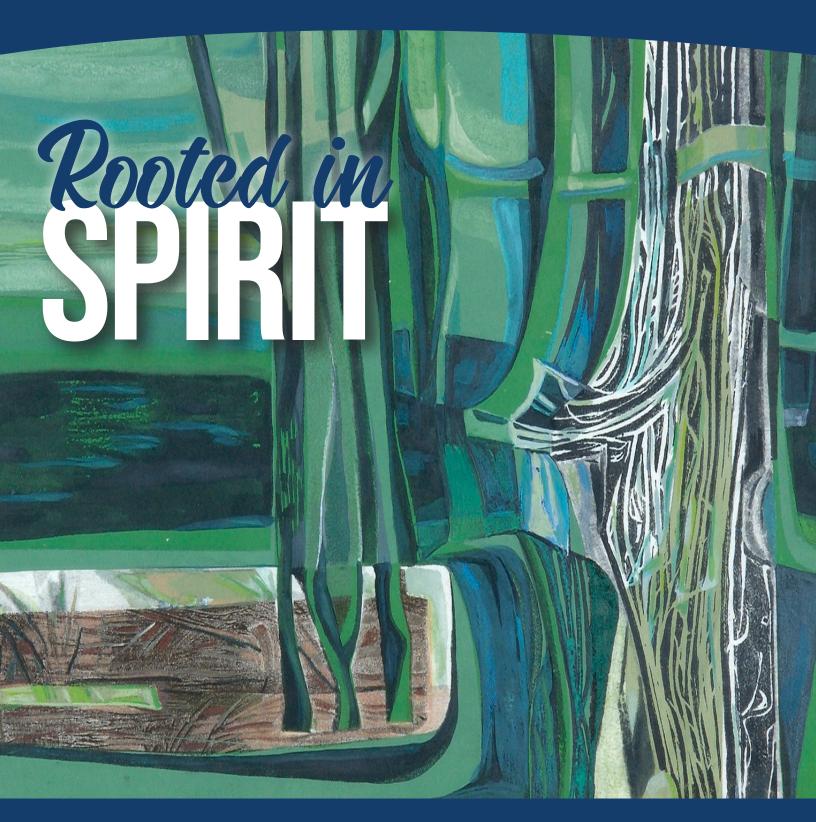
Volume 9, Issue 2



FALL 2025 | Volume 9, Issue 2 SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

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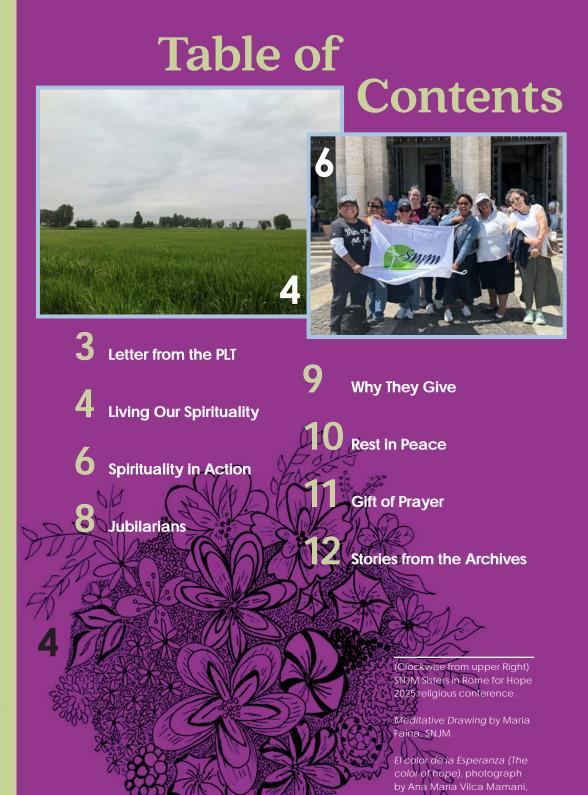
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# Letter from

**SNJM Province Leadership Team** 

Dear Friends,

Our mission is rooted in our spirituality, which is inspired by the Names of Jesus and Mary (SNIM Constitutions 4).

