



*Servants  
of Mary*

# Compassion Connection

Volume 4, Issue 1

FEBRUARY 2023

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,

On February 22, 2023 we begin our Lenten journey with the celebration of Ash Wednesday.

As I scrolled online to find my favorite quote from Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, to share with you, I discovered another Lenten message on the same page. I believe both are appropriate for the season.

One is a Lenten wordle shaped by a variety of words, such as giving up... chocolate, Facebook, fast foods, complaining and sweets.

The other quote from Fr. Richard Rohr is equally pertinent to our Lenten journey. "Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise."

The contrast in these two messages reminds me of the individual ways we choose to walk with Jesus during these forty days.

You may also want to consider Sr. Joyce Rupp's new book entitled, "Jesus, Companion in My Suffering." A brief summary can be found in this Newsletter.

May you be blessed as you embrace Jesus in his living, dying and rising. Let us continue to hold one another in prayer during this holy season.

*Sr. Jackie*

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

## Always the Right Time

When does the right time never change?  
This isn't the greatest of riddles but the answer is,  
"It is always the right time to say thank you."  
To each one of you, Thank You! The impact you  
have made cannot be measured or quantified.  
Over the past months you have done so much...  
from much needed repairs at our Motherhouse,  
supporting the physical needs of our elderly,  
fragile sisters to ensuring that mental health services  
and spiritual direction were available to all  
in need regardless of finances.

The Apostle Paul captures our feeling and our action  
when he said, "Pray without ceasing."  
That is our promise to and for you and your loved ones.

## REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED ASSOCIATES

### LAEL LARKIN

Sister of Sr. Kerry Larkin, Lael Larkin, became an associate in February, 2003. Lael died after a long battle with cancer. Geography created a distance for Lael to have an active life as an associate. She remained very connected to the Servants of Mary through many sisters and associates.

### DAWN MCDONAGH

Dawn had known the Servants of Mary throughout her lifetime. Originally from Massena, NY, she remained friends with Sr. Imelda Kirkey, her classmate. Dawn became an associate in 2000 and enjoyed spending time in prayer and socially with the sisters and associates in upper New York.

### EMILY HASSMAN

Emily became an associate in September of 2017. Emily died due to complication of a broken hip. She was supported by the prayers of the Tucson Community who were deeply saddened at not being able to personally connect with Emily due to Covid.

### CAROL GOSNEY

Carol began her associate membership December 14, 1991. She was active in the Omaha community for many years before suffering with dementia. Carol is the mother of fellow Associate Cori Tranisi.

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COVER PHOTO: *Healing Garden*

## REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED SISTERS



**MARY LOUISE HARTNETT**, also known as **Sr. Elaine, OSM**, was born in Detroit, Michigan on June 27, 1934. Sr. Elaine grew up in Detroit and is survived by her brother, David Hartnett.

She entered the Servants of Mary on August 28, 1952 and made her first profession in 1954 and her final vows in 1959.

Sr. Elaine earned her Master's Degree from the University of Detroit. For thirty years, she ministered in the area of education as both teacher and principal in schools located in Omaha, Nebraska, Detroit, Michigan and Massena, New York.

After "retiring," Sr. Elaine continued her education by receiving a certification as a Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Counselor. For the next twenty years, she served as Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator in several Hospice Programs in Detroit, Michigan. This ministry was very important to her. In her retirement letter, Sr. Elaine wrote, "I have been blessed and lucky. I will continue to provide grief support on my own time."

Sr. Elaine shared community with Sr. Beverly Pettke and Associate Mary Ellen White. They shared life together on a daily basis, as well as their love for dogs. Their pets were not only part of the family, but Sr. Elaine often included them when working with Hospice patients. She was also actively involved at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Detroit.

Sr. Elaine touched the lives of many people through her years as teacher, principal, Hospice Chaplain, as well as those of her family, friends and Community members. She died on August 18, 2022. May she rest in peace.

**SR. CATHERINE FIGUEROA** was born in Jamaica on April 30, 1946. Although she spent most of her life in Jamaica, she had opportunities to live in the United States, Canada and England, as well. Her parents were both college professors and instilled in their six children the value of education, which Sr. Catherine took to heart. She loved to learn and was continually educating herself. She earned two Master's Degrees, but never tired of taking another class.

