TABLE OF CONTENTS

5
Standing in solidarity
Ugandan sisters create plan to minister to refugees

8
Loving art
“Sharing love and comfort”
Sister’s service to hospice patients spans decades

10
Transforming love
creates the future

12
GRATITUDE FOR
CREATION, CREATIVITY

13
RAISING SELF-WORTH

15
GRANT THEM PEACE

17
CELEBRATING CULTURE

18
CIRCLE OF SAINTS
MOREAU GARDEN

ON THE COVER
Inspired by her ministry with migrants in Monterrey and in Guadalupe, Nuevo León, Mexico, Sister Nieves Lidia Ortiz Galván, CSC, created this painting, “Migrant’s Heart.” The butterflies represent the migrants. The heart is all the pain they are suffering and, at the same time, their hope to find happiness and love,” says Sister Neves. “The sand represents the desert and the water depicts the rivers that they encounter along their journey. The footprints represent Jesus, who walks with them, and the dove is the Holy Spirit who guides their lives.”

Dear Friends,

As I write this message, the Church will soon be celebrating Pentecost. In the throes of the coronavirus pandemic, how I wish for the healing and comforting wind of the Spirit to blow with gentle strength through our chaotic and grieving world!

Even though all of us are in some stage of “shelter in place,” you will read in this issue of inSpirit how the mission continues for the Sisters of the Holy Cross during these unprecedented times. The sisters are finding new avenues for reaching out to those in need, using their creativity and imagination. Despite their inability to gather for Eucharist in many countries, they continue to find Christ truly present in the ministry of prayer and in the faces of those they “meet” on the news and in social media.

Although many of our generous donors now are working from home, responding to needs on the front lines, suffering with uncertainty about their employment, or sheltering in place as best they can, they continue to sacrifice to make dreams come true for those counting on assistance from our Ministry With The Poor and other funds. Our deep gratitude goes out to them all. It is heartening and inspiring to be part of this circle of care and concern.

I recently read that what is most needed in this time of crisis are grit and resilience. Grit, that is, focus and strength, is needed to endure. Resilience, that is, a combination of flexibility and rootedness, allows one to overcome the ever-changing realities of life. Both are needed to heal the woundedness of the world and enable people and all creation to thrive. These are qualities that are found in large measure in the persons of our sisters, Holy Cross Associates, employees, ministry partners, friends and generous benefactors. Thank you for being a strong, committed and generous supporter. Thank you for being a strong, committed and generous benefactor. Thank you for being a strong, committed and generous benefactor. Thank you for being a strong, committed and generous benefactor.

The beautiful words of this Apache Blessing, which are echoed in the sentiments of Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ On Care for Our Common Home, are my prayer for each of you and for all who labor in God’s vineyard this day.

May the sun bring you new energy by day,
May the moon softly restore you by night,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the moon softly restore you by night,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
May the rain wash away your worries,
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
Gratitude for creation, creativity

As if it isn’t enough that maintenance technician Adam Reynolds skillfully keeps things running at Saint Catherine by the Sea Convent in Ventura, California, he also lends his gift of artistry to enhance the beauty and spiritual presence of the place.

At the Siena Prayer Center, a retreat facility on the convent grounds, Adam recently created a sculpture of praying hands suspended above a large stone. The idea for the piece bloomed from a simple request by Sister Gloria Valdovinos, CSC, coordinator of the center, to “make the meditation garden look nice.” The image of praying hands above a rock manifested in Adam’s mind, and he was able to come up with “a good device to hold the hands up and make it look natural.”

To create the piece, he first made a mold of his own hands using alginate, a material used for dental impressions. He then cast a first set of hands out of plaster of Paris to test the mold. Happy with the outcome, he cast a new set out of a concrete compound that would hold up to the elements. Next, with his artist’s touch, he applied several treatments of gold leaf and paint, and tinted and buffed wax to give the hands a bronze patina. After cementing a large stone into the ground, he epoxied a steel rod from the hands to the stone.

A passage from William Shakespeare’s play As You Like It spoke to Adam throughout his creative process. The quote is delivered by exiled Duke Senior, who has been extricated from his high position by his brother and banished from the kingdom.

“And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.”

“The words reinforce the idea of prayer being a thank you for all of creation,” says Adam, noting the sculpture’s appropriate placement in a natural setting.

