Dear Friends and Partners in Mission,

Given our grave concern for the unprecedented numbers of peoples around the world who are forced to flee their homes and homelands, the Sisters of the Holy Cross have affirmed a Corporate Stand on Migration. The stand empowers sisters to speak out publicly on issues related to migration—and to take action—in the name of the Congregation.

As our partners in mission, we invite you to do what you can, wherever you are, to stand up for the rights of all people who are far from home and who seek shelter and security in camps, other temporary situations and our own communities.

With gratitude for your love and support,
The Sisters of the Holy Cross
Dear Friends,

As I sit to compose this letter for the Annual Giving Report issue of inSpirit, we are in the midst of celebrating the feasts of St. André Bessette and Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, and the anniversary of death of Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors, all in January. These three Holy Cross religious—though from different times, families of origin and professional backgrounds—each found inspiration and strength serving Holy Cross in the work entrusted to them by God.

The stories found in these pages, along with the lists of our generous and devoted benefactors, similarly tell of women and men of many chronological ages, countries, families of origin and professional backgrounds who are committed to the various works entrusted to them in support of the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Some of these works, such as care of creation, are literally cosmic in their implications, requiring collaboration with many groups of people; other service is more intimate and personal, like sewing dresses for young girls, revealing the special gifts and talents of individuals.

One cosmic initiative central to our mission is the Congregation’s Corporate Stand on Migration, affirmed in October 2019. We Sisters of the Holy Cross cannot do this work alone. Pope Francis has called all people of faith to join together to welcome and protect migrants and refugees, and to promote and support their integration into society. As you read the Corporate Stand on Migration (page 17) and the related articles (pages 12–17) in this issue, I hope and pray that you will be inspired to do what you can, wherever you are, in the groups you are connected with, to care for these vulnerable women, men and children in our midst.

As I give thanks for the generosity of our benefactors, revealed in a variety of ways, I see reflected a deep commitment to the Holy Cross values of compassion, faith, prayer and community. Shared gifts of time, talent and treasure speak of our oneness as witnesses of God’s transforming love and grace on you and your families in this new year. My soul is filled with joy and strength serving Holy Cross in the work entrusted to them by God.

2020 finds us in a new year and a new decade that invites us to explore and promote hope for a world of justice and peace in fresh ways and with renewed courage. Thank you for continuing the journey with us! I ask God’s blessings and grace on you and your families in this new year.

In Holy Cross,

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

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Stitching spans three continents

Sharing the gift of sewing
Remembering how special it was to receive a new dress rather than hand-me-downs during her growing up years, an anonymous donor decided to share this joy with little girls who live on another continent.

Using her skills on a sewing machine, she created some colorful dresses she felt certain they would enjoy.

And she was right! When the headmistress of Moreau Nursery and Primary School in Kirinda, Uganda, handed out the dresses, the girls’ sweet shyness turned to dimples and smiles as they tried on their new clothes. What joy this simple, practical and beautiful gift brought to their hearts!

From Bangladesh to Saint Mary’s, with love

The women at Prottasha Sewing Sheba Kunjo (Service Space) in Kulaura, Bangladesh, are sending the fruits of their labor to the Sisters of the Holy Cross who live at Saint Mary’s Convent. The ministry in Kulaura, which the sisters began in 2006, offers sewing training to young women who had to drop out of school due to family obligations or other struggles.

Now these women are meeting a need half a world away from them. Dawn Tyler, director of Resident Services at Saint Mary’s, expressed to Development Director Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow), CSC, the need for an attractive garment to protect sisters’ clothing from food spills. Sister Rose contacted the Prottasha sewing ministry, and within a few short months, more than 40 blouse protectors arrived at Saint Mary’s.

Sister Promila Gomes, CSC, director of the center, was happy to help the sisters at Saint Mary’s who have dedicated their lives to serving God’s people. And Sister Rose is thrilled about deepening relationships. “The many years that sisters at Saint Mary’s have spent in ministry throughout the world have helped inspire our current global ministries,” said Sister Rose. “It is wonderful to see how the fruits of these ministries can benefit sisters at the motherhouse.”

To read more about the sewing ministry in Kulaura or other articles that are part of the “Fruits of Holy Cross” series, visit www.cscisters.org/fruits-of-holy-cross-prottasha-sewing-center/. To donate to the Congregation’s global ministries through the Ministry With the Poor Fund, visit www.cscisters.org/donate-to-the-sisters-of-the-holy-cross/.

Holy Cross Sisters Judith McKenna, left, and Florence Mary (May) wear colorful blouse protectors, made in Bangladesh, at supper in Saint Mary’s Convent.

Sister Promila Gomes, CSC, standing, far right, trains young women to sew at the Prottasha Sewing Sheba Kunjo (Service Space), Kulaura, Bangladesh. They are making blouse protectors, modeled by Sister Promila, that were later donated to Holy Cross sisters at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana.

These girls are all smiles as they sport their new dresses, joyfully crafted by a woman who remembered the delight of receiving new clothes as a child. The dresses were donated to Moreau Nursery and Primary School in Kirinda, Uganda, and given to children in need.

