

Compassion Connection

Volume 3, Issue 1

FEBRUARY 2022



The mission of the Servants of Mary is to manifest God's Compassionate Presence in the Spirit of Mary.



Dear Friends,

The month of February offers us two important days to pause with a little extra mindfulness.

The first one is Valentine's Day when we give thanks for the great gift of love that surrounds us. Then on February 17 we celebrate the feast of the Seven Holy Founders of the Order of the Servants of Mary. Inspired by the life of the Founders, we continue our commitment to live with devotion to Mary and embrace the needs of all creation. This call includes each of you as we join together in prayer and in living compassionate presence.

Although June, 2022 seems a long time away, we are in the midst of preparing for our US/ Jamaica Assembly. We plan to come together in Omaha to look at our present Community reality and to discern a way forward that will embrace our varying needs and our mission.

Our direction for the Assembly states: "Trusting the Spirit, our vision for the 2022 US/Jamaica Assembly is to engage one another in dialogue with compassion and transparency, to address our fragility and our dreams, and to imagine a future direction together."

Sr. Ellen Doyle, OSU has agreed to facilitate our Assembly. Sr. Ellen has worked with us during several previous Chapters and Assemblies.

Let us continue to hold one another in prayer as we walk with Jesus through the days of Lent to the feast of the Resurrection.

Sr. Fackie

Sr. Jackie Ryan, OSM US/Jamaica Community Prioress Servants of Mary

Where Are They Now?

We thought you might enjoy a cameo look at a few of our sisters. We hope to introduce or reintroduce some of our sisters in this issue as well as future issues of Compassion Connection.

Servite Sisters have ministered in several places throughout the United Sates and beyond. The majority of our sisters were all involved in the ministry of education at one time. In more recent years, our ministries have taken different twists.



Sr. Margaret Ann Miller, commonly known as **Sr. Peggy,** became familiar with the Servants of Mary when she attended Marian High School. As a Servite, she taught in Omaha,

NE, Detroit, MI and Sioux City, IA. During those years, Peggy taught math, religion and computer skills to children of all ages. Today, she is using her computer skills at Marian High School, working behind the scene in the Advancement Department. "I feel my current ministry supports the education of young women." Although she has little direct contact with the girls, her work contributes to Marian's mission of empowering students to discover and develop their talents and inspiring them to lead and serve as women of faith and compassion.

Sr. Peggy expresses the Servite Charism of Compassionate Presence through relationships, primarily with Marian staff, faculty, alums, friends, neighbors and other sisters.

She relaxes by doing jigsaw puzzles, reading, baking, gardening and genealogy. In addition, she plays the piano and guitar and is challenging herself to learn to play the violin.



Sr. Marcia Haggins, formerly known as Sr. Mary Emily, grew up in Detroit, MI and was educated by the Servants of Mary in both elementary and high school. She later taught 7th and 8th grade at St. John Berchman, the school she once attended.

Regardless of where ministry led Marcia, whether to Jamacia, Covenant House in Detroit, the Mercy Education Project or her current ministry as an instructor at the Dominican Literacy Center, she was and is called to work with youth and young adults.

When asked how she lives the Servite Charism of Compassion she responded without hesitation, "I know how hard it is to go back to school as an adult, no matter the life events that caused the person to drop out. I give the students a positive interpretation to their assessment test scores as a way to encourage and give confidence to take the next step. The fact that someone believes in them, without judgment, speaks more loudly than the actual test scores. I hope I reflect God's welcoming love."

Marcia enjoys doing embroidery work and has taken up loom knitting, which allows her to share the results of her labors with people at a nearby shelter.



Sr. Carol Lorenz, once known as Sr. Ann Marie, is a native of Omaha, NE. She grew up in Holy Name Parish and attended K through 12th grade there. It only seems right that she would someday return to Holy Name School as a teacher.

Carol's ministry of teaching took her to schools in Detroit, MI and Portland, OR, as well as, various schools in Omaha. No matter where she is, she is recognized for her commitment to the children she taught.

In 2013, Sr. Carol returned to Omaha and took a position once again at Holy Name as a Teacher Assistant. She is currently working with the 1st grade students. "They need people who believe in them, someone to encourage them and laugh with them. We learn together."

Sr. Carol is now living at the Motherhouse and is always ready to lend a helping hand. When the pandemic prevented her from being in the classroom, she began working with one of our Congolese sisters to learn English. Sr. Monique is now fluent in English, thanks to Sr. Carol. This inspired Carol, to begin teaching herself Spanish.

In her spare time, Carol enjoys being in nature, reading and being of service wherever possible.

