

# Mission

Volume 20 Number 3

October 10, 2008

*A Publication of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield*

## Anniversary celebration emphasizes charism

**Ann Lynch, ssj**

The Sisters of St. Joseph began the celebration of 125 years of service in the Springfield Diocese in August by welcom-



*Celebrating the agreee commitment are Sister Mary Quinn, Agreees Teresa Foley, Sherry Enserro, and Marisa Brown-Ludwig, Sisters Maureen Sheehan and Roberta Mulcahy.*

ing three women, Sherry Gendron Enserro, Teresa Foley, and Marisa Brown-Ludwig, as Agreees, a term connected to our roots in 17<sup>th</sup> century France.

In our early documents, research has shown that there were Vowed Sisters and Associates and Agreees. There is no comparable word for Agreee in English. It expresses best the desire to live out the charism deep within those who feel called to this particular life choice, just as vowed life and association are the paths on which others feel called to respond to this charism within.

The Community of St. Joseph, which includes canonical, vowed Congregation, Associates, Agreees, and Partners in Mission, work together to enhance the charism and the day when all will be one.

## Founders' dreams thrive, transcend centuries

**Mary E. Harvey, ssj**

Le Puy, France, October 15, 1650.

Autumn light falls through the windows in the room where a group gathers. Above the town rise the statue of Our Lady of France and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. At the cathedral's base rest the houses of the "ancienne" old town. Autumn's tints on foliage and flowers color the landscape.

That day the Bishop of Le Puy, Henri de Maupas, grants the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph canonical recognition. Six women from Le Puy and beyond

whose names sound like poetry, join in community to serve the "dear neighbor."

Francoise Eyraud, Clauda Chastel, Marguerite Burdier, and the three "Anna's," Anna Chalayer, Anna Vey and Anna Brun, together with the "Little Institute's" founder, Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ, actualize their dream. The French writer Victor Hugo said, "There is nothing like a dream to create the future."



# Sisters, families appreciate community support

Dear Community of St. Joseph,

I am so grateful for your prayerful support, cards, notes and presence at the time of my mother's death. It is a time of true sadness and yet a time of peace and grace. May God be gracious to you and may your lives be blessed.

Love,  
Sister Mary Lou Brennan and Family

\*\*\*\*\*

From the family of Michael Quinlan:  
We thank you for your prayerful support.  
Pat Quinlan, ssj

\*\*\*\*\*

On behalf of my brother David's family and my brothers and sisters, I wish to extend heartfelt thanks for your presence at David's wake and funeral, the many Masses, enrollments, cards, and donations to the SSJ Fund and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

## In Memoriam

***Please remember the following in prayer:***

Sr. Elizabeth Anna Kane  
Sr. Margaret Edward Griffin  
Sr. Kathleen Duffy  
Mrs. Katherine Tetreault, mother of Sr. Diane Tetreault  
Mary Lapierre, sister of Sr. Cathy Homrok  
Columbia Elizabeth Brennan, mother of Sr. Mary Lou Brennan  
Mary Boisjolie, Leadership Team secretary  
Michael Quinlan, brother of Sr. Patricia Quinlan  
Edward Burke, brother-in-law of Sr. Richard Francis Doran  
Gladys Bushey, cousin of Sr. Shirley Davis  
Thomas Brown, brother of Sisters Gertrude and Veronica Brown.

Your presence and prayerful support were, and continue to bring, much comfort.

Prayerful gratitude,  
Sr. Kathryn Flanagan and Family

\*\*\*\*\*

The last week of August was a memorable one for me, thanks to your many kindnesses, your prayers, and the thoughtful gifts you offered me on the occasion of my 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Thank you so much. I really did appreciate the celebrations, and may God bless you all abundantly.

With love and gratitude,  
Sr. Patricia Anne O'Donnell

\*\*\*\*\*

In so many ways, you have supported us in our "Celebration of Gratitude." Thank you for your joyous presence, your prayer, thoughtful remembrances and the many and varied donations; especially to our Congregation's development fund. Our sincere appreciation to each of you.

The Golden Jubilarians

Sisters Jean Bostley, Mary Cadigan, Mary Pat Carr, Gloria Corriveau, Patricia Curran, Mary Duffy, Mary Lou Gillon, Kathleen Imbruno, Margaret Kenney, Paula Misitano, Eileen Murphy, Miriam Francis Pedom, Patricia Rahaim, Simone Rodrigues and Madeline Tiberii

Mission is published monthly by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield as a source of communication within the Congregation. Readers are encouraged to submit articles which should be typed and sent to Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA 01040. E-mail acl@ssjspringfield.com

**Ann Lynch, SSJ, editor**

**Communications Committee:** Sisters Angela Deady, Mary E. Harvey, Mary Lou Lacey, Ann Lynch, Elizabeth Matuszek, Paula Misitano, Patricia James Sweeney and Jeanne O'Shea.



