



# Our Times

Newsletter of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

## Installation of 2021-2025 Leadership Team *Called to Serve in Leadership*

Every four years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius meet to set direction for the future and elect leaders to move the Congregation into the next four years. One major exception to this pattern occurred last summer when the General Chapter was postponed because of the Coronavirus pandemic. With no opportunity to meet in person, the Leadership Team for 2016-2020 took on an additional year.

Fortunately, the blessing of relaxed protocols and the vaccination made gathering for a General Chapter possible this summer. Together from June 27th to July 2, the delegates met to set a direction for the community, "Rooted in Love, Bearing Fruit." Once set, the delegates elected a new team to lead us for four years. Given time to adjust to their new call, the team members were installed on Saturday, August 14, 2021.

The Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius for 2021-2025 was installed at a liturgy celebrated by Father Alfred Sceski, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church, Hershey, PA, and Associate of the SS.C.M.'s. The newly installed General Superior is Sister Barbara Sable who has as her Assistant Sister Michael Ann Orlik. Also elected to Leadership are Sister Carol Ann Terlicher, Sister Susan Pontz and Sister Pamela Smith.

As General Superior, Sister Barbara will serve the Sisters and the many ministries in which the Sisters are engaged in parishes, programs and schools in PA, NY, SC, IN, IL and TX. Her emphasis will be on encouraging the Sisters as well as the congregation's Associates and volunteers to live out the words of the SS.C.M. Constitutions: "United in heart and motivated by sincere gratitude to God, we hope to meet the

**Right:** At the end of the election process, the newly selected Leadership Team poses for a photo.  
**Below:** Beginning with Sister Barbara Sable, Father Sceski calls each Sister forward to publicly voice her commitment to lead the community for the next four years.



**Above:** from left to right: Sister Carol Ann, Councilor; Sister Michael Ann, Assistant to the General Superior; Sister Barbara Sable, General Superior; Sister Susan Pontz, Councilor; and Sister Pamela Smith, Councilor.



needs of the Church with courage by proclaiming the Gospel message of Christ in the spirit of our own times."

Sister Barbara Sable is a native of Gary, IN, where she attended St. Mark's Grade School and graduated from Andrean High School, Class of 1967. She entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and

Methodius in 1969 and was professed in 1972. Sister Barbara was engaged in the ministry of education in CT, NY, PA and SC where she served as teacher and guidance counselor. Later, Sister Barbara became a social worker and ministered as Program Director at Catholic Charities in Gary, IN. Sister spent ten years directing

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food programs, rental and utility assistance programs, housing education, housing for chronically homeless individuals with severe mental illness, refugee resettlement and coordinating volunteer services. For the last nine years, Sister served as Assistant to the General Superior.

Having previously served as General Superior for nine years, Sister Michael Ann assumes the role of Assistant to Sister Barbara Sable. Sister Michael Ann is a native of Perth Amboy, NJ, and was a parishioner of Holy Trinity parish where she attended Holy Trinity School. Sister Michael Ann graduated from St. Cyril Academy, Danville, in 1966 and entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on September 8 of that year. After profession in 1969, she taught Grades 5, 7 and 8 in four elementary schools. Sister spent 30 years in Mechanicsburg as principal of St. Joseph School. The last 8 years of the 30 she was also on the Leadership Team as a Councilor.

Born and raised in Gary, IN, Sister Carol Ann's inspiration to embrace religious life stemmed from her meeting the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius at Andean High School, Merrillville, IN. After graduating in 1972 and attending the University of Evansville in southern Indiana for one year, she entered the community. The classroom was the mission field for most of Sister Carol Ann's religious life. She served as a theology teacher at Andean for twenty years where she introduced Freshmen to the beauty and relevance of the Hebrew Scriptures. In December of 2017 and until 2020, Sister Carol Ann served as Director of Evangelization at two parishes in Endicott, NY, St. Anthony of Padua and St. Joseph.

Early in her religious life, Sister Susan Pontz taught on both the elementary and secondary levels. For two years Sister Susan taught at St. John the Baptist School, Pittston, PA and later at St. Cyril Academy for nine years. Sister then taught the teachers, staff and parishioners at St. Clare Montefalco Catholic Community, Grosse Pointe, MI, and began her studies toward an Ed. D. at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Sister also participated in a training program for Spiritual Directors at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Currently she is employed as Director of Instructional Technology at the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX, and continues her ministry of Spiritual Direction and Family Counseling.

