
MERCY



MESSAGE

USA

DAUGHTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, NEWFIELD, NJ

SUMMER 2019

PIECES OF THE PAST... continued

In this issue of our newsletter we continue recounting important pieces of our Province history from the province annals. These are some of the events that took place in our province during the time of World War II.

BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER FOUNDRESS



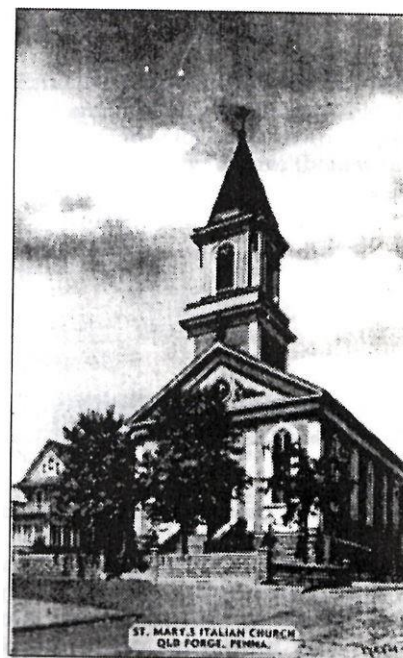
In 1913, the cause of the beatification of Mother Joseph Rossello was initiated and she was proclaimed venerable on March 19, 1936. On November 6, 1938, the DM's had the inexpressible happiness of seeing their Venerable Foundress beatified by his Holiness, Pius XI.

ST. MARY'S PARISH, OLD FORGE, PA

The year following the beatification of Mother Foundress, another new opening took place on September 16, 1939 in St. Mary's Parish, Old Forge, PA. The Sisters assigned for this new mission were Sister Bridget, Sister Assumpta, and later on Sister Benedict completed the trio...The sisters began a fruitful mission by visiting families and taking census. This gave them the opportunity of exhorting people to the practice of their religion. Many adults were consequently baptized, many marriages blessed, and fallen-away Catholics were made good and fervent again.

YORK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, YORK, PA

The fall of 1942 saw the DM's enter the field of higher education at York Catholic high School, York, PA. They were graciously offered and gladly accepted teaching positions on the faculty of York Catholic. The sisters who taught there between the years 1942 -1961: Sisters Dolores, Cecilia, Rosella Marie, Leocadia and Tarcisia.



HOLY CHILD NURSERY, YORK, PA



October 16, 1942...This institution had a peculiar origin. As the Second War World War progressed, daily more and more men were being called to the service; women had to replace these men in war defense plant and in factories. Many of the replacement workers were mothers who became greatly concerned about the fate of their young children of pre-school age. This problem was brought to the attention of His Excellency George L. Leech, Bishop of Harrisburg. A committee was appointed...On January 19, 1943 Holy Child Nursery located at 320 East Market Street

was blessed by his Excellency George Leech and on January 20, the Nursery opened its doors to children from two to six years old. However, at first the project was not warmly patronized by the public wary about sending their children to a Catholic Institution. One child came on the scene for the grand opening; next day, another one enrolled; and so on for the first week, giving a grand enrollment of four! Little by little the good reputation of the Nursery school spread...Over the 63 years of its existence, thousands of children passed through its welcoming doors.

MISERICORDIA CONVALESCENT HOME, YORK, PA

The success of Holy Child Nursery gave impetus to another praise-worthy project – a Convalescent home for the city of York.... His Excellency saw the great need for such an undertaking. A beautiful mansion on Roosevelt and Lynden Avenue was then being offered for sale.

Because of the war it turned out to be a long and arduous task, partly because of war limitations on equipment and materials and the irregularity of shipments.

When at last, everything was ready, October 23, 1943 was the day for the dedication. His Excellency, Bishop George Leech, solemnly blessed the new work of mercy...the Daughters of Mercy gladly accepted the care and management of the new Convalescent Home as this offered them the opportunity of inaugurating a new work of mercy; one dear to the heart of the Blessed foundress – that of taking care of the sick.

