



Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill  
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# *Celebration*



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On the Cover—*Our Lady of the Alleghenies*, painted by Sister M. Fides Glass

Sister M. Fides Glass (1889-1955), who was born in Summit, Pennsylvania, never lost her love for the Allegheny Mountains. She enjoyed the fragrance and feel of pine needles as she walked through the McGarrity Woods in the Cresson Mountains and found strength in the love of nature and the character of the mountain people. A gifted artist, poet, and author, this daughter of the Alleghenies penned stories of her mountain home. One of her favorite topics was Demetrius Gallitzin (1770-1840), a Russian prince-turned-priest, who was largely responsible for the spread of Catholicism in the Allegheny Mountains.

When Bishop Richard Guilfoyle (1892-1957), the third Bishop of Altoona, commissioned a picture of Mary in 1950, Sister Fides produced this painting that depicts Mary, framed by pine trees, cradling Father Gallitzin's chapel house in her hands and keeping guard over the mountains. The original painting was given to the Sisters of Mercy in Cresson in 1952.

Mother Aloysia Lowe also found comfort in the Allegheny Mountains and their foothills as she established her "home for the sisters." She sent her sisters forth to teach and minister to the sick, poor, and needy throughout Western Pennsylvania and beyond. We pray that "Our Lady of the Alleghenies" continually watches over the ministries the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill as they carry on their mission of love throughout the world, urged by the love of Christ.

*Contributed by Sister Louise Grundish, Archivist of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.*



December 2013

Dear Friends,

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, we have much to celebrate. Of course, the birth of Jesus into the human community is the focus of most of our attention. But during these rich days we also honor Mary, as his mother and as Mother of God. We follow the epiphany star as did the Magi, seeking to know the presence of God in our lives. And we recall that we too, like Jesus, went down into baptismal waters to be named and claimed as God's beloved children.

In this issue of *Celebration*, we share stories with you of our sisters whose lives follow the Scriptural mandate to be urged into action by the love of Christ. We include, as well, remembrances of those who have died during the past year.

We also share the stories of some sisters who have been honored for their contributions in service to the People of God. And we take you inside the lives of two of our sisters in their ministries. One of them leads multiple projects that partner laity and the needy, the other now pursues theological education after teaching high school for many years.

You will also learn a little more about Mother Aloysia Lowe, founder of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Pennsylvania. She has always been a special patron of mine, as she faced the unknown with limited resources but unlimited possibilities. I call on her when I am making decisions, both for her courageous risk-taking and her practical prudence.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of *Celebration* and think of it as an extended Christmas letter, with stories about what's been happening in our lives this year. In return, we hope your lives have been as blessed as ours. You will surely continue to be in our thoughts and prayers, especially during the Christmas season.

May the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph—dwell with you during this holy season, may the angels brighten your spirits with song, and may the star of Bethlehem reveal the love of God to you in simple and beautiful ways.

Sincerely yours in our God-with-us, Emmanuel,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Catherine Meinert, SC".

Sister Catherine Meinert, SC  
Provincial Superior  
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

# A Dream Come True

*Sister Brigid Marie Grandey*

“The students and teachers here at Boston College are very decent and fine people, and I feel surrounded by a wonderful energy and zeal for learning that is contextualized in Christ.”

**S**tudying theology at Boston College (BC) is a dream come true for Sister Laura Coughlin. One of her former professors had advised her and members of the Sisters of Charity Provincial Council had encouraged Sister Laura to begin studies for an advanced degree in theology. Now she is a student at Boston College, enjoying New England, and taking courses in the writings of Saint Paul, the History of Western Christianity, Theological Bioethics, and Buddhist Thought and Practice.

Sister Laura feels an emotional tie to the Jesuit charism of Boston College because of the Jesuits' love of learning and desire to serve others throughout the world. “The education I’m getting at BC feels a lot like an extended retreat. I am immersed in the deep thoughts of others about theology (‘faith seeking understanding’), and I find that the learning is integrated with my daily reflection on God’s presence in my life.”

Sister Laura has lived a life of variety and challenge. Once the director of product management for a hotel software company, Sister Laura looks back on her years in the corporate world with

happiness, but is enthusiastic about her call to follow Christ as a Sister of Charity.

