there until 2010.

#### 60 YEARS

**Sister Teresita Duque, S.C.**, began her nursing ministry at St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, where she was a staff nurse and a supervisor, 1956-1968. She was a nursing supervisor at St. Vincent's Hospital, Harrison, 1968-1969, and then returned to St. Vincent's, Manhattan, as a nursing supervisor and coordinator of various programs until 1988. She was director of nursing at Mary the Queen

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# Two Communities of Sisters Share Faith, and a Monastery

A monastery in Beacon is now giving life to two communities of contemplative religious women who have found the living—and praying—arrangement mutually beneficial.

This all began when the Redemptoristine Nuns learned they would have to leave their monastery on the grounds of Mount St. Alphonsus in Esopus because the Redemptorist Fathers would soon be selling that property. The sisters would temporarily to the West Park property of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus but they knew they would have to leave by the end of June 2013.

Needless to say, their search took on more urgency as the deadline neared. They enlisted the assistance of another woman religious who helps religious communities plan their futures. Last

March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, they began a novena to St. Joseph “to help us find a new home,” the Redemptoristine Nuns wrote in a letter to their friends and supporters this past Advent.

Last April, the Redemptoristine Nuns found a Lutheran-run assisted living facility in Mount Vernon to care for three of their sisters.

That same month, the other six Redemptoristines received an answer to their prayers for a place where they could live together. Their prioress, Sister Moira Quinn, O.Ss.R., went to visit the Carmel of the Incarnation in Beacon. At that point, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns were discerning how best to use the extra space available in their monastery. Recent deaths had left their community with 16 members and plenty of extra rooms. They had offered other communities a place for retreats and short stays, but had begun to think about seeking a more permanent solution, said Sister Marjorie Robinson, O.C.D., their prioress.

The day Sister Moira visited, the Carmelites were having a community meeting. One by one the other sisters came



**GIVING THANKS**—Around the refectory table just before the Thanksgiving meal was served were members of both the Discalced Carmelite Nuns and the Redemptoristine Nuns, who now call Incarnation Monastery in Beacon home. From left, they are Sister Michaelene Devine, O.C.D.; Sister Mary Salucci, O.C.D.; Sister Moira Quinn, O.Ss.R.; Sister Hildegard Pleva, O.Ss.R.; Sister Patricia Considine, O.C.D.; Sister Rita Donahue, O.C.D.; and Sister Carolyn, O’Hara, O.C.D.  
Sister Mary Jane Stefanik, O.Ss.R.

up to Sister Marjorie with essentially the same question: “Can’t we do something for the Redemptoristines?”

The two religious communities had known each other for a long time. For some 45 years, they have been members of the Metropolitan Association of Contemplative Communities. Having a common background as contemplatives was key, both prioresses said.

When the Carmelites unanimously extended an offer to have the Redemptoristines come to live permanently at the Beacon monastery, it was accepted in one day.

Sister Marjorie described the process “as a moment of grace.”

“How women of faith respond in faith when there is a need,” she explained.

Sister Moira said, “I found that so overwhelming that the Spirit was working so fervently in them.”

The monastery had enough room to accommodate an office for the Redemptoristine prioress, work space for the sisters, a community room and living quarters for each sister.

Since both the Carmelites and Redemptoristines are contemplative communities, much of their daily life revolves around prayer. Coming to a monastery where morning Mass was offered each day by priest chaplains and communal prayer takes place four times a day “was a gift from heaven,” Sister Moira said.

The day the Redemptoristine Nuns moved in last June “was like coming home,” she added. To aid in that feeling, the Redemptoristines have brought some of their religious artwork and statuary that has been tastefully incorpo-

rated into the Beacon monastery. “That’s been a big accomplishment,” Sister Marjorie said.

An icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help now offers an inviting welcome to the chapel. A set of wooden Stations of the Cross was recently placed. And a stained-glass window of Redemptoristine founder, Venerable Maria Celeste Crostarosa, is awaiting installation.

Though the two religious communities retain their own charisms and are not merged or formally united in any canonical way, their life of prayer is very compatible, both prioresses said. It is carried out in a peaceful setting on 35 wooded acres off Hiddenbrooke Drive. Within view on the landscape are a field and a pond.

As the communities become aware of differences, such as when silence or dedicated prayer times are observed in the respective areas of the house, each is “extra respectful of the silence in the house, so as not to disturb anything,” Sister Moira said.

The two groups also share responsibility for preparing meals and keeping the monastery clean and tidy, with more hands making a lighter workload, Sister Marjorie said.

The Beacon monastery, now known as Incarnation Monastery, is a place where mature women religious are living out their vocations in a grace-filled way that offers hope and a shining example for others. They are walking together by faith and letting God fill in the details.