Congregational Corner

Just to remind our new readers, the Servants of Mary are an international Congregation with Sisters in 8 different countries. The "Congregational Corner" is meant to keep you abreast of Servite happenings around our world.

In this edition we want to share about our sisters in the Congo. Last year we were blessed with two sisters who lived with us at our Motherhouse for about a year. They learned English, studied theology, scripture, a bit of psychology as well as becoming adept with computers. They also learned a great deal about Nebraska football. This educational opportunity was mutual. We learned so very much from them.

We had hoped to have two more join us this year, but Covid continues to control our lives. Unless you are rich or have some standing in the cities, vaccinations in the Congo are next to impossible to acquire at this time. So, we wait the opportunity to welcome two more sisters...and while we wait, we reflect on what we learned from our Congolese sisters; take nothing for granted, be grateful for our gifts, be patient, trust and continue to work for justice.

Please remember all of our sisters in your prayers, especially our sisters that are 8610 miles away.

Ministry of Prayer



Over seventy years ago, Sr. Imelda Kirkey (Sr. M. Timothy) entered the Servants of Mary from her hometown of Massena, NY. Sister has ministered in many places and in many different ways. Here are a few of her memories:

"My first classroom experience was in Detroit, MI. I definitely had to learn quickly in order to keep a large group of 6 year-olds busy. One of my fondest memories was playground duty! Watching the children play, and occasionally coming up to me, wrapping their arms around my legs (a sweet hug with great height disparity) and then bursting out 'Sr. Timmy!'

I went on to teach 7th grade and then high school. Math was my specialty, but there was a time I taught Home Economics, including cooking and sewing. At that time, meals prepared in the classroom were not allowed to be taken home. I remember one student coming to me and explaining that her dad was on strike and her family was having trouble making ends meet. She asked if she could take the leftover spaghetti home for their family dinner. It took only a few seconds to realize some rules were meant to be broken. And, it was really good spaghetti!

One of my favorite missions was in Plattsburgh, NY. It came after many varied ministries—teaching first grade through high school, being Principal at both Holy Name and Marian.

I moved to Plattsburgh, NY and began teaching Faith Formation to children and adults. I loved walking with the adults on their faith journey. It added such a wonderful richness to my own faith life and prayer."

Currently, Sr. Imelda is a member of the Motherhouse Community in Omaha, NE. She identifies that her primary ministry is now one of prayer. Not only does she pray for the intentions brought to her, she incorporates the love of some of her past times into her prayer. She is known for making greeting cards for the Motherhouse Sisters to sign and send for special occasions. 'Sometimes I am not sure what to write, so I take that person to prayer and I receive some wisdom as to what to say in the greeting.' Another past time is puzzles. She likes doing puzzles in the evening and especially loves those of different geographic locations. As she works the puzzle she prays for the people of that country.

Sr. Imelda gives new meaning to living prayer.

More than 50% of our sisters now identify Prayer Ministry as the way they live compassionate presence for the world. We are always happy to add you or a loved one to our prayer intentions.



Join us every third Saturday at 11 a.m. for St. Peregrine Monthly Mass!

Watch live online at osms.orgor subscribe and view at **poutube.com/theservantsofmary**.

Caretakers of Creation: Corporate Stance

The Servants of Mary Congregation is deeply committed to caring for Earth. Aligning with Pope Francis, we recognize the interconnection between desecration of the environment and cruel neglect of the world's poor. Our concern led to the formulation of the following Corporate Stance on Ecology, a document affirming the Servants of Mary commitment to care for creation. We invite you to adopt these sentiments as your own.

We accept the invitation of Pope Francis in the encyclical Laudato Si': Care of our Common Home, to be in reciprocal relationship with the earth. In so doing, we assume personal and communal responsibility to honor and protect the natural world in our care, choosing to value all as sacred.

"...our desire to care for our Common Home, as expressed in Laudato Si', was renewed. We recognize that it is our call today to move from "I" to "We" in our Communities, Congregation and world... Our common Home." -2019 Congregational Chapter, Directions & Recommendations

We, the Congregation of Servants of Mary, London/ Cuves, acknowledge with reverence, that we are One with all Creation. Following our Charism of Compassion, we embrace a moral obligation to respect and protect all aspects of this One Life.

We celebrate the mystery of Divine Presence throughout Creation. We believe Mother Earth is a manifestation of the Divine, and we claim our place as creatures of Earth, deeply connected to all life, ever nurtured and sustained by Earth's abundant gifts.