Spirituality is at the heart of who each of us is; it is the path we walk as we strive to follow in the footprints of Jesus. As Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary our spirituality is grounded in our Catholic tradition. As you read this edition of SNJM Now you will see our rich spirituality as women of the Church. We engage in traditional spiritual practices such as personal prayer, liturgical prayer spiritual companionship, studying Scripture, service and advocating for justice.

We also nurture our spiritual life through activities that some may not immediately think of as spiritual actions, yet these practices help us ground ourselves and connect with that which is most important. Activities such as creating art, writing poetry, singing and playing instruments, spending time in nature, walking, connecting with

animals, enjoying time with friends, savoring a good meal, baking, checking in with neighbors, writing letters and intentionally greeting those we meet each day can all be ways of deepening our relationship with God and with others.

Our SNJM Congregation calls us to work toward full development of the human person. Each of us is unique and finds God through a variety of spiritual practices. Attending to them consistently helps us grow into our full potential. As we become more deeply who we are meant to be we see with greater awareness the sacredness of creation, the dignity of each human and the love God has for us. This feeds our spirits and inspires us to engage with the world as we advocate for justice living our call to be Gospel women.

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

Maurele Delaney SAGM Deave Enas Super Marcia Frideze, som Carol Higgins, Sujm Småa Patrick snyn Mary Slater snym

"From our charism flows a spirituality that is the

wellspring of our life..."

Living Our Spirituality

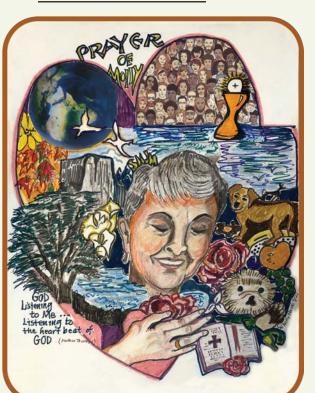
- SNJM General Chapter Acts, 2016

cross our congregation, Sisters and Associates shared their personal reflections on the meaning of spirituality.

Their words reveal a way of living that is embodied, creative and grounded in the presence of a loving God.

(Above) *Mandala* by Judith Mayer

(Below) Prayer of Molly by Molly



#### **Contemplative Creativity**

Art becomes a form of prayer when it inspires stillness, imagination and a sense of wonder. In these pages, we share works by SNJM Sisters that invite reflection, meditation, hope and joy.

#### Practices of Prayer and Presence

Our spiritual practices show how prayer and mindfulness are intentionally woven into daily life, offering quiet, continual connection to each moment.

Sister Beth Liebert:
The Ignatian practice of entering imaginatively into a Scripture text and letting the Spirit take over in my imagination has made Jesus come alive to me

as a real person I can converse with at any time. I also use the Ignatian Rules for Discernment of Spirits to make thoughtful, Spirit-led decisions. Through my teaching I have tried to demystify these resources so others may experience their own personal relationship with Jesus as the ground of their lives.

Sister Fran Kearney: Whenever I am writing, I begin with JMJ (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) at the top of the page, invoking the Divine to guide my thoughts and words. It may be a to-do list, a shopping list or notes from a meeting. I depend on the Spirit to help my words in letters and notes be thoughtful, sensitive and supportive of the recipient.

Sister JoJean Cavalli: Using the Orthodox practice of our "Desert Fathers," an interior recitation of The Jesus Prayer: Jesus, Son of the Living God have mercy on me, a sinner, helps center me in the present moment. This practice resonates with one's breathing, and I like to think the Holy Spirit continues the prayer in me, even as I fall asleep.

#### **Routines That Root Us**

Familiar habits, daily rhythms and long loved prayers are touchstones throughout our days. These simple, faithful practices become anchors for presence, peace and spiritual connection.