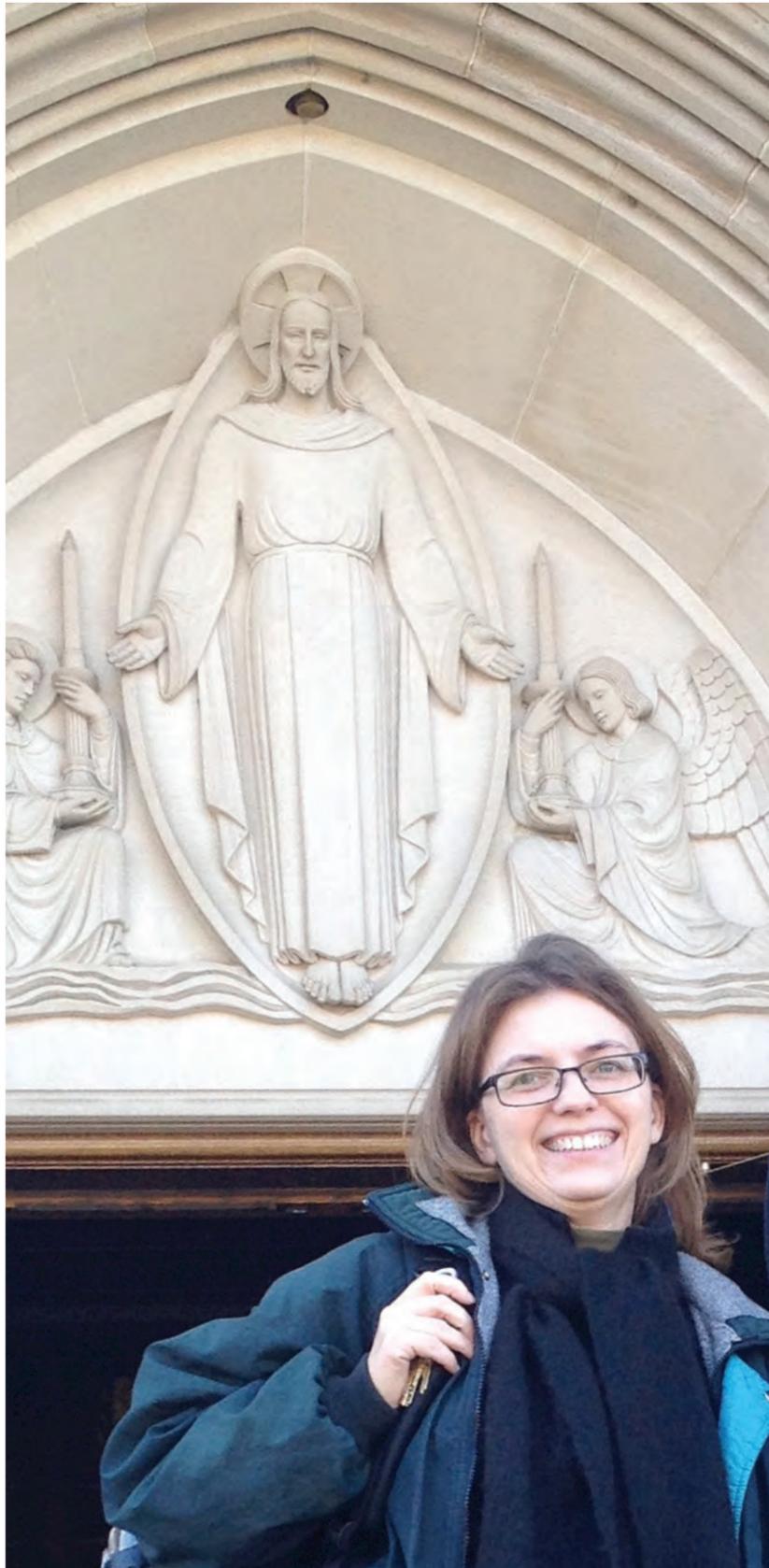
Sister Laura was born in Youngstown, Ohio. She grew up in Shelby Township, Michigan, where she attended Catholic schools and graduated from the University of Michigan having majored in anthropology. She secured a position with software companies that involved installing software and leading training sessions throughout the United States and Canada.

After four years in the business world, Sister Laura took a leave of absence to serve as a volunteer for a year. She lived on the Tohono O’odham Reservation west of Tucson, Arizona. Her residence was with two Dominican Sisters. Sister Laura helped to prepare people for the sacraments, led communion services, and organized youth activities.

The year on the reservation filled Sister Laura with joy. Although she enjoyed the experience, she also enjoyed her work in Phoenix. She returned and continued her career for five years. She eventually moved to another software company where she analyzed software, made improvements, eventually designed an entirely new product. As a result, Sister Laura received several promotions.

However, the experience of the Tohono O’odham Reservation had changed Sister Laura’s life: “I moved to the reservation intending to spend a year of my life immersed in serving a very interesting and spiritual group of native people on behalf of the Church. What I found was that the silence of the place really slowed

“Discernment is a process, and there was no single moment when I knew I was meant to be a Sister of Charity. In terms of religious life, I would say that the seeds were planted when I did a year of volunteer work on the Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation back in the mid-90s. I was very inspired by other young people choosing to give a year or more of their lives in intense commitments with various service organizations. . . . The opportunity I had on the reservation, however, was unique in that I was able to try out the rhythm of religious life without actually being a religious. The sisters prayed and went to Mass together, and one of the sisters and I did ministry together in the Indian villages. . . . What was most important in this experience, though, was the silence of the place. I could not overestimate the power of solitude in that experience. Most times when we think of prayer, we think that we are going to God. In a place as silent and expansive as the reservation, it felt like God came to me. This was very important for placing the idea of religious life into my mind as a way of life which could be deeply satisfying.”



*"Ecuador was a wonderful deepening of our charism in a number of ways. The program brought together Korean and American sisters in a way that eliminated language obstacles and enabled true friendships of the heart. . . ."*



me down and opened up a place for me to truly experience God's presence. This was not an immediate effect, but one that seeped into my soul slowly. In addition to the silence of the place itself, I was given a very complete experience of religious life as I lived with two Dominican sisters and shared their daily routine of prayer and ministry. Eventually, I felt that this might be the 'right' way for me to live and would serve as a strong example to others."

