Dear Friends,

As inSpirit goes to press, we find ourselves in the Lenten-Easter season. This annual retreat time for Christians challenges us to look within and without, to “spring cleaning” of spirit, mind and body as we prepare to joyfully celebrate the Paschal Mystery with a fresh perspective on life.

Our Holy Cross charism invites us to read the signs of the times and to respond as we are able. Today we are profoundly impacted by a world rife with violence in many forms. Climate change on our fragile Earth threatens the well-being and security of peoples and all creation; physical and mental abuse creates fear and forces many to seek “safer ground” wherever they can; and the misuse of power by so many terrorizes the vulnerable, erodes trust and fuels incivility. All of us need a retreat, whether of moments or weeks, to rekindle hope and intensify courage as we purposefully strive to discover and cultivate seeds of resurrection.

These pages share stories of how we continue to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors in community as courageous women with hope to bear. They seek to engage you with our companions on the journey: co-workers, volunteers, benefactors, Holy Cross Associates and prayerful supporters. They explore ways we stretch the boundaries of our understanding and zeal, our skills and community building, to respond to life with creativity and joy. They sing out our unabated gratitude for the generosity of so many who support and encourage us.

May of 2019 will find the Sisters of the Holy Cross engaged in General Chapter—a time to celebrate where we have been, to acknowledge where we are, and to reimagine ways to deepen our faithfulness to God’s mission that will impel us into the future. The Chapter’s theme, “Transforming Love — For the Life of the World,” compels us to be immersed in, and to incarnate in our own uniqueness, God’s transforming love. Pray for and with us, as we discover how to partake in the prophetic mission Jesus directs us to achieve in our own time and place, to “spring cleaning” of spirit, mind and body as we prepare to joyfully celebrate the Paschal Mystery with a fresh perspective on life.

In Holy Cross, we seek to become catalysts of the profound change our world desperately needs, change that will transform suffering and fear into Pentecost-swept love for the life of the world.

In Holy Cross,

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Grants extend ministries, environmental initiatives

Thanks to the generosity of our donors who support our Ministry With the Poor Fund, the Congregation is able to extend the reach of its ministries and support other organizations working to improve the lives of the poor. The Development Office administers the Ministry With the Poor Fund grant program, distributing funds to sisters who apply for their ministries or for organizations in which they are actively involved.

For the 2018-19 year, 48 Ministry With the Poor grant applications were received for projects in Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, Uganda and the United States, with the average award of just over $8,000 per project. Here are two examples of your donations in action:

• In Ghana, funds support after-school counseling programs for students and parents at Our Lady of Holy Cross School. The programs focus on nonviolent strategies for communication and problem solving, building right relationships and self-esteem.

• In India, children attending Our Lady of Holy Cross School in Burakathal will have access to clean water, as funds will be used to purchase a water filter and waste disposal system. Inspired by a deep commitment to the care of creation and a concern for those negatively impacted by climate change, the Sisters of the Holy Cross established the Carbon Footprint Reduction Fund (CFRF) in 2014. The CRF aims to mitigate the environmental impacts of energy consumption and to promote renewable energy and sustainable development wherever sisters live and serve.

Each year, sisters and sponsored ministries can apply to the fund—administered by the Congregation Justice Office—for monies to support renewable energy, energy-efficiency, and reforestation projects. Donors can help support initiatives in our convents and ministries. Here are some life-changing projects from the 2018-2019 grant year:

- Four solar power installations were initiated in India, and a fifth in Bangladesh, providing safe, reliable and renewable power sources for the first time. Solar water pumps also will provide these locations with access to clean water.
- In Fort Portal, Uganda, monies were received to install a solar panel for the convent’s water heater. Kyenjojo Holy Cross Health Centre received funds for a rainwater tank, which will provide access to potable water and reduce use of fuel-generated water pumps.

To make a donation, visit www.cscsisters.org.

Recycling curbs disease, brings jobs

Sister Comfort Arthur, CSC, is responding to the urgent crisis of plastic waste that clogs drainage systems, accelerates the spread of deadly water-borne disease and pollutes the environment in Ghana, West Africa. The Plastic Waste Recycling Program, initiated by Sister Comfort, engages local citizens in the clean-up effort while providing jobs to the poor and unemployed.

“This project reads the signs of the time that include both economic inequality and plastic waste overwhelming our common home, and responds to both as a prophetic witness to the Gospel call to build just and caring communities,” said Sister Comfort of the program that was piloted in November 2017.

In Ghana, like elsewhere throughout the world, the increased use of plastics has resulted in serious environmental harm. Industry estimates suggest plastic use in Africa has increased 150 percent over the past six years. Only 2 percent of plastic waste is recycled, according to the Accra, Ghana, non-profit Trashy Bags. The discarded plastic clogs local water drainage systems that are critical during heavy rains. These clogged drains result in standing water and increase the spread of deadly diseases such as malaria.

The Plastic Waste Recycling Program started with the collecting of discarded water sachet bags. (The sachet bags, used to hold drinking water, are popular in Ghana as they are less expensive than bottles of water.) Collected bags are sent to recycling centers that use the materials to make other items such as buckets. The centers pay the program for materials collected and the revenue is then distributed to local citizens who aid in the collection of discarded plastic.

The Plastic Waste Recycling Program hopes to expand its operation and engage local citizens in Kasoa, Ghana, in the cleanup of streets and waterways, and in proper recycling practices. The program received financial support through a Ministry With the Poor Fund grant in 2018-19. In November 2018, the program received a grant from the Dodds Family Charitable Foundation to purchase necessary equipment for volunteers and items to encourage increased participation by local residents.
Expanding the Circle
To better serve its student-clients, Women’s Circle, Inc., is enlarging its facility. A 2,500-square-foot addition will feature a large classroom, expanded computer and sewing rooms, a meeting room and gathering space, as well as an office for two job development coordinators. The project is an on-course for completion in August 2019.

Sister Patricia McCabe, CSC, the center’s former associate director of Development, and volunteers work arduously to keep funds flowing in. To support Women’s Circle, visit www.womenscircle.org/donate.

Women’s Circle, Inc., programs, inclusive spirit call to women

Sixteen years in the United States, and the woman sitting with Sister Joan Carusillo, CSC, still couldn’t speak English. The mother of four worked nights, cleaning her children’s school after her husband returned from his day job. But with her youngest starting kindergarten, she explained through an interpreter, she finally had time to learn. “My family can all speak English,” she said. “And I can’t understand. I’m left out.”

It’s a familiar theme among student-clients at Women’s Circle, Inc., in Boynton Beach, Florida. The non-profit organization caters to women with low incomes, many of them immigrants, seeking to close the gaps that distance them from society and, in many cases, their own families. “Women’s Circle was started specifically for women,” explains Sister Joan, “because the sacrifices women make often leave them last.”

