Dear Friends,

As I looked over the articles in this issue of inSpirit, I was amazed at the wide variety of events and people. Words of a liturgical song by Dan Feiten called “Seed, Scattered and Sown,” often used during this season of the year, began to sing to me from the pictures and stories. The refrain speaks of seeds scattered and sown; wheat of the field and fruit of vines grown so that they can become the living Bread and Cup of Christ for the world.

The sisters celebrated in this issue—whether novices, newly professed or women celebrating long years of dedicated service to God’s people—have been scattering seeds of justice and peace wherever their journeys have taken them. We see that some seeds already have taken strong root and some have continued to produce fruit long after the sisters themselves have gone to God. We are excited about our Congregation’s website, which has taken on a new, contemporary look, and remember with grateful hearts the rich heritage celebrated in our 175 years of service in Notre Dame, Indiana, our first mission in the New World.

Springtime and summer, planting and growing. May you, too, find seeds of hope and blossoms of gratitude popping up and singing through the fields of your heart as you peruse these pages.

In Holy Cross,

Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC
President, Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross

Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, congregation president, stands near the Holy Cross Sisters plaque on the Wall of Honor at the University of Notre Dame. “It was a privilege to represent the hundreds of Holy Cross women—Marianites and Sisters of the Holy Cross—who have served and contributed to the history of the University of Notre Dame,” said Sister Veronique, who attended the April 18 ceremony recognizing the sisters. “To be honored along with the Holy Cross Brothers is a dedicated lay colleague [Isabel Charles, the university’s first woman dean] reminded me of the deep connections of the Family of Holy Cross, religious, clergy and laity. The legacy lives!”

Holy Cross “growing like a mighty tree”
Holy Cross School opens in Bangladesh

Expanding education & dreams

by Sisters Shiuli Gomes, CSC, and Semaria Tongpiar, CSC

In the shadow of a new tin-roofed school building, the Sisters of the Holy Cross and residents of Kalaura, Bangladesh, claimed their slice of the community’s children during the January 16 opening ceremony for Holy Cross School.

The exciting day began with music, decorating the school with flowers, colorful papers and balloons, and dressing the school children in colorful clothing. Father Bejoy Nicphorus D’Cruz, OMI, Bishop of the Diocese of Sylhet, the event’s main celebrant, blessed the flowers, colorful papers and balloons, and dressing the school children during the festivities.

On the day of the opening ceremony, it was a great joy to see the parents supporting their children’s education with Holy Cross sisters to pursue building the school in Kulaura. Many churches and organized religions continue to deem women, because of their gender, unworthy to hold leadership positions. And, in effect, they maintain a way to break down hidden or forbidden conversations and claim who we are.

Sister Mary Ann shares why she feels it is so important to continue in this fashion. And there is no real reason to support that piece of church thinking—in my case, the Catholic Church—in its views on the role of women in the Church. It is a part of the Church that has not caught up to the truths of who we all are created to be—people equally loved and gifted.

For me, it is important to continue to spend whatever efforts I have to work for, pray for and welcome all of God’s children who don’t have a welcoming home and place in our communities and in Church membership and participation. I believe this includes those who are immigrants, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), refugees, the poor, and especially children, who need to be affirmed in their good instincts. God loves everybody—no exceptions.

Editor’s note: Sisters Mary Ann Pajakowski, CSC and Sister Verónica Fajardo, CSC participated in a local V-Day event in February 2018 that raised money for Peace House in Park City, Utah, a domestic violence shelter where Sister Verónica ministers. V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.

Standing in sisterhood with women

by Sister Mary Ann Pajakowski, CSC

Sister Mary Ann and Sister Verónica at their local V-Day event. Syncretism and V-Day brought them together.

