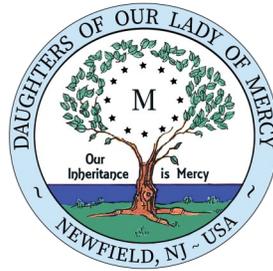


Mercy



Message

HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN

Fall 2021

A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF MERCY IN ARGENTINA IN A TREASURED PLACE!

It was in the year 1875 that the first 15 sisters were sent from our Generalate in Savona, Italy to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In the years following, other groups were also sent. It was in the beginning of 1908 that Sister M. Ludovica DeAngelis was assigned to the Community of the Children's Hospital of La Plata. At first, she was assigned to the kitchen and pantry. Soon, however, her kindness to the children, her wisdom in counseling the parents of the children, her expert assistance to the staff, and her holiness became known to all. The doctors in charge of the hospital esteemed her so much that they named her as the administrator and Superior of the facility which, since that time, had been described as a welcoming place of outstanding "tenderness, compassion and consolation."



On October 3, 2004, Sister Maria Ludovica was beatified by Pope John Paul II. Although Blessed Maria Ludovica's cause for canonization is currently at a standstill, we and all those connected with the hospital in La Plata, since the year 1908 to the present, consider her as "our Saint."

At the 2018 General Chapter, Savona, Italy, a proposal was made to re-establish our presence at the Children's Hospital, now known as "Blessed Maria Ludovica Pediatric Hospital." This was meant to be in inter-provincial project; that is, with the collaboration of the three Argentine provinces: Buenos Aires, Rosario and Cordoba, and including the Delegation of Peru/Bolivia.



The next step that the General Council took was to ask the Provincials/Delegate Superior, following a set list of qualifications, to ask sisters who met the criteria if they would be willing to become part of the new community at Blessed Ludovica Hospital.

Blessed Mother Ludovica DeAngelis

**"Do good to all, no matter
who it may be."**

HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN Continued

From among those sisters who volunteered and qualified, the General Council has named the following who now comprise the community at Blessed Ludovica Hospital:

Sister M. Ruth Rodriguez, Superior – Province of Buenos Aires

Sister M. Gladys Quispe Velasquez – Delegation of Peru/Bolivia

Sister Ana Maria Pelozo – Province of Rosario

Sister Mariela Montaiuti – Province of Buenos Aires

Sister M. Nilda Trejo – Province of Buenos Aires

The goal for this newly formed community is “to promote, defend and serve LIFE with MERCY, through the ministry of Health Care among the sick and vulnerable children of the ‘Blessed Maria Ludovica’ Hospital. In general, the activities planned are to accompany sick children and their families; to give the possibility to the little ones to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, if the parents agree; and to give more careful attention to children who are alone, without their families.”

Let us pray for the success of this new inter-provincial project and for all the children who will be served through it. For it is the Lord who said *“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.”* Mt. 19:14

ON THE HOME FRONT

COMMITMENT, CELEBRATION, NEW BEGINNINGS

The weekend of September 11 and 12 was a very important one at St. Joseph Convent and Parish, York, PA. On the 11th Novice Joana Simon pronounced her first vows during a special Mass celebrated for the occasion. Father Steve Fernandes, O.F.M. Cap. was the main celebrant and homilist. The concelebrants were Rev. Jim Menkhus, O.F.M. Cap. and Rev. Charles Ocul, A.J. Sister Ambrogina presided over the ceremony of religious profession and presented Joana with her veil, crucifix and constitutions, calling her by the name of Sister Mary Joana!



On Sunday, September 12, an Open House was held to “celebrate” Sister Mary Joana. The Hospitality Committee of St. Joseph Parish graciously hosted the event for us. With some help from other parishioners, they provided everything. Their presentation, including food, drinks, baked good and beautiful flowers was elegant, appetizing, and welcoming! There was even a very special cake made for the occasion by Dale Eisenbeil.



ON THE HOME FRONT Continued

Many parishioners and friends stopped by to greet Sister Joana. It was a great and memorable day for her and for the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent.

Our gratitude is extended to Father Steve Fernandes, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and to the Hospitality Committee for graciously hosting this very special event.

Sister Joana, accompanied by Sister Vincenzina, who had come from Haiti for the First Profession, returned to her homeland in Gonaives, Haiti on September 16. She now joins Sisters Vincenzina, Elza, Margarita, and postulant Guerline at our mission. Congratulations, Sister Mary Joana! You are greatly missed, but we are happy that you have returned to your homeland in Haiti after having completed your 2 years of Novitiate here in York. We know that, good nurse that you are, you will serve your people with the compassion and mercy of Christ!