Funded in 2000 by Sister Lorraine Ryan, MMS, and Sister Joan, the center offers education, career and personal development assistance with the mission of empowering women “to realize their full potential … and to gain financial stability.”

To date, says Sister Joan, more than 3,000 women have benefited from their involvement with Women’s Circle, which has helped secure nearly a thousand jobs for its clients. Among the success stories, the woman who once struggled to communicate with her family now owns and runs a local house cleaning business.

Embracing people’s needs
The sisters—Joan, a former high school teacher, principal, and hospital mission services administrator, and Lorraine, who had created family health and midwifery programs in India—met in Florida after moving to the area to care for aging parents. Seeking ways to minister in their new community, Sister Lorraine went out to area neighborhoods and talked with women about their concerns and needs. The recurring response: “They didn’t have jobs, couldn’t get jobs,” Sister Joan says. “They wanted skills that could help them find employment and improve their families’ lives.” With her Congregation’s blessing, Sister Joan agreed to help launch Women’s Circle, which the two women co-directed through 2011.

Every year, roughly 300 women register for the center’s classes in English, literacy, citizenship, computer skills, sewing and crocheting. The organization also offers weekly tutoring sessions and monthly discussion groups that address topics such as health awareness and child abuse prevention.

Clients make up an international palette. Most literacy program enrollees are Haitian women, many of whom first learn to read and write in Creole, then make the leap to English. And there are Latina clients from Mexico and Central and South America, and Muslim women from Pakistan and Jordan. “Some of our clients are well educated,” Sister Joan says. “And they may have had careers in their own countries and are now just working on the English.”

In tandem with effective programming, Sister Joan attributes the center’s continued success to the inclusive spirit of the place. “We provide a safe environment,” she says, “where people feel respected and are treated with dignity.”

Building on faith
To welcome more women eager for self-sufficiency and community engagement, the center is expanding its course offerings and square footage—with a building addition that broke ground in January 2019.

The project is an endeavor of faith. With only four paid staffers, the center runs on volunteer power—nearly 70 individuals who teach, tutor, organize events and projects, and work on committees. Among them are Sister Lorraine, who retired in July 2018, and Sister Joan, who officially retired in 2011, yet serves on the board, fundraises and substitute teaches. “I have loved it,” she says of her ministry. “The women are so eager and delightful. They’ve been through so much, knowing hardship we’ll never know. And they are grateful.”

In its workforce, economy and civic relations, the community also benefits from the center’s work and presence. In 2017, the Catholic Realtors and Real Estate Professionals of Boca Raton, Florida, thanked and honored Sisters Joan and Lorraine with the “Golden Rule Award” for their “compassion for others [that] mirrors the spirit of Christ … and the tenets which comprise the Golden Rule.”

Built on these good relationships—as well as grants and donations, and support from the Sisters of the Holy Cross Ministry With the Poor Fund—the ministry continues drawing women in to its welcoming shore. “God has gotten us through this far,” says Sister Joan. “It’s God’s work, not ours, and God will have to provide. Meanwhile, we do everything we can.”

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Mission guides practices
Aligning investments

In their support of a Peru agribusiness, the Sisters of the Holy Cross are counting on their investment to yield far more than financial returns.

Through its partnership with U.S.-based AgroVision Corp., which grows, packs and ships fresh grapes, asparagus and blueberries for world-wide markets, the Congregation also is cultivating education, economic justice, and nonviolence, all elements of its mission.

In a country where nearly half of the rural population is impoverished, with 12 percent of that population living in extreme poverty, AgroVision—located in Lambayeque with farm fields in Olmos and Mórrope—is creating jobs and sinking roots into local communities.

As part of its business plan, the company has developed corporate outreach programs and community service projects that include leadership/management training for its employees and monthly health clinics that provide free exams and medicines to community members. Engaging this type of business is part of the Congregation’s Mission Aligned Investing (MAI) plan, whereby the sisters—through diligent review and prudent stewardship—support companies that share their values and objectives, and work to influence those that don’t.

Think of it as the Congregation flexing its investment muscle—exchanging financial support for a seat at the shareholders’ table, where it can shape and monitor corporate decisions, practices and initiatives. “It’s a proactive approach,” says Sister Suzanne Brennan, CSC, general treasurer of the Congregation, “that allows us to align our investments with our mission and values, and to encourage companies to operate sustainably and develop practices that have a positive social and environmental impact.”

In this instance, AgroVision and the Congregation share common ground: a commitment to “do well by doing good.” Through the collaboration, the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Peru are living out their mission and helping AgroVision expand its outreach efforts. The sisters, who have successfully implemented support programs in other parts of Peru, are advising and working with the company, the local bishop and parishioners to increase health and wellness services and literacy training, and to develop critically needed violence prevention programs.

In 2018, Holy Cross Sisters Patricia A. Dieringer and Mary Josephine Delany created a three-part family violence prevention course and trained nearly 40 volunteers who will share the program as ambassadors in their own communities. They also launched a three-year Bible study that focuses on developing relationships that reflect God’s own loving relationship with humankind and the Earth.

“It’s a collaboration that benefits all stakeholders—the company, the Congregation and the community,” said Sister Suzanne. “And we’re eager to see what will grow from it.”

Holy Cross rallies: Ghana school gets a bus!

Thanks to the loving hearts and generous spirit of the Holy Cross community, sufficient funds were raised to purchase a much-needed bus to safely transport students to Our Lady of Holy Cross School in Kasoa, Ghana.

“We have exceeded our goal of $31,500,” said Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow), CSC, director of Development. Those funds, along with a matching contribution from an anonymous board trustee of Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, covered the cost of a bus to provide many more students with safe and reliable transportation as they pursue their education.

Our Lady of Holy Cross School has grown exponentially since it opened in 2006. Enrollment stands at nearly 1,000 pre-K through eighth-grade students. While this growth is a blessing, the enrollment has outpaced the school’s transportation resources, leaving many students without a dependable way to get to and from school each day. Some students use unreliable shuttle and taxi services or pile onto motorbikes, while others walk to school unattended, which presents other risks to their safety.

To help the school address this need, the Saint Mary’s community came together as one Holy Cross family. Sister Suzanne Brennan, CSC, general treasurer of the Congregation, and Mary Burke, chair of the Saint Mary’s College Board of Trustees, established plans for the third “Board of Trustees vs. Sisters of the Holy Cross Volleyball Fundraiser.” On October 10, 2018, more than 40 members of the campus community participated in a solidarity walk to support Our Lady of Holy Cross students. The next evening, the volleyball game was held with first-year novices representing the winning Sisters of the Holy Cross team. In all, more than $67,000 was raised to purchase a new school bus.