## Autumn's Golden Glow

(For S.M.S.)

Light falls  
 Down sky painted cerulean blue  
 Touched with white clouds  
 Like puffs of dandelions  
 Summered in sunshine-  
 Spills across land like a tapestry  
 In multi-color- orange, yellow  
 Reds of maples, birches, oaks  
 Edged in evergreen-  
 Wraps light and dark  
 Over mountains and hills,  
 Where we walk with the season,  
 Reflects  
 On lakes and streams rippling  
 Leaves in wait for winter,  
 Luminous in autumn's golden glow.

## Diocesan Award honors 15 years of ministry

**Janet Provost, ssj**

Sister Maryanne Guertin was honored, June 21, on the occasion of her retirement from the position of executive director of St. Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich, CT, where many were served meals for breakfast and lunch daily.

The celebration was a tribute and a "thank you" to Maryanne for her six years of service at St. Vincent de Paul Place as well as for her previous nine years of service in leadership of the Diocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious affairs.

Msgr. Robert L. Brown, chancellor of the diocese, presented the Patrici-Ann

## Reflections ...

**Mary E. Harvey, ssj**

A friend from Ohio and I drive through the Vermont countryside on a sunny October morning in the foliage season. Mountains and hills are aglow with red and orange sun-burnished in gold. Though I have seen this spectacular sight many autumns, she views it for the first time.

Thus, I see it too through her eyes with added newness. Should not our stance before nature's wonders be to look at them as for the first time?

\*\*\*\*

I walk through yellow-gold autumn leaves. They rustle crisply under my feet. Around me a glow of molten golden light shines through the maple trees bordering the path. Overhead, the sky is a matchless blue. In the distance hills and mountains create a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns. I store this peaceful scene in my memory.

Award, to Maryanne in the name of Norwich Bishop Michael Cote. This award is the most distinguished award presented by the diocese for one's service to the people of God.

Maryanne received this award for distinguished service to the Diocese of Norwich "in recognition for her very effective and dedicated leadership."

Surrounded by her colleagues, loved ones and many friends, Maryanne was embraced in the love and gratitude of all those with whom she had served and the community of Norwich. Warmth radiated from all as they greeted Maryanne and one another, sharing memories and acclaiming her.

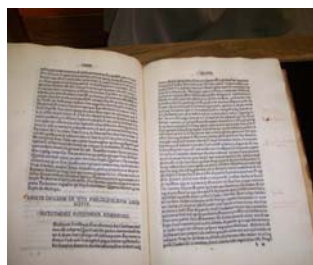
## ***Elms treasure trove rewards seeker's quest***

**Sr. Patricia James Sweeney**

Have you seen an incunabulum recently? I have and you can, too. Just call Sr. Mary Gallagher at the Alumnae Library at Our Lady of the Elms College in Chicopee.

Actually, Sr. Ann Lynch told some of us about it at a meeting. When she mentioned the word I felt I had heard it before, but only had three clues in my head: it was Latin, it was ancient, it had something to do with books. (Not a brilliant deduction –

knowing it came from a librarian.)



First, then, a definition. An incunabulum is a book printed before 1500 AD. And, in

fact, one entitled *Vitae et Sententiae Philosophorus*, written by Diogones Laertius may be located in the Rare Book Room at the Elms. It is included in the Barry Collection donated to the college by the family of the deceased Fr. Michael E. Barry at the advice and suggestion of the late Richard Garvey, friend of the Elms.

What a thrill to examine this book printed in 1485 AD. This treasure is written in Latin and has illuminations on its pages. The covers are made of wood which probably helped to keep its pristine form. Holding such a piece of history in one's hands is incredible. The mind starts imagining the author arranging his thoughts into words which the printer would then place in the new moveable type for printing.

This experience makes one appreci-

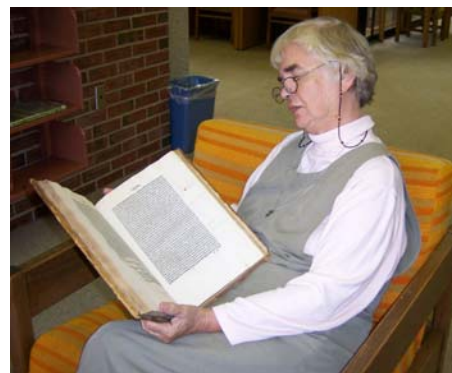
ate the patient perseverance of these earliest writers and the quality of the art of the first printers like Gutenberg. What would they think of modern technology and the use of computers? How easily could they have shared their thoughts with the reader had they been transported from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

The Elms has the Msgr. Joseph Fenton Ecclesiology Collection, the Dan Casey Irish Collection and the Hermano Pedro research materials donated by Sr. Jane Morrissey and Cristina Canales as well as the Barry Collection of books. In addition to these, there are myriad collections of art and artifacts from around the world given to the college by generous donors who may be alumnae, professors, friends and admirers.

