
MERCY



MESSAGE

USA

DAUGHTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, NEWFIELD, NJ

AUTUMN 2019

Pieces of the Past

*"With their words, with their hearts, with the authenticity of their works,
They will go about announcing to all, the finest traits of the Mercy of God." Const. 1846*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROVINCE from 1948 to 1989

THE COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO EXPAND:

1948 – Province of Newfield established with Mother M. Bridget Carew as the first Provincial

Opening of Mt. Carmel School, Hazleton, PA

1949 – Opening of St. Cajetan Mission, Monesson, PA

Provincialate and Novitiate transferred from York, PA to Newfield, NJ

CANONIZATION OF ST. MARY JOSEPH ROSSELLO



THE 50'S

1950 – First Profession of Vows held at St. Rose of Lima Church, Newfield, NJ

1951 – DM's replaced Sisters of Charity at St. Mary Magdalen, School, Millville, NJ

1953 – Opening of Our Lady of Grace School, Hazleton, PA

1954 – Mother M Louise – 2nd Provincial

Opening of St. Mary School, Old Forge, PA

1955 – Opening of St. Joseph School, Berwick, PA

1956 – Beginning of Retreat League Ministry

Opening of Mt. Carmel School, Hazleton, PA and St. Rose of Lima School, Newfield, NJ

1957 – Dedication of new Provinciate building, Villa Rossello, Newfield

1958 – First Reception/Profession at Provinciate Chapel, Newfield

THE 60'S

1960 – Opening of St. Mary Regional School, E. Vineland, NJ; Holy Trinity School, Dunkirk, NY

1961 – Mother M. Patricia Gaynor – 3rd Provincial

1962 – Opening of Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Newfield, NJ

1963 – Opening of St. Francis of Assisi School, Vineland, NJ

1964 – Opening of St. Philip the Apostle School, Brigantine, NJ

1966 – Dedication of new Misericordia Convalescent Home building, York, PA

1967 – First modification of the habit of the Institute

1968 – Dedication of Carew Hall and swimming pool at OLMA, Newfield, NJ

Sister M. Angelica Bove named extern General Councilor

1969 – 50th Anniversary of our presence in the USA

Mother M. Dolores Salerno – 4th Provincial



THE 70'S

1970 - DM'S replaced Sisters of the Holy Union at St. Joseph's School, Swedesboro, NJ

Mercy Chorettes were established and many concerts were performed.

1972 – Sister M. Bernardine Lolli – 5th Provincial

1973 – Province adopts the "Prayer of Christians – Liturgy of the Hours"

1975 – Summer Mission to Birmingham and Fort Payne, Alabama
1976 – Relic of Heart of SMJR brought to Provinciate, Newfield, NJ and also to Misericordia Nursing Center, York, PA
1978 – Mother M. Angelica Bove – 6th Provincial
1979 – 1st annual Community Workshop

The 80's

1980 – Sister M. Gertrude Guerrisi elected General Councilor – Savona, Italy
1980 - Sisters Matthew Marie and Eileen Marie's summer mission with our Sisters in India
1981 – Beginning of the ALAM program (Association of the Laity in the Apostolate of Mercy)
1982 – Beginning of PRIESTS OF MERCY
1983 – Beginning of mission experience in Haiti
1983 - Pastoral Ministry at Holy Family Parish, Enfield, CT
1984 – Sister Mary Grace DeJoseph – 7th Provincial
1987 – Our Lady of Mercy Academy's 25th Anniversary
1987- 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Institute

*"Let us do our best to work for the Lord and with a right intention:
for his glory, to become holy, and to work for the salvation of souls." Smjr*

PROVINCE EVENTS

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Our Centennial celebration was indeed a day to remember. God lovingly smiled upon us by giving us splendid weather and splendid people with whom to celebrate! The celebration of the Sacred Liturgy was beautiful beyond words. We are grateful to Bishop Dennis Sullivan of Camden and Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg for honoring us with their presence. The homily given by Bishop Gainer aptly captured the history and the gift of the charism of Mercy brought to this North American portion of the Lord's vineyard by our first courageous sisters. Their hard work and dedication planted the seeds of the treasured legacy that led to this remarkable day. It was truly a

