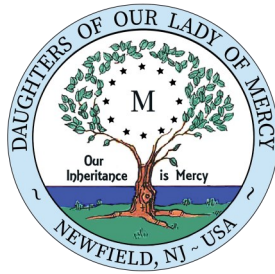


Mercy



Message

HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN

Summer 2021

International Rossellian Formation

JUNE WEBINARS

During the month of June – from June 1 to 24, our entire Rossellian Family had the opportunity to tune into the International Formation Program provided by our General Council and presented through zoom. Oh, the marvels of modern technology!

As we eagerly watched the zoom presentations, it was wonderful to get a glimpse of so many sisters and Rossellian Laity from all corners of our world of Mercy participating along with us... members from four continents: Europe, the Americas, India and Africa!



We thank Mother Angela Maria and the General Councilors for planning and providing this wonderful time of Rossellian Ongoing Formation. We also thank the presenters for their research, their knowledge, and the passionate manner in which they delivered their talks.

A sincere word of thanks to the translators who provided the

opportunity for each nation to tune into their own language. It couldn't have been an easy task, but they did it! Thanks for a job well done!

The last presentation on June 24 featured a beautiful prayer to St. John the Baptist, Co-Patron of our Institute (St. Joseph is the first!) Mother Angela Maria gave us a special and meaningful blessing. Thanks for this beautiful gesture, Mother Angela Maria. It was a fitting way to conclude our special program of Rossellian Formation.



WHO ARE WE?

- > We are the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy sharing the charismatic inheritance of our Foundress St. Mary Joseph Rossello with the other components of the Rossellian Family.
 - > Priests of Mercy share a spiritual bond with the Rossellian Family and support us through the offering of daily Mass and prayers.
 - > Lay Associates express the charism of Mercy by witnessing and spreading Mercy wherever they are, in their own life situation.

WHERE ARE WE?

WE ARE PRESENT ON FOUR CONTINENTS

EUROPE

- † Italy
- † Romania

ASIA

- † India

AMERICA

- † Uruguay
- † USA
- † Brazil
- † Chile
- † Peru
- † Haiti
- † Bolivia and Columbia

AFRICA

- † Burundi
- † Republic of Central Africa
- † Democratic Republic of Congo
- † Rwanda
- † Camerun
- † Chad



JUBILEE JUBILATION

This year we are happy to pay tribute to Sister Eileen Marie McGowan on the occasion of her 50th Anniversary as a Daughter of Mercy – August 15. Sister Eileen has been laboring well and long in the Lord's vineyard. For most of these years, she has served in the ministry of education.

For the past 34 years, Sister Eileen has served as principal at St. Joan of Arc School, Hershey, PA, her hometown and "the sweetest place on earth," as this famous little town proudly claims! As Sister Eileen often says, "Where else can one find the world's most delicious chocolate?"

Sister Eileen, always a joyful and serene presence among us, is completely dedicated to following Christ and serving others. It is with untiring zeal that she carries out her ministry at St. Joan of Arc School and Parish, and she is happy to continue this ministry as long as she can. We sincerely wish her many more happy years imparting quality education to all the children who now walk, and will walk the hallowed halls of St. Joan of Arc School.

Sister Eileen, we congratulate you, and we thank you for your dedication, zeal, and faithfulness. We are proud of all that you have accomplished for the past 50 years. You are a genuine religious, a valued educator, and a joyful witness. Onward! Ad Multos Annos!



THE ADVENTURES OF NOVICE JOANA SIMON

Good Guest Speaker - Très bien!" On July 2, at the invitation of Angie Sheffer, Coordinator of the JOY (Just Older Youth) group of St. Joseph Parish, York, Joana gave a presentation about her life in Haiti, how she became involved with the Daughters of Mercy, and how she felt called by the Lord to join the congregation. Joana also shared some interesting facts about Haiti, her native country. Now that she has a good mastery of the English language, she spoke with confidence and clarity. Good job, Joana!

