



# Sharings

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary USA Province

Volume 41 No. 4 Winter 2011



Maria Van Galen, fmm



"Let us open our hearts to  
Emmanuel  
that He may ever be with us..."

Blessed Mary of the Passion, Christmas Meditation

## Editors Notes

Christmas is a time when we give and receive gifts. Jesus is the Great Gift to all people. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:6) In Matthew we read, "The gift you have received, give as a gift." (Matthew 10:8) What then do we, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, have to give as a gift to our troubled Church and world? Our response is contained in the vows that we pronounce.

*"Following Christ in the Spirit I give myself unreservedly to the Father after the example of Mary and Francis. I offer my life for the Church and for the salvation of the world."*

Then follow the ways in which Franciscan Missionaries of Mary offer this gift.

*"I dedicate myself to Eucharistic adoration and to the evangelization of peoples, and I commit myself to live in fraternal (Sisterly) community. I make vows of poverty, obedience and chastity forever, in accordance with the Constitutions of the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. We ask God's grace to be faithful until death."*

Wherever Franciscan Missionaries of Mary are sent, they bring the Good News of God's love in sending us His only son, Jesus.

We wish all of our readers "the Joy and Love of Christmas."

*Rosemarie Higgins, Anne Turbini, Maryann Alukonis, and Annie Nebres, fmm*

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**NEXT ISSUE: SPRING**

## Our Deceased Sisters & Relatives

Please remember in your prayers

Helen V. McCarron, fmm  
(M. Anicetus)

Born to Eternal Life  
October 30, 2011



Margarida Tavares, fmm  
(Maria de São Simão)

Born to Eternal Life  
November 26, 2011

Roger Higgins, brother of Rosemarie Higgins, fmm  
Dorothy(Higgins) Lynch, sister of Rosemarie Higgins, fmm  
Florence Figueira, aunt of Nancy Cabral, fmm

### EULOGIES for ...

Helen V. McCarron, fmm

When we reflect on Sr. Helen McCarron's life we can readily see that she lived her vows faithfully. She gave herself unreservedly to God as she followed the example of Mary and Francis. Like Mary of the Passion Helen's "major preoccupation was to love God with her whole heart, her whole soul, her whole strength and above everything else in the world." (A Woman and a Mission, p. 55)

Helen was a local girl born and bred in Providence and I am sure that she never imagined that she would cross the seas to foreign shores. But that she did—ministering in China, Italy and here in the United States. In all these ministries she continued to offer herself for the Church and the salvation of the world.

Many of us here today also remember Helen's dry wit and numerous occasions that gave us an "inside view" of her humor and gift to entertain, always accompanied by a twinkle in her eye.

Having been one of Helen's novices I witnessed from the very beginning her dedication to Eucharistic adoration

and to the evangelization of peoples. She was certainly a model to her novices. She could correct us and then it was over—no grudges were held. I believe these words that were written on the occasion of the introduction of the cause of beatification of our foundress, Mary of the Passion, also describe Helen. "An extraordinary woman, marked by a boundless love for the Absolute God - strong in times of trial and suffering, always serene, easily forgiving and generous." (Rome, July 1, 1979)

As a religious and especially as Novice Mistress Helen taught us by word and by action to love our Franciscan Missionary of Mary charism and to be ready to say in the words of Mary of the Passion, "My homeland is the entire world." (CR, May 3, 1904) Helen ministered in many parts of our world and always found herself at home wherever she was. Now Helen has come to her final home with her God whom she loved and served as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary for nearly 77 years.

Dear Helen, may you rest in peace.

*Lois Pereira, fmm*

Margarida Tavares, fmm

On October 4, 1882, Blessed Mary of the Passion wrote, "Be firmly convinced that you must always be ready to leave any place or any creature the moment Our Lord's good pleasure demands it, if you are to receive in Heaven that fullness of glory reserved to the missionary daughters of the Blessed Virgin. (CR/1:11)

I am sure that when Margarida entered the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary on September 15, 1940 she was not thinking about leaving any place or anyone except her parents and her sixteen brothers and sisters in Fall River. She had observed the sisters who had taught her at Espirito Santo School and knew that God was calling her to join them. We may not know exactly what it was that attracted Margarida to this missionary way of life but she saw and experienced the peace and joy in the sisters who were living out the words of Blessed Mary of the Passion who wrote, "In the missionary life there is no possibility of standing still." (MD 368)

Throughout her life as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary Margarida ministered in various parts of the United States - being a missionary who did not stand still!! She served our sisters with her wonderful cooking and sewing skills, here at Fruit Hill, in Cincinnati, Boston and Woonsocket. She taught Religious Education to the children in Fall River and Lebanon, New Hampshire. Completing her Nurse's Aide Course she ministered to patients at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, New York.