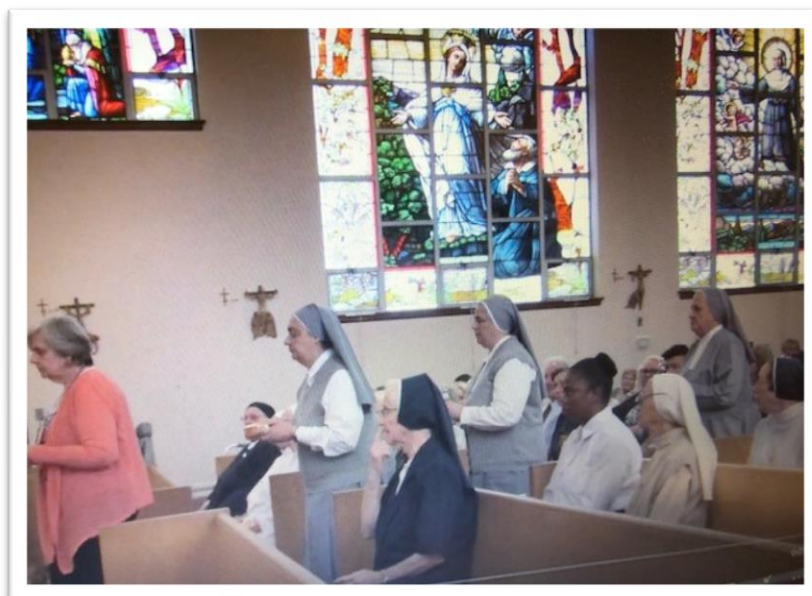


day to “rejoice and be glad in” as we raised our hearts and voices in thanksgiving to God for 100 years of blessings bestowed upon our religious community – our family in the Church.

Adding to our great joy on this day were the warm and loving greetings received from our General Superior, Mother Angela Maria Vieira Santos who, although she could not be with us, was certainly present among us with her kind words and inspiring message that were presented by way of video.

We were also happy for the welcome presence of our special visitors: Mother Beatriz Lasalle who came from Argentina, keeping her promise of more than a year ago, that she would return for this special occasion; our guests from Italy: Sr. M. Gabriella Donaera, Mother Vicar General from Savona, and Sr. M. Antoinetta Lucisano from Rome, Provincial of our Italian Province. Last but not least we were happy to welcome Sr. M. Vincenzina Dallai from our mission in Gonaives, Haiti.

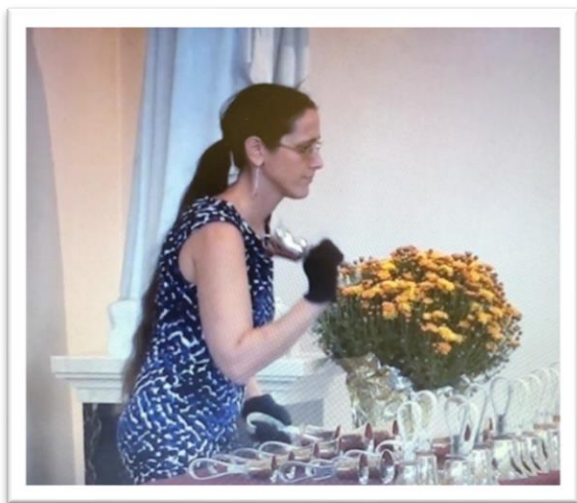
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In particular we thank our combined music ministry groups – Eileen Ericsson, RFO who coordinated the music for this event, and Patti Blackshear and the Chorus Angelorum of OLMA – who truly sang like angels.

As the bells (thanks Chelsea!) and other instruments rang out with harmonious and graceful notes, the beautiful sounds produced stirred our hearts afire with gratitude to God for giving us this great day of rejoicing! We thank the cantors and all the musicians for making this day beyond memorable, and...

...EILEEN ERICSSON, RFO SUMS IT ALL UP...



The Centennial Celebration at Villa Rossello on Saturday was the grandest of all occasions! The Mass celebrated in the chapel was described by one person as “a taste of heaven.” The planning and preparation invested by all resulted in an overwhelming feast for the soul! The receiving of Jesus the Bread of Life is the singular and ultimate highlight of this and every Mass. The flowers, the music, the rich presence of clergy, the bursting-at-the-seams congregation all contributed to the sensory brilliance of the Liturgy. The homily presented by Bishop Gainer of the Harrisburg Diocese was nothing short of extraordinary. Bishop, at first, presented a mini history of the contributions of Religious Sisters to the Church in the

United States. He described these contributions as “irreplaceable”; he described the Sisters as “valiant, heroic, and self-sacrificing.” Then he placed the arrival of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1919 into the grand history of women religious in the USA. Bishop described the original Sisters as “daring” and “selfless” as they came to a new land from Italy and Argentina. Further, he said how the Daughters of Mercy show what it’s like to “live under God’s reign, to do the serious work of the kingdom, and to be instruments of God’s mercy in confident trust.”

