



Newsletter of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

South Carolina Conference of Catholic Women

Catholic Women Honor a Religious Woman

On February 28, 2026, the South Carolina Conference of Catholic Women recognized Sister Agnes Marie Winter, SS.C.M., as the Religious Woman of the Year. Previously nominated by her local chapter of the SCCCW, she was selected to receive the State title at the annual convention held in Hilton Head, SC. The members of the Leadership Team as well as Sisters Pamela Smith, Canice and Marcine, (the other SS.C.M. Sisters living in Bluffton), were in attendance at the Mass and dinner at which Sister Agnes Marie was honored. All three of Sister Agnes Marie's companions in Bluffton had been previously honored by the SCCCW.

At the awards segment of the evening, the following brief history of Sister Agnes Marie's ministry in South Carolina and elsewhere was read. It was written by Sister Pamela Smith:

Sister Agnes Marie Winter came to the Diocese of Charleston in the summer of 2007. The new St. Gregory the Great Catholic School was about to open as a pre-K through grade 5 school. Since the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, in the person of Sister Canice, had

*Far right: First a corsage for the awardee, and by the end of the presentation, **right:** a fancy frame to hang on a wall.*

Below: Standing in front of the balloon display for the 95th Anniversary of the SCCCW, all the SS.C.M.'s in attendance are a sizeable show of support for Sister Agnes Marie's honor.



taken the lead in founding the school, the community invited Sister Agnes Marie and to join the SS.C.M. Sisters already serving in Bluffton. She became a teacher of middle grade students and, later, part of the office staff until after the pandemic.

During her years at St. Gregory the Great, Sister Agnes Marie was also an active volunteer at the St. Francis Center at St. Helena Island, whose outreach

serves migrant workers, the Gullah-Geechee community, the elderly and persons with disabilities, along with families who have fallen on hard times.

In the fall of 2020, Sister Agnes transitioned to full-time ministry at the St. Francis Center where she first assumed office duties and then took on managing the Thrift Shop. The Thrift Shop relies on volunteer staff. It operates as a fund-raiser for the

outreach programs, but it also offers low-cost and no-cost furniture, housewares, clothing, shoes, and linens to the needy. Until the current school year, Sister Agnes Marie juggled her ministry at the St. Francis Center with several mornings a week at St. Peter Catholic School in Beaufort, where she provided support for the office staff, read stories to children, and joined students and teachers at their weekly school Mass.

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Above: At St. Peter's in Beaufort, Sr. Agnes Marie helped in the school office and read books for these eager young students.



Above: The fourth grade girls at St. Gregory the Great School enjoyed hanging out with Sr. Agnes Marie.

Top right: Filling bags of food for the needy is a regular task at the St. Francis Center. It takes lots of bags, lots of food items and lots of volunteers.



Above: Clothing, furniture and household items are reasonably priced in the Center thrift shop.

For the past eleven years, Sister Agnes Marie has been a regular supporter of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius' lay Associate group—sending birthday and other greetings and helping set up hospitality at their meetings and prayer services. Over the years, Sister Agnes Marie has also participated in pro-life demonstrations and rosaries and attended ecumenical services at Mepkin Abbey. She is a parishioner at St. Gregory the Great and enjoys many of their special events.

In the summer of 2025, Sister Agnes Marie celebrated 55 years of vowed life. Her years with the SS.C.M. community have

seen her serve as a teacher and catechist at elementary schools in Pennsylvania and upstate New York. She also was on the faculty of business departments at St. Cyril Academy in Danville, and Lebanon Catholic High School in Lebanon, both in Pennsylvania, and Andrean Catholic High School in Merrillville, Indiana, where she also assisted the guidance department.

When she taught business subjects, Sister Agnes Marie brought not only the knowledge gained from her Masters in Business Education from Catholic University of America but also life experience. Sister Agnes Marie was what was then considered a "later vocation" when she entered

religious life. For nine years before her entrance to religious life, she served in the offices of Lebanon Steel Foundry in Lebanon, PA, and then at the San Giggio Pasta Company there. The latter work experience meant that she brought with her to the convent not only her notable sense of humor and occasional love of pranks but also considerable knowledge of the difference between penne pasta and capellini.

Sister Agnes Marie is devoted to the rosary and her prayerbooks. But she is also devoted to team sports—not surprising for

a former high school girls' basketball star. As she heads toward more convent anniversaries, she continues to take a lively interest in her colleagues, parishioners, people she meets in ministry, and her former students—including a priest in the Diocese of Scranton who attributes his vocation to her influence.