The Rare Books and Special Collections Room is unique and well worth a visit. Joseph Carvalho, Director of the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum of Springfield, Massachusetts says of it, "With the addition of the Barry collection, the Elms joins Harvard University, Amherst College, Smith College and the Boston Public library as one of the five repositories of special collections of English drama."

Give yourself a treat and make an appointment to visit this treasure in our midst. You won't regret it.

*Mary Gallagher, ssj, displays the incunabulum at the Elms College Library.*



## Jubilarians exemplify dedicated lives of service

The Mont was alive with the sounds of jubilee, September 14. Celebrating 50 years of religious life are:

**Sister Jean Bostley**, (Sr. Margaret



Gerald) a native of Greenfield, Mass., entered from Holy Trinity Parish in Greenfield. She taught in several Catholic schools in Massachusetts, including Annunciation in Florence, Sacred Heart Academy in

Worcester and St. Thomas in West Springfield. She also worked as librarian at St. Joseph Central High School in Pittsfield and currently serves as Executive Director of the Catholic Library Association. Sr. Jean lives in Pittsfield.

**Sister Mary Cadigan** (Sr. Joseph

Mary) was born in Holyoke and entered the Congregation from Sacred Heart Parish, Holyoke. Sr. Mary ministered in the health field, working as a registered nurse at Providence and Holyoke Hospitals. She currently serves in the Mont Marie Health Care Center in Holyoke.



**Sister Mary Patricia Carr** (Sr.

Lawrence Margaret) was born in Boston and entered from Holy Name Parish in Springfield. Sister taught at two elementary schools in Rhode Island including Sacred Heart, Pawtucket and St. Lucy's, Middletown. She also taught in several schools in Massachusetts including Holy Trinity, Greenfield, St. Michael's, Northampton, St. Mary's, Longmeadow and Blessed



Sacrament in Holyoke. She also worked in Pastoral Care at Providence Hospital in Holyoke and currently does clinical social work in Springfield, where she now resides.

**Sister Gloria Corriveau** (Sr. Veronica Emile) entered religious life from Sacred Heart Parish in Southbridge, Mass., where she was born. Sister had a lengthy teaching



career at several schools in Massachusetts: St. Louis in Webster, Sacred Heart in Gardner where she taught and later served as principal, St. Joseph's in North Adams, Our Lady of Hope in Springfield, St. Bernadette's in

Northborough and Our Lady of the Valley in Uxbridge, where she was a teacher and a principal. She presently ministers as driver and aide to the retired Sisters at Mont Marie. Sister resides in Whitinsville, Mass.

**Sister Patricia Curran** (Sr. Dorothy John) a native of Southbridge, Mass., entered the Community from St. Mary's in Southbridge. Her ministries include



teaching at St. Joseph's School in North Brookfield and Sacred Heart in Gardner, where she was later principal. She also served as principal at Annunciation School in Florence and Our Lady's School in Sulpher, La. Sister Patricia also taught in

Puerto Rico and South Korea, worked as librarian at Blessed Sacrament in Holyoke and did Pastoral Care at Our Lady of the Rosary in Hadley. In addition, she worked

**Continued on page 6**

## Jubilarians serve dear neighbor

as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Farren Hospital in Greenfield and Mont Marie Health Care Center in Holyoke. She is currently Manager of the gift shop at Mont Marie and lives in Chicopee.

**Sister Mary Duffy** (Sr. Dolores Francis) entered the Congregation from Sacred Heart Parish in Pawtucket, RI.,



Sister's ministries included teaching at Blessed Sacrament in Holyoke, St. Charles in Pittsfield, St. Lucy in Middletown, Rhode Island and Our Lady of Hope in Springfield. She was also Coordinator of Religious Educa-

tion at St. Anne's Parish in Chicopee and Immaculate Conception Parish in Granby. She also served as Associate Director of the Office of Religious Ed for the Worcester Diocese, and for Blessed Sacrament Parish in Worcester. She is currently Chaplain/Director of Pastoral Care at Madonna Manor Long Term Nursing Home in North Attleboro, Mass.