The delicious meal that followed, along with lively conversations and presentations of anniversary congratulations, continued the celebration. A most beautiful slide show of archive photos continuously played on the big screen in Carew Hall. Most special (to this one observer) was the individual photo/memorial card of the deceased members of the Daughters of Mercy shown one by one on the screen with a blue sky/white cloud “heavenly” background - while the background music played Steve Green’s “Find Us Faithful.” Tissues anyone? If you are unfamiliar with this most stirring song, please look it up and listen to the words which can bring you to your knees in gratitude to those who’ve gone before you who “cheer you on and encourage you,” whose lives are a “stirring testament to God’s sustaining grace.” We all sang “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” at the end of the day, and there was nothing more that could be



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA...and to Washington, DC!!

Thanks to Bill and Shirley Gibbons, RFO we had the opportunity to take our 4 visiting Sisters to Washington, DC on Sunday, Sept. 29 – the day after the Centennial Celebration. Our special day started with an informative tour of the majestic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. We had the privilege of attending solemn Mass in the upper Church at Noon. Our 4 Sisters were in the Offertory Procession (pre-arranged by Sister Claudia).



Thanks to Bill, our expert driver and tour guide, our afternoon was spent enjoying the main sights of our nation's Capital: the White House, the famous Presidents' monuments; and then a visit at Arlington Cemetery where we witnessed the impressive ceremony of the Changing of the Guards. We ended the day at an Italian Restaurant which has a unique room called the "Pope's Room," (Pope's memorabilia all over the room featuring a bust of Pope Francis dominating a huge "Lazy Susan" in the center of the table. And of course, we enjoyed a delicious family style Italian dinner. In honor of our special guests, we were treated to delicious cheese cake and "Tira Mi Su" by the owner of the restaurant! A memorable day indeed!

CONGRATULATIONS, NOVICE JOANA!

On Sunday, September 8, Joana Simon was received as a novice in our Institute at a simple Rite of Initiation ceremony which took place at Misericordia Chapel in the presence the Sisters of the community. Sister Ambrogina, Provincial, presided over the ceremony. This date marks the beginning of Joana's year of formal studies in religious subjects – primarily the study of the Vows, Scripture and the history of our Religious Congregation.

Sister Ambrogina presented to Joana the medal of St. Mary Joseph Rossello which she will wear during her two years of novitiate.

We congratulate Joana and offer her the support of our prayers as she begins her spiritual journey in this important stage of her religious formation.

As you see in the photo, Joana now wears a navy-blue skirt and a white blouse – corresponding to the color of the habit worn by the professed Sisters of the Province of Newfield.



10^H ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAWING AND PASTA DINNER

October 20, 2019

We will conclude our 10th annual 20-Week Raffle with our usual delicious Pasta Dinner which will take place at Villa Rossello in Carew Hall on Sunday, October 20, 2019 from noon until 5 PM.

Attractive theme baskets will once again be displayed. So, if you come, maybe you will win one!

The drawing for the grand prizes will take place at the end of the day. Come and enjoy the fun and festivities planned for this annual event!



RFO NEWS AND VIEWS

Visiting the Stranger at the York County Prison

by Phil Shar

"...I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:35-36

Let me take a few minutes to tell you about how 2 RFO members from York became involved in visiting detained immigrants. Well, it all started with Adele Naglieri and I attending a Christmas Concert held at the Eastminster Presbyterian Church in East York during the Fall of 2018. The concert featured the York County Honors Choir performing both sacred hymns and popular songs. At the end of the concert, on the way out of the Church, Adele and I noticed a poster on the wall advertising the "Walking Together" Program. Dates and times for an informational meeting were indicated for those interested in learning more about the program. After reading the poster, we both decided to learn more about it. The information session was held at the 1st Presbyterian Church in downtown York on a weekday evening. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting. Representatives from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center - PIRC, the Landisville Mennonite Church, and the York YMCA were there to provide an explanation of the program, and answer questions.

After their presentation, Adele and I decided to participate, and we submitted our names for clearance and background checks to the local prison officials.

The purpose of the Walking Together Visitation Program is to visit the 700+/- undocumented asylum-seeking detainees housed at the York County Prison. This prison is the largest facility on the East Coast housing immigrants detained by ICE. We meet with our designated detainee on Tuesday afternoons for 30 minutes of light conversation sharing stories about our background, activities, and interests. We are **Not** advocates for their release; but rather just another human being reaching out to offer them a smile and good cheer until their cases can be resolved in immigration court.

