



# Our Times

Newsletter of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

## *In 1919, the Spirit Led Us to Danville* by Sister Bernadette Marie

The year 2019 is significant for the borough of Danville and the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius as it marks the one-hundredth anniversary of our arrival to take up residence at our new Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart.

When the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius had been a community for six years, our first Motherhouse was established in 1915 by the first General Superior, Mother Mary Mihalik, at St. Stephen's Convent in Plymouth, PA. A year later, when Mother Mary's health was failing, the generalate moved with her to Middletown in the Harrisburg Diocese. Upon Mother Mary's resignation in March of 1916, Mother Emmanuel assumed leadership of the community. On April 30, 1916, Mother Mary died at the age of 29. Her death was quickly followed by the death of our Founder, Father Matthew Jankola, on May 5, 1916. The losses were a heavy burden for the Sisters, but didn't keep them from embracing the work at hand. For example, during the influenza epidemic of 1918 the Sisters ministered to the sick in their homes in the Harrisburg area.

It was at that time that Mother Emmanuel realized that our growing community needed a larger Motherhouse. With the help of loyal advisors like Harrisburg Bishop Philip Richard McDevitt, Father Julius Foin and Father Thomas F. X. Dougherty, Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Danville, Mother Emmanuel was told of a property in Danville that had been put on the market in November of 1918. The estate, abandoned for fourteen years, consisted of a 44-room mansion, stables, barns, greenhouses, a farmhouse and liveryman's house on 187 acres of land. "Castle Grove" had been built in 1867 for Michael and John Grove, Jr. The second owner, Caroline Grove Bennett, died in 1903 and her husband John Bennett remarried but then died in 1905. His second wife decided to move back to France with her adult daughter, leaving the property in the hands of a caretaker. On March 17, 1919, Mrs. Bennett agreed to sell the property to the Sisters, and the sale was completed on June 7, 1919.

The Sisters and Novices moved to Danville to occupy the mansion on June 19, 1919, the Feast of



*In 1915, St. Stephen Convent in Plymouth, PA, was the site of the first Motherhouse.*



*Then from 1916 to 1919, the second Motherhouse was at the Jednota Home in Middletown.*



*Above and right: Castle Grove in its heyday, years before it was purchased by the congregation.*



*What's Inside?*

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Corpus Christi. Much work awaited them but they were overjoyed to have such a beautiful place to call "home." Remembrances of arrival day and some community "firsts" still exist.

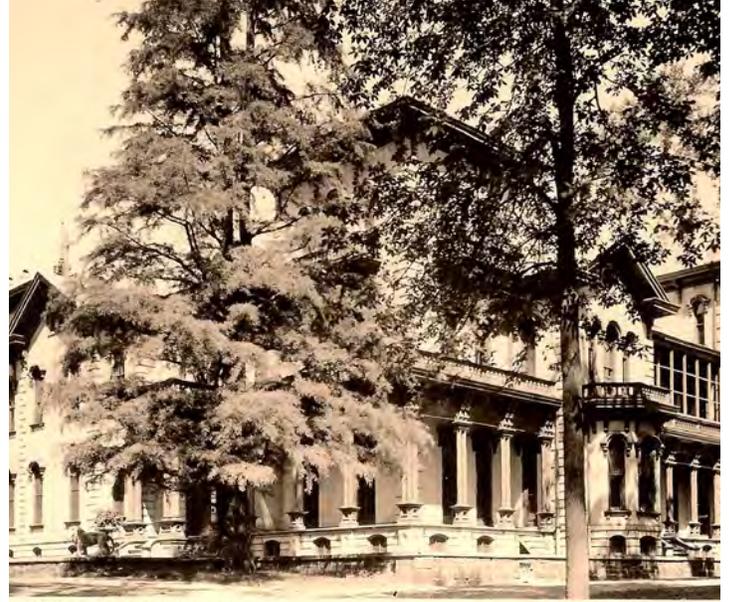
Before they each left this world for the Kingdom of Heaven, Sisters Salome, Bernadine, Ferdinand and Celestine recorded their first impressions of Castle Grove, the first days spent in making it livable and their memories of becoming full-fledged members of the Congregation.