**Sister Mary Louise Gillon** (Sr. James Regina) was born in Holyoke, Mass. and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Sacred Heart Parish. She taught at St. Mary High School in Westfield, and Holyoke Catholic High. Sister also served as Pastoral Minister and Religious Education Coordinator at St. Mary Parish in Haydenville



and was Director of the Office of Pastoral Ministry in Springfield. She is currently Director of Pastoral Care at the Mont Marie Health Care Center and Retirement Community.

**Sister Kathleen Imbruno** (Sr. Alfred Theresa) is a native of Milford, Mass and entered the Congregation from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Milford. Sister taught at St. Catherine Academy in Newport, RI., Sacred Heart High School in Pawtucket and Bishop Keough in North Pawtucket, RI. She also served as principal at Immaculate Conception School in Holyoke, Mass. and was Professor of Spanish and French at Elms College in Chicopee. She then worked as Coordinator of Membership and Association at Mont Marie and currently is a member of the SSJ Leadership Team. Sr. Kathleen lives in Holyoke.



Sister's ministries included teaching at St. Catherine Academy in Newport, RI., Sacred Heart High School in Pawtucket and Bishop Keough in North Pawtucket, RI. She also served as principal at Immaculate Conception School in Holyoke, Mass. and was Professor of Spanish and French at Elms College in Chicopee. She then worked as Coordinator of Membership and Association at Mont Marie and currently is a member of the SSJ Leadership Team. Sr. Kathleen lives in Holyoke.

**Sister Margaret Kenney** (Sr. Marie James) entered the Congregation from St. Joseph Parish in Newport, RI. Her long career in education includes teaching at St. Mary's in Milford, Mass., Immaculate Conception in Easthampton, St. Joseph's in Pittsfield, and Our Lady of Hope in Springfield. She also served as principal at Notre Dame Middle School in Pittsfield. Sr. Margaret currently teaches at the Holyoke Alternative Program and resides in Springfield.



She also served as principal at Notre Dame Middle School in Pittsfield. Sr. Margaret currently teaches at the Holyoke Alternative Program and resides in Springfield.

**Sister Paula Misitano** (Sr. Vincent Anne) was born in Springfield, Mass and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Springfield. Sister Paula's ministries included teaching at Sacred Heart in Gardner, Mass., Immaculate Conception in Easthampton, Holy Name, Springfield, St. Joseph in

# through diverse ministries

Cherry Valley, Mass., Sacred Heart, Pittsfield, and St. Mary Junior-Senior High, Milford. She also worked as secretary at Sacred Heart Parish in Milford, Cathedral High in Springfield, Mother of Sorrows Passionist Retreat House in West Springfield, St. Mary's Parish, Northampton and

the Diocesan Office of Pastoral Ministry. Sister Paula also served as secretary to the President of the SSJ and worked in religious education at several parishes. She is currently Executive Secretary at the Mont Marie Health Care Center and lives in Holyoke.



**Sister Eileen Murphy** (Sr. Henry Mary) a native of Newport, RI, entered the Congregation from St. Augustin Parish in Newport. Sister taught at Elms College, Chicopee, Holyoke Catholic High School and Cathedral High School in Springfield.



She currently volunteers at the Elms and the Department of Corrections Day Reporting in Springfield. She resides in Springfield.

**Sister Miriam Francis Predom** (Lucretia Mae) was born in Ludlow, Vermont and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from the Church of the Annunciation in Ludlow. Sister was employed by the College of St. Joseph and also served on the Board of Trustees to both the



College and Mount St. Joseph Academy. She also served on the Leadership Council and was President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland. (The Rutland community has since merged with the SSJ Springfield Congregation.) Sister Miriam also co-founded Clementwood Spiritual Life in Rutland. She is currently semi-retired and living in Rutland.

**Sister Patricia Rahaim** (Sr. Paul Marie) is a native of Worcester and entered the Congregation from Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Worcester. Her teaching ministries included several schools in Massachusetts: St. Louis in Webster, Sacred Heart Academy, Worcester, St. Mary in Milford and Bishop Feehan High School, Attleboro. She also taught at St. Catherine Academy in Newport, Rhode Island and Bishop Keough High in Pawtucket, RI and served as Academic Vice Principal at St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket. She is currently Technology Chair at St. Mary Academy in East Providence, where she lives.



**Sister Simone Rodrigues** (Sr. Marguerite Sacre Coeur) was born in New Bedford, Mass. and entered the community from St. Joseph Parish in New Bedford. Sister's teaching assignments included Blessed Sacrament in Fall River, St. Michael's in Swansea and St. Theresa and St. Joseph, both in New Bedford.