In gratitude to the Holy Cross community for this tremendous gift, Sister Esther Adjoa Entwiwah, CSC, headmistress of Our Lady of Holy Cross school, wrote: “You have been extremely supportive in this time of great need for our school and students. May God bless you abundantly for your kind gesture.”
Bangladesh: Servants of the Lord

by Sister Jui Clara Corraya, CSC, and Sister Gidding Ssimang, CSC

Holy Cross Sisters Tina Moury Ritchil, Kripa Maria Baroi and Royne Josephine Costa pronounced perpetual vows June 1, 2018, at Holy Rosary Church in Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Joy spread throughout the campus of Holy Cross Convent for the occasion of perpetual profession.

A special Holy Hour was prepared by the perpetually professed sisters, with a theme of “Let Openness and Patience Lead Us to Perseverance.”

Sisters Tina, Kripa and Royne shared stories of their life journeys within Holy Cross, and offered up the Moso bamboo plant, whose extensive root system and rapid growth symbolize the sisters’ ever-growing faith and deep calling to serve God.

After the Holy Hour, a special holud (turmeric) ceremony took place, during which blessings were given for Sisters Tina, Kripa and Royne. The sisters were also given a bouquet of flowers as a gift from the Congregation’s General Leadership Team.

Archbishop of the Dhaka Diocese, Cardinal Patrick D’Rosario, CSC, presided at the profession ceremony, with the theme being “I Am the Servant of the Lord.” The church was filled with religious, family members and the people of Tejgaon Parish.

Sister M. Veronique (Wédower), CSC, Congregation president, received the sisters’ vows in the name of the Church and the Congregation. Sisters in attendance from the Area of Asia also pronounced their commitment to share their lives with the newly perpetually professed sisters to express their greetings and wishes by performing a cultural program in the evening.

Sisters Tina, Kripa and Royne expressed their thankfulness to God for their vocation in Holy Cross, and for all the blessings they had received. The day ended with a prayerful song to our Mother Mary.

Uganda: Seeking God’s guidance

by Sister Janet Nantumbwe, CSC

This great celebration of the perpetual profession of Sisters Semerita Mbambu and Rose Kyomukama took place on September 22, 2018, at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Kyarusozi, Fort Portal, Uganda, a Holy Cross parish. A great many people from across the divide came as witnesses.

The Mass was led by Bishop Emeritus Egidio Nkazinabwmo of the Diocese of Kasese, who welcomed everyone, especially Sisters Semerita and Rose who were accompanied by their parents to the altar. The bishop thanked the parents for offering their daughters to God.

In his homily, Father Cyprian Binuka, CSC, superior of the McCardell House of Formation in Nairobi, Kenya, encouraged the two sisters to always seek God’s guidance and wisdom because their work had just started. God is sending them to serve and be a light to those in darkness. This responsibility is not possible without God’s grace.

The sisters then professed their vows of obedience, poverty and chastity, and prostrated before the altar as the choir sang the Litany of the Saints. Sister Angela Golapi Palma, CSC, General Leadership Team member, received the vows of the two sisters in the name of the Church and the Congregation. All the perpetually professed sisters present proclaimed their willingness to live and die with Sisters Semerita and Rose. The Holy Cross family and other religious present congratulated the two sisters upon taking this step in their lives.

All invited guests were welcomed to the reception at our convent in Kyarusozi, just across the road from the parish, for speeches and entertainment. Included among the entertainers were our children from Moreau Nursery and Primary School. A representative for the parents of the professed sisters thanked the Congregation for taking care of their daughters and for allowing them to continue discerning God’s call in the Congregation.

Sister Angela Golapi expressed gratitude to God and to the families of Sisters Semerita and Rose for having inspired them to love God and for allowing them to join the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

The two sisters thanked the Congregation, their formators at all levels of formation, and all other sisters for their daily social, moral, emotional and physical support.

A special Holy Hour was prepared by the formators at all levels of formation, and for all the perpetually professed sisters, with a theme of “Openness and Patience Lead Us to Perseverance.”

Sisters Tina, Kripa and Royne shared stories of their life journeys within Holy Cross, and offered up the Moso bamboo plant, whose extensive root system and rapid growth symbolize the sisters’ ever-growing faith and deep calling to serve God.

A festive meal was served after the Mass, accompanied by their parents to the altar. The bishop thanked the parents for offering their daughters to God.

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Scholarships reflect sisters’ thanks, support nonviolence

For 175 years the Sisters of the Holy Cross have helped establish a rich educational foundation in communities around the world. In honor of the sisters’ milestone anniversary, the Congregation initiated a contest that focused on addressing violence and awarded three $1,000 scholarships to students in South Bend, Indiana, who contributed exceptional entries.

The project served as a way to thank those who carry the Holy Cross education tradition forward and to encourage nonviolence as a way of life. The scholarships are particularly meaningful in light of the Congregation’s Corporate Stand on Nonviolence and the challenge of addressing violence in many forms.

Sister Joy O’Grady, CSC, Area of North America coordinator, reflected, “Giving a tangible expression of our gratitude and support for our lay associates who continue the educational mission of the Sisters of the Holy Cross seemed like a perfect way to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our sisters’ presence in South Bend. Equally important was our desire to engage their students’ ideas about how we can personally and collectively contribute to a more nonviolent society.”

The scholarship process was developed by a planning committee that included seven sisters, many of whom had ministered in the area’s Catholic schools. The $1,000 scholarship was established for one student at each of the three local Catholic grade schools that the Sisters of the Holy Cross helped establish: Saint Joseph, Holy Cross and Christ the King.

This one-time scholarship opportunity was made available to current sixth- and seventh-grade students at these schools. In their entries, students were asked to respond to the following questions: What does nonviolence mean to you? How does standing for nonviolence make a difference in your life and the lives of others? How do you see yourself promoting nonviolence in your family, neighborhood, school and in online/social media spaces?

Scholarship winners were selected by a committee of school faculty and administrators and a Sister of the Holy Cross. A short award ceremony for the scholarship recipient was held in late 2018 at each school.

“We hope that this project will be a reminder for all of us that nonviolence begins with a day-to-day commitment,” said Sister Joy.

“Transform us, O Beloved”

From May 12 to 22, 2019, the Sisters of the Holy Cross will hold their Twenty-sixth General Chapter in Shillong, India. The Chapter, convened every five years, has two main components. The first is to articulate a direction that reflects how God is calling the Congregation to live and serve at this time in history; the second is to elect the General Leadership Team members who are charged with facilitating the implementation of that direction by the Congregation.

“The General Chapter theme, ‘Transfoming Love – For the Life of the World,’ urges us to be Transforming Love,” said Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, Congregation president. “In this sacred event of General Chapter, we listen deeply to hear the heartbeat of Transforming Love in our world and in the Congregation so that our heartbeat can echo that of the Divine. It is a life-rhythm that impels us to a deeper relationship with God and God’s people for the life of the world.”