“I’ve always liked drawing and creating things,” adds Adam, who studied the arts at the College of Santa Fe, New Mexico. In his free time, he also enjoys forging and welding iron sculptures, and last year he stained and stenciled a stone-looking path to create a labyrinth at the convent.

Visitors to the center are taken by the powerful imagery of the praying hands, says Sister Gloria, who is grateful for the beautiful gift. Each day she makes a point of passing by the sculpture, where she is called to pause and give time to prayer.

Standing in solidarity

Ugandan sisters create plan to minister to refugees

The life of a refugee can be fraught with danger and despair. Displaced families often have health issues, financial challenges and uncertainty about what tomorrow will bring. In many instances, families are torn apart. The Congregation’s Corporate Stand on Migration, affirmed in October 2019 (inSpirit Annual Giving Report, March 2020), is a declaration that urges the Sisters of the Holy Cross to address the needs of migrants as well as the causes of migration, and to intentionally partner with secular and religious leaders, groups and organizations.

Sister Semerita Mbambu, CSC, is responding to the stand and the call to live in solidarity with refugee and migrant brothers and sisters in Uganda. At the request of the nation’s government, Sister Semerita and other Holy Cross sisters in the Fort Portal community conducted a needs assessment in two of the country’s 12 refugee camps. Among the 12 settlements, Uganda has a total of about 1.2 million refugees.
“We want to create awareness about the human rights and other rights of the refugees. We hope to empower them economically through learning skills to manage their basic needs. We also will strive to complement the existing pastoral and spiritual interventions among the refugees. With God’s help and guidance, we will see this done.”
— Sister Semerita Mbambu, CSC

continued from the previous page

Through the assessment, the sisters discovered that many pastoral, spiritual and physical needs existed. Kyaka II, in the Kyegega district, is a receiving camp, with a daily influx of 600 to 800 refugees. By March 2020, Kyaka II’s population was nearly 124,000. Rwamwanja camp, in the Kamwenge district, no longer receives refugees. Its permanent settlers number around 72,500. Most of the refugees have come from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Burundi and Rwanda.

Assessment reveals desperate needs

To conduct the needs assessment, the sisters identified target areas in each camp to address a variety of issues related to livelihoods, gender, human rights, education, health, co-existence, and spiritual and pastoral care. In Kyaka II, the sisters visited four of the nine zones, addressing specific groups, such as people with special needs, adult men and women, youth and unaccompanied children. In Rwamwanja, the sisters focused on three of the six zones with target groups including youth, married men and women, and people with special needs. At both camps, the sisters met with leaders among the refugees and the host communities where the camps are located. They also visited with other partner organizations that are already serving the refugees.

Among many findings, the assessment revealed that families headed by children and people with special needs were desperate for support. The sisters also learned that the refugees would benefit from training in a trade, as well as assistance with accessing health services and education. “We want to stand in solidarity with the refugees as a sign of presence and love in fostering justice [for them] and enabling them to realize their potential in the host country,” says Sister Semerita.

Donors respond to help refugees

Based on the great needs revealed through the assessment, Sister Semerita was awarded Ministry With the Poor funds to implement a plan that engages the refugees and the host communities. The plan is a multipronged, collaborative approach to improving the health and well-being of refugees in the camps and supporting the engagement of the host communities, focusing on the areas of health, food, nutrition, and skills training.

“Health is a very crucial thing for the refugees,” Sister Semerita notes, “especially those in Kyaka II, since it is a receiving settlement. We want to purchase 200 mattresses to support the bedding capacity of the health facility there.”

The sisters will conduct a series of meetings for the refugees and the host communities to explain their plan and gather support and participation.

The plan calls for providing food and nutrition information to 40 child-headed families, whose members range in age from 3 to 17. These families have unique challenges, such as the absence of parents and parenting, hunger, immigration and registration issues, and the lack of spiritual and psychosocial support. Unfortunately, some child-headed families are exploited by other refugee families.

Child-headed families also need a way to earn income. The Fort Portal sisters plan to train 100 children in each camp in soap and craft making. With assistance from the Ministry With the Poor Fund, the training will take place over the course of a year and give these young families hope where before they had none.

Poultry project

To help families in the host communities as well as the settlements, the sisters want to initiate a poultry project to provide income as well as an ongoing food source. The plan is to start with 30 families in each host community and each camp, for a total of 120 families benefiting from the project.

