Dear Friends,

This issue of inSpirit shares a bit of the graced weeks that 34 Sisters of the Holy Cross and seven devoted staff spent in Shillong, India, at the General Chapter. It is a daunting task to try to put into words and pictures our feelings, thoughts and emotions as we experienced the work of the Spirit leading the discernment and articulation of a direction for the Congregation and the election of a new General Leadership Team.

Many of you have walked with us in prayerful support over the last two years as we sought to attune our hearts to the life-giving rhythms of the God of Transforming Love, so that we, in turn, could better become love for the life of the world. Your support was tangibly felt each day as we gathered around the table of Eucharist and the tables of our Chapter room. Your prayers gave us courage to persevere in finding God’s call to us at this time in history and to celebrate the ways we need to engage our global presence to incarnate the Gospel for Earth and her peoples.

For those who are new to our process, I hope that reading about and seeing the many faces of our sisters at Chapter and around the world will inspire you to walk with courage your own life journey, spreading, as only you can, the grace of God’s love to all creation. I also invite you to reflect on our Chapter Direction Statement (on page 11) and to continue to pray with and for us as we move through a leadership transition and engage in the work of the statement in this Pentecost season.

As president of the Congregation, it has been my pleasure for the last five years to write these short letters to introduce each issue of inSpirit.

With a new General Leadership Team, I look forward to deepening our relationship over the next five years as we hurry and take up the work of resurrection that is ours to do!

In Holy Cross,

Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC
President, Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross
Creation of icon a spiritual journey

by Sister Eileen Dewsnup, CSC

Religious iconography is endowed with many purposes—to honor those depicted, to encourage introspection and spiritual meditation, to prompt emulation of the subject’s qualities and holiness. Intended as a gateway to religious experience for the viewer, it also invites the person who fashions the image into deep spiritual encounter.

For me that has certainly been true, especially during the two years that I was creating an icon of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, founder of the congregations of Holy Cross.

My own reflection on this project, which spanned from January 2017 to December 2018, exemplifies that I could not have done it without support of friends, family and community.

Two benefactors need to be acknowledged: Theresa Rohter, my mentor in the Icon Guild of Southern California, and Edward Beckert, the instructor for the Prosopon School of Iconology, to which the guild belongs. Theresa, my trusted friend and guide, donated the indented board for the icon and the sheets of gold for the gilding. Edward helped me face the initial problem of having found no icon prototype for Moreau. That meant I must do an initial sketch, a skill I had not mastered well. This subtlety presented many obstacles from the beginning to the end of this icon. But Edward oversaw the initial and final steps of its creation, as it is appropriate and necessary for any iconographer to submit her work to a master iconographer.

My brother-in-law, Darrell Perry, whose hobby is portrait sketching, started the icon face of Moreau by giving me the essential characteristics from Moreau’s portrait; Sister M. Leonora (Donnelly), CSC, strongly exhorted me to please make him look somewhat more pleasant; Jackie, my youngest sister, often encouraged me in my many sketching efforts.

For sure, the commitment of essential lines traced on the board took a few months.

Next came the laying of the bole (clay) to receive the gilding. As I was not sure if a “Blessed” could have a halo, my solution was to lay the whole background in gold. Moreau was not going to be ignored in this matter. However, at an iconography workshop Sister Nancy Lee Smith, IHM, a professional iconographer, cleared the matter for me: “It is indeed permissible for a ‘Blessed’ to have a halo.”

Once the first colors were laid down, the three sequential steps of lighting and glazing provided the internal movements and structures that are devised to convey the holiness of the person portrayed. The Holy Cross sisters in the Saint Agnes community in Los Angeles, California, cheered and supported me each step along the way.

In May 2018, when I reached a decision to retire to Saint Mary’s in Indiana, the icon was boxed up ever so carefully and shipped. Sister Joy O’Grady, CSC, Area of North America coordinator, provided a room where I could continue working on the piece, and she and many other sisters offered much encouragement.

All these influences, and more, are inscribed among the details of the icon—now blessed and ready for prayerful viewing and reflection.
Dinila Nokrek celebrates the groundbreaking of the new Prottasha Sewing Center in Kulaura, Bangladesh. Sister Promila Gomes, CSC, will serve as director of the Prottasha Sewing Center.

The Prottasha Sewing Center in Kulaura, Bangladesh, is getting a new home with the construction of a three-story facility that will expand the vocational training ministry. The center offers sewing programs to women in the rural area, helping them develop skills that can lead to employment, income and economic security.

In 2006, the Prottasha (meaning “hope” in Bengali) Sewing Center ministry began providing sewing training to young girls who had dropped out of school and to young mothers from low-income families. Last year, Holy Cross School, which provides education to children living in poverty in the region, opened in the same building.