Sr. Catherine once shared that she wanted to enter a community that ministered in Jamaica so she "could offer compassionate presence and spiritual teaching to the deprived and needy children of Jamaica." She was drawn to the Servants of Mary because she saw that same desire in the two Servite women she knew.

Sr. Catherine's ministry began in education. She taught in both elementary and high schools in Kingston, Jamaica before moving on to pastoral work where she was involved in liturgy, adult faith formation and outreach to the people of St. Peter and Paul Parish. She loved her ministry and the people she served.

In the parish, Sr. Catherine had formed a St. Peregrine Prayer Group, who prayed daily for those with cancer or other life-threatening diseases. Little did she know that they would eventually be praying for her. She died peacefully on September 8, 2022. May she rest in peace.



**Thank you to those who offered matching grants for Giving Tuesday:**

Control Services, Inc (Omaha)  
Mercedes Loprinzi and Karl Kcrma  
Deb and Mark McLaughlin



## Social Justice Involvement

Although we sisters are aging, our compassion for the struggles of the world remains strong. Together, sisters actively involved in social justice and in prayer ministry represent the Servants of Mary in multiple ways.

Addressing the health of our planet and the well-being of those seeking refuge in the US are high on our list of concerns.

Twice a year the ecology committee composes a newsletter of tips for saving resources, such as single-use plastic, water and energy, and we recently partnered with Marian High School to begin composting from the Motherhouse kitchen.

Believing, with Pope Francis, that the ecological crisis is not separate from the plight of the poor, we are involved with efforts to assist immigrants in Omaha and in Detroit.

Detroit sisters and associates take part in the program, "Strangers No Longer," a network of 20 Circles of Support formed in Catholic parishes, congregations and immigrant communities to "support our immigrant neighbors and to advocate for a humane and comprehensive immigration policy." Assistance is given through education, direct support, accompaniment and advocacy.

In Omaha, we joined volunteers in welcoming a bus of 39 asylum seekers. These families received warm food and clothing in a safe environment while intake workers arranged for transportation to their final US destination, where they will join a sponsor family or friends. This program, "Omaha Welcomes the Stranger," will be ongoing, as a means of sharing in some of the humanitarian response to immigrants provided by US border cities.

Sisters also continue to support the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and contribute generously to collections for the victims of the war in Ukraine.

## A Good Read

Well known adult educator, Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP, offers readers a comprehensive guide to reflect on the aging process. Her book, "Let This Be the Time," offers twelve chapters of information on the integration of Christian principles for guiding the years of growing older with grace and meaning.

Drawing from her experience and wisdom as an adult formation instructor and guide, Sr. Janet presents readers with a format for individual or small group reflection. Each chapter begins

with the phrase "The Need...". What follows are topics covering all aspects of the aging process as it was lived by various persons of wisdom and wit. Among some of the topics covered are: the need to live a life of meaning and purpose, to ask and explore questions, to navigate change, to cope with losses, to be grateful, and to prepare for dying and death.

Each chapter concludes with wisdom statements offered as guides for pondering, wondering and conversing. Following these reflection questions are suggested

activities for the integration and expression in daily life of the content of each chapter.

The book is a rich commentary and guide for deepening one's spiritual life as well as living the aging process with richness and grace, unique to each individual. The reader can readily identify with examples of daily living that Sr Janet has incorporated in the text. Her work is an excellent source of direction for enhancing one's years of eldering within the context of living spiritually with purpose and depth.

## STOCK TRANSFER

Making a gift of appreciated stock is one of the most advantageous forms of giving for tax purposes.