When Sister Agnes Marie was notified that her most recent achievement and life story would be published in the **Our Times**, she was asked to submit a follow-up reply. So, in her own words:

After more than 55 years of vowed life, I am simply happy. I like that quote from Robert Frost about the two roads. I have chosen the one "less traveled." As you know, I spent most of my religious life teaching and also had some years of doing clerical support for schools and the community. Who would have thought that at age 88 I would be involved in what is still a rather new venture for the community?

I love meeting the people we serve. They really need a great deal in terms of food, goods, decent homes and medical care. But they are people of incredible faith. They always say they are blessed.

And then there are the volunteers! These people are retired but so generous with their time. I am surrounded by good people, holy people. And I too am blessed!

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

Oh say, can you see all the needs around you?



This year, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the US Conference

of Catholic Bishops has encouraged Catholics to engage in 250 hours of Eucharistic Adoration, and 250 Works of Mercy by July 4, to foster national unity and healing. The two are certainly tied together. Our contemplation of the Eucharist leads us deeper into our love for Christ found in the faces of our sisters and brothers—especially those most in need.

250 is a large number, so the Bishops encouraged us to join with others, perhaps in our parishes, or with local or national organizations, to

amass this collective number of hours of prayer and works of mercy. Rooted in our lives of faith, the Works of Mercy that Jesus calls us to in feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead, are central elements of our Catholic identity. Pope Leo XIV tells us in *Dilexi te*, “As we contemplate Christ’s love, we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others and confirmed in our efforts to share in Christ’s work of liberation as instruments for the spread of

his love” (no. 2). Our works of mercy draw from our faith and prayer, constantly reminding us that in tending to our brothers and sisters, we tend to Christ himself.

This challenge by the Bishops gives us the opportunity to begin each day determined to bring life, light, and hope to the world. I pray that throughout the year, even beyond July 4, that we will grow deeper in our love for Christ found in the faces of our sisters and brothers—especially those most in need.

Sister Barbara Sable

The twenty-third annual Servant Leadership Awards of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius took place in Danville in the Basilica on Sunday, October 26, 2025. This year, 18 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors who demonstrated servant leadership in their parishes, schools, and communities were honored. Parents, family members, Pastors, teachers and friends saw these young people receive a towel (for washing feet) and a certificate as an award for taking Jesus’ example to heart. They were each invited to name and honor someone who had mentored them in Christ-like service.

The adults who received the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Achievement in Servant Leadership awards at the same ceremony gave the young people words of encouragement. They were: for Evangelization, Sister Stella Mangona, RGS; for Education, Joreen Kelly; for Elder Care, Tiffany Tanner; for Justice and Peace, Joanne Castner; for Care for Wounded Families, Margaret Hunter; and for Care for Creation, Sister Carol Ann Terlicher, SS.C.M.

Since 2003, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have recognized over 1400 imitators of Jesus in Servant Leadership!



Take Up the Towel and Basin **He Came to Serve Not to Be Served**



Top: The Basilica is full of well-wishers and supporters for the Servant Leaders being honored.

Above: Following the ceremony, the Lifetime Achievement awardees pose for a photo with Sr. Barbara Sable. From left to right: Joanne Castner, Sr. Mary Charlotte who received the award for Sr. Stella, Tiffany Tanner, Margaret Hunter, Joreen Kelly, and Sr. Carol Ann.

Left: Seventeen of the eighteen students honored were able to attend the ceremony and pose for the many photographs that were taken to remember the event.

So many months between **Our Times** issues provides a large file of photographs from which to choose! The photos would be too small to cover every event, so a sampling will have to relay a few of the many events and activities in which the Sisters have been involved.

Right: On February 3, 2026, the third day of Eucharistic Devotions, Rev. Aaron Lynch celebrated morning Mass in the Basilica. Sister Denise Marie brought the gifts forward.

Far right: Maria Hall Chaplain Father Valentine anoints Sister Lydia at a Lenten celebration of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Below: It was take-home-a-present day for the Personal Care Staff, Housekeeping, Maintenance and Dietary employees at Maria Hall. Christmas is all about giving!

Further below: Sunday, January 18, 2026, during the annual Chair of Christan Unity Octave, Sisters and guests from various local Christian Churches gathered in the Basilica to pray and sing for unity among us. Readings and hymns expressed a longing Jesus prayed for: That all may be one.

Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius and Maria Hall

Events Through the Seasons



Below: A member of the Jubilate choir in Bloomsburg, Sister Mary Kate Mensch's (front row, left) Mother and a group of SS.C.M.'s enjoyed the Saturday concert at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on December 13, 2025.