Margarida's great love for children was seen in her wonderful work in child care and in the Grand Parent Program in the Catholic Schools in the Somerville/ Cambridge area. Once again we see that Margarida's was living out the words our Foundress wrote on August 30, 1882, "The distinct mark of a Franciscan missionary of Mary should be charity." (NS: 13) Margarida's big heart and love of God was shared with all those whose lives she touched. It is fitting to end with this thought from Blessed Mary of the Passion. "A real thirst for rest with my God, to make Him the requests that He wants me to make, to have the thought and desires that He wants me to have, and to go to Him in truth and through everything in life, if I cannot yet go to Him in eternity." (NS: 204)

Margarida has now gone to her God in eternity and she brings with her her beautiful smile and a missionary life that has been pleasing to her God whom she has longed to see. Dear Margarida, your mission is fulfilled; you can now stand still with your God whom you have served for more than seventy years as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary.

*Lois Pereira, fmm*



### **from Fred Apers to the Sisters of the Province ...**

Dear Sisters,

Working at Cardinal Hayes Home for 38 years has provided many personal opportunities to experience the dynamic mission of the FMM's. However I wish to express my added enjoyment in receiving your fall edition of Sharings. I was given an "insider view" of your Provincial Chapter gathering which I found uplifting!

Best wishes to all my FMM friends for your pro-active participation in addressing difficult challenging issues. The "light" reflected in joyous faces in the numerous photographs brought forth cherished memories and even deeper respect for your charism.

Thank you for sharing your lives through Christ and teaching so many of us to walk in the footsteps of Francis and Clare.

With Love and Prayers,

Fred Apers  
Executive Director

### **"Sr. Helen Taught Us So Much"**

These are the words of a woman named Darlene I encountered before the Wake Service of Sr. Helen McCarron. She told me that she and her grandson, Nicholas, age 10, used to visit Sr. Helen once a week at Fruit Hill.

Eight years ago, Darlene said, she was babysitting Nicholas and they were driving somewhere. She said whenever he saw a church, he always wanted to stop and go in. They passed Fruit Hill and when they saw the chapel, he wanted to stop. When they found the doors locked, he was very upset. So, Darlene said they went into the gift shop and asked if they could go into the chapel from the inside. As they were going down the corridor, Sr. Helen was coming from the opposite direction. Nicholas saw her and ran to her with open arms, embracing her with great excitement, even though he had never met her before. The three of them made a visit to chapel together and then Nicholas wanted to come again. That started a tradition. He was two at the time. So, every week for seven years, Darlene and Nicholas would come to visit Sr. Helen. They always visited the chapel to pray and sometimes they would walk around the grounds and cemetery. Nicholas seemed to love doing everything. Once Sr. Helen came to St. Antoine, however, Darlene visited once but didn't want Nicholas to see Helen not feeling well.

Nicholas also didn't want to come to Sr. Helen's wake or funeral but preferred to walk around the grounds with Darlene and be in all the places where they had walked together. In the afternoon of Helen's funeral, they visited the chapel.

Tearfully, Darlene told me that Sr. Helen made such an impression on her and the family, especially Nicholas. Sometimes, they took her out for lunch and several times she went to their home at Christmastime, where Nicholas showed her all around the house. "She was like a mother to me," Darlene said. "Sr. Helen taught us so much."

A photo of Nicholas in his Confirmation suit was on Sr. Helen's dresser while she was at St. Antoine's.

*Joyce Gardella, fmm*

## PROVINCE NEWS

**Elizabeth Ann Conyers** has been appointed Local Co-ordinator of Holy Family Community.

On November 29 our sisters **Alicia Alambra**, **Sheila Lehmkuhle** and **Nga Le** moved from Waukegan, IL to Stickney, IL. Their new address is: 4311 South Grove Ave. Stickney, IL 60402 Telephone: 708-317-5075

**Mary Motte** has been in the Singapore /Malaysia Province to give some input on the Mission Handbook and a retreat on the Charism.

**Sr. Frances Milano** has been missioned to Holy Family Community at Fruit Hill.

**Anna Marie Nebres** has been missioned to DeChapotin community but will continue her work in our Communications Office. She will also assist Sr. Anne Dundin in the sacristy of the main chapel at Fruit Hill.

**Thao Phi** has arrived from South Africa for her home leave and **Phi Uong** will come for her family leave soon. Both hope to visit the east coast.

### Our Sick Sisters

**Sr. Anne Foster** has been admitted to Cherry Hill Nursing and Rehab. Center for some rehab after a recent hospitalization.