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For further reflection, please read the Family of Holy Cross Statement on Nonviolence and Just Peace at www.holycrossjustice.org/work/Pages/FamilyofHolyCross.aspx, as well as the Sisters of the Holy Cross corporate stands on nonviolence; the oppression of women in social and religious structures; and against human trafficking, located on the Congregation’s website www.scvsiosters.org/corporate-standas!
New website shares sisters’ stories

You may have noticed that something looked different when you visited www.cscsisters.org. The Sisters of the Holy Cross have launched a new website featuring a responsive and interactive design that offers more opportunities to see and hear who the sisters are and what they do in their ministries around the world. The site can be navigated from a variety of mobile devices.

The Congregation’s General Leadership Team birthed the three-fold vision for the site: to share the relevancy of the sisters as they respond to the signs of the times and serve God’s people; to engage others in the sisters’ mission through prayer, advocacy/justice initiatives and financial support; and to provide resources for young women considering a religious vocation.

Places to explore

The Global Ministries section, located under Our Mission in the top navigation bar, may be especially interesting to our readers. The mission, vision and values of the Congregation’s founder, Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, are exemplified in the heart and focus of Holy Cross sisters who have gone to God and are carried forward today by sisters in ministries around the world. Even wonder about the impact of donations to the Congregation? Global Ministries describes ways those in need benefit from projects launched through the Ministry With the Poor Fund. These ministries are possible only through the generous contributions from our donors.

Those who are co-ministering with the Sisters of the Holy Cross by sharing financially—through a one-time gift, a monthly recurring gift, a bequest or other means—will find updated donation pages. Those who check the box to make a recurring donation are a special blessing to the sisters, as they provide steady, ongoing support for ministries beyond a specific appeal.

Send us your feedback

We hope you enjoy exploring the Congregation’s new website. We value your feedback and invite you to share your comments with us so we can continue to meet your needs. To access the online feedback form, scroll down to the blue Links section at the bottom of the page and click on Feedback. We look forward to hearing from you!

Trip to Brazil expands sister’s outlook

by Sister Daisy Kabuleeta, CSC

I count myself lucky to have had the wonderful opportunity to visit with our sisters and learn about their ministries in Brazil this past October (2017). I had long dreamed of visiting Brazil but never thought it could actually happen! Thank you, Holy Cross Sisters Esther Adjoa Entsiwah, and Michael Mary (Nolan)!

Visiting the different ministries of the Sisters of the Holy Cross was very exciting. I had the privilege of sharing my African culture with the students of Colégio Santa Maria in São Paulo. I was truly touched by the well-behaved students there and at Saint Martha’s Social Service Center, also in São Paulo. Even though I did not speak the students’ language, we all spoke the language of love. It is intense when you arrive somewhere and cannot speak the language, but it is also an opportunity because the people you are visiting are the ones to teach you. The commendable work of each sister in Brazil will help enable the country’s people—especially women and children—to create lasting change in themselves, their families and their communities.

I felt a strong desire to understand the realities of Brazil, and I learned much during my stay. The experience emphasized for me how we must look ahead and focus not only on the issues and ministries of our own countries but of our entire global community.
Congratulations, graduates!

Two Sisters of the Holy Cross in the United States have reached milestones of graduation this year. Join us as we celebrate with them!

For the past two years Sister Laura Guadalupe Tiburcio Santos, CSC, has pursued her Associate of Science degree in social work from Salt Lake Community College in Utah. She achieved this goal on May 4, 2018. Several important people and events influenced her, Sister Laura said, but “I owe my vocation and my desire to help people to my father…. [As I grew up] it was important to care for the needy.”

During her final semester, Sister Laura completed an internship at Comunidades Unidas/Communities of Joy and Dignity (CUD) in Salt Lake City, Utah, dedicated to empowering the Latino community in the state. Sister Laura said she is excited about working “with people to my father…. [As I grew up] it was important to care for the needy.”

For the past two years Sister Miriam Nohemi Aripe Paredes, CSC, has pursued her Associate of Science degree in social work from Salt Lake Community College in Utah. She achieved this goal on May 4, 2018. Several important people and events influenced her, Sister Laura said, but “I owe my vocation and my desire to help people to my father…. [As I grew up] it was important to care for the needy.”