However, growing enrollment soon made it difficult for the two ministries to co-exist in the structure, creating the need for another facility.

The new sewing center, financed primarily by 8xmille* funds of the Italian Catholic Church, will accommodate at least 40 women at a time, nearly doubling the number of women trained. Beginning sewers and more advanced trainees, who learn techniques such as embroidery, will have dedicated work spaces in the building’s first two floors. Multiple shifts will be offered each day between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to extend the ministry to as many women as possible.

The top floor will feature living space to accommodate women from the high hills who cannot safely commute to the center—a first for the ministry. The women, typically between 16 and 20 years old, often suffer from malnourishment and lack the skills and confidence to find work on their own. Through this ministry, the Sisters of the Holy Cross are working to empower women and to help improve their lives, offering them not only new skills, but support, values and habits that will benefit them well into the future.

“The 8 percent of total income tax revenue collected from the Italian citizenry that is allocated to religious entities recognized by the country is used primarily by 8xmille* funds of the Italian Catholic Church, will accommodate at least 40 women at a time, nearly doubling the number of women trained. Beginning sewers and more advanced trainees, who learn techniques such as embroidery, will have dedicated work spaces in the building’s first two floors.”

The inquisitive and questioning adults, a mix of men and women, are from a wide range of educational backgrounds, life experiences, occupations and faith traditions. Over the years, they have offered thoughtful, reasoned questions and commentary on books such as “When Women Were Priests: Women’s Leadership in the Early Church” by Karen Torjesen, and “Rescuing the Bible From Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture” by Bishop John Spong.

“Without ever quite meaning to, Sister Frances B. O’Connor, CSC, has tapped into this yearning. For nearly two decades, she has spent 10 weeks each fall and spring semester guiding a packed roomful of retired adults through in-depth discussions on a selected, theologically framed book.”

The thirst is out there. People who yearn for an understanding of the world in which we live, who ponder questions about theology, who want to dialogue with others and discover deeper truths—about themselves, about religion, about how we navigate this thing called life.

Sister Frances B. O’Connor, CSC

Participants gather for 10 weeks each fall and spring to engage in discussions on theology facilitated by Sister Frances B. O’Connor, CSC.

“I thought there was no one else who had questions like me about not just Catholicism, but Christianity and religion in general,” said long-time participant Barbara Zana. “It has really helped me in being able to understand myself and my own path that I’ve taken.”

The class began informally in 2001 when a friend of Sister Frances mentioned she had questions about a book she was reading. Sister Frances offered to help and they invited others to join in. From that initial class of six, Sister Frances now hosts anywhere from 25 to 50 people each semester (some of whom have been there since day one), and maintains a waiting list of others who hope to join when an opening becomes available.

Starting out in a small classroom 19 years ago at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Indiana, the class is now held in a meeting room at Holy Cross Village, a senior living community on the college’s campus.

“I have loved this class,” said Denise Roemer. “It’s been one of the greatest gifts of my life because it just opens your mind and it’s a spiritual experience as well.”

Her friend Pat Moriarity added, “I get so much knowledge and information out of this class, talking and interacting with people who have the same feelings as I do.” Pat happily points out that she is a 1953 graduate of Saint Mary’s College.

continued on the next page
Victims of violence memorialized

by Lourdes Valdivia

Originally published in Intermountain Catholic, April 5, 2019.
Reprinted with permission.

SALT LAKE CITY — The messages, embroidered in red thread on white handkerchiefs, tell horrific stories of violence and death. They are memorials, meant to bring attention to those who have suffered and died because of the drug war in the United States and Mexico, for those who have died crossing the desert while seeking sanctuary, for those who have disappeared.

Back in 2011 Fuentes Rojas (Red Fountains) originated in Mexico City. The original purpose of this collective project was to raise a voice for the victims of violence caused by the U.S.-Mexico drug war.

As the years passed, Fuentes Rojas formed Bordados por la Paz (Embroidering for Peace) with the idea of creating a memorial for each of the victims, widening their focus to victims of feminicide, forced disappearances, and individuals who have died crossing the desert seeking sanctuary in the United States.

The movement has spread all over the world, and on April 14, 2018, members of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Mexico and the United States decided to start making embroidery pieces for the cause.

“The Sisters of the Holy Cross got hold of Valerie James, who is one of the initiators of this effort,” said Holy Cross Sister Verónica Fajardo, one of the sisters of Utah who have participated in the effort. After a presentation from James, several sisters from Mexico and the U.S. each made an embroidered piece commemorating the people who have passed away due to the violence.

Each piece displays information from police reports about the victim’s death in words that are hand-embroidered with red thread on a white handkerchief. The information is embroidered in Spanish.

