

## Shaping Tomorrow The Journey of Education



Members of the Province Leadership Team gather around Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher to bless documents bound for the Vatican to approve formation of the new Holy Names Educational Ministries.

SNJM Now is a publication of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, PO Box 398, Marylhurst, OR 97036.

## Contributors

**Lynn Andrews**  
Donor Relations Manager

**Blynda Barnett**  
Art Director

**Sarah Cantor**  
Director of Archives and Heritage Center

**Wendy Finch-Burk**  
Donor Relations Manager

**Jack Martin**  
Content Manager

**Sister Kathryn Ondreyco**  
Donor Relations Manager

**Sister Linda Patrick**  
Acting Director of Advancement

**Sister Carole Strawn**  
SNJM Archivist

**Kyra Thompson**  
Donor Relations Manager

**Kristina Wheelock**  
Director of Communications

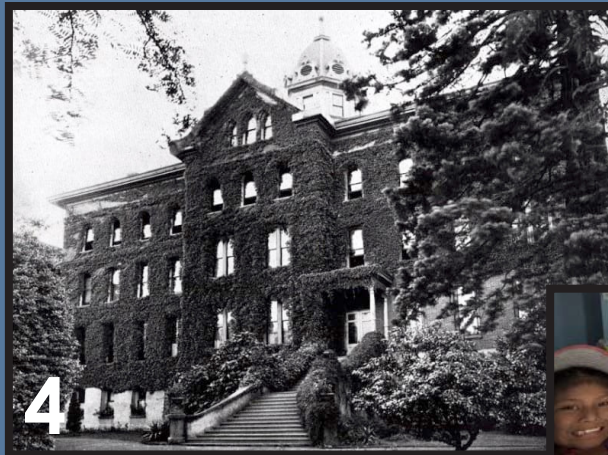
Historic photos used with permission from the Archives of the Sisters of the Holy Names.

For more information contact  
[info@snjmuson.org](mailto:info@snjmuson.org)  
or (503) 675-7121.

## PRINTED IN THE USA



This newsletter is printed on sustainably sourced paper that is FSC certified (FSC Mix Credit) and in a facility that practices ecologically sound strategies that address climate change and utilize eco-friendly system operations. This paper is made with 10% recycled content.



4

3 Letter from the PLT

4 Holy Names Educational Ministries

6 Ministry in Action



6

## Table of Contents



6

8 Rest in Peace

9 Why They Give

10 Jubilarians

11 Gift of Prayer

12 Stories from the Archives

**Correction:** The Summer 2024 issue of SNJM Now incorrectly identified a Sister in the story, "The Enduring Journey for Affordable Housing." The story, found on the back page of the issue, names one of the participants as Sister Constance Jergens. The two Sisters that attended the demonstration and appeared in the accompanying photo were Theresa McCluskey, SNJM and Mariana Murphy, SNJM. We apologize for our error.



## Letter from SNJM Province Leadership Team

SNJM U.S.-Ontario Province  
Leadership Team (L-R): Sisters  
Maureen Delaney, Linda Patrick,  
Carol Higgins, Mary Slater, Diane  
Enos and Marcia Frideger.

Dear Friends,

Since our founding in 1843 in Quebec, Canada, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary have educated scores of young people in schools sponsored by our Congregation. After first establishing schools in Canada, the Sisters opened their first school in the United States in Portland, Oregon in 1859. They then continued extending the ministry of education to other parts of the U.S. and Canada. Today, the U.S.-Ontario Province proudly continues to sponsor six high schools for young women (one with a middle school and another with a coed elementary school) along with an adult literacy education center and a music center. Each of the high schools was founded over one hundred years ago and all continue to thrive.

Now, a new chapter is unfolding for the sponsorship of our SNJM educational ministries with the launch of Holy

Names Education Ministries (HNEM).

This new organization, the result of a strong collaboration between the Sisters and our dedicated lay colleagues, will serve as the foundation for the continued sponsorship of SNJM schools. The creation of HNEM marks a significant milestone in our commitment to delivering excellence in education.

We are impressed with the commitment of the HNEM lay members and the leaders in each of our educational ministries. All are working together to continue to provide for the full development of each of our students, ensuring the flourishing of the SNJM mission into the future. We are happy to share with you these plans and thank you for your continued support.

