

## Partners in Ministry

We are delighted to bring you the first edition of our newest publication, *SNJM Now* and look forward to your feedback.

We often hear from former students, and parents of former students, who fondly remember the days when we wore habits and served in schools. While we, too, cherish those memories, we are proud of the broad impact our Sisters are having in so many ways today. Through this new publication, our goal is to connect as we are today with our Partners in Ministry – our benefactors, former students, those currently involved in our sponsored works, and those who care about social justice – and invite you to join us in making a difference.

When Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher founded our community nearly 175 years ago, her focus was serving people on the margins. In 1843, that meant a focus on education, particularly for girls. Today, we are still educators and still focused on serving people on the margins in our local areas. We live that mission through our commitment to helping refugees and immigrants, to increasing awareness of the importance of protecting our earth, particularly its water supply, to ending human trafficking, and, of course, to continuing to facilitate academic learning in a variety of settings. We are a community of women religious following God's call, and we invite you to continue to journey with us.

In this first issue, we've chosen to highlight the work of our Sisters and Associates in serving people on the

margins through education, advocacy, and collaboration. At this time in our country's history, we feel more strongly than ever that our voices must join together on behalf of others, and we invite you to join with us in making a difference. Your financial support of our efforts, your prayers on our behalf, and your partnership in serving those on the margins has such an impact.

We are grateful for you and the many ways you support us.

Sincerely,

*The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary*

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*As we tread the same path, let us extend a hand to one another to surmount the difficulties that present themselves.*

*– Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher,  
foundress*

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SNJM U.S.-Ontario Province  
Leadership Team: (left to right)  
Guadalupe Guajardo, SNJM  
Mary Breiling, SNJM  
Mary Rita Rohde, SNJM  
Maureen Delaney, SNJM  
Margaret Kennedy, SNJM



# EDUCATING on the Margins

By Kathryn Ondreyco, SNJM

Since the community's foundation in 1843, Sisters of the Holy Names have educated thousands of students. While some Sisters and Associates today educate in "traditional" school settings, others have expanded the definition in response to needs in society.

Following is a glimpse of SNJMs as they continue the passion for and commitment to education.

Lolita Krebsbach, SNJM (top) and Mary Haupt, SNJM (bottom) with St. Patrick's School students.



## St. Patrick School San Jose, CA

St. Patrick Elementary School is a collaborative educational ministry shared by three Daughters of Charity, three Sisters of the Holy Names and dedicated lay faculty and staff. The Daughters of Charity financially support ten elementary schools in the

Western United States, including St. Patrick's, as part of their commitment to provide quality Catholic education to children whose families struggle financially to meet every day needs. The underlying values of the school are a reflection of the two religious communities' commitment to providing education and community to students and their families.

This transitional K-8 school in downtown San Jose is "home" to children from that area and beyond. The school reflects the diversity of the Santa Clara Valley: communications are in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Students experience a blend of technology-driven education, faith formation, fine arts classes in music and art, and physical education.

"I want the best education for my daughters," says Marie Roque. "The education they receive develops and strengthens their academic abilities. Being in this Catholic school community provides us with a sense of community and our own faith is deepened because of the faith education and Christian service opportunities they are receiving."

Three Sisters of the Holy Names minister at St. Patrick's: **Sister Mary Haupt** is the Vice-Principal focusing on Admissions, Recruitment, Development, Student Activities and Discipline; **Sister Lolita Krebsbach** (Thomas Michael) teaches religion in seventh grade, social studies in eighth grade and coordinates recess and lunch duty supervision; **Sister Peggy Hurley** volunteers as a tutor on Thursdays.

Sister Mary says: "Reflecting the strong commitment to the Holy Names and Vincentian spirits, fully embracing blended



learning and challenging our students academically, we are transforming their lives and that of their families.”

## Head Start Everett, WA

After teaching elementary school for 26 years, **Sister Patti Wasson** felt called to continue her ministry through the Head Start Program. Head Start helps children, especially those from low income families or whose mothers are not high school graduates, be more prepared for school.

In 2007 Sister Patti began ministering in Edmonds, WA, where she serves as Direct Services Manager of the Snohomish County Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. This program includes classrooms for children ages 3 to 5 and Early Head Start for children ages birth to 3.

“Head Start helped my daughter meet other children, learn her alphabet and numbers, and become more independent,” says one parent.