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Small steps to building peace

Working together and respect vital to process

by Sister Semerita Mbambu, CSC

Peace is an important aspect of life. Building peace is very vital to our world. Just as parts of the body work together to bring good results from a specific activity, when we as individuals do what we can to promote peace and justice around us, it spreads to the rest of our environment. In my ministry with the Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ) in Fort Portal, Uganda, peace-building activities shape me as an individual and also have an effect on the community and nation.

As a volunteer at RFPJ, I have learned many things concerning peace and justice. An international Celebration for Peace day in September (2017) was an event that brought mixed feelings of joy and sadness for the people who attended. The theme for the day was “Together for Peace, Safety and Dignity.”

The event was facilitated by several non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—nonprofit, voluntary citizens’ groups organized on a local, national or international level—in the Rwenzori region where conflict occurred between the army and the royal guards in 2016. Hundreds of people died in the attack, which also left behind many widows and orphans. I wondered, “How can we celebrate peace when people are still mourning their loved ones or have family and friends who are in prison?”

Because I had the opportunity to be part of the celebration, I learned that it is always important to look for the positive, small things that a person can be grateful for, given the current situation. What I saw that day were people from different groups who came together to dance, sing and eat as a sign of reconciliation and a step toward peace. The event also included the planting of a tree as a sign of peace, and an ecumenical prayer for peace was led by different religions as a sign of unity. I was honored to participate in the ecumenical prayer representing the Catholic Church and the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

It is very important to find ways to work together in peace and to keep encouraging people to be peace ambassadors, as peace begins at home and spreads out to political leaders, religious congregations, and local and international organizations. Showing respect for one another also is a key necessity for promoting peace in the Rwenzori region and the entire world.
The holude ceremony is a ceremony performed in Bangladesh and India in which turmeric, a yellow spice obtained from a flowering plant in the ginger family, is used as a reminder of baptismal promises and Christian responsibilities. For religious, this ceremony is now a symbol of purification of body, heart and mind to prepare for a deeper call. Blessing with the holude, we pray for them that the promise they are going to announce may strengthen their faith and trust in God’s gift of new life: hope, joy and prosperity. We pray that they fulfill God’s will through Holy Cross.

By Sister Bijoycy Thongnibah, CSC

Every celebration is an experience; the external fades away and the internal lingers and echoes in the deepest depths of our hearts.

My heart fills with joy and gratitude to have had such a beautiful, meaningful and memorable perpetual profession of vows as I enter the next stage of my religious life. It was the greatest experience ever to take another step into this life. My heart beat fast and my mind could not stop thinking as I tried to keep it at rest a few nights before March 3, 2018. I was excited, happy and eagerly awaiting the day, but with some fears and worry about the unknown future that awaited me.

Trusting and surrendering to God filled me with a deep joy and inner peace during the time of my preparation for my perpetual profession of vows. As the days approached, I could barely know what I was feeling. I was just waiting for that day. Vigil night came and I was very happy. The sisters helped me to prepare for it and gave me time for reflection. I had a meaningful and beautiful vigil night with prayers and the holude ceremony1 and the light blessings. I was blessed to have the General Leadership Team members and the Congregation president, received their vows. We invite you to rejoice with us and remember these newly-professed sisters in prayer as they make their initial commitment in Holy Cross.

Leadership Team and all the coordinators from each Area were there, along with the candidates, discerners and family members. I was overcome by the support of the sisters and their hard work in organizing and arranging everything so well. It was great teamwork.

Archbishop Dominic Jala, SDB, DD, archbishop of Shillong, India, was the main celebrant of the day. The holy Eucharist for the perpetual profession of vows was held in the Chapel of the Grotto Church at the Mary Help of Christians Cathedral in Shillong. Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, Congregation president, received their vows. We invite you to rejoice with us and remember these newly-professed sisters in prayer as they make their initial commitment in Holy Cross.