**Sr. Herminia Coquia**, was recently hospitalized, spent a few days at Cherry Hill Nursing and Rehab Center and is now at St. Antoine Residence.



## Annual Protest - School of Americas

*Maryann Alukonis, fmm has participated for the last several years in the peaceful protest of the SOA/WHINSEC. She writes about the tornado and the peaceful march.*

Sisters Millie and Anne picked me up at the airport and down to Pine Mountain we went. On Wednesday we were out of Pine Mountain doing the weekly shopping and when we came back found out that Hamilton was hit with a tornado! Many of the places where people would ordinarily call for help were the places that got hit: Fire Station, Police Station and others like that.

Anne and I went down to Hamilton the next day to find out if we would still be able to help with the food. We

were told yes. People were told that the Gym would be ok. It had lights, and the food was there already. Anne was going to show me how to get there if the roads were still not open. But too many trees had fallen and roads were closed even for walking. So we had to wait until Friday.

On the way back we could see so many trees and other things down. Many came to help on Friday with the food for the poor. We did up food for 415 families. I did enjoy doing all this as part of my trip to Pine Mountain.

Saturday and Sunday I went down to Ft. Benning. And, as each year I thought what will it be like this year. This year not as many came. This was probably because of the cost of the trip and so many out of work.

There were lots of young people and it's something to see them. They stop at the different tables and ask all kinds of questions. We had different people tell their stories on Saturday.

Father Roy gave a speech and Martin Sheen did also. Sunday there was the Funeral Procession starting off with an Indigenous Blessing. As we walked in procession, participants called off names of people who have been killed and we responded "presente" after each name.

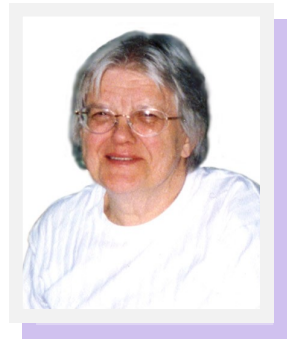
This year I talked to more people than I did in other years. One thing came to be because of this: Two ladies were holding a Banner and I could see they could use help. One said to me, "Can you help us during the Procession?" I said "yes." In this way I did not have to just keep walking on the outside the group. So this was different from past years. We gave each other our names and shared where we were from.

*Maryann Alukonis, fmm*

The SOA/WHINSEC - What is the School of the Americas?

The SOA is a military training school for Latin American security personnel. Its graduates are continually implicated in human rights violations against civilian populations across Latin America.

In December 2000 Congress authorized the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation or WHINSEC to replace the SOA. The renaming of the school was widely viewed as an attempt to diffuse public criticism and to disassociate the school from its reputation. The underlying purpose of the school remains the same: to control the economic and political situation.



## Inter-province meeting of the temporary professed sisters, Notre Dame de la Merci

On June 18-25 the Temporary Professed Sisters attended the retreat in Ottawa, Presland. The theme was based on the FMM Vows formula given by Sr. Christiane Megarbane, FMM. All the Fmm retreatants were welcomed with open arms by the sisters who reside in Presland. I had the opportunity to reflect and ponder on each line of the vows and the challenge on how to live it each day. It was a privilege to have met Sr. Christiane. I felt peace flowing out of her when she spoke and gave her conferences. This energy and suggestion to grow in God's love gave me hope to deepened my vocation as an FMM. What I came away with from this retreat is to continue to be grateful and readiness to be shaped by God by embracing who God wants me to be.

On June 27, Srs. Arlene, Karen, Annie, Ludmilla and I had our annual session at Notre Dame la Merci a cottage in Quebec. Sr. Pauline FMM Director of Temporary vows from the U.S Province came as well to support and accompanies us. The theme was on *Reconciliation* given by Sr. Rita FMM. We had a re-reading of life from our childhood to adulthood on how we each dealt with conflicts and painful situations among family members, friends, co-workers and peers. This process was insightful and helped me to look at my past experiences from an objective point of view. This process helped me realized who I was and who I became in my adulthood. I was grateful to God and to Sr. Rita for this process because the joyful, painful and learning experiences shaped me to grow and to remain open to God's Grace in my life. I also thank Sr. Simone Bastien, our loving provincial for her presentation on *"Embracing on own shadow and life in Harmony."* Her presentation was captivating with humor, truth and challenges. I felt stretch like an elastic band during her conference. Coming out of the session on Reconciliation has made me aware that I can only know my gifts and limitations by living in Community and thank God for the joys and challenges in my life.