“It makes us a more effective presence for the larger community, for the Church,” Sister Marjorie said.



**JOHN WOODS**

*Editor's Report*



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## Sisters of Charity of New York

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Convent, Yonkers, 1988-1991. From 1992 to 2000 she was a patient representative at St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, and continued to volunteer until her retirement in 2008.

**Sister Mary Liegey, S.C.**, formerly Sister Gabriel Rosaire, taught at six schools in the archdiocese: St. Peter's, Poughkeepsie, 1956-1957; St. Athanasius, the Bronx, 1963-1969; St. Theresa's, Briarcliff, 1969-1970; Visitation, the Bronx, 1970; St. Francis of Assisi, Mount Kisco, 1970-1972; and St. Joseph's Academy, Manhattan, 1972-1974. She also taught at St. Agatha's Home, Nanuet, 1957-1963. She served in the Diocese of Albany for many years. She now volunteers in senior ministry and as a lector at St. Stanislaus parish, Pleasant Valley.

**Sister Nancy McNamara, S.C.**, formerly Sister Marie Peter, has been a volunteer ESL teacher with the congregation's L.I.G.H.T. program since 2009. Since her retirement in 2006, she has also been a volunteer at Mount St. Vincent Convent, the Bronx, and Mary the Queen Convent, Yonkers. For 50 years she was a teacher, principal and administrator. In the Bronx she served at St. Raymond's, 1956-1961; Our Lady of Angels, 1977-1978; St. Barnabas Elementary, 1989-1995; St. Margaret of Cortona, 1995-1997; and SS. Peter and Paul, 2000-2006. She also served at St. Ann's, 1966-1968, and St. Mary's, 1971-1977, both in Yonkers; Our Lady of Mercy, Port Chester, 1978-1988; and Ascension, Manhattan, 1999-2000.

**Sister Marianne Robertson, S.C.**, formerly Sister Marian Dominic, has been a volunteer at the Cardinal O'Connor Clergy Residence, the Bronx, since 2010. She began her nursing ministry in 1956 at St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, serving as a staff nurse in psychiatry. At the hospital's school of nursing, she served as a nursing instructor, 1957-1958, and chairman/instructor of nursing and surgical programs, 1958-1966. At St. Joseph's Hospital School of Practical Nursing, Yonkers, she was assistant director, 1966-1968, and director, 1968-1970. She returned to St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, to serve as assistant director of nursing service, 1970-1991, and staff coordinator, from 1991 until her retirement in 2010. She moved to Mount St. Vincent Convent in 2011.

### 65 YEARS

Sister Marie Dolorosa Henn, S.C.  
Sister Marguerite Mahony, S.C.  
Sister Patricia Maureen Mulryan, S.C.

## Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

### 75 YEARS

**Sister Ann Louise DeGennaro, O.P.**, a native of Brooklyn, taught at Cardinal McCloskey Home, White Plains, 1946-1948; and St. Theresa's School, the Bronx, 1967-1969. She was a childcare worker at St. Ignatius Day Nursery, Manhattan, 1942-1944, and was director/administrator of childcare, 1970-1980. She taught in the dioceses of Brooklyn and Syracuse. She was a staff member in Siena Hall, Sparkill, 1980-1988, and was a driver and assisted at Dominican Convent, Sparkill, 1988-2011. She resides in Siena Hall at Dominican Convent.

**Sister Catherine Edward Carragher, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, taught in the archdiocese at St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1965-1966; St. Ann's, the Bronx, 1966-1970; and St. Brendan's, the Bronx, 1972-1992, where she was librarian, 1992-2003. She also served in the Diocese of Brooklyn. She resides in St. Agnes Residence, Sparkill.

**Sister Miriam Joseph Schaub, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, taught at Sacred Heart, Suffern, 1944-1946; St. Brendan's, the Bronx, 1951-1952; Thorpe Secretarial High School, Manhattan, 1952-1953; Aquinas High School, the Bronx, 1955-1966; and Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, 1970-1995. From 1946 to 1948 she did childcare work at Cardinal McCloskey, White Plains. She was the congregation's postulant director, 1969-1970. She also served in the dioceses of Brooklyn, Rockville Centre and Syracuse. She resides in St. Agnes Residence, Sparkill.

### 60 YEARS

**Sister Mary Casey, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, taught at St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1956-1958; Sacred Heart, Suffern, 1958-1961, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middletown, 1961-1962. She also taught in the Bronx at Our Lady of Grace, 1965-1969; St. Brendan's, 1972-1991, and Immaculate Conception, 1991-1992. She served in the dioceses of Brooklyn and Syracuse. From 1995 to 2006 she was an administrative assistant at Dominican Convent, Sparkill. She is now a medical secretary in Siena Hall at Dominican Convent. Formerly known as Sister Michael Marie, she resides in Albertus Magnus Convent, Bardonia.