“Handkerchief was specifically selected as the background for the message because it is used to dry the tears of those mourning the loss of a loved one,” said Sister Verónica A. Fajardo, CSC.

On May 5, 2019, the Holy Cross Sisters of Utah invited the associates, who are lay people associated with the Holy Cross Sisters, to join the project. They selected the theme “Bordados por paz y memoria.”

In addition to Sister Verónica, the Associate Leadership Team is comprised of Holy Cross Sisters Catherine Kamphaus, associate superintendent of Utah Catholic Schools, and Geneva Rolf, who is retired; Kandie Brinkman, Jackie Capella and Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson.

Other Utah Holy Cross Associates participating include Bertha Soto, Cate O’Hare Adams, Clara Brennan, Debby Casperza, Edna Pirese, Esmire Gaidoner, Esperanza Ainsa, Eidel Clark, Joan Spence, Judy Shape, Kay Hamilton, Marco Gutierrez, Margarita Vizcarraga, Mariél Cortez and Mariél Real.

Some of the embroidered pieces already have been completed; others are still in process.

“When we finish them, we send them back to James, and she delivers them to Fuentes Rojas in Mexico,” Sister Verónica said.

All the embroidered handkerchiefs [were to] be displayed in May in Coyoacán, a plaza in Mexico City.

Each piece will be numbered and also include the total number of pieces made up to that date.

One of Sister Verónica’s pieces reads in Spanish: “In a place known as the ‘Rincon,’ in a remote area that takes you to Escondida, more than 55 people per day, or just over two people every hour. “No other country in the Western Hemisphere had seen such a large increase in the number of homicides,” according to the INEGI web page.

In the 2018 fiscal year, 283 deaths were registered by the U.S. Border Patrol, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. In the past 10 years alone, some 2,000 migrants—men, women, children and the elderly—have died this way.

A 2017 joint report from the National Women’s Institute in Mexico and the UN Women highlighted the increase of feminicides, from an annual rate of 3.8 per 100,000 women in 1985 to 4.6 in 2016. The National Citizen Observatory on Femicide (Observatorio Nacional contra el Femicidio) released figures that there were 800 feminicides between January and June 2017.

Record of violence

From 2012 to 2018 Mexico’s National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Information (INEGI) reported 139,758 intentional homicides, an average of over 22,293 people per year, more than 55 people per day, or just over two people every hour. “No other country in the Western Hemisphere had seen such a large increase in its homicide rate or in the absolute number of homicides,” according to the INEGI web page.

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Sisters energized to help bring healing, wholeness to the world

2019 General Chapter

"With your Spirit, come, transform us, O God. Give us willing hands to serve. Set our hearts after 'til they beat as one to be love for the life of the world, transforming love for the life of the world."

Animated by God’s transforming love, the Sisters of the Holy Cross proclaim their commitment to be prophetic witnesses with all members of the human family who share our values and our hope for reconciliation and peace.

“We do not do this work alone,” said Sister Veronique, 2019 General Chapter president, who was elected to a second five-year term. “It is only in partnership with others—our employees, volunteers, benefactors, Holy Cross Associates and prayerful supporters—that we can respond to the signs of the times, heal the world’s wounds and mend its brokenness through the transforming love of God.”

Sister Veronique continued, “At the Chapter we recognized anew that this healing begins with each of us individually as we live our call to holiness, community and intercultural living. That wholeness, that shalom, flows forth into ministry, service to the Church and communion with others who share our values and our hopes for all of God’s people and for creation.”

General Chapter: A graced time for the Congregation

Holy Cross sisters, candidates and discerners whose generosity and faith inspire and humble us in our common call to holiness.

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General Chapter:

A graced time for the Congregation

Holy Cross sisters, candidates and discerners from the Asia Area, along with the MIIT staff, warmly welcomed the 34 Chapter delegates from four continents, along with facilitator Sister Emma Beazie, SJNIM, a translator and five employees from Saint Mary’s. The beautiful gestures of hospitality, genuineness of spirit and attention to detail created an atmosphere conducive to prayer, community-building, conversation and celebration throughout the days of Chapter.

Chapter delegates and staff were greeted with the laying of an embroidered red and white Assamese gamchha (a shawl-like towel) around their shoulders, presented with flowers, and invited to watch festive tribal dances and sample food from North East India. The beauty of the Indian people and culture was present throughout the Chapter and contributed to the sacredness of this important congregational gathering.

The General Chapter, convened every five years, has two main components: the Chapter of Affairs, during which a direction is articulated that reflects God’s call to the Congregation for this age and time; and the Chapter of Elections, during which a new General Leadership Team (GLT) is elected to engage the membership in the implementation of the Direction Statement throughout the Congregation.

