



# Our Times

Newsletter of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

## St. Francis Center's 10th Anniversary *Paradise? Really?*

"You'll live in paradise!" That's one of the promises made by purveyors of time shares and realtors marketing homes in plush retirement communities. They're referring to the proliferation of beach resorts, tennis courts, gated golf enclaves, and celebrity hideaways in the Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort area of South Carolina. True, we also have Parris Island, a Naval hospital, and the Marine Corps Air Station made famous by novelist and memoirist Pat Conroy, but the region has undeniable glamor. There are the roadways lined by live oak trees bedecked with Spanish moss; the omnipresent egrets, herons, and cormorants; sea turtles; endless waterways and salt marshes; and, of course, the green hills and sand traps of exquisitely landscaped golf courses. But there is an underside to all this, an underside which relates to Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

South Carolina's southernmost low country (a place where evacuations are mandatory even for projected category 1



*Left and above: Ready with presents for attendees at the Mass, Sister Barbara stands with Sisters Canice and Marcine, and with one of two new benches for the Center.*

hurricanes) is a place where our Sisters have been serving since 2005. After playing lead roles in establishing new Catholic schools, our Sisters in 2013 assumed responsibility for the decades-old St. Francis Center. Sisters Canice, Marcine and Agnes Marie who now serve there, like the Franciscan Sisters who preceded them, know the names and faces of the people never mentioned in the sales pitches—the men, women, and children who are in the role of the contemporary Lazarus, hoping for some crumbs to fall their way.

Our clients are white, African

American, and Hispanic people who live on the back roads, typically in beat-up trailers and shacks never shown by realtors. They are grandparents raising grandchildren, men and women who have lost their livelihood, persons with disabilities who have limited access to resources, victims of domestic violence, and people who have

suddenly found themselves abandoned.

Present for the March 4th Mass with Charleston Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the SS.C.M.'s at St. Francis Center, General Superior Sister Barbara Sable, her general council, and the congregation's general secretary had a day of hands-on service to the area people whose home lives don't look like paradise. Following a stint of service with the Center's regular volunteers at one of three weekly food distributions, the leadership team were taken on a kind of pilgrimage. Off US 21, and onto a dirt road so pitted with potholes that there was a high risk of breaking axles if one didn't veer onto the



*Above left and right: At the outdoor Mass celebrating the SS.C.M.'s 10th anniversary at the St. Francis Center, Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune processes to the altar accompanied by concelebrants Fr. Andrew Trapp, Pastor of St. Peter's Church in Beaufort and Msgr. Cellini, Pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish.*

### *What's Inside?*

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shoulder and into overgrown fields, they met a woman we'll call Willie Mae.

Willie Mae is a woman with significant health issues who has become one of the most recent clients of the Center. Like amputee Shirley, another client whose home has been entirely refurbished by Center funds, her home needs virtually everything to be made safe and habitable. First of all, she needed a ramp, and that was on the verge of completion when the team visited. Next comes a roof and repair and replacement of plumbing and electrical connections. Walls need to be painted, and furniture and appliances must be replaced. The work for Willie Mae's home will cost at least \$50,000. She was offered the option of a new trailer, but Willie Mae said that she really did not want to leave the only house she has ever owned—a trailer which she bought some years back for \$1,000, money she saved from endless hours of hard work.



*Above left and center: Willie Mae's kitchen before needed help, and handicapped-unfriendly entrance which has been replaced by a ramp. Above right: A falling tree limb damaged the Bethlehem African Baptist Church's entrance and roof.*

Willie Mae lives on a family compound. Many of the invisible poor, the people on backroads who have open space and vegetable gardens and free-range dogs, live on ancestral lands—lands bequeathed to their families in the aftermath of the Civil War. For Willie Mae to have a rehabilitated, safe home, it will take months of fund-raising and attention from not only the Sisters but their faithful Home Repairs Committee, who assess needs, price materials, and set priorities.

One of the revelations that comes when one actually stops to talk to the Lazarus at the gate is that people have much personal dignity, skills that have not been tapped, and a lack of access to the various support systems that ought to be helping them. They also live in areas vulnerable to crime. When Willie Mae pointed out a photo on a makeshift mantle, she observed sadly that this was the father of her grandchild, and he had been murdered. Somehow it never

made the news. Nor did it make the news when the young man in the photo next to his was stabbed—and injured so badly that he too ultimately died. The only memorial to the two young men is the display of photos, set in frames purchased at Dollar General, on Willie Mae's mantle.