Monthly donors are a special gift to us

Monthly donations play a significant role in the ministries of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. They give the Congregation a good idea of what to expect in terms of contributions, and that helps in planning how to best support sisters’ ministries around the world.

A donor might wonder what her or his gift of $100 could accomplish when measured against a large need. But taking that same action each month turns a donor’s contribution for the year into $1,200. Those donors who choose to give monthly via their bank’s recurring bill payment option or through their credit card enjoy the added benefit of not having to remember to write a check each month.

The Development Office is grateful to see that the number of donors giving monthly via credit card has more than doubled in the past five years. These regular donations support ongoing work through the Ministry With the Poor Fund projects or fund student scholarships at schools run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, as well as provide for short-term projects, such as the recently completed windows replacement project at Saint Mary’s Convent.

In gratitude, the Sisters of the Holy Cross remember all our donors—monthly or not—in daily prayer. Each week, donors’ specific prayer intentions are conveyed to sisters at the motherhouse. We count this as a special privilege, and one more way our donors bless us.
Funds expand ministries in rural Bangladesh

The Sisters of the Holy Cross—who for decades have provided faith-based formation programs and skills training to the people of rural, northern Bangladesh—are expanding these ministries, thanks to a recent grant. Holy Cross sisters have ministered alongside the Christian Garo (Mandi) Tribe in the dioceses of Jalchatra (since 1967) and Pirgacha (since 2002). Between the two dioceses, the sisters travel to nearly 50 remote villages monthly, journeying approximately 12 to 15 kilometers (7.5–9.3 miles) to each. To visit one village that’s 30 kilometers or 18.6 miles away, the sisters ride on a small motorized scooter.

The local economy is almost entirely agriculturally based, and average daily earnings are $3–$5 (U.S. dollars). To address the material poverty in the region, the sisters developed training in sewing and basket-weaving, providing residents with ways to earn additional income for their families.

A Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation grant has “helped us reach thousands of parishioners with the sacraments and deepen their faith in Jesus,” said Sister Linda Veronica Gomes, CSC. For example, the funds have enabled the sisters to provide more than 500 Bibles, prayer books and catechisms, such as Bibles, prayer books and catechisms, to these communities. The grant also covers the cost of sisters’ protective clothing and transportation.

Additionally, monies have provided a projector and a laptop computer to use in spiritual workshops for village residents and women staying at educational hostels. Donations also support the ministry of Sister Cecilia Karuna Corraya, CSC. Sister Cecilia works to empower people with disabilities in Pirgacha parish by coordinating skills training tailored to their capabilities. The training includes making rosaries, jewelry and other hand-crafted items. This ministry is a source of encouragement for these individuals, who can nurture and share their talents with the world.

“The support of donors has given them new life, hope and interest to do new things,” Sister Cecilia said. “Now they can do new things and for once, do not feel different or ‘less-than.’”

New student dormitories support academics, spirituality

Faculty, staff, students and families at Our Lady of Holy Cross School in Kasoa, Ghana, are rejoicing over the school’s first student dormitories. These newly built facilities enable students who live a significant distance from the school, anywhere from 4 to 12 kilometers (2.5–7.5 miles), to stay on campus without worrying about the potential dangers of walking along the road or the hazards of using other modes of transportation.

While Our Lady of Holy Cross provides buses for students living within a certain radius of the school, the outstanding reputation of the school has attracted many families living outside the range of bus transportation. As a result, these students needed on-campus housing.

The dormitories, one for boys and one for girls, opened in October 2019. The buildings can house up to 300 students total and feature bedrooms, washrooms, ironing rooms, storage rooms, and apartments for the teachers who live in the dormitories.

Students living in the dormitories are engaged in numerous activities that support their growth and development—spiritually, academically, emotionally, physically and socially. “Boarders gather to pray daily before and after school, and attend Mass on Sundays,” said Sister Monica Assifuah-Nunoo, CSC, deputy headmistress. “Academically, boarders have the opportunity to meet with the school counselor to provide support in areas of need related to their learning.”

Boarders are happy with the new housing that supports their studies. Maalu Tieyir, senior prefect student at Our Lady of Holy Cross School, said, “Here we are being encouraged to take better use of the numerous facilities that have been put in place. Something we all like is the way varying activities have been scheduled for us. We appreciate the sisters and all those who have contributed to the completion and establishment of this dormitory.”

Young Bangladeshi parishioners proudly display faith formation materials they received through a Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation grant. Standing with the youth are Holy Cross Sisters Linda Veronica Gomes, left, and Susuma Costa.
My soul is filled with joy
Reflection on my perpetual profession of vows

by Sister Callista Tetteh, CSC

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The readings from the profession ceremony the following day—Jeremiah 1:4-10, Ephesians 1:3-10 and Luke 1:46—56—as well as the song “Be Not Afraid” by Bob Dufford, reminded us of God manifesting himself to us, like the people of Israel as they walked through the desert to the promised land. God’s presence assured them of support and protection through the journey. The sisters stood with poise as their names were called. The room reverberated with the full presence of the triune God and the angels as the choir led the entire Congregation in chanting the Litany of the Saints. The presider, Archbishop Charles G. Palmer-Buckle of Cape Coast, stated that Christians, especially sisters, are called to be sycophants and lamports, as our lives should be an example to many. We are prophets to the nations, called to lead with integrity and virtue, enlightening minds about God and the universe he created. Congregation President Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, accepted the sisters’ vows, and the Congregation sang, drummed and danced up to the altar to congratulate the sisters on their commitment, and for saying “yes” to God’s call and his unconditional love.