The Chapter is a period of time of prayer, conversation and deep listening. It is a time to be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as the sisters seek to respond to the signs of the times emerging for us today.

Directed and sent by the Holy Spirit, we choose and commit ourselves anew to witness to God’s desire for the transformation of human hearts, human relationships and all creation. Let us “hurry then, and take up this work of resurrection.”


Delegates to the 2019 General Chapter of the Sisters of the Holy Cross assemble outside the Moreau Institute of Integral Training, Shillong, India. Some sisters hold posters for a campaign denouncing human trafficking at the Pan India. Moreau Institute of Integral Training, Shillong, Sisters of the Holy Cross assemble outside the from the Congregation’s Twenty-sixth General Chapter held May 12–22 in Shillong, North East India, at the Moreau Institute of Integral Training (MIIT), operated by the Congregation of Holy Cross. The 2019 Chapter Direction Statement specifically expresses the sisters’ desire to partner with companions on the journey to heal our world and give witness to God’s transforming love:

“We stand together with peoples and companions whose generosity and faith inspire and humble us in our common call to holiness.”

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Delegates to the 2019 General Chapter of the Sisters of the Holy Cross assemble outside the Moreau Institute of Integral Training, Shillong, India. Some sisters hold posters for a campaign denouncing human trafficking at the Pan American and Parapan American Games, Lima, Peru, July 26–August 11. Not pictured: Sister Angela Golapi Palma, CSC.

Direction Statement of the Twenty-sixth General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross

May 12–22, 2019—Shillong, India

We, Sisters of the Holy Cross, celebrate our call to be witnesses of God’s transforming love for the life of the world. With Mary, our compassionate mother, we stand at the foot of the cross in this time and place. Today we walk with and in the midst of those suffering from violence and injustices of every kind. Systemic and structural greed, individualism and abuse of power threaten to destroy the human family and the planet that sustains us. These signs of the times cry out for healing and wholeness. We stand together with peoples and communities who share our global and faith inspire and humble us in our common call to holiness.

In the midst of these various realities, we seek new ways to build and deepen our relationships with one another and the world as we embrace diversities. We desire to be prophetic witnesses with all members of the human family who share our values and our hope for reconciliation and peace.

As women with passion for mission who embrace the cross as our only hope, we commit to:

• Reflect on and live together the call to holiness, community and intercultural living in today’s world by identifying and using communal practices that deepen the following of this call. Practices such as contemplative listening, communal prayer, mutual discernment and intercultural skill building will assist us in living and ministering as consecrated women for whom the teachings and counsels of the Gospel are rule of life.

• Evolve methods to plan, minister and exercise leadership that will connect local, Area and Congregation-wide efforts to engage our global presence. These methods will enhance lived promotion of the common good.

• Explore, discern together, practice and promote new ways and models of community and governance emerging for us today.

Guided and sent by the Holy Spirit, we choose and commit ourselves anew to witness to God’s desire for the transformation of human hearts, human relationships and all creation. Let us “hurry then, and take up this work of resurrection.”

*Excerpted from “Christian Education,” by Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau

Guided and sent by the Holy Spirit, we choose and commit ourselves anew to witness to God’s desire for the transformation of human hearts, human relationships and all creation. Let us “hurry then, and take up this work of resurrection.”

*Excerpted from “Christian Education,” by Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau
“We do not do this work alone. It is only in partnership with others … that we can heal the world’s wounds and mend its brokenness through the transforming love of God.”

— Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC

“...to share the love that Jesus has given us with the whole world.”

Direction Statement: Commitment and hope

After hearing the third draft of the Direction Statement, which incorporated language from statements previously surfaced by all sisters, the delegates unanimously approved it, and the Chapter room erupted into joyful acclamation with songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

“Our sisters around the world are full of energy, full of life and full of hope,” said Sister Lucy Lalsangthani, CSC, of India. "Added Sister Conceição Nogueira dos Santos, CSC, of Brazil, “This statement is hope. We have lots of verbs in it, [calling us to] action.”

Sister Lillian Nyakaisiki, CSC, of Uganda expressed faith in God as the Congregation anticipates implementing the statement: “The Bible calls us 365 times—fear not, fear not—so I’m being reminded that we should not fear. … This is not our work. It is the work of God.”

Chapter of Elections: Prayer and partnership

The Chapter of Elections opened with the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the delegates praying to God and seeking Divine Wisdom as they continued discerning the leaders who would be charged with facilitating the new Direction Statement throughout the Congregation. The Chapter body maintained a contemplative stance as it engaged in its sacred responsibility of electing the 2019-2024 General Leadership Team. Sister M. Veronique was elected president. Councilors elected were Holy Cross Sisters Pushpa Teresa Gomes, Suzanne Brennan, Esther Adjoa Entwiwah and Mary Tiernan.