*Maureen Delaney SNJM*

*Diane Enos SNJM*

*Marcia Frideger, SNJM*

*Carol Higgins, SNJM*

*Linda Patrick SNJM*

*Mary Slater SNJM*

# Creating the Future for Our Educational Ministries

“**E**ducation transforms lives,” said Sister Cynthia Canning, Chair of the Board of the new Holy Names Educational Ministries sponsorship organization. Education has been at the forefront of SNJM life since our Sisters traveled to the United States in 1859. The 12 Sisters who arrived in Portland, Oregon from Longueuil, Quebec traveled there at the request of Archbishop Francis Blanchet. The Oregon Archbishop identified the need for Catholic education in his diocese.

(Top) SNJM established the Academy of the Holy Names in Albany, New York in 1884.

(Bottom) Sisters attending General Chapter in 2018 vote to form a new organization to continue the sponsorship of SNJM schools.

Wherever our Sisters went, they provided education, making special efforts to serve under-resourced students. Expanding beyond Oregon, SNJM schools were established across the country, including in California, Washington, Florida and New York. Sisters heard the call to service and responded to the needs of the communities.

SNJM schools and ministries pursue our core value of the full development of the human person, the cultivation and respect for the talents, abilities and potential of each person. “Our educational ministries are and always have been places where this happens for our students in profound and lasting ways,” said Sister Cynthia. Sisters have worked to provide safe, inclusive and supportive educational spaces across the United States for many decades.

As the number of Sisters able to administer and staff our educational ministries has lessened, our U.S.-Ontario Province has been planning for new ways to continue the SNJM educational mission into the future. After receiving a strong mandate from the Sisters in 2018 to move forward, we developed the new and pioneering sponsorship organization Holy Names Educational Ministries (HNEM).

“The commitment to our educational ministries remains deep and strong, but we knew we needed to plan for their future if they were to continue to be the vibrant, excellent and mission-focused schools they are and have been,” said Sister Cynthia. Collaborative discussions with the leaders of our schools and ministries—presidents, heads of schools and executive directors—led to plans to create a new organization to uphold the values of SNJM, keeping our schools Catholic and connected





to the Sisters of the Holy Names. The mission of HNEM is to provide a sustainable way to support the Catholic Identity and the SNJM Charism and Core Values in the ministries, bringing more laity into collaboration with us in this sponsorship endeavor.

The Vatican approved our request to establish this new sponsorship model in December of 2022. The resulting HNEM organization is led by a lay executive director in collaboration with the HNEM board consisting of five Sisters of the Holy Names and five Catholic lay members. The members of HNEM will continue collaborating closely with the leaders of our eight educational ministries, providing ongoing resources and interactions related to strengthening the SNJM mission of education.

Sister Cynthia reflected on the significance of this development in our legacy of education. "Holy Names Educational Ministries will have a powerful impact on the future of our profoundly important and beloved educational ministries." ■



(Left) The Holy Names Educational Ministries Board. Top row left to right: Arthur Raimo, Elizabeth Swift, Mary Mansell, Lynne Kennedy Mullen, Gregory Schopf. Front row, Cynthia Canning, SNJM, Marcia Frideger, SNJM, Margaret Kennedy, SNJM, Maureen Delaney, SNJM. Not pictured: Linda Patrick, SNJM.

(Right) Sisters opened St. Mary's Academy in Portland, Oregon on November 6, 1859.

(Below) Sister Cynthia Canning tutors a student at Next Step Learning Center in Oakland, California.



## The new Holy Names Educational Ministries organization sponsors:

Academy of the Holy Names in Albany, NY

Holy Names Music Center in Spokane, WA

Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa, FL

Next Step Learning Center in Oakland, CA

Holy Names Academy in Seattle, WA

Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra, CA

Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA

St. Mary's Academy in Portland, OR



# Ministry in Action

## Educating for a Brighter Future

**A**cross diverse communities, Holy Names Sisters and Associates devote their energy and passion to organizations dedicated to building brighter futures through education, empowerment and holistic development. These programs, whether focused on removing barriers to opportunity or fostering growth in academic, social and literacy skills, all reflect the core values at the heart of the SNJM Charism. As recipients of SNJM Ministry Grant funding, the organizations below embody the shared commitment of uplifting communities and transforming lives through the power of education.