Hard-working Volunteer – Definitely: Novice Joana has been busy carrying out her volunteer work at The Catholic Harvest Food Pantry and at St. Mary's Thrift Shop here



in York. She is a great asset to both places as she is a hard worker and gets a lot done!

Successful Gardener

Hopefully: On the side, she, along with Sister Claudia, is busy taking care of the garden here at our place, St. Joseph Convent, York. Their garden not only has lovely

flowers to boast of, but there are also some very good vegetables growing. (We've already enjoyed some fresh zucchini from this prized garden.)



Novice Joana - drawn by a second grader at St. Joan of Arc School

Faithful Religious – On the journey: What is most important to Joana, however, is preparing to pronounce her first vows to the Lord as a Daughter of Mercy. The ceremony, which will be private, will take place on September 8. Sometime after that, she will return to Haiti where she will join the little community at the mission in Gonaives, which belongs to and is supported by the Province of Newfield.

Thanks for supporting Joana with your prayers for the past two years of her Novitiate formation. She is grateful for all and asks that you continue praying for her as she begins serving as a Daughter of Our Lady of Mercy in Haiti, her beloved homeland.

COMING SOON
New Prison Ministry Program
By Sister Mary Cronin, DM

The Camden Diocese already has an established Prison Ministry of several volunteers who go inside the jails and prisons, so why start a new Prison Ministry for those who are newly released?

On Nov. 8, 2019, Pope Francis addressed the participants who were attending a two-day conference on Catholic Prison Ministry at the Vatican. He said, “Catholics have an obligation to recognize the humanity of those who have left the prison system, and to help them get back on their feet.”

In 2020 the American Criminal Justice System had 2.3 million people incarcerated in the jails and prisons throughout the country. What were the situations that led people into crime that warranted incarceration? It’s complex, but mainly they were: Poverty, Family Conditions, Alcohol and drug abuse, Parental neglect, Low self-esteem, Peer Pressure, and Unemployment. For persons ages 18-26, it could have been an under matured brain. Neuroscience and technology have discovered that the brain does not finish developing and maturing until the mid to late 20s. The risks and mistakes made by 18-to-26-year old’s may be outside of their control as they come from impulsive actions, poorly measured decisions, and peer pressure.

Each day in our country thousands of the incarcerated have done their time and are released. For the fortunate ones with family, friends and a support group, they are off to a new life. However, those who have no support group, friends or family, they are off to a different form of incarceration – social punishment. They are treated like they are in a tomb – forgotten, rejected, shunned, feared. What did Jesus do when his friend Lazarus was in a tomb? He gathered the community and enlisted them in helping him to bring new life to Lazarus. First, he asked the people to roll away the stone. Then he called to Lazarus to come out, which he did. However, he couldn’t do much due to the burial cloths which impeded him. So, Jesus asked the community to take them off. It took Jesus, Lazarus and the community to bring this miracle of new life to fruition.

You have heard the expression, “It takes a village to raise a child.” With our new Prison Ministry Program, we could say, “It takes a parish to help a newly released person get back on his/her feet.”

Stay tuned for the details about this program which will follow soon. In the meantime, to learn more or to become involved with Catholic Charities’ Prison Ministry, contact Sister Mary Cronin, Prison Ministry Coordinator: Mary.Cronin@camdendiocese.org.



RFO NEWS AND VIEWS

By Robert DeSpirito

We recently celebrated our wedding anniversary and had the chance to celebrate the day in Rome. I posted this the morning we left for Rome:

It's 12:01 on May 28th, 2021. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. This day, 38 years ago, Fr. William Waters, OSA, officiated at the marriage of Robert Joseph DeSpirito and Roseann Matteo, at Mother of Divine Providence Church in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. It has been a long road with many twists and turns and even some detours. But, the destination remains the same, eternal happiness. Looking back, the trip has been difficult at times, but there was always love and faith in each other and in our Lord to carry us through. As we continue on this journey, we have joy, hope, and faith to get us to the final destination. We have both had health problems to overcome. The last year has been especially difficult for us due to the pandemic, of course, and Roseann's recent illness. Though we have learned to be thankful for each day and to celebrate each day, today is different and special. To love, honor, and obey, in good times and in bad, for richer and poorer, in sickness and in health, 'til death do us part. This is what we remember and rejoice in today. My dear Roseann, thank you for the last 38 years and I look forward to spending the rest of our lives together, whether it's one more day or 20 more years. Our love for each other will only grow each day and our spirits will live together in eternity. I can sum up the last 38 year in one word, LOVE, for each other and for our God. Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Those who are in need of our prayers, especially:

Sisters Geraldine, Joanna, Mary Theresa, Mary Paul
Pedro Saens – nephew of Sister Amelia- recovering from Covid.

Alice Marshall, RFO

Joe Dacy – Sr. Francine's brother

Charles (Chuck) Hatch – Sr. Joseph Marie's brother

Bob Marsh – Sr. Reginald's brother-in-law

Judith Siciliano, Regina Yanick, Rita Veale - former DM's

Life has changed, not ended for:

Rose Mary Dill, RFO - age 83 -May 11

Irene Vera – age 93 - Sister Amelia's sister-in-law – May 28

Janet Mileta, age 66 - Sister Francine's cousin – June 2

*Luis Ochoa, age 59 – Sister Amelia's nephew – June 16

Rev. William J. Bleiler, age 87 -Priest of Mercy – June 17

Michael John Miller, age 49 – Sister Judi's nephew – June 17

*Estela Maris Ochoa, age 54 – niece of Sr. Amelia -June 29
(Wife of Luis, who died on June 16)

José Baquero – Benjamin Baquero's father

Gerardo Baquero - Benjamin's brother



IN MEMORIAM
Rev. William J. Bleiler, Priest of Mercy

Father Bill, as we called him, was an exemplary and most faithful priest who had an outgoing missionary spirit and a burning zeal to serve. His life experiences ran the gamut from being a plumber, (he once told us that “bleiler” means plumber in German), serving in the military, studying in Rome and being ordained by Pope Paul VI, serving as a missionary in Brazil, and ministering to migrants and veterans in New Jersey. Father Bill was a highly - educated man and was well-versed in several languages. He certainly accomplished a great deal in his life-time. We can say that he was a **big** man in every way, with an even bigger heart for God and others.



After a very brief illness of just a few days, the Lord called Father Bill to his Heavenly Home on June 17. Possessing a joyful heart and a generous spirit, Father Bleiler had a vibrant and caring presence that touched the hearts of all who knew him. He truly valued and revered his priesthood. Father Bleiler was spiritually bonded to our Religious Community as our own Priest of Mercy. He knew well the life of St. Mary Joseph Rossello and made it his mission to spread devotion to her. His love for the Daughters of Mercy was genuine, and the proof was in his constant kindness to us, and his efforts to attend every community event.

In 1987, Father Bleiler traveled to our Generalate in Italy on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of our Institute. While there, he made a big impact on all the Sisters and members of our Rossellian Family. After that, he was more connected than ever to our religious congregation.

Now, from his place in heaven, he continues to look after us as he takes on his intercessory role on our behalf. Rest in peace, Father Bill, faithful servant of the Lord and model Priest of Mercy!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rosemary Dill, RFO



Who was Rosemary Dill? Hailing from York, PA, Rosemary was a loving mother, grandmother, homemaker, and friend to all. Her passion in life, in addition to raising and deeply caring for her family, was that of giving loving praise to the Lord through her gift of music. For 50 years, Rosemary served as volunteer organist for St. Joseph Parish in York. She also served as the librarian of St. Joseph School for 30 years.

Everyone at our Misericordia Nursing Center knew and loved Rosemary, because every week for the past few years, she entertained the residents with her music, bringing much joy to every listening ear and comfort to every lonely heart!