“We look forward to working together as a team and working with all sisters on the Direction Statement, said Councilor-elect Sister Esther, of Ghana.

Added Councilor-elect Sister Mary, of the United States, “The desire for relationships that are meaningful for us and also for the world in which we live and serve… is central. Part of our hope would be that collaboration within (the Congregation) and (with others) will give tools and spaces where these relationships can really develop.”

“I believe our new Leadership Team has an open heart and open spirit and will help to move the Congregation forward,” said Sister Kolpoma Costa, CSC, of Bangladesh. “The world we are living in is wounded, but at the same time, we have hope… We don’t feel we are alone. There are many good people who value the same things we value as Sisters of the Holy Cross. We will work together to try to make this world a better place.”

To view more photos from the 2019 General Chapter, visit www.sisters.org/chapter-2019.

A spirit of hospitality, openness and courage

The engaged delegates shared their reflections and conversations at the Chapter. They deliberated and refined myriad issues in the process to the opening Mass of the 2019 General Chapter.

Chapter of Affairs: Hospitality, openness and courage

A spirit of hospitality, openness and respect prevailed at Chapter. The internationality and interculturality of the Sisters of the Holy Cross were celebrated through language, clothing, prayer, food and social activities. The numerous cultures in which Holy Cross sisters live and minister were represented in the environment of the Chapter room with flowers, candles, displays, tablecloths and other decorations. Special featured photographs of Sisters of the Holy Cross who had gone home to God whose shoulders the present sisters stand.

The engaged delegates shared their thoughts during small group conversations at the Chapter prior to the election of the General Leadership Team.

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New team elected

The delegates of the Twenty-sixth General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross elected the 2019-2024 General Leadership Team (GLT) on May 21, 2019, in Shillong, India. Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, was elected president. Councilors elected were Sisters Pushpa Tereza Gomes, Suzanne Brennan, Esther Adjoa Entsiwah and Mary Tiernan. The new GLT will take office in the coming months.

President-elect Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, has served as Congregation president for the past five years. Before this leadership role, she worked for five years at Saint Mary's College, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, Indiana, serving as a campus minister and then vice president for Mission. Her prior ministries include teaching music to high school students and ministering at St. Joseph Seminary in Los Altos, California, where she served on the faculty and staff. She also was director of the Office of Women Religious for the Diocese of San Diego, California.

Sister Veronique worked in initial formation for the Congregation and from 1994 to 2004 she served on the Congregation’s Leadership Team. Sister Veronique entered the Congregation from San Diego in 1965.

Newly elected Councilor Sister Pushpa Tereza Gomes, CSC, has served as Area of Asia coordinator, and previously was a candidate director in Ghana and a country vocation animator. She has ministered in teaching, school administration, school counseling, and formation. Sister Esther also was a member of the Congregation’s General Committee for Finance, Congregation Stewardship Committee and Congregation Justice Committee. She entered the Congregation from Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana, in 1991.

Sister Mary Tiernan, CSC, has been serving in multicultural services. She was CEO of Intercultural Consultation Services for two years and then in 2018 began ministering at Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring, Maryland. She was on the initial International Novitiate team from 2009 to 2015, including as novice director from 2012 to 2015. Her ministries included nursing, parish administration, working with parents of children with disabilities, and opening missions in three dioceses in Brazil. She was on the Congregation Justice Committee for five years and on the Latin America formation team for five years, with four of those years as candidate director. After 26 years in Brazil, she was asked to discern and accepted returning to the motherhouse to create and coordinate the International Vocation Coordination Team from 2005 until 2010. Sister Mary entered the Congregation from Silver Spring, Maryland, in 1971.

Mount Carmel Health carries on Congregation’s legacy

Sisters of the Holy Cross responded to a community’s need for nurses when Mother M. Angela (Gillespie), CSC, and Sister M. Rufina (Dunn), CSC, traveled to Columbus, Ohio, in 1886 to convert a four-story red brick building into the Hawkes Hospital of Mount Carmel. The hospital had 18 private rooms, an operating room and two wards—giving the sisters the opportunity to provide health care to the community, including those living in severe poverty, orphaned children and single mothers.

“The sisters go where they’re needed and do what needs to be done. Our work started in Columbus with one hospital and it created the Mount Carmel Health System that serves more than one million patients a year,” said Sister Barbara Hahl, CSC, senior vice president of Community Health and Well Being for the health system. “The mission remains the same—to provide exceptional health care to all.”