The day ended with a banquet where friends and family joined the sisters, celebrating with food and dancing. We thanked God for the love of our sisters and the joy they bring to us.

For the sisters, it was not about us, who we are or what we can do, but it was about who God is and what he wants to accomplish in us and through us.

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JUBILARIANS

Each year Sisters of the Holy Cross who have been professed 25, 50 and 75 years are honored at a jubilee celebration at Saint Mary’s. This year’s silver and golden jubilarians serve in congregational and public ministries, while our diamond jubilarians serve in the ministry of prayer at Saint Mary’s, praying for the needs of our sisters, our benefactors and the world. The sisters would love to hear from you! To send a jubilee card, please see the order form on page 46. To send a note, please email communications@cscsisters.org.

Diamond Jubilee—1945
Sister Miriam P. (Cooney), CSC
Ministry of prayer
Saint Mary’s Convent
Notre Dame, Indiana

Golden Jubilee—1970
Sister Maria Regina (Gomes), CSC
Pastoral care with imprisoned women
São Paulo, Brazil

Sister Sharon Ann Mihm, CSC
Spiritual Care Department
Holy Cross Hospital
Silver Spring, Maryland

Sister Kathleen Johnson, CSC
Internal ministry with the Congregation
Saint Mary’s
Notre Dame, Indiana

Sister Linda Kors, CSC
Long-term care ombudsman
Nursing and assisted living facilities
South Bend and other regional cities, Indiana

Silver Jubilee—1995
Sister Mitali Mree, CSC
Teacher, Our Lady of Holy Cross School
Barakatkhel, West Tripura, India

Sister Mala Kubi, CSC
Carer in the Holy Cross, Deependiak Convent
Dhrendra, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sister Cecilia Karuna Corraya, CSC
Pastoral care
St. Paul’s Church
Pirgacha, Tangail, Bangladesh

God is still speaking
by Sister Jane Alaku Masangir, CSC

The day [June 22, 2019] I celebrated my perpetual profession of vows in Kyarusozi, Uganda, with Holy Cross Sisters Janet Nantumbwe and Grace Kitiinisa reminded me of the olden days when our grandparents used to talk with us about the mystery of God’s presence. They used to emphasize that God spoke through our parents and elders, dreams and visions.

And indeed, on our special day, I felt God speaking through our Holy Cross family.

The momentous day opened with a prayer vigil for the bride-to-be (commonly referred to as “bagoole” in Uganda). We shared our sacred stories in a serene atmosphere. One after another, we cried glory in our stories, with gratitude especially to God. The unique part was how each of us came to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, though none of us had known of the Holy Cross sisters where we lived. We resolved that our call came from God speaking through various people who came into our lives unexpectedly. After this time of bonding, we reaffirmed our call with the psalmist’s words, “My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready.” (Psalm 57:7)

The gathering joyfully embraced the tune of the anticipated day during a lighthearted social, highlighted by words of wisdom, reunions and much laughter. The peak of the celebration took place during the solemn Mass, where God spoke through the elders of Holy Cross. The words of the homilist, Father Tom Smith, CSC, also recounted God speaking: “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you; I appoint you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will remain; … and this I command you: Love one another.” (John 15:16-17)

All the “bagoole” shared their experiences during the examination and profession of vows. They felt this was the most peaceful and happy experience in life. Bishop Robert Muhirwa, of the Diocese of Fort Portal, Uganda, and Sister Suzanne Brennan, CSC, of the General Leadership Team, shared words of blessings and prayers. Upon our acceptance as perpetually professed sisters, the gathering rejoiced with applause, drumming, singing and ululation. Truly, God spoke in dance and congratulatory gestures of all sorts. We all sang and danced glory, which was the perfect reflection of our joy, during the reception at the sisters’ convent in Kyarusozi.

God spoke through the old and young, big and small, music and dance, and even food and drink, and we acknowledged it with gratitude.

The three of us still carry with us the homilist’s words:

“Love God, always and everywhere.
Allow God to love you, always and everywhere.
Love God’s people to love you, always and everywhere.
Allow your sisters to love you, always and everywhere.
Love your sisters, always and everywhere.
Allow your sisters to love you, always and everywhere!”

Now and forever, glory be to God, the One who is still speaking.
As part of her pastoral ministry, Sister Esperanza Jacobs Acuávedo, CSC, reads the Gospel to migrants at Casanicolas in Guadalupe, Nuevo León, Mexico. Casanicolas provides migrants with shelter in a secure place, promotes human rights and offers pastoral care. (Photo credit: Brother Nich Perez, CSC)

continued on next page
LEAVING HOME

Forces spur search for “better life”

In December 2017 the United Nations estimated that 258 million people were international migrants, meaning they were living in a country other than the one in which they were born. And of those individuals, nearly one in 10 were refugees or asylum seekers.

