



Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill  
Volume 23, Number 2

# Celebration



**Celebration—a name and our spirit!**

*"We celebrate our on-going mission, our endeavors to make real the mandate of every Sister of Charity, 'to carry Christ to all whom we serve.' . . . It seems most appropriate to name this publication Celebration, for it conveys the many reasons we have to rejoice—in our ministry, in our members, in our history and in our vision of what will be in the 21st century."*

— Jean Boggs, SC, Spring 1993



April 2014

Dear Friends,

Blessed Eastertide to you! The season of the Resurrection is always a time of renewal; a time of feeling closer to our God—a time of hope which is exemplified by a longer day and the beauty of spring. On behalf of all of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, I wish each of you and all those you love the deep joy of these special days.

In this issue of *Celebration*, we share stories of three sisters whose lives give witness to the compelling love of Christ. While each of their stories is unique, the service of each sister was and is marked by zeal for the Gospel and for the people of God. Like all Sisters of Charity, their energies and fidelity have the same source - the overwhelming sense of how God loves each one of us.

Because of you, our friends and partners, we are able to continue the ministries that are such a part of our legacy as Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. Your gifts, donations, and attendance at our most recent major event, The Sounds of Charity, enable all our ministries to continue into the future.

We are so grateful for your willingness to be a partner with the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill and our mission. You are remembered daily in the prayers of all our sisters. May the love of Christ continue to encircle you and your loved ones, especially in this Easter season.

God bless you,

Sister Catherine Meinert, S.C.

Provincial Superior

Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

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## Marking an Occasion



**SISTER COLETTE HANLON WAS THE 2011 RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD.** A leader and mentor in her field, Sister Colette was recognized for demonstrating “leadership, creativity, and compassion in her ministry on local, regional, and national levels.” Sister Colette worked for over 30 years helping to advance the mission and vision of the NACC in supporting chaplains, clinical pastoral educators and others who promote the dignity, of persons of every age, culture, and state through the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church. One of her nominators reflected, “Sister Colette is a true daughter of Elizabeth Seton following the motto ‘the Charity of Christ urges us.’ Her dedication to her ministry is an exemplary model for a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Sister Colette discusses the day's events with the staff at Berkshire Medical Center.

One definition of “celebrate” is to mark an occasion, especially a joyous one. The invitation to share in this issue of Celebration something about my ministry caused me to return to a graced experience with Bishop Norbert Gaughan in 1981. I was just completing fourteen years in internal ministry and wondering where God was calling me. In speaking with the Bishop about a position opening in the chancery, he asked me what I really wanted to do. I was stumped, but then heard myself saying I was worried about Catholic hospitals being bought up by for-profit institutions and I wondered who would accompany the sick and the dying and assure them that God loves them. He excitedly replied, “So, you want to be a chaplain!”

I had no idea what that meant, but I applied for a year's residency at what was then Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center. Walking into the facility for my interview, I immediately felt at home. As a child of four, volunteering with my Mom at our little Needham, Massachusetts, hospital, I had dreamed of being a baby nurse and had collected all kinds of health information from my Dad's employer, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Alas, my dyslexia for numbers and my aversion to all things having to do with chemistry soon convinced me that nursing was not my calling. But, I was accepted as a resident chaplain in Clinical Pastoral Education — the gateway to certification as a board certified chaplain.

In the thirty-three years since, I have been privileged (and often challenged) to serve as a chaplain and director of pastoral care at St. Joseph's Hospital in rural Wisconsin; Saint Peter's Hospital in inner-city New Brunswick, New Jersey; Saint Thomas Hospital in the deep south of Nashville, Tennessee; Saint Raphael's Hospital in the midst of New Haven, Connecticut; and for the past seven years, at a nursing home and now at Berkshire Medical Center, a community hospital in Western Massachusetts. I had never dreamed of being in



ministry in my home state, but as T. S. Eliot wrote, “in our end is our beginning.”

It would be impossible for me to name all the blessings and challenges of chaplaincy ministry I've

been privileged to experience. Special memories include: moments of birth (including that of a young woman who lived with me and whose birth coach I was); “miraculous” healings of young and old; opportunities to companion those who peacefully gave over their lives to God; participation with employees and physicians grappling with ethical issues; moments of exhaustion and depression; interfaith learning experiences I've enjoyed; and shared ministry with priests, rabbis, ministers and dedicated lay Eucharistic ministers.