The moment of decision came when a friend told Sister Laura of a vocation retreat at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent near where Sister Laura was living in Scottsdale, Arizona. It was at the retreat that Sister Laura found the answer to her life's questions. "I was attracted to the Sisters of Charity because the women seemed, like me, to be energetic, hard-working, and professional. I found they were joyful

in extending hospitality, down to earth, prayerful, and ordinary in a good way." Sister Laura was also influenced by the congregation's history and founder, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. "I liked the fact that the community was rooted in the United States, and in Elizabeth Seton's particular place in American history."

Sister Laura's appreciation of the charism of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Sisters of Charity quickly became evident in the way she embraced community life and ministry upon entering the congregation. Sister Laura was a great help to many sisters in sharing her knowledge of technology. She provided support with communications media and technology at congregational meetings. For seven years, she taught social studies and computer classes and worked as the technology

coordinator at Seton-LaSalle High School, Pittsburgh. She enjoyed working with the students. She served as moderator of the ski club and with a few tech-savvy students, she established a network at the school. In 2008, Sister Laura returned to Arizona and taught social studies at Salpointe High School until she began her studies at Boston College last fall.

Sister Laura travelled to Ecuador during the summer of 2011 with a group of sisters from the United States and Korean provinces. "Ecuador was a wonderful deepening of our charism in a number of ways. The program brought together Korean and American sisters in a way that eliminated language obstacles and enabled true friendships of the heart. . . . We studied writings of our founders, Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton, Vincent de Paul, and Louise de Marillac, and shared deeply on how the values expressed by these saints were at work in our ministry and in our community life. The friendship allowed us to travel to Ecuador with the ability to do a small ministry there for a week with some effectiveness. Most importantly, we learned from the people we served. . . . It is exciting that our sisters are doing such a beautiful ministry among the poor in Latin America. . . . We need to encourage vocations in order to be able to say 'yes' to more opportunities like this."

Sister Laura has come to realize that teaching is where her heart lies. Through experience, Sister Laura has learned that it is important to get to know her students, to demonstrate cheerfulness to them, to take their intellects seriously, and to give correction in a loving manner. She

holds a master's degree in educational studies from Duquesne University. Now as she works toward a master's degree in theology, she hopes to bring her love of teaching to a new level. "I loved teaching high school, so I view my studies as a means of improving my thinking and teaching skills (they go together). At this point, my goal is to teach adults who are more cognitively able to think critically. Ideally, I would like to do this at a college—hopefully Seton Hill."

As she contemplates her service to the people of God, Sister Laura looks at the present realities in our world with an eye to the future: "It is important for us to be explicit about our love of Jesus Christ, so that those we serve understand that there is a clear and accessible source of Grace. I feel it is also important to express ourselves clearly within the life, mission, and daily rhythm of the Church."

On moving to Boston, Sister Laura chose not to have a car. Instead, she says, "I walk a lot and I love doing that. I try to find new routes to get to the same places occasionally, and I like walking slowly when I can take in everything around me." It seems she has found not only the rhythm of the Church, but of her life—a rich blend of service and study, prayer and ministry, community and solitude.





*Angelus bells rang out at Seton Hill, a "great soul (returned) to its Maker."*

Sister Susan Jenny

**I**t was Christmas Day, 1889. Just as the noonday Angelus bells rang out at Seton Hill, a "great soul (returned) to its Maker." So says Sister Electa Boyle in her *History of the Sisters of Charity in Western Pennsylvania*. Who was this "great soul"?

On November 1, 1870, a group of four sisters arrived in Altoona, Pennsylvania, from Cincinnati, Ohio. A train had brought them to this bustling hub of the railroad industry, flourishing in the

westward expansion of the nation. Population was exploding, and immigrant families filled the parish church. There was an urgent need for education for the children. And so the sisters came.

Their religious superior, Sister Aloysia Lowe, had been designated by the Cincinnati community to lead the new band of sisters. The people of Altoona gave the sisters a warm welcome and the sisters went to work. By 1879, the community

numbered fifty members, some of whom had been assigned to other places. The convent in Altoona barely held twenty, and when everyone returned there in the summers, many slept on straw-filled ticks placed on desks in the classrooms. At that point, Mother Aloysia determined to provide a real "home for the sisters" where they could return after the school year. They needed to rest and breath fresh country air after spending time in the heavily

industrialized towns of the time. A train ride between Altoona and Pittsburgh revealed to Mother Aloysia the perfect location—a farm in Greensburg. Between 1882 and 1889, the sisters arrived, set up living arrangements at the original farmhouse, and eventually planned and built what is today the Administration Building at Seton Hill University. Mother Aloysia gave her life to the sisters and to providing them not only a home, but the

beginnings of numerous educational ministries that began on that hilltop. She was the supervisor of construction, sacrificing herself down to the last detail. In 1889, after the building was complete, she found herself worn out in mind and body and resigned from leadership. She moved on, but her heart was always interested in the Mother House.

Because she had already planned some landscaping near

the new building, the fall of 1889 saw her digging up shrubbery from Altoona. It was a cold, drizzly late November day, and she caught a cold. When she arrived in Greensburg with the trees and bushes, she was exhausted and was sent to bed. Pneumonia followed. And so it happened, that on Christmas Day, she died, this "great soul" returning "to her Maker."

This founding figure of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

was a practical, hands-on leader. She shaped a young community of women religious. She began ministries with her sisters across Western Pennsylvania. And she left a "green legacy" in the beauty of the rolling hills and the landscaping that surrounds her "home for the sisters."