You can write off the value of the stock as a gift, plus avoid capital gains taxes. The gift is valued as the fair market price of the stock upon trade. Instruct your broker to transfer shares of stock to Servants of Mary using the following information:

Broker: Charles Schwab • DTC Number: 0164 • Account Name: Servants of Mary Retirement Fund • Account Number: 3555 1822  
Or contact Sr. Sarah Deeby, OSM (402)571-3487



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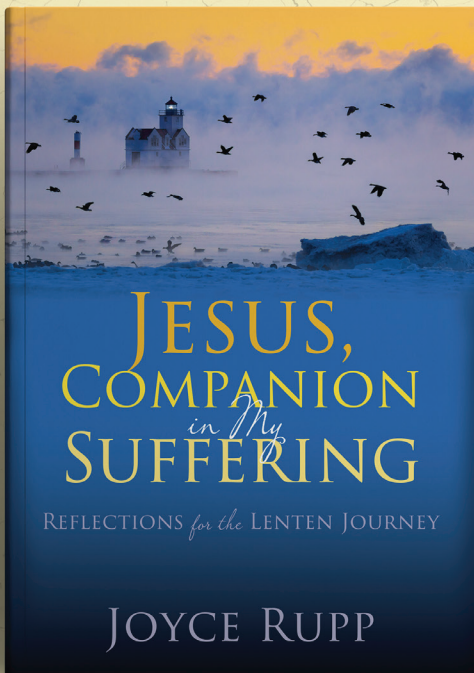
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## New Book For Lent from Joyce Rupp

In *Jesus, Companion in My Suffering*, reflections and prayers for each Lenten day, Joyce Rupp guides you to see Jesus as someone who understands deeply what you have experienced, whose wisdom you can apply to your own life.

Buy now from the Servite Bookstore online at [osms.org](http://osms.org)  
or on Joyce's website at [joycerupp.com](http://joycerupp.com).



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**Jeanette Lenda**  
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**Peggy Nolan**  
Bill Nolan

**Carol A. O'Neill**  
Colleen O'Neill

Love recognizes no barriers.  
It jumps hurdles, leaps fences,  
penetrates walls, to arrive  
at its destination full of hope.

—Maya Angelou





# In Memory Of

**Sr. Kathleen O'Sullivan**

Dixie Placek  
George & Kathy Sully

**Sylvia Oakie**

Eugene Oakie

**James & Nancy Ohlinger**

Rosaline George

**Peter & Bernadine Ohlinger**

Rosaline George

**Joseph & Norine Palazzolo**

Cesar & Sharon Rastelli

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Servants of Mary Leadership Team

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Dawn Miller-Rader

**Michael Rader**

Dawn Miller-Rader

**Marcy Ramold**

Pamela & Jon Ramold

**Alfeo Rastelli**

Cesar & Sharon Rastelli

**Jean Reardon**

Judith King

**Paul Rice**

Claudia Rice

**Marie Robinson**

Rosaline George  
Al & Sarah Hagg

**Mary Rohde**

Danna Plummer

**Melissa Rosenthal**

Laura Monen

**John E. & Elsie H. Ross**

Thomas & Sylvia Schultz

**Paul & Mary Ross**

Ken & Eileen Ross

**Beth Avery Rothberg**

Sr. Imelda Kirkey  
Sr. Roselma Legault

**Lester & Hilda Rupp Families**

Jerry & Lois Chettinger

**Sr. Catherine Rupp**

Joanne Ames  
Janice McMurrin  
Mark & Cindy Rupp

**Sr. Christina Rupp**

Janice McMurrin  
Mark & Cindy Rupp  
Elsie Scruggs

**Ralph Russo**

Sr. Sarah Deeby

**Georgene Santoro**

Dr. Robert Santoro

**Emma Saulino**

Charlie Saulino

**I.J. & Joyce Schallau Families**

Jerry & Lois Chettinger

**Tom Scheid**

Joanne Ames

**Robert A. Schilling**

Lillian Schilling

**Matthew & Mary Ann Schimonitz**

Carol Jirousek

**Joseph & Edward Schmidlin**

Sr. Charlotte Huetteman  
Sr. Alice Kotwick  
Sr. Paulette Labbe  
Sr. Bernie Misson