The Mount Carmel Foundation honored the legacy of the Congregation by creating a $500,000 Outreach and Humanity Endowment and the Holy Cross Spirit Award, which were unveiled at the health system’s Champagne & Diamonds Gala in February. Sisters Judith Anne Beattie, Barbara Hahl, M. Veronique (Wiedower), M. Jean Ann (Smith) and Joy O’Grady represented the Congregation at the event.

The gala raised $1.1 million to fund a new Mount Carmel Outreach Mobile Coach, an urgent care center on wheels providing free basic medical care to the homeless and at-risk community members—an initiative that carries on the sisters’ mission to provide quality health care to all those in need.

“The Sisters of the Holy Cross created a special legacy in Central Ohio with their selfless, compassionate work. With transformation underway at the Mount Carmel Health System they created, the time was right to recognize and honor the sisters in a way that ensures their legacy will continue in the future,” noted Deanna Stewart, Mount Carmel Health System Foundation president.

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“The Sisters of the Holy Cross created a special legacy in Central Ohio with their selfless, compassionate work. With transformation underway at the Mount Carmel Health System they created, the time was right to recognize and honor the sisters in a way that ensures their legacy will continue in the future,” noted Deanna Stewart, Mount Carmel Health System Foundation president.
These Sisters of the Holy Cross were called home to God since the last issue of The Cross. While we feel their absence, we also feel the comfort of their presence in our thoughts and prayers. They are always in mission. From 1949 to 1963 she served in Brazil in every educational capacity at the Sisters of the Holy Cross Foundation in São Paulo. She was a spiritual mentor and teacher for young women being formed to consecrated life at Saint Mary's from 1963 to 1965 and for the Association for Religious in Uganda at Jinja and Binda, Mbarara, then the Banyateresa Novitiate in Fort Portal from 1968 to 1972. Sister Mildred Louise served in South Bend, Indiana, when she stepped in temporarily to assist the Religious Education Office for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 1973. She was a chaplain in Columbus, Ohio, at Saint Carmel Medical Center from 1974 to 1979 and from 1985 to 1986.

Sister had lived at the motherhouse at Saint Mary’s since 1986, continuing to use her many gifts to foster community life. In 2002, she began her full-time ministry of prayer at Saint Mary’s for the mission of the Congregation and in thanksgiving for its benefactors and friends.

Sister Anna Mae Golden, CSC

(Sister M. Joseph Anita)

April 28, 1930 – February 14, 2019

Entered from Takoma Park, Maryland

Initial profession on February 2, 1954

The Sisters of the Holy Cross learned early in the history of Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana, to think of themselves as “daughters of Father Moreau.” In January 2006 Sister Anna Mae Golden shared a reflection on Basil Anthony Moreau, the French priest who founded the Congregation. In her usual soft-spoken voice, she said clearly, “Moreau’s vision was to have members of the Congregation seek holiness for the mission and to call others to holiness through the mission.” When Mino Golden applied to enter the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1951, she was one of two daughters of William J. Golden and Ethel M. Mullikin. Anna Mae had just graduated from Danaherton College, Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics. After having advanced to the rank of major in 1945, as Sister M. Joseph Anita, she was missioned to either secondary education or higher education in high schools and colleges sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in the Eastern Province. Mathematics remained her strong suit, and she earned a Master of Science in mathematics in 1964 from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, and a doctorate in education in 1981 from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Positions related to mission, administration and strategic planning also came naturally to her. After a year as academic dean at Cardinal Cushing College in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1972 she went to Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she gave her full measure of service over several years. She was a member of the Saint Mary’s College Board of Trustees 1994–2004 and the Board of Regents 1976–1982 and 1988–1994. During those years, she chaired committees to develop the pastoral vision of the college from which the Center for Spirituality was founded in 1987. Sister Anna Mae was also the director of Admissions, the admission counselor for the Rome program, coordinator of Instrumental Planning and a lecturer in mathematics. By chairing the Education Committee, she devoted countless hours to ensure that the young women received a quality education during their four years at Saint Mary’s College. Her time on the Facilities and Grounds Committee reflected the tradition of aesthetics and beauty of the campus.

Elected in 1999 to the General Council of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Sister Anna Mae ministered until 2004 at the motherhouse at Saint Mary’s. She also served on hospital boards, notably at Mount Carmel Health System, Columbus, Ohio. Earlier, from 1985 to 1988, Sister was the vice-president for Mission Development at Saint Joseph’s Care Group, South Bend, Indiana. Her last active ministry was as a patient visitor from 2005 to 2007 at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend.

Sister Anna Mae died at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she had lived since 2009, still remembering the mission and being fully engaged in a life of holiness and prayer.

Sister M. Gertrude Anne, CSC

(Gertrude Anne Otis)

July 10, 1922 - February 17, 2019

Entered from Washington, D.C.