Sister also coordinated religious education

**Continued on page 8**

## SSJs participate in United Way's Day of Caring



*Betty Matuszek, ssj, visits with a resident at the Holyoke Soldiers Home.*

*Winnie Roulier, ssj, talks with resident at the Soldiers Home.*



*Irene Fontaine, ssj, shares a laugh with a Soldiers Home resident.*

Each year Sisters and co-workers participate in the United Way's Day of Caring.

This year Sisters, Associates and participants in ministry from the Mont visited with residents at the Holyoke Soldiers Home and workers from Mass Mutual came to the Mont to help with the landscaping in front of D Building.



*Two of the Day of Caring volunteers from Mass Mutual work with Sisters Ann Lynch and Roberta Mulcahy at the Mont.*

**Photos by Wendy Hammerle**

## Jubilarians Continued...

at St. Joseph Parish in Vinton, Louisiana, St. Peter Parish in Worcester and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Acushnet, Mass. and was a staff member at the Oblate Retreat House in Hudson, New Hampshire. She is currently secretary to the president at St. Francis Xavier School in Acushnet and lives in New Bedford.

**Sister Madeline Tiberii** (Sr. Rita Francis) is a native of Worcester, Mass. and entered from St. Joseph Parish in Charlton City, Mass. Sister's career in

education included teaching at Cathedral High in Springfield, St. Joseph Grammar School in Pittsfield and St. Joseph High School in Pittsfield where she later served in administration. She also worked in pastoral ministry and religious education at St. Peter and Paul Parish in Norwich, Conn. and Campion Renewal Center in Weston, Mass. Sister also spent some time as an administrator at a girls secondary school in Tanzania. She lives in Gloucester, Mass where she works in Retreat Ministry at the Eastern Point Retreat House.

# LCWR/Federation suggest actions for Earth

**Roberta Mulcahy,ssj**

In 2007 and 2008 the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Leadership Council of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph issued Resolutions to Action and public statements regarding Climate Change. Both of these publications state the facts within a Social Analysis framework, offer reflective quotes from scripture and Catholic teachings and challenge us to action. The LCWR Resolution to Action statement can be found at [www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org) and the Federation statement at

[www.sistersofsaintjosephfederation.org](http://www.sistersofsaintjosephfederation.org).

Some key points in both publications show obvious impacts on natural systems, human systems, and plant and animal species. As always the poor of our planet suffer the harshest consequences of climate change. Those of us who live and work where we can make choices have greater responsibilities in our lifestyles and behavior. The list of possible actions has something for each of us to do. Please check out the above web pages and/or the Justice and Peace/Ecology Office for copies of LCWR and Federation Statements.

LCWR quotes Pope Benedict XVI who encourages us to listen to the voices of the earth "...existence itself, our earth, speaks to us, and we have to learn to listen."

The Federation Leadership reminds us of the words of John Paul II: "Faced with the widespread destruction of the environment...we cannot continue to use

the goods of the Earth as we have in the past..."

Psalm 104

O God, who set the earth on its foundations, who makes the springs gush forth in the valleys, living things both small and great, and bread to strengthen the human heart, how manifold are your works! Send forth your Spirit now, renew our spirits, and renew the face of the earth.

## **What practical things can we do to respond to the impact of Climate Change?**

- use efficient cars
- walk or bike rather than drive
- consume less
- replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent
- use energy Star rated appliances
- plant trees
- purchase "carbon offsets"
- urge legislators to increase renewable energy standards
- ask that the U.S. join other nations to craft a global climate change strategy (post Kyoto)
- support businesses that are taking steps to reduce their energy use and that provide "green products"
- visit the new website of Catholics and Climate Change:

[www.catholicsandclimatechange.org](http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org).

-win a prize for thinking of three things to do to lessen the impact of Climate Change not mentioned here. (See Roberta for the prize!)

## ***SSJs gather in California for Sisters of Earth***

Sisters Mary Pat Carr, Maureen Charest, Cathy Coyne, Ann Lynch, and Lorry Villemaire were among approximately 150 Sisters of Earth who converged for the eighth bi-annual Sisters of Earth Conference at the Presentation Center in Los Gatos, CA.

Four countries were represented: Australia (2), Canada (15), New Zealand (2) and the United States (124). Twenty-eight States were represented from east to west, and three Provinces in Canada.

The conference theme, ***Pax Gaia***, Peace of Earth, was inspired by the words of Thomas Berry:

*“What we look for is no longer the Pax Romana, the peace of imperial Rome, nor is it simply the Pax Humana, the peace among humans, but the Pax Gaia, the peace of Earth and every being on the Earth. This is the original and final peace, the peace granted by whatever power it is that brings our world into being. Within the universe, the planet Earth with all its wonder is the place for the meeting of the divine and the human.”* (Evening Thoughts)

Those present challenged themselves, through content and process, to deepen their reflection on what Thomas Berry identifies as a ‘deep cultural pathology’ of our time, and the need for a ‘deep cultural therapy.’