A grateful heart by Sister Khochem Mossang, CSC

I am deeply grateful to God who loves me, guides me and strengthens me every day. I am grateful for the gift of life and gift of vocation in Holy Cross. I am grateful to be entering this stage in my formation and for the wonderful day of celebration of my perpetual profession of vows. I feel the love of God, family, friends and my sisters in Holy Cross who participated in the celebration. I know that the members of the Congregation around the world prayed for me and were present in spirit with me. I was happy and blessed to have the General Leadership Team members and the Congregation president in attendance. I missed Sister Brenda Cousins, Leadership Team general secretary, who could not attend, but her love and prayers were with me.

The celebration began with the night vigil, the Holy Hour, the holude ceremony and the light blessings. It was a peaceful and grace-filled celebration. When I held the light and each sister, candidate and discerner receiving the power of the light blessed me with the same light, I was touched and felt the vibration of the Holy Spirit and strength of a community filled with peace. During the solemnity of the eucharistic celebration, I felt that I was not standing alone, but had the entire Congregation standing with me. The experience of the power of prayer, love, care, support and encouragement gave me a feeling of wholeness.

Looking back on my life in Holy Cross, from the very beginning until today, it has been an amazing journey! During the past 10 years of preparation, I experienced joyful moments, much enrichment, hopes and dreams of ministry, growing together in community and in the love of Christ, as well as challenges, discouragement, hopelessness and sadness. I experienced God’s grace and blessings through the joyful moments, while the challenges strengthened me to love Christ deeply and follow him.

My strength and my limitations and my struggles—I treasure them all. They led me to grow in my humanness and in the light of God. I am grateful to all the persons in my life who helped make me who I am today. I am grateful to all the sisters in the Congregation for their prayerful support and love.

This year many Sisters of the Holy Cross celebrated significant milestones of formation, marking stages of personal, spiritual and ministerial growth. Candidates stepped out in faith toward their first year as novices with the Congregation. Five sisters made their initial profession and several professed their perpetual vows, pledging a life-long commitment to service and ministry with the Congregation and God’s people.

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Kids get new shoes for school

Children in Dickenson County, Virginia, will start off the school year with new shoes, thanks to an initiative started in memory of Sister M. Jean Barbara (Korkisch). In 1983, Sister Jean Barbara began ministry in Dickenson County, a rural Appalachian community that has historically experienced severe poverty and lack of economic opportunity, with 25 percent of its children living below the poverty line. During her 34 years in the region, she implemented several supportive services for the community, including education and housing repair programs.

Jarvis Flint, who for 20 years was a close friend of sister, carried on the tradition started in memory of their friend. Jarvis launched the new shoes initiative to help others. “My heart. “Her work here in Appalachia left a lasting effect on many people. I wouldn’t be the person I am today if it wasn’t for her.” Jarvis said. A friend and spiritual director: These together help to enrich and deepen my faith. Faith keeps me strong as I journey. None of this would have been possible without the guidance of my parents, formators and my sisters in community. The love I have experienced in community has truly taught me how to love myself and to love others in return. I know that growing in love as a Sister of the Holy Cross is a lifelong journey, but it is one that I desire to embrace with my whole heart, more now than ever before. Thank you, sisters, one and all, for your prayerful support.

Holy Cross’ “Quiet Heroes”  
Compassionate care during Utah’s AIDS crisis

Holy Cross Sisters who ministered to individuals with HIV or AIDS in Utah during the height of the U.S. health epidemic are recognized in the documentary film “Quiet Heroes,” which premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. The film focuses on the compassionate care provided by infectious disease specialist Dr. Kristen Ries and physician assistant Maggie Snyder, who were the only medical professionals in the state during the mid-1980s treating people who had contracted HIV or AIDS. Given the fear and stigma that surrounded homosexuality and HIV and AIDS at that time, many individuals were ostracized by their loved ones, churches, government agencies and health care providers.