Further below: Months later, at the Easter Vigil at Maria Hall, Sisters Jeanne Ambre, Barbara Sable and Carol Ann lend Father Valentine several pairs of hands to help bless and light the 2026 Paschal candle just outside the building.



Right: An Advent retreat day on St. Joseph was presented by Sister Linda Marie on December 13, 2025.

Right center: What would Lent be without Stations of the Cross? Sr. Stella reads from the USCCB version.

Far right: The Easter Bunny arrives just in time to be dessert for Sr. Catherine Labouré's dinner.



Keeping Up With These Students Is Not an Easy Task

Even moreso than the Sisters, the students and teachers of the St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten move through myriad activities in the course of six months. Once again, a sampling of what they've done and where they've been is provided here. Hold your hats!



Far left and left: An annual event, the Christmas Pageant is the students' reminder to all of us just what Christmas is all about. Joseph and Mary navigating difficult circumstances and a King with a gift of gold are only a sample of the seasonal drama the students learn and present.



Far left: What 3-year old doesn't love dressing up for Halloween?

Left and above: Fall Fun Nite offers several opportunities to create decorations: a bright orange turkey and a playful green frog do nicely.



Above: On February 5, 2026, Pay for Play raised money for Dwell, a family support service.

Above: Santa Express on December 13, 2025, was a family event to enjoy games, snacks and visits with Mrs. Claus and Santa.



Left and above: The Easter Bunny made an appearance for cookies and punch on March 31, 2026, just before the 5 minutes it took the students to gather 24 eggs apiece on the lawn outside.



Above: In preparation for celebrating Thanksgiving, several visitors to the St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten explained how the Pilgrims lived and demonstrated spinning and weaving wool. There is always a chance to learn!

Generosity Multiplies

The outpouring of much-needed help to the people who come to the St. Francis Center inspires an unselfish generosity in many people. "How can we help?" goes a long way in eliciting food donations, monetary gifts, and hours of labor-intensive work to set up the distribution of contributions. Sisters Canice, Marcine and Agnes Marie know how to accept all these blessings and put them to good use in the work of feeding, clothing, housing and ministering to the poor. May God bless all the generous people who help us help other people!



Top: A most generous source of contributions, Pastor Shannon Mullins of St. John Lutheran Church presents Sr. Canice with gift cards for groceries as well as multiple donations of non-perishable food items.

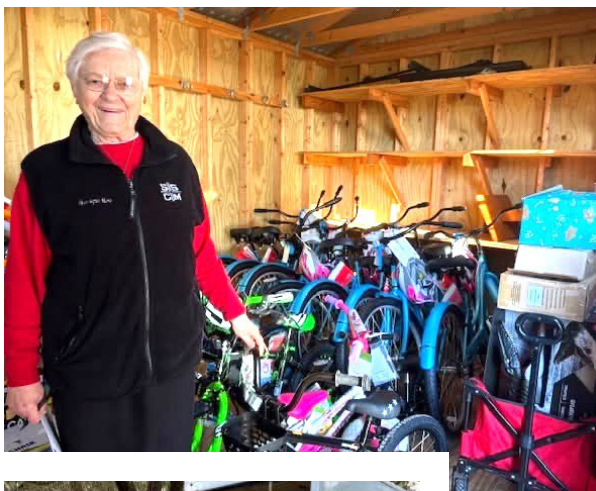
Above: In early December, the Center welcomes Grandparents who "shop" for gifts for their grandchildren's Christmas.

Above center: Then you saw it; now you don't. This landmark has caused a good deal of controversy and is currently removed—but the Center is still in operation. God is good!

Above far right: Generous Knights of Columbus gave St. Francis a new coat of paint.

Center: Ready for the Grandparents Christmas shopping, Sr. Agnes Marie presents the bicycle assortment.

Center far right: Gifts of turkeys make the Thanksgiving food distribution a lot heavier than usual.



Above and right: On recliner pick-up day, trucks and vans back into the Center's truck which holds two boxes per recipient. Once assembled, they will be a chair that makes it easy to stand up without assistance.



Sister Pamela Smith in South Carolina



Above: Posing with their teacher, Sr. Pamela Smith, the St. Leo University Spirituality Class finishes the semester.

Right: Another one of Sr. Pamela's graduating classes is

11 newly ordained permanent Deacons for the Charleston Diocese. Kudos, Sr. Pamela!

Right: With the Leadership Team meeting in South Carolina in March, two new Associates were welcomed at an evening prayer service. Kris Labartino-Murray and Rita Campi join a vibrant and generous group of Associates who pray and serve with the community to help bring the Kingdom to fullness.