Sister Peggy Kinzie: Humming a simple mantra like "Be Still and know I am God" or "Jesus, I know you are near," can help quiet an active mind and body.

SNJM Associate Helen Janisse: A meaningful part of my spiritual life is living each day with a special scripture passage, phrase, or word, often drawn from a daily reflection.

#### **Melodies of Grace**

Through rhythm, harmony and silence, music is a living prayer, woven into worship, reflection and the flow of daily life. Music offers moments of grace throughout our days.

Sister Linda Riggers: All my life, music has fed my spirit. Listening to music, playing music, brings the details of everyday life into a new light, helping me spot where the Divine rests in my surroundings.

Sister Claire Durocher: As I drive, I often find myself thanking God for the gift of still being able to do so and turning street names into moments of prayer like singing "Shepherd Me, O God" when I pass Shepherd Street.

Sister Janet Walton: When singing or making music on the piano, I create moments for myself of courage, of resilience, of joy. When I listen to music, I know what beauty is, that hope is real. I know, within and without, that God is more, one note after another.

#### Words That Hold Wonder

Spirituality often resides in our deepest questions and moments of awe. Through poetry and reflection, we are called to observe and ponder.

#### Hope is Rising – Mary Lyons, SNJM

The focal point of this image is the charred remains of an innocent victim of a forest fire portrayed in Black.

Beneath the tree is a band of Grey, a symbol of serious depression which can quickly descend over people who experience total helplessness.

A triangle of Orange symbolizes anxiety/not hopelessness.

A blue triangle is a shower of calm which encourages a sense of Hope.

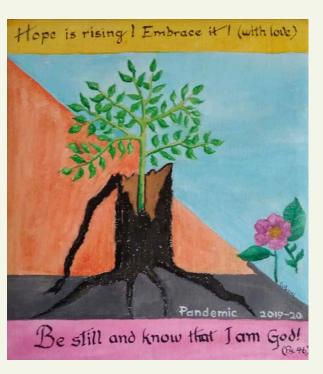
Hope is quickly discovered in the green of New Birth rising from charred remains.

**The flower**, a flicker of **Joy**, which hopes to survive but is unstable and cannot yet find her rootedness.

The band of yellow is total Joy which recognizes the gift of Hope.

The band of pink is an ecstatic awareness of the universal presence of our God of Love and of Mercy who is here for all of creation.

In all these ways, we live out a vibrant spirituality. Sister Joan Saalfeld writes, "Individual spiritual transformation is usually a quiet and gradual process. It is the fruit of openness to what happens as we try to live our lives with integrity and intention. It is not so much something we do, as something we receive when we are faithful to our journey into the mystery of God, doing our best to make each life transition as it comes to us." This is our call, to be rooted, open and ever attuned to the Love that holds all things.



Hope Is Rising by Mary Lyons, SNJM. See Sister Mary's guide (on left) to the meaning of each color and object.

> Holy Thursday Lessons from the Redwood Trees – Miriam Malone, SNJM

No one of us stands alone

We stand straight and tall and we bend with the wind

What we know for sure is this

the fog will lift and it is fog

that we need to live well and fully

as we reach heights never imagined and our roots

stay firmly grounded in the earth

Look up and see

we can almost touch the sun!

## Spirituality in Action



isters reach beyond congregational boundaries to strengthen communal spirituality.

**Cultivating the Global Sisterhood** 

Lesotho and the U.S. attend the Hope 2025 conference in Rome (Left) Sister Sophia Park presents at Hope 2025.

(Right) SNJM Sisters from Peru,

"Unite us in our global sisterhood as we lead ourselves and one another with compassion while inspiring hope in the world," proclaims the blessing prayer for the Hope 2025 retreat in Rome. SNJM Sisters from Peru. Lesotho and the U.S. joined over two hundred women religious under the age of 65 to discuss the future of religious life and the role of women as leaders in the church.