“It is interesting that the host communities and refugees have a firm relationship on how they conduct their community affairs,” Sister Semerita explains. “We realized that the host communities help by allowing refugees to work for them and pay them and/or give them food. We also found that both the refugees and host communities belong to some of the same groups, where they do a number of development activities.”

It is against this background that the Fort Portal sisters seek to support these groups with the poultry project.

Global pandemic

Of course, with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the sisters are finding even more needs. The refugees can no longer visit the neighborhoods in the host communities where they found food and work. They relied upon these connections for often what was their only meal of the day.

“I call upon the well-wishers to support the migrants who are now suffering, not having anything to eat,” says Sister Semerita. “It is very sad, especially with the breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women spending the whole day without food.”

As funds allow, the sisters will reach out to supply food to these vulnerable people, while keeping in line with the health measures the government has issued.

“Our goals are many,” Sister Semerita notes. “We want to create awareness about the human rights and other rights of the refugees. We hope to empower them economically through learning skills to manage their basic needs. We also will strive to complement the existing pastoral and spiritual interventions among the refugees. With God’s help and guidance, we will see this done.”
The stories Sister Nieves Lidia Ortiz Galván, CSC, hears sometimes leave her speechless. Yet, in her work with asylum-seeking migrants in Monterrey and in Guadalupe, Nuevo León, Mexico, listening to these individuals and being present with them is the crux of her ministry.

Loving art

Sister Nieves joins migrants in their doubt and fear, many times feeling powerless herself, as plea to God seemingly go unanswered. “Where is God in all of this? Why does God allow children to die?” ask those seeking refuge at the Casanicolas and Casa INDI shelters, where Sister Nieves serves. “These questions make me humble because I do not know. I am one of them, in that sense,” Sister Nieves says. Sometimes, she adds, she feels helpless for not being able to do more, for not having all the answers. “There are men and women who feel angry with God, and I understand that because sometimes I do too.”

When words fail her, Sister Nieves often turns to pencil and paper, sketching the faces of those she encounters, memorializing them, their struggles, hopes and faith in her notebook. Through this practice, she says, “I feel they stay with me, and it helps me to pray for them in a deeper way.” She also encourages visitors to draw, knowing that this creative transfer of feeling and experience can be easier and more cathartic for some than verbal expression. “Everyone enjoys drawing or painting,” she adds, “and it helps them to relax for a while.” Drawing also prompts individuals to visualize and share the dreams they pursue.

Sister Nieves recalls her conversations with 86-year-old Don Fernando, a visitor at Casa INDI. While she drew him, he would open up to her, comfortable sharing the stories of his life. “He enjoyed being drawn and asked for his portrait as a gift,” she says. A week later, on December 12, 2019, Don Fernando died unexpectedly. God accompanied him on the journey, as did Sister Nieves, her portrait of him all he carried.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Holy Cross Sister Nieves Lidia Ortiz Galván’s sketches pay tribute to the many visitors seeking refuge at the Casa INDI and Casanicolas shelters in Nuevo León, Mexico.
Our lives—and the lives of peoples around the globe—have been disrupted and, in many instances, put on hold by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ways we lived, worked, served and worshiped as 2020 dawned seem like a distant memory. And yet, our call to the resurrection work of being transforming love for the life of the world remains unchanged; indeed, transforming love is more urgently needed than ever.

Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM, writing about her work of contemplative dialogue, says: “This pandemic is bringing hope to each of us that we are living in a time of chaos where all the old structures are breaking down. The fault lines of disparity of income, lack of health care access, partisan political paralysis, dependence on fossil fuels are deepening and revealing structures and systems that no longer can bring about our planet’s healthy future. . . . Yet we all share the challenge of how we will emerge from this time to create our future.”

I believe this urgent challenge is not about a future that will emerge next month or next year, but a future that is now. We create our future today, as citizens of this planet, members of the Holy Cross family, and colleagues and partners in ministry. Our future is rooted in signs of hope and in our response to the critical needs engaging us today as we work and pray for our world. I invite your reflection on the following messages of hope and pressing needs, shared by our sisters around the world.