Above and left: At the St. Francis Center for meetings, the members of the Leadership team take time out to help Ema Caballero (far left) with sorting and readying clothes for the Thrift shop. Later, they assisted with the weekly food distribution and the Center's most recent project: recliners for the elderly poor.

Catawissa, Pennsylvania

A Close Connection

It didn't take Father Martin Moran very long to get the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius involved in his parish activities at Our Lady of Mercy parish, only 22 miles from Danville. Answering calls for a lector, an instructor for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, and speakers for the Lenten Mass, Soup, and Spiritual Talk activity, several Sisters made happy appearances in Catawissa. A grand show of appreciation was felt at Christmas and again for the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius. So much gratitude for being present!



Top: Father Marty said "If you want to know Jesus, read, imbibe and internalize the Beatitudes." It was Sr. Suzanne's task to present the OCIA class with a talk on the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes.

Left: On a Monday evening in Lent, Sr. Joanne Marie gave the Soup Dinner crowd a reflection on Letting Go—a good Lenten practice.

Left: Ending a Soup Dinner presentation on the Transfiguration, Sr. Jeanne Ambre led those in attendance in "Transfigure Us, O Lord" by Bob Hurd.

Below: Mrs. Hergan and her three sons make a Christmas delivery to Maria Hall on behalf of OLOM parish. They would return in February with special cookies for every Sister!





A Little Bit of a Lot of Things

Crowned and bannered by some of her dearest nurse friends, (*far left*) Sister Susan Polchin welcomed Sisters, friends and family members to her 103rd Birthday Party on March 22, 2026. Not shy about inviting her friends, Sr. Susan brought three of the Bluffton Four to the party (*left*); no small gift of time for travel! Sisters and friends from near and far came to wish her a glorious 103rd--and still counting! Punch, cake and ice cream made the celebration a good one, but even better were all the well-wishers together in one place with Sister Susan. (*all below*)



Right: Twice a year, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius provide a hot meal to those who come to the Danville Jubilee Kitchen at Trinity Lutheran Church. Together with the members of the Justice Circle, this outreach program feeds the hungry, promotes fellowship and pays forward a few of the many blessings we enjoy.



Right: A 27-year Villa food service employee, Harold Gerst, celebrated his retirement in April. Besides his stellar work ethic, his Elvis impersonations and love of the Three Stooges is sorely missed!



Right center: Sisters Michael Ann And Barbara Sable attended a Region 3 meeting of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious at the San Alfonso Retreat Center in New Jersey, as the Center celebrated its 100th year.



Far right center: Prayer Outside the Walls in early December calls for heavy winter coats and a serious commitment!

Right: The Staff of Maria Joseph CCC brave the same cold to enact the Nativity on the lawn outside of Maria Joseph Manor. Carols, hot chocolate and a fire pit helped to keep the attendees warm.



Eric Armusik

See Saint Scholastica

Eric Armusik, a sacred artist from Hamburg, PA, and husband of Rebekah Lampman (niece of Sr. Virginia Bologa, SSCM) recently took on a commission to paint Saint Scholastica and needed a model. So, he sent Sr. Jean Marie a request to sit as a model for his project. Many hands went into arranging the photo session, finding and adjusting the habit and welcoming our guests.

A classical figurative artist, Eric Armusik's paintings are "a declaration to the dramatic power of representational art and a testimony to the tradition of epic storytelling." (see info@ericarmusik.com) You can see for yourself in his portrait of Saint Scholastica—which will always remind us of Sister Jean Marie! Thank you, Eric, for seeing the Saint in our Sister!



From top to bottom: Eric holds the finished painting. Sr. Jean Marie sits for a photo session in the Motherhouse parlor. The remarkable painting which is making Saint Scholastica proud (and her twin brother, too).

In Memory of
Sister
Susan Marie
Hazenski, SS.C.M.

Born:
September 7, 1958
Professed:
June 20, 1988
Went Home to God:
November 8, 2025



Sister Susan Marie Hazenski died on November 8, 2025, at Maria Hall in Danville, PA. Born in Pittston, PA, on September 7, 1958, she was the daughter of Joseph Hazenski and Grace Emma, of Pittston, PA. She attended St. John the Baptist Elementary School in Pittston and graduated from St. John the Evangelist High School in Pittston. Susan studied at Lackawanna Junior College in Scranton, PA, and received an Associate Degree in Medical Secretarial Science. Susan worked for several years as a medical secretary until she entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on November 1, 1985. She professed her final vows on July 31, 1993.