What causes people to leave their homes? As the Sisters of the Holy Cross considered adopting a Corporate Stand on Migration, the Congregation Justice Office (CJO) and Congregation Justice Committee (CJC) engaged in an examination of the root causes of migration, initially asking sisters to relay their experiences with migrating peoples in areas where they live and serve. Some of these encounters, titled “Migration Stories,” are shared on pages 16–17.

In Spirit (2)


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Bangladesh, Asia

With two million people reaching the working age every year and the decline of agricultural jobs due to increased mechanization, Bangladesh is experiencing a labor surplus. As a result, a good portion of the country's labor force seeks employment opportunities abroad.

This has been the experience for four women who, with their parents and their husbands, were refugees after the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. After leaving their home, they settled in the Khagrachari Hill Tract District, where the Sisters of the Holy Cross serve in a junior high school. There, the tribal people did not accept them. Also, they did not have any idea of how to make a living in a hilly area. Out of desperation, three of the women went to Arab countries as domestic workers. There, they were initially mistreated because they did not know the language, culture or people. They worked very hard but earned a very low salary.

After a few years, their situations improved and their salaries were increased, allowing them to support their families and educate their children. However, in 2017 the Government of Bangladesh made a new law limiting land ownership in the hill tracts to the tribal people. While the women continue to work abroad and send money home, their families are living on land that the state could reclaim at any time.

—Shared by Sister Bernadette Shilpi Rebeiro, CSC

Mexico, North America

This is the story of María* and her nine-year-old son, Juan*, who fled their home country of El Salvador because of domestic violence and limited employment opportunities. After many difficulties, María and Juan arrived in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, with neither money nor opportunities.

Son, Juan*, who fled their home country of El Salvador, came to Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, with neither money nor opportunities.

Though they have lived in the country for many years, learned the language and adapted to the culture, the group says that Ghanaian society still does not fully accept them. They recounted times when they were denied employment because they were not Ghanaian citizens. And their children, labeled as foreign students, were told they would have to pay to attend school.

As these individuals seek ways to improve their situations, the sisters offer encouragement and other support. They have arranged educational talks about the rights of migrants and refugees in Ghana with help from the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana, Accra, and provided employment with Our Lady of Holy Cross School and with the sisters' local recycling project.

Most recently, some individuals have taken steps to relocate to Canada through the Archdiocese of Toronto's refugee sponsorship program. In this effort, the sisters are serving as ambassadors—educating the group, backing its letter of appeal, and shepherding the letter through the system.

"Their challenges are ongoing," says Sister Comfort Arthur, CSC, "so we all have to ask, 'what can we do to make their lives a little bit better?'"

—Shared by Sister Comfort Arthur, CSC

Maria shared her situation with several people, including a lawyer, a psychologist and social worker from the institution. After several months, the advisors from the institution told her she would be able to reunite with her son, who had started attending elementary school. Today, María continues to work hard to give Juan everything he needs to grow in a better environment.

—Shared by Sister Axel Crist Hernández, CSC

Brazil, South America

Leons*, a 31-year-old Haitian mother, left her two daughters with her parents and went alone to the Dominican Republic and then to Brazil in search of her husband and a better quality of life. However, when she found her husband, he was unemployed, and they faced many difficulties, including lack of housing, food and employment.

Currently, the couple lives in a run-down building in São Paulo, along with several immigrants from other countries. While Leons' two daughters and their families remain in Haiti, she doesn't have the money to visit them. She and her husband don't have steady incomes; he does odd jobs and she does housework, when they can find work, but it isn't enough for their needs.

Leons participates in activities with Caritas of the Archdiocese of São Paulo, such as craft courses, lectures and income generating workshops. And the organization provides her with a food basket once a month.

"It is not easy to live outside your territory and your family. I miss them so much," Leons says. "I wish I could have a job and a space so that I could bring my two daughters here. I do not know if I’ll ever be able to see them again."

—Shared by Sister María de Lourdes de Deus Pimentel, CSC

Ghana, West Africa

During Liberia's civil wars, tens of thousands of people escaped to neighboring Ghana, where the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Kassoa offered aid and shelter. Some 30 years later, unwilling to return to a ravaged homeland and unable to locate scattered families, thousands of these refugees remain.

In their mission at Kassoa, the Sisters of the Holy Cross encountered a group of Liberian refugees among their fellow worshippers at a local church. Interested in their situation, the sisters met with the group, who shared their hurts and hardships with them.

We, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, affirm that:

• All persons have the right to find opportunities and safety within their homeland to ensure authentic human development.
• When opportunities for authentic development are not available in the place of destination, policies must prioritize migrants' right to migrate.
• While nations have a right to protect sovereign borders, policies must prioritize migrants' right to life and safety over the interests of national security.
• Economic and social systems which create the pressure to migrate yet restrict free movement of peoples must be transformed.