*Cathy K Tshitenge, fmm*

During the TPR meeting, what struck me was the patterns learned in childhood, that which we did not like, we often bring into community (the cycle is repeated). We were also invited to look at our shadow - the parts of ourselves which we are proud of as well as the parts that we hate. We watched a short clip of a documentary that showed a group of Israelites and

Palestinians who have lost children in the conflict and the choice each of them makes to peace and reconciliation. It is a very humbling experience to see people who have lost so much, ready to take the narrow road in order to say as Jesus did: "forgive them Father, they know not what they do." And we, whose hurts are quite minor in comparison, are we instruments of unity and peace or are we instruments of division?

*Arlene, fmm*

Dear Sisters,

I like to share with you my experience during our TPR's (Temporary Professed Religious) formation session we had at the end of June.

First, I thank God as it is a blessing to have our session at the Notre Dame Cottage where it is peaceful and serene to hear the voice of God more and clearer in one's life during the session. Srs. Rita Kim, Pauline and Simone, fmm spent the time with us, for which I am grateful, and gave us a in depth of what it means to reconcile with myself and others. The Theme for our session was Reconciliation. It has helped me to have a deeper meaning of how 1<sup>st</sup> to forgive oneself of your past, present and to others. Knowing it is not easy to forgive, but the theory that Sr. Rita Kim taught me while she has asked us to look into a mirror has touched me most; realizing while looking in the mirror to see the beauty that God has created in me, how He loves me in my mistakes, faults and short comings. That God accepts me of how I am. The question I can ask myself is - "do I except myself as I am in my short comings, can I forgive myself?" Not easy to do, but **it is** possible to forgive self etc... and to let go and let God. This session also taught me how we all need to come to bring peace within ourself and into our communities; to try to build bridges so that we can build bridges with others who are most in need.

God bless you all!!!

I look forward to come together again in the future.

*Sr. Ludmilla M. Grabetz, fmm*

Sr. Christiane's retreat on the formula of vows gave me a better understanding and appreciation of the FMM life. To make a retreat together with other FMM sisters made it more significant for I realized the beauty of making the same commitment which the other sisters have already made years ago. Still, they continue to strengthen their commitment by renewing it year after year by the grace God has given them.

The second week was very engaging and more personal as we delved into the theme of Reconciliation. Reconciliation took us deep into our core where we discovered our own brokenness and found ways of healing. From there, I realized that peace in our world can only be attained once peace is sought from within. As the song goes, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

Annie L. Nebres, fmm

Our theme for our session this summer was 'Reconciliation.' Through the different activities and workshops presented to us by Srs. Simone, Rita and Br. Pierre, I became more aware of my strengths and shadows and the positive and negative impact they have had on my relationship with others. Emphasis

was also placed on the importance of reconciliation with oneself and with others.

Gandhi once said "Be the change you want to see in the world." If I want to see change in the world I have to be willing to take the first step. There is a great need for reconciliation, therefore I myself need to have walked and journeyed along this path of forgiveness in order to be a credible witness and an agent of reconciliation in our suffering world.

Karen Corera, fmm

We would like to thank both Provinces for giving us this opportunity to come together as temporary professed sisters to share our joys, challenges and dreams for the future. We thank you for your prayers and support as we journey together in God's love and mercy.



## from Japan

### Sr. Barbara Hogan, fmm Presented an Award



Sr. Barbara Hogan, fmm was among persons receiving an award at the 2011 Annual Award Ceremony for Social Contributors, sponsored by the Foundation for Encouragement of Social Contribution's in Tokyo, Japan. The following is the English version of Barbara's award.

Ms. Hogan (Sr. Barbara) is an American Sister born in Boston. She was serving the public as a nurse when, in 1962, at the age of 27, she was sent by her religious order to Japan. The following year, she began working in the International Catholic Hospital. She obtained a Japanese nursing license.

In addition to her work at the Hospital, where the patients include many migrant workers and refugees, she has continued for 48 years to provide volunteer services such as interpreting, clerical work, holding bazaars, paying the medical bills of indigent patients, and even making funeral arrangements for patients who pass away.

from Sheila Patenaude, fmm

*One of my students wrote this essay on Immigration. Though there's not much new in it that we probably didn't already know, I think it shows that our Province statement on immigration is very much in line with what second or third generation immigrants near the border also think and feel.*

*Bernice Chavez, the student, has given her permission for you to use it for SHARINGS. She is a freshman.*

## **Illegal Immigrants, a Threat to the United States?**

Bernice Chavez  
October 13, 2011

Immigration is what created this country we call America today. This country was founded by people of foreign lands. The first persons in America besides the Native American were immigrants.

My grandfather was a migrant worker and he brought his family over to the U.S. to work and live. Of course he, along with the rest of the family, eventually became American citizens. But before becoming a citizen he worked in the fields with my grandmother as migrant workers. They didn't make much money or live in nice places. The family was together and they had a better life here than in Mexico where employment was scarce. I strongly believe that anyone who desires to come to the United States should be able to do it legally.