Sister Patti’s primary responsibility is supervising the teaching staff, including four Teacher Family Advocates (TFAs) who are responsible for both the education of the child and the social services part of the family’s development. In addition, there are two assistant teachers and two teacher aides.

“I volunteered in my children’s classrooms when they were in Head Start,” reflects one TFA. “I became a substitute, took college classes and earned my Child Development Associate and Associate of Arts degrees. The encouragement and support of the Head Start Program allowed me to accomplish these goals.”

A real success of the program is the connection between families. In this



world of division and conflict, Sister Patti witnesses groups of parents develop true friendships and support.

Lucinda Peightal, SNJM with one of the many refugees who have enjoyed her support.

Together, Sister Patti, the staff and the parents participate in educating and shaping lives for the future.

## Life Skills for Immigrants Portland, OR

After a long career in elementary education, **Sister Lucinda Peightal** (M. Helen Patrice) brought her skills to another classroom.

For over ten years, Sister Lucinda has helped African refugee families transition to life in Portland. In addition to teaching them English, she has been there for baby showers, school programs and graduations, accompanying them through academic endeavors and the transition of the children to adulthood with families and children of their own.

One of her first families from Liberia had four children. Sister worked with Christian, the oldest son, as he navigated his way through Franklin High School.

He is now the father of three children, supporting his family as a carpenter. His youngest sister, Numo, was traumatized when she arrived, hiding under desks in the classroom. Her teacher and Sister Lucinda helped her overcome this fear. Sister continues to support and encourage sixteen year-old Numo to continue her education.

When Maria and her seven children, ages 2 – 17, arrived from the Congo eight years ago, adjustment to life in Portland meant overcoming many obstacles. Sister Lucinda helped Maria learn everyday skills such as how to use a washing machine. When Maria was diagnosed with diabetes, Sister educated her about nutrition, meal planning, shopping, and cooking.

Sister Lucinda assisted the children in their academic endeavors. The oldest, Matumaini, now 25, continued his education beyond high school and now provides translation services to Catholic Charities. Sister completed a letter of recommendation so that he and his wife

could move into low-income housing with their year-old son, Alembe.

Education takes many forms and Sister continues to find creative ways to teach.

## *ESL & Financial Skills for Immigrants Largo, FL*

Helping immigrants increase their independence and reduce their isolation is a key goal for **Sister Mary Haskins** (William Joseph). “ESL and Finance Education are needs within the immigrant community here in Largo. With my experience, I knew that I could teach English and basic Finance principles.”

Sister Mary teaches financial literacy in collaboration with Project Prosper, a nonprofit providing financial education, mentoring, loans and savings.

For the last two years, Sister Mary has been teaching three Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro from Tanzania whose native language is Swahili. The Sisters were college educated in Tanzania and are working under a master nurse at a nursing facility in the Tampa area. English is still very difficult for them and they work on phonics, comprehension and conversation.

The Sisters plan to return to Tanzania someday so Sister Mary motivates them with “someday you will be able to teach English to your Sisters.” She says the Sisters are marvelous to teach and so appreciative of the opportunity to learn English. “I truly feel honored to have Sisters as students.” ■

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Mary Haskins, SNJM (center) with two graduates of her ESL classes.



# ADVOCATING for People on the Margins

By Mary Ann Farley, SNJM

Sisters of the Holy Names have historically been advocates for women and children, for people on the margins, those with no voice or knowledge of how and where to use their voice. In our earliest days, it may have

been supplying pencils, a uniform, a safe place for their human development. Today we have morphed into much broader areas of advocacy. Sisters have offered liberating action in many areas, infiltrating unjust systems, forming supportive relationships, speaking out for and with marginalized groups or individuals. The Sisters still spend their considerable time, energy and expertise in providing safe places for the human development of their neighbors, in the broadest sense of “who is my neighbor?”

## Advocacy Against Human Trafficking San Jose, CA

When she first began teaching at Marin Catholic in Kentfield, CA, Sister Rosemary Everett (M. Charles Kevin) resonated with a Pablo Casals quote on a poster: *The capacity to care is that which gives life its greatest significance.* Sister Rosemary’s caring heart has prompted her to take action through calls, letters and signing petitions to federal, state and local officials on legislation for justice issues. Rosemary has an alert group of Sisters, Associates and others to whom



she forwards petitions, letters and requests for calls.