**Sister Marie Hess, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, taught at St. Ignatius Day Nursery, Manhattan, 1958-1959; St. Catherine of Siena, Manhattan, 1959-1964; Our Lady of Grace, the Bronx, 1964-1968; and St. Anthony, the Bronx, 1968-1971. She served in the Diocese of Syracuse. From 1972 to the present she has served as director of youth development and pastoral care at Cardinal

McCloskey Community Services, White Plains. Formerly known as Sister William Agnes, she resides in Valley Cottage.

**Sister Carrol Coble, O.P.**, was a teacher at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1956-1958, and St. Rita's, the Bronx, 1958-1959. In 1970 she began a 42-year nursing career as a parish nurse in St. Louis. Formerly known as Sister Mary Germaine, she is a native of St. Louis, Mo., where she still resides.

**Sister Maurice Doody, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, was a teacher at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1956-1958, and St. Theresa's, the Bronx, 1958-1959. She served in the dioceses of Brooklyn and Wilmington, Del. In 1975 she founded the Office of New Directions, a ministry to educate religious communities about alcoholism and chemical dependency. She served as its director for 38 years. As a lecturer, motivational speaker and retreat leader she has received many awards and honors. She resides in Siena Hall, Sparkill.

**Sister Patricia Anne Murtha, O.P.**, is a native of New York City. She was a teacher at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1956-1959, and St. Martin of Tours, the Bronx, 1967-1969. She was principal of St. Helena's, the Bronx, 1969-1976. She also served in the dioceses of Syracuse, and in Paterson and Newark, both New Jersey. Formerly known as Sister Richard Patrice, she serves at Emmaus House, Ocean Grove, N.J.

**Sister Mary Reynolds, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, has served since 1993 as director of Dominican Center, Sparkill, which provides spiritual retreats and workshops for both religious and laity. She served at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1957-1959; St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1959-1960; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middletown, 1960-1961; Thorpe Secretarial School, Manhattan, 1961-1964; Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, 1964-1966; and Rosary Academy, Sparkill, 1964-1966. She was chaplain at Montefiore Hospital, the Bronx, 1982-1984. She served in the Diocese of Trenton, N.J. She served in congregational leadership, 1972-1980, and was elected president of the congregation

in 1984. Formerly known as Sister Marie Bernadette, she resides in Dominican Convent, Sparkill.

**Sister Ann Eigenbauer, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, has served since 2001 as manager of the Center Gift Shop opened at Dominican Convent, Sparkill. She taught at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1956-1957; St. Helena's, the Bronx, 1957-1959, and Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, 1959-1976. From 1976 to 2001 she taught and was development director at Msgr. Scanlan High School, the Bronx. She resides at Albertus Magnus Convent, Bardonia.

**Sister Mary Pius Fagan, O.P.**, resides in St. Louis, Mo., where she has served as a pastoral counselor and retreat director since 1995. She taught in St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1956-1959 and 1970-1972; St. Brendan's, Bronx, 1959-1960; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarsdale, 1967-1970 and St. Dominic's, Blauvelt, 1972-1977. From 1977 to 1995 she was director of social concern ministries. A native of Wilmington, Del., she also has served in that diocese.

**Sister Rose Michele O'Rourke, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, is the director of religious education at Sacred Heart parish in Monroe, a position she has held for 35 years. She taught at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1957-1958; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middletown, 1966-1968; St. Anthony's, the Bronx, 1968-1969; Cathedral High School, Manhattan, 1969-1970; St. Vito's, Mamaroneck, 1970-1972 and Most Precious Blood, Walden, 1977-1978. She has served in dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre.

**Sister Mary Joyce, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, offers community service in the motherhouse at Dominican Convent, Sparkill. She was a teacher and guidance counselor in the archdiocese. She served at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1954-1955; St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1956-1960; Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, 1969-71 and 1998-1999; St. Columba's, Chester, 1971-1974; St. Brendan's, the Bronx, 1974-

(Continued on next page)



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## Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

(Continued from previous page)

1980; St. Martin of Tours, the Bronx, 1980-1982; St. Helena's, Bronx, 1982-86; Sacred Heart, Yonkers, 1985-1992; St. John Chrysostom, Bronx, 1992-1997 and 1999-2003. She served in the dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre. Formerly known as Sister Dominica, she resides at Dominican Convent, Sparkill.