Repair and replacement has become a theme for the SS.C.M. Sisters' tenth year at this ministry. Thanks to some generous benefactors and an annual appeal, the Sisters have resolved to replace at least ten roofs—and are currently at number seven. They also have some families of volunteers who can assist when full replacement of mobile homes or trailers is warranted. Their ministry is truly ecumenical—one of the areas of focus for the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. We work with Christians of various faiths—and people of no particular faith—in collecting food and goods, in staffing food distribution and the thrift shop, in interviewing persons who need utility, prescription and

other assistance, in arranging temporary housing, and in assessing the condition of homes in need of major repair. And we rely on people of means who, unlike the rich man in the parable, reach out generously and with compassionate care to fund our many efforts.

One of the latest projects for the Center is the Bethlehem African Baptist Church in Burton,

SC, outside Beaufort. Church members came to the Center asking about the possibility of getting help with a new roof. A tree had fallen on it, damaging both exterior and interior spaces. Upon inspection of the small historic church, the Sisters found that it needed far more than a roof. Bit by bit, they are replacing flooring and drywall, painting and repairing, so that the sanctuary can become fully useful. Like so many of the Center's clients, the church members are older and have very limited means. One of their great hopes is to redesign both interior and exterior spaces so that they will be user-friendly areas for Sunday school and for picnics.

It is said that the obligation of Christians, and Church leaders in particular, is to be "servants of the servants of God." Sisters Canice, Marcine, and Agnes Marie are doing that on a daily basis. They understand that Lazarus is ever at the gate. And, as the Lord made clear, he himself is present in the hungry, the thirsty, the unclothed, those in need of shelter, the sick, the imprisoned. "Whatever you do . . ." Lazarus, Jesus tells us, ended up in Abraham's bosom. He, not the arrogant, apathetic rich man, found himself for all eternity in paradise.

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*from the General Superior*  
by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.



## On Faithfulness



Sister Susan Polchin, SS.C.M. (*above on her 100th birthday*) has helped me think recently about faithfulness. Not long ago we celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with several joyous parties, and also

recalled that for 74 years she has been a vowed member of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. That is nothing short of incredible. Sister Susan has demonstrated for the 100 years of her life, and the 74 years of her life as a vowed religious, to all who have met her, and all those she served, that faithfulness is possible.

All of us are called to live lives of faithfulness. We have all made promises at one time or another, some to God, some to other people, some to ourselves. What does it mean to be faithful? For one, it means that we care about the interests and needs of others. Faithfulness swims against the stream of contemporary culture, which says, "What's in it for me? What are my needs, my ambitions, my hurts, my benefit?" The truly faithful person is shown by being other-directed and by giving their life away, by looking at others rather than concentrating on themselves. That is

certainly Sister Susan.

Faithfulness also means we develop and use our God-given gifts. Throughout the Bible there is an emphasis on using the gifts and the talents God has given us. We read in 1 Peter 4:10, "Each should use whatever gift we have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." Faithfulness is based on what we do with whatever gifts we have been given. So whether Sister Susan was helping students develop basketball skills, or visiting the elderly in their homes, Sister was first recognizing her own talents, and then sharing them generously with others.

I'm grateful to Sister Susan Polchin for a life well-lived as a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius. I'm also grateful for her calling me, and all of us, to re-examine our own faithfulness. Have we kept our promises? Have we cared for the interests and needs of others? Have we developed and used liberally the gifts God has given us? These are great reflections not just on the occasion of a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, but every day.

*Sister Barbara Sable*



## Sister Susan: One Hundred Years Young

It takes a lot of celebrating to mark one hundred years, and Sister Susan Polchin enjoyed every minute of the festivities. Beginning about a month before, the Sisters were invited to send cards to Sister Susan. These all but filled the wall space in Sister's Emmanuel room, (**bottom photos**) and closer to March 18 (the actual day) were joined by a great number of flower arrangements. On March 18, the Sisters gathered at Emmanuel to congratulate Sister Susan and enjoy her company and the very large cake which wished her a Happy 100<sup>th</sup> in icing. Shown here are the attendees at the Sisters' party (**top far left**) and Sister Susan with her favorite cousin, Sister Rita Polchin (**top left**).