Early in her religious life, Sister Pamela Smith



*Top Left: In preparation for the Installation Liturgy, Sister Michael Ann pins a corsage on Sister Susan Pontz.*

*Top Right: In his homily, Father Al recalls his long and happy association with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius which began when he was in high school working in the kitchen.*

*Above: Following the Mass, a dinner buffet at the Pine Barn in Danville gave friends and relatives an opportunity to extend the joy of the occasion.*

was involved in the ministry of education on the secondary level at schools in Indiana and Pennsylvania. Later, Sister's Ph. D. in Systematic Theology sent her into the seminary classroom. Currently, Sister serves as Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, SC. She is also an adjunct professor on the theological faculty of St. Leo University, the Charleston branch. Most recently, Sister Pamela wrote: [A History of the Diocese of Charleston: State of Grace](#), for the bicentennial of the Diocese of Charleston. This book joins the fifteen books Sister Pamela has written on various aspects of spirituality.

Elected to community leadership, these Sisters bring a wealth of experience in ministry and professional expertise. We anticipate that they will move us gracefully into these next four years, "rooted in love and bearing fruit," for the glory of God and the coming of the Kingdom.

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*from the General Superior*

by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.



As we move through October, with thoughts of harvest and Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on the many things for which I have to be grateful. I'm not sure if it is inspiration or distraction, but bread is one of the first things that comes to my mind, probably because of the wonderful fragrance of fresh-baked bread that often comes from our Motherhouse bakery.

Bread does not just feed us, but fosters relationships. On both happy and sad occasions, food plays an important role. While shared family meals can no longer be taken for granted in today's society, there remains something special about eating with - breaking bread with - those we love. In the cultural world of Jesus, sharing food was both a social and a religious event. It would have been

unthinkable to "break bread" without first saying a blessing, acknowledging the Creator. The act of sharing bread was also a way of saying "We are at peace with one another;" as family, or as friends. To share a meal was a strong statement.

It is significant that after the Resurrection, Jesus is recognized "in the breaking of bread" by the two disciples he met on the road to Emmaus. Broken bread means bread shared, and a relationship is affirmed and fostered. Eucharist is the meal we continue to share with the Risen Lord. Jesus desires to be in relationship with us, and this breaking of bread is also an invitation to enter into relationship with one another in the family of God. If the Eucharist were to be realized in its fullness, it would turn us outward to make peace with others, to embrace all God's children. This is clearly the work of a lifetime yet sometimes we do get glimpses of what it means when we gather together, as Christians always have, to break the bread. "Their eyes were opened," Luke wrote of the two disciples at Emmaus, "and they recognized him."

May you recognize Christ in each other through all the bread we break and share.



*Sister Suzanne is lavish in her praise of the 35 most generous servant leaders being honored. Following the program, Sister Brigid's kolačky, packaged for hands-free distribution, made the outdoor social an event to remember.*

## *Servant Leaders in Larchmont*

Ministering for the last 13 years at St. Augustine Parish in Larchmont, NY, Sister Suzanne Duzen has had many opportunities to call on the generous servant leadership of young people involved in the religious education program there. On Sunday, May 16, 2021, a ceremony honoring 35 of them was held in the church. Each was presented with a certificate and towel--the useful award



intended to remind the awardee of the call to give generously in the same measure as Jesus did. Four Sisters from Danville and Chicago were present to share in Sister Suzanne's gratitude and heartfelt recognition.



## *Programs in a Virtual Reality*

Not to be impeded by a pandemic, the National Religious Vocation Conference for which Sister Deborah Marie is Director of Mission Integration, has adjusted to using the internet to educate and encourage communities to effectively promote religious vocations. Sister Deborah Marie has participated in a virtual panel of 400 leaders for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (left), and even the National Association for Formation and Vocation Directors in Canada.



## A Third Year of Religious Profession

Having been installed on the previous day, the Leadership Team was delighted to share in Sister Mary Kate's renewal of vows (**right**), as was Sister Susan, the second oldest Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius (**below**). May God bless and keep Sister Mary Kate faithful to her commitment!