Hope 2025 was hosted by the Leadership Collaborative (LC), an organization formed in 2012 to foster transformational leadership for religious life. To advance the growth of the global religious community, LC empowered women religious to connect across cultural boundaries at the weeklong gathering in June. "Something new was being breathed into life," said LC's Associate Director Tammy Townsend.

Sisters from 45 countries joined together in conversation and prayer. "When we from different countries met, it was more than simple joy," said Sister Sophia Park. The group found solidarity through their commitment to follow Jesus, live the gospel values and serve people on the margins. From that communal commitment burst a sharing of experiences of joy, challenge, loss and support.

Sister Lourdes Quintana Cortavitarte was energized by groups discussing changes in their communities and models of leadership through uncertain times. "I saw new generations very open to the challenges that may arise, to the vision of a freer development of humanity." Across congregations, Sisters shared their processes for embracing the evolving realities of religious life, for letting go of what is ending, for cultivating hope.

By the end of the week, unified by their common mission and strengthened by

their diverse experiences, each Sister was prepared to return to their local community and share knowledge from the emerging global sisterhood. As Hope 2025 ended, Sister Michelle Garlinski reflected, "The world is calling for action, and religious women will continue to respond as those who have gone before us."

#### **Nurturing Spiritual Connection in Later Life**

Sister Anna Weisner continues to embody values of hospitality and faith at Mary's Woods, a senior living community in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Residents seeking to express their spirituality through connection and communion gather each week at the Wisdom Group run by Sister Anna. The impact has been tremendous, with members of the group cherishing the dedicated space to share what is in their hearts.

#### **Exploring the Intersection of** Spirituality and Leadership

SNJM's Ministry Grants help fund projects that educate and empower community members, including the recent event, "Spirituality of Leadership Through Communication," hosted by

Silicon Valley Allied for the Common Good. Sister Ceclia Calva, Sister Mary Becker and SNJM Associate Lucia Carrillo helped coordinate the daylong exploration of communication theory. The event brought together Spanishspeaking members of four San José parishes to reinforce and expand the group's community organizing work. Lorena, who attended the event, shared, "What impacted me was the respect and unity that I experienced. We were deeply connected in our faith and in our commitment to serve others."

Women religious from 45 countries attended Hope 2025 in Rome to discuss the future of religious life.



#### **BOOK CORNER Sharing SNJM Spirituality** through Published Works

**Border-Crossing Spirituality** Sophia Park, SNJM

Almost every religious tradition has within it a spiritual teaching on "being in between" and the transformation that occurs in the borderland. Sister Sophia Park explores the values of hospitality, friendship and present awareness that accompany people who cross cultural, geopolitical and existential borders.

The Soul of Discernment Elizabeth Liebert, SNJM

"Discernment may very well be the single most important Christian spiritual practice for dealing with the complexity of our contemporary lives," writes Sister Elizabeth Liebert in The Soul of Discernment. For leaders seeking to contribute to the collective future of our communities, Sister Elizabeth's book is a guide through the Social Discernment Cycle, a collaborative process for groups seeking God's call in decision making.



The

SOUL

Spirituality On The Run

Cecilia Ranger, SNJM

Sister Cecilia Ranger has played the lifelong chess game of balancing her spiritual and active lives. "Our fascinating but chaotic world offers us the enormous challenge of creating a rhythm in our lives, a life-enhancing harmony between action and contemplation." In Spirituality On The Run, she explores how we can live the rhythm of a balanced life.

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## Celebrating Jubilarians

his Fall we celebrate women who professed their vows 70 and 75 years ago. You can read their biographies by visiting www.snjmusontario.org/jubilarians.



75-Year Jubilarian Sister Theresa Cecilia Lowe

### 70-Year Jubilarians



Sister Yvonne A. de Turenne



Sister

Joan

Dixon



Sister Helen Garvey



Sister **Maureen Hester** 



Sister Carol Lee

Sister

Marx

Marilyn



Sister





Sister Eileen Kelleher



Sister **Iennie** Lechtenberg



Geraldine Moffat



Sister Peggy Pillette

## Why They Give Mary Lou and Dick Taggart

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.

ary Lou and Dick Taggart's story started in the mountains of Utah, when Dick was working in forestry and Mary Lou was teaching school. Their meeting led to a partnership that has lasted more than 57 years, blessing them with two children and six grandchildren. But their journey really began even earlier, in two small towns in the West.