On the weekend that followed, Sister Susan's family threw a very large party for her at Emmanuel at which she was congratulated by many relatives and friends.





## Months of Photos Tell Some Tales

So many things happening and a slew of pictures to choose from! These are the ones that floated to the top of the file. Enjoy.



**Top right and above:** On October 23, 2022, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Servant Leadership Awards honored 21 young people in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Their joyful witness to Jesus the Servant Leader merited them the recognition they deserve. At the same ceremony, six adult servant leaders were singled out for their lifetime contributions to: Education: Joanne and Margaret Mary Stahura; Elder Care: Frances Leiby; Ecumenism: Magdalen and Martha Iskra; and Evangelization: Sr. Jeanne Ambre.

**Right:** The St. Cyril Academy Alumnae gathered for Homecoming in Danville on October 15, delighted to see each other in person after enduring years of social distancing because of Covid-19.

**Center left:** The Maria Hall Sisters took turns enjoying the Villa fall foliage from the seats of the Festival carriage. Fresh air and beautiful colors make for a rejuvenating experience!

**Center right:** December brought all the employees from the Villa and Maria Joseph CCC to the Meadows Community Center for a Christmas luncheon. Dawn Orzewowski, Mission Advancement Director; Stephen Badoo, SS.C.M. CFO; and Skip Hummel, Facilities Manager, are in the Christmas spirit.



**Above and far right:** On March 5, 2023, in the St. Andrew Chapel in Bluffton, SC, six women were welcomed into the Associates of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Having prepared for many months with the Sisters in Bluffton, these women joined an ever-increasing group of Associates who enter into the mission, ministry and prayer of the community. We are happy to share with these enthusiastic followers of Jesus.



**Above and right:** Bishop Ronald Gainer paid a winter visit to Maria Hall and was invited to sign in and don a mask--a must for visitors in a Personal Care home. Bishop celebrated Mass, had dinner and visited with the Sisters and Father Heintzelman. We invited him to come more often!





*St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten*  
**Never a Dull Moment in School**

If you ask any Sister at the Motherhouse what fills the weeks with excitement and energy, she will say that the students in the Preschool and Kindergarten are an elixir. Their activities bring families to the school at regular intervals, and their performances delight many. With many activities not pictured, these few photos will try to depict six months of very active young people.



**Far left:** Early in the school year, the first Family Fun Night gives the students a variety of activities to enjoy with family. **Left:** At Pageant practice, Joseph practices carefully attending to Mary and Jesus. **Below far left:** In their regal robes, kings and camel boys present gifts to Baby Jesus. **Below:** At Santa Express, Mrs. Claus (aka Sr. Seton Marie) and her elf (aka Sr. Barbara Sable) oversee Christmas cookie decorating for Harnoor and her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Singh.



**Below far left:** Mrs. Finn delights the students with tales of Hanukkah while Kindergarten mothers heat up the griddles to cook latkes for the children's enjoyment. **Center:** A new activity this year, Samson Frew gets acquainted with his completed rabbit after he and his mother stuffed it with fiberfill (and love). The students selected a stuffable animal from among 12 possibilities. The favorite selection was the giraffe!



**Above:** The auditorium was filled with the sounds of games and exercises when the Preschool and Kindergarten students held Pay for Play in February. The \$2000 raised went to the Good Samaritan mission in Danville. **Far left and left:** The annual Easter egg hunt (which takes about 6 minutes) was held on April 5. Students and their siblings also had a photo shoot with the Easter Bunny.



## Breaking Cycles, Beating Odds

One of the catch phrases used by sociologists—and sometimes by politicians—is “cycles of poverty.” With sociologists, it can refer to the way in which generation after generation in some locales never seem to be able to escape low income (or no income) and continue to need support to meet basic needs. We Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius at the St. Francis Center at St. Helena Island are devoted both to meeting people’s ongoing needs while also helping them improve their own situations. The last ten years have afforded us some stories to tell.