Like most projects destined to do much good, it did not have a flourishing beginning. The first patients were very few, but the loving care of the Sisters in charge and the excellency and efficiency of the equipment gradually became known. The Home was soon full to capacity and over the years, has been ever seen. What 8instrumental in doing much good in the city of York.



PEACE BELLS RING



V.E. Day, May 8, 1945, brought an end to the most destructive war the world had ever seen. What joy filled the hearts of the people the world over: to hear the bells joyfully ringing --- Peace, Peace, Peace! Thank God! Thank God! Let's go and give thanks to God, our King and Savior; The same words rang out in all four corners of the words: "Te Deum Laudamus."

ROSSELLIAN FAMILY OUTREACH



RFO Rite of Reception

On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28, 2019 the Rite of Reception took place at Misericordia Chapel for our two new RFO Members of the York Center: Rosemary Dill and Dona Smyser. Sister Damian presided over the ceremony. Rosemary Dill received her emblem pin from Alice Marshall and Dona Smyser was pinned by Sister Mary Grace with the pin that had been worn by Dennis Hummel, RIP. Following the ceremony, refreshments and a social time were enjoyed by everyone as we welcomed our new members. Congratulations, Rosemary and Dona. We are happy to have you in our Rossellian Family.

ANNUAL RETREAT

On May 4 the Annual retreat was conducted for the RFO Members of the York Center at Misericordia Chapel. Sixteen members and eight sisters attended. We started the day with Mass celebrated by Rev. Charles Ocul, AJ

Our retreat presenter was Deacon Tage Danielson, OFM.Cap. Deacon Tage gave a presentation on “Forms of Prayer” and on “Acts of Mercy.” Deacon Tage emphasized these four essential points for prayer:

BE COMMITTED BE REAL BE OPEN BE LOVED BY GOD

1. **BE COMMITTED:** Keep on the path. Prayer is nourishment; therefore, it requires a disciplined schedule.
2. **BE REAL:** Go to God as we are; be a humble beggar.
3. **BE OPEN:** Allow God to come and to dwell with us.
4. **BE LOVED:** Allow yourself to be loved by God. Let him love you unconditionally.

In speaking about Acts of Mercy, Deacon Tage stressed that we be kind and merciful to the people right before us. The great act of Mercy is to stay in the battle of love at each moment and with everyone we meet on the journey!

His well-prepared presentation was inspiring for all of us to hear.

We ended the day with a Luncheon which afforded time for social exchange among us.

A WORD FROM PAT JULIANA, RFO

I am a member of the RFO in York PA. I enjoy my passion for photography so much that I decided to have a professional photographer assist me in private sessions in Lancaster. I had written in a previous “Mercy Message” that I won 3rd place in our York County Photography club. The photo was little girls blowing bubbles and I had it in black and white.

I’m here to let you know I entered another photo contest in the same club and was thrilled to hear my name being announced as the 1st place winner. Wow! The winning photo is attached below. It shows the steps at the Vatican in Rome where my husband and I travelled just this past March.



ONCE A TEACHER, ALWAYS A TEACHER



Sisters Joseph Marie and Carmel Marie are pictured here teaching English as a second language. They are volunteer teachers for the Vineland Public Library Literacy program. The two sisters meet weekly with their students for the lessons. What a wonderful way to share the charism of mercy by helping others learn to read and speak English. Kudos to you two! Bravo! Excelente! Keep on keeping on!

Sister Joseph Marie shares about this ministry:

So far we have had students from Thailand, Porto Rico, and Mexico. The “teacher” in this program does not need to know the language of the student, in fact, it is better they don't know the language. The teacher does not have to be a professional teacher. When we get these students they have already had the introductory course at the Library and we find that they really need help in pronunciation and the meaning of words and phrases. It is not hard to do this teaching and is very enjoyable. We, the teachers, learn much from the student, especially their culture. So it is a mutual and enriching learning experience. For the most part, the people we work with are good students because they want to learn! The Library provides the special ESL textbooks and other reference books that we and students have easy access to. I want to emphasize that one does not have to be a professional teacher or know the language of the students. It is a wonderful opportunity to help others learn English and be prepared to find employment and find themselves in a good place in American society.”