• There is no “getting back to normal.” Business will not and should not go back to what it has been.
• Our sponsored schools are closed or have some classes that are being taught remotely. Our administrators and teachers are diving deeper into what education of the whole person—mind and heart—means for the children and young people of today.
• As they are able, sisters are, with appropriate precautions, making pastoral visits to some people in nearby villages, sharing with them the little we have in terms of food, the Word of God and time.
• We are in solidarity with our sisters worldwide in prayer and in spirit, asking God’s intervention in this crisis. We join with our lay colleagues in Liturgies of the Word with “spiritual communion,” while we long for physically gathering around the table of Word and Sacrament.
• Less traffic and pollution from big businesses mean that the air and water are clearer and cleaner, although water is urgently needed in some places. While sheltering in place, many sisters are engaging in gardening and other activities, such as sewing masks and gowns for health care workers, to contribute toward our well-being and that of our neighbors.
• Many people who count on a daily wage are without work and basic necessities. They take to the streets in hope of receiving food and relief materials distributed by organizations and individuals. Elsewhere, food markets are sources of contagion as people flock to buy groceries without protection and without keeping the proper distance. Sisters bought 200 camping tents for the homeless; sent donations for food staples to groups working with indigenous peoples and others in need; make hundreds of meals weekly for homeless persons; and support projects to get food to migrants.
• Stock markets around the world have crashed, and investment income that previously provided security is nonexistent. The generosity of donors has enabled us to purchase a bus for schoolchildren as well as desperately needed medical supplies and equipment. Dioceses have established coronavirus charity funds, and the Congregation’s COVID Relief Fund is growing. We have simplified our lifestyles and share with our neighbors.
• Social distancing is creating a need for more mental health resources. Our sisters support one another emotionally. We have received many cards from alums and friends encouraging us in our isolation.

Amid the chaos and difficulties of our lives, we are blessed by Transforming Love. Sisters, Holy Cross Associates, benefactors, friends and employees continue to reach out to those in need. Our solidarity with one another gives us courage and strength to be about many large and small works of resurrection. God calls us to be transforming love, to create a future in these times that cry out for healing and wholeness. We carry on as people of faith, hope and compassion.
Raising self-worth

Widows/widowers find encouragement in new trades

Farmimg pigs, poultry or cows guarantees food for the table. But among widows and widowers in Bugembe Parish, Uganda, livestock keeping has led to livelihoods that also feed self-respect.

In her ministry, Sister Nancy Rose Njijjoro, CSC, provides pastoral care and conducts social service work with overlooked members of Ugandan society, among them orphans, individuals with disabilities, and widows and widowers. As a matter of cultural norm, she explains, those who suffer the loss of a spouse—specifically women—also lose their possessions after the death of a spouse. Seeking to forge relationships with and among widows and widowers in Bugembe Parish, Sisters of the Holy Cross started a support group to help them share their grief and rediscover their talents and value as individuals. Some participants have taken up farming pigs and chickens as a source of food and income.

Proverbs 22:1 says, “A good name is better than riches.” Mary Ellen McGlynn cherished the name she was given by her parents, Edward F. McGlynn and Grace O’Dea McGlynn, in baptism at Holy Name Church, Washington, D.C.

Mary Ellen McGlynn grew up in the District of Columbia with siblings Grace, Edward and Patricia. In high school she was drawn to the Sisters of the Holy Cross who taught her at St. Patrick’s Academy. She entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross in September 1955 at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Upon reception of the holy habit in August 1956, she received a new name in religion, Sister Mary Grace Alma, in honor of her Mother. Years later, on the night she died, a dear friend, Sister Amalia Marie (Rios), CSC, and other sisters and companions who cared for her, sang the “Hail Mary” which calls upon “Mary, full of grace … [to] pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.”

In 1967, Sister returned to her baptismal name following the Second Vatican Council. Sister Mary Ellen McGlynn spent all but eight years in elementary education in the Washington, D.C., metro area, serving in Catholic schools as a teacher or as a principal, from 1958 to 2003 in Alexandria, Virginia, and in Greenbelt, Kensington, Garrett Park and Silver Spring, Maryland. She served at St. Paul the Apostle School in New York City, 1964-1972. As an engaging teacher, Sister had good rapport with students in her religion classes, and her social studies classes were alive because of her enthusiasm. She was known to show care and concern for youth as individuals.

Sister Mary Ellen McGlynn also served as an Eastern Area councilor, 1998-2004, followed by continued ministry to the Congregation until retirement in 2009.