### Student Tutorial Endeavor Program: Oakland, CA

West Oakland faces a significant lack of city services, including major grocery stores and drugstore chains. Due to these challenges, the Student Tutorial Endeavor Program (STEP) of the Samaritan Neighborhood Center has become an essential resource for low-income students of color in the area. Operating year-round, STEP offers after-school and summer programs that focus on education, recreation and mentorship. These services are provided at no cost to families to remove a common barrier to accessing quality support.

justice and equity. Sister Rosemary Delaney explains that the program is far more than helping students with their homework. Staff at the Samaritan Neighborhood Center become an extended family and source of support for the youth. The program's dedication to the holistic development of each student reflects its belief that education is the foundation for success in life and that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

### West Windsor Support: Windsor, Ontario, Canada

West Windsor Support is dedicated to enriching the lives of children in Windsor by providing access to a wide range of extracurricular activities. This program offers children opportunities to participate in music lessons, track and field, gymnastics, art lessons and swimming—activities that they might otherwise miss due to financial constraints. By covering both registration fees and transportation costs, the initiative aims to eliminate the primary barriers that prevent these children from engaging in these formative experiences.

The west end of Windsor is known to have the highest rate of child poverty in the area, making the work of this initiative even more crucial. The program

(Top) STEP Motto on a student's sweatshirt.

(Bottom) STEP students proudly displaying their certificates of achievement.



STEP is committed to providing students with opportunities in the tech, vocational and green economy sectors. These components have been a part of the program for years, with slight modifications each school year to keep up with evolving industry trends and student interests.

As STEP moves forward with its mission, it remains guided by a deep commitment to social

not only offers children a chance to explore and develop their talents but also provides their families with a sense of inclusion, ensuring that they can offer their children experiences like those enjoyed by families in more economically stable situations.

Through this outreach, West Windsor Support is more than just an extracurricular program—it is a lifeline for families striving to provide their children with a brighter future. Sister Connie Harrington, program coordinator, says, “Our charm challenges us to educate all in faith with a special concern for the poor and disadvantaged. We hope that is what we are doing through this program.”

## Center of Education and Integrated Training: Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua

“The mission of the Center of Education and Integrated Training (CECIM) is about more than just academics; it is about nurturing the whole person,” shares, SNJM Associate, Isabel Sánchez Nuñez, the founder and director of CECIM. This commitment is woven into every aspect of the Center’s work. The Center is renowned for its two flagship programs, the Educational Center Sister Maura Clarke and Los Quinchos, each designed to meet the diverse needs of its students and the wider community.

Serving over 700 students from preschool through secondary school, The Educational Center Sister Maura Clarke goes beyond the basics. In addition to a strong academic foundation, students receive vocational training that equips them with practical skills for the future.

The second major program, Los Quinchos, engages 200 children, adolescents and young adults in a variety of artistic and educational experiences. This approach builds not just knowledge, but also critical thinking, concentration and ethical reflection.

As CECIM continues its mission to educate and uplift, it remains a powerful force for good in Ciudad Sandino. CECIM stands as a reminder of what can be achieved when we come together with a shared purpose: to educate, to empower and to transform.

## Portland Literacy Council: Portland, OR

For over 30 years, the Portland Literacy Council (PLC) has been committed to ensuring that adults in Portland, Oregon have access to the essential skills and education they need. The organization is dedicated to promoting adult literacy, with a focus on supporting volunteer tutors who serve in free or low-cost programs for adult learners.

PLC plays a crucial role in empowering some of Portland’s most vulnerable residents through the training of their volunteers and the sharing of essential learning materials. Their Basic Tutor Training is widely recommended by organizations throughout the Portland metro area that offer English language learning, GED preparation and adult basic education programs.

Additionally, PLC’s “Awesome Tutor Workshops” provide in-depth exploration of tutoring topics such as cross-cultural communication, grammar instruction and the use of emerging technologies, including AI, to create classroom materials and activities.

The need for skilled tutors is higher than ever. PLC has remained steadfast in its mission, adapting during the COVID pandemic by continuing volunteer tutoring sessions virtually,



(Top) A CECIM student showcases their creativity as part of the Los Quinchos program.

(Middle) CECIM students engaged in a learning activity.

(Right) PLC volunteer Jan Olsen tutors via Zoom.

(Bottom) PLC students after participating on a cultural awareness panel.



(Top) Vacaciones Útiles students painting daisies.

(Bottom) A Vacaciones Útiles teacher and student work together on a craft.

demonstrating the resilience and dedication of the Portland literacy community.