Holy Cross sisters around the world have been surfacing, exploring and refining myriad issues—from nonviolence to advocacy for justice, to intercultural living and governance—over the past two years in preparation for the Chapter. Electe Chapter delegates will finalize proposals brought forward by the entire Congregation prior to the election of the leadership team for 2019-2024.

“We invite you to pray the Chapter prayer with us as we journey toward the graced time of General Chapter,” said Sister Veronique.

Prayer for 2019 General Chapter

O Transforming Love, touch our hearts until they beat as one with your life-giving rhythms, lamenting and prophesying, mending and healing, welcoming and embracing, dancing and rejoicing, until all creation teems with the grace of your love.

Transform us, O Beloved, so that like Mary, our Mother, we may stand compassionately at the foot of every cross of suffering, invite miracles that turn scarcity to abundance at every joy-filled feast, and wait with expectant hope for the rushing winds of your Pentecost Spirit with those whose hearts are frightened.

Transform us, O Beloved, to be love for the life of the world. AMEN

For 175 years the Sisters of the Holy Cross have helped establish a rich educational foundation in communities around the world. In honor of the sisters’ milestone anniversary, the Congregation initiated a contest that focused on addressing violence and awarded three $1,000 scholarships to students in South Bend, Indiana, who contributed exceptional entries. The project served as a way to thank those who carry the Holy Cross education tradition forward and to encourage nonviolence as a way of life. The scholarships are particularly meaningful in light of the Congregation’s Corporate Stand on Nonviolence and the challenge of addressing violence in many forms.

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Transform us, O Beloved, to be love for the life of the world. AMEN
Thongnibah, CSC
Sister Bijoycy
from Holy Cross College in Agartala, West Tripura, India, in 2018.

Holy Cross sisters share their reflections after graduating
Graduates aim high!

Holy Cross College emphasizes holistic education, educating hearts and minds, so that each student would think, act and create with courage for a just and peaceful society. The vision of the college is forming integrated, global citizens and world-class professionals who would work for a more just, equitable and compassionate society.

Being a student in the Bachelor of Business Administration Department, I had an opportunity to visit industrial businesses in the state of Tripura. My classmates and I had group discussions with professional businesses and students from prestigious colleges in South India.

Finally, the academic year ended in 2018. By the grace of God and with the support of my sisters in Holy Cross, I was able to obtain a good result: 1st class, with “O grade” [Outstanding] and a rank holder in the [affiliated] Tripura University. If the Congregation had not given me this chance, some of my talents and God-given gifts would remain today undiscovered.

I am deeply grateful to Sister Pushpa Teresa Gomes, CSC, Area of Asia coordinator, and her council for giving me this great opportunity, and to my sisters in community who have been always there to help me when I needed it. I am also thankful to the sisters for prayerful support, love and concern.

Holy Cross College Sisters Bijoycy Thongnibah, left, and Royne Josephine Costa stand with their graduating class from Holy Cross College, Agartala, West Tripura, India.

Think, act, create with courage
by Sister Bijoycy Thongnibah, CSC

I began the journey at Holy Cross College on July 7, 2015. I was amazed and impressed with such a warm welcome and affection shown to all. From that moment I already sensed that three years of studies would be a fruitful and meaningful experience for me.

In the beginning it was really difficult for me to study after such a long gap [since I was last a student]. Eventually, I was able to follow in class and the teachers began to notice my ability and take interest in me as one who was trying to understand. They showed concern for me.

The spirit of the Holy Cross family was common among all the students, teachers and every member of the college. It was indeed the true Holy Cross spirit, fulfilling and implementing all the ideas and teaching of our founder, Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau.

New CEO serves with spirit

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross appointed Mary Emmie Gardner as CEO of Holy Cross Ministries (HCM) of Utah in Salt Lake City in July 2018. Reflecting on her role several months later, Ms. Gardner commented, “I am truly honored to be back working with the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Their 140-year legacy of providing compassionate care and services to those most vulnerable in our community is true social service in action and speaks to my heart. These past few months have been filled with much learning, rekindling of relationships and looking to the future of HCM as together we strive to meet the needs of God’s people.”

Serving approximately 4,800 people annually, HCM programs include prenatal, early childhood and youth education; trauma informed counseling; information and referrals; legal immigration assistance, primarily for victims of crimes such as domestic violence; and bilingual outreach services in partnership with clinics.

Ms. Gardner is a Holy Cross Associate and an alumna of Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, experiences that give her an understanding of the Congregation’s values. In addition to earning a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Saint Mary’s, she has a master’s degree in social work and a graduate certificate in conflict resolution from the University of Utah.

As an eraser to a pencil

By Sister Royne Josephine Costa, CSC

It was indeed a wonderful occasion, a time of gratitude, celebration and achievement as I graduated from Holy Cross College. It was a journey of three years as a student in the Bachelor of Business Administration Department, with much learning in academic as well as co-curricular activities. But then, it’s not an end but another beginning.

“Aim high, believe you can!” is the motto of Holy Cross College. The faculty of Holy Cross College made us believe that we can achieve our goals. Our beloved teachers taught us to start where we are, use what we have, and do what we can. They were to us an eraser to a pencil in every aspect during these last three years. We were enriched with a holistic education, education of mind and heart, teaching us to be good human beings with values, not only a degree.

I have learned to work hard, face challenges and discover new pathways. I have met not only our wonderful principal, Dr. Father Emmie Kallarackal, CSC, other priests, beloved teachers, and non-teaching staff, but also cherished, good friends. They were all blessings to me and always will be.

What marked the graduation day were the speeches which conveyed the message that the future is an amazing place and that success is not guaranteed by being a graduate. We should follow our passion, work hard for it and commit ourselves. We should believe in ourselves and make a difference, and there lies the enormous joy of creating our own lives and working for the good of all.

I thank my sisters in local community—especially Holy Cross Sisters Parbohi (Gomes) and Taposi (Gomes)—who constantly supported and prayed for us. I am very thankful to the Congregation’s General Leadership Team and the Area Leadership Team for the opportunity to study. I thank all who helped me to accomplish this course of study and to learn.
GRANT THEM PEACE

These Sisters of the Holy Cross were called home to God since the last issue of Life. While we feel their loss, we rejoice in their unending lives. To make a memorial contribution, please visit www.cscsisters.org/donate/to-the-sisters-of-the-holy-cross/ The following remembrances were written by Sister Catherine Osmo, CSC.