**Sister Salome** was treasurer when Mother Emmanuel became General Superior after Mother Mary's death. Early in 1919, she and Sisters Cyril and Pius had the honor of visiting Castle Grove and meeting with Father Dougherty whom the Bishop had designated as assistant to the Sisters in the process of purchasing the property. She says, "We met on a dismal day in winter, and the only way I can describe our future home was 'spooky.' Cobwebs hung down and brushed our faces, the brocade hangings were threadbare, rugs were rolled up along the walls, and the furniture was covered with large pieces of cloth."

The Sisters, though, could see that the building was well-built and the contents were of great value. Naturally money was an issue, but the Sisters prayed that the former owner who was living in Paris would lower the price. "Thanks also to a loan granted by Mr. Youngman of the Commonwealth Bank, we were able to purchase Castle Grove."

**Sister Bernadine**, the last postulant to enter the community in Middletown, the temporary Motherhouse, had vivid recollections of moving in to what came to be called Villa Sacred Heart. On June 18, 1919, she and the other postulants and several novices arrived in Danville by train only to learn from Mother Emmanuel, the General Superior, that because of an irregularity in the deed, the Sisters would not be able to occupy Castle Grove just yet. Sister Bernadine said, "The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary residing at St. Joseph parish in town gave us accommodations for the night. The next day Father Dougherty, the pastor, told us we could proceed to Castle Grove. Mother Emmanuel led us in a prayer to the Sacred Heart as we entered the gate. When we reached a spot at the top of the hill, Mother declared, 'One day a statue of the Sacred Heart will be placed here.'"

Sister Bernadine continued her reflections, "The very day after our arrival we tackled the cleaning of a



*An early postcard of Villa Sacred Heart surrounded by tall trees provides a view of the stately property the Sisters acquired.*

building which had been neglected for fourteen years. Subsequently, we also cleaned the barns, weeded and cultivated the vegetable garden planted by Mr. Scott, the caretaker, cared for the chickens we had brought from Middletown, did the laundry by hand, weeded around the cobblestones that formed the pathways circling the grounds, and killed the snakes residing in the ruins of the greenhouses."

The first Reception ceremony was held in the room designated as the chapel on August 15, the feast of the Assumption.

**Sister Ferdinand**, who entered the Congregation before she turned 15, joined wholeheartedly in the cleaning, the gardening and the weeding. What she remembered best was climbing a ladder to gather the large harvest of cherries. She also recalled spending pleasant times of recreation in the gazebos with the other Sisters.

**Sister Celestine** was the first postulant to enter the Congregation at Villa Sacred Heart on August 1, 1919. "I arrived at the station in Danville after a train ride from Plymouth. A solemn postulant met me and escorted me up the hill. As we walked, I looked up toward the building which rose up from a sea of hip-high grass. I could only describe it as 'palatial.' I was most intrigued by the stone lions that stood guard at the front of the mansion.

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Editor: Sister Bernadette Marie, SS.C.M.

Graphics and Layout: Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M.



*Left: The Villa chapel as it is today, featuring the image of the Sacred Heart. The Villa still houses the community Novitiate. Below: A fulfillment of Mother Emmanuel's dream, the Sacred Heart welcomes all who drive onto the Villa Sacred Heart grounds.*

One of the most impressive rooms in the building was the room designated as the chapel. Immediately I was able to join the other postulants, now numbering five, in washing walls, scrubbing floors, using a sickle to cut down the grass, weeding the stone gutters and raking leaves.

I learned that before our arrival in Danville the children of the borough visited the property for two reasons. One was to watch Mrs. Caroline Grove Bennett who weighed 300 pounds ride her bicycle around the grounds. The high walls enclosing the property were built to prevent the curious from watching her take her exercise. The Danville youngsters also skated on the lake whose beauty was enhanced by the presence of a waterfall." Unfortunately, neither the lake nor the waterfall exist today, the cost of dredging a lake being prohibitive.

The Immaculate Heart Sisters who taught at St. Joseph parish in town also took walks on the grounds. It is said they buried a Miraculous Medal in the ground, hoping that Our Lady would intercede in helping a religious group to purchase the property.