A particular passion is her support of the SNJM Corporate Stand against Human Trafficking, and she actively participates in San Jose and South Bay groups

Rosemary Everett, SNJM is tireless in her outreach to legislators, hotel managers, and bus companies on behalf of human trafficking victims.

focused on ending the exploitation of human beings for sex or forced labor. When Super Bowl 2016 came to San Francisco, she participated in the creation of the No Traffick Ahead coalition. This group works with bus drivers and hotel managers to make information available to trafficking victims and to train employees to recognize and report trafficking at their doors.

Rosemary is inspired and motivated by the phrase: Gospel women in solidarity for liberating action.

## **Supporting Farmworkers Tacoma, WA**

Since entering the SNJM community in 2000, Sister Susan Wells has put her passion for advocacy and her love of immigrant communities to good use in a variety of ministries. For example, she has served the Farmworker community in the Yakima Valley at Marie Rose House and as a Pastoral Associate in a primarily Latino parish in the Diocese of San Bernardino, CA.

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A participant in the Farmworker Center's Leadership Toltec Class is congratulated by Susan Wells, SNJM (right) upon receiving her certificate.



For the past four years, Sister Susan has ministered as a social worker in Tacoma, WA, working with unaccompanied refugee minors and as the Director of the Farmworker Center sponsored by Catholic Community Services in Mount Vernon, WA.

Sister Susan works to help members of the farmworker community become stronger advocates for the needs of their own community. She encourages their participation in Catholic Advocacy and Latino Advocacy Days in Olympia, WA, where Farmworker community members share their experiences with state legislators and help them to better understand the unique needs and important contributions of Farmworkers. At the local level, Farmworkers advocate for affordable housing with city and county officials.

“My passion is to share with immigrant communities our warm SNJM hospitality; to demonstrate to them that their voices are critically needed as policies are being made at all levels of government. This is how I try to bring to life our Chapter Acts and Corporate Stand on Immigrants and Refugees.”

## **Advocating for the At Risk Portland, OR**

When Mary Hansen, Associate, was growing up in Portland, her parents modelled the value of ministering with marginalized people. She says advocacy is “in her genes.”

Her call to become a court-appointed advocate on behalf of at-risk individuals started with an attorney's request that she become a guardian for a young woman. After taking classes in elder law, Mary is now a Professional

Fiduciary, working with the courts for the protection of people who are at risk for abuse and neglect. In this role, she may be a guardian, administer a trust, or supervise housing and medication needs for persons suffering from mental health challenges. She finds a balance between intervention and respect for autonomy, between compromising life style habits and human dignity, between her heart and what is possible. Mary has a picture before her of a small woman with a little bundle walking away. The title is Invisible. No one is invisible on Mary's watch!

A strong advocate of education, Mary teaches in an organization called Guardian Partners, a program to train representatives of the court as support persons for at-risk clients. There are more than 5000 guardianships in Oregon.

While Mary was working with **Sister Clare Roy** (Mary Leonarda, RIP) at St. Francis of Assisi in Portland, Sr. Clare saw the SNJM charism alive in Mary and invited her to become an Associate. Her connection is frequently affirmed as the flow of SNJM mirrors the flow of her own life. Mary finds congruity in our emphasis on education and collaboration and the power of community.

## **Advocacy on Behalf of Immigrants Tampa, FL**

**Sister Elizabeth Crean** (M. Jerome Michael) was a teacher and student of history. She became interested in law and in those who lack representation, especially immigrants who are overwhelmed by the complexity of law and the expenses involved. Her reaction became a call: Who can I help? There are people who come to the United States for a better life, and now

are trying very hard to manage, to prosper. **Sister Rose Gallagher** (Rose Immaculata, RIP) was her patron saint in this work, having devoted much of her life and heart to the Haitian people.

The process to acquire legal status is a lengthy one. There are many documents to gather and a government application to complete costing hundreds of dollars. To better assist the immigrants, Sister Elizabeth became a paralegal, and ultimately pursued an online jurist doctor degree. With financial support from the SNJM community, she formed Paralegal Immigration Advocacy.