WELCOME!

We are so happy that postulant Joana Simon is now at St. Joseph Convent, York. Arriving here on May 21, the very next day found her at the York Literacy Council where she was tested on her knowledge of the English language. Since that day, she has been working hard to immerse herself in this new language which she loves learning! In fact, she is learning so fast that she will soon be moved to the next level in the class that she attends at the Literacy Council. In between times, she is also receiving lessons from Sisters Judi, Claudia and Mary Grace.

As soon as Joana has adequate mastery of the English language she will be readmitted as a novice in our community. Then she will remain at St. Joseph Convent until she completes one year of novitiate. Welcome, Joana! We are happy to have you with us and look forward to your entrance into the Novitiate. May God grant you perseverance in your vocation to the religious life as a Daughter of Mercy.



MISERICORDIA NURSING CENTER – A SPECIAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Since May of 2018, Misericordia has been celebrating its 75th Anniversary Year. During this special year a number of significant events have taken place to mark this anniversary.

On June 6 the last event of this anniversary year was held to honor the Shorb family who has played an integral part in the success of Misericordia

down through the years.

It all started in 1960 when the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy met Basil Shorb II and inspired in him a deep spirit of charity for their mission of mercy to care for the elderly.

In 1965, Basil led the first capital campaign and broke ground on a new state-of-the-art-building. This is when Misericordia moved from Roosevelt Avenue to Russell Street – to a building that now could accommodate 50 residents, whereas the former building could only accommodate 15 residents. In 1985 Basil's son George, following in his father's footsteps, also became a member of Misericordia's Advisory Board.

Then about 10 years ago, George's twin brother Jack became the third family member to join the advisory board. Jack, who is an attorney, brought a new facet of expertise to the board with his wise counsel and forward looking approach.

In 2016 George led the second capital campaign and broke ground for extensive renovations, transforming the facility into a more home-like and nurturing setting for its residents. George continues his 34+ years of service on the Advisory Board.

To George we owe a debt of gratitude as it is largely through his excellent leadership, hard work, dedication and his numerous connections with the people of the York area community that assured the financial success of the 2018 capital campaign.

Through God's providence, the hard work of the community and of the sisters who have served at Misericordia down through the years, coupled with the dedication of members of the Shorb family who have shared their time, talent, and treasure to advance the mission of Misericordia, this facility is now equipped to continue its legacy of caring for the ill and elderly of the York area with a **Heart of Mercy** as its name signifies.



Sister Ambrogina presents Misericordia's Legacy Leadership award to George Shorb (left). Jack Shorb (right) also received an award for his 10 years of dedicated service as a board member. George and Jack are twins!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Those who are ill, especially:

Sisters Ursula and Mary Paul

Mother Salomé, Sisters Norma and Cristina of the Province of Cordoba who are recovering from a recent auto accident

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

Philip Shar – son of Phil Shar, RFO

Janet Gensamer - mother of Bill Gibbons, RFO

Charmaine, niece of Rosalind Young, RFO



Life has changed, not ended for:

Paul Jacquette – cousin of Sister Joseph Marie. Paul passed away on May 13, 2019.

Rev. Francis Menei - Father Menei passed away unexpectedly on June 6, 2019 at Misericordia Nursing Center where he had been a resident in skilled care for the past year and a half. Father Menei was loved by everyone at the Home. He was fun-loving, upbeat and, most of all, a priestly priest! Rest in peace, Father!

A VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

by Sister Mary Grace



CANONIZATION OF ST. MARY JOSEPH ROSSELLO

This year is a very special year for our Rossellian Family as we commemorate and celebrate more than one significant Anniversary, the first being the 100th Anniversary of the presence of the Daughters of Mercy in the United States. In observance of this glorious event, we have been recalling in the “Mercy Message” our history from that memorable day – **June 16, 1919** to today – **June 16, 2019**.

And now let us focus our attention on a most noteworthy event that we just commemorated:

June 12, 1949 – June 12, 2019 - the 70th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Mary Joseph Rossello. It is this special anniversary on which some reflections are offered in this newsletter.

Let us start with a glance at some of the outstanding characteristics that were instrumental in bringing our Foundress to Sainthood:

Her writings, along with the collection of the memoirs handed down to us, have provided us a rich and precious heritage from which to draw inspiration. First, I call to mind her well-known maxim: “Heart to God, hands to work.” How many times we have heard this phrase, and how well we know the countless examples in her life that testify how genuinely she gave her heart and soul totally to God while putting her hands to work in an effort to help the poorest of the poor who always were her first preference. This example challenges us to emulate her, to give our hearts totally to God while putting our hands to work – the work of the spiritual and corporal Works of Mercy carried out with loving compassion – that compassion, that Mercy which is our charism, our call.

Among the many virtues that our Foundress possessed, one of the most striking is her unwavering trust in Divine Providence. At every juncture in her challenging journey through life she placed her trust in Divine Providence and forged ahead fearlessly, meeting every obstacle head-on. So convinced was she that God was on her side that she was able to overcome any difficulties that presented themselves, and they most certainly did. Despite this she accomplished much beyond what was expected in her 69 years of life. Just think of the many works she started and the numerous foundations that were established during her lifetime. Even when money and resources were completely lacking, she found ways and means to accomplish the work she set out to do for the good of others. Her deep trust in our Provident

God was the unbreakable thread that securely bound things together and formed an intricate pattern skillfully woven in love, Mercy and sincere compassion. In the “Memoirs” we read: *“She had such an ardent faith that enabled her to overcome every obstacle...So often she found herself with enormous debts and in need of many things but she didn’t feel defeated; she trusted in Divine Providence. ‘Oh! She used to say, ‘God’s Providence is immense.’”*

All through life, St. Mary Joseph Rossello had a deep love for Our Lady, taking her as a model in her personal quest for holiness. Her devotion to Mary held such priority in her life that she named her community Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy with a focus on the word Mercy. In her own words: *“The name the Institute bears is Mercy and therefore its works must be these... The Daughter of Our Lady of Mercy must be ready to offer human compassion wherever misery calls her.”*

Also, as we know so well, St. Mary Joseph Rossello had a great love and devotion to St. Joseph whom she so frequently turned to in fervent prayer, constantly imploring his help and intercession at every turn on her journey. It was she who declared him as the protective father and holy patron of our Institute. Again, in the “Memoirs” we read of this devotion of hers: *“A Novena to St. Joseph obtained everything for her. How many times, at night, instead of going to bed to sleep she would be kneeling before the altar of St. Joseph and pray, pray, and pray so much that help inevitable came.”*

Mother Foundress, as is very evident, was a person who loved others without distinction. She wanted to comfort every one she met and bring each one closer to God. Again, the Memoirs tell us, *“Her charity shone through all her actions and behavior. She would have confronted any difficulty and surmounted the gravest obstacle for the glory of God. She spared herself nothing for the good of her neighbor; rather, her longing was always to lead souls to God. Of this here stand as proof the works she founded and maintained.”*

To sum it up, St. Mary Joseph Rossello was a person who centered herself totally on the things of God. Her spirit of prayer was inspired by her deep faith and her ardent desire to do good to all. Let our focus, like hers be characterized by a deep love for God, for all of creation and especially for those most in need of God’s limitless mercy.

As we commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the canonization of our beloved Saint, may we constantly turn to her and plead, *“O St. Mary Joseph Rossello, pray that your spirit always be with us!”*