“Sister Mary Ellen McGlynn, who lived faithfully in community as a vowed Sister of the Holy Cross for 60 years, leaves behind a great name, no more precious than silver or gold. Whoever honors or inner healing she experienced was due to the Holy Name of Jesus Christ and its power in her life. She is now whole and enjoys God’s peace.”
When Hilda Bromeling applied to the Sisters of the Holy Cross in May 1941, after graduating in 1940 from Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, her motivation was “to serve God and to remove the obstacles which hinder my perfection.” Hilda spent over 75 years seeking perfection in charity as a consecrated woman religious as Sister Mary St. Brigid. There were obstacles along the way, whether due to her personal history or restless spirit. The last obstacle was rolled away on Wednesday of the second week of Easter. Her life has been perfected in death.

Bromeling was Hilda’s name by adoption. She was born in Woodlawn (now Aliquippa), Pennsylvania, the youngest of eight children born to Czechoslovakian immigrants Joseph Neivelt and Irma (Erma) Malakay. When the children’s mother died, the three youngest siblings were placed in “a home for adoption.” Merton and Margaret Blacker Bromeling adopted Hilda, providing for an excellent education and extensive travel.

Sister St. Brigid earned a master’s in theology in 1952 from Saint Mary’s School of Theology. Her first 28 years of ministry were mostly in elementary education in Utah, California, Indiana and Michigan, where she specialized in catechetics and methods of teaching. Sister taught methods to young sisters preparing for the teaching ministry in the 1960s. In her pursuit of perfection, Sister St. Brigid always wanted to be or do something more. While being drawn to the contemplative life, she simultaneously felt compelled to serve as a missionary in the new Holy Cross foundation in São Paulo, Brazil, where she taught at the Colegio Santa Maria, 1956-1961. Later, in 1971, having given to serve as a missionary in the new Holy Cross foundation in California. She also was a founding member of the Holy Cross: “The Lord … helped me to bring together several concepts: the happiness and joy of the sisters in community, their joy in their mission states. Sister Marilla said that her greatest joy was her service in elementary and secondary education as a teacher and administrator. Sister found added joy as a eucharistic minister, bringing communion to nursing home residents and assisting with weekend retreats at Our Lady of the Mountains Retreat House in Ogden.

In 2009 Sister Jacinta retired to Saint Catherine by the Mountains Retreat House, Ventura and baptized in honor of Mary of Perpetual Help, Maria Socorro, the fourth of five children. Sister Jacinta recalled her decision to become a Sister of the Holy Cross: “The Lord … helped me to bring together several concepts: the happiness and joy of the sisters in community, their joy in their mission states. Sister Jacinta made initial profession of vows in 1950.

Sister was an elementary and secondary teacher from 1950 to 1974 in Catholic schools staffed by Sisters of the Holy Cross in SACRAMENTO, FRESNO, LOS ANGELES, SANTA ANA and Mountain View, California. She was also very involved in northern California with Cursillo retreats, the Unitarian Universalists, and peace movements.

Hispanic and home mission work became Sister Jacinta’s full-time ministry in 1974. She helped found and then spent nine years establishing Centro Pastoral, later known as the Diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry of San José, California. She also was a founding member of the Holy Cross Hispanic Ministry Committee.

Beginning in 1984, Sister Jacinta ministered with immigrant Spanish-speaking communities in Richfield and Salt Lake City, Utah, the latter at Holy Cross Ministries of Utah, 1999-2009. She mentored seminarians at Assumption Seminary for the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas, 1989-1993. Later she worked in parishes in Monterrey and Guadalupe, Nuevo León, Mexico.

In 2009 Sister Jacinta retired to Saint Catherine by the Mountains Retreat House, Ventura and embraced her new assignment to a ministry of prayer. She continued on the next page.
missionaries who started preaching God’s message. … We also want to remember their contributions with this museum.”

In 1963, at the invitation of Archbishop Lawrence Leo Graner, CSC, of the Archdiocese of Dhaka, the Sisters of the Holy Cross started their mission in Ranikhong, Mymensingh, after the Salesian Sisters of Mary Immaculate withdrew from ministry there. Since 1967, the sisters have worked in area schools, hostels and sewing centers, and ministered in villages in Jalchatra and Pirgacha parishes.