Mary Lou grew up in Provo, Utah. She earned a scholarship to Marylhurst University, becoming the first in her family to attend college when she graduated in 1965. She fondly remembers her journalism teacher, Sister Jane Ellen Burns, whose encouragement meant the world to her. After college, Mary Lou's teaching career took her across the country, even as far as a Quonset hut classroom in Okinawa, Japan.

Dick, meanwhile, grew up in Evanston, Wyoming. During the Vietnam War, while still in college, he joined the Navy. He earned his commission on October 25, 1968, and the very next day, he and Mary Lou married. They moved to the Washington, D.C. area, where Dick worked for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Mary Lou taught. Eventually, Dick's interest in forestry led him to Weverhaeuser in Washington state, where he built a career that culminated in his role as the company's chief financial officer before retiring in 2007.

Even though life took them to big cities, Mary Lou and Dick never left behind their



small-town values: family, hard work and looking out for others. Supporting the Sisters of the Holy Names is one way they live out those values.

"We've always believed in building people up," Dick says. "And that's exactly what the Sisters do through their ministries."

For Mary Lou, the connection is even more personal. Sister Jane Ellen Burns didn't just inspire her; she became a lifelong friend to both Mary Lou and Dick. That relationship, and many others like it, is why they feel strongly about supporting the retired Sisters, whom they now count as good friends.





(Top to Bottom) Dick and Mary Lou

Mary Lou and Dick (center) with their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Mary Lou and Dick (right) with their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

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## 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 Grayce Ross, SNJM (Sister Elenora Marie) May 3, 1942 –

February 27, 2025 Sister Grayce Ross,

SNJM departed this life in Los Gatos, CA after 59 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Eugenie Rohner, SNJM (Sister David

Eugene) March 6, 1937 –

March 13, 2025 Sister Eugenie Rohner, SNJM

departed this life in Campbell, CA after 64 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Barbara Bray, SNJM

(Sister Mary Bernadette)

July 3, 1932 -March 23, 2025

Sister Barbara Bray, SNJM departed this life in Lake Oswego, OR after 72 years as a Holy Names Sister



Sister Marion Mills, SNJM

(Sister Kenneth Marie)

July 21, 1934 – May 21, 2025

Sister Marion Mills. SNJM departed this life in Los Gatos, CA after 68 years as a Holy Names Sister



**Sister Mary** Annette Dworshak, **SNJM** (Sister Beatrice Ann)

September 6, 1942 – June 16, 2025

Sister Mary Annette Dworshak, SNJM departed this life in Seattle, WA after 57 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Kathleen Walsh, SNJM

> (Sister Ignatius of Mary)

December 6, 1924 - June 19, 2025

Sister Kathleen Walsh, SNJM departed this life in Lake Oswego, OR after 80 years as a Holy



Sister Elizabeth Davis, SNJM (Sister Marian Agnes)

December 30, 1933 – July 15, 2025

Sister Elizabeth Davis. SNJM departed this life in Santa Clara, CA after 70 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Mary Julia Steinkamp, **SNJM** 

> (Sister John Michael)

March 25, 1931 -July 18, 2025

Sister Mary Julia Steinkamp, SNJM departed this life in Lake Oswego, OR after 73 years as a Holy Names Sister.

For extended obituaries, please visit our website at snjmusontario.org/about-us/obits.

### Send a Gift of Prayer

hen you receive word that a loved one has passed away, someone is ill or has been in an accident... An invitation arrives to celebrate a birth, wedding, anniversary or other milestone...