I have been meeting with Timur, a young man of 36 from Kazakhstan, who overstayed his Visa. Timur is fluent in Kazahk, Russian, Spanish, and is now learning Chinese. (Timur and I speak English at our meetings). Timur has told me about his brother, parents, his work in NYC, and his plans to start a

business after his release. I have shared my background, cycling, travel, and learning activities with Timur. His hearing to decide his

fate, is scheduled for some date in November. He hopes to be represented by an attorney from PIRC. Timur hopes to re-unite with his brother in NYC. His brother has already obtained his Permanent Resident Status.



The experience of meeting and speaking with Timur has been very gratifying to me. Sharing time together with the members of the Landisville Mennonite Church has also been very special and rewarding. The overall experience has certainly re-enforced and solidified the Gospel message of Matthew 25:35-36; and the admonitions of St. Mary Joseph Rossello.

So, think about that Christmas Concert back in the Fall of 2018. How do you/we explain the chance reading of the information poster at the exit of the Church? And our decision to

participate in the Visitation program with No special language skills. Was it Serendipity? Or, was it the action of the Holy Spirit guiding us???

Peace and all good,

Phil Shar

Adele adds:

As a continuation of what Phil Shar reported on our visits to the detainees at York County Prison, the following has been my experiences.

I have had approximately 5 visits to the prison. I have visited three different females. All of which have been so happy with the comfort and support we are giving to these immigrant inmates. Their homelands are Serbia, Argentina and Mexico. The young lady from Mexico has actually been in the US 23 years. The cost to become a citizen is prohibitive. The visits are 30 minutes each time and during this time we have relaxed conversations about our lives and there is always time for prayer. Personally, I feel I am following Jesus and doing his will. Sr. Amelia has also accompanied me on several of the visits and the staff, the Walking Together group and the inmates are so happy with her presence. She is especially helpful because of her ability to speak Spanish.

On Friday, 8/30/19, Phil and I really experienced the feeling of helping to do God's will when, the evening before, an email came out to the Walking Together group notifying us that a male detainee was being released on Friday. We were being asked if someone would be available to bring him \$20-30 for his trip by bus from Harrisburg to Texas. Since most of the members of our group are from Lancaster, I immediately said I would be there since I am only a mile away. Phil came along, first gathering together some clothing, toiletries, snacks, a rosary and a copy of "Rediscovering Jesus." We were not

able to meet Moises because he was picked up inside the gate but the van driver was eager to help us and happy to see that Moises received his departure kit.

We hope St. Mary Joseph Rossello is watching down on all of us as we are trying to continue her vision of mercy for humanity.

Blessings,

Adele Naglieri



GOD BE WITH YOU ON THE JOURNEY

Life takes us on many journeys. In particular Rosalind Young, RFO, is setting out upon a new path in her life's journey. Rosalind will be moving to Kissimmee, Florida in just a month from now. Rosalind's decision to move is to be near her son and other family members who live in Florida. Let's remember that Rosalind is just a phone call and a computer click away. We will miss her joyful presence among us but we wish her all the best as she embarks on this new life journey. God be with you and best wishes, Rosalind.



CONGRATULATIONS, JAN! (contributed by Sister Judi)

As you know, **Jan Swarthout, RFO**, moved to Florida some time ago, but her Rossellian Family connections have remained strong. Being the prayerful and spirit-filled person that she is, she quickly became involved in her new Southern Diocese. A year ago, she attended the annual Women's Conference and enjoyed it. Much to her surprise she was asked to give a presentation on Sacred Scripture at this year's Conference. She composed and then presented a beautiful, heartfelt talk about her own spiritual life journey, relating each event with a scripture passage. I am sure many hearts were moved as she gave witness to God's presence and working in her life. Congratulations, Jan, and thank you for your openness to the Spirit



Urgent prayers are requested for the people of Haiti.