Three individuals under the care of Dr. Ries and Ms. Snyder, found respite and treatment at Salt Lake City’s Holy Cross Hospital—founded and formerly sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross—with the sanction and support of Sister Olivia Marie (Hutcheson), CSC, then vice president for mission at the hospital. Four Holy Cross Sisters, Roberta Bennett, Joan Marie Steadman, Linda Bellemore and Bernadette (Bernie) Mulick, served in ministry with the marginalized population under Sister Linda, a nurse who developed a comprehensive Continuity of Care program for HIV and AIDS patients, and Sister Bernie, a nurse who served as a physician assistant to Dr. Ries and helped staff a clinic in St. George, Utah, were interviewed for the film.

People with HIV or AIDS were considered “the lepers of our time,” said Sister Bernie, recalling her experiences in Utah. “The need was great,” she said, and “Dr. Ries saw the need. When clients didn’t show up for their appointments, recalled Sister Linda, Dr. Ries or Ms. Snyder would contact her. “I’d call to check on our clients, who were also our friends, and I’d go pick them up and take them to the hospital.” “As Sisters of the Holy Cross, she added, “We are called to minister where there is need—whatever the need is, wherever we are.” The Congregation began its health care ministry in Utah in 1875, with the founding of Holy Cross Hospital. Today, the Congregation sponsors Holy Cross Ministries of Utah, which provides health screenings, immigration legal services and educational programs for underserved individuals in the area. In 2011, the Congregation and the sisters who served with Dr. Ries and Snyder were recognized by the Utah AIDS Foundation, receiving the honor of “Pioneers in HIV.” “Quiet Heroes,” created by Utah filmmakers Jenny Mackenzie, Jared Raga and Amanda Stoddard, was selected from 3,901 feature-length film submissions to appear among 110 films featured at Sundance. The film premiered August 23 on cable and satellite channel Logo TV and will air recurrently over six weeks. In the fall it will be available through Amazon Prime. Further information is available at www.quietheroes.net


GRANT THEM PEACE

These Sisters of the Holy Cross were called home to God since the last issue of Spirit. While we feel their loss, we rejoice in their newfound 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 Marissa, CSC

(Mary Martha Loringer)
September 24, 1929 – February 18, 2018
(Sister Marissa, CSC)
Entered from San Diego, California
Initial profession on August 15, 1948

The harst winter of 2018, Sister Marissa’s last season, could not have been more different from the balmy fall days of Mary Loringer’s birth in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1929. Her parents, Catherine M. Knadig and Sylvester “Chap” Loringer, were a Navy family originally from the U.S. mainland (Pennsylvania and Maryland). By the time Mary entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross, she was only 15 years old and living in another port city, San Diego, California, where she had first met the Sisters of the Holy Cross at St. Didacus School. In 1945, it was unusual, but not without precedent, to accept into the Congregation a minor who had completed only her sophomore year of high school.

The Congregation ensured that she completed her secondary education, college preparation and credentialing as an elementary teacher. She proved to be “good, honest, pious and trustworthy,” making a truly devoted Sister, as the sisters at St. Didacus had surmised. The girl who observed her father’s 60th anniversary in the convent celebrated more than 72 years in her vocation. She had taught in various Holy Cross schools in Utah, Idaho and California for 35 years. From 1983, she taught part-time, subbed or tutored in the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, where she had been confined to a wheelchair.

Sister Dorothy Ann Reppen, CSC

(April 9, 1922 – March 3, 2018)
(Formerly Dorothy Ann Peterson)
Entered from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Initial profession on August 15, 1942

Sister Dorothy Ann Reppen, CSC, was a missionary abroad. Instead, she was trained to be an elementary teacher and served in Catholic parish schools throughout the United States, India, Indonesia and Japan. In 2001, she went to Bangladesh.