Keynote speaker Mary Evelyn Tucker’s presentations recalled the urgency of our time, the earth ‘on fire,’ and the fire within each of us.

A major piece of our ‘cultural pathology,’ she claims, is how humanity has left behind the sensibility that nature is profoundly spiritual. We have de-animated the world. The challenge is “How do we give words, music, image, experience to the profoundly spiritual dimension of

nature? Earth ITSELF is alive! How do we feel it, communicate it? Does matter MATTER?”

Mary Evelyn encouraged participants to find the opportunities where they can express the profoundly sacred sensibility that they know and feel in their hearts.

She continued by drawing from the wisdom of Thomas Merton and Thomas Berry. Both teach about the importance of contemplation, silence and solitude; they engage in deep reflection on the issues of their day; they see that ideas and action (knowledge and practice) are one. They value and are empowered by the seasons, and celebrate the cosmic liturgy.

Merton’s message is to reclaim our humanness, relax a little bit, and take our humanness all the way.

As historian of world cultures and religions, and advocate of new cosmology and its consequent human meaning, Thomas Berry names four Scriptures that shape awareness:

- Cosmic Scripture
- Scriptures of History
- Written Scriptures
- Scriptures of the Human Heart

Mary Evelyn encouraged participants to ‘re-inhabit the cosmic scriptures and the scriptures of the human heart.’ “We’ve been living within the limitations of the written scripture. We need to break open our sense of encapsulation, gently, respectfully to the Cosmic Scripture ... to its revelatory beauty! This is the most profound religious sensibility. Awe, wonder, beauty are at the heart of religious/spiritual sensibility.”

She reminded us that we ‘have created a culture without soul ... a world without soul.’

## *for input, reflection, sharing on Pax Gaia*

She explained that Teilhard's vision of oneness, and Thomas Berry's vision of a functional cosmology, and the expanding, enlivening sense of a deep ecological spirituality, and the earth ethics coming forth from the Earth Charter are all significant pieces that aid us and carry us into the future.

Mary Evelyn invited participants to:

**Trust** in what is emerging beyond the visible!

Take **Joy** in the immense beauty of nature! It's always giving back and feeding us ... pouring out in dawn and dusk!

**Accept** and relinquish despair. We are midwives of hope, while we experience a mingling of hope and despair.

**Work** with 'the clouds in our lives' and know that we are held in the great and extraordinary powers of the universe.

Have **confidence** in the future that goes beyond the sad/bad news!

If the dynamics of the universe from the beginning shaped the course of the heavens, lighted the sun, and formed the earth – if this same dynamism brought forth the continents and seas and atmosphere; if it awakened life in the primordial cell and then brought into being the unnumbered variety of living beings and finally brought [the human] into being and guided [us] safely through the turbulent centuries; there is reason to believe that this same guiding process is precisely what has awakened in [us] our present understanding of ourselves and our relation to this stupendous process. Sensitized to this guidance we can have confidence in the future that awaits the human venture.

Guided by Roberta Mulcahy, ssj, and Gail Worcelo, sgm, the morning and evening contemplative prayer for the weekend was held in a beautiful outdoor courtyard blessed by 'the resident choir' with their birdsong, the presence of majestic

redwoods, courtyard flowers and trees, a waxing moon at night ... in short, surrounded by the beauty and gifts of nature.

The basic elements of our contemplative time included: silence, centering breaths of mindfulness, the sound of a gong, silent walking meditation with inner and outer circles moving past each other in opposite directions, and chants led by the Sacred Web Singers.

*"We are one,  
one human family,  
one Earth community,  
one common destiny for all."*

The Sacred Web Singers of Vancouver, BC - and friends - touched participants' minds and hearts in singing songs based on Earth Charter texts - *Peril and Promise, Join Together, We of Earth, Peace Is the Wholeness, We Are One and Reverence.*

These songs and others were all recorded last year on a CD called *My Heart Is Moved* by Sacred Web Singers from across the continent.

*(Although this article is longer and "heavier" than usual, participants wanted to share some of the depth of the experience.)*



*Sisters Cathy Coyne, Maureen Charest, Mary Pat Carr, Roberta Mulcahy, Ann Lynch, and Lorry Villemaire at Sisters of Earth.*

# SSJ takes part in food effort for elderly

Paula Misitano, ssj

"Take and Eat" is a food program providing weekend meals for homebound seniors. The program, founded by Deacon Frank Ryan and his wife, services people in the Pittsfield area. Donations from various sources help sustain the program and the Annual Catholic Appeal provides funds.