**Sharon Schuetz**

George Schuetz

**Our Parents**

Tom & Kathy Schulte

**Molly Hogan Searl**

Kathleen Neary

**Frank & Margaret Semelsberger**

Ken Semelsberger

**Servants of Mary who ministered at St.**

**Juliana School, '54-'62**

Carole Chiamp  
James Slezinski

**Deceased members of the Sesto Family**

Jeanine Sesto

**Louis & Gertrude Silvestri**

Fred Silvestri

**Sr. Margarita Simon**

Joanne Ames  
Douglas Simon  
Daniel Simon & Family  
James & Nancy Reed

**Gerri Sims**

Julie Braun  
Donald Byrne  
Constance Connell  
Josephine D'Angelo  
Bruno & Martha De Simone  
Sr. Sarah Deeby  
John & Ann Marie Doychick  
Sr. Mary Gehringer  
Sr. Charlotte Huetteman  
Ron & Pat Idziak  
Theo & Nancy Kalis  
Mark Kanona  
Sr. Barbara Kennedy  
Sr. Alice Kotwick  
Sr. Paulette Labbe  
Sr. Roselma Legault  
Diana Lundak  
Gerald & Patricia Malone  
Sandra Mals  
Sr. Nancy Marsh  
Eric McAlexander  
Fred & Bernice Michalik  
Sr. Bernie Misson  
Tony & Nina Palazzolo  
Melody Randolph  
Mary Ann Rose  
Servants of Mary Leadership Team  
Sr. Lisa Sheridan  
Paul & Susan Sieczkowski  
Ivan D. Sims  
Sabrina & Stojcei Skohanovski  
Mark & Mira Supal  
Beth Wendt  
LI Weng  
Mike & Linda Wilamowski  
Sr. Mary Ann Zink

**Ivan W. Sims**  
Ivan D. Sims

**Sr. Ambrose Sitzman**  
Elsie Scruggs

**Sr. Thelma H. Slattery**  
Sharon Slattery



# In Memory Of

*Timothy L. Slattery*  
Sharon Slattery

*Margaret Sliman*  
Paul Sliman

*Barbara Marshall Sloan*  
Joanne Ames

*John & Claire Sova*  
Terry & Mary Zach

*Sr. Catherine Spengler*  
Richard & Peggy Cain  
Linda Nordstrom

*Sr. Helen Spengler*  
Elsie Scruggs

*Ed Spethman*  
Bette Spethman

*Edward & Theresa Staniecki*  
Thomas & Sylvia Schultz

*Mary Ellen Stephens*  
Thomas Stephens

*Jim Strawn*  
Sr. Mary Gehringer

*Paul Studowski*  
John & Josephine Hunt

*Louis & Eleonore Syslo*  
Mary Syslo

*Sadie Takla*  
Rosaline George  
Al & Sarah Hagg

*Marianne Timmins*  
Sr. Charlotte Huetteman  
Sr. Imelda Kirkey  
Sr. Alice Kotwick  
Sr. Paulette Labbe  
Sr. Bernie Misson  
Servants of Mary Leadership Team

*Mary Ann Williams Trainor*

*Class of '55 Servite High*  
Joanne Ames

*Dr. Donald Trepanier*  
Sylvia Trepanier

*Angeline M. Tringali*  
Mary Susan Tringali

*Mrs. Alvarez & Navin Trivedi*  
Ann Armstrong

*Rosemary Turner*  
Sr. Mary Gehringer & Family

*James Van Overbeke*  
Joanne Ames

*Sr. Anna Vintland*  
Sharon Springer

*George & Pat Vogel*  
Dan & Mary Vogel

*Steve Vogel*  
Dan & Mary Vogel

*Denis & JoEllen Vrbka*  
Colleen Lux

*Dan Walker*  
Sr. Mary Chamberlain

*Cash & Arlene Wardyn*  
Patricia Morse

*Ken Wardyn*  
Patricia Morse

*Sr. Adolorata Watson*  
Joanne Ames  
Linda & Suzanne Maher

*Deacon Samuel James Watson*  
Jean Watson

*Harold & Lillian Watson*  
Lillian Schilling

*Patrina Watson*  
Patricia Watson

*Dolores Weisbecker*  
Sr. Margaret Buchta  
Sr. Peggy Miller

*Bernie & Copee Wells*  
Laura Monen

*Sr. Evangeline Wilkinson*  
Anne Jenkins

*Pat Wingate*  
Sr. Peggy Miller

*Patricia Zach*  
Maurice Zach  
Terry & Mary Zach

*Joey Zelinski*  
Kathy Cantlon-Soffin

*Peter Ziarnik*  
Barbara Gucwa

“True Love is when you are able to see yourself in another, when you recognize that there is no separation between you and any other Being in the Universe.”

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN





Servants of Mary  
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