Sister Mary Kate Mensch renewed her vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience at the Eucharistic Liturgy for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15, 2021. Father Gerard Heintzelman was the celebrant of the liturgy at Maria Hall. After the first reading from the Book of Revelation, Sister Mary Kate as cantor sang the refrain, "The queen stands at your right hand arrayed in gold," and the selected verses of Psalm 45. Following the homily, Sister Mary Kate and Sister Barbara Sable moved to the front of the sanctuary for the Renewal of Vows.



## Feeding the Hungry

On April 17, 2021, the call to feed the hungry in Danville was again answered by the Associates and Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Still an outdoor distribution, a hot meal with added nutrition was provided for those who pulled up or walked by the tables set outside Trinity Lutheran Church. The poor we always have with us.



## Harrisburg Associates Grow by 6

On Sunday, September 2, 2021, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and several current Associates welcomed six new Associates: Mary Albers, Roberta Blaisse, Michele Golesh, John Golesh, Susan Kempfski and Susan Krape. This beautiful ceremony was held at Saint Catherine Labouré Church in Harrisburg, PA. As Associates, men and women share in the charism, spirituality and mission of our Congregation. Living in a covenant relationship of mutual support and prayer, Sisters and Associates work and pray so that the Gospel vision of the Kingdom may be fulfilled in us and in those we serve. A joyful reception followed!



**Above and left:** The windows of St. Catherine Labouré Church mirror the joy of the newest SS.C.M. Associates whose pins stand ready to be attached (right).







## 101 Reasons to Celebrate a Birthday

Sunday, May 2, 2021, marked the one hundred and first birthday of Sister Michaeline, our oldest (and reportedly wisest) Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Gathering outside of Emmanuel, the Motherhouse Sisters sang and greeted the celebrant who later accepted the cards and gifts that had been prepared (**left**). The beautiful day afforded a perfect opportunity to pose with Sister Michaeline, and Sisters Brigid and Susan took advantage of it (**below**). When the pandemic is a not-so-happy memory, there are many missed cake and ice-cream events for which to make up!



## Jubilee Joys Abound

Embracing the chance to gather, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius celebrated the Jubilarians of 2020 and 2021 on July 3, 2021. A Mass of Thanksgiving in the Basilica was followed by a buffet dinner at the Pine Barn for Sisters, family and friends of the Jubilarians.

**Left:** The Sister longest professed at 75 + 1 years, Sister Michaeline receives her corsage from Sister Michael Ann.

**Below:** The joy of the large group shot made it easier to forget last year's omission due to the pandemic.



**Left:** Making up for lost time, the Sisters in the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrated Jubilees, joined by Sister Paracleta (70 years in 2021).

**Left:** In San Antonio, Texas, the staff at Oblate School of Theology joined with Sister Susan Pontz to celebrate Sister Linda Marie's 50th Jubilee. There was cake enough for all!



**Above:** At Maria Hall in Danville, the SS.C.M. Jubilarians, Sisters: Jacqueline, Bernice Marie, Carol Ann and Carol Therese celebrated with Good Shepherd Sisters Mary Frances and Agnes. The bigger the celebration, the better.



## Outdoor and Indoor Spring Devotions

Spring ushers in a variety of devotions which are both calendar and weather-dependent. On the Sunday after Easter, the feast of Divine Mercy was celebrated in the Maria Hall chapel (*right*).

On May 1, the opening day of Mary's month, the Sisters gathered outside Maria Hall for Mary's crowning (*below and center*). Good Shepherd Sister Mary Carol McClenon did the honors outdoors. On May 5, the Preschool and Kindergarten held their own ceremony in the Basilica with a statue adjusted to the crowner's height (*below left*). Rain on Friday, June 11, the feast of the Sacred Heart, brought the Sisters back into the Maria Hall Chapel for Evening Prayer to honor our Motherhouse property's patron.



## National Poetry Month

In the third week of April, Sister Pamela Smith visited St. Martin de Porres School in Columbia, SC to help them celebrate National Poetry Month. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from Bluffton had done a flower planting project there on Earth Day a few years ago, and Sister Pamela enjoyed seeing the flowers—and hearing the children say that their favorite things in nature were flowers and butterflies. The students in St. Martin de Porres School are flourishing, and they definitely love poetry and song!