Tommy and Sr. Canice

Tommy was among our special guests for our celebration of the tenth year. At one time, Tommy owned a car dealership. He knew how to delegate responsibilities—especially paperwork. He had managed to make a living because of his diligence as a worker. To our surprise, he was unable to read. A head injury as a young child blanked out the first and second-grade reading levels he had achieved, and the schools he attended never remedied his

situation. Sister Canice, who has expertise in early childhood education and reading, took him on. Now, as an independent contractor who can read, he builds, repairs, installs floors and plumbing, and paints. Tommy has done a great deal of work for the St. Francis Center, but he also takes on additional jobs in the Beaufort, SC, region and upstate, in Greenville. He builds ramps and fences, breaks through walls and opens up rooms in ways worthy of HGTV, installs sinks and vanities and toilets, repairs or replaces in-sink garbage disposals, and creates new work spaces by adding walls and doors. All this he has done for the St. Francis Center’s current makeovers of uninhabitable dwellings. He finds it helpful to be able to read when he goes to Lowe’s to negotiate and order materials.

Alexis worked at Great Clips when we met her. She was a highly skilled and affable cosmetologist who took pride in her work and was on her way to a management level position. She also had an infant son who had serious medical issues—issues which her benefits did not cover. We Sisters assisted her with funds to allow an overnight for herself and the boy’s father for their many trips to the Medical University of South Carolina. While trimming hair or giving the whole works—shampoo, cut, lightly style—she listened to our stories and eventually



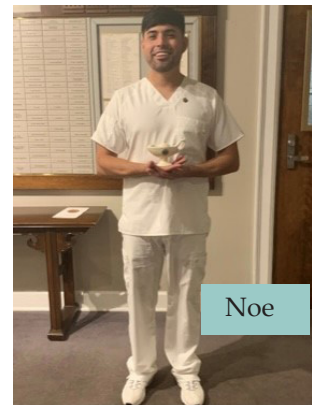
Alexis

confided her dream of establishing her own salon and buying a house. We believed in her, as she was obviously a canny business woman and the most sought-after beautician at Great Clips. With her own savings and a seed money boost from the St. Francis Center, Alexis now operates Shearz 2 Strandz, her own salon—which is conveniently within walking distance of our Bluffton convent. She owns a home as well, where the foursome of parents and two sons live in a pleasant neighborhood.

Trish is the mother of twin sons and a daughter who attended St. Gregory the Great School when Sister Canice was principal and our Sisters taught there. Trish came upon hard times because of an addiction, lost her job and custody of her children, and spent months in rehabilitation. We supported Trish and her family in prayer. Trish turned her life around, capitalized on her interest in cooking, returned to work and regained the care of her children. The St. Francis Center provided seed money to help Trish receive her catering license and start a business she calls Southern Bear. It has become so successful that it has been rated best of her region, and Trish and her staff have appeared on television segments and on the internet. Trish was happy to find time to cater the tenth anniversary celebration of the St. Francis Center, and she did so masterfully. Her prayerful, grateful parents were among the special guests.



Trish



Noe

Noe’s mother Ema has worked at the St. Francis Center since the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia operated it. They assisted Ema’s family in obtaining green cards and citizenship. Noe’s family came to the St. Helena area as migrant workers, and they continue to live on the grounds of a migrant camp and tomato farm. With her five children grown, Ema has assumed

some of the management of our thrift shop, along with her regular housekeeping and staffing work. Noe excelled in his studies and graduated from Anderson University with a degree in nursing. His ambition is to become a medical doctor, but first he wanted to pursue nursing to gain experience. He received assistance from the St. Francis Center, which will surely provide some support when he begins medical school. Of thousands of applicants, he landed a position at the famed St. Jude Hospital, where he is now working. Noe’s brother Pablo and sister Pilar also work in



the medical field. His sister Maria is an active college student who works part-time and has also received tuition assistance from the Sisters. Another sister, Fatima, is in the United States Navy. Whenever the Center has a special need, the family pitches in, and, of course, Ema is on hand nearly every day. And when he is home on a break, Noe can be counted on to help—even donning a Santa hat and beard when it's time to distribute Christmas toys!



Carl and SFC Volunteers

Forty-four-year-old Carl first encountered the Sisters when he was helping his mother, who is a client for food distribution. She is the mother of five—including three special needs adult children, one of whom is Carl. Sister Canice decided that it was time that Carl earned some self-respect and a bit of cash by offering him a job. Carl is

very strong, so he has become the man to carry heavy bags of groceries for the Center's elderly clients, to break down cardboard boxes from food suppliers for recycling, and make sure that tables are set up and the space is neat and orderly when clients arrive for food. Since Carl began working at the Center, he has become much more verbal. Sisters Canice, Marcine, and Agnes Marie have also educated him on some social graces, so now he is a gracious gentleman. They also taught him to spend some of the money he earns on gifts he can give his mother—something he had never been able to do before.