...AND A NEW HOUSE

Our Sisters at the mission in Haiti will soon be living in a new house which is currently under construction. The much-needed new building, situated in a more peaceful area of Gonaives, will provide the little community with more room, solitude, and comfort. They all work hard, so this will be a peaceful haven to return to after each day of ministry.



*The builder of all things is God.
Let us, as His servants, use this
gift to serve others.*

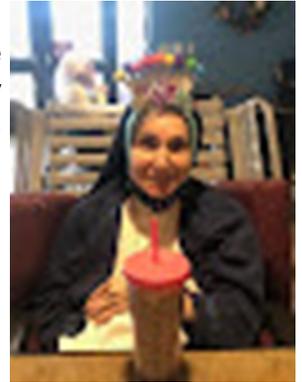


BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR NONAGENARIANS!



Sister Bernadine

Congratulations to Sister Bernadine, age 97, living at Villa Rossello, Newfield, NJ; and to Sister Mary Theresa, age 92, living at Misericordia Nursing Center, York, PA. They recently celebrated these milestone birthdays. May the Lord continue to bless and watch over them!



Sister Mary Theresa

SCHOOL NEWS

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY GETS OFF TO A GOOD START

The school year at Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Newfield, NJ started in September 1st with an enrollment of 232 students of which 54 are freshman. We wish these fine young women a successful and happy year.



Lacrosse Field



Our Lady of Mercy Chapel

ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA

ENROLLMENT INCREASE By Sister Eileen Marie



St. Joan of Arc School began this academic year with an enrollment of 484, a big jump from last year's 353, which is where we ended when COVID closed us down in March 2020. When we opened in Sept. 2020 we had 383, and by June 2021 we had 416. The reason for the large increase is that last school year, because of the pandemic, the public schools in the area were closed down while St. Joan of Arc had on site classes with only a small percentage of students opting for online classes. Many parents who had their children in public school then decided to enroll their children at St. Joan of Arc. The increase of students started last Christmas and continued until we reached the total of 484 students for this year.

Each year our school has a special theme word. This year the word is "Butterfly." This word was chosen because we are coming out of the cocoon of COVID and emerging as beautiful butterflies by the end of the year – this is our goal and our hope.



Second-grade students in Sister JoAnn's class participate in Morning Prayer.

A POINT TO PONDER

I believe God loves the world through us -
through you and me.

St. Mother Teresa

Work Hard and Serve Others

Be Kind

Believe in God

and

Amazing things will happen.

BDP



Jace Cherry passes a statue of St. Joan of Arc as he arrives for the start of the school day.

MY MISSION OF MERCY IN GUYANA

By Rosalind Young

Sometimes our dreams become a reality! I was in Guyana, South America from July 29th to August 30th. It was a dream come true. After my recent retirement, I wanted to give back to my hometown by visiting the elderly, the kids in the Inter lands, and the churches that made me this strong woman of faith.

I had a memorable visit with the Daughters of Charity (Mother Teresa Sisters). I was so humbled to be in their presence, and, when they invited me to attend Mass with them, I was overjoyed. I gave them rosary books and rosaries, and they were most grateful.

I wanted to do something for the children and so I threw a big party for them. Guess what, Over 115 children came! I was happy to welcome some of their parents, too. We played games, danced, sang and had lots of food and goodies. Doing this for the children gave me so much joy! It is truly in giving that we receive!

I visited the two churches where I had been an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and a parish lay assistant. I attended Mass, and then joined the parishioners for breakfast in the Parish Hall. I was happy to have enough rosaries to distribute to all present.

I thank God for making my dream come true. Also, I give thanks for the Daughters of Mercy who have shared with me their Charism of Mercy - the gift of true love for all God's people, and how to be humble and grateful. Thank you! I am sharing some photos of my visit to Guyana. Prayerful best wishes to everyone!



PAT'S PICTURE PERFECT PASSION

By Pat Juliana

I write to share with you that, since my Dad bought me my first camera when I was only 12 years old, I have been passionate about taking pictures. I am a portraiture photographer from York PA who enjoys taking photos to capture the moment in time. I love to show my clients their natural expressions and



their personalities. My candid photography is to show the simplicity of life and not so much how serious someone can be. The natural expressions are my favorite.

Everyone has a story and I'm here to capture the moment in time for my clients so they can reminisce about their day of joy and have something to treasure and cherish for years to come.

I love to focus on the character of people, whether in a family, a senior special event, a gender reveal or any celebratory occasion.