We acknowledge the interconnection of ecological devastation and issues of justice, including poverty of peoples around the globe, and commit to using resources responsibly, to the benefit of both our environment and the human community:

Conscious of our responsibility to contribute to the building of a better world, where it is possible to effect a more just distribution of resources, we work, wherever we live and serve, to promote the Gospel values of love, justice, peace and liberty.

−OSM Constitutions #53

We will engage in the process of ecological conversion through education, mindful use of resources, support of advocacy efforts on behalf of Earth and all of its creatures, and conscious awakening to our common roots.

We ask Divine guidance in living wisely, so as to express the boundless love emanating through all of Creation.



St. Peregrine Prayer Ministry Thrives

It is wonderful to watch a much needed and appreciated ministry expand its services. Such is the case with our St. Peregrine Prayer Ministry, which provides outreach and support to those suffering with cancer and other serious illnesses (such as COVID) and to their families.

Thanks to generous supporters, the St. Peregrine Ministry is benefitting from updated technology, advertising to introduce St. Peregrine to a wider audience, and Live Streaming that brings the St. Peregrine Mass to households across the nation. Music for the Mass is enhanced and plans are underway for future gatherings with guest homilists.

Sr. Mary Gehringer has stepped on board to partner with Sr. Linda Hess, Director of the St. Peregrine Prayer Ministry, to expand services. Together, they form a team that is both creative and practical. Their efforts will be ongoing, with the goal of bringing St. Peregrine to all in need, where faith invites a healing presence.

You may enroll yourself or a loved one in the St Peregrine Prayer Ministry online at osms.org or by contacting Sr. Linda Hess at 402-951-3092 or stperegrine@osms.org.



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Janet Aldren Rino and Deb Lenoci

Ann Allison Rino and Deb Lenoci

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Floyd & Helen Arnott Jim and Lynn Arnott

Theresa Asmar Rino and Deb Lenoci

Michael Asmar Rino and Deb Lenoci

Lewis Baker Beverly Baker

Marcella Balbach Sr. Kathy Avery

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Rose Marie Benoit Sr. Maria Benoit

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Marion Bianchi

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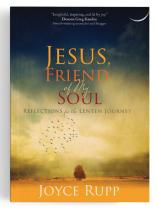
Patricia Zach Maurice Zach Terry and Mary Zach

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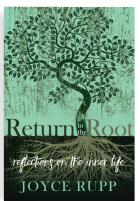
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Prepare for Lent with Toyce Rupp



Jesus, Friend of My Soul Reflections for the Lenten Journey

In Jesus, Friend of My Soul, Joyce Rupp guides us from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday illustrating both how Jesus called his followers to change and how his actions provide us a blueprint for growth.



Return to the Root Reflections on the Inner Life

Through her reflections, as well as new poems and prayers, Joyce Rupp guides us to see the essential—what is at the root of our lives and what keeps us rooted—so that we can feel at peace no matter the events of the world around us.

Find these books and more from Joyce Rupp at the gift store online at osms.org.



Inthonor Of

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021-DECEMBER 31, 2021

2021 Jubilarians

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Iohn and Pat Gedbaw

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Jim and Loene Herman

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Nick & Patty Abraham 50th Anniversary

Donna Deeby

Ellen K. Alexander

Garry Alexander

Sr. Kathy Avery

Paul and Colleen Avery

Susan Eckel

David and Barbara Sparks

Mary Baines 100th Birthday

Sr. Caroline Turnovsky

Robert Barr

John and Alice Ann Gregory

Guy Beauregard

Guy and Rosanne Beauregard

Dottie Callahan

Kathleen Kelley

Joe Carr

Jane Carr

Sr. Mary Chamberlain

Rita Rinner

Don & Joan Cimpl

Jean Cimpl Knox

Jeff Clark

Sr. Mary Gehringer

Sr. Sarah Deeby

John Abohasen

Bridget Helt

JoAnne Paxton

Erin Peters

Tony & Mary Schmitz

James Deising

Laura Monen

Sr. Iris Deprez

Marla Brown

Fr. Hugh Guentner, OSM,

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Marlene Rowe

Sr. Iris Deprez 70th Jubilee

Sharon Springer

Ronald & Anne Dest Family

Ronald and Anne Dest

Dr. Stephen Doran

Roger and Rozanne Woodling

Sr. Doris Durant

Steve and Joann Dixon

Gloria Horan

Patricia Soulia

Sr. Carolyn Foley

Frank and Patricia Dowd

Shirlee Goaley

Philip and Linda Massimilla

Sr. Mary Gehringer

Fred and Bernice Michalik

Living and deceased members of the Geronette Family

RoseMarie LaMont

Albert & Mary Glass Family

Sr. Joan Miriam Glaser, OP

Sr. Angeline Hakel

Brian Donovan

Io Donovan

John and Lisa Donovan

Kelley Doyle

John Kotwick

Ed & Marcy Ramold

Marlene Rowe

Janet & Terry Sauter



Inthonor Of

Sr. Elaine Hartnett Deborah Ruboyianes-Demunnick

Mary Higgins Beth & Jeff Moberg

Sr. Mary Hogan Wayne and Monica Flippin Eileen Hogan Murthy Rich and Sheila Jackson Claire Kenkel Marlene Rowe