These are just five examples of young and somewhat older adults who have been helped to live their dreams through their affiliation with the St. Francis Center. In addition to assisting people like Tommy, Alexis, Trish, Noe, and Carl—who are white, African American, and Hispanic, the Center has also established an education fund, which began with \$50,000 donated by an anonymous benefactor. This money has been replenished annually even as it has been spent on tuition grants. Elementary school students, secondary school students, and college students have received monies from the Center which have helped them stay in the schools of their choice and progress in their education.

The Sisters believe that breaking the cycle of poverty is as important as meeting the immediate needs of the poor, so they carefully discern what causes and which persons they may be able to support—and follow the stories of their successes. The outreach of the St. Francis Center is living proof that well distributed funds and the power of prayer can work small miracles (and big ones) in people's lives.



## Success in Abundance



*Far left: In October of 2022, Sister Deborah Marie was a presenter at a conference in Maynooth University in Kildare, Ireland. Vocation ministry takes her far and wide!*  
*Left: Sister Barbara Sable is happy to share the joy of Sister Michael Ann who successfully completed a CHA course in the Foundations of Catholic Health Care Leadership.*



*Left: On February 4<sup>th</sup> in the Charleston, SC, Cathedral, Sister Pamela Smith joyfully witnessed the ordination of 15 permanent deacons. She had had the privilege of being a part of their acceptance, their discernment and their theology courses at St. Leo University.*

*Right: Sister Susan Pontz has only a few months to prepare to assume a new role at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. In the next academic year, she will be Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean. This in addition to her IT work. Busy Sister?*





## From the Community Album

More photographs to document the time between Fall and Spring—not in chronological order...

**Below then top right:** The SS.C.M.'s, Associates and friends gave away 75+ bagged dinners at both October and April Jubilee Kitchen events. Still curb-side delivery, the hungry are graciously fed a warm take-home meal with Halloween and Easter treats included.

**Center right:** Chaplain Sister Seton Marie, with help from her sister Regina Lewis, prepares for the delivery of many Christmas gifts. Each year, the Motherhouse and Maria Hall Sisters work from individual wish lists to put "merry" into Christmas for Sister Seton Marie's clients at the State Hospital.

**Bottom of this column:** Never too late to celebrate an Easter Egg Hunt, the Emmanuel and Nazareth residents enjoy the event from the sidelines, cheering on the children who scramble on the lawn.



**Above right:** Even with what was for Pennsylvania a relatively mild winter, the countdown and anticipation of Spring was palpable. The Sisters and staff at Maria Hall always look forward to an annual event: Float into Spring. The Administration and nursing staff use ice cream and soda to serve floats to the Sisters, the staff and anyone else who shows up for the celebration.

**Right:** In the Basilica on February 7, at the graced closing of Eucharistic Devotions, Father Patrick Devine blesses those assembled with the Blessed Sacrament.

**Far right:** Maria Hall Chaplain Father Heintzelman couldn't miss the opportunity to bless the house in which he lives on the Feast of the Epiphany. The front door is marked, and we are blessed.







In Memory of

Sister M.  
Michaeline  
Bitsko, SS.C.M.

Born:  
May 2, 1920  
Professed:  
August 12, 1945  
Went Home to God:  
November 27, 2022



In Memory of

Sister M.  
Marguerite  
Hruby, SS.C.M.

Born:  
November 14, 1935  
Professed:  
August 13, 1959  
Went Home to God:  
February 14, 2023

Sister M. Michaeline died at Emmanuel Center in Danville, PA, on November 27, 2022, at age 102. The daughter of George and Anna Brinzo Bitsko, she was born in Plymouth, PA, on May 2, 1920.

Sister Michaeline entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from St. Stephen parish, Plymouth, PA, on March 28, 1942, and was professed on August 12, 1945.

Her mission assignments were to convents in Binghamton, NY; Chicago, IL; Charleston, SC; Highland Park, IL; Hazleton, PA; New York, NY; and Danville, PA. Sister Michaeline served in a wide variety of ministries of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She served as part of programs for the elderly at Villa St. Cyril in Highland Park, IL, and Maria Joseph Manor in Danville, and served for 12 years as a Home Economics Teacher at Saint Cyril Academy in Danville, PA. She was a volunteer with the Red Cross in Danville for over 15 years, and also volunteered at the New York City Foundling Hospital. She coordinated the Arts and Crafts shop at Maria Hall for over 20 years where she tried out new ideas and rejoiced to see them displayed in the Craft Room to the delight of all who visited Maria Hall.