Sister Celestine continued: "Nearly a year had passed since we five postulants had come to Castle Grove. It was time for our Reception which was scheduled for July 15, 1920, in the glass-enclosed sun parlor. Since the day proved to be very rainy, we knelt before the Bishop in our bridal gowns to receive our habits amid the pails and cans used to catch the downpour. Our spirits were far from dampened, however, as we looked forward to a future in the service of the Lord in religious life."

*from the General Superior*

by Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M.



On October 20, 2018, the alumnae of Saint Cyril Academy met for their biennial Homecoming. It was wonderful to see so many former students and classmates take time to reunite and remember all the graces and blessings during those student years. And there were many, but the one most commented on was the beauty of the grounds and the sense of peace that was present there.

Let's face it, peace is what we all desire today. Our busy lives are filled with many activities and obligations and on top of that we are bombarded with stories of terrorism, bombings, mass shootings, kidnappings and



*Below: What better venue for the St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten Mother and Daughter Tea than the Villa sun parlor?*



One hundred years later, we are grateful to those Sisters who shared their treasured memories with us of the early days of their arrival in Danville. Our blessings are so many--as are those who have supported our mission and ministries over these years, enabling us to develop and maintain this property, share it with others and work to bring the Kingdom of God to fullness. Our gratitude is as mighty as our blessings.

ethnic persecution. It is hard to maintain a peaceful heart in this environment. Yet, that is what we are called to do--be instruments of peace. We become such instruments when we reach out in compassion to the most vulnerable among us; when we forgive the hurts and failings of others and ourselves; or when we come to see the Earth as our "common home" and become its caretakers.

The sense of peace that the Academy students remembered so vividly is still part of the natural beauty of Villa Sacred Heart. It is a place where nature lifts our hearts and we come to pray and know God through the whole of creation, as St. Francis did. Know that you are always welcome here to enjoy nature and come to know more deeply God's generosity, goodness and Love.

**God has made everything beautiful in its time and has also set eternity in the human heart.**

--Ecclesiastes 3:11

June 22-23, 2018

# Summer Stage Presents



## Beauty and the Beast

For the past sixteen years, starting in 2002, Summer Stage has been an integral part of the educational program at St. Cyril Academy during the month of June. Originally this summer program began with children ages 5-6 but later expanded to include youngsters from ages 7-12.

In the first two weeks of June, the 5-6 year-old students meet from 9:15 a.m. to noon and prepare for two Friday evening half-hour performances. These are the delight of the students' parents, grandparents and neighbors. With the same 9:15 a.m. to noon schedule but during the last two weeks of June, the 7-12 year-old students rehearse an entire musical. This is presented twice on the weekend which follows, usually the last weekend in June, on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. The number of participants in the musical is as many as 36.

All the Summer Stage students learn the fundamentals of theater, including speaking, singing, movement, improvisation and some costuming. Maria Hall Theater is both the practice and performance site.

Summer Stage began at the insistence of a former student of Sister Donna Marie, now a parent, whom she taught at St. Cyril Academy, our girls' high school which closed in 1999. For many years the Academy students had all been involved in musicals directed by Sister Donna Marie and presented to area children--twelve

When the selfish young Prince (Jack Marks) is changed by the old woman enchantress (Ava Bulger) into a beast,



Henok Yohannes takes his place on stage, having been expertly transformed by Sister Donna Marie.



Top: The cast of *Beauty and the Beast* takes a well-earned bow following the Friday evening performance.

Above, left to right: Plumette (Sophia Yohannes), Marguerite (Grace Everett), Mrs. Potts (Mehak Kotru) and Cogsworth (Jack Norfolk) model their masterfully-crafted costumes.

performances in a week to busloads of grade school children and parents on the weekend. Remembering vividly how much she enjoyed and valued the lessons she learned while performing in these musicals, the parent wanted her daughters, who attended St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten, where Sister Donna Marie is currently principal, to have a similar experience. So, Summer Stage began in 2002 with six students, and enrollment has steadily grown over the years.

Sister Donna Marie, creator and director of Summer Stage, writes or adapts fairy tales, songs, poems and creative pieces for the 5-6 year-olds and uses published musicals from drama services for the 7-12 year-olds. Children in both groups practice Monday through Friday mornings and perform minor miracles while enjoying an experience which whets their appetite for live theater. As director, Sister Donna Marie does the staging and also makes the costumes.