Sister Brigid Baumann, a longtime volunteer with the organization, shares that

PLC's efforts go beyond tutoring. "The connections formed between tutors and students foster a sense of community and belonging."

### Vacaciones Útiles Summer Program: Peru

The "Vacaciones Útiles" summer program, designed for children aged 7-11, has become a highly anticipated event in the small town of La Curva.

This initiative provides a valuable space for children to enhance their skills and nurture their creativity through a variety of recreational courses including dance, art, music and religion. In addition, the program offers

mathematics and communication classes to help students reinforce and strengthen skills they have acquired in school.

The impact of Vacaciones Útiles is reflected not only in the impressive participation of over 200 children but also in the joy and enthusiasm they display, especially during the art and music sessions. Sister Ana Maria Vilca Mamani, who created the program in 2022, says "Every day it is a blessing to welcome them, to feel their joy, their hope."

This year marked the third successful installment of the program, which has consistently aimed to foster the holistic development of children by engaging them in educational and artistic activities while also helping them build better social skills. The program's expansion to three new towns—El Arenal, Alto Ensenada and Alto Boquerón—was a significant achievement, allowing the program to reach even more children in remote areas. ■

# Rest in Peace

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary invite you to rejoice with us in the birth into eternal life of our Sisters.



**Sister Betty McLellan, SNJM**  
(Sister M. John Daniel)  
**October 31, 1927 – May 25, 2024**

Sister Betty McLellan, SNJM departed this life in Spokane, WA after 72 years as a Holy Names Sister.



**Sister Joan Bourdon, SNJM**  
(Sister Mary Joseph Anthony)  
**May 1, 1933 – September 1, 2024**

Sister Joan Bourdon, SNJM departed this life in Saratoga, CA after 70 years as a Holy Names Sister.



**Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le, SNJM**  
**December 18, 1938 – September 19, 2024**

Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le, SNJM departed this life in Seattle, WA after 25 years as a Sister of the Lovers of the Holy Cross and 40 years as a Sister of the Holy Names.



**Sister Rose Mary Michael, SNJM**  
(Sister Lambert Marie)  
**August 29, 1934 – June 6, 2024**

Sister Rose Mary Michael, SNJM departed this life in Lake Oswego, OR after 70 years as a Holy Names Sister.



**Sister Louise Tibbetts, SNJM**  
(Sister M. Anne Lucille)  
**October 23, 1941 – September 8, 2024**

Sister Louise Tibbetts, SNJM departed this life in Lake Oswego, OR after 62 years as a Holy Names Sister.

For extended obituaries, please visit our website at [snjmusontario.org/about-us/obits](http://snjmusontario.org/about-us/obits)



# Why They Give: Partners in Mission

## Molly and Stewart Butler

We know people have many reasons for being our Partners in Mission. We will tell a donor's story in each issue of SNJM Now. If you'd like to share your story, contact us at [development@snjmuson.org](mailto:development@snjmuson.org).

**M**olly and Stewart Butler have long been dedicated to the vision of the Sisters of the Holy Names, with their involvement spanning decades and making a lasting impact. Stewart served as a trustee of Marylhurst College in Lake Oswego, Oregon in the 1970s and 1980s, while Molly played an active role on the college's Women's Committee during the same period. Their volunteer efforts strengthened the financial stability of the college, and to this day, they graciously maintain their support of the Sisters.

Molly's connection to the Holy Names community runs deep. Her mother, Imelda John Conlon '34, served as a Trustee of Marylhurst College and was a founding member of both the Holy Names Women's Auxiliary and the Marylhurst Women's Committee. Imelda provided critical financial support during the college's more difficult economic times. A member of Marylhurst College's first graduating class, she left a lasting legacy: the college administration building was named in honor of her father, Molly's grandfather, Bruno Paul (B.P.) John. Deeply committed to the care of retired Sisters, Imelda was one of the

first residents of Mary's Woods, the retirement community built on land owned by the Sisters, where she lived until her passing in 2004.

The Butler family's connection to the Sisters carried on to the next generation as one of their sons, Michael, earned his MBA from Marylhurst University in 2013.

Now retired and residing in Hayden, Idaho, Molly and Stewart enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. They fondly recall their years of volunteering and continue to generously support the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names. ■



(Above) Stewart and Molly at their grandchild's baptism.



(Left) Molly and Stewart Butler with their sons, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

# Celebrating Jubilarians

This Fall, we celebrate women who professed their vows 70, 75 and 80 years ago.