In 1982, Sister Michaeline was named sacristan of the Motherhouse chapel where she experienced the consecration of the chapel as the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius which was later raised to the dignity of a Minor Basilica. Sister Michaeline used her sewing skills in making a number of sets of vestments which were used in liturgical celebrations at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. At Maria Hall, Sister Michaeline stepped in as sacristan again, spending her time attending to the needs of the liturgy, the altar linens and decorations as well as the current chaplain.

Sister Michaeline loved animals, especially dogs and birds. She was quite skillful in identifying birds by their calls, and took part in many bird counts in both Eastern PA and Maryland.

Many of Sister Michaeline's family members were present for her wake and funeral at Maria Hall on December 2. Happy for the opportunity to share their fond memories of Sister Michaeline's colorful life, both the Sisters and her relatives and friends recalled Sister's kindness and compassion. A table of photographs in the Maria Hall lobby gave everyone a glimpse of the highlights of Sister Michaeline's long and beautiful life of 102 years. A friend to so many, Sister Michaeline is undoubtedly holding all her family and Sisters in prayer in heaven.

Sister Marguerite Hruby died at Nazareth Center in Danville, PA on February 14, 2023, on the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The daughter of Ignatius and Margaret (Dirda) Hruby, Ursula Bernardine Hruby was born in Bridgeport, CT, on November 14, 1935.

After graduating from Saint Cyril Academy in 1953, she received an RN from St. Vincent's School of Nursing in Bridgeport, CT, in 1956. She said that she found the mottos of these two schools to be a guiding force throughout her life; St Cyril Academy's motto was, "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve," and St. Vincent's was "The charity of Christ urges us..."

Sister Marguerite entered the Community from Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Bridgeport, CT, on February 2, 1957, and was professed on August 13, 1959. On her 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Sister, Sister Marguerite said that entering the Community was not a surprise since she had two aunts and an older sister who were SS.C.M.'s: Sister Margaret Dirda and Sister Genevieve Dirda, and an older sister, Sister William Hruby.

Sister Marguerite served in the ministry of healing for her entire religious life: as a nurse, Director of Nursing, Administrator of Maria Joseph Manor, and later as a Congregational Consultant for health issues. She received her Masters in Public Administration with a graduate certificate in gerontology from Marywood University. It was her masters' thesis on independent living for Seniors which planted the seeds for what eventually bloomed as The Meadows at Maria Joseph Manor. Sister Marguerite was present in 1962 when Bishop George Leo Leech blessed and dedicated the Manor. She was also present in 2012 when Bishop Joseph McFadden celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Sister Marguerite's life of service was rooted in the Gospel, summed up in two favorite quotes, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve," and "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to Me."

While her final years were spent as a resident of Maria Joseph Manor and later Nazareth Memory Center, Sister Marguerite was admired and respected for the model of nursing care she embodied and the heartfelt mentoring she extended to those who ministered with her. On February 20, 2023, at her wake in the Maria Hall Chapel, many recalled her expertise and competence as a nurse, administrator and Sister. Her funeral liturgy was celebrated that day by Father Gerard Heintzleman with concelebrant Father Dennis Delassandro, both dear friends of Sister Marguerite.



*Sr. Suzanne Druzen*  
**A Fond  
 Farewell and  
 Thank You**

After 14 years as DRE at Saint Augustine Parish in Larchmont, NY, Sister Suzanne was given a parish-wide farewell. On Sunday October 15, 2022, the day began with 10:30 Mass. The Pastor, Most Rev. John S. Bonnici, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, was the Celebrant. The church was filled and the choir was specially prepared for the occasion. At the end of his homily, the Bishop presented Sister Suzanne (*below*) with a Pectoral Cross blessed by Pope Francis.

After Mass many parishioners attended a reception at which Sister Suzanne received beautiful tributes from parents, children, and the teenagers and young adults she taught to be catechists. (*Left and center left*) They came, not only to say farewell, but to offer their thanks for her positive influence on the parish itself. There was even a song written about her love of theology, always imparting the message of God's love for everyone. Sister Suzanne made a strong and lasting impression on the parishioners of Saint Augustine's in her 14 years there.