Rosemary was proud to be a member of our Rossellian family. She never missed a meeting! Or we can say, she never missed a beat! She is dearly missed.

Rosemary is now accompanying the heavenly chorus. May she sing and play God's praises for all eternity.



Mini RFO Reunion – York Center



On July 6, at the invitation of Rosalind Young, RFO, a group of us met for breakfast at "Round the Clock," a very popular diner here in York. Rosalind, who now lives in Florida, was here visiting family and friends. We were happy to see her and spend time together before she returns to Florida.

Pictured are Sr. Amelia, Rosalind's friend Elizabeth Enterline, Sr. Claudia, Novice Joana, Sr. Mary Grace, Rosalind, RFO and Adele Naglieri Shar, RFO

A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

By Sister Mary Grace

Quite a few years ago, there was a popular song for children
composed by Carey Landry

“Like a Sunflower” This melodious tune began with these words:

*“Like a sunflower that follows every movement of the sun,
So, I turn toward you, to follow you, my God.”*



Now I will tell you why I am recalling this sweet little song to mind.

Some of you reading this might be artistic and creative, others, like me, may not have that gift to any great degree. Well, through the generosity of one of our RFO members, several years ago, Sister Claudia and I were invited to a “Paint N’ Enjoy” Night at St. Joseph Parish here in York. Even though happy to accept the invitation, I was a bit reluctant at the thought of being “challenged” to be creative with a blank canvas before me, some water paints and brushes of various sizes and textures, all items of which I only once or twice briefly touched as a child in school. Notwithstanding all this, of course I wanted to participate anyway. Before continuing, I just want to let you know, that, in the end, the event turned out to be a night of great fun and enjoyment.

The subject of “Paint N’ Enjoy” was to paint just a portion of an already traced sunflower on our blank canvas. The talented teacher who conducted this art experience led us every step of the way, while encouraging us to add our own creative touches as we painted away. Now, mind you, my painting didn’t turn out to be anywhere near “a work of art” – not even close to any stretch of the imagination, but it is at least recognizable as a sunflower. And where is it now? Well, I found an empty space on the wall in the basement which just happened to have a nail in it... and there my sunflower found its home! It’s nothing to brag about but it does add some color to the dull basement wall! It remains on that wall to this day and will probably be there until some future brave soul removes it!

And that leads me to share my reflection on the “sunflower.” First of all, I was fascinated when I first learned the Italian name for sunflower – “girasole” – which literally means “turn to the sun,” (in Spanish the word is “girasol”).

A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW - Continued

In looking at a sunflower I am reminded of the sun with its extending rays reaching out and embracing the horizon at all points. As the sunflower turns its face towards the sun, so do we turn our faces to God and allow him to shine His merciful face upon us. Yes, we let the **Son** shine on us through the sun! Our lives are like the soft yellow petals of a sunflower with every layer signifying a different phase of life – a new step in life's evolving daily journey. The petals are not purely golden but rather streaked with shades and hues of black and brown. For me this signifies that the daily journey we are all traversing is not always neat and smooth. Rather there are ups and downs, joys and sorrows, not so good times and good times, However, the journey, with its various shades of hues and colors, twists and turns, starts at the center and directs us outward and upward as do the petals of each sunflower. Clearly, we are not put here on this earth to be creatures in isolation, but rather to be constantly involved in the lives of others drawing inspiration from Christ as our Center.

The sunflower has a distinct and prominent center that can be likened to our relationship with God – our central focus. I once read that sunflowers are popular with butterflies because the wide center makes a good and solid “landing platform.” Like a reliable anchor, the firm center of the flower holds the petals of our lives together and transforms them into a brilliant reflection of the One who loves and sustains us along life's daily journey. Like the sunflower, let us bask in the Lord's love, hold on firmly to the “landing platform,” our safe and certain harbor, and allow God's love to surround us, and shine through us to reach the hearts of others!

“Like a sunflower, that follows every movement of the sun, so I turn to you, to follow you, my God.”