# *A Great Soul*

# Urged by the Love of Christ!

Sister Carole Marie Blazina

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, is quoted as inspiring her first daughters in community with the words: "Sisters of Charity! Your admirable name must excite in you every preparation to do justice to your vocation." Those words spoken in the early 1800s continue to inspire today. Nine Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill have been recognized this year by various organizations for their preparation for, and execution of, their works of ministry. Education, health care, and social service are traditional ministries and all are represented by the Sisters of Charity honored this year. Let us celebrate with excitement their recognition for fulfilling their vocation in charity and justice.

## MANIFESTING THE KINGDOM AWARD— JANUARY 27, 2013

The Manifesting the Kingdom award is given by the Pittsburgh Diocesan Bishop to lay persons and to consecrated women and men who demonstrate the presence of Jesus in their lives and have participated in an exceptional service to the Church as reflected in so many different ways in their lives and ministries. Sister of Charity of Seton Hill awardees are Sister Barbara Ann Boss, SC, and Sister Mary Victor Powers, SC.

Nominated by the Sisters of Charity, **Sister Barbara Ann Boss** has been President of Elizabeth Seton Center since 2001, having previously served as its director of Child-Care Services for fourteen years. In her career, Sister Barbara Ann has been a teacher and has served as the education coordinator for Head Start at Seton Hill Child Services, where she is currently a board member. She is also a board member of the Brookline Chamber of Commerce, Seton Hill University, and Mainstay Life Services.

Nominated by Word of God Parish, **Sister Mary Victor Powers** served as principal of the parish grade school from 1990 to its closing in 2012. Sister Mary Victor has also ministered at schools in the Greensburg and Altoona-Johnstown dioceses and the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, including 12 years as principal at Saint Edward School, Herminie, Pennsylvania. Currently, Sister Mary Victor is sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience as a teacher coach.

## QUEEN OF ANGELS SCHOOL HONORED SPEAKER—APRIL 12, 2013

**Sister Grace Hartzog, SC**, was honored at the Queen of Angels Gala, a fundraiser for the regional school located in Irwin, Pennsylvania, which began under her leadership twenty years ago. Merging several schools into one, Sister Grace worked tirelessly to provide a

family-centered focus, academic excellence, and strong spiritual values as the hallmarks of the school. As the honored speaker of the evening, Sister Grace told the audience that the success story of the school is a "story of faith, hope, and love with great pride at what Queen of Angels has grown to be."

## SETON-LASALLE HIGH SCHOOL WALL OF FAME AWARD—APRIL 13, 2013

**Sister Louise Grundish, SC**, (ESHS '51) was honored at the Seton-La Salle Founders Day Celebration. The award honors alumni and faculty of Elizabeth Seton, South Catholic and Seton-LaSalle High Schools who have demonstrated excellence in their academic pursuits, career achievements, and service to church and community. Sister Louise was cited especially for her work in "hands on" nursing and as a nursing educator at Pittsburgh Hospital School of Nursing. She was also acknowledged for her years of service to the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill as vocation director, provincial councilor, and archivist. Her citation reads: "Sister Louise has successfully entwined her passion for nursing, education, and her community into a generous life of fruitful ministry."

## KEN WAGNER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE—MAY 4, 2013

The Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh presented **Sister Mary Jean Petrarca, SC**, this annual award given to those who have shown by their actions that they serve the way Emmaus co-founder Ken Wagner served—with great humility and dedication to helping others. Sister Mary Jean was chosen by the committee for her long record of selfless giving.

Sister Mary Jean has been a Sister of Charity since 1952. She taught high school math and science for 23 years, then

served as an occupational therapist for 23 years at the Pioneer School for Exceptional Children. During her tenure as an occupational therapist, she went to Korea for four months in 1983 to help the Sisters of Charity in Korea plan for the EunHae School for Children with Disabilities. Sister Mary Jean has been serving individuals with disabilities at the Emmaus Community since 1989, with experience as a volunteer, an employee, and a board member.

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD—JUNE 6, 2013

**Sister Mary Helen Meyer, SC**, received the Catholic Education Excellence in Teaching Award presented by Seton Hill University, along with five other honorees. She was first assigned to elementary and secondary schools in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh. Sister Mary Helen also served as a chemistry instructor at Seton Hill University during summer sessions in the 1960s. In 1967, she was assigned to teach biology and chemistry at Greensburg Central Catholic High School, a position she held for 45 years. Looking over a 70-year teaching ministry, she expressed gratitude for the students who had enriched her life, and she hoped at the same time that "they had been brought a little closer to God." Through her teaching, primarily of the sciences, Sister Mary Helen strove to give an example of the beauty and wonder of her calling.

## SETON HILL UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD—JUNE 8, 2013

**Sister Mary Ann Winters, SC**, (SHU '67) and eleven other alumnae were honored by Seton Hill University for their achievements and leadership. Sister Mary Ann was cited for her leadership at the University, within the

congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill as councilor and as major superior, and in the Diocese of Phoenix as chancellor. She expressed gratitude for "the legacy of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton that has been passed on through our life together in community and in the community at Seton Hill University." Sister Mary Ann currently ministers as an adjunct faculty member in the chemistry program at Seton Hill, a pastoral minister at Caritas Christi (motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity), and as a formation director for the province.

## OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LEADING LADY— OCTOBER 3, 2013

The tenth annual Leading Lady Gala fundraiser held by Oakland Catholic High School in Pittsburgh also marked the 25th anniversary of the school, which has its roots in the former Saint Paul Cathedral High School and Sacred Heart Parish High School. **Sister Rosemary Donley, SC**, (SHHS '56) was cited as a notable alumna for her numerous contributions to nursing and nursing education. Sister Rosemary currently holds the Jacques Laval Chair for Justice for Vulnerable Populations at the Duquesne University School of Nursing.

## SACRED HEART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD—NOVEMBER 2, 2013

A graduate of both Sacred Heart Grade School ('52) and High School ('56), **Sister Andrew Mary Horvath, SC**, was recognized as a distinguished alumna during the fourth annual Green Tie Gala. The celebration also marked the 140th anniversary of the grade school, which was one of the early missions of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

Sister Andrew Mary served 15 years as a teacher and 23 years as an elementary school principal, primarily in the Diocese of Greensburg, with stints in Pittsburgh, Altoona, and Phoenix as well. In 1995, she became the manager of Gilbert Staub Plaza, a senior citizen high rise in Greensburg, a position she held for 13 years. Currently, she ministers as manager of the gift shop at Caritas Christi, motherhouse of the congregation. Throughout her religious life, Sister Andrew Mary has used her gifts to live the vision of Elizabeth Ann Seton.



# Amazing Generosity, Amazing Passion

*Sister Vivien Linkhauer*

**S**ister Lyn Marie Dwyer gathers up a laundry basket filled with small items and heads out to a bingo at a nearby nursing home. "These are the prizes," she says. "You'd be surprised how even a little item pleases our players."

On another occasion, she puts on her black and gold jersey. She's off to a ball game with some local special needs children. She knows how important team spirit is to them.

Sometimes Sister Lyn pours over a computer spreadsheet, checking names and numbers of clients at a local food pantry. "The numbers keep increasing. I don't know what we'd do without our generous donors who help us keep up this ministry."

Another evening finds her in conversation with a young woman, a student intern. Sister Lyn just cannot leave her forty-year career as a professional dietician behind her. "I always have the best interns," she boasts, "and it makes me so happy to see their enthusiasm for the field." Sister Lyn will be there for her intern's graduation day, too.

As a registered dietician, Sister Lyn ministered at the former Jeannette District Memorial Hospital, the former Pittsburgh Hospital, and at Pittsburgh and East Suburban Health Centers. Her longest tenure was at Forbes Regional Hospital, West Penn Allegheny Health System in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, where she served as Director of Dietetic Services for 23 years.

In 2007, Sister Lyn found herself in between positions. It seemed like a golden opportunity to pursue some options she had long dreamed of doing! Having spent many years in the field of dietetics, she desired to branch out to some volunteer activities that would serve her nearby neighbors in need. As Sister Lyn explained it, it was a chance "to do all the things I always wanted to do!"

At the time, Sister Lyn had the good fortune to belong to a wonderfully active parish in a suburban setting where good will and expertise were abundant. Mother of Sorrows Parish in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, was in the process of defining and organizing some social outreach programs. As the result of an open invitation and a meeting within the parish, committees formed to address area needs. Sister Lyn, who had worked many years in health care, joined others with similar interests to assist at Saint Anne Home, a Catholic nursing home in Greensburg. Bingo Night, a regular offering on the second Thursday of each month, began. Other activities at the home followed.

That was only the beginning for Sister Lyn and outreach programs at Mother of Sorrows Parish. Now known as Mother Teresa Outreach, the program has branched out to provide

local support for those in need. The outreach efforts include those that assist the bereaved in the parish, honor veterans, provide meals for new mothers and for convalescing members of the parish, support Special Olympics, assist at Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children, and arrange assistance for parishioners in need through the kindness of parish men who call themselves Helping Hands.

The Murrysville group is also engaged in issues beyond the boundaries of parish-centered projects. The parish outreach efforts actually began after the ravages of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Mother Teresa Outreach group came to the aid of a sister parish, Our Lady of Sorrows, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Parishioners gave assistance and donated money for the restoration of the parish church and social hall. The "Biloxi Brigade" traveled to Mississippi to help rebuild houses destroyed by the storm. And when hurricanes and a severe earthquake devastated Haiti several years in a row, the outreach program organized a "Buckets for Haiti," sending buckets of needed items for families who lost everything. Another parish project helped to fund the purchase of water filters to provide families in Haiti with clean, safe drinking water.

In 2009, this extensive project was honored with the Diocese of Greensburg's Salt and Light Award for outstanding social service. As the current board chair for Mother Teresa Outreach, Sister Lyn helps to hold all of these efforts together.

Another need tugged at the heart of the professional dietician's heart in 2006. The Westmoreland County Food Bank asked if Mother Teresa Outreach would take over

the Food Pantry that had been operated in nearby Export, Pennsylvania. The pantry was moved to Mother of Sorrows facilities and Sister Lyn has been a devoted volunteer at the Food Pantry and board member of the Food Bank ever since. Mother Teresa Outreach provides monthly funding to supplement the pantry's food donations from the Food Bank. Parishioners also work at the Westmoreland County Food Bank once a month to sort and repackage the donated food. Sister Lyn reports that the clientele of the Food Pantry at Mother of Sorrows Parish, which originally had 80 clients, now serves 300 needy families.