## The Changing of the Guard

On Thursday, August 26, 2021, the Maria Hall Community had a farewell blessing (far left) for Sister Mary Carol McClenon, RGS, who moved to St. Louis to begin her new role as Councilor on the Leadership Team of the Religious of the Good Shepherd. Sister Mary Carol has been the Coordinator

for the Good Shepherd Sisters in Danville, PA, since their arrival from Baltimore in 2017. We will all miss her positive outlook, musical talents and sense of humor. We wish her much success in her new leadership role.

Stepping into her role is Sister Mary Catherine Massei, RGS, who arrived from St. Louis on September 1. Sister Mary Catherine (above) is originally from Richmond, VA, and is no stranger to leadership since she has served her Congregation as Provincial Councilor for 4 different terms and was Province Leader for 6 years. Welcome to Danville, Sister Mary Catherine!



## Serving Again at the Altar

In Crown Point, IN, Saint Mary Church's Altar Servers missed over 15 months of serving at the altar due to the Coronavirus. Before rescheduling the servers, Pastoral Associate Sister Joanne Marie has been busy meeting with 38 servers to

"review" what they already know and to tweak some new procedures.

The church also has over 30 new altar servers who are being trained by Sister. She practices with them so that they feel confident at the altar, prayerful and actively participating in the Eucharist. Sister Joanne Marie said: "I am so touched by the enthusiasm of our youth and their eagerness to serve! It is a great joy for me to be involved in this ministry! Our Faith Formation parishioners have also volunteered. It is a great way to get to know more students in our parish family!"



## Anointed for Healing



In celebration of National Nurses' Week, May 6-12, Sister Seton Marie, who serves as Chaplain at Danville State Hospital, had a series of special blessings for the nursing staff. Nurses' week is an annual celebration of nurses worldwide honoring the work they do for others, and providing an opportunity to thank nurses for their dedicated service.



*St. Francis Center, St. Helena Island, SC*  
**Putting the Gospel into Action**

Anyone would be hard pressed to find an idle moment at the St. Francis Center, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Sisters Canice and Marcine coordinate programs that serve the poor, meeting the needs of varied populations and inspiring volunteers and supporters to rally around the ever-present needs of God's people. Always on the lookout for creative ways to help, the Sisters invent ways to satisfy needs while providing enjoyment for those they serve.

For four days in July, the Thrift Shop and Furniture Shed were decorated for Christmas and offered items at half-price to those who braved the heat. Sister Agnes Marie and two helpful elves assisted the shoppers (*top*).

In early June, the Sisters made an ice cream Thank You visit (*right*) to the students and staff of St. Peter School in Beaufort, SC. These generous folks collect food, money and needed items throughout the year.



*Above:* A special celebration for Father's Day finds Sister Agnes Marie and Sister Canice delivering gift cards to two grateful Fathers. Also part of the giveaway were food, towels and specialty personal items.

*Right:* Sister Marcine bags the meat that is selected for a food pickup. Protein is important!





St. Peter's Church in Beaufort purchased a trailer to fill with non-perishable food and household items for the St. Francis Center (*left*). In addition to the donations provided by the members of the parish, Pastor Father Andrew Trapp invited the area churches to pass the trailer around to elicit ecumenical support and contributions from the Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches. Sister Canice was invited to address the congregations of these churches to tell them about the ministry of the Center and the lives that are touched there.



*Left:* On Sunday, September 12, Sister Canice spoke at Pastor Ricky Howell's Water's Edge United Methodist Church.

*Center:* As these volunteers demonstrate, the trailer can hold many donations.

*Below:* Recently, a new program to deliver bags of groceries to home-bound clients was launched. Sarah, a volunteer, loads her truck with dry goods from the pantry.



*Far left:* On July 11, 2021, the Sisters take time out to celebrate the 201st anniversary of the Diocese of Charleston. Sister Pamela Smith greets Cardinal Dolan at the reception following the Mass.

*Left:* Sister Marcine makes sure that the Center is a beautiful place to be. Everyone needs a few lovely flowers to admire.



## Bumper Crops

Whatever the combination of factors, the peach and apple orchards at Villa Sacred Heart yielded a hundredfold this summer. Fruit aplenty, there was more than enough for us, the employees who were invited to share, and even the deer who feasted daily on the trees.



*Above and left: Sister Susan Marie made many trips to the orchards, returning with bags of apples and peaches that became applesauce, apple butter, cakes, pies and breads. It was all great exercise for body and soul! Everyone enjoyed the results!*

## See Us at the Fairs

Local fairs during the summer provide an avenue for showcasing the talents of our Sisters. The Sisters in Danville enjoyed entering the Montour-Delaware County Fair and the Bloomsburg Fair. In Indiana, Sister Joanne Marie entered the Lake County Fair. Ribbons and fun galore!