"I began taking dance classes at the age of two," Sister Donna Marie admits, "and danced my way through elementary and high school. My last appearance on stage was in college before I entered the convent. I had a wonderful dance and drama instructor who inspired me and taught me so much about technique, performance and creativity. I always hoped I could do the same for my students. At college I studied drama and speech, and now I have the opportunity to share with young people what I have learned."

The musical Sister Donna Marie selected for 2018 was *Beauty and the Beast*, an ambitious undertaking and a costuming challenge which she and the students met with amazing talent. All who witnessed it were spellbound by the delightful performances of the young actors.

Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg

## Getting to Know the Sisters New to PA

On July 15, Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the Sunday liturgy at Maria Hall. Sister Michael Ann had extended an invitation to the Bishop to meet the Sisters from the congregations who have made Maria Hall their new home, namely the Sisters of Notre Dame deNamur and the Religious of the Good Shepherd, both of whom were based in Baltimore, MD. Also new to Maria Hall are two Contemplative Good Shepherd Sisters from Minnesota. No strangers to Bishop Gainer, the Carmelites of Danville, originally of Elysburg, who joined the Maria Hall community in January of 2008, also welcomed the Bishop.

At the liturgy, Sister Jana was the crossbearer in the entrance procession, and Father James Lease, pastor of St. Joseph parish, Danville, served as Master of Ceremonies. Father Gerard Heintzelman, Maria Hall chaplain, and Deacon Tom Baranoski of Charleston, SC, were present in the sanctuary.

The ministerial roles for the liturgy were assumed by representatives of the congregations housed at Maria Hall. Sister Joan Ferraro, SNDdeN, proclaimed the first reading, and the cantor was Good Shepherd Sister Mary Carol McClenon. Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M., provided musical accompaniment for the liturgy. Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M., proclaimed the second reading. Deacon Baranoski read the Gospel and the Intercessions.

The Bishop's homily focused on the three readings and their message of the strong sustaining the weak. As a starting point for his message regarding the mystery of salvation, he referred to the current news story of twelve boys rescued from a cave in Thailand.

After the liturgy the Bishop joined the Sisters for Sunday dinner and moved from table to table to greet the Sisters. Before leaving Danville the Bishop also visited Emmanuel Center to meet with the Sisters from the various congregations who are in residence there. He left with an open invitation to visit again--any time.



*Top: Table-by-table, Bishop Gainer makes the rounds in the Maria Hall dining room. Above: The Emmanuel chapel provided a good space for Bishop Gainer to meet the Sisters there who pray for him often.*

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Stratford CT

## A Farewell Following 63 Years of Service



Sisters Gloria Marie and Joseph Therese were the last SS.C.M. Sisters to serve in Stratford, CT, and were celebrated with a Sunday Mass and parish reception on May 20, 2018. The Leadership Team (*far left*) joined them for the event, and Sister Madonna (*left*) even added a musical selection after Communion. After 63 years of grade school teaching and parish ministries, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius cherish the impact they were able to make on the church there and all the places to which their students have traveled.



*Far left: Sisters Gloria Marie and Madonna flank This Lady's Name in the back of the Church before Mass. Left: Sisters Joseph Therese, Michael Ann and Gloria Marie stand among those who will remember them fondly.*

## *Servant Leadership in IM* **Jesus: I Came to Serve**

The annual Servant Leader awards presented to students from the Diocese of Gary IN took place on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at St. Mary's Church in Crown Point. Sister Joanne Marie, who ministers as a Pastoral Associate at St. Mary's, and Sisters Deborah Marie and Linda Marie were on hand to bestow the honors and congratulate the 53 students who are already choosing to serve rather than be served, in imitation of Jesus.



*Above: With the SS.C.M. towels to prove it, the Servant Leaders honored in Crown Point create a photo op for their parents. Far left: Sister Deborah Marie directs a Servant Leader in his Mentor tribute. Left: Sister Joanne Marie, who is a Pastoral Associate in St. Mary's, stands with one of the Servant Leaders, Anthony Armenth, and his proud mother.*

## **Religious Formation with Friends**



See these happy faces? They belong to the future of religious life--the newest members of their religious communities, learning together in a weekly Inter-Community

Novitiate program which explores various topics with them.