Sister Geralda was a missionary in health care at Our Lady of Holy Cross Care Center, San Pierre, Indiana. In 2005, she moved to the motherhouse in Streator and Morris, Illinois, until 2015. Sister Geralda attended the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s “Righteous Among the Nations” dedication ceremony in Washington, D.C. that June. She was an effective special education teacher in public school programs in Danville, Illinois, and Munster, Indiana, from 1969 to 1978. At age 55 she applied to serve in Bangladesh to teach English to young children. She served in Dacca (now Dhaka, Bangladesh) from 1978 to 1982 fulfilling her lifelong dream of being a missionary. Health issues brought her back home where she served as a parish visitor to the elderly in Streator and Morris, Illinois, until 1995.

Sister Geralda spent 10 years as a sister presence in healthcare at Our Lady of Holy Cross Care Center, San Pierre, Indiana. In 2005, she settled in the motherhouse at Saint Mary’s where her missionary outreach and prayer continued. Many of her handicrafts projects contributed to the Ministry with the Poor fund.

Sister Dorothy Ann Reppen, CSC

(Sister M. Serena)
October 12, 1922–April 9, 2018
(Formerly Dorothy Ann Peterson)
Entered from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Initial profession on August 15, 1942

The Sisters of the Holy Cross are practical women who live in the present moment, yet plan for the future. Sister Dorothy Ann left instructions circa 2004: “Please make my funeral a joyful occasion with lots of love and laughter. Thank you very much. Love to all.”

At that time, she was volunteering as a bookkeeper and treasurer for various convents at Saint Mary’s and for the Holy Cross History Association. Not until 2008 did Sister Dorothy Ann “retire” at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she died nine years later at the age of 95.

Dorothy Ann Reppen was the fourth of the 10 children of Joseph Reppen and Avelia Morrissey. Her brother Robert was a Norbertine priest and her younger sister Judith was also a Sister of the Holy Cross, Sister M. Margareta. The Wisconsin native spent her ministry in elementary education from 1942 to 1977 as a teacher and principal in Catholic parish schools throughout the United States, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. She was known to be strict, but loving.

Her previous school years ended and she began a 15-year ministry with Renov., Inc., in South Bend, Indiana. The non-profit organization was chartered to provide low-income housing through the rehabilitation of existing housing. Violent home comprised the project’s core and made them affordable. The goal was eventual home ownership. Sister’s role as assistant director and bookkeeper for Renov., Inc., was very satisfying for her. When she left in 1993, the non-profit had begun to explore low-income housing for the disabled.

Sister Dorothy Ann described herself as a people person who was a wonderful friend to many. Per her instructions, please remember her now with love and laughter. She thanks you.

Sister Miriam David, CSC

(Teresa Veronica Peterson)
July 5, 1923—April 14, 2018
(Formerly Dorothy Ann Peterson)
Entered from Boise, Idaho
Initial profession on February 2, 1944

Imagine Sister Miriam David’s family still meeting for dinner time and place. Her father David Peterson, a former Boise, Idaho, carpenter, is dressed in his best suit and tie, while caring for her paralyzed mother from another family. Her mother, Olivet D. Peterson, obsequies so strenuously to her only daughter entering the convent. But Joan heeded the counsel of a high school priest-teacher who told her “to wait until she is of age and then she was free to do as she chose.” So, she waited and worked two years in the library at Princeton University. She wrote her Aunt Mildred that she hoped “I don’t think I will be as good a sister as God could possibly want. The thought of it frightens me a little, however I refuse to be a half-baked sister.”

Then, Joan Meyer became the fourth religious vocation in Holy Cross. The young novice received the name Perpetua at the time she received the holy habit on August 15, 1951. Sister Perpetua proved to be strong, disciplined and practical in nourishing the tree of Holy Cross for nearly 54 years (1958-2012) in her missionary activity.
in East Pakistan (later called Bangladesh) and India. The youth of Dhaka—whether at Holy Cross College, Boltonby Home Orphanage, or the poor children on its streets—knew Sister Perpetua as a foreign woman who spoke their language and gave practical help.