Today and in the past, much controversy has been over how immigrants impact America's economy. Mexican immigration dates back between 1850 and 1880 when the US needed more farmers' workers. Thousands entered the United States in hopes of finding better economic opportunities (US Immigration Reform, 2010). A majority of them were employed as field hands, nannies, ranch hands and railroad workers. When World War I and World War II broke out, people were again immigrating to the U.S. and did well finding jobs because people were needed. There is a different story today. Americans seem to think that these workers are no longer needed and want them out of the country.

In my opinion, today's immigration laws are extremely flawed. There are people that think that all illegal immigrants should be deported back to their countries. Others think that allowances should be made for some to stay. Illegal immigrants and their descendants provide more to the federal government in taxes than they receive in benefits (Anring, 2004).

There is this false idea that there are only a certain amount of jobs available in America. Because of this false perception some people are inclined to believe that any newcomer that finds employment in the U.S. has taken an American's job. However, the reality is these illegal immigrants also create jobs. As immigrants arrive in the U.S. they increase the demand for goods and services through their consumption. Illegal immigrants also fill in vital positions in the low and high skilled ends of the labor market, creating additional job opportunities for Americans (Anderson, 2010).

Each year, undocumented workers add billions of dollars in sales, property, income and payroll taxes, including Social Security, Medicare and unemployment taxes to federal, state and local coffers. Even though they have these standard deductions such as Social Security and Medicare, they will never be entitled to it as illegal immigrants. Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants file annual federal and state income tax returns (Lipman, 2006). Even though they pay and file their taxes they are not entitled to government benefits such as food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, Unemployment or federal housing. The only benefits required for undocumented immigrants are emergency medical care, subject to eligibility and elementary and secondary education (Lipman, 2006). Many undocumented immigrants will not access these services for fear of being found out and deported.

In April of 2010 Governor Jan Brewer of Arizona signed the toughest bill to date in the U.S. on illegal immigration. This bill is designed to identify, prosecute and deport all illegal immigrants. According to this law, it would make the failure to carry immigration documents a crime and give police the power to detain anyone suspected of being an illegal alien (Archibold, 2010). In my opinion this law breeds harassment and discrimination and racial profiling against Hispanics or anyone who law enforcement believes to be undocumented, regardless of their citizenship status.

There is also another side to this controversial topic. Illegal immigrants, mostly from Mexico and Latin American countries, have cost American billions in tax payer funded medical services. Dozens of hospitals in the border areas have had to file for bankruptcy because of mandated programs requiring free emergency room services to illegal immigrants (CAIRO, 2007). Taxpayers also pay billions of dollars incarcerating illegal immigrants. Besides this, illegal immigrants send their earnings back to relatives in Mexico. This means that they are boosting Mexico's economy instead of ours.

Nevertheless, these laws that several states want to impose regarding illegal immigrants are wrong. Even

when the illegal immigrants are gone, Americans still don't want their jobs. For example, in Alabama's case, their law has backfired on them. They instituted the same type of law that Arizona did. Not only have illegal immigrants left the state of Alabama but legal ones as well. They are in short supply of construction workers, roofers, and field hands (Associated Press, 2011). Now that there are all these work opportunities why aren't unemployed Americans running to get these jobs? There are plenty of employment opportunities, but Americans prefer to keep receiving the unemployment check. America is going to regret trying to oust the immigrant.

In my opinion, the pros far outweigh the cons. These people want to be here to work and improve their lives. Why shouldn't they be given this opportunity? Not all of these illegal immigrants are uneducated. There is just less opportunity for them in their country of origin. They contribute more than we think. There should be a way to allow these illegal immigrants to become legal. Perhaps the cost of becoming a citizen could be lowered. Possibly the process of becoming a citizen could be simplified. Whatever the case may be, illegal immigrants will always be here we as Americans work with them and not against them.



## Reflections

*Our apologies to Cathy Boudreau for not including her reflections earlier. (The Editors)*

The year 2011 was a special one for me as it marked my 65th year as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary. This has made me take time out to reflect on my life over all these years. I have done things and have had experiences I never dreamt a gal from that small, insignificant town of Caliente (population 1100) would ever know. Since this tiny town is nestled in-between the sage brush covered hills of Nevada, there are times I wonder how God ever found me—but he did!

I have traveled by car, truck, canoe, motor boat, plane and on foot. I have crossed deserts, mountains and oceans. I have worked in 6 different states from coast to coast and on a small, primitive island in Indonesia. I have worked in large, modern cities and in tiny, primitive villages. I have, and worked with, and made friends with people of different color, race, religion, language and culture.