For Jean Bostley, ssj, the opportunity to work in the program was presented when a speaker visited St. Joseph's Church in Pittsfield and invited listeners to a follow-up organizational meeting. At this meeting committees were set up and assignments designated. "Since my ministry in the National Catholic Library Association requires much of my time as well as a fair amount of travel, this meal program seemed like something that I was able to do to help others," stated Jean. And so, this Greenfield native became a worker with "Sharing Our Roots Kitchen," a consortium of St. Joseph and the former Holy Family Parish in Pittsfield.

The working of the program is well organized and allows everyone to play a part in this important ministry. There are committees for shopping, designing the menu (set up around reasonable purchase of seasonable foods), cooking the food, and delivering the meals. Desserts are made by people in their homes and delivered to the kitchen for inclusion with other foods in the packet. A hot meal usually includes meat, potato, vegetable, rolls and dessert. Meals are delivered on the first Sunday of the month to eleven locations.

When there is a Monday holiday, two meals are delivered, a hot one for Sunday and a cold meal for Monday. "When we arrive to pick up our meals," continued Jean, "the rolls and dessert are in lunch bags with a card listing the menu, when

the next meal will be delivered by her team, and even a place for comments which can be forwarded to Deacon Ryan." The number of meals to be delivered are then packed into a cooler (to keep them hot) and the delivery begins. For Jean, the deliveries take place in one of the Senior housing complexes within the area.

Jean has served in the Pittsfield area as an elementary and high school educator, parish Eucharist minister and lector as well as fifteen years in her present Catholic Library Association ministry. When this opportunity to help in the "Take and Eat" program presented itself, she saw it as another way to serve others.

"I enjoy this service. It takes so little time, about an hour on a Sunday morning, yet I receive so much in return. I feel very humbled by the people I meet as I go about making the deliveries," said the Golden Jubilarian. "It is personally satisfying. I have met so many beautiful people and listened to so many inspirational stories. One cannot help but come away enriched by this experience."



*This picture sent by Pat Smith shows some of the displaced children in Kisii that were helped with uniforms for school and some small items with the money given by the Community, family, and friends. The adults are some of the teachers at the school.*

## Associates profess covenants at fall ceremony

**Mary E. Harvey, ssj**

Three Vermont women made Covenants of Association with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, September 21.

The ceremony took place in the Chapel at St. Joseph/Kervick Residence where Father John Hamilton, Chaplain, offered the Eucharistic Liturgy. Sister Mary Quinn, Congregational President, received the covenants from the new associates, Marlene (Molly) Burke, Katherine Barrett, and Mary Anne Justin. About 40 Sisters and associates attended.

Sister Kathleen Fleming, who worked with the Vermont Associates, welcomed the group and gave the Opening Prayer. Marlene Burke, Katherine Barrett, Mary Anne Justin and Ann Perry, associate, acted as lectors.



At the Covenanting Ceremony, Sister Marion Denise Scanlan, first director of the Vermont Associate Program, blessed the fleur de lis pins. Diana Fellows, Ada Pezzetti, and Susan Roland, associates, pinned these association symbolic pins for the new associates.

In the Covenant Response, Sister Mary Quinn said, "The needs of the world demand all kinds of participation, all kinds of commitments for us to share with each other. The charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which was so beautifully spoken about by these women becoming associates today, of uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God is a uni-

versal call and a particular call of all the Sisters of St Joseph and associates."

"Thus, each one of these women and each one of you who have become associates previously respond to the call of God in your life to join with us in a commitment that is larger than any of us. We so often say each one of us can do a certain amount of good by ourselves, but together in community and in God's spirit we can accomplish so much more. I think we realize that today, perhaps even more as a new crisis seems to evolve every day in our country and in fact our world. We realize more and more deeply the call of the Gospel. I think that call and our charism of unity and reconciliation have a particular call in our time in our fragile, vulnerable world to try to bring the call of the Gospel, the message of unity and reconciliation, to the people who are desperately in need of it. We do this in community."

After the Liturgy a reception was held in the Community Room.



**Before the Eucharistic Liturgy** new associates, Mary Anne Justin, Marlene Burke, and Katherine Barrett are joined by Sister Mary Quinn.