**Sister Anne Barbara Greene, O.P.**, is a native of New York City. She has been a teacher, nurse and director of religious education in the archdiocese ministering at St. Anthony, Nanuet, 1956-1959; Sacred Heart, Suffern, 1959-1963; St. Joseph, the Bronx, 1963-1969; Misericordia Hospital, the Bronx, 1969-1971; Siena Hall, Sparkill, 1971-1975; Rosary Academy, Sparkill, 1975-79; Holy Trinity parish, Poughkeepsie, 1979-1984 and 1985-1989; St. Augustine, New City, 1989-1997; Villa St. Joseph, Saugerties, 1997-1998; St. Catherine, Blauvelt, 1998-1999; St. Paul, Congers, 2005-2007 and St. John, Piermont, 2007-2008. She resides in Dominican Convent, Sparkill.

**Sister Barbara Paul, O.P.**, a native of St. Louis, Mo., served at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1956-1958 and St. Ann's, the Bronx, 1958-1959. She served in congregational leadership, 1972-1980, and was elected president in 1980. From 1985 until 1994 she served the people of Peru as pastoral minister through Hermanas de Maryknoll program. She taught and was a pastoral assistant in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and taught in the dioceses of Albany and Wilmington, Del. Formerly known as Sister Mary Barbara, she resides in Washington, Mo., where she is a part-time teacher.

**Sister Patricia Clark, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, served at St. Agnes Home, Sparkill, 1956-1958; Thorpe Secretarial School, Manhattan, 1958-1963; and Cathedral High School, Manhattan, 1963-1971. She served in the dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre. She holds a doctorate in gerontology from Columbia University. From 1976 to 2000, she was professor and chairperson of the gerontology department at Molloy College. Formerly known as Sister Patricia Catherine, she resides at Siena Hall, Sparkill.

### 50 YEARS

**Sister Patricia Hogan, O.P.**, a native of Brooklyn, has served as a pastoral associate at St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Nyack since 2009. She has been a teacher, director of religious education and pastoral associate in the archdiocese. She served at St. Agnes Home, Sparkill, 1966-1967; St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1967-1974; St. Gregory Barbarigo, Garnerville, 1974-

1976; Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, 1976-1984; and St. Francis of Assisi parish, West Nyack, 1984-1999. She served in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Formerly known as Sister Joseph Christi, she resides at Albertus Magnus Convent, Bardonia.

**Sister Lorraine LaRocca, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, was elected to congregational leadership in 2004. She has served as a teacher, campus minister and administrator. She served at St. Agnes Home, Sparkill, 1966-1967; Sacred Heart, Suffern, 1967-1970; Rosary Academy, Sparkill, 1978-1981; Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, 1981-1996 and Aquinas High School, the Bronx, 1996-2004. She served in the Diocese of Albany. Formerly known as Sister Anne Lorraine, she resides in Orangeburg.

**Sister Suzanne Walker, O.P.**, a native of Kansas City, Mo., served at St. Agnes Home, Sparkill, 1966-1967 and St. Anthony's, the Bronx, 1967-1970. She served in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of Jefferson City. Formerly known as Sister Suzanne Marie, she has served as a teacher and principal at Holy Rosary School in Monroe City, Mo., since 1975.

**Sister Joan Correia, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, has been director of Siena Hall at Dominican Convent since 2003. She taught at St. Gregory Barbarigo School, Garnerville, 1967-1968; St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1968-1970; Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, 1974-1976; New Hope Manor, Garrison, 1976-1980, and Aquinas High School, the Bronx, 1994-2003. She served in congregational leadership, 1980-1988. From 1988 to 1994 she served at a school in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. She also served in the Diocese of Wilmington, Del. She was formerly known as Sister Teresa Edward.

**Sister Margaret Palliser, O.P.**, a native of St. Louis, Mo., was elected to congregational leadership in 2010. From 1993 to 2008 she was director of campus ministry and assistant vice president for mission at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. From 2009 to 2012 she was editor of *Living with Christ*. She served at Thorpe Secretarial School, Manhattan, 1967-1969; St. Martin of Tours, Bronx, 1969-1970; Rosary Academy, Sparkill, 1980-1983, and as music teacher of St. Anthony, St. Paul, and St. Augustine schools, all in Rockland County, 1973-1975. She also served at St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, and Mount St. Mary College, Newburgh, 1991-1993. She has served in Diocese of Rockville Centre. She holds advanced degrees in theology, including the STD, from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. She was formerly known as Sister Ann Monica.