Now Sister Suzanne is back in Danville and teaching religion at Saint Columba School in Bloomsburg. Welcome home, Sister Suzanne!



**Right:** Sister Suzanne's 6th, 7th and 8th grade students dramatized the Living Stations on March 31 at St. Columba Church. Coordinated by music teacher, Mrs. Jill Trapane, this "Journey of Decision" had the students form a tableau in which to narrate each station. The stations were personal and aimed at creating a just and more peaceful world.



**When  
 We  
 Wish**



Maria Hall, built in 1969, was not designed for its current residents. While it was always intended to be a retirement home, the Sisters who retired then did not have walkers--canes, maybe, and canes don't take up too much space! The biggest problem is the bathrooms. On the fourth floor, which had been the skilled care floor originally, the bathrooms are no bigger than a closet, with a tub, sink and toilet very close together. Our dream is to remodel the six bathrooms that we need to use--enlarge them and replace the tub with a walk-in shower. We have received several grants and donations, enough to remodel three. We are still \$20,000 short of funds needed to remodel the three that remain to be done. Can you help? We are grateful for any contribution you can offer. God bless you!

**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 Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.  
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[barbarasable@hotmail.com](mailto:barbarasable@hotmail.com)



**S/S 2023**  
**CM JUBILARIANS**



**70 YEARS**

Sister Julia Knazik



**70 YEARS**

Sister M. Brigid Fasiang



**70 YEARS**

Sister M. Catherine Labouré Bresnock



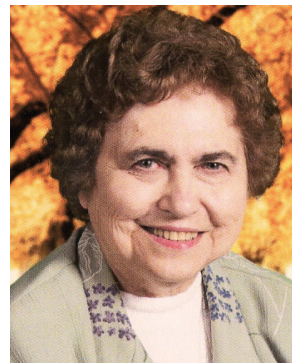
**65 YEARS**

Sister Mary Anne Nemeč



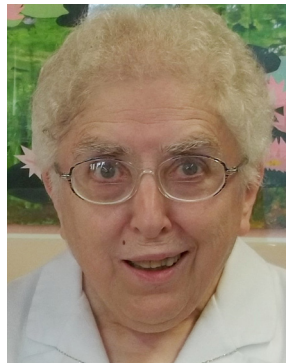
**65 YEARS**

Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus



**65 YEARS**

Sister M. Lydia Benyish



**60 YEARS**

Sister Margaret Dubas



**60 YEARS**

Sister M. Michaelette Lennartz



**55 YEARS**

Sister Jeanne Ambre



**35 YEARS**

Sister Susan Pontz



**35 YEARS**

Sister Susan Marie Hazenski



**30 YEARS**

Sister Martina Hanrahan





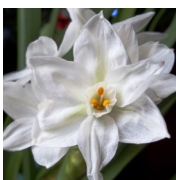
Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius  
Villa Sacred Heart  
1002 Railroad Street  
Danville PA 17821

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*Thank you for reading our Newsletter.*

### Spring 2023

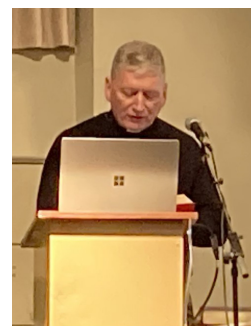


Mission: *In the name of Jesus we teach and heal.*  
 Spirituality: *Christ centered and Mary-modeled.*  
 Motto: *Thy Kingdom Come!*



### *Always Time to Pray*

The St. Cyril Spirituality Center, directed by Sister Carol Ann, (Center right with Sister Susan Marie at the registration table) welcomed Father Russ McDougall, CSC, (Far right) during Advent and again during Lent for two Days of Recollection. For Lent, (Right) Father McDougall's presentation was "With Matthew's Jesus in Jerusalem: the Passion of the Good Shepherd." Much food for thought.



On March 18, Prayer Outside the Walls celebrated the gift of St. Joseph to the Holy Family and the family of the Church.



In December, the Associates gathered in Danville or in place online to attend a virtual retreat day given by Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ.

# Save the Date:



# July 8, 2023

*Summer Festival*  
 Villa Sacred Heart  
 1002 Railroad Street  
 Danville PA 17821