We acknowledge that to promote authentic human development for all, including the ability to migrate, nongovernmental organizations, communities and individuals must work together to:

• Eliminate the root causes that force people to leave their homelands.
• Examine personal and cultural assumptions that influence our perceptions of migrants.
• Recognize and embrace the richness that cultural diversity brings to our communities.

• We support actions and policies that:
  • Welcome by providing legal options for entry, access to basic services and guarantee of safety, including temporary visas for those fleeing conflict and disasters.
  • Protect rights and dignity through access to justice and suitable work.
  • Promote social and professional integration, family unification and active citizenship.
  • Integrate by promoting a culture of encounter, through programs and cultural exchange.

• We oppose actions and policies that:
  • Incentivize environmental destruction, destabilize economies and reduce resources for social services.
  • Allow for incarceration of asylum seekers and detention of migrants.
  • Endorse arbitrary and collective expulsions of migrants and refugees.
  • Force the return of refugees or asylum seekers to countries deemed unsafe.
  • Sustain unethical labor recruitment practices that exploit migrants and refugees.
Grants support green initiatives

The Sisters of the Holy Cross are committed to the care of creation and are continually looking for new ways to live out their commitment. In addition to collaborating with members of the Holy Cross family to become carbon neutral by 2050, Holy Cross sisters are caring for the environment through partnerships with other groups as well as initiatives supported by the Congregation’s Carbon Footprint Reduction Fund (CFRF).

Reducing energy usage

Two congressional ministries in Kirinda, Uganda, received funds to purchase and install solar panel systems, thanks to two grants from the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters. These systems convert the lighting from 72-watt power to 18 watts, and provide clean and reliable energy to the student dormitories at Moreau Nursery and Family Foundation grants.

From left, Holy Cross Sisters Janet Nortontwia, Rose Kynumukama and Lilian Nyakazi stand outside their convent in Kyarusozi, Uganda, where an energy-saving solar water heater was installed. The water heater was made possible through a grant from the Congregation’s Carbon Footprint Reduction Fund.

Converting the light from 72 watts to 18 watts reduced the college’s electricity usage and, in turn, lessened the demand on a local carbon dioxide-emitting power plant. This project also connects with a sustainability and Holy Cross charism course offered by Saint Mary’s, Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame that examines both landscape and energy use on the three campuses from the perspective of sustainability and environmental justice.

Planting trees

A Congregation CFRF grant provided 1,000 pine trees for the St. Jude Children’s Home in the Koch Goma region in northern Uganda. St. Jude provides a home for children who are abandoned, neglected, physically challenged or HIV positive, and have nowhere else to go. The trees will increase oxygen production, shield the soil from land burning, and serve as an educational opportunity for children, guardians and neighbors, many of whom come from areas that practice charcoal and bush burning, which harm the environment.

Resident in the village of Jatho in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya, India, gave the Sisters of the Holy Cross over three acres of land. CFRF grant funds allowed the purchase and planting of pine trees to reduce pollutants, lower the air temperature and increase oxygen production. The sisters hope the trees, planted near the village school and church, will provide an educational opportunity, encourage others to plant pine trees on their property, and increase community outreach among villagers.

Reforestation grant

The Congregation received a $1,000 Environmental Action grant from NIPSCO’s NiSource Charitable Foundation to assist with reforestation on its 275-acre campus at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame. Funds were used to purchase nine trees native to North America, replacing trees lost to diseases and storms.

The Congregation’s Direction Statement compels the sisters to join “with all members of the human family who share our values” in responding to the important issues of our time. The Sisters of the Holy Cross are grateful for the grant from NIPSCO’s NiSource Charitable Foundation “which allows us to collaborate in creating a more sustainable and beautiful world,” said Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, Congregation president.

Trees are critical in the fight against climate change: They absorb carbon dioxide, improve air quality, contribute to biodiversity, control flooding and provide a natural habitat for wildlife.

Event promotes awareness of climate change

Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary’s College students and faculty, and South Bend, Indiana, community members came together for a Global Climate Strike Solidarity event at the Congregation’s motherhouse. Members of the community, as well as employees who work at the motherhouse, also participated.

Attendees learned how climate change is affecting people in the countries where the sisters live and minister, and how the Congregation is joining the fight to save the planet. After the presentations, those gathered made climate strike signs to show solidarity with the world’s youth on this issue, and then posted pictures to social media to spread the word about the urgent need to address climate change.

Students and faculty from Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, joined with Sisters of the Holy Cross in a Global Climate Strike Solidarity event at the Congregation’s motherhouse. Members of the community, as well as employees who work at the motherhouse, also participated.
In conjunction with its 175th anniversary, Saint Mary’s College organized “Discover Saint Mary’s: A Walk in Time,” a historical pilgrimage. More than 150 visitors learned about the history of the Congregation and its founding of the college through a walking tour of sites at the motherhouse and on the Saint Mary’s College campus.

The September 22, 2019, event opened with a service at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, led by Congregation President Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC; Nancy Nekvsaal, interim president of Saint Mary’s College; and Judith R. Fras, the college’s vice president for Mission. Tour highlights included stops at Bertrand Hall and Our Lady of Peace Cemetery. Sister Veronique shared the history of Bertrand Hall, which housed Saint Mary’s Academy until 1904 and now provides administrative offices for the Congregation. Sister Maureen Grady, CSC, told stories about the lives and ministries of some of the sisters laid to rest at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery. Sister Veronique explained the history walk planning committee, explains the significance of a historical image.