An additional volunteer commitment for Sister Lyn is her assistance at the Food Pantry sponsored by Rendu Services, a joint ministry in Fayette County staffed by the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, the Daughters of Charity, and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky. Fayette County is one of the poorest in Pennsylvania, and Mother Teresa Outreach efforts support a monthly donation of food to this center beyond what is available through regular channels.

Influenced by many Sisters of Charity who were dedicated to caring for others, Sister Lyn entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill from Saint Anastasia Parish, Teaneck, New Jersey. She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Seton Hill University and received training at Saint



*"There is so much else that you can put your passion into!"*

Mary Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, to become a registered dietitian. She also earned a master's degree in public management from Carnegie Mellon University. In addition to her ministry as a hospital dietitian, Sister Lyn taught in schools of the Dioceses of Greensburg and Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. In 2002, she was elected to a five-year term as provincial councilor/vice president of human resources for the Sisters of Charity as well as administrator, pro tem, of Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the



Sisters of Charity. In 2007, she became an adjunct faculty member with the Division of Natural and Health Sciences at Seton Hill University, a position she held until 2012.

In the summer of 2011, Sister Lyn volunteered to be part of a joint program for the United States and Korean Provinces. Five sisters from each province gathered to study the charism of the congregation and then made a 10-day trip to Ecuador to help the sisters of the Korean Province in their work with a school for disabled children and a clinic that serves the poor of their rural neighborhood. During this trip, Sister Lyn discovered that the cook at the mission had to squeeze orange juice by hand, an arduous task! Upon her return to the USA, she found a manual squeezer that could be operated more easily, since electricity is not available to operate an electric one. It has arrived in Ecuador and is much appreciated by all.

An ardent alumna of Seton Hill, Sister Lyn has for many years served on the Board of Trustees of her alma mater. She is an active member of the Committee of Trustees, the Student Affairs Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee, and the Executive Committee. She keeps her hand in her profession as a dietitian by volunteering as a mentor each year to dietary interns from Adagio Health, Pittsburgh.

Juggling her multiple volunteer activities with serious job responsibilities seems to energize Sister Lyn, who is currently Human Resources Director for the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. Her enthusiastic personality and caring demeanor make her a natural to create a positive morale in the workplace as she supports employee needs.

Like the Sisters of Charity who inspired her life choice, Sister Lyn Marie Dwyer passionately cares for God's people and exudes joy in doing so. In seizing opportunities to do "all the things [she] always wanted to do," Sister Lyn surrounds herself with people who share her generous spirit. She is "amazed at people's generosity" although she herself is a grand example of it. She would give this advice to those seeking volunteer participation: "There is so much else that you can put your passion into!"

# We Remember

*Sister Brigid Marie Grandey*

The Memorial Mass for deceased Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill was held Sunday, November 10, 2013, at the Chapel of the Assumption at Caritas Christi. Family and friends gathered with the Sisters of Charity to remember how the light and love of Christ have been revealed by these sisters whom God called home during the past year.

## Sister Mary E. McClory (1917-2012)

*Entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on September 8, 1934  
Died November 2, 2012, age 95*

"I think I'm a people person with organizational skills," wrote Sister Mary McClory, when asked to describe herself. A native of Brookline, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she attended Resurrection Elementary School, completed the three-year high school



program at Resurrection, and graduated from South Hills High School.

Sister Mary received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Duquesne University. She pursued postgraduate work at the University of Pittsburgh and at Catholic University. Sister Mary taught at DePaul School for Hearing and Speech for 16 years and then moved on to teach and serve as principal at Saint Jane de Chantal School, Bethesda, Maryland. She later served as curriculum director and associate director of elementary education in the Diocese of Greensburg. After serving a four-year term on the General Council of the Sisters of Charity of

Seton Hill, Sister Mary became co-director of the first Christian housing high-rise for senior citizens at Saint Thomas More Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Her next "career" was in the Diocese of Phoenix where she served as "Minister of Care" for 14 years.

As one sister described Sister Mary: "She was lots of fun to be around—a good listener, excellent cook, prayerful, friendly, a Steelers fanatic, an interesting conversationalist."

## Sister Esther Marie Phillips (1937-2013)

*Entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on September 8, 1955  
Died February 14, 2013, age 75*

Kind, gentle, calm—these words come to mind when we think of Sister Esther Marie. These qualities, along with her frequent and brilliant smile, will remain in the hearts of students she taught, parishioners she served, and her own Sisters of Charity to whom she ministered.

Sister Esther Marie entered the Sisters of Charity from Tucson, Arizona. She earned a bachelor's degree in history/education from Seton Hill University, and although she served as an upper grade teacher in California and Pennsylvania, she loved Arizona most. She taught and was an administrator in schools located in Tucson and Chandler, Arizona. Once she even coached volleyball, in spite of



knowing nothing about the sport, and led the team to first place in the Tucson CYO league! For eight years, she was secretary of the congregation, and then returned to Arizona. She first worked as an office manager and then directed the Ministry of Care at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Scottsdale, Arizona, for 11 years.

Once she said, "Through the years, I have grown more able to look through externals to center on the real value of each person, myself included—the true Presence of God's life and love."

### ✠ Sister Kathleen Dorman (1935-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1953  
Died March 3, 2013, age 77

"I have so many happy memories," Sister Kathleen Dorman once remarked, speaking especially of the 25 years she spent at Saint Pancratius Parish, Lakewood, California. People at Saint Pancratius have happy memories of her too. She not only taught the primary grades and prepared children for their First Holy Communion, but she trained altar servers, visited the sick, worked in the parish office, served meals in a soup kitchen, and even coordinated weddings. The pastor, Monsignor Royer, stated, "Sister Kathleen's name was whispered in the ear of God. Her footsteps may be followed, but she will never be replaced in the hearts of many who remember and honor her."