Along the way there have been surprising additional gifts: living with sisters of other religious orders; a call to serve as a police chaplain; opportunities to present programs on spirituality, holistic health and ethical decision making for healthcare personnel and a variety of faith communities; leading interfaith worship, funerals and remembrance services; preaching in Lutheran, Assembly of God and Baptist churches; leading weekly Catholic Communion services; and receiving the support of a variety of friends, colleagues and especially Seton Family members.

All of this—and so much more—is certainly cause for me to celebrate and to be grateful for Bishop Gaughan's “push” to live and serve as a Sister of Charity in chaplaincy ministry. I am indeed joyful in daily marking these occasions.

Colette Hanlon, SC

## Just Another Day as a Hospital Chaplain

My cellphone rang just as I was getting in my car to leave a senior living center where I had just given a seminar. The message: “Please come to emergency room STAT!” As I rushed into the hospital, I heard the overhead speaker request neonatal staff to the ER and I knew something awful awaited me. I was



greeted with the news that the doctor was about to tell a grieving couple visiting from West Virginia that their four-week old girl had not responded to repeated attempts to resuscitate her.

Mom, Dad, and I walked into the chaos of the trauma room and Stephanie reached for her daughter's tiny hand. Jeff said, “You can't die, Emalyn,” and I began to pray. Miraculously her heart began to beat, her eyes opened wide and she gave a lusty kick as if to say, “I'm not going anywhere!”

A lot more medical intervention was needed—CT scans were done; the question of brain damage

was discussed; calls were made back and forth to the Intensive Pediatric Unit at Albany Medical Center; and finally, a trauma team arrived from there. I went with Mom and Dad to the hospital chapel where he prayed aloud that God's will would be done. “But... but...” he cried, “we lost a child five years ago this month and we so want Emalyn to live!”

The rest of the story is that Mom, Dad, and a healthy baby are now safely back in West Virginia and a lot of us know we were privileged to witness a “miracle” granted to a young faith-filled couple and their beautiful and healed daughter.

“Just” another day as a hospital chaplain was radically transformed by a loving God!

Colette Hanlon, SC, March 2014



# “A Library Runs through It” for Sister Jeremy Mahla

Sister Brigid Marie Grandey

Sister Jeremy Mahla always felt at home in a library. Her mother was a school librarian in Aspinwall before she was married. Sister Jeremy grew up across the street from the library in Oakmont, Pennsylvania. As a college student, she worked as a page at the Social Work Library at the University of Pittsburgh. However, Sister Jeremy never expected that working in a library would one day become a passion for her.

Each workday for the last few years, Sister Jeremy has traveled across the city of Pittsburgh from the convent in Brookline to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, located in Oakland. She spends her days there editing audio books that have been recorded by volunteers onto digital cartridges for distribution to the visually impaired. As one who has always enjoyed books and magazines, Sister Jeremy sees this program as a marvelous opportunity for persons who never could see or whose vision has faded. “I want to share the joy of reading with everyone,” she says. She edits each recording three times to be sure the sound edits are accurate. Her work requires use of sophisticated software that demands careful, meticulous attention. This tedious process of perfecting the audio books animates Sister Jeremy, even though she herself now suffers from macular degeneration.

Between the Oakmont library of Sister Jeremy’s youth and the Oakland library that is her current “day home,” this woman of small stature has led a large life filled with variety and often with adventure—a life spanning at least four professions and lived on three continents. “Join the convent and see the world!” she says, smiling.

Sister Jeremy attended Sacred Heart High School in Shadyside. At fifteen, she found an opportunity for summer work as a counselor at Camp Fenimore, Cooperstown, New York. She learned how to sail during her summers there. After high school, Sister Jeremy accepted a senatorial scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh where she enjoyed a work-study position in the social work library. In her junior year, she transferred to Penn State University. Although she majored in psychology and minored in education, her curious mind led her to explore various interests and activities including participation in experiments of the school of agriculture. She became a life-long Penn State supporter with an interest in everything about Penn State. She joined the Alumni Association when dues were just \$5.00 a year. To the present day, Sister Jeremy can be found in front of the television set cheering for the Nittany Lions during football and basketball season. Knowledgeable on most sports, she also cheers for the Pirates, the Steelers, and the high school teams of the schools where she has ministered. Rumor has it that

her favorite magazine is Sports Illustrated, which she now “reads” from digital cartridges.