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**“My passion is to share with immigrant communities our warm SNJM hospitality; to demonstrate to them that their voices are critically needed as policies are being made at all levels of government.”**

**— Sister Susan Wells**

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Ready for action, she found two attorneys with hearts for immigrant people. They accepted her proposal that if people could not afford their services, she would do the work to prepare the clients for legal status, and the attorneys would review and approve. The lawyers refer clients who come with horror stories of abuse, gangs, physical danger. One woman crossed the Rio Grande with her child on her shoulders. Sister listens, she loves, and she does the work.

Sister Elizabeth finds strength and support for her advocacy in SNJM documents emphasizing dedication to women and children, to justice, to liberating action especially for low-income and marginalized persons. She says: “With God's grace and Mother Mary Rose pushing me along, I hope I can do this for a long time.” ■

# COLLABORATION to Serve Those on the Margins

By Carole Strawn, SNJM

Collaboration is key to Holy Names ministry. In the words of our foundress, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher: “As we tread the same path, let us extend a hand to one another to surmount the difficulties that present themselves.” Today Sisters and Associates all around the U.S.-Ontario Province live these words as active participants in collaborative actions for the marginalized.

## Ministering to the Imprisoned Eugene, OR



Carol Lee, SNJM with her Lane County Jail supervisor Sergeant Dave Bones (left) and Lieutenant Steve French (right).

After years as a pastoral associate, Sister Carol Lee (Thomas James) became a certified Catholic chaplain and worked in a local hospital. When she retired, she still wished to use her chaplain skills. Another Holy Names

Sister in the area, Sister Margaret Graziano (Vincent Mary, RIP), was a long-time volunteer organizer at the Lane County Jail, and Sister Carol found that her chaplain skills would be much appreciated there.

Working mostly with female inmates, Sister responds to requests in the form of small papers called “kytes.” They can ask

for anything from art paper, stationery, Bibles, prayer, a visit due to death in the family, or counseling.

There is a sense of care. One compassionate captain has been concerned about persons with mental illness or little education. Opportunities for classes range from socialization skills to yoga and through Lane Community College, inmates have access to GED programs. Chaplains assist by proctoring GED tests at the jail. Sister Carol described the pleasure she felt at the joy of a 58-year-old man when he received his GED certificate.

In Community Court, a collaboration of law enforcement, the judicial system and various non-profit agencies, Sister Carol represents Catholic Community Services. The program offers options to those arrested for low-level misdemeanor crimes, which may mean no jail time and no record. After successfully completing the program, there is a courtroom meeting. The Judge issues a “Key to Success” and lawyers, social workers, and friends of the court praise the person’s achievement.

Recently Sister Carol has been accompanying the only woman on death row in Oregon. While at Lane County, the woman connected with her spirituality and Catholic faith, which

are sustaining her now. Building on their relationship, Sister Carol visits her at the women's prison in Wilsonville and writes to her regularly in support of her personal and spiritual well-being.

## Collaboration on Behalf of Detained Immigrants Chicago, IL

Having just moved to Chicago, a flier caught Sister Cathy Leamy's (James of the Eucharist) eye. It advertised Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI), a group of religious congregations in support of immigrant rights. Looking to become involved in her new city, Sister Cathy filled out the attached postcard and within a couple of days received an invitation to the next meeting.

SBI's mission is to exercise the power of their collective voice to seek justice for immigrants by advocacy, prayer, public witness, and education. A recent SBI offshoot is assistance to young people aging out of the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program. As they reach 18, they are vulnerable to being snatched by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and placed into adult detention awaiting deportation. The Clerics of St. Viator opened a house so young men have some place to go as they leave URM. Sisters in the area are coming together to provide a similar resource for young women.

Through SBI, Sister Cathy came to know the Interfaith Coalition for Detained Immigrants (ICDI). Initially ICDI members came together over the denial of pastoral visitation to immigrant detainees. Authorities deemed them ineligible for this right because of



their undocumented status. With the persistent efforts of some undaunted individuals lobbying state legislators, a bill was passed allowing pastoral visitation to non-citizen detainees.

Sister Cathy and other volunteers make weekly visits. The ICDI pastoral visitation program has gained positive acceptance and ICE has even requested they start programs at other facilities.

Cathy Leamy, SNJM and a team of volunteers from the Interfaith Coalition for Detained Immigrants visit detainees in a jail in Kankakee, IL.