Just this past month, I had the opportunity to have my work displayed in a studio known as "Blissful Bonita's Art Gallery" here in York. I also have two other locations where I sell my photos - at the JCC and the YWCA in Shrewsbury. Here are two of my latest photos!



WHAT PATH SHALL I TAKE – DESPAIR OR HOPE

A reflection by Sister Mary Paul

What havoc was wrought by the covid pandemic? What sadness was growing in our minds and hearts? Did some of us come face-to face with death or a downward cycle in our health? All these black thoughts and feelings leave me in a state of wonder as to what the future holds for me and for thee.

What shall I do? Let's listen to the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola. He says when the evil spirits have us down and out, we should listen to the Good Spirit of God. Maybe our responses would be like this: "Why that damn devil – he wants to get me so discouraged that I will do whatever he suggests. Well, I'm not listening to him. I believe in the God of Hope, and I trust in Him."

Saint Mary Joseph Rossello said when the devil rants and raves, that means God has something "head over heels" good awaiting us. It's like when Jesus was dying as He hung on the cross. Easter was waiting to bloom into Resurrection Life. We are called upon to be disciples of new life – of Easter – of Resurrection.

Let us fondle the hope God's good spirit puts in our hearts and minds. What shape will they take? Let us dare to dream the impossible dream.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU



INSPIRED

by Eileen Ericsson

The breath of the Holy Spirit moves all around us, guiding, teaching, and inspiring. I have recently observed this sweet presence of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity in others whose paths I have been so fortunate to cross.

† **The young married couple whose pregnancy resulted in a miscarriage ...**

† Rather than sink into despair they accepted God's will and created a prayer garden to feel close to God and their baby girl.

† **A young mom with a special needs child at the playground ...**

† The little girl is visual and hearing impaired, but her mom gave her all the same experiences of swinging and sliding, same as all the other children.

† **The parishioners who seem to never run out of time and desire to serve ...**

† **The religious jubilarians who say they would offer Christ their lives all over again ...**

† **The school teachers who still show loving patience at 3:00 PM ...**

† **The brother who calls his widowed sister every morning to check on her ...**

Kindness and love reveal the presence of the Lord. May we be eager to show it to others!



*“In whatever circumstance we find ourselves,
let us have faith. A grain of faith is enough to carry
mountains from one place to another.”*

St. Mary Joseph Rossello

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those who are in need of our prayers, especially:

Sisters Joanna, Margaret, Mary Paul, Vincenzina and Elza

RFO Alice Marshal

Joe Dacy – Sr. Francine's brother

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

Timothy Stevens - Sr. Loretta Marie's nephew

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

Pedro Saens - After being in a coma for a month due to Covid, Pedro is now miraculously recovering, but is still in need of our prayers. He is the nephew of Sister Amelia.

Estela Maris Ochoa – also recovering from covid, niece of Sister Amelia

Former DM's: Judith Siciliano, Regina Yanick, Rita Veale, and for Christine LaMonica who is recovering from a hip replacement.

Timothy Stevens - Sr. Loretta Marie's nephew

Life has changed, not ended for:

Sister M. Geraldine DiNicola. DM – age 91- September 3

Constance P. Fetterman, RFO - age 91 -September 6

Karen Miller, age 48 – Sister Judi's niece – July 28

Marie Ohlemacher, age 57 - Sister Carmel Marie's niece - Sept 7

May they rest in the Lord's loving embrace for all eternity!

IN MEMORIAM

Sister M. Geraldine DiNicola, DM

April 9, 1930 - September 3, 2021



Sister Geraldine's passing from us was rather unexpected. She became seriously ill just about a month before her death. At that time, she went directly from Mercy Residence (upstairs Misericordia) to Misericordia Nursing Center (downstairs) where she spent just about 3 weeks. Sister had a peaceful passing from this life to the next.

The legacy that Sister Geraldine leaves us is one of uncompromising faithfulness to her religious vocation. She was known for her outstanding dedication to the apostolate of teaching in which she was involved for most of her religious life. During her last assignment at St. Mary's, Old Forge, she was the coordinator of the parish Religious Education Program until her retirement to Mercy Residence, York, in July of 2015.

Sister Geraldine will be remembered for her friendliness and welcoming manner. She was a good friend to many and always enjoyed spending time with them.

An intelligent but "down to earth" person, Sister Geraldine was an excellent teacher, cook, baker and seamstress, to point out a just a few of her many talents. Fluent in the Italian language, for many years she conducted classes for adults in a few of the parishes where she was assigned. She did this on a volunteer basis and always with great pleasure. Sister Geraldine enjoyed writing poetry and was often called upon to compose a special one for our community celebrations. In response to this request, she always came up with something very unique and meaningful for each event.