*Clockwise from the top: Blue ribbons for Sr. Seton Marie's photo and Sr. Michael Ann's watercolor; the first draft of Sr. Donna Marie's scarecrow entry; Sr. Brigid's second prize Angel Food cake; Sr. Joanne Marie's third prize quilt.*



## When We Wish

We would like to purchase new and/or replace outdated iPads for our Sisters, especially those living at Maria Hall, our Personal Care facility. Covid-19 has taught us the importance of staying connected, and iPads would permit the Sisters to attend Community meetings held via Zoom, to share prayer and reflections over video conferencing, to connect with friends and family, and to respond to the many requests for prayer that we receive daily.



### 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.  
General Superior  
570-275-3581 ext 300  
[barbarasable@hotmail.com](mailto:barbarasable@hotmail.com)



*In Memory of*

Sister  
Marguerite  
Dankulich,  
SS.C.M.

*Born:*

July 1, 1932

*Professed:*

August 3, 1955

*Went Home to God:*

September 3, 2021



Marguerite Dankulich was born in Pittston, PA, on July 1, 1932, the daughter of George and Mary (Staso) Dankulich. Marguerite was the second youngest of eight children. She attended public school in West Pittston then transferred to St. John the Baptist School in Pittston. After graduating from St. John the Baptist School, she attended West Pittston High School. After high school graduation Marguerite spent a year of study at St. John Business School in Pittston, PA.

Responding to the call of a religious vocation, Marguerite entered as a postulant in the Sisters of Saints

Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, on September 8, 1952. When she was received as a novice on August 13, 1953, she received the name Sister Vernice. On August 3, 1955, she made her first profession of vows and celebrated 65 years of profession in 2020.

Sister Marguerite Dankulich received a B. S. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton, and began her teaching career in parish elementary schools in Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina teaching in Grades 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8. Then, with an M.A. in Spanish from Millersville University, *Hermana Marguerite* taught Spanish at Andean High School, Merrillville, IN, and at Bishop O'Hara High School, Olyphant, PA. Sister Marguerite ended her teaching career teaching 4th graders in Mechanicsburg, PA, and Endicott, NY and substitute teaching in Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre, PA.

In 2013, Sister Marguerite retired from active ministry to Maria Hall in Danville where she engaged in the Ministry of Prayer and Hospitality. Looking back on her religious life for the celebration of her Jubilee, Sister Marguerite wrote: "I can see how many times over the years the Lord was always there with the graces I needed to do his holy will. Awareness of his loving presence with me at all times has given me the strength to do his holy will."

Sister Marguerite Dankulich is survived by her sister, Ann Dankulich in Honolulu, HI, and several nieces and nephews in Hawaii, New York and New Jersey.

A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Maria Hall in Danville on Thursday, September 9, 2021. Interment was at the Sisters' cemetery immediately following the Mass.



*On Saturday, July 10th, Bishop William Walterscheid, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh, assisted by Father John Szada, celebrated a Memorial Mass in the Basilica for the ten SS.C.M. Sisters who died from March 2020 to February 2021. We were happy to be able to welcome those family members and friends who were unable to attend their loved one's burial because of the pandemic restrictions in place during the time. The jubilant Mass and warm reception that followed afforded the Sisters and guests an opportunity to share memories of the lives of these ten wonderful Sisters and visit with those of us who are left behind. May our Sisters-now-Saints rest in peace!*



*Left: Bishop Walterscheid is happy to meet Sister John Vianney's sister Dolores and her family at the reception.*





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*Thank you for reading our Newsletter!*

**FALL 2021** Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius



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



*Spring and Summer Without a Festival*

Despite having to cancel the Summer Festival for a second year, life at Villa Sacred Heart during the Spring and Summer was full of activity and growing, especially for the youngest among us. Please enjoy a short glimpse of what we've been enjoying.

*Clockwise from the top: Planting a tree in the Peace Garden on Earth Day; 5-7 year olds at Summer Stage; Kindergarten assembling vegetable soup; the marriage of Q and U; Field Day for the Preschool and Kindergarten; chalk pictures on the road near the playground.*