## 70-Year Jubilarians



Sister  
Mary  
Frances Beck



Sister  
Liz Davis



Sister  
Miriam  
Mark Eddy



Sister  
Rosemary  
Everett



Sister  
Dianne Fagan



Sister  
Ann Marean



Sister  
Rita Josephine  
McKernan



Sister  
Patricia Mills



Sister  
Dorothy Nolan



Sister  
Mary Ann  
O'Mara



Sister  
Rosemary  
Parker



Sister  
Jacqueline  
Quinn



Sister  
Margaret  
Sullivan

## 75-Year Jubilarians



Sister  
Juliana Lucey



Sister  
Giovannina  
Saleeby



Sister  
Anna Weisner

## 80-Year Jubilarians



Sister  
Rosemarie  
Kasper



Sister  
Thérèse  
Ottman



Sister Kathleen  
Walsh

# Send a Gift of Prayer

You just received word that a loved one has passed away, or someone you know is ill or has been in an accident. An invitation arrives in the mail to celebrate a birth, wedding, anniversary, or other special milestone in the life of a dear friend. You want to send a special card, but are not sure what would be appropriate.

Send a GIFT OF PRAYER from the Sisters of the Holy Names.

A GIFT OF PRAYER is a thoughtful and special way to honor someone, remember the deceased, give thanks for God's many blessings, or celebrate a special occasion.

A GIFT OF PRAYER shows compassion and can be particularly consoling for a friend or loved one who is coping with a death or other life challenge. Prayers may be requested for special intentions such as improved health, successful surgery, safe return, comfort, strength, healing and peace.



John Smith  
has been enrolled in the  
Sisters of the Holy Names  
*Gift of Prayer*

John will be remembered and, along with  
his family, held in the prayers of the  
Sisters.

May our gracious God surround you  
with special love and bless you.

Maggie O'Connor  
123 Sample Street  
Anytown, MD 22212

A donation accompanied this request.

Recipients and their intentions are held in the prayers of the Holy Names Sisters and Affiliates. A beautiful, personalized card acknowledging your gift of prayer is sent to the person or family you indicate; donation amounts are kept confidential. All contributions help support the Sisters and our ministries.

We hope you find our GIFT OF PRAYER a helpful way for you to make meaningful remembrances.

Send a gift of prayer online  
([www.snjmusontario.org/prayergift](http://www.snjmusontario.org/prayergift))  
or by sending this form to: Sisters of the Holy Names, PO Box 398, Marylhurst, OR 97036.

Prayers for \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person/persons

In Memoriam (recently deceased?  Yes  No)

Special Intention \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

healing, strength, peace, gratitude, speedy recovery, safe trip, etc.

To honor/celebrate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

birthday, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, friendship, etc.

Send card to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sign card from \_\_\_\_\_

Personal note (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ check # \_\_\_\_\_



Sisters of the Holy Names  
P.O. Box 398  
Marylhurst, OR 97036

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Portland, OR  
Permit No. 740



### Future Home to Head Start Program

On the Marylhurst Commons campus in Lake Oswego, Oregon, the renovation of the Mayer Art Building to serve as a future Head Start facility is underway. Planned improvements include six classrooms and a community space. To finance these upgrades, there is an urgent need to raise \$1.5 million to fund a new HVAC system, roof replacement, additional restrooms and other repairs. To support the Sisters with this work, contact [development@snjmuson.org](mailto:development@snjmuson.org).

## Mayer Art Building Comes Full Circle

Central to the educational philosophy of the Sisters of the Holy Names is full development of the human person. In 1954, in support of this value, Marylhurst College added to its expanding campus an arts and home economics building. In 1968, it was renamed in honor of Edwin E. Mayer, friend, benefactor and father of three Marylhurst alumnae.

The Mayer building remained home to the art department, but with the 1974 college transition, the home economics wing became the Marylhurst Early Childhood Center. In 1986 when the Early



Childhood department left campus, the art department took over the entire building until Marylhurst University's closure in 2018.

Today, the Mayer building is experiencing a rebirth as a site for preschool education with plans underway for renovation of the building for a Head Start facility for 80 children. This return to preschool education is a joy, fueling enthusiasm for a lively educational program in the tradition of the Holy Names Sisters.



Left: Art class held in the Mayer Art Building in 1961. Above: Students lounge outside the Art building in 1964.