## Collaboration on Behalf of Women and Children Albany, NY

Mary's Corner, a ministry of the Ladies of Charity, operates with an all-volunteer staff including Sister Joyce Houle (Isabel Veronica). Mary's Corner provides necessities such as baby food, diapers, bath supplies, bedding, strollers and playpens to low-income single parents for their children, mostly newborns to 4-years-old. Collaborative relationships with area-Catholic parishes and congregations of other religious traditions help to keep the shelves stocked. Sister Joyce said a wish list in a parish bulletin always results in a generous flood of items for restocking shelves.

Another project close to Sister's heart is the Coalition to End Human Trafficking of Albany. They are a diverse, faith-based



(top) Barbara Spears, SNJM provides an update on UNANIMA to a group of Sisters of the Holy Names.

(bottom) Joyce Houle, SNJM helps a Mary's Corner client select baby clothes.

rejoices in the friendship of the volunteers and being present to the moms and dads they serve.

## An International Collaboration

The Sisters of the Holy Names are members of UNANIMA International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded by Holy Names Sister Catherine Ferguson in 2002.

A coalition of 19 congregations of Catholic Sisters advocating at the United Nations in New York for the improvement of the economic and social conditions of all peoples, it strives to educate and influence policy-makers at the global level. UNANIMA is active in a number of committees and working groups including Committees on Migration and to Stop Trafficking in Persons.

The Holy Names liaison to UNANIMA is Sister Barbara Spears (Mary Joelle) who serves on the board, participates in advocacy, and conducts workshops on UNANIMA issues. An important dimension of her work is updating Sisters and Associates on current UNANIMA programs, including workshop and internship opportunities with UNANIMA at the U.N.

group who educate and advocate to end human trafficking and serve those adversely affected. They sponsor an annual interfaith vigil and offer education days to raise awareness about human trafficking and the Academy of the Holy Names – Albany has

hosted past workshops. In June 2015 the Interfaith Alliance of New York State honored the Albany Coalition including Sister Mary Elizabeth Lagoy (John Gilbert) and Sister Joyce. Sister remarked that their awareness-raising activities, including education outreach to law enforcement, have been well received.

Sister Joyce finds her experiences in both of these ministries “life giving”. She looks forward to the Coalition meetings because it is “such a gift to belong. It is alive and makes things happen.” As for Mary’s Corner, she

These are fruits of collaboration fostered by “lending a hand to surmount the difficulties which present themselves.” Holy Names Sisters and Associates participate in this every day. This theme was recently reiterated for today: “The Spirit prompts us to be in dialogue with the emerging questions; to act with audacity and freedom; to widen our circles of collaboration; and to imagine the SNJM mission in new ways.” ■

# *Around the Province*

## *Retreat Brings Together Sisters and AHN Alumna*

Pat Parachini, SNJM (right, AHN Silver Spring class of 1957) facilitated a retreat at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD, on June 17. At the retreat, called "A Day of Contemplative Prayer," both Sister Pat and Molia Sieh, SNJM (center, AHN Albany class of 1957) had the pleasure of encountering a former student, Barbara Mangin Steele (left, AHN Silver Spring class of 1970). Barbara spoke with great delight about her experiences at AHN, remembering her former teachers with gratitude.



Sister Pat will facilitate another Day of Contemplative Prayer on Saturday, November 11. For information about the retreat or to register, visit <https://rccbbonsecours.com>

## *Holy Names High School Alumna to Be Portland Police Chief*

Congratulations to the newly appointed Chief of the Portland Police Bureau Danielle Outlaw, a graduate of Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA. Danielle started her career as an Oakland Police Explorer while attending Holy Names High School in 1997. After 19 years of service with the Oakland Police Department, Danielle is excited to transition into the Portland, OR community. In a press release from the city of Portland, Mayor Ted Wheeler says that Danielle was selected based on her dedication to transparency, diversity and equity