Opening the museum’s inauguration, Bishop Ponen Paul Kubi, CSC, of the Mymensingh Diocese, who is a member of the Garo people, shared a prayer and blessing with 300 Garo Catholics who were present for the event. Several Sisters of the Holy Cross also attended, including Sister M. Bruno (Beiro), who began her ministry with the Garo people in the late 1960s, as well as Sisters Violet Rodrigues, Area of Asia coordinator, Tul Drong, Parbotti (Gomes), Mala Kubi, Susuma Costa, Sheema Purification, and Semaria Tongpia.

The two-story museum also features an auditorium named for Father Eugene E. Homrich, CSC, who worked for 60 years in the area. “Finally, my desire to have the museum comes true,” said Bishop Kubi. “I am very happy to be able to open it.”

Local Sisters of the Holy Cross and 300 Garos attended the January 10, 2020, opening of the Ama A∙chik Rasang Museum in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, which pays tribute to the local Garo culture and the religious who brought Christianity to the region.

Help the sisters celebrate!

Jubilee may have been postponed for this year, but the occasion is still vitally important. Help Sisters Miriam P. (Cooney), Maria Regina (Gomes), Sharon Ann Milhm, Kathleen Johnson, Linda Koss, Mitrali Mee, Mala Kubi and Cecilia Karuna Corraya celebrate their milestone jubilees. A note or card can be sent to the Development Office and we will forward it for you. Or order our 2020 Jubilee card from our website at www.cscsisters.org/order-a-remembrance-card-2/.

Tell us your CONTACT PREFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My donations are Anonymous. Do not list my name.</th>
<th>I have named the “Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc.” in my will.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please send information about naming the “Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc.” in my will.</td>
<td>Please mail to me once a year (fall appeal only, no magazine).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>email spirit magazine is available in print and on the website.</td>
<td>Send me the print edition of inSpirit magazine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notify me by email when inSpirit is available on the website.</td>
<td>Be sure to add <a href="mailto:development@cscsisters.org">development@cscsisters.org</a> to your contact list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please take me off your mailing list.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Mail this form to the address at the bottom of the page or email your list to development@cscsisters.org with the subject: Circle of Saints. Names must be received by September 5.
MOREAU GARDEN

Gardens are a space for reflection, gratitude and connection with our loved ones. The Moreau Garden Book of Remembrance offers you a place to make a gift in honor or in memory of someone who will be remembered in the daily prayers of our novices and sisters. Add your name or the name of someone you love by sending the form below and a minimum donation of $200, which will benefit our Ministry With the Poor and Retirement funds.

This gift is:  ❑ in honor  ❑ in memory
Print name as it should appear in the book on the line below (up to 42 characters and spaces).

Send a Garden Remembrance Card to:
Name _____________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City __________________________ State _______ ZIP _______

Donor Information:
Sign card from ____________________________
Card # ________________________ Expiration Date _______

Daytime telephone ____________________________

Method of Payment: Moreau Garden

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of $200 or more for each listing (up to 42 characters and spaces). Amount $ _______

Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross
Credit card:  ❑ Visa  ❑ MasterCard  ❑ Discover  ❑ American Express
Card #: ____________________ Expiration Date _______

Name on the credit card (please print) ____________________________
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) 294-5641.

2020 CHRISTMAS CARDS

Celebrate the joy and promise of Christmas by sending your friends and family this brilliant card designed by Sister Alma Mary (Anderson), CSC.

Your card will be personalized to tell your recipients that you have given a gift in their names and 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. Order early; cards will not be mailed until after Thanksgiving.

To view and order the card online, go to www.cscsisters.org/orders-a-remembrance-card-2. You may also order by phone: (574) 284-5641, or mail: using the form below. (Please list additional recipients on separate paper.)

Send a Christmas card to:
Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City __________________________ State _______ ZIP _______
❑ Christmas greeting  ❑ in memory of ____________________________

Donor information:
Sign card from ____________________________
Card # ________________________ Expiration Date _______

Daytime telephone ____________________________

Method of Payment: Christmas Cards

Amount $ _______

Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross
Credit card:  ❑ Visa  ❑ MasterCard  ❑ Discover  ❑ American Express
Card #: ____________________ Expiration Date _______

Name on the credit card (please print) ____________________________
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.