Sister Geraldine spent 74 of her 91 years of life as a Daughter of Mercy. Entering at a very young age, she fully embraced her religious vocation and served with dedication and love. She is now united with the Lord whom she so faithfully served throughout life.



IN MEMORIAM

Constance P. Fetterman, RFO

June 22, 1930 - September 6, 2021

Connie, from Berwick, PA, the mother of three children, was a devout and faithful parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Berwick, PA. She served as Eucharistic Minister to the homebound and was also an altar server for funerals at her parish.

A loyal member of our Rossellian Family for many years, Connie showed a real sense of belonging, and was always eager to learn more about the life and charism of St. Mary Joseph Rossello. She exemplified the charism of Mercy by sharing it in her daily interaction with others. Her mission in life was to serve the Lord by helping others, and by praying for everyone, especially for those in need.

Connie will be lovingly remembered as a good and loving person with a heart of charity toward all.



Prayer of Hope and Joy

Heavenly Father, You have created me and walked with me throughout my entire life. Some days it is very easy to see Your presence and know Your love. Other days I must search to find the more subtle signs of Your love and presence in my life. Open my eyes to Your marvelous gifts and lead me to give You thanks and praise always.

Jesus, my Savior, and Brother thank You for showing me how much I am loved. You carry my Cross with me each day, ever ready to bring me Your Father's peace.

Holy Spirit, fill me, with thankfulness for all God puts in my life. Give me the eyes that can see all the blessings I receive each day and a heart that never ceases to marvel at God's wonder.

A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

By Sister Mary Grace

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2



A few months ago, I visited my hometown, Hazleton, Pa . Every time I go there, it is always a “walk down memory lane.” In the days of old, Hazleton was a great place to grow up... at least we Hazletonians will forever think so! Actually, we considered this little mountain city the greatest place on earth... and also the very end of the world. Why is that? Because, as children, when we looked up the hill from our house, at the very end of that hill we could see the horizon. To our eyes, what we saw was the earth and sky in a harmonious blending, with nothing visible beyond it. And so, for us, that was the end of our world. All the rest of the world “went south.” It was a good and safe place to grow up in. I remember the many happy days spent with friends just always enjoying one another in simple ways. We always thought that our little city was just the most wonderful place on earth for us to be!

Today, Hazleton is a changed place from the one I grew up in! Yet it always brings back that same feeling of nostalgia for me as soon as that city on the mountain comes into view driving North on Route 309! It seems that in this place, one can still breathe deep bursts of fresh air even on the hottest of days. The people of Hazleton are not only known for being warm and friendly, but also for being food lovers. So, if you ever travel through the area, I would recommend a stop at Senape’s Bakery on 17th Street where you can find our famous room temperature “pitz,” now called “pitza “ and sold in a box! And if you want a special “healthy” treat, just wind your way down South Broad Street until you come to Jimmy’s Luncheonette known for the world’s most delicious hot dogs garnished with all kinds of tasty condiments! These are just two of the many places to get good food! It’s also a well-known fact that if you stop to visit anyone in Hazleton, the first thing that occurs is that food will be put out and placed before you... hungry or not, here it comes!

And please note, if you think Hazleton is spelled wrong, you are right! When it was established as a borough on January 5, 1857, the clerk on duty that day, entered the name into the records and spelled it incorrectly. So, from that time on, it became **Hazleton** instead of Hazelton! History also tells us that the name was derived from the many hazel bushes found in the area (a wilderness at that time??) then known as the “Great Swamp.” Luckily, they didn’t keep that name!



The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW - Continued

And so, considering all of the above, I think we Hazletonians grew up in a very unique place (at the end of the world, no less!!)

The above description about that city on a mountain led me to reflect on how God shapes our lives, how His presence is the mountainous grandeur that guides our paths and directs our journey. A mountain speaks of stability, rootedness, solidness! And that is what God is for us. Mountains speak of strength, of majesty, of beauty. God is most assuredly our strength. He is our rock, our sure anchor, and our firm and immovable foundation! God is beauty, majesty and all other things great! God is our ALL! And so, when feeling weak or lacking in strength, we can go to the foot of our own spiritual mountain, call on the Lord, Rock of strength, and ask Him for healing, relief from every fear, and courage to keep on the path, even when it's rugged; to get up after each fall, and to continue the climb upward in an attempt to reach the summit. It is there that the Lord, arms outstretched, patiently waits, eager to welcome us with His unfailing love, forgiveness, and mercy.

“Every *mountain* top is within reach if you just keep climbing.”