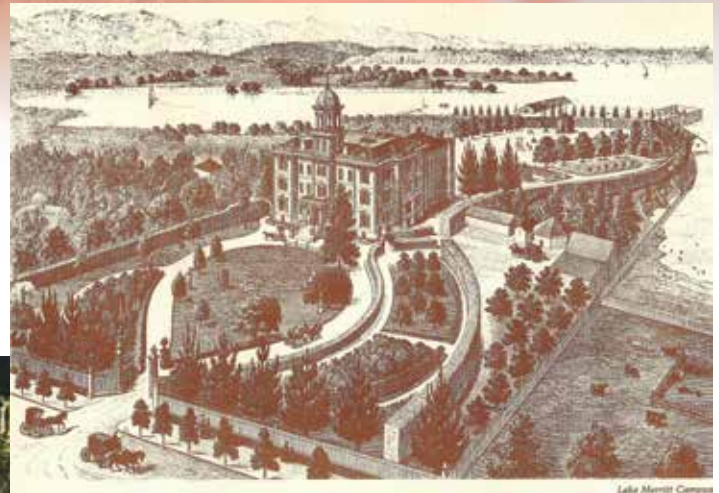


## *Thinking About the Next AHN Silver Spring All-Class Reunion*

The Academy of the Holy Names in Silver Spring, MD, closed its doors a final time in 1988, but the connections between students and with the Sisters remains strong! The Sisters hosted an all-class reunion in 2016, and based on the enthusiastic response, they are looking for volunteers to help plan another all-class reunion in late 2018/early 2019. If you are interested, email Sarah Harris ([sharris@snjmuson.org](mailto:sharris@snjmuson.org)).



# LOOKING AHEAD — Anniversary Celebrations



Lake Merritt Campus



Top: The convent at Lake Merritt in Oakland was the site of the first SNJM school in California as well as the California provincial house and novitiate until, in February 1952, they relocated to the new Convent in Los Gatos.

Bottom: Sisters pose at the Key West convent on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of ministry in Florida in 1918.



SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES  
OF JESUS AND MARY

From those humble beginnings, ministries spread to many areas in California.

In 1868, in the 25th year of the Community, pioneer Sisters began ministry on two coasts of the United States.

In May of that year, six young Sisters of the Holy Names journeyed from Montreal, Canada to San Francisco, where they were met by the Sisters of Mercy who treated them to strawberries and cream — such a special delicacy that the California Sisters of the Holy Names celebrate May 10 of each year as “Strawberry Day.” Father Michael King and his parishioners had built a convent for the Sisters and a school on a site bordering Lake Merritt in Oakland.

In October, 1868, five more Sisters were sent to the United States, this time to teach in Key West, Florida. (October was selected to delay the Sisters’ introduction to Florida summers.) Upon their arrival, the Sisters were met by Father John Allard and a curious crowd of onlookers. The foundation house was an abandoned Union barracks outside the town limits and was housing goats until the Sisters’ arrival. Their ministry began at St. Mary’s Star of the Sea in Key West and quickly expanded to other Key West schools as well as ministries in Tallahassee and Tampa. ■

**We invite you to celebrate with us the memories of the past while continuing to build with us on our dreams for the future. — Sister Margaret Spiller, SNJM, RIP.**

# CELEBRATING Jubilarians

During 2017, the Sisters of the Holy Names have celebrated 13 Sisters who made their first profession of vows 50 years ago. We've highlighted one Sister here, and you can find the biographies of all jubilarians on our website (<https://goo.gl/s5415C>)

*Emma Bezaire, SNJM*

*Charlyne Brown, SNJM*

*Jocie-Rhea Chism, SNJM*

*Mary Duffy, SNJM*

*Mary Annette Dworshak,  
SNJM*

*Carol Fleitz, SNJM*

*Kay Heberling, SNJM*

*Kathleen Hecht, SNJM*

*Jane Hibbard, SNJM*

*Kathleen Keller, SNJM*

*Peggy Kennedy, SNJM*

*Roberta Lamanna, SNJM*

*Helen Petrimoulx, SNJM*

## *Kathleen Keller, SNJM*

The Sisters of the Holy Names had just opened the doors of a new building for St. Cecelia's School in Clearwater, FL when Sister Kathleen entered first grade. She attended the school through 10<sup>th</sup> grade, graduating from Clearwater Central Catholic High – and to this day is the only graduate to enter the convent.

She professed vows as a Sister of the Holy Names in Albany, NY, the only one of her set of 12 who made final vows. Her path included teaching in elementary schools in Clearwater, FL and Albany NY and more than six years as a missionary in Peru. After that life-changing experience, she returned to the U.S. as an administrator at the Academy of the Holy Names in Silver Spring, MD. She remained in the Mid-Atlantic, working at Catholic Charities Health Care Network and studying – and ultimately teaching – Massage Therapy, and volunteering with Prison Ministry Outreach.