**Sister Mary Quinn** and Katherine Bairett sign Katherine's Covenant of Association. Sister Kathleen Fleming and Father John Hamilton look on. (left)

# Connections Day brings memories, laughter



*The entrance class of 1965*

*Carla Oleska and Sr. Carol Allan chat with Chris Methe and Associates Eileen Kirk and Carole Schulte. (below)*



*Sister Gertrude Conway (center) visits with Therese Harrington and Gerry Gosselin.*

*Sisters Mary Kate Birge and Lillian Reilly enjoyed the day with Associate Connie Lane and Patricia St. Pierre-Aiello. (left)*



*The entrance class of 1966*



*Sister Judith Rosenthal, Theresa Yesu, Sisters Connie Daub, Angela Deady and Mary Bission are part of the entrance class of 1964.*



*Sisters Millie Marengo, Winnie Roulier visit with Fran Pierce and Kathleen Jennings Dragon and Sister Virginia Maria Duross.*

## Founder praises work of local Homework House

**Maureen Broughan, ssj,  
Jane Morrissey, ssj**

During the summer we received an e-mail saying that Barbara Abouchar, the creator and founder of the original Homework House in Orange, CA, her daughter and three grandchildren would be traveling crosscountry and would love to visit the Homework House in Holyoke. At the end of July, we welcomed them on a sunny morning. How quickly the two and a half years had passed since we first met Barbara in Orange and how our lives had changed because of her.



We were proud to introduce them to our sites. They are so well prepared, thanks to Elms College's Dorothy Day

Program and the Day of Caring with volunteers from Bay State Medical Center. She was overwhelmed to see the learning centers newly furnished thanks to a Project Bread Grant, our reward closet newly painted and filled thanks to Girl Scouts from St. Michael's Parish in East Longmeadow, and our shelves stocked with school supplies thanks to Sisters, schools, and our many donors.

We shared the wonderful stories of the children we now know in the Flats and Churchill neighborhoods. As we told her about them and their lives in the poor neighborhoods she was touring and the

dedication of our 90 plus tutor volunteers, she exclaimed, "This is exactly how I imagined Homework House should be." She expressed some misgivings about other sites. She said that she had felt a little discouraged at times that they were not entirely reaching the poor children she had envisioned over 15 years ago. As she was leaving, she said, "This visit to your Homework House sites is the best part of our cross-country trip and so fulfilling for me."

Not long after she returned to California, Barbara called to say they had held a Homework House Board of Trustees meeting at which she had shared her excitement about her visit to Holyoke. She showed the Board pictures of the Massachusetts city and its Homework Houses. Board members raised questions, realizing that to reach the children most in need of help, they would have to move into inner-city Los Angeles. They began to move forward with a plan to do just that, modeled on Homework House in Holyoke! She kept saying, "You have lit a fire under us," and ended the phone conversation with the question, "By the way, are there any Sisters of St. Joseph in Los Angeles?" We assured her there are.

A week or so after that conversation, we received another phone call with the sad news that Barbara was in the hospital on life support. Two days later she died. Barbara's assistant director of the Homework House Program, Marcia Marcinko wrote to us to say that Barbara died knowing that her real vision of an after-school program for poor children was realized in Holyoke.

**Continued on page 16**

---

*Sisters Maureen Broughan and Jane Morrissey visit with Barbara Abouchar, founder of the original Homework House. (left)*

## Ribbon cutting opens Mont Marie Senior Residence

Officials join Sisters of St. Joseph in cutting the ribbon for the newly completed Mont Marie Senior Residence. Pictured are: James M. Lavelle of Holyoke Gas & Electric, State Representative Michael F. Kane, State Senator Michael R. Knapik, Andrew Nelson of the Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Taylor Caswell, Regional Director of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Sister Mary Quinn, President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell, Sister

Denise Granger, President of Mont Marie Senior Residence, Inc., Jill Keough, Director of Operations at Mont Marie and Elaine Pluta, representing Congressman John Olver. (below)



Sisters, dignitaries, and friends gather for the ribbon cutting, September 30.

*Sr. Denise Granger, president of Mont Marie Senior Residence, gives the introduction.*



## Homework House Continued ...

In her memoriam, Homework House writes: "For the last 16 years Barbara has carried on her mission to help at-risk youth achieve academic success through Homework House. Not only was she committed to her family, friends and her faith, but her deeper commitment came with making a difference in the community. Her good deeds have extended over a lifetime and we will never know the number of lives she has impacted. She was able to complete her journey with Homework House when just a few weeks ago, she took a cross-country trip with her family to see

our Homework House Program in Holyoke, MA. This was truly her dream that had come full circle."

We hope that you will join Homework House in thoughts and prayers for Barbara's family. She would be pleased to know that we will continue to pray and work together to make a difference in the lives of children and our communities. Our Homework House in Holyoke realizes in a new and graced way that we do so with Barbara's blessing.