During May, Sister Jean Marie, SS.C.M. Formation Director, and Sister Mary Kate Mensch, (second from right) were happy to host two of the weekly gatherings at Villa Sacred Heart, welcoming attendees from the Congregation of Notre Dame, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, the Felician Sisters, the Religious Teachers Filippini, and the Marist Brothers. Through this Inter-Community Formation program, the Novices have not only gained much knowledge, but have developed deep bonds with each other and the desire to continue to network and stay connected.



## **V Encuentro-- Fifth Encounter**

September 20-23 in Grapevine, TX, marked the V Encuentro conference which explored the call to be "Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of the Love of God." Sister Madonna (second from left below) was one of 20 delegates of the



LCWR who were present (above)--one representative from each U.S. region and the Leadership.



## *An Album of Activities*

Left to their own busy schedule, the students and teachers of the St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten amass quite a collection of photographs which document their learning times and all the fun that accompanies that learning. Displayed here is a sample of what has happened since the last **Our Times** was published. Is it even possible to keep up with such intensity?



*Left: On Young Author's Day, the Kindergarten students come to Maria Hall to read the books they have written. Sister Rita Polchin is happy to enjoy Arjun Leal's story and his illustrations.*

*Far left: In May, the students crown Mary in Assumption court. Kayla Williams placed the crown on a small statue positioned in front of the larger Mary. Brockton Foust carried the pillow.*

*Below: At the end of the school year, when the weather is more conducive, the students participate in a Field Day with games and contests outside and inside.*



*Above: In September, the Villa Sunparlor is the site of the annual Mother and Daughter Tea.*

*Above right: At the courthouse downtown, the Kindergarten students put Goldilocks on trial for breaking and entering the home of the Three Bears. She was found guilty!*

*Above: With a school attached to a Basilica, it is important that the students know about the place they visit daily to pray for their intentions. Sister Loretta Marie provides a walking tour so that they are well-informed.*

## *And at St. Columba Parish...*



Long-time teacher and catechist at St. Columba School and Church in Bloomsburg, Sister Lydia poses with her First Communion Class and Pastor Msgr. Lawrence.

July 14, 2018

# Summer Festival-- Food and Fun for All

A beautiful day (Thanks, God!), wonderful staff and volunteers, so many guests who joined in the fun, ate the food and went home with prizes and purchases--all this combined to make the 2018 Summer Festival a grand success, as this small selection of photos will demonstrate.



**Above:** Sister Donna Marie's Snack Shack Lemonade stand benefits from the able assistance of the "Lemon Ladies," Saint Cyril Academy alumnae Teresita Marino and Mary Teresa Molino.  
**Right:** A very popular item at the Festival is halušky--noodles with cabbage. Sister Mary Kate Mensch takes Mr. Bob Drumheller's order with a smile.



**Center left:** Good Shepherd Sisters Mary Carol and Carmen helped Sister Carol Ann "woman" the instant Bingo table.

**Center middle:** Homemade bread, anyone? Sisters Lydia and Jean Marie are here to satisfy your request.

**Center right:** Ready to furry, fluffy prizes for the games are Sister Agnes Marie and Linda Baranoski.



## St. Francis Center and SS.C.M. Associates Ministering and Growing in SC

The number of SS.C.M. Associates increased by 15 on Saturday, September 8, 2018, as the Sisters in Bluffton and the Leadership Team welcomed the new Associates (at the right) and then enjoyed a delightful social with them and their family members. As Associates, they pledged to share in and support our charism, spirituality, mission and ministry. And in point of fact, many of them have already been active in the various efforts of Sisters Canice and Marcine at the St. Francis Center on St. Helena Island.

The three photos to the right illustrate the help of many volunteers in the Center's outreach to migrant families who need their assistance when they arrive in SC.



*Convocation Days, July 25, 2018*

## *The More We Get Together...*

...the happier we are. So, for four days in the summer, we meet, listen, talk, pray and enjoy being in this community of dedicated women. Among the highlights this summer was our welcoming of Rosa Gouveia as an SS.C.M. Associate (left).