In her address, Sister Maureen Grady noted, “A goal of the event was to allow for a deeper reflection on the contributions of the many women and men, religious and laity, in building the educational ministry at Saint Mary’s College.” She returned to the theme of the event and thanked the attendees for their support, saying, “We are grateful for your presence.”

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Clockwise from top: Pilgrims on the Saint Mary’s College History walk gather in front of the Guest House on the grounds of the Sisters of the Holy Cross motherhouse at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana. Sister Maura received at least 14 awards, as well as several honorary degrees. Her cousins, Holy Cross Sisters Louise Brannick and Ellen "Nell" Conroy and Charles "Charley" Brannick, never sat idly by when they saw others in need during the Great Depression. Louise saw the same care and compassion in the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Saint Angela’s Academy in Morris, Illinois, where she graduated in 1942. At 19 years old, Louise Brannick applied to enter the Congregation at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana, arriving in February 1943. Upon reception of the holy habit six months later, she received her name in religion, Maura, Irish for Mary, and made her initial profession of vows in 1945. Sister Maura graduated as a registered nurse from Saint Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing, Cairo, Illinois, in 1948. She spent the next 26 years in nursing services at hospitals sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross: Saint Mary’s Hospital, Cairo; Saint Joseph Hospital, South Bend, Indiana; Holy Cross Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois; and Saint Alphonsus Hospital, Boise, Idaho.

In 1976 Sister Maura transitioned to pastoral care ministry at Saint John’s Hospital, Anderson, Indiana, for a year, followed by eight years at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend. While at Saint Joseph, she served as outreach coordinator, visiting the sick and elderly in their homes. Eventually Sister Maura received the blessing for a clinic to provide basic, preventive services for those without access to Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance. Sponsored by Saint Joseph’s, the clinic opened in October 1986 and relocated to a larger space in February 1988 with the support of the medical center’s volunteers—including medical professionals and sisters—and donors. The clinic was renamed the Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center in October 2006. For her inspiration, leadership, and service in the community, Sister Maura received at least 14 awards, as well as several honorary degrees. Her cousins, Holy Cross Sisters...
Jeanne Clennon and Mary Clennon, remember her with affection. In her last months, Sister Maura thanked her many visitors. “I love so many people so much,” she said. “But the only thing I have that I can give back is gratitude.”

Sister Anne Veronica Hornor Hoe, CSC

July 17, 1949 – September 26, 2019

Entered from São Paulo, Brazil

Initial profession on March 5, 1982

Anne Veronica Hornor Hoe was born July 17, 1949, in Shanghai, China. She was the child of Justin Stanley Horner Hoe from Malaysia and Theresa Pearl Chow from China. Her father was a member of the Merchant Marine who eventually went into business running a restaurant. The family settled in São Paulo, Brazil, where Anne received her elementary and secondary education. She worked as an executive assistant in financial positions in the business sector prior to her initial connection with Irmãs da Santa Cruz, as the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Brazil are known. By 1985, Sister Anne had a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. She earned her bachelor’s degree in education administration in 1989. In 2009, she completed a post graduate dissertation on the actual needs of senior citizens in specialized institutions in São Paulo.

From the outset of her religious life in 1979, Sister Anne had the desire to study Scripture through the lens of liberation and to experience ministry in other countries where Holy Cross women were challenged by situations of injustice. She spent time in Bangladesh (1986), Uganda (1998) and Salt Lake City, Utah (1992). While in Utah, she said, “As educators we have to hope for a just society. We hope our students will be builders of that society.”

Sister Anne was instrumental in expanding the basic program and services at Colégio Santa Maria, São Paulo, where the Sisters of the Holy Cross serve over 3,300 students, most of whom live in the city’s slum areas or favelas. She served on many panels and advisory boards promoting justice and women’s empowerment, working with marginalized women, people who lived in the slums, and at-risk youth. From 1999 to 2004, she served the Congregation as a member of the Area of South America, which includes Brazil and Peru.

Throughout her life, Sister Anne heard the cry of the poor, who welcomed her home in communion with all the saints. Sister died at Hospital Samaritano, São Paulo, on November 26 and was buried at Congonhas Cemetery in São Paulo the following day.

Jeanne Clennon and Mary Clennon, remember her with affection. In her last months, Sister Maura thanked her many visitors. “I love so many people so much,” she said. “But the only thing I have that I can give back is gratitude.”

Sister Estelle Marie (Farrell), CSC

(Anna May Kelly)

May 20, 1929 – December 29, 1988

Entered from Dublin, Ireland

Initial profession on August 15, 1938

Sister M. Lourdes (Kelly), CSC

(Anna May Kelly)

May 20, 1929 – December 29, 1988

Entered from Dublin, Ireland

Initial profession on August 15, 1938

Sister M. Lourdes (Kelly) often engaged visitors in conversation at the grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes on the University of Notre Dame campus. When she was 93 she told one visitor that she had hoped to receive the name Brigid, patroness of her native Ireland, upon reception of the holy habit in 1936: “But my, how I was delighted to be named after the Blessed Virgin!”. Her genuine interaction and humanity touched those she encountered.