The country is in a state of unrest because of protests by the people seeking justice from the president and government of the country. We pray for the safety of our Sisters and of the people who, at this time, are lacking of the basic necessities.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those who are ill, especially:

Sister Joanna – in rehab following back surgery procedure

Sister JoAnn Marie – Recuperating after gallbladder surgery

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

Lauren McClure – Kidney disease (waiting for a kidney) and

Scott McClure – niece and nephew of Sister Tarcisia

Grace Mary Roth-Roffy – needs a heart transplant –

cousin of Sr. Mary Grace

Jason Gurgal – cousin of Sr. Mary Grace

Janet Gensamer - mother of Bill Gibbons, RFO and Bill's aunt *Vicki*

Charmaine - niece of Rosalind Young, RFO

Victoria Harvey – Community friend from Berwick

Tom Steele & Gerry Yawman – Community friends from York

Barbara Obin - Community friend from Columbia, PA

Carol Clevenger – Recuperating from surgery – our Villa neighbor



Life is changed and not ended – RIP

John Kandoth – age 70: brother of Sister Annie (India)

Larry Hurst – a great benefactor of the Community who helped us for many years with the BBQ
and the Pasta Dinner.



A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

by Sister Mary Grace

ONCE UPON A TIME...

Do you believe in fairy tales? Well I want to talk about three fairy tales and share something with you about them. Now why am I speaking about fairy tales? Because this past summer – from August 12 to 18th, seven Daughters of Mercy (not the seven dwarfs)

had the privilege of attending a different kind of retreat given by Sister Clare D'Auria, OSF at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA. The title of the retreat was: "Once Upon a Time": "The Parables of the Magic Kingdom." Having had Sister Clare for two other retreats, I knew we couldn't go wrong in choosing this retreat with its enticing title and the promise of happy endings!

In the brochure advertising this retreat we read *"Listening again to these stories with a Gospel ear to the call of conversion proclaimed by Jesus, we will discover the truly happy endings that can come to women like ourselves who wear glass slippers, look into mirrors, and ply spindles for the sake of the kingdom of God."*

The first fairy tale film we watched and then reflected on was "Sleeping Beauty" with the theme "Stay Awake." The gospel passage linked with it was Romans 13:11 – *You know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith.*



Stay Awake

In developing this theme "Stay Awake," Sister Clare had us reflect on the parable of the 10 virgins from Mt 25:1-13. Questions were posed such as *How do you "stay awake to the presence of God in your daily life? Are there questions or concerns that "keep you awake" at night. What grace do you need to ask for to "stay awake" rather than "keep awake?"*

Sleeping Beauty's name was "Aurora" which, as we know means *the dawn*. How may God be inviting us to wake up (to the dawn) and accept what is true so that we may be

ready for "the hour"?

Stay awake, wait for the Prince, persevere in prayer, pray always!

The second fairy tale we were ushered into was "Snow White" – Even though this film dates back to 1937, the animation was well done! Leave it to Disney!

In reflecting on this theme, 1 Cor:11-13 was used as our call to prayer:

When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror: then we shall see face to face.

And this led to a reflection on the parables of the Treasure and the Pearl – Mt 13:44-46.

A question posed was: *When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Most importantly, who do you see? How much do you focus on the image you project, that is, how you appear to others? What roles have you assumed that have masked your true self from being seen by others?*

The challenge is to make the journey down the well of the spiritual journey and get to know our true selves.



Know Yourself

"To each of us God says, "You are the Fairest one of all."

How nice to sit back and once again watch that wonderful tale of “Cinderella.” The Call to Prayer was Romans 12:2:

Be Transformed



Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind and heart, so that you may judge what is God’s will, what is good, pleasing and perfect.

Then we reflected on the parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast – Mt. 13:31-33 indicating that the Kingdom of God is everywhere and is for everyone.

A question posed was *What is the unchangeable, imperishable core of who you are to which everything else must be “fitted” and conformed? As you move through the transformation that is the journey of your life now, who do you want to be? Whose do you want to be? What grace do you need to ask for from God to support you in your desire?*

“Be transformed, wear the shoe that fits. Be the image of the Incarnation.”

There was much more but I have just given you a glimpse of this wonderful retreat experience. From the above, we can conclude that there is much symbolism in fairy tales that we can apply to our spiritual journey. Fairy tales explain truth and, parables, of course, lead us to the Prince of the Gospels and the Kingdom within. As for our relationship with the Prince of the Gospels, let us reflect on the inspired wisdom of St. Clare of Assisi:

Gaze, consider, contemplate so that we may imitate:

Gaze – Stay Awake

Consider – Know Yourself

Contemplate – Pray always

Imitate – Be transformed.

Do you believe in “fairy” tales? I do, especially if they are the parables of the Prince!

...At that time Jesus said in reply, “I give praise to you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.”
Mt 11:25-27

STAY AWAKE!

KNOW YOURSELF!

BE TRANSFORMED!

(The above content was adapted from the retreat by Sister Clare D’Auria, OSF).