Sr. Joan Houtekier Honorary Marian Diploma Sr. Mary Gehringer

Sr. Charlotte Huetteman Dave and Dana Bender Kathy and Dennis Borecki John Kotwick **Jonathan Ornell**

Carol Heng Roddy & Carol Heng

Mary Beth Jorgensen Maureen Beat

Barbara Katz Cynthia Campbell

Sr. Barbara Kennedy Paul & Rosemary Bieker **JoAnne Paxton Erin Peters**

The Kosiski Family Mona Kosiski

Sr. Alice Kotwick David and Jo Ann Kotwick John Kotwick Kathleen Thompson

Sr. Paulette Labbe Joseph and Nancy Dugan John Kotwick Mary Krimmel Curtis and Carolyn McNamara Io Ann Marsh Frank and Yvette Orlando Marlene Rowe

Sharon LaCourse Dawn Place

Sr. M. Gabriel Lawler John Kotwick Georgene Kyral Darlene Schlies Marlene Rowe Janet & Terry Sauter

Sr. Roselma Legault Condon and LaRhea Schnepel

Sr. Carol Lorenz Orin and Catherine Bolstad

Sr. Terese Lux Vivian Damratowski Kathryn Lux Levi and Kathy Moore Marlene Rowe

Mary Ann Mason Angela Altamore

Sr. Nancy Marsh Joseph and Nancy Dugan Nora Howes Io Ann Marsh Marlene Rowe

Leon G. Mehring Vera Mehring

Fred & Bernice Michalik Sr. Kerry Larkin

Sr. Bernie Misson John Kotwick

Sharon Owens Janice Peery

Sr. Kathy Payne John Kotwick

Sr. Midge Petersen Gary and Bette Collins Barb Howell Marlene Rowe

Sr. Ann Marie Petrylka Joseph and Mari Haas



Inthonor Of

Cass & Gary Pietrok
Sr. Mary Gehringer

Sr. Helen Rau

Yvonne Brazer Patricia Martin P.J. and Anne Morgan Brenda Premo Rita Rinner Gerri Sims

Jan & Bart Rouse
Thomas Olenczuk

Sr. Joyce RuppJerry & Lois ChettingerKathy QuinnGerald and Melanie Rupp

*Sr. Jackie Ryan*Orin and Catherine Bolstad

Fr. Jeff Schleisman Mary Baughman

*Mrs. Zahida Serifovic*Carolyn Vandenheede

Servants of Mary who served as Marian High Principals

Connie Cavel

Servants of Mary
Cathy High

Tom and Margaret Hoarty Jan Lamoureux

Ray and Patty Neppl

Sr. Lisa Sheridan JoAnne Paxton Sr. Ginny Silvestri
Jerry & Lois Chettinger
Richard and Edith Silvestri

Sisters who taught at St. Pius X school Bernie and Pat Kobza

Sisters who served Immaculate Conception Parish, Sioux City Marcele Newman

Sisters who taught at Holy Name Rev. Larry Villone

*Sr. Margaret Stratman*Alison Nistad

Kathleen Stroshein
Thomas Olenczuk

Sr. Jackie Thorn
Shirlee Goaley
Kellie Sue John
Laurie Milota-Forsberg
Thomas Olenczuk

Maureen Gotch Vinton Sr. Mary Gehringer

*Jennie Voglrieder*Kathryn Cook & Family

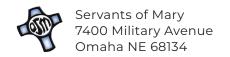
Leo & Jennie Voglrieder Kathryn Cook Kristine Tongusi

Sr. Joy Weideman
Olivia Pham
Marlene Rowe
John and Carole Foerster
Marlene Rowe

Sr. Mary Ann Zink
Barbara Carter



Send prayer requests to the St. Peregrine Prayer Program online at osms.org.



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A Lenten Prayer

I stand at the threshold of the Lenten journey, knowing I have the ability to learn from you. I can accept or decline your open invitation to abide attentively in your dwelling place.

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