From 1980-2012, Sister Perpetua was involved in vocation promoting formation (training young candidates and sisters) in Savar, Dhaka, and Bangalore, India. Her degrees were in education with a concentration in psychology and guidance. She had the lived experience of being a mature, seasoned consecrated religious who was eager to promote indigenous vocations as the local church continued to increase its witness within its own culture. Appropriately, the novitiate in Savar was named Deepaneta ("House of Light"). Since Sister’s retirement to Saint Mary’s in 2012, she continued to be involved with novices, now from several other continents, the International Novitiate having been moved to the motherhouse. The tree of Holy Cross still thrives.

Sister Bernice Marie Hollenhorst, CSC
(Sister M. Josephina)
September 15, 1929 – May 16, 2018
Entered from St. Cloud, Minnesota
Initial profession on August 15, 1952

At the end of the academic year in 2002, Sister Bernice Marie Hollenhorst retired as the seventh library director at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana. During her 27 years of service as a librarian at the college sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, she sought funding for a new library, oversaw its design and construction, and supervised the daily maintenance of Saint Mary’s award-winning Caughwah-Leighton Library. The Hollenhorst siblings—she being the eighth in a family of 10—would have named the state-of-the-art building after their sister! Under her leadership the library was always at the dynamic center of the college, exemplifying the core value of learning. Scholars-in-residence, such as Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, were grateful for her hospitality and that of her staff “who broke library rules in my behalf.” Sister M. Rose Anne (Schultz), CSC, the college’s vice president for mission in 2002, said Sister Bernice’s “gracious manner and bright smile” were among her hallmarks.

A recent VIVAT newsletter highlights two events in January-April 2001, “VIVAT means ‘Let Live!’ It implies the commitment to espouse the cause of our sisters and brothers who are most vulnerable to the forces of our 21st century global village. Sharing a vision of the world and of every human being as created in goodness and dignity… we commit ourselves to promote justice, harmony and reconciliation in the world.”

A recent VIVAT newsletter highlights two events in which Congregation members participated. Holy Cross Sisters Mary Elizabeth Bednarz, Elizangela Matos dos Santos and Maria de Lourdes de Deus Pimentel attended the World Social Forum in Salvador, Brazil, March 12–17, 2018. Also, many sisters participated in “March for Our Lives” events held in various cities across the world on March 24, 2018, in response to gun violence.

VIVAT’s newsletter features articles on United Nations events that address many Congregation justice concerns and corporate stands, such as strategies for poverty eradication, achieving gender equality and sustainable development goals. View the Congregation’s corporate stands at www.cscsisters.org/corporate-stands/. Learn more about VIVAT International at http://vivatinational.org/.
2018 CHRISTMAS GREETING

Our 2018 Christmas greeting card was designed by Sister Margaret Mary Nimmo, CSC, from Ghana, West Africa. Reflecting a scene of traditional African culture, these cards emphasize the international ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Your cards will be personalized to tell your recipients that you have given a gift in their names and that they will be remembered in prayer throughout the year. (The amount of your gift is not revealed.) Your tax-deductible donation will help our Ministry With the Poor fund. Order early; we will not mail cards until after Thanksgiving.

To view and order the card online, go to www.cscsisters.org, click on Support Us, scroll down to Remembrance Gift Card Program and click on 2018 Christmas, or use the QR code below for quick access to the order form. You also may order by phone (574) 284-5641; or mail using the form below. (Please list additional recipients on separate paper.)