Sister Lourdes never lost her Irish brogue, having been born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1910. Her father, James Kelly, was a railroad engineer, and died by the time of her initial profession. From 1944 to 1948, she lived in Bangladesh and the Philippines. In 1948 she moved to St. Louis, where she worked for five years in the mission hospitals there. She retired in 1999 to Saint Catherine by the Sea, Ventura, California, moving to the motherhouse, Notre Dame College, South Bend, Indiana, in 2007, commending her as a lifelong advocate for the cause of justice as a constitutive dimension of the Catholic Church’s mission in the world. Sister Edith M. helped shepherd the challenge to advance the cause of justice and liberation of the poor and oppressed via education and other concrete action in the Congregation’s ministries.

Sister Mary Edith (Daley), CSC

(HeLEN Teresa Daley)

November 12, 1915 – January 17, 2020

Entered from Davenport, Iowa

Initial profession of vows on February 2, 1940

Sister Mary Edith was born Helen Teresa Daley on November 12, 1915, in Rock Island, Illinois, the daughter of Thomas Francis Daley, a wholesale grocer, and Mary Margaret Eick, a homemaker. Helen Teresa worked as a bookkeeper for a few years before entering the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana, at 21 years old.


In 1971 the Synod of Bishops declared action on behalf of justice as a constitutive dimension of the Catholic Church’s mission in the world. Sister Edith M. helped shepherd the challenge to advance the cause of justice and liberation of the poor and oppressed via education and other concrete action in the Congregation’s ministries.

Sister Mary Edith took a sabbatical in 1980, studying at Regis College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. For the next 27 years, she was in active ministry in South Bend, Indiana. From 1981 to 1984 she served at Saint Joseph High School as assistant to the director of Development and as director of Information Services.

Sister Mary Edith was associated with the Forever Learning Institute (FLI) in South Bend, Indiana from 1985 to 2008. FLI was founded by Father Louis J. Putz, CSC, who saw a need for intellectual stimulation and meaningful activity for older adults. Sister served as executive director, was involved in ongoing curriculum development, and served as a consultant for FLI’s reorganization. Father Putz praised her leadership and competent direction as reason for the institute’s “amazing progress” as a model for older adult educational facilities in Texas, Kansas and California. Sister Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, bestowed the Spirit of Service Award for Volunteerism on Sister Mary Edith in 2007, commending her as a lifelong advocate for the cause of social justice in area neighborhoods.

On January 17, 2020, Sister Mary Edith died in Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, where she had been devoted until her death, December 29, 1988. She was a successful teacher in parish schools throughout Indiana and Illinois. In 1973, she continued in Catholic education as a tutor for students who needed support, serving at Holy Redeemer School, Flint, Michigan, and at St. Paul’s School, Valparaiso, Indiana, each for three years. In 1980, Sister Lourdes retired to Saint Mary’s Convent but continued in various ministries of prayer, including visits to the grotto at Notre Dame. Sister wrote in December 1993 that she was, “Looking ahead to that great day.” Sister Lourdes died on December 29, 2019, at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, at the age of 109, having entered Holy Cross after leaving Dublin in the same month 84 years earlier. Her citizenship touched those she encountered.
“Whenever we do something together, something good, something beautiful, everyone changes. All of us change in some way and this does us good.”
—Pope Francis, Message to children at Fabbrica della Pace event, Vatican City, May 2015

As I look back at 2019, the above quote from Pope Francis expresses what we have done together. It is certainly true that you have touched many lives throughout the world. I pray each one of you has also changed because of the gifts you offered. Consider that your sacrifices have:

- installed 64 windows that will keep our sisters warm and secure;
- provided a Holy Cross education to thousands of people on the margins of society; and
- brought new life into the world through high quality maternity care to women in rural Uganda.

These are but a few examples. I invite you, as you read the stories and names in this Annual Giving Report, to prayerfully consider in what ways you might have changed because of what we accomplished together in 2019.

—Sister M. Rose Edward (Goodrow), CSC
  Director of Development

MINISTRY WITH THE POOR FUND AWARDS
$402,536 awarded to 54 sister-sponsored projects in seven countries

“BY THE NUMBERS”

3,402 Donors
1,034 Stamp donors
2,368 Monetary donors
231 First-time monetary donors
106 Legacy Club Members
9 Countries where donors reside
Belgium, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Peru, Russia and United States
*Donors reside in all 50 U.S. states

“SOURCES OF DONATIONS”

Bequests $231,384
Individuals & Corporations $1,362,821
General Unrestricted $1,813,500
Retirement $278,550
Outside the United States $369,245
Ministry With the Poor $365,245

“DONATIONS BY FUND”

General Unrestricted $1,813,500
Ministry With the Poor $365,245
Bequests $231,384
Individuals & Corporations $1,362,821

“WORLDWIDE MEMBERSHIP”