After her graduation from Penn State, Sister Jeremy went to Washington, DC, to stay with a friend. In answering a newspaper ad, she found work as a medical social worker at a hospital in Alexandria, Virginia, a job she held for 15 months. Taking advantage of her location, she purchased a sailboat and had good times sailing her sloop with her little dog Annabel, the runt of a litter.

During those days, Sister Jeremy was hearing God’s call—a call that first became clear to her when she was a student at Penn State. She entered the Sisters of Charity September 8, 1951. Sisters who were in the novitiate with Sister Jeremy fondly recall the plays she wrote and directed for the novices to perform. The young group of sisters made puppets for the shows that were performed at the Sisters of Charity Summer Festival.

When Sister Jeremy began her teaching career, she taught science and math, although these had not been her fields in college. She taught at several elementary and high schools until 1962. It was at this time that a second

call went out for volunteers to join the Sisters of Charity who had been on mission in South Korea for two years. Sister Jeremy and Sister Jean Malloy began their trip to South Korea on a freighter in December. They arrived on January 1 after 23 days on the high seas. Sister Jeremy immediately began to learn to speak Korean. Even before she mastered the language, she began teaching English to middle school students while they taught her Korean. She can still speak Korean to this day. “I loved studying the language,” she says, “especially at the language school in Seoul, where I became friends with some of the professors.” She has continued to maintain contact with some of these teachers.

Sister Jeremy enjoyed her South Korean students and she loved the country and its culture. She speaks proudly and a little wistfully of the science lab she designed and had built at Saint Joseph’s School in Gang-Jin. Although she left Korea in 1969, she has occasionally returned for brief periods of time to teach English as a second language to high school students.

When Sister Jeremy returned to the United States from Korea in 1969, she visited a Sacred Heart High School



Before she entered the Sisters of Charity, Sister Jeremy enjoyed sailing on the Potomac River. In this 1951 photo taken by Sister Deborah Kelly, Sister Jeremy is pictured in her sloop with Sister Mary Zoe Dorsa. Sisters Deborah and Mary Zoe Dorsa were studying at Catholic University at the time.



Sister Jeremy enters the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh— Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to begin her workday. She edits audio books Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Books that are recorded at the library are most often about Pittsburghers or things that are of interest to Pittsburghers. The library distributes the digital audio books throughout the state of Pennsylvania to residents with vision disabilities.



Sister Jeremy and coworker Russell Kuba (who also has vision difficulties) use sophisticated computer software to edit the digital book recordings. A computer image helps the sound editors to identify sections of the recording that need to be fixed. The process of cutting out bad sound bytes and pasting in corrections requires much precision. Even with vision impairments, Sister Jeremy and Russell are very skilled in blending the sound for a flawless recording. Both huge sports fans, Russ and Sister Jeremy usually begin their day with a lively conversation about sports. They also like to discuss the books they record.



Sister Jeremy models earphones that the readers use in the brightly lit sound room. The table is padded to reduce any slipping or banging noises on the recording. Through a window, the readers will watch for cues from volunteer monitors, like Sister Jeremy, who follow the manuscript to be sure that the narration is true to the text.



Outside the sound room, Sister Jeremy monitors the narration with earphones as she follows along with the text. Occasionally a reader mispronounces a word or phrases a passage incorrectly and does not “self-correct.” Sister Jeremy will break in with the monitor’s microphone to notify the reader to stop and make a correction.



After a book has been recorded, Sister Jeremy will listen to the recording and carefully follow the manuscript. She tags sections of the manuscript where she has heard phrases that need to be re-recorded for greater clarity. The narrators are called back to the library to re-do the sections that are problematic.