Initial profession on August 15, 1948

Chief Yeoman Gertrude Otis, of the United States Navy Reserve (USNR), was authorized to wear the Commendation Ribbon for meritorious services in the Headquarters of the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet; Washington D.C., from 1943 to
1945. As secretary to the chief of Naval Operations, she served Admiral Ernest J. King.

Seventy-two years ago, the young 23-year-old woman found herself in the midst of World War II and was invested with the holy habit of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana, on August 15, 1946. Sister M. Gertrude Anne, CSC, made perpetual profession of vows in 1951. As it would be like working for the Commander in Chief of heaven and earth!” Sister Gertrude Anne recalled this spontaneous expression. “With the power of God’s grace at work, I realized on the spot that I could do no better than give my life to God in the service of His people.”

Sister M. Gertrude Anne was born in Wesley, Iowa. Both parents were Catholic. Joseph Oris was a farmer, who died when Gertrude was a child. Her widowed mother, Mary Schwiderski, a housekeeper from Bavaria, Germany, had the greater influence on her spiritual formation.

Sister Gertrude Anne had excellent opportunities for education, with degrees from Saint Mary’s College: Bachelor’s in sacred doctrine in 1952, master’s in religion from the School of Sacred Theology in 1955, and a doctorate in sacred doctrine from the School of Sacred Theology in 1960. She had extensive experience as a college teacher and administrator serving in various capacities at Saint Mary’s College: registrar 1950–1958; attended Pontifical Institute Regina Mundi in Rome on a sabbatical for the college 1958–1959; taught theology and scripture 1959–1967; developed the Tucson Program in Costar, Arizona, 1972–1974.

From 1963 through 1986, Sister Gertrude Anne was director of novices for the Sisters of the Holy Cross during the Second Vatican Council, reshaping the opportunity to immerse novices in scripture as a foundation for their spiritual formation. Hence, I asked to work with Hispanics and the poor. Consequently, I found my way to McAllen, Texas, where I began in a migrant clinic and labor camp, then entered the pastoral care ministry stateside until 1997.

Sister Rose Virginia initially served in medical centers sponsored by the Congregation from 1949 to 1971 at Salt Lake City, Utah; Boise, Idaho; San Fernando, California; and Fresno, California. “Because of my personal need to grow further as an individual and to own my Hispanic heritage, I asked to work with Hispanics and the poor. Consequently, I found my way to McAllen, Texas, where I began in a migrant clinic and labor camp, then entered the pastoral care ministry at the request of the local bishop.”

By the time the Saint Mary’s community had gathered for the festive Easter morning liturgy at the motherhouse, Sister Joseph had already seen the Paschal Light of the risen Christ when she died on Easter Sunday. Sister M. Joseph Sullivan, CSC entered from Los Angeles, California on February 15, 1950. Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow) is grateful for Sister Joseph transitioned to the motherhouse, and in September 2000 she was superior at Lourdes Convent.

Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow) is grateful for Sister Joseph’s assistance to her and the Angelus Area during Sister Rose’s term as Area coordinator 2005-2010. Since 2010, Sister Joseph’s ministry of prayer has sustained her community in Saint Mary’s Convent where she will be remembered for her laughter, warmth and loving heart. When Sister celebrated her golden jubilee in 1995, Archbishop Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, of Chicago, wrote her with encouragement from the Holy Redeemer Parishioners. “Thank you for your commitment and generous response to the gospel of Jesus over these many years…. You have been a blessing to the church and to the family of Sisters of the Holy Cross.” Now, Sister Joseph celebrates where one year is as a thousand, and a thousand is as a year. Christ is risen!
Volunteering forges friendships

During National Volunteer Week, the Sisters of the Holy Cross celebrated the more than 100 individuals who share their time and friendship with the sisters at Saint Mary’s—playing games, singing songs, reading books and sharing stories. The following is a testimonial from a longtime volunteer at Saint Mary’s Convent.

I have been a volunteer at Saint Mary’s Convent for several years. I started as a sophomore at Saint Mary’s College who was apprehensive about joining Circle K International, a club that solely did volunteer work. But soon I was serving as convent commissioner for the club and organizing 20 girls for weekly activities and big events for the sisters. I fell in love with the atmosphere of the convent and spending time there. Coming from a strong Catholic family, I knew that I needed to give back and show love to the women who pray daily for those who need it most.

When I graduated from Saint Mary’s, I didn’t want to leave. I left Notre Dame, Indiana, and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where I lived for four years. That didn’t stop me from seeing and communicating with the sisters. I came back for visits and sent letters. When a job opportunity in Mohawk arose, the sisters got on board and prayed that I would return. One month later, I found myself moving back to South Bend and putting on my volunteer badge yet again. Lee Ann Moore, director of Activities and Volunteers, is so very welcoming to anyone who walks through the convent doors. No matter what I am doing, whether it is visiting with sisters, helping with events, or working in the Activity Resource Room, I love being a volunteer!