Sister Susan Marie received a BA from Kings College in Wilkes Barre and a Masters in Education from Marywood University. In ministry, Sister served as a teacher at St. Simon School in Chicago and St. Columba School in Bloomsburg, PA, and as principal at two St. Joseph Schools, the first in Hazleton, PA, and the second and in Columbia, SC. Sister Susan Marie then served on staff and as manager of the retreat center at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX, from 2007 to 2019. In 2019, Sister Susan Marie came to Danville where she served as Finance Office Assistant, Clerical Assistant for the Saint Cyril Retreat Center, and baker, *par excellence*.

Sister Susan Marie believed that her parents and her grandmother provided for her material needs but also taught her important lessons that guided her life. She believed that she and her sister received the gift of faith and reliance on God from the examples they witnessed in the lives of their parents and grandmother. She recalled that hardly a day passed without her grandmother saying, "God will take care of everything. Don't worry." Sister's gift of faith prompted her to advocate for those often overlooked including maintenance and cafeteria personnel, clerical and nursing staff, students who didn't stand out, international seminarians and people she met in difficult circumstances.

Sister Susan battled multiple cancers during her final years, but she says of this time, "Despite all of my illnesses I continue to remain joyful, hopeful, and have a terrific sense of humor....all of which I believe has been instrumental in my survival."

As a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Sister Susan Marie did more than survive--she inspired, entertained, invigorated, amused, assisted, mightily fed and warmly cared for many people and all of her Sisters. She has been greatly missed now that God is hearing her jokes.

Sister Suzanne Duzen

Groups Have More Fun

Here's a thought: why do anything by yourself if a like-minded group can do it with you? This may have been Sister Suzanne Duzen's inspiration for the St. Columba Youth Group, Kids Peace Club, Justice Circle, Talking Circles and Discovering the Creative in You activities at Maria Hall. And the groups have run with the inspiration, enjoying the community and all the good that a group can accomplish.



Top and above: The St. Columba Youth Group entertained the Sisters at Maria Hall before Christmas with a collection of carols.

Above right: On Palm Sunday in St. Columba Church, the Justice Circle and Youth group led the Stations of the Cross in memory of modern heroes who fought for justice and peace.



Center and above: At February Bingo in Maria Hall with the Youth Group, the prizes made it fun for everybody!

Above right and Right: Sr. Suzanne enlisted the help of three creative friends, Elaine Luschas, Denise Deckler and Cindy Womer to guide the Maria Hall Sisters in creative seasonal art projects



When We Wish



Transportation is a big concern for the Sisters who depend on walkers or wheelchairs. Their options for attending community celebrations, liturgies and activities decrease as the number of cars from which they can enter and exit declines. A used van like the one pictured above would make it possible for many Sisters to get back into the "I'll go!" column for community events. A portion of the \$50,000 we project this will cost has already been raised, but additional funds are still needed. Our have-wheels-will-travel Sisters will forever remember you in their grateful prayers. Who of us ever thought that stepping up into a car would become a deal-breaker for going someplace? Life happens, but God always provides good people with solutions!

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

SIS CM 2026



Sister M. Paracleta
75 Years



Sister Bernice Marie
65 Years



Sister Catherine Ann Morris
65 Years



Sister Jean Marie
55 Years



Sister Linda Marie
55 Years



Sister M. Carol Ann
50 Years



Sister M. Carol Therese
50 Years

Jubilarians



You make
known to me
the path of life;
in your
présence
there is
fullness of joy.
Psalm 16:11



Sister M. Marcine
45 Years



Sister M. Canice
30 Years

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Thank you for reading our newsletter!



Save the Date:

Preparations have begun for the Summer Festival--not an event you want to miss! A new feature this year is the **NunRun 5K**, a run or walk that will take you on a scenic trek through the Villa grounds and the Meadows. Registration for the 5K starts at 8:30 am--a good warm-up for the Festival which begins at 10:30 am. All are welcome! Bring friends!

Right and below: The Festival Committee has met several times already, and the push to provide enough food and fun for those who come on July 11th is on, as are the ovens for baking items for sale!



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

Come to the

Summer Festival 2026

250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S.A.

Saturday

NEW!
NunRun 5K run/walk
8:30 am

10:30 - 4:30
am pm

Flea Market · Bakery

Bingo 11-3:30 · Silent Auction · Food Trucks · Corn Hole 10-4 · Arts & Crafts

Children's Games · Furniture · Books · Religious Articles · Music · Fun!

Saturday Mass for Sunday 4:30 pm