Sister Kathleen was a native of Carnegie, Pennsylvania, and attended Saint Luke Elementary and High Schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Seton Hill University and a master's degree in early childhood education from Long Beach State University in California. She taught primary grades for many years in the Dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg, Pittsburgh, Phoenix, Tucson, and the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

More recently, she visited parishioners at Saint Mary Parish in Chandler, Arizona. When she came to Caritas Christi, she helped with medical appointments, visited the sisters, and was a Eucharistic minister.

### ✠ Sister M. Scholastica Joyce (1927-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1945  
Died April 7, 2013, age 86

Sister M. Scholastica Joyce literally spent her life opening the eyes of the blind and the ears of the hearing impaired. She taught at De Paul School for Hearing and Speech from 1947-1996 and then stayed at De Paul School for three more years—a total of 52 years.

Because of her father's work as a mine superintendent, Sister Scholastica lived in many different small towns in Western Pennsylvania as she grew up. It was in Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, that she met the Sisters of Charity. She loved their teaching and loved



them, entering the community in 1945. Sister Scholastica earned a bachelor's degree in education of the deaf from Wayne State University and a master's degree in education of the blind from the Catholic University of America.

During her years at De Paul School, Sister Scholastica first taught students in the primary department and then students in the intermediate and advanced departments. Perhaps her most interesting work occurred outside school hours. Since many of the children boarded at De Paul School in those days, Sister Scholastica was a "house mother" and took care of the girls throughout the late afternoon and evening. She taught them various crafts,

sewing, and painting, which helped them to earn Girl Scout badges. She herself was a talented artist and some of her paintings hang at Caritas Christi.

From the earliest years of education for students with special needs to the time of employing the most current methods, Sister Scholastica was there with her ready smile and generous nature.

### ✠ Sister Marie Sullivan (1920-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1937  
Died April 8, 2013, age 92

"Very special . . . so kind . . . a community person . . . so quiet . . . so gentle . . ." Thus Sister Marie Sullivan was described by many. These qualities characterized her in



her community life, her family life, and her ministry.

Her kindness and gentleness were part of the pioneering work in the special needs education program she began in the Diocese of Pittsburgh at Sacred Heart School, Shadyside. In addition to the bachelor's and master's degrees in education she earned from Duquesne University, Sister Marie was also certified in special education. Sister Marie spent many years as a teacher and administrator in Pennsylvania and Arizona. She was among the pioneer Sisters of Charity who opened Saint Mary-Basha Catholic School in Chandler, Arizona. Another of Sister Marie's pioneering efforts was her ministry in Louisiana as an exchange teacher with the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans. Sister Marie's kindness and gentleness were extended to members of her own religious community when she worked in Elizabeth Ann Hall, the wing at Caritas Christi for residents with dementia.

### ✠ Sister Mary Sheila Malloy (1919-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on September 8, 1937  
Died July 5, 2013, age 94

Sister Mary Sheila Malloy was tall, slender, and very beautiful with large blue eyes and a ready smile. She was a model in dress and decorum for the home economics students she taught at Seton Hill University and at Sacred Heart, Elizabeth Seton, Mon Valley Catholic, Saint John the Baptist, Lawrenceville Catholic, Saint Anselm, and Mount Alvernia High Schools.

Sister Mary Sheila grew up in the North Side of Pittsburgh and graduated from Saint Joseph Academy at Seton Hill. After entering the Sisters of Charity, she earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Seton Hill University and a master's degree from Columbia University.

Sister Mary Sheila took special delight in the work she did in later years as a senior companion and a member of the Advisory Council of the Allegheny County Senior Companion Program. Later she served as senior companion, Eucharistic Minister, and home visitor at several parishes and in senior high-rises, where she resided for fifteen years. In 1999 she received the Manifesting the Kingdom Award from the Diocese of Pittsburgh and considered her work with older persons "a little heaven on earth."



## Sister Clarisita Wolk (1917-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on September 8, 1936 • Died August 16, 2013, age 95

Sister Clarisita will probably be best remembered for her creativity and her skill in crafts. She worked in that field from 1979 until just a few years before her death. Many of her works were sold in the gift shops of Assumption Hall and Caritas Christi. In the days of the Christmas sales, her crafts were popular items.

Most of Sister Clarisita's community life was spent in the classrooms of our Catholic schools. She entered the Sisters of Charity from Donegal, Pennsylvania, and received a bachelor's degree in education from Seton Hill University and a master's degree in education from Duquesne University. She taught at Saint Stephen, Sacred Heart, Resurrection, Holy Innocents, and Saint John the Baptist Schools in Pennsylvania as well as Saint Mary-Basha in Chandler, Arizona. She also served as principal at Saint John the Baptist for three years. A severe ear infection caused a major hearing loss and precipitated her move into arts and crafts, where she was equally successful.

Sister Clarisita was always well-organized. She had a delightful sense of humor as well as an interest in everything and everybody. She spent many hours in prayer, firmly believing, as did Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, that "Without prayer I would be of little service."