Sister Evelyn Joyce Metro, CSC
April 20, 1928—July 2, 2018
Entered from Gardiner, Wisconsin
Initial profession on August 15, 1950

Sister Evelyn Joyce Metro could tell a good story but one was never sure how much she exaggerated. However, it seems she had a grateful memory. By all accounts she was a lady to her fingertips, who kept her gracious composite even when giving a disruptive eighth-grader a piece of her mind. Later at the convent evening meal, she shared her rendition of the incident, always bringing laughter. Sister was a terrific junior high teacher who had a wonderful relationship with her students. She instinctively knew how to motivate them to tutor one another and redirect their negative energy into leadership of the class. Her 30 years teaching grades five through eighth were spent in Catholic schools in California, Washington and Nevada (1954-1980). She also provided an excellent religion teacher and senior class advisor at Judge Memorial Catholic High School, Salt Lake City, Utah (1980-1988).

In 1947, applying to the Sisters of the Holy Cross, she described herself as “cheerful and even-tempered.” In 1989 she wrote that the greatest gift she had to share was “my love of life.” Almost every account of long ago ended with saying, “God has been good. I have had a good life.”

Sister Evelyn Joyce had 90 years of a good life. She loved travel and wrote, “While I don’t think of myself as domestic, others tell me I’m a good ‘homemaker.’” She brought that gift to the Saint Mary’s College Rome Program by being a welcoming presence to college women studying abroad, far from home (1988-1998). Former Rome Program Director Dr. Portia Preby recalls that Sister Evelyn had a life-changing influence on the lives of several hundred students and was “a kind of mother” for all she encountered—a “deep, prolonged example of living in faith, hope and charity.”

Sister Evelyn Joyce left the Eternal City to live north of the City of Angels in Ventura, California, with her community at Saint Catherine by the Sea, eventually retiring there for 17 years before moving to Saint Mary’s community at Saint Catherine by the Sea in Ventura, California. In 1987 Sister Patricia chaired the Holy Cross Health System (HCBS) Board and then served as HCBS president and CEO until April 1989.

Sister Patricia Mulvany, CSC
(Sister M. Peter James)
December 24, 1926—August 13, 2018
Entered from Cheyenne, Wyoming
Initial profession on August 15, 1951

At 80 years old Sister Patricia Mulvany said, “I never wanted to be in any other life except the one I chose.” As nearly 90 years old, she said “Yes!” one last time to the Risen Jesus two days before the 67th anniversary of her vowed life as a Sister of the Holy Cross. Her devotion to family, Holy Cross, and the compassionate ministry of health care were at the heart of her long life.

Sister Patricia’s zeal for Holy Cross may have derived from her grandfather, Richard Seidel, a music professor at Saint Mary’s College (1893 to the 1930s) hired by Mother M. Pauline (O’Neill), CSC. Clara Seidel and Vincent Mulvany were her parents. Her aunt was Sister M. Richardine Seidel, CSC, who died in 1965. Sister Mary Mulvany, CSC, (also known as Sister M. Vincent Claeys) her older sister, died in 2001. Her younger sister, Sister Elisbeth Mulvany, CSC, ministers at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Idaho.

Patricia Mulvany applied to the Sisters of the Holy Cross after her first year as a nursing student in Denver, Colorado, in July 1948. As Sister Peter James, she completed her registered nursing degree in 1954 at Holy Cross Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah, and her Bachelor of Science at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana, in 1955. By 1960 she finished her Master of Science in nursing-administration from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., while teaching nurses at Saint Alphonsus Hospital.

From 1960 to 1965 she served as director of the School of Nursing at Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City. Sister served as an administrator for all the Encounters—a “deep, profound example of living in faith, hope and charity.”

Sister Evelyn Joyce left the Eternal City to live north of the City of Angels in Ventura, California, with her community at Saint Catherine by the Sea, eventually retiring there for 17 years before moving to Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, in 2015. In all, she spent 70 years in community life and ministry as a Sister of the Holy Cross.

Sister Mary Therese Coursey, CSC
(Sister M. James Therese)
June 7, 1933—September 24, 2018
Entered from Brooklyn, New York
Initial profession on August 15, 1954

Having lived and ministered on three continents, Sister Mary Therese crossed one last border at midnight, when one day ends and another begins. She died at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, on September 24 and began eternal life several hours before first dawn. The native of Brooklyn, New York, had lived a full life of 85 years, 67 of them in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, as an educator and musician with a strong sense of mission at home and abroad.

Both Miss Coursey’s pastor and the sister who was principal of her high school called her the “right type of young woman to become a religious” in letters of recommendation in spring 1951 when Mary Therese was applying to the Congregation. As was common prior to the Second Vatican Council, a novice often received the name of one or both parents, if possible. Such was the case when she received the name Sister M. James Therese upon reception of the holy habit, August 1952. Her father was James Patrick Coursey and her mother was Nora Therese Bottomley. She was raised in Texas, Washington, D.C., Virginia and New York.

As Sister James Therese, her first 11 years of ministry in Catholic elementary education began in 1954 at schools in Texas, Washington, D.C., Virginia and New York. Sister applied to go overseas and was assigned in 1966 to Bottomley Home Orphanage in Tejgao, East Pakistan, now known as Bangladesh. She taught English to the children up through junior high level. After earning her Master of Arts in religious education from Providence College, Rhode Island, Sister trained catechists and teachers in the villages and was supervisor of schools in Jalalpur and Tangail, Bangladesh, from 1972 to 1982. She received a certification in the Bengali language and studied the tabla drum for almost three years. From 1987 to 1990, Sister helped prepare aspirants to enter Holy Cross.


Sister M. Julien, CSC
(Marie Alphonsa Wilke)
January 12, 1918—October 6, 2018
Entered from Chicago, Illinois
Initial profession on August 15, 1938

Sister Julien was an accomplished pianist, organist, music educator and pastoral musician. She hit the high note of her music ministry as director of Liturgy at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1971-1983. She composed the “Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Loretto” in 1975. Sister’s funeral service was held under the cupola of Loretto, its interior walls adorned with mosaic panels dedicated to Our Lady.

Marie Alphonsa Wilke, daughter of Dutch-born parents Cornelius Wilke and Johanna Van Helden, called herself “a child of Mary” when applying to enter the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1935. An older sibling by 17 years, S. Alphonsa (Cornelia Wilke), was already a professed Sister of the Holy Cross (died 1985).

As Sister Julien, she became the ever-present music teacher in several Midwest Catholic elementary and secondary schools from 1938 to 1971. Alumnae of St. Mary’s Academy, South Bend, Indiana, may remember her song that she arranged in 1953. Sister Julien wrote a high school musical and staged it to earn her Master of Music Education from the University of Notre Dame in 1964, adding to her 1956 Bachelor of Music from the same university.

Sister Julien ministered from 1985 to 1996 at Our Lady of Holy Cross Convent, South Bend, and then was assigned to Saint Mary’s College as sacristan and campus minister until 2003. Sister Julien served as Music Director at Saint Mary’s Convent, offering her service to the community as her heart content.