“Sharing love and comfort”

Sister’s service to hospice patients spans decades

Sister Carmel Marie (Sallows), CSC, has seen firsthand how hospice care can make a ground difference in the lives of patients and their families. Touched by the hospice care provided to her mother and sister by dedicated staff and volunteers, Sister Carmel committed herself to this ministry of compassionate care.

“My mother died in 1997, and I was just so warmed by the attentiveness of the hospice staff,” she says. “I made a pledge to my mother that I would give back as a volunteer in appreciation. Since that day in 1997, I have kept that promise.”

For more than 22 years, Sister Carmel has volunteered nearly every day at the Mishawaka, Indiana-based Center for Hospice Care (CFHC). Since 1980, CFHC has helped patients and their loved ones face the end of life in the best way possible, providing comfort and eliminating pain. In her volunteer role, Sister Carmel visits patients and their families almost every week. She listens and prays with them, but most importantly, she is present for whatever their needs may be. Sister Carmel’s main goal is sharing love and comfort. She has also worked with grieving children at weekend camps, conducted home visitations with suffering families and helped with fundraising for the CFHC.

In 2007 Sister Carmel was awarded the John E. Krueger, M.D., Hospice Caring Award. In 2018 the CFHC presented the Helping Hands Award to Sister Carmel and established a fund in her name: the Sister Carmel Helping Hands Fund. This fund aids those who do not have the financial means to receive the treatment, medication and services needed at the end of life.

“I am so honored to have the Hospice Helping Hands Fund named in my honor, knowing that no one, regardless of their ability to pay, will be turned away. As a Sister of the Holy Cross, it is especially meaningful to me because we have always had a ‘preferential option for the poor,’” Sister Carmel said upon receiving the Helping Hands Award.

This year Sister Carmel was awarded Ministry With the Poor funds to help extend CFHC’s outreach in the South Bend, Indiana, community. As for her more than two decades of ministering with hospice patients, Sister Carmel says, “I am humbled. I don’t count my years; it seems like a short time but a very good time. I will continue volunteering as long as I am able.”

ABOVE: Holy Cross Sisters Carmel Marie (Sallows), left, and Mary Pius (Schwiers), far right, join other volunteers for a Center for Hospice Care fundraising event. LEFT: Sister M. Carlita (Hammes), CSC, left, and Sister Carmel Marie (Sallows), CSC, enjoy a light-hearted moment at the motherhouse at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana. Photos courtesy of Center for Hospice Care and Lollymarie Photography
My parents were married in 1932 and lived in central Indiana. Times were difficult as we 12 children came along in the Great Depression and World War II. At 5 years of age, we each received a homemade fishing pole and a little hoe to help garden.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Tipton, Indiana, always sat in the pew behind us at Mass. I loved it when they invited me to sit with them. I wanted to be a missionary from childhood when I saw pamphlets about children who needed help. It was just what I wanted to do: help families!

When I was in high school, our diocese promoted a vocational encounter, which led me to meet Sister Kathryn Marie (Gibbons), CSC, [then] Midwest provincial, in South Bend, Indiana. There, I began my way in Holy Cross. In 1953 I received the habit and a new name: Sister M. Rose Martin (Rose of Lima and Martin de Porres, saints of South America). My first mission experiences involved teaching elementary grades in Illinois.

In 1959 Mother Kathryn Marie, [who became] the Congregation’s superior general, invited me to “come prepare for foreign missions.” Two years later, I was sent to Brazil—what joy!

I taught at our school, Colégio Santa Maria, which grew rapidly, becoming one of the best and most complete educational complexes of São Paulo.

When Vatican II came, it brought an “openness” that helped God’s kingdom move forward. There was such joy in all that had to be done: literacy, land and water rights, homes to be built, health to be restored. I was involved with a government program to end illiteracy and get personal documents for everyone.

In 1973 I was sent to Paraná. The Church began the Pastoral Land Movement because almost no one had land titles. Families had been in these areas for generations. The battles with big landowners brought violence and deaths. We also began literacy classes and formed women’s groups. In 47 years in Paraná, we [Pastoral Land Movement] have [acquired documents for] and settled 14,000 families who can support themselves.

These 59 years in Brazil have been fantastic, but I haven’t stopped for rest yet. At 85, I feel there is still much to be done! Welcome to Telêmaco Borba, Paraná, Brazil!