I have walked along 5th Avenue in New York City, I have walked along narrow, dangerous jungle and mountain paths. I have eaten a gourmet dinner in one of New York City's famous restaurants. I have sat on the floor of a bamboo hut and shared a meal of tough chicken and rice with a family. I have been a part of

the tears and laughter of so many and varied people. I have known a thirst I never could have imagined. I have also had my choice of 6 different drinks (ice cubes included) - just reach out and choose. I have bathed in modern, tiled bathrooms with hot and running water. I have bathed in flowing rivers and at times have had only a dipper of questionable colored water to meet my bathing needs for a day. I have slept in a 4-star hotel and I have slept in a small bamboo hut on an air mattress with no air in it and a goat for companion when a night storm blew the fragile door open and the animal came in for shelter.

I have had to stand by helpless and watch a baby (not yet one year old) die for lack of proper medication and oxygen. I have seen men and women at 80 or even 90 years of age live full lives because of the availability of modern medical care. I have forgotten my own pain being so immersed in the pain of others. I have given my love to others and have received an abundance of love in return. I have had to take risks that I was sacred stiff to take, but took them anyway.

I have stood in awe before the grandeur of ancient stone temples and monuments, of strange colored lakes, rugged and smoking volcanoes, and in so much more of God's creation. So many people have become a part of my life. And here I am at age 84 still in wonder over all these 65 years that have been so full and mine to treasure always. Of course, there were thorns along with all the roses, but I never regretted my choice in life...and I thank God for all of it. I have indeed been wonderfully blest!

*Cathy Boudreau, fmm*



## Pathways In Life

There are many pathways,  
guiding us in various ways.  
Some are difficult, some are sad.  
Some are joyful, making us glad.  
Some enrich us in delightful ways,  
bringing happiness to our days.

Some pathways can lead us  
in ways not clear.  
Others can bring us hope and cheer.  
What pathway is best for us?  
Ask God to show us the brightest way,  
leading us gently along the way.

*Agnes Kozak, f.m.m.*



## 70th Anniversary Cardinal Hayes Home, Millbrook, NY

*A week of celebrations marked the 70th anniversary of Cardinal Hayes Home. Activities included an Art Show by our young people, the planting of commemorative trees, a campfire, stepping stones and an anniversary luncheon. At the latter Fred Apers spoke to staff and guests -*

Welcome to our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon Celebration. I am overjoyed with this turnout of nearly 250 guests.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said at one time, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Well, my friends, believe me when I say that our Cardinal Hayes family is rich with enthusiasm. Our well attended anniversary activities (despite some tough weather) reflect the strength of your enthusiasm.

Thank you, members of our Mission Effectiveness Committee, Planning Committee and so many other dedicated staff volunteers for a successful and heartfelt anniversary celebration with multiple events and activities enjoyed by children and staff alike. All these events represent a unique and wonderful chapter in our history.

Over my 38 year career at Hayes, numerous colleagues, families and others have asked me to explain the consistent success and achievements of our organization. I tell them that we have been very blessed in many ways and I generally leave it at that.

With 70 years under our belt, I would like to address just four of our blessings that have contributed greatly to our success.

Cardinal Hayes Home is a mission driven organization. The foundation for our work was embedded in this agency the first day the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary set foot on the property in 1941. These compassionate nuns, with the help of local lay people, simply provided loving care for children who were unable to live at home with their families. We have never strayed from that fundamental, admirable mission.

Over the years, the Sisters responded to pressing social needs. As a result, we have evolved as caregivers with a unique calling as a service provider for children and young adults with severe disabilities. Throughout

these 70 years, we have maintained a profound belief in the sacredness and value of each life entrusted to our care. The continued formation of our spirit of caring is an extension of the philosophy of our founding stewards - our Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

This wonderful setting on this hill is certainly a flagship blessing for our work. Mr. Oakleigh L. Thorne, who lived in the adjoining estate, donated this "country home" with the stipulation that it be used for a worthy charitable purpose. His decision was a very generous "good faith" act in memory of his deceased friend, Cardinal Patrick Hayes, who began the Catholic Charities movement in the United States.

Mr. Thorne referred to the Hayes Home and our surrounding property as the "Holy Hill", a tribute to the selfless work of the Sisters.

For a moment, think about the first time traveling up the hill to this gracious home. I remember being awestruck by the architecture and the natural beauty of our location. Every day I feel it is a privilege to be a part of the stewardship of this blessed place.



Another unique blessing in our early years at Hayes was the positive relationship with citizens living in the Village of Millbrook. Some were "insiders" who directly participated in various facets of our work. There was a certain village pride of having our charitable endeavors blend into village life. Those who worked at Hayes treated the children like members of their own family. Many also served as volunteer families for our children on holidays and vacations. Generations of local kids earned their first paychecks at Hayes as well as a good dose of compassion for the needs of others. It is clear to this day that our home has remained "special" in the hearts and minds of many local citizens.