**Sister Margaret Scarano, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, has served as the congregation's development director since

1988. She has served at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1966-1967 and 1972-73; Sacred Heart, Suffern, 1967-1970; St. Pius X, Scarsdale, 1970-1972; and St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1973-1979. She was the congregation's vocation director, 1974-1980. She was principal of St. Vito's School, Mamaroneck, 1981-1986. She also served at Blind Brook High School, Rye Brook, 1980-1981; and worked with the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor, Ossining, 1986-1988. She was formerly known as Sister Anne Kieran.

**Sister Barbara Mueller, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, has served for 20 years as director of campus ministry/chaplain at Hunter College and Baruch College, both Manhattan. She has been a teacher and administrator at St. Martin of Tours, Bronx, 1966-1974; Aquinas High School, the Bronx, 1974-1977; Catholic Learning Center, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Rockville Centre, 1977-1980; and principal at St. Theresa's, Briarcliff Manor, 1980-1989. From 1989 to 1994 she was coordinator of support services at Encore Community Center in Manhattan. She was formerly known as Sister Ann Peter.

**Sister Maria Garguilo, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, has served since 1985 as a teacher, dean of students and office staff worker at Msgr. Scanlan High School, the Bronx. Formerly known as Sister Alba John, she served at St. Agnes Home, Sparkill, 1966-1967; and Sacred Heart, Suffern, 1967-1985.

**Sister Marie Peter Buckley, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, has served for 26 years at SUNY Rockland Community College, first as a clinical instructor, 1988-1996, and then as assistant professor and professor. She has been director of nursing at Dominican Convent, Sparkill, since 1972. She has served at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1966-1967; St. Brendan's, the Bronx, 1967-1970; and as a counselor at Thorpe Residence, Manhattan, 1970-1971.

**Sister Virginia Brodowski, O.P.**, a native of the Bronx, has begun serving as assistant to the sisters at Dominican Convent in Sparkill. She has served at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1966-1967; Sacred Heart, Suffern, 1967-1969 and 1989-1990; and Annunciation, Crestwood, 1990-1993. She served in the Bronx at St. Brendan's, 1976-1987; St. Ann's, 1987-1989; St. Nicholas of Tolentine, 1993-1994; St. John Chrysostom, 1994-2011; and St. Catherine Academy, 2012-2013. Formerly known as Sister Stella Rose, she also served in the Diocese of Albany.

**Sister June Clare Tracy, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, has served as Manhattan district school superintendent for the archdiocese since 1997. She taught at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1966-1967; St. James, Carmel, 1967-1969; and St. Theresa's, the Bronx, 1969-1982. She was principal of St. Brendan's, the Bronx, 1982-1996. She

holds a doctorate in administration/supervision from St. John University. She was formerly known as Sister Anne John.

**Sister Carol Lehmkuhl, O.P.**, has been director of The Family Center in East St. Louis, Ill., for 20 years. She served at St. Agnes, Sparkill, 1966-1967; St. Gregory Barbarigo, Garnerville, 1967-1970. She served in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Mo., and the Dioceses of Jefferson City, Mo., and Bellville, Ill. Formerly known as Sister Robert Ann, she is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio.

### 25 YEARS

**Sister Diane McSherry, O.P.**, a native of Manhattan, has taught at St. Gregory Barbarigo School, Garnerville, since 1999. She served at St. Ann's, Nyack, 1988-1990; St. Joseph's, Spring Valley, 1992-1993; and St. Anthony's, Nanuet, 1993-1997. She also served in Great Falls, Mont.

### 70 YEARS

Sister Julia Marie Cody, O.P.  
Sister Adele Myers, O.P.  
Sister Una McCormack, O.P.  
Sister James David, O.P.  
Sister Jean Thomas McHenry, O.P.  
Sister Anne Connelly, O.P.  
Sister Alma Maria Van Buren, O.P.

### 65 YEARS

Sister Winifred Marie O'Halloran, O.P.  
Sister Elizabeth Anthony Gatto, O.P.  
Sister Margaret Rose Moran, O.P.  
Sister Anne Simms, O.P.  
Sister Rosemary Kelly, O.P.  
Sister Carolyn Bell, O.P.  
Sister Catherine Viggiano, O.P.  
Sister Patricia Cody, O.P.

## Ursuline Nuns, New Rochelle

### 75 YEARS

**Sister Anne Marie Kelleher, O.S.U.**, taught at Our Lady of Mercy School and St. Jerome's, both in the Bronx, and St. Joseph's, Middletown, in the 1940s. She served for 40 years in South Africa, Zambia and Botswana as a teacher, assistant superior and superior before returning to the United States in 1993. She did parish ministry in Witherbee until 2003. She is now retired at St. Teresa's community, New Rochelle.