Sister Julien’s legacy may be her “Song of the Virgin Mary.” In 1979, Sister composed several renditions of the biblical canticle, now known affectionately as “Sister Julien’s
Sister Catherine Lash, CSC

October 9, 1919—November 2, 2018
Entered from Arlington, Virginia
Initial profession on February 2, 1941

Sister Catherine Lash was one of the countless Sisters of the Holy Cross who have served in low-profile positions without whom the Congregation’s mission and ministries could not have been sustained. And she liked it that way. She summed up her life in one paragraph at age 71. She titled it “From Music to Numbers.”

“I was born on October 9, 1919, to Kathleen Hasion and Joseph Lash in Alexandria, Virginia, the oldest of five children. Holy Cross Sisters were my teachers through grade and high school at Saint Mary’s Academy, Alexandria, Virginia. After entering Holy Cross in 1938, I did my college work at Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas, during many summer sessions where I earned my Bachelor of Music Education in 1954. I taught music in high schools and worked with all grades of students in glee club throughout my community life in Texas, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and Virginia. For 17 years, in addition to teaching, I was treasurer at Saint Mary’s Academy, Alexandria, Virginia, until 1975. Next, I was Eastern Regional Treasurer for six years; then she was the accountant and teacher at St. Patrick’s Academy, Washington, D.C., from 1981-1984; and then superior for the next six years at our retirement home at Saint Angela Hall, Kensington, Maryland. In Fall 1990 I returned to Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana, our motherhouse, and am working for Holy Cross Services in the accounting department.”

Sister Catherine served in Holy Cross Services for 23 Semesters. Those who lived with her remember Sister Catherine as patient, kind, gentle, generous and extraordinarily compassionate. She retired to Saint Mary’s at the end of 2012, transferring to full-time ministry of prayer. Sisters died at 90 years old, lived in community with other Holy Cross Women for 80 years.

Sister Collette Marie, CSC
(Ruth Josephine Lang)

Entered from Columbus, Ohio
Initial profession on August 15, 1951

The season of Advent marked the beginning and the end of Sister Collette Marie’s life in community as a Sister of the Holy Cross. Ruth Lang was 23 years old in early December 1948 when she made her first inquiries about entering the community. Her father Joseph Lang, a railroad employee, had died. She lived with her mother, Anna Fagan, and Ruth’s older sisters, Jane and Helen, and brother Robert. Ruth was a clerical worker for five years at an auto insurance company in Columbus, Ohio, but was ready “to seek the best way of life,” as a Catholic sister. She was in a hurry but wrote to Mother M. Constantine, “It seems a strange confusion and conflict reigns in a person’s mind when she attempts a change. Only the grace of God can overcome these things. . . .”

Sister Collette Marie had nearly 58 years of a rich and varied background in ministry. She served in Catholic parish elementary education, teaching mostly first and second graders, and as a principal. At Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Bethesda, Maryland, as religion coordinator, Sister Collette Marie prepared hundreds of youngsters for their First Holy Communion. She would see the children out to the school lobby where she would sit with them on a bench, quietly sharing stories and prayers with them.

Sister earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education in 1963 from Mount St. Mary’s College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, D.C., and an Master of Science degree in guidance and counseling in 1975 from Loyola University, Baltimore, Maryland.

After years of ministry in Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, New York, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., sudden serious illness brought Sister Collette Marie to Saint Mary’s in 2005. In her last years, she ministered through her prayerful, silent presence since communication was difficult for her. Her positive spirit and her warm and gracious personality continued to shine through, despite the challenges of her illness.

In the 70th Advent since her solemn profession to enter Holy Cross, Sister Collette Marie, having lived, loved and served God as a woman religious, waited no longer. Jesus Christ met her at the gate and opened wide his heart and served God as a woman religious, waited no longer.

The holiness of Sister Mary Byrnes was practical, immediate and helpful throughout her life. Though she folded her hands in prayer, she also set her hands to do all that makes a house a home or an institution a community. Sister died at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, her home and community since June 2005. Vasil Mary Byrnes was named for her mother, Violet Mary Ellison, a woman who gave birth to 12 children, one having died at birth. The girls were named for flowers. Her younger sibling, Sister Viola Marie (Marigold Katherine Byrnes), was also a Sister of the Holy Cross and preceded her on November 24, 1992. These two, Michael Byrnes, was a devout Catholic raising his children in Logan, Utah. The family has said their mother was a woman of tremendous faith, although she had no particular religion until she converted to Catholicism. Having grown up in a large boarding house run by her parents, Mrs. Byrnes nurtured her children in a faith of good works, instilling in them the confidence to manage a household and care for the sick, she also passed on her herbal remedies using nature’s gifts of honey, vinegar and olive oil.

Violet Mary, the daughter, attended public schools in Utah, until her last two years of high school, graduating from St. Mary-of-the-Watch High School in Salt Lake City where she was influenced by the Sisters of the Holy Cross and applied to the Congregation soon after graduation in 1946. She was known as Sister Henry during her years as a teacher in Catholic elementary schools throughout California, from 1952 to 1968. She then returned to her baptismal name and kept only her middle name, Mary. Sister Mary Byrnes was best known for her helping hand as a sister in ancillary roles in the community, serving as sacristan, housekeeper, infirmary, driver, seamstress and office assistant. She especially enjoyed ministering with sisters and staff of Madonna Manor, Salinas, California, where she was a compassionate friend to the elderly and helpful member of the education and training center facility sponsored by the California Catholic Daughters of America from 1995 to 2003. Sister Mary was also a gardener. In California, she won ribbons at the state fairs in Monterey County and later in Ventura when she was missioned at Saint Catherine by the Sea from 2003 to 2005. There Sister raised African violets and roses and sold their sweet pos to a local elementary school. In part to Sister Mary, God’s beauty was found on Earth and now in heaven.
New clinic X-ray machine benefits Ugandans’ health

Thanks to a generous grant from the Catholic Human Services Foundation and an outpouring of donor support, the Kyembogo Holy Cross Health Centre can now offer life-saving X-ray technology to its patients, particularly benefitting those with signs of tuberculosis (TB) and other serious health conditions.

The health center, sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, refers more than 120 patients annually for X-rays. However, almost 40 percent of patients who show signs of TB infection do not seek treatment. A contributing factor may be the great distances Ugandans must travel to access X-ray machines, which are in short supply in the East African country, as are trained technicians to operate them.

Of special concern to the health center staff is the high incidence of TB in Uganda. The bacterial infection has been on the rise there since 2015, and increased availability of X-ray technology is essential for reducing the incidence of TB, according to the World Health Organization.