Finally there is the immense blessing of our current workforce. I am referring to each of you as your commitment runs deep within our organization. You are a beautiful rainbow of blended cultures, ethnic backgrounds, diversified values and life styles that reaches across and embraces the best that we can be. This gathering is a tribute to past and present who give of themselves to help others. You keep our mission alive and blessings meaningful.

In my presentation I summarized four blessings that have contributed to our success and there are so many more. I wish to leave you with a closing thought about one more blessing. I believe that your involvement with this special place - Cardinal Hayes Home - has blessed your own life in very personal ways. I further believe that the philosophy of compassionate care at Hayes enables each of us to be better people.

On behalf of our Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and the Board of Directors, thank you and may God bless all of you.

### Art Show

Each of our residences was represented at the Art Show by both group and individual work in a variety of media.



St. Francis Residence recycled old CDs into art. After gluing the CDs together the fun of painting began. Armed with paintbrushes, paint and old clothes, all the boys took turns splattering paint.



### Anniversary Luncheon

A fantastic meal prepared by our kitchen!



### Stepping Stones

You are given an 8lb. bag of dry concrete and invited to make a stepping stone to reflect your residence or department. What would you create?



### Commemorative Tree & Campfire

Our residents gathered to bless "their" tree & enjoy a campfire.



Happy Birthday cupcakes!



## Church in Mission: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

On October 7 and 8, the Waukegan community attended the Maryknoll Centennial Symposium held at CTU. We represented the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in recognizing the achievements of the Maryknoll Fathers, Sisters, and Lay missionaries by joining in this celebration and conversation on mission today. We were sorry Sr. Nzenzili Mboma, as representative of SEDOS, was not among us. Many people asked after her.

The title of the symposium was CHURCH IN MISSION: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – Exploring New Perspectives of Faith from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Discovering our Own Gift of Mission. Some of the notable guests, hosts and speakers in attendance were Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago; Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, CSB, Diocese of Las Cruces; Fr. Edward Dougherty, superior general of the Maryknoll fathers and brothers; Sr. Janice McLaughlin, president of the Maryknoll Sisters (and sister to Mary Ellen McLaughlin of McMahan Services for children); Fr. Donald Senior, CP, president of CTU; Fr. Peter Phan, Vietnamese theologian; and CTU faculty - Dianne Bergant, CSA, Tony Gittins, CSSp. and Stephen Bevans, SVD. We were also honored with a very special visit by Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez, OP.

Fr. Gutiérrez thanked the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers for their way of 'friendship' in mission. He explained that friendship is a quality through which missionaries give witness to equality among and with the people they serve, and without which one cannot truly have a commitment to the poor. He continued that a part of this friendship is learning

the language and culture of the other and being received by them. The people to whom we are sent appreciate our presence, while knowing that we can never completely be one with them.

The multicultural aspect of mission to the U.S. church also came up. Cardinal George informed us that 40% of Catholics in the Chicago Archdiocese were not born in the U.S. What is essential for successful multicultural services in our churches is good music and good food. These are two things around which people can universally be united, he said with a smile. He went on to remind us that the mission of the Church is to introduce the world to its Savior until he comes again and that the purpose of the Church is mission. Everything else is relative. He, too, elaborated on the importance of mutuality and friendship, saying that if you refuse what is offered by the other, you break off a relationship. He commented that the Second Vatican Council was a missionary council and that the Church is the sacrament of unity of the human race. The insights elucidated by Vatican II are that Jesus Christ is the Kingdom to which we all aspire. He posed a question that the OMI fathers, to which he belongs, regularly ask themselves, "Are we bringing Christ or are we bringing our culture" to the people we serve and live with? Something for us to consider as well.

In discussing the history of the ideology of mission we were told that in the past the Church had a mission, whose directive was clear and measurable: the salvation of souls and establishing churches. New churches and the number of people baptized could be seen and counted. Today we embrace the idea that the mission has a Church. The Church is a representative of the mission of Christ to the world – to proclaim, serve and witness to God's reign of

love, salvation and justice.

Prepositions such as “among” and “with” were a hot topic of discussion in reference to new ways of looking at mission ad gentes. Different speakers preferred mission ‘cum’ gentes or ‘inter’ gentes saying that mission is no longer ‘ad’ gentes. While others insisted that mission ‘ad’ gentes still exists and is relevant, even in our U.S. context. Mission en-ultra - taking the risk to go to the most in need poor and mission ad-vulnera – going out to the most vulnerable at this point in history, due to climate change, justice issues, etc. -were also put forth. Still others referenced the Asian Bishops’ Conference, which promoted going to the poor to live in solidarity with them, in dialogue and companionship.