Monsignor Cyril Vogel, Vicar General of the Diocese of Greensburg with Sister Jean Malloy and Sister Jeremy, following the departure ceremonies for the Sisters leaving for Korea. 11/11/62

classmate who had also entered the Sisters of Charity, Sister Patricia Marie Stack. Sister Patricia Marie was teaching at De Paul School for Hearing and Speech at the time. Sister Philomena Mannion, the principal at DePaul School, thought Sister Jeremy could teach there. And so she did for 36 years. Sister Jeremy earned a master's degree in deaf education at the University of Illinois and opened new worlds of science to her students. She maintained three saltwater aquaria at De Paul, forming a partnership with the Pittsburgh Aquazoo where she also

volunteered helping to care for the animals on weekends. Her students learned to raise canaries that had been donated to the school. The children planted and nurtured blue spruce trees, which are now quite tall and grace the Sisters of Charity property at Seton Hill.



One of Sister Jeremy's special hobbies is photography, having learned her way around her uncle's photography darkroom as a child. She became an expert photographer who used darkroom techniques for developing and printing black and white film. She even designed her own darkrooms both in Korea and at DePaul School. As the technology of the art changed, Sister Jeremy enthusiastically adapted and took classes in digital photography. She serves as a special assistant for the Office of Public Relations at the Sisters of Charity complex and recently took digital photos for the Sisters of Charity community directory.

The dawn of the Information Age spawned Sister Jeremy's keen interest in computer technology. "I took advantage of every opportunity to learn," she says, "attending workshops and seminars, especially when they were paid for by the government!" She continues to seize every opportunity to learn more and is a support to other sisters in need of assistance in this area.

Sister Jeremy has taken a course in animal biology; made a hiking retreat for eleven days in the Rocky Mountains; joined a summer program in space exploration; studied marine biology in Maine and at the Gulf of Mexico where she observed fishing nets being lowered by computer technology. Planets and stars are a constant fascination for Sister Jeremy and she continues to do reading and research in astronomy.

In the year 2000 and the summer of 2001, Sister Jeremy ministered in Africa. This came about when she met two

members of the Banyatereza Catholic religious community at De Paul School and became interested in their work in Uganda. She went to Africa to help the Ugandan Sisters with computer technology. Although there are 41 tribes in Uganda with 41 different languages, English is a common language, so it was not difficult for Sister Jeremy to teach. Of Sister Jeremy's presence with them, the Banyatereza Sisters wrote, "She has challenged us in very many things, especially her great love for people, animals, birds, and creation in general, most of all her love for God. . . . Sister Jeremy is surely a woman of great courage who is not afraid of venturing into the unknown, so long as her trust is firmly placed in God."

It was her connection with Korea, though, that brought her to the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In 2010 when Sister Shin-ja Lee received a doctorate in theology from the Catholic University of America, she wrote her dissertation (in English) on the spiritual direction received and given by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Sister Jeremy wanted the older sisters in the congregation, even those whose eyesight might be failing, to be able to benefit from Sister Shin-ja's work. Thus her first experience with the Library for the Blind and Handicapped came about when she read Sister Shin-ja's dissertation onto a digital disc.

Of course, this wasn't Sister Jeremy's first bonding with a library. From Oakmont to Pitt, to Oakland; from Penn State to South Korea, to Africa, there were always libraries and students eager to learn about stars and fish and birds and trees and, of course, technology.

"All that I have done has made me a better religious and a well-rounded person," says Sister Jeremy. "The variety of perspectives through which I have seen the world has given me a broad acceptance of all people. I have lived and worked with 'infinite variety,' and I try to have a global vision, approaching possibly the vision of Jesus Christ."

For anyone who knows her, it is clear to see—because of her love of learning, Sister Jeremy has always viewed the wonder and majesty of life through the lens of love. She continues to learn new things, spread her infectious joy, and share her vision of life's splendor through her work at the library.

For more information on the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, visit their website at <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/lbph/>.



After the narrator has recorded new sound bytes, Sister Jeremy will again listen to the recording and follow the sound graph images on the computer screen to locate spots that need to be fixed. In this picture, Sister Jeremy has found the exact place where she must cut out a bad sound byte and paste in the correction.



Sister Jeremy looks at bins filled with the day's shipment of digital audiobooks. The books are not available to the general public due to copyright restrictions. Special permission has been given for the library to produce and distribute recordings of the books for visually handicapped persons only.



The special "readers" that play digital books have large buttons to facilitate operation of the device by persons with visual impairments. The advance digital players have a bookmarking feature. The green cartridge is easily slipped into the reading device.



The tedious work of sound editing is not for the faint-hearted. Sister Jeremy has mastered the process and says, "I love doing this!" Details and technology do not scare her a bit.