Several members of Rosa's family traveled from Chicago to join in the celebration (center).

A talk by Frank Mercadante, (below), on the Millennial generation was open to the public and drew kudos from the Sisters and those Youth Ministers who were able to attend. Always looking forward to new younger members, we want to be ready for them when they answer God's call.



## *LCWR National Convention*



From August 7 to 10, 800 leaders of Women Religious met to consider: *Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion*. The SS.C.M. Leadership Team were among those who took this message to the steps of the Old Courthouse in St. Louis where Dred Scott sued for his freedom in 1846. There they prayed in silence for an end to racism in our country and in the world.



## *See Us at the Fairs*

Both the Montour-Delong Fair and the Bloomsburg Fair saw entries from the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius--and we even saw a few blue ribbons!



**Top:** Sister Brigid's nut roll earned a blue ribbon at the Bloomsburg Fair. **Above:** In the Montour-Delong Fair, Sister Jeanne Ambre's calligraphy and Sister Seton Marie's oil painting both merited blue ribbons. **Above right:** Becoming an expert in Flower Pot People, Sister Donna Marie's entry in the Bloomsburg Fair won her a blue ribbon and Best of Show for the second year in a row.

## It's Not Easy Losing Long-Time Good Neighbors

**Right:** At a Sunday dinner to which the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius were invited, Sister Michael Ann presented a picture of our patrons to Sister Mary Mark--something to remind them of us.

**Below:** The Sisters pray now in their new Motherhouse chapel.



### When We Wish, We Wish for This...



Many of our Retired Sisters at Maria Hall are not able to access our beautiful grounds because of mobility issues. Their dependence on walkers and wheelchairs limits them to the inside of the building. We would like to install a sun awning with patio furniture on the 4th floor deck of Maria Hall so that the Sisters can enjoy fresh air and the beautiful view of the Motherhouse grounds in 3 seasons. We anticipate the cost will be nearly \$10,000.00. Can you help?

## Your Help Was Amazing!

When we asked for your help to convert the bathtubs at Maria Hall into walk-in showers, we were overwhelmed by your generosity. Together with two grants we received for the task, we were able to complete the bathroom renovations for the Sisters at Maria Hall. May God bless you for your willingness to help us. You are in our grateful prayers always.



It took a while to happen, but the Sisters of Christian Charity recently moved from Danville to Mendham, NJ, having built a new home for their retired Sisters as part of the new Motherhouse.

About five years ago, the Sisters sold their Holy Family Convent property to Geisinger Medical Center after 119 years in Danville. Until the new facility in New Jersey was ready, the Sisters had been transitioning gradually until the last 52 of them moved "home" in April. Several send-off events made their departure a little less sad.

### SS.C.M. Annual Raffle Winners

*We are grateful for all who sold tickets and bought tickets for our annual raffle. You all made us the happiest winners and we were delighted to give away prizes to the friends listed here:*

- \$500.00 – Helen Weiger, Harrisburg, PA
- \$250.00 – Jayne Griffin, Las Vegas, NV
- \$150.00 – Nancy Meier, Philadelphia, PA
- \$150.00 – Jayne Harrison, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- \$100.00 – Antonette Diles, Endwell, NY
- \$100.00 – Joe Humanik, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- \$100.00 – Dolores Hritz, Plains, PA
- \$100.00 – Sister Carmen Flores, RGS  
Danville, PA
- \$100.00 – Melanie Novak,  
Mechanicsburg, PA
- \$100.00 – Jeffrey Snyder, Danville, PA

### You Are Invited to Leave a Legacy

With a gift through your will, you can support the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and ensure that our mission of witnessing to, proclaiming and building the Kingdom of God will continue into the future.

An example of bequest wording:

*I give, devise and bequeath to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, a not-for-profit organization located in Danville PA, the sum of \$\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate) for the unrestricted use and general purposes of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.*

It is a good idea to let your heirs know about the charities to which you are donating.

If you would like more information about giving to the Community in your will, please contact: Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M.