### 60 YEARS

**Sister Mildred Haupt, O.S.U.**, was an instructor in education at the College of New Rochelle and director of education for the province in the 1960s. Formerly known as Mother Maria Carl, she taught at the College of New Rochelle again, 1972-

(Continued at right)



*Ursuline Nuns, New Rochelle**(Continued from left)*

2001. She also taught in Maryland and Delaware and was a visiting professor at a university in Thailand. After retiring from college teaching, she was superior of the Ursuline community in Wilmington, Del., and one of the founders of Serviam Girls Academy, an all-scholarship Catholic middle school where she continues to serve.

**Sister Carole Marie Keaney, O.S.U.**, served as a teacher, did parish work and rural development in Indonesia from 1959 until 1988. She was then on the staff of Mount St. Ursula Speech Center and Highbridge Community Life Center, both in the Bronx. She started a small organic farm in Goshen, and was coordinator of Harmony Farm, 2003-2008. She is retired and does volunteer work in Goshen.

**Sister Marie-Celine Miranda, O.S.U.**, taught philosophy at the College of New Rochelle, 1957-1967. She also held the posts of assistant dean and registrar. After time in Rome, she returned to the college in 1978 as assistant dean. She taught at Berkeley School, was business manager at Salesian High School, New Rochelle, and spent a year teaching English as a second language in Taiwan. She has served her community as provincial superior of the Eastern Province, 1997-2003, and assistant business manager, 1997-2013. She is now secretary/treasurer of the province.

**Sister Mary Jane Robertshaw, O.S.U.**, taught art at the College of New Rochelle, 1957-1997, then continued there as artist-in-residence until 2013. Among her works is a life-size statute of St. Angela Merici, founder of the order, located in the college chapel. She taught art in Botswana. She lives at Andrus on Hudson.

**Sister Elizabeth Ann Sommer, O.S.U.**, spent her religious life serving as an educator. Formerly Mother Mary Veronica, she taught from the 1950s until the early 1970s at Blessed Sacrament School, New Rochelle, and Our Lady of Mercy and St. Philip Neri, both in the Bronx. She was a social studies teacher at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, 1973-1997. Now retired, she resides in the Bedford Park community, New Rochelle.

**Sister Dolores Yanshak, O.S.U.**, first taught at Blessed Sacrament School, New Rochelle. She then served in Indonesia for 32 years. She was director of a residence for university students, then a teacher and director of boarders at a secondary school. She also did social service and pastoral ministry. Back in New York, she did development work for her province, 1992-1995. She worked at the Lord's Pantry, White Plains, 1996-2011, and was executive director of a residence for homeless moth-

ers and children in the Bronx, 2006-2007. Since 1995, the former Sister Mary Consilia has practiced wholistic massage therapy at Divine Compassion Center.

**50 YEARS**

**Sister Mary Alice Duggan, O.S.U.**, taught at St. Joseph's School, Middletown, Delaware. The former Mother Laurentine was assistant superior at the Ursuline Generalate in Rome, 1981. She taught at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, the Bronx, 1987-1990, then at the Ursuline School, New Rochelle. She worked in clinical pastoral education at New York Methodist Hospital in 1994, then served as chaplain at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center, 1995-2005, and at a hospice program on Long Island, 2007-2011. She was coordinator at Andrus on Hudson, and now serves at the Generalate in Rome.

**Sister Eileen Finnerty, O.S.U.**, was a teacher at Blessed Sacrament School, New Rochelle, 1967-1968, and at St. Philip Neri, 1969. She taught at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, the Bronx, 1970-1975, and served there as principal, 1975-1981. She was a guidance counselor at the Ursuline School, New Rochelle for four years. She did administrative work for the province, and was superior of the community, 1986-1988. She was chaplain at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, 1989-1996. Since 1996, she has served as pastoral associate at St. Ann's parish, Ossining.

*Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo (Scalabrinians)***50 YEARS**

**Sister Teolide Cecagno, M.S.C.S.**, a native of Brazil, has served as a registered nurse in New York, Maryland, Illinois and in Canada. Currently she is a private duty nurse and volunteers at the Regional Catechetical Office in central southern Westchester. She is one of four sisters in her family in religious life.

*Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt***80 YEARS**

**Sister Catherine Deevy, O.P.**, was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland. She served for 43 years as a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. She worked as a nurse in St. Martin de Porres Infirmary at St. Dominic's Convent, Blauvelt, 1977-1993. She continued there as a volunteer, 1993-1999. She retired to the infirmary in 2001.