## Sister Regina Orner (1937-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on September 8, 1955 • Died August 18, 2013, age 76

From the time she left her home in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Sister Regina Orner was never afraid to take on new and different works. Receiving a bachelor's degree in education from Seton Hill University, Sister Regina taught in Altoona, Greensburg, and Pittsburgh for thirty years. She then

moved to Mary House, a residence for independent but needy women located



in the Brookline area of Pittsburgh. Later, she ministered in the dietary department at Assumption Hall, the former infirmary and retirement home of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

Sister Regina taught English as a second language at Sacred Heart, Shadyside, for five years. When Caritas Christi opened in 1999, Sister Regina was asked to coordinate the mailroom, a position she held until two months before her death. During her time there, Sister Regina transformed the mailroom with seasonal decorations, small figurines, and always, the inspiring sound of classical music.

Sister Regina was a quiet, unassuming person and was always welcoming and pleasant with children, parents, mail carriers, and visitors to the mailroom. She had a nice sense of humor and liked to draw cartoons. Perhaps a key to her life can be found in the words of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton: "Put your heart at His feet; it is the gift He loves best."

## Sister Diane Temple (1941-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on September 8, 1959 • Died on August 23, 2013, age 72

"Above and beyond" could have been a motto for Sister Diane Temple. She always spent time and energy in extra projects to help others.

A graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Shadyside, Pittsburgh, Sister Diane began her "outside" activities in the novitiate when she led the group in making small

clown dolls, "Woodsies," to raise funds for the new novitiate building. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Seton Hill University and a master's degree in medical technology from Wayne State University.

Sister Diane taught high school students in Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg, Pittsburgh, and Tucson, Arizona. She also ministered at the former Pittsburgh Hospital for three years. Perhaps the highlight of her ministry was the time she taught at Saint Joseph High School, Kwang-ju, South Korea. She also tutored public school students there. When she became aware of impoverished children



in a nearby orphanage, she visited them by bicycle, taking them food and clothing.

Sister Diane found a Pittsburgh benefactor to help a young Korean girl continue her studies. This young woman recently honored Sister Diane by establishing the Sister Diane Temple Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund at Seton Hill University. In another fitting tribute, one of Sister Diane's students at Salpointe High School, Tucson, Arizona, dedicated his doctoral dissertation to Sister Diane.

A gifted scholar and teacher, Sister Diane was also a true Sister of Charity in her prayerful, loving approach to everything she did.

## Sister Leo Mary Bickert (1929-2013)

Entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1950  
Died October 7, 2013, age 84

Sister Leo Mary Bickert came from New Kensington, Pennsylvania, to enter the Sisters of Charity and become part of the "Holy Year Group" of 1950. She studied at Duquesne University, receiving a bachelor's degree in special education. She took additional courses at Wayne State University and at Smith College to prepare for her work at De Paul School for Hearing and Speech, where she ministered for many years. She especially enjoyed working with the smallest children.



After her years at DePaul School, Sister Leo Mary worked in various capacities at Seton Hill University, Assumption Hall, and at Caritas Christi. Always with a cheerful smile lighting up her face, she lent her talents to helping with crafts.

When Sister Leo Mary entered the Sisters of Charity, she wrote that she wanted to become a religious "to do the work of God" and that she chose this community "because of its works of charity." In her quiet, pleasant way, Sister Leo Mary did the work of God as a Sister of Charity for 63 years. At her death, these words of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton were chosen to capture her spirit and her dedication to the community: "... all is quiet, no violation of each other's tranquility, each helping the other with a look of good will."

*Obituaries and reflections on the lives of the sisters who died this past year can be found on the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill website at [www.scsch.org](http://www.scsch.org).*

*Through their ministries, the Sisters of Charity have touched the lives of thousands of people.*

*If a Sister of Charity has made a difference in your life, please consider a gift in her honor or memory. You may use the envelope provided, donate online at [www.scsch.org](http://www.scsch.org), or contact the Office of Development at 724-836-0406, ext. 615.*

## Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

DePaul Center  
144 DePaul Center Road  
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724-836-8280 (FAX)  
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## Upcoming Events

January 1, 2013 – February 26, 2014

### Lucky March Cash Ticket

available for purchase  
DePaul Center, Greensburg  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
724-836-0406 x647

First Tuesdays of the month through August

### Taize Prayers for Peace

Queen of Peace Chapel  
Doran Hall  
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
724-836-0406 x622

March 9, 2014

### Lenten Visit and Vespers

Caritas Christi, Greensburg  
2:00 p.m. – Visit and Refreshments  
3:30 p.m. – Solemn Vespers  
724-836-0406 x615

March 29, 2014

### Sounds of Charity Concert

Benefit for the Sisters of Charity  
Cecilian Hall, Seton Hill University,  
Greensburg  
724-836-0406 x615

July 12-13, 2014

### Jubilee Weekend

Greensburg

### Seton Experience

A visit and tour of Caritas Christi  
Call for reservations  
724-836-0406 x615

# SOUNDS

# OF Charity

★ **The 6th Annual Sounds of Charity**—an evening of big band music and dancing benefiting the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

★ Featuring the music of Glass City Swing Band vocalist Cory Poklembo, and pianist Marvin Huls,

★ *March 29, 2014 at Cecilian Hall, Seton Hill University*

*Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with a basket raffle, silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, and cash bar.*

*Concert and dancing begins at 7:30 p.m.*

*Call 724-836-0406, x615 for more information.*

**Save the date!**