

Compassion Connection



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



Letter from Sr. Jackie Ryan

Dear Friends,

Our June issue of Compassion Connection and the early days of summer will be arriving at about the same time. We hope summertime will provide you with opportunities for relaxation and renewal.

As we go to press, we are excited about welcoming sixty participants to our US/Jamaica Community Assembly in Omaha. We look forward to the arrival of our sisters from the United States as well as our sisters from our International Congregation.

June 8 through June 12 we will gather to pray, dialogue and celebrate the blessings of community. We will consider our present Community reality and begin to discern a way forward that will embrace our varying needs and our mission of compassionate presence in the spirit of Mary.

Our direction for the Assembly states: "Trusting the Spirit, our vision for the 2022 US/Jamaica Community 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."

We recognize future planning with your family is also an important part of your lives. Let us keep each other in prayer, relying on God's faithfulness to walk with us and guide us along the way.

We hope you enjoy the Assembly photos featured in this issue.

Thank you for your partnership with us and your continued support. We are truly grateful.

Sr. Fackie

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

Thank you





These purchases were made possible only because of your generosity. Your year-end gift brought joy as well as a greater sense of security. The cars that were replaced were beyond "used."

In addition, we were also able to replace the oven that died in the middle of a batch of cookies. We are now back to watching our weight.

We have expressed our gratitude to you previously, but sometimes our words feel so inadequate. We want you to know how very much you mean to us. In the midst of inflation across the country, we realize the additional sacrifices you have made to support us. We can't begin to count the number of times we have counted on you. Thank you for being a blessing to us. We hope and pray that we are that to you as well.

Sr. Karen Brown in Jamaica

Clearly, Sr. Karen Brown loves the people and country of Jamaica. She speaks fondly of her years ministering there and the friends she left behind. After Sr. Karen returned to the states, the three sisters remaining in Jamaica continued with their ministries. Recently, though, when Sr. Catherine Figueroa became ill with cancer, Sr. Hazeline Williams and Sr. Rose Chang realized, in a new way, their need for support and extended community.

Sr. Karen met with the sisters by Zoom for a few months and then considered traveling to Jamaica to be with them. Her wholehearted "yes" was quick in coming, and after obtaining a VISA and taking a COVID test, she was on her way. Sr. Karen is now residing with Srs. Hazeline and Catherine in Kingston, assisting with Sr. Catherine's care and being a support for both. Sr. Rose travels frequently from Montego Bay to join them and provide respite. In addition, she has accompanied Sr. Karen to visit former ministry sites. Sr. Karen reports being happily surprised by the number of Jamaicans who remember her!

Sr. Karen's VISA extends to July, at which time she will return to Omaha, perhaps leaving a bit of her heart behind. The Servants of Mary are so grateful for her selfless spirit and pastoral presence with our sisters in Jamaica.





"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." -Seneca

These words ring true for Mary Higgins and Michele Ernst. Both Mary and Michele are saying good-bye to something familiar and are venturing into the newness that lies before them.



Mary, a 1969 graduate of Marian High School, was the first alumna to be named President in the history of the school. She has served in that position for eight years with her contagious enthusiasm, excitement and energy for all things Marian. In promoting Marian High School, both academically and in its numerous extra-curricular activities, Mary has also strengthened the school's mission, "...to empower young women to develop their talents, and to lead and serve as women of faith and compassion."

It is Mary's hope that retirement will allow her more time to spend with family, especially her four granddaughters and to "tee-up" more often.

As sponsors of Marian High School, the Servants of Mary are deeply grateful for Mary's leadership and commitment to Marian's mission.

With Mary's departure, the Marian Board of Directors began their search for the person who would carry Marian High School into the future. Their extensive, national search led them to Michele Ernst, who is an '81 graduate. Michele leaves her executive position at Fiserv and comes to Marian with enthusiasm and experience. She brings with her multiple skills that will continue to position the school, the staff and students to excel in all areas. Michele looks forward to "building on the legacy of the Marian mission."

The Servants of Mary welcome Michele Ernst as Marian's President and we look forward to working with her.