Method of Payment – Christmas Cards

Signs card from ____________________________
Name ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________
City _______________________ State ____ ZIP ________
Daytime telephone: ____________________________

Send a Christmas card to: ____________________________
Name ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City _______________________ State ____ ZIP ________

Card given by: ______________________________________
Signature for credit card ____________________________

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

ADDITIONAL GREETING CARDS available

Use this as a handy reference to the card designs available for other occasions year-round. What could be better than the gift of prayer? You may order cards as follows:

online: www.cscsisters.org/order-a-remembrance-card/
phone: (574) 284-5641
mail: Sisters of the Holy Cross
Development Office
407 Bertrand Hall–Saint Mary’s
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5000

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407 Bertrand Hall–Saint Mary’s
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5000

Sisters cling to faith, prayer

by Sister M. Jean Ann (Smith), CSC

“A voice heard in Ramah, sobbing and loudly lamenting: it was Rachel, weeping for her children because they were no more.” —Matthew 17:18

Over the past year, hurricanes, floods, fires, storms and unprecedented natural disasters "named themselves," starting with Hurricane Harvey in Texas, engulfing numerous southern and western states, as well as Puerto Rico, Haiti and other islands.

We watched in horror as lives and lands were lost; we were hoisted up as volunteer help and equipment from neighboring states rolled in and began the work of healing; our patience waxed and waned as we looked at all that needed to be accomplished versus the time it took for things to happen, and the lives lost in waiting. Onlookers, we prayed.

In the western United States, forest fires claimed lives and limbs. Tortuous flames scarred thousands of miles of homes, forests, farm acres and orchards. Again, lives were lost before their time. Again, we prayed.

Sisters at Saint Catherine by the Sea Convent, Ventura, California, were called out of their “safe space” on December 4, 2017. Already ensconced in 'prayer as forest fires depleted land and homes around them, no doubt our sisters had long implored glorious St. Michael for help and perseverance.

When they received the call from local firefighters, the sisters secured their earthquake bags kept under each bed, in case of emergencies just like this. Packed with clean clothes, a flashlight, toothbrush, toothpaste and soap, they were willing comrades on the Holy Cross Way. So armed, still praying to St. Michael, with their cars at the ready, the sisters were transported to a nearby nursing home. Guided by the lights of helicopters above, they arrived at their destination, only to hear the common expression of the biblical season, “we have no more room.”

Before anyone could utter “Glorious St. Michael, what are we to do?” a gentleman named Michael, unknown by anyone there, said he knew of a place the sisters could go. Following in the light of faith, they found themselves in a quiet space, sheltered from the weather, and equipped with battery-operated lanterns. Gratefully thanked by the sisters, Michael took leave of them.

In the following days numerous mudslides took lives and homes in surrounding areas. Rachel still weeps for her children. And the Sisters of the Holy Cross, back at Saint Catherine’s, continue to pray.
“My calling began in 1950, while I was a student nurse. In 1952 I was caring for Sister M. Carolita (Davy), CSC, when she announced, ‘I am going to pray her into the convent.’ Sister M. Carmen (Davy), CSC, who was visiting her sister in the hospital, answered, ‘Well, that’ll be difficult. She’s engaged and not Catholic.’

“Several of the other student nurses were Catholic, so I started attending Mass with them every morning, and then we’d go to breakfast together. I learned a lot about Catholicism that way. Later, when I was on affiliation in Louisville, Kentucky, I started going to inquiry classes. I grew up Protestant, so I was full of questions for the priest. He always had an answer that satisfied me. Just three months later, I was baptized Catholic.

“While working in Cairo, Illinois, my faith grew stronger as I became close to the sisters who were nurses at Saint Mary’s Hospital. I went to Mass every day and prayed a lot, and I played tennis with a priest there. He once asked me, ‘When are you going to get on your horse and go to the convent?’ I answered, ‘I’m not going until the nuns can wear blue jeans.’ But the thought was planted.

“I began praying about it. Though I enjoyed my life, I felt incomplete. I felt that maybe there was more for me. And there certainly was—many wonderful years in Holy Cross.”

Sister Carolita professed her initial vows with the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1955 and her perpetual vows in 1960. Among her ministries, she worked as a cardiac nurse and family nurse practitioner, opening a clinic in Salt Lake City, Utah. She also served as administrator of Mount Carmel East Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, and Holy Cross Hospital, Mission Hills, California, as regional superior for the Congregation’s Western Region, and as director of Health Affairs for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.