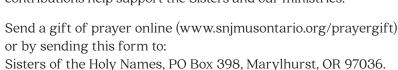
You want to send a special card, but are not sure what would be appropriate.

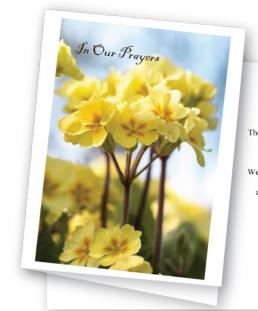
Send a Gift of Prayer from the Sisters of the Holy Names.

A **Gift of Prayer** is a special way to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion.

A Gift of Prayer shows compassion and can be consoling for a friend or loved one coping with a challenge. Prayers may be requested for special intentions such as improved health, successful surgery, safe return, comfort, strength, healing and peace.

Recipients and their intentions are held in the prayers of the Holy Names Sisters and Associates. A personalized card acknowledging your gift of prayer is sent to the recipient you indicate (donation amounts are kept confidential). All contributions help support the Sisters and our ministries.





Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Marv

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) is an international congregation of Catholic Sisters.

We are women of faith who commit our lives and resources to serve, educate, collaborate and advocate to meet the unmet needs of society.

The Sisters keep you in their prayers

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

Prayers for	Address
Your Name City, State, Zip	Enclosed is a donation of \$ check #

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#### Theology and the Arts

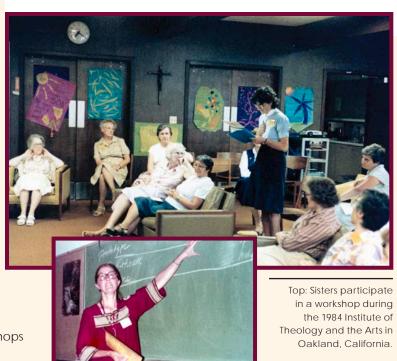
n today's interconnected world, it's easy to forget how difficult it once was for people to communicate across distances. Sisters working in education often had little opportunity to meet their counterparts in other provinces, even those in the same field.

In 1979, Sister Margaret Ann Dillon (OR, 1921–2003) visited a Jesuit summer program at Creighton University that celebrated and supported artists. Inspired, she proposed a similar program for West Coast Sisters. Supported by provincial leadership, her planning team included Sisters Louise Bond (CA, 1938–2016), Jeanne Concannon (WA, 1927–2013) and Barbara Collier (OR, 1926–2020). They envisioned a summer institute that would bring together Sisters "to reflect upon and deepen their understanding of education in the faith and its impact on their lives as creators, theologians and artists."

Planning began for the first institute to be held in August of 1981 at Holy Names College in Oakland, CA. Funded by provincial contributions as well as a five-year \$55,000 grant from Oregon philanthropist Maybelle Clark McDonald, the ten-day inaugural Maybelle Clark McDonald Institute for Theology and the Arts brought together 40 participants and presenters.

Each day opened with a seminar weaving together poetry, drama, theology and prayer. Afternoon workshops allowed participants to explore or deepen their artistic practice. Evenings featured informal "Firesides" with SNJM artists. Presenters included two Jesuits, Sisters Annette Covatta (1928–2020) and Janet Walton from the New York Province, and Maureen McAlduff (1926–2008) from the Manitoba Province.

The Institute of Theology and the Arts offered summer workshops through 1988, fostering connection and creativity across provinces. Its revised 1985 mission statement noted that "the arts are an essential aspect of the expression of religious tradition" and that giving participants a "heightened awareness of the reciprocal integration of theology with the arts will energize and enrich their lives and their ministries." For eight years, the Institute of Theology and the Arts provided the opportunity to build greater unity among the Sisters and highlighted how the arts can deepen faith, build community and bring people closer to God.



Middle: Sister Margaret Evanson leads a session at the 1986 Institute of Theology and the Arts in Spokane, Washington.

Bottom: Sisters Karen Conlin and Elizabeth Adams perform at the 1984 Institute of Theology and the Arts in Oakland, California.