Sr. Linda Hess Celebrating her 50th Jubilee

Ministries:

Teaching, Liturgist, Pastoral Assistant, Campus Ministry, Massage Therapy, St. Peregrine Ministry

Places Sr. Linda has served:

Denver, Colorado:

Assumption

Nebraska:

St James Seton, Omaha Holy Name, Omaha Mary Our Queen, Omaha Marian High School, Omaha St. John the Baptist, Calhoun Omaha School of Massage, Omaha Servants of Mary, Omaha

Little Falls, Minnesota:

The Spiritual Center & St. Francis Music Center



Sr. Suzanne Vandenheede Celebrating her 70th Jubilee

Ministries:

Teaching, Principal, Motherhouse Coordinator, Chaplain, Community Minister, and Healing Touch.

Places Sr. Suzanne has served:

Omaha, Nebraska:

Holy Name Christ the King Marian High School Servants of Mary Motherhouse St James/Seton Immanuel Medical Center Servite Center of Compassion

Iowa:

St Joseph, Salix Immaculate Conception, Sioux City

Massena, NY

Holy Family High School





Sr. Lucille Beaulieu Celebrating her 75th Jubilee

Ministries:

Teaching, Pastoral Associate, International Operator, Religious Education, Ministry to the Homeless, and Prayer Ministry

Places Sr. Lucille has served:

Sioux City, Iowa:

Immaculate Conception

Denver, Colorado:

Assumption

Detroit, Michigan:

St. Juliana St. John Berchmans

Nebraska:

St. Rose School, Omaha Utell, Omaha St. Michael, Albion St. Agnes, Scottsbluff Servants of Mary, Omaha Marian High School, Omaha

New York:

Sacred Heart, Massena St. Peter's Parish, Lowville St. Augustine, Bangor

France:

St. Genevieve School

Think about "Rolling Over"

Would you like to make a gift to the Servants of Mary and get a tax benefit?

If your answer is yes, consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for your Required Minimum Distributions (RMD). This gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover.

When you reach the age of 72, you are allowed to use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). You pay no income taxes on this gift.

Besides seeing the good your gift does, there are several other benefits to this type of donation. For more details you may want to consult your tax advisor or investment professional.



Well Worth the Wait

Covid kept us cramped in our own little worlds for way too long. ZOOM became our new best friend and community member. For an international community that values unity and togetherness, it was exceptionally difficult. Modern technology kept Canada connected to the Congo as well as France and Belgium and the UK to the US. If you remember the old telephone commercial, the only thing ZOOM didn't allow us to do was, "reach out and touch someone."

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have been to the airport to welcome our sisters to our Community Assembly, and put their "valises in the boot of the car."

After some time for celebration, it won't take long to begin speaking our common language of shared mission and our compassionate presence in the Spirit of Mary. We will come together in prayer and sacred conversation to discover what God is asking of us as we create space for the future—a future that is filled with unknown promises. After 177 years, we believe that God will continue to lead us.





In Memory Of

JANUARY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2022

Iohn & Martha Abohasen

John Abohasen

Tom Alfes

Judy Alfes

Betty Andolino

Rino and Deb Lenoci

Christine Ann Bachman

Howard Bachman

Marcella Balbach

Sr. Kathy Avery

Dick Bennett

Ella Jane Bailey

Marion & Eddie Bianchi

Rita Bianchi

Jerry Bitz

Sr. Sarah Deeby

Sr. Barbara Kennedy

Sr. Lisa Sheridan

Dr. Robert F. Bluvas

Karen Bluvas

Nancy Bowron

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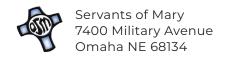
Barbara Tucker Rino and Deb Lenoci

Sisters who taught at St. Rose School in Omaha Georgene Kyral



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

Watch live online at osms.org or subscribe and view at **voutube.com/theservantsofmary**.



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Visit us online at **osms.org**.



St. Peregrine, my friend in faith, walk with me and bring me, day by day, closer to peace of mind and heart where I will always find God's love.

—Excerpt from the Prayer to St. Peregrine

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

Subscribe today at YouTube.com @ Servants of Mary US Jamaica!

www.osms.org

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