**Sister Jean Marie Rathgaber, O.P.**, who was born in New York City, was the

academic dean at Dominican College, 1965-1972. She taught at St. Dominic's, Blauvelt, 1936-1940; and in the Bronx at Holy Spirit, 1940-1946; St. Luke's, 1946-1948, and Lavelle School for the Blind, 1948-1965. She founded and ministered at the House on the Hill Migrant Child Care Center, Goshen, 1972-1987. She then became director of development with the New York State Agricultural Child Care Program until 2004. She retired to St. Martin De Porres Infirmary in 2005.

**60 YEARS**

**Sister Barbara Duffy, O.P.**, was born in the Bronx and taught at St. Catharine's, Blauvelt, 1958-1964; Immaculate Conception, Amenia, 1964-1969; St. Peter's, Liberty, 1970-1971; and Our Lady of the Rosary, Yonkers, 1971-1973. She was guidance counselor at Sacred Heart High School, Yonkers, 1973-1992. She also served in Oceanside, and in Toms River, N.J. She has been a volunteer in the Diocese of Palm Beach, Fla., since 2009.

**70 YEARS**

Sister Loyola Bartnett, O.P.  
Sister Molly Dower, O.P.  
Sister Theresa Lynch, O.P.

*Salesians of St. John Bosco***50 YEARS**

**Father John Blanco, S.D.B.**, who was born in New Rochelle, has served as community treasurer for the Salesians' provincial residence in New Rochelle since 2007. He was prefect of studies at Don Bosco Juniorate, Haverstraw, 1964-1967, and treasurer at Salesian High School, New Rochelle, 1984-1990. He served at Corpus Christi Church, Port Chester, as assistant pastor, 1993-1998 and 2002-2007, and as administrator in 1998 and 2007. He was pastor of Mary Help of Christians, Mahattan, 1998-2001. He has also served in Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Ohio.

**25 YEARS**

**Father Richard Alejunas, S.D.B.**, has served as assistant pastor at Holy Rosary Church, Port Chester, and director of the Don Bosco Community Center there since 2005. He also served there, 1998-1999, and was parish administrator there for several months in 2009 and again in 2012-2013. He was coordinator of youth ministry at Salesian High School, New Rochelle, 1999-2002, and retreat coordinator at the Don Bosco Retreat Center, Haverstraw, 2002-2005. He was editor of the Salesian Bulletin, 1998-2004. A native of Cambridge, Mass., he has also served in Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Ohio.

*Religious of the Sacred Heart Of Mary, Tarrytown***60 YEARS**

**Sister Victoria Busch, R.S.H.M.**, first taught in R.S.H.M. schools in Barcelona and London. Returning to the United States, she taught Spanish at Mother Butler High School in the Bronx and then Resurrection Academy, Rye. She held secretarial positions in the Generalate in Rome and the Provincial Center in Tarrytown before going into pastoral care and campus ministry both in Tarrytown and Richmond, Va. She now serves as a volunteer chaplain at Calvary Hospital, the Bronx.

**Sister Antonio Cobos, R.S.H.M.**, a native of Colombia, entered the order at Marymount, Tarrytown, and then returned to Colombia as a support staff member from 1956 to 1978 at Marymount schools in Medellin, Bogota and Barranquilla. She returned to Marymount Convent, Tarrytown, in 1978 and she again served on the support staff until her retirement there in 2012.

**Sister Gabrielle Corbally, R.S.H.M.**, taught high school at Our Lady of Victory Academy, Dobbs Ferry, 1978; Fordham Prep, the Bronx, 1980-1983; Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Conn.; Richmond, Va.; Chicago and Paris. She has been a communications consultant. From 1993 to 2011 she served as director of religious education at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Mount Kisco. She has taught religion and served as a library supervisor at Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, since 2011.

**Sister Evelyn Gill, R.S.H.M.**, a native of Ireland, served on the support staff at Marymount, Tarrytown, until 1970, when she was missioned to RSHM high schools: Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Park Terrace, 1972-1973; Mother Butler Memorial High School, the Bronx, 1973-1978; and others in Chicago and London. From 1987 to 1990 she worked in the archives and child-care center at Marymount University, Arlington, Va. She returned to London in 1990 and served as the boarding school moderator until 2003 when she had the opportunity to participate in the Regina Mundi program in Rome. She later returned to Marymount Convent, Tarrytown, where she is assistant coordinator of the convent retirement program.

**Sister Clare McBrien, R.S.H.M.**, a ministry of teaching and administration at RSHM schools in Garden City, Chicago, Paris and Rome. In 1978 she became a member of a R.S.H.M. project for commu-

*(Continued on next page)*

# 2015 Celebration of Religious Life Won't Ignore Problems, Officials Say

By CINDY WOODEN

Pope Francis has called for a special yearlong focus on consecrated life, asking the Church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope, a Vatican official said.