The Catholic Human Services Foundation grant enabled the purchase of the X-ray machine itself, but critical accessories still needed to be purchased to fully utilize the technology. The cost of this equipment—including protective lead aprons, X-ray cassettes, a radiation protective screen, film processor, and film viewer—totaled nearly $10,000. Donors who have supported ministries in Uganda responded to this need with incredible generosity, gifting more than $22,000 to support the additional equipment, cover future maintenance costs, and provide training for X-ray technicians.

For nearly 20 years, the sisters and patients at Kyembogo Holy Cross Health Centre have dreamed about purchasing an X-ray machine to help improve the community’s health. Today, thanks to the giving spirit of many, that dream has come true. Sister Daisy Kabuleeta, CSC, finance director of Holy Cross Family Centre, said, “The sisters together with patients here in Uganda are overwhelmed by your generosity that will help us improve health outcomes and save lives.”

Diamond Jubilee—1944
First row, left to right
Sister M. Carmen (Davy), CSC
Ministry of prayer
Saint Mary’s Convent
Notre Dame, Indiana
Sister M. St. Brigid (Bromeling), CSC
Ministry of prayer
Saint Mary’s Convent
Notre Dame, Indiana
Sister M. Georgia (Costin), CSC
Ministry of prayer
Saint Mary’s Convent
Notre Dame, Indiana

Golden Jubilee—1969
Sister Celine Dounies, CSC
Teacher, Saint John the Baptist Elementary School, Draper, Utah
Sister Helene Sharp, CSC
Vocation ministry, Saint Mary’s College, Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana

Sisters and staff stand outside the Kyembogo Holy Cross Health Centre, Kirinda, Uganda. Thanks to a generous grant from the Catholic Human Services Foundation and an outpouring of donor support, the health center is able to provide life-saving X-ray technology to help patients with serious health conditions, including tuberculosis.
Twelve years after landing in the New World, the young community of Holy Cross was already old with experience and looking to their recent past. The pioneer Holy Cross sisters had outgrown their first real American home in Bertrand, Michigan, where they had lived since 1844. Just a year before, the original colony of four sisters—missioned by Father Basil Anthony Moreau, CSC—had crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Le Mans, France, and finally reached Notre Dame du Lac in the northwestern Indiana wilderness. Not long in their new mission field, their initial zeal and enthusiasm turned to longing for their homeland and familiar surroundings and for relief from the rude straw in the loft of the log cabin-chapel by the lake at Notre Dame. Eventually, other quarters were built for them, and they set about providing auxiliary help in the form of domestic services and care of the sick for the Holy Cross men and their students. Father Edward Sorin, CSC, their religious superior in the Indiana Province, envisioned a grand university for young men. The sisters’ presence and service, collaborating with the priests and brothers of Holy Cross, would be a part of this dream.

Sister Mary of Calvary, who had been one of the first four women to receive the habit in France, was also one of the first four to come to North America. She was in her twenties as was Sister Mary of Nazareth, a teacher. The oldest was Sister Mary of Bethlehem, who was 45 and had charge of the cows and the poultry. Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, still learning English but more fluent than the others, was appointed superior although she was only 19 years old.

**Necessity and opportunity**

In 1844 the necessity to open a novitiate in another diocese also provided the sisters an opportunity to establish a school which they would run, six miles north from Notre Dame. Father Sorin rented a small house in Bertrand, Michigan, to meet both needs. The sisters initially taught the St. Joseph Valley Potawatomi Indians, cared for orphans and the deaf, visited the sick, and directed an industrial school nearby. The sisters’ faith in Divine Providence helped them to measure their losses and successes by the standard of the cross. The novitiate attracted not only local American girls but Irish and German immigrants as well. One of those Americans, Eliza Gillespie, would be associated with the success of St. Mary’s Academy. As Mother M. Angela she furnished the practical application of their founder’s educational philosophy. As directress of the academy, she used her educational background and innate ability to develop the school curriculum. In the words of Father Moreau, “...the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.” While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven.”

—Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau,
Circular Letters, #46

The seasons were harsh, the years in Bertrand a hand-scrub existence, but due to the sisters’ great personal sacrifices the school grew. The sisters had striven to make possible a better world for its citizens, all in the name of Jesus Christ and under the patronage of Mary, Mother of Sorrows. As it would turn out, their educational ministry at St. Mary’s Academy in Bertrand rooted the community in the New World and provided a foundation for all their future ministries. And the property, while serving well its initial purposes, also proved to become the sisters’ first real and adored American home.

In 1855, both necessity and opportunity, which had brought the sisters to Bertrand, required that they leave. Under Mother Angela’s direction, the academy was a success, outgrowing the campus. It was also clear to her that the area’s economic growth was across the state line in Indiana, a move suitable location to support the academy’s development and establish a novitiate. An exciting future lay ahead but letting go was not easy. By late August the last of the 25 sisters moved from “St. Mary’s, Bertrand” to “the new St. Mary’s” on a tract of land west of Notre Dame along the St. Joseph River. Known as the Rush property, the site was sold to Father Sorin for the sisters’ motherhouse.

It is said that when the last load of furniture and supplies was taken, even the cows and pigs gone to fresh pastures, “the older sisters stood amid the...
The Congregation would not be here today without the partnership of so many lay women and men who continue to come alongside the sisters in their mission. Desolation and wept. In ruins lay the unpretentious house that had sheltered them for 12 years, their first motherhouse and boarding school in the United States. Gone were the wild roses and sweetbriar that grew over its portal. Forgetful of the tears they had shed through the years, they remembered only the laughter. They would miss the church down the road, the deep shadowed woods (Flume to the Wilderens, p. 125).

From Bertrand to the world

In 2019 we recall the sisters’ move from Notre Dame to Bertrand, where they inaugurated St. Mary’s Academy. The burgeoning school later became known as Saint Mary’s College, which is marking the 175th anniversary of its foundation this year. The present Saint Mary’s campus serves as the motherhouse and international headquarters for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, whose ministries have blossomed far beyond the midwestern plains of northern Indiana, spanning the globe to meet the needs of God’s people.

The sisters could not have accomplished as much as they did in those early years without the support of their many benefactors, beginning with the gift of land from a Catholic couple, Madeline Bertrand, half-French and half-Potawatomi, and her husband Joseph Bertrand, a French fur trader. In both Michigan and Indiana, the sisters received tremendous help and support in daily living and in ministry from townspeople, settlers and others. In the early days of the school, for example, many women helped teach in the classroom, particularly as the sisters did not know English.

The Congregation would not have been here today without the partnership of so many lay women and men who continue to come alongside the sisters in their mission. This ongoing support helps the sisters sustain and launch ministries around the world. And the gifts of benefactors, the service of colleagues in ministry and the prayers of the faithful continue to spur the Congregation onward 175 years later.