This shift in emphasis from mission as a proclamation to that of dialogue seems to have taken deep root. It is expressed in the images of friendship - taking off one’s shoes, listening to the other as the FIRST tack of evangelization, bringing to the table who we truly are in an act of mutual proclamation, and being willing to walk on through ambiguity. Fr. Phan stressed how going out of ourselves in mission changes *us* and referenced David Bosch’s description of engagement in it as “a bold humility or a humble boldness,” saying, “We know only in part what we do.”

In the symposium, the different presenters shared the wealth of their experience in overseas mission as they addressed the nature and future of the Catholic Church as a “missionary” church. They also explored the theological, social and historical factors that have shaped and influenced the Church’s institutions and activities throughout the world over the past century. They strove to

grasp the direct and indirect ways these factors have impacted peoples around the world, many of them desperately poor and vulnerable, who have welcomed missionaries into their communities and their lives, and brought us to a better understanding of the ways in which mission has shaped and will shape the Church’s witness of the Gospel in our diverse and rapidly changing world.

We conclude with a fitting prayer that was recited each day of the symposium:

*May we be prophets proclaiming the  
reign of God in all things.*

*May we be mystics experiencing a real  
sense of at-one-ness with God,  
with all humanity and all of crea-  
tion.....*

*O God, give us the courage to dream  
new dreams, think new thoughts,  
and go forward into the future with the  
Spirit.*

*Alicia Alambra, Nga Le and  
Sheila Lehmkuhle, fmm*



## At the Service of Unity

On October 30, 2011 a special prayer service celebrated Sr. Lois Pereira's reelection as provincial. Sisters Patricia Barrett, Mary Petrosky and Kim Loan Nguyen were re-elected as provincial councilors. Nga Thi Le was appointed as the fourth provincial councilor. Sr. Pauline Gilmore completed her term as a provincial councilor.

*Sr. Lois welcomed all -*

Welcome to our "At the Service of Unity" prayer. This prayer is not just for the members of the Province Leadership Team but for all of us. We had a wonderful Provincial Chapter where we gathered to look at our province and to see in which direction we would like to move. Article 128 of our Constitutions says, "Each sister is responsible for the realization of the mission that God has entrusted to the Institute within the Church; she exercises that responsibility by praying, reflecting and by taking part with her sisters in the drawing up of the decisions that are binding upon them, in putting these decisions into effect, and in evaluating them." As we, together, begin the next four years of our journey we are invited to give thanks for our Franciscan Missionary of Mary Charism, the gift which Mary of the Passion encouraged us to live as instruments in the hand of God to transmit the "Gift of God."

The councilors and I wish to thank you for your vote of confidence in us and our prayer is that we continue to work together as a council and as your sisters to move into uncharted territories, always remembering that we are sisters together on this journey, having the Eucharist as our center, recognizing the gifts of each sister, and accepting the challenge to move beyond ourselves. With Mary of the Passion we say, "Where are you leading me?"

At this time I wish to thank Nzenzili Mboma who began this journey with us four years ago and was called to service in Rome. I thank Mary Petrosky for joining us after Nzenzili left. I thank Mary for her continued Yes and also to Pat Barrett and Loan Nguyen who began their service four years ago and have continued to say

Yes. I thank Pauline Gilmore for her service for the past four years. Despite her other heavy responsibilities Pauline gave herself 110% to this ministry of service. I thank Nga Le for her Yes to serve the Province for the next four years. I also thank all of you in the province for your vote of confidence for all of us as we continue to discover together God's surprises for us each day.

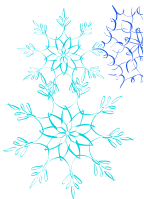
I close with the words of Mary of the Passion, "Ah! If only you knew the gift of God! May you know this gift, may you correspond with it, and may you live it in all its fullness." (Dec. 20, 1901)



Top: Patricia Barrett, Mary Petrosky, Pauline Gilmore (outgoing councilor)  
Bottom: Loan Nguyen, Lois Pereira, Sr. Nga Le

All present prayed the Final Blessing:

*We bless you Lord for our calling  
For nurturing in each of us a disciple's heart  
A heart that rejoices in your coming  
A heart sustained by your Spirit  
A heart encouraged by fellow disciples.  
May there grow in each of our hearts  
The disciple's commitment to serve.  
The disciple's joy in becoming a medium of your grace.  
And may God bless each of us  
in the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



**From Blessed Mary of the Passion ...**

*'My homeland is the entire world.'  
May 3, 1904*