330 Perpetually Professed Sisters
34 Initially Professed Sisters
18 Novices
17 Candidates
399 Total
*as of January 2020

“AREAS OF REVENUE”
percent increase from 2018

Grants 48%
Online Donations 24%
Ministry With the Poor 15%
IRA 13%

“RECURRING GIFT PROGRAM GROWTH”

81 Recurring gift donors
10% Increase in recurring donors
12% Increase in recurring gift revenue

“BY PROJECT TYPE”

By Area
North America 46%
Asia 25%
Africa 23%
South America 6%

By Project Type
Social & Spiritual Support 44%
Education 30%
Health Care 10%
Training & Empowerment 16%

By Area
North America 46%
Asia 25%
Africa 23%
South America 6%

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North America 46%
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Africa 23%
South America 6%

“BY PROJECT TYPE”

Social & Spiritual Support 44%
Education 30%
Health Care 10%
Training & Empowerment 16%
MOTHER’S DAY and FATHER’S DAY CARDS for 2020

Sending the perfect gift for Mother’s Day or Father’s Day? Celebrate with the gift of prayer. When you make your donation, the Development Office will send you recipients these beautiful cards, designed by Sister Ellen Mary (Taylor), CSC. Your loved ones will know that they will be remembered by the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Mass on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Gifts may be made in honor of someone living or in memory of someone dear. Your donation will help people around the world through the Ministry With the Poor Fund. Order now and we will mail your cards at the appropriate time.

Mother’s Day May 10

Send a Mother’s Day card to:

Name________________________
Address________________________
City________________________State____________ZIP________
Birth date________________________
Expiration date________________________
Sign card from________________________
Address________________________
City________________________State____________ZIP________
Daytime telephone________________________

Father’s Day June 21

Send a Father’s Day card to:

Name________________________
Address________________________
City________________________State____________ZIP________
Birth date________________________
Expiration date________________________
Sign card from________________________
Address________________________
City________________________State____________ZIP________
Daytime telephone________________________

PAYMENT - Mother’s/Father’s Day cards

Amount of donation: $________
☐ Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross
☐ Credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Name on credit card________________________
Signature________________________
Card # ______________________Expiration date________________________

Mail to: Sisters of the Holy Cross, Development Office, 407 Bertrand Hall—Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
Phone: (574) 284-5675

SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS | ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

REMEMBRANCE CARDS for ANY OCCASION

Give gifts of prayer from the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Tell us who you wish to honor or memorialize and the Development Office will send cards telling your recipients they are being held in prayer by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. In addition to the cards pictured here, there are three styles of memorial cards. All of the available cards may be viewed on our website: www.cscsisters.org. Your tax-deductible donation helps our Ministry With the Poor Fund.

In honor of:
In memory of:
In celebration of:

Amount of donation: $________
☐ Check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Cross
☐ Credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express
Name on card________________________
Signature________________________
Card # ______________________Expiration date________________________
Type of card
☐ In memory of
☐ In celebration of
☐ In honor of
☐ Jubilee ☐ Birthday ☐ Get Well
☐ Other

Tell us your CONTACT PREFERENCES

Printed communication preferences:
☐ Please mail to me only once a year (fall/Christmas appeal only).
☐ Please mail me the printed edition of inSpirit magazine.
☐ Please take me off all printed communication mailing lists.

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

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

ORDER CARDS:
Telephone: (574) 284-5641
Mail: see address at bottom of page
Online: www.cscsisters.org, Support Us.
Order a Remembrance Card.
I was born in a tiny village of about 35 families in Lungtan, Mizoram, India. My devout Catholic parents had eight children—four daughters and four sons. Nature was everything for us: Our alarm clock was the cock crowing, the weather forecast was looking at the sky, and food came from the fruits and roots of a tree. We had little worries except for the wild animals destroying crops.

Occasionally a priest and religious brothers and sisters, along with youth from the parish, would come to our village for a pastoral visit and I would accompany them. I wanted to be like them, and that's when the seed of longing to be a sister was planted. After one visit, I went to stay with the Holy Cross sisters in their hostel. During the seven years I was there, the desire to become a sister grew stronger and deeper. However, God had a different plan.

A situation arose, and I became the breadwinner for my family. I took a teaching position in a local Catholic school and got involved in parish youth programs and the Young Mizo Association, which helps the poor.

Through all this, my desire to be a missionary continued to develop and grow. I was consumed with the fire of God's love.

One day I heard a gentle voice whispering to me, “Jesus gave his life for you, and what are you to give in return?” The urge to be a missionary kept knocking on my inner door while I was supporting my family. My mind was at war deciding between two good things. It took me about a year to pray, discern and decide.

God’s amazing grace brought me to where I am today as a Sister of the Holy Cross. The values I had grown up with reflect the charism of the Congregation. I left everything to be a missionary among the people, and I continue journeying with faith to bloom wherever I am planted.

Sister Lucy Lalsangzuali, CSC, made her initial profession of vows with the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 2002 and her perpetual profession in 2008. She teaches at St. Paul’s School in Jatab village, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, India. The Sisters of the Holy Cross operate a hostel in the village.