General Superior  
570-275-3581 ext 300  
[smaosscm@yahoo.com](mailto:smaosscm@yahoo.com)

Sophie Bernice Matlak was born in Chicago, IL, on January 14, 1928, the daughter of Vincent and Sophie (Zmuran) Matlak. She attended Immaculate Conception School in Whiting, IN, and graduated from Whiting High School. Sophie entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on February 2, 1949, and was received as a novice, replacing "Sophie" with "Sister M. Janet," on August 11 of that year. She made her first profession of vows on August 9, 1951.

Sister Janet earned her B.A. from Marywood University, an M.A. in Secondary Education and Administration from Villanova University, and did graduate studies at St. Louis University. Sister Janet also studied Formative Spirituality at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Sister Janet taught on the elementary level in parish schools in Perth Amboy, NJ, and Bloomsburg, PA. In 1959, she joined two other Sisters at the inception of Andean High School, a co-institutional school in the Diocese of Gary, IN. She spent seventeen years at Andean, serving as Theology teacher, Guidance Counselor, and in the administrative positions of Assistant Principal for Girls and Associate Principal.

At Andean, Sister Janet had a profound influence on the girls she taught and those she counseled. Sisters Jeanne Ambre and Sara are two Andean graduates who were in Sister's Theology class and confided to her their desire to enter religious life.

In 1976, Sister Janet assumed an administrative post in the Diocese of Gary Catholic Schools System where she

## In Memory of

Sister M.  
Janet  
Matlak, SS.C.M.

January 14, 1928 -  
May 12, 2018

Professed:  
August 13, 1951



became Assistant Superintendent in charge of Supervision, Curriculum and other related areas. Upon her return to Danville, Sister taught at St. Cyril Academy and later was missioned to Villa St. Cyril, Highland Park, IL. From 1988-1992 Sister Janet served on the SS.C.M. Leadership Team.

From 1992-2002 Sister Janet was the Director of Admissions at Maria Joseph Manor and continued to minister there in various capacities until 2012. She is fondly remembered at Maria Joseph for the profound effect she had on the residents and for the pithy signs she printed and posted in the elevator. Until she retired to Emmanuel Center in her final illness, she ministered joyfully as a resident visitor. The residents were always grateful to her for her gentle presence and sincere way of assuring them that the Sisters were happy to have them live at Maria Joseph.

## Maria Hall Goings On



As of August, the Sisters at Maria Hall are pleased to have Sister Carol Marie (*at the left above*) planning some outside-the-box activities. For example, an August afternoon excursion for a ride on the Hiawatha paddle boat down the Susquehanna River was a summer highlight for SS.C.M. Sister Brigid, and CGS Sisters Ann Joseph and Beverly.

In a response to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Florence and Michael and the tsunami in Indonesia, the Maria Hall Sisters held a silent auction (*right*) to raise funds for Catholic Relief Services. Both the community and Father Heintzelman matched the \$650 that was collected.



*Above: To the delight of the Sisters, Agnes Lakatos, who works at Maria Hall, brought her piano students there for their Spring recital. Following their impressive performances, Agnes posed with the musicians.*



Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius  
Villa Sacred Heart  
Danville PA 17821

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Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

Fall 2018



Mission: *In the name of Jesus we teach and heal.*  
Spirituality: *Christ centered and Mary-modeled.*  
Motto: *Thy Kingdom Come!*



### When Tall Trees Fall

May 15 saw the downfall of two very large and healthy tulip trees on the grounds of Villa Sacred Heart. Not a tornado but straight-line winds caused the damage which took months to clear away and will take decades to replace in stature and beauty.



**Far right:** Sister Michael Ann is dwarfed by the toppled giant tulip tree.  
**Right:** The roots of this tulip tree were no match for the strong winds, as Sister Barbara Sable can see.  
**Below left:** Trimmed of its branches, the trunk lies ready to be chopped up.  
**Below:** On the feast of St. Francis, the Sisters planted two red oaks on the grounds in memory of Sr. Teresa Urda, gifts of the St. Cyril Academy Alumnae.



Save the Date So You Don't Miss It:  
SS.C.M. Summer Festival 2019  
Saturday, July 13 - 10:30-5:00

Villa Sacred Heart, Danville PA 17821