I spend time with women who give their whole lives to serving Christ. Why wouldn’t I want to spend some time every week serving them? I’ve gained so much by volunteering—most notably friendships and wonderful fellowship!

—by Olivia Arend

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

New email address for our stamp ministry: stamproom@cscsisters.org

Volunteer Olivia Arend, left, and Sister Jecenta Mynsong, CSC, enjoyed the companionship and events during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Saint Mary’s.
2019 CHRISTMAS CARDS

Sister Eileen Dewsnup, CSC, whose iconography is highlighted on page 4 of this issue of inSpirit, is sharing her variant of the Vladimir Mother of God icon with you for the 2019 Christmas Remembrance card. This beautiful pencil sketch celebrates the true meaning of Christmas. 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 https://www.cscisters.org/order-a-remembrance-card-2/. You may also order by phone at (574) 284-5641, or mail by 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:

Name ___________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
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Send a Garden Remembrance Card to:

Name _____________________________
Address __________________________________________
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Method of Payment — Christmas Cards

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Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross
Credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express
Card # _____________________________
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Mail to: Sisters of the Holy Cross, Development Office, 407 Bertrand Hall—Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5000; (574) 284-5641

MOREAU GARDEN

Gardens are spaces 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:

Name ___________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _______________________  State ____  ZIP________

Method of Payment — Moreau Garden

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of $200 or more for each listing (up to 42 characters and spaces). Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross Amount $ ___________

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

Donors help restore historic bell, clock at motherhouse

Restoring the historic bell and clock on the Center Building at the Congregation’s motherhouse at Saint Mary’s has been a project many years in the making. The project became a reality in 2018 during the 175th anniversary of the sisters’ 1843 arrival in Indiana.

The clock, with faces on four sides of the tower, had not functioned since the 1960s. It was originally driven by weights, then replaced with an electric system in the 1930s. The restoration project replaced the failed operating equipment to allow for digital programming to set the clock’s time. Additionally, the dial hands and clock faces were replaced with weatherproof materials to protect them from outside elements and make them easier to read.

The bell, cast in 1879 (likely due to damage) was gifted to the sisters by Holy Cross Founder Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, according to archival records. It was placed in the Center Building bell tower when the building was constructed in 1889. The bell originally chimed for the Angelus prayer, funerals and other community celebrations. Due to age and equipment failure, the bell's programming had been limited to tolling on the hour. Restoration has enabled the sisters to program the bell for community events and allows for easy operation via wireless remote technology.

“We are grateful to all our donors who supported this restoration project,” said Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow), CSC, director of Development. “We especially thank several Saint Mary’s College alumnae donors who have a deep love of the campus, and local community partners, including Alick’s Home Medical Equipment and Saint Joseph Health System.” Some donors gave gifts in memory of individual sisters, recognizing their many years of loving contributions to the Saint Mary’s community.

This generosity ensures that the bell and clock remain functioning fixtures on the campus for years to come.
A PAGE IN MY JOURNEY
SISTER SCHOLASTICA ELIZABETH AMPADU, CSC

I first contemplated the call to religious life when I was in seventh grade. One morning at school, the bell summoned all the pupils to the assembly grounds—a diocesan priest was waiting to talk to us about religious vocations. Call it love at first sight or curiosity, but his talk touched the core of my being, and there and then, I decided to be a sister—without fully understanding what it meant. Before the end of the academic school year, I was accepted into the seminary.

During the five years that I spent in the school, my interactions with the male students challenged me. The boys’ attitude was to surpass the girls in every activity. With determination and hard work, I rose to par with them. At the end of the five years, I decided that I still wanted to be a sister because I felt like doing something special for God.

I was in school doing my undergraduate coursework when I met Sister M. Jane Chantal (Method), CSC, who welcomed me and told me a lot about the Sisters of the Holy Cross. I was attracted to the fact that the Holy Cross family has sisters, brothers and priests.

Being in the Holy Cross community has offered me the chance to interact with children and youth. I have been given the opportunity to teach children in the Holy Cross Family Centre and to minister to the sick. Currently, I teach at the Sekondi Nurses and Midwifery Training College in Ghana. These have been grace-filled moments for me. Holy Cross has given me the opportunity to deepen my prayer life, reassess my relationship with God, and be hope-filled.

Sister Scholastica Elizabeth Ampadu of Ghana made her initial profession of vows with the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 2006 and her perpetual profession in 2012.