A poetic tribute

The poem by Sister M. Philip (Frantzen), CSC, “O Crux, Ave!” (see page 25) commemorates the 1941 centenary of the Holy Cross sisters, their 1855 departure from Bertrand, Michigan, and their arrival at their new home at Saint Mary’s of the Immaculate Conception. Sister Philip’s poem, written in 1955, expresses the deep faith, pride and joy in being part of a mission and community larger than oneself. The Congregation’s mission continues beneath star-swept skies of South America and among the lotus of Asia, and springs forth in the crimson flowers of Africa. And in North America, outstretched hands reach across borders. The cross has been our hope in every latitude. We pray in thanksgiving for all those who have partnered with us in works of compassion and justice to share God’s love and peace with all people.

Sister Catherine Osimo, CSC, is director of Congregational Archives and Records at Saint Mary’s.
Rejoice always and give thanks for all gifts

On behalf of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude for the many blessings we have received in 2018. You—our friends and benefactors—have made it possible for us to rejoice through your affirming notes, promises of prayers, delightful one-on-one conversations and very generous response to our financial needs.

As I review the numbers for 2018, they represent the outpouring of love and kindness with which you so lovingly responded. We have had a significant increase in our income for 2018 over the prior year by 50 percent in donations, 57 percent in grants, and 143 percent in dollars received from bequests. You have responded so graciously to our special appeals for both needs in the United States (e.g., renovation of Loretto Convent) as well as our global ministries (e.g., X-ray technology for the Kyembogo Holy Cross Health Centre in Uganda). I am awed by what our sisters around the world have been able to do because of your caring hearts. God bless each one of you.

We frequently hear the phrase, “a picture is worth a thousand words,” and so we share with you the many ways in which your generosity provided us the means to reach out to feed the hungry, to visit the imprisoned, to instruct the uninformed and to comfort those in sorrow. As you view these pictures and read the stories in this edition of inSpirit, we believe you will be rejoicing, too!

— Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow), CSC, director of Development
2019 MOTHER’S DAY and FATHER’S DAY CARDS

Celebrate Mother’s Day and Father’s Day with the gift of prayer. The Development Office will send a card to your recipients telling them they will be remembered by the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Mass on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Gifts may be made in honor of someone living or in memory of someone who has gone before us. Your donation will help people around the world through Ministry With the Poor. The 2019 cards were designed by Sister Ellen Mary (Taylor), CSC. Order now and we will mail your cards at the appropriate time.

Mother’s Day  May 12

Send a Mother’s Day card to:

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP ______

Mother’s Day greeting ____________________________
(please list additional recipients on separate paper)

Card given by: ________________________________
Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP ______
Daytime telephone __________________

Father’s Day  June 16

Send a Father’s Day card to:

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP ______

Father’s Day greeting ____________________________
(please list additional recipients on separate paper)

Card given by: ________________________________
Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP ______
Daytime telephone __________________

PAYMENT—Mother’s/Father’s Day cards

Amount of donations: $ ______

☐ Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross
☐ Credit card:  ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
Name on credit card: ____________________________
Signature for credit card: ____________________________
Card #: ____________________________
Expiration date ________________________

SAVE STAMPS!

The canceled stamps on your incoming mail can help Ministry With the Poor. Save stamps that have their perforations intact, are not too heavily canceled, and are not torn, cut or stained. Leave at least ¼ inch on each side of the stamp when cutting it from the envelope. Commemoratives are especially appreciated.

Send to: Sister M. Jane Chantal (Method), CSC
Stamp Ministry
100 Augusta Hall—Saint Mary’s
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556—Phone: (574) 284-5675

Mail to: Sisters of the Holy Cross, Development Office, 407 Bernhard Hall—Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5000; (574) 284-5641

NEW DESIGNS FOR 2019 REMEMBRANCE CARDS

Give gifts of prayer from the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Tell us who you wish to honor or memorialize and the Development Office will send cards telling your recipients they are being held in prayer by the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

In addition to the cards pictured here, there are three styles of memorial cards. All of the available cards may be viewed on our website: www.cscsisters.org. Your tax-deductible donation helps our Ministry With the Poor.

YOU MAY ORDER CARDS: at www.cscsisters.org
Support Us/Order a Remembrance Card
by mail
see address at bottom of page

Tell us your CONTACT PREFERENCES

Printed communication preferences:
☐ Please mail to me only once a year (fall/Christmas appeal only).
☐ Mail me the printed edition of inSpirit magazine.
☐ Please take me off all printed communication mailing lists.
☐ Please include me on all email lists.
☐ Please contact me by email only for questions and communications about specific donations.
☐ Please mail me the printed edition of inSpirit magazine.

Email communication preferences:
☐ Notify me by email when inSpirit is available on the website.
☐ Be sure to add development@cscsisters.org to your contact list.
☐ Please take me off all email communication mailing lists.
☐ Please contact me by email only for questions and communications about specific donations.
☐ Please take me off all email communication mailing lists.

Mail to: Sisters of the Holy Cross, Development Office, 407 Bernhard Hall—Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5000; (574) 284-5641

Get Well

Send a card to:

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP ______

Daytime telephone __________________

Amount of donations: $ ______

☐ Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross
☐ Credit card:  ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
Name on credit card: ____________________________
Signature ____________________________
Card #: ____________________________
Expiration date ________________________

Mail me the printed edition of inSpirit—see address at bottom of page
A PAGE IN MY JOURNEY
SISTER RITA GODHINO, CSC

When I was younger my mind was always filled with questions: “What shall I do in the future?” “What is the meaning of life? How can I live a more meaningful life?” When I had to leave my home and stand on my own feet, I had to make good decisions for my life and the future.

As the years passed, I slowly realized that God was providing answers to my questions little by little.

The first signal came after my final school exam. After participating in weekday Mass at my parish church, the priest asked me, “Would you like to be a nun?”

I was puzzled. Not knowing how to reply I asked, “How, where and when, Father?” I believe it was God who spoke to me through the priest. He suggested the Holy Cross congregation and wrote a letter to the vocation coordinator of Holy Cross for me. With this letter, I came to Holy Cross Convent [in Dhaka, Bangladesh] for the first time.

I heard God’s soft voice calling out to me in silence. “Somewhere out there is someone who needs your service. Will you reach there?” With a humble heart, I responded to God’s call.

My life is a journey of faith and trust in God’s providence. Now, I am a missionary in a foreign land. I have left my boat behind. I left my friends, my relatives, my siblings, my grandniece and nephews whom I love so much. How much I emptied myself, that much God filled me with his graces. God loves me so much and I am a happy religious.

Sister Rita Godhino, CSC, second from left, visits with University of Southern California students after Sunday Mass at Our Savior Parish, Los Angeles.

Sister Rita, a native of Bangladesh, professed her initial vows with the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1991 and her perpetual vows in 1999. She is vocation coordinator for the United States, based in Los Angeles, California.