"Consecrated men and women are aware that besides recounting the great stories they have written in the past, they are called to write a no-less-beautiful and great story in the future," said Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

At a news conference Jan. 31, the cardinal spoke about plans for the 2015 Year for Consecrated Life, which Pope Francis announced in November.

The congregation hopes Pope Francis will celebrate the year's opening Mass Nov. 21, when the Church marks a day of prayer for cloistered religious. The events would conclude one year later on the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council decree "Perfectae Caritatis" on the renewal of religious life.

"We are convinced that the council rep-

resented the breath of the Holy Spirit not only for the entire Church, but in a particular way for consecrated life," Cardinal Aviz said.

"We are also convinced that in these 50 years, consecrated life has followed a fruitful path of renewal—certainly not without difficulties and struggles," the cardinal said. "In this year, we want to recognize and confess our weaknesses, but we also want to show the world with strength and joy the holiness and vitality that are present in consecrated life."

Responding to questions about the huge numbers of religious who have left consecrated life since the council, Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo, congregation secretary, said: "In consecrated life, there are lights and shadows, and recognizing this is an exercise of lucidity and courage. There are lights and shadows, just as in every area of the life of society and of the Church."

The archbishop said he had no problem talking about, and even publishing in the Vatican newspaper, the number of priests, brothers and nuns who leave religious life each year.

"It's part of the crisis that society is living through," he said. "We consecrated

"We are convinced that in these 50 years, consecrated life has followed a fruitful path of renewal—certainly not without difficulties and struggles. In this year, we want to recognize and confess our weaknesses, but we also want to show the world with strength and joy the holiness and vitality that are present in consecrated life."

## Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz

Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

people, thanks be to God, are part of the societies of this world."

In October, the archbishop wrote that between 2008 and 2012, the congregation for religious issued 11,805 dispensations, releasing men and women from their religious vows. Other religious received dispensations from the congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith, for Bishops and for Clergy, bringing to about 3,000 the average number of perpetually professed reli-

gious who left each year.

The figures, he said, work out to be about 2.5 dispensations annually for every 1,000 consecrated men and women with perpetual vows.

The Vatican's Statistical Yearbook reported that at the end of 2011, there were more than 903,300 religious priests, brothers and sisters in the world. That figure includes those with temporary vows.

Commemorating the Second Vatican Council during the Year for Consecrated Life will not mean ignoring "the shadows," but it also will not mean wallowing in them, the archbishop said.

"We believe the council was a breath of the Holy Spirit and the point of departure for a profound renewal of consecrated life, which retains its evangelical significance," he said.

"It's sad when a consecrated person leaves, just as it's sad that many families break up, but this is part of the reality of grace and sin that exist in the Church and every human reality," he added.

Cardinal Aviz said a key challenge of being Christian and being a religious is looking toward the future with hope.

"We want to see these crises not as an antechamber of death, but as a 'kairos,' a favorable occasion for growth" and the Year for Consecrated Life should be a further push for doing so, he said. —CNS

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## Religious of the Sacred Heart Of Mary, Tarrytown

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nity development outreach project to the rural poor in the Diocese of Richmond, Va., where she serves in different community projects. She is deeply committed to issues of peace and justice as well as ecological education.

**Sister Florence Reilly, R.S.H.M.**, first taught at primary and secondary schools in California. In 1967, she volunteered to teach in a recently opened Marymount School in Umtali, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). After the school was closed she remained there doing parish work and social service and development work in the years when Rhodesia was being transformed into Zimbabwe. She traveled back and forth between Tarrytown and Zimbabwe until 2008, when she returned to Tarrytown and now works in the business office of the Provincial Center.

## 50 YEARS

**Sister Rosamond Blanchet, R.S.H.M.**,

was elected last August as general superior of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, an international order, and recently began her six-year term in Rome. She began her ministry in teaching and administration at R.S.H.M. elementary schools in Queens. In 1982 she became the director of formation for the Eastern American Province for six years followed by seven years working with Good Shepherd Services and two years as a pastoral assistant in Rumson, N.J. From 1997 to 2009 she served first as provincial councilor and then provincial superior of the Eastern American Province. She then served for three years in the archdiocesan Vicars for Religious Office.

**Sister Ann Miller, R.S.H.M.**, has taught in R.S.H.M. elementary schools in Richmond, Va., St. Louis, Mo., and Florida. She has taught in the archdiocese at St. Thomas Aquinas School, the Bronx, and Marymount Academy, Tarrytown. She also taught at Marymount International School and Marymount Nomentana, Rome. Now a staff member of Marymount Convent, Tarrytown, she is involved in efforts to eliminate the human trafficking of women.

## 70 YEARS

Sister Josephine Rooney, R.S.H.M.