She continues her ministry of Massage Therapy, is a cantor at St. Michael's parish in Silver Spring, MD and is an active member of the anti-trafficking group in Maryland. ■



# WHY THEY GIVE: Partners in Mission

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

**B**orn in California, Joanne Veronica Goheen did not meet her father's Oregon-based sister (and her own namesake), Sister Veronica Mary Goheen, until she was 10 years old. Still, her aunt made a lasting impression.

"I was in awe of her," relates Joanne. "She was quite petite but had a power and authority about her that immediately caught your attention."

Sister Veronica Mary served as principal of eight schools in Washington and Oregon between 1929 and 1957. She often taught a 7th or 8th grade class along with her duties as principal. After nearly 30

years in that role, she answered another call, serving 14 years as Treasurer for Marylhurst College and the Oregon Province. Not one to sit still for long, Sister volunteered until she was 91 years old. Joanne recalls, "There never seemed to be enough time to visit with her as she had to be about her current calling."

Joanne followed Sister Veronica Mary's example and taught primary school for more than 30 years. "At that point in my life, my father had passed, and I saw the need to help my brother and mother in the family refrigeration business, and like Sister Veronica Mary, I began a new career." When her mother began to fail, Joanne cared for her until her mother's death at the age of 100. "I didn't consider it a sacrifice; it's just something you do. You care for family."

Joanne has been a donor to the Sisters of the Holy Names for many years, a tribute to her aunt and the work of her community. During visits to Sister Veronica Mary in Oregon she noticed the same loving, family care given to the Sisters by their community, the family of Sisters. "I wanted to help with this care, knowing that the need was far greater than the resources the Sisters have. I made the decision to include them in my will so that while I am living I have access to my assets, but upon my passing, a portion of those assets will carry on the Sisters' work into the future."

Joanne has truly followed in her aunt's footsteps, both in a career of education and in a commitment to caring for others. If you would like to include the Sisters of the Holy Names in your estate plans, please email [development@snjmuson.org](mailto:development@snjmuson.org) or call Sarah Harris – (503) 675-7111. ■

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Joanne Goheen (left), her brother Ed (front) and sister Pat (right) visited their aunt Sister Veronica Mary at the convent in Oregon in 1946.



# Gift of Prayer

A Gift of Prayer is a thoughtful and special way to honor a friend or relative, give thanks for God's many blessings, or celebrate a special occasion: birthday, wedding, anniversary; or remember the deceased.

A Gift of Prayer 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, comfort, strength, peace or whatever is needed.

A card acknowledging your gift is sent to the person or family indicated and we'll send you a thank-you card as well. Donation amounts are always kept confidential and we do not put the recipient on any solicitation list. Contributions help support the Sisters and their ministries.

Send a gift of prayer online ([www.snjmuson.org/PrayerGift](http://www.snjmuson.org/PrayerGift)) or by sending this form to Sisters of the Holy Names, P.O. 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

## A Gift of Prayer Does Make a Difference

*A* long life's journey, I feel in need of prayers besides my own. When issues come up such as death, illness, worry, loss of a job or friend, it gives me comfort to ask the Sisters to help me, or someone I love, through the tough times.

I send an 'SOS' to the Sisters via their prayer request cards. When my friends receive the prayer card saying the Sisters are praying for them, they are amazed and grateful. I have received comments such as "I am so glad you had the Sisters praying for me. It gave me peace."

Also, when I get the reply that my intentions are being prayed for, my heart is happy and my resolve grows stronger on my journey. I am so grateful for the prayers of the SNJM Sisters.

—Susie Hitchcock,  
SNJM Associate





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More than 20 Sisters of the Holy Names who entered the community after 1970 spent a long weekend together this summer at the Villa Maria del Mar in Santa Cruz, CA. Since 2004, this group has met every few years. The primary focus "has been to better know one another in an atmosphere of prayer, discussion, relaxation and fun!"

Joan Steadman, CSC, Executive Director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, led the group through two days of reflection, contemplation and discussion about leadership for women religious in North America. The retreat was enlivening and inspiring for all – and everyone looks forward to the next gathering at Santa Cruz in 2019!