Sisters of Charity who have vision problems benefit from the services of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—Library for the Blind and Handicapped. Sister Alice Ruane is pictured in her room at Caritas Christi using a digital player to listen to an audio book. Included in the library's collection of locally produced digital cartridges is The Practice of Spiritual Direction in the Life and Writings of Elizabeth Ann Seton by Sister Shin Ja Lee, SC, narrated by Sister Jeremy Mahla, SC.





*"I get to stay with Sister Bea today!"*

Sister Donna Mulligan

**S**ister Bea, please let me stay after school. I don't want to go home yet! If I call my mom, can I stay?" These words are not typical of those spoken by most children in an elementary school at the end of a long day, but they are ones that often can be heard in the halls of Conn-Area Catholic School in Connellsville. Behind the children's eager request to remain after the last bell rings, is a desire to participate in the school's popular after school Extended Care Program under the direction of Sister Beatrice Ann Parenti. From 3:00 p.m. until as late as 6:00 p.m. each school day, Sister Bea, as she is affectionately known, serves as teacher, caregiver, and activity guide to children in grades pre-K through sixth whose parents who work late.



In even a brief visit with Sister Bea and the children after school, it is very easy to understand why the program is flourishing. The children are quick to settle in to finish their homework and ask for Sister Bea's help when needed. Echoes of "Sister, is this right?" or "I know how to do it now!" are heard from the students as they patiently wait in line for Sister to Bea to check their work. After completing their homework, the children enjoy a tasty snack. Their afternoon may conclude with a craft activity, a game, or if the weather permits, time outdoors on the school playground.

When entering Sister Bea's extended care classroom, children can't help but feel they have stumbled upon Santa's workshop. A play kitchen, toy instruments, electronic games, colorful balls, and craft items of all kinds entice and excite them. For playtime, Sister Bea's maintains a varied selection of age appropriate toys and games that she "has collected through the years". For holidays and special occasions, Sister Bea often has a project or craft to fit the season. "The children have especially come to look forward to Christmas when they help to make a gingerbread house and gingerbread people," she shares. "They love to try new projects of any kind."

When asked what is most special to her after guiding the program for so many years, Sister Bea notes "It is the children's spontaneous laughter and knowing they are

happy and well" that delight her most. She continues, "With some of the children who have been with me for several years, a close relationship can develop, and it is wonderful to see the changes in the children as they grow." With a bit of laughter, Sister Bea states, "I sometimes meet children who were part of our extended care program over a decade or fifteen years ago, and now they have become lawyers, teachers, engineers and parents themselves. When I think of them as little children, it's so wonderful to hear and see all they have accomplished."

The Extended Care Program, one of the first in Western Pennsylvania Catholic Schools, was established in 1996 under the leadership of Sister Catherine Meinert, then principal of Conn- Area Catholic and now President/Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill United States Province. Sister Catherine explains, "When Sister Bea and I were missioned to the school in 1996, it became evident that there was a need for children to have a protected environment in which they could stay after school—a place where parents would be assured that their children were safe and cared for with love." Thus, the Conn-Area Catholic Extended After -School Program was initiated eighteen years ago, with Sister Bea serving as its first and only director. Sister Bea adds, "Parents can call us at any time and tell us that they need their children to stay. We have had children come to extended care at the very last minute at three in the afternoon, when parents find themselves needing to stay late at work, have emergencies at home, or sometimes have just been caught in traffic. The parents often tell us how grateful they are to know they have this service available at Conn-Area Catholic."

Sister Catherine further notes, "The program from the beginning offered the children help with their homework, a time for recreation, and a daily snack. The Conn-Area Catholic Extended Care Program has been exceptional in that Sister Bea is a certified teacher who possesses the skills to work with a multi-aged group of children. She brings

her great experience and wisdom to this setting." Looking back in time, Sister Bea and Sister Catherine recall "From the humble beginnings with one student in the third floor auditorium of the old former Immaculate Conception Parish School building, the program has grown to include, on any given day, up to 25 children, or one-sixth of the school's current enrollment. As the school has grown, the number of children we care for has also grown." This has necessitated bringing an aide on board to help with the program. Judy Forsythe, a retired mother whose children had attended the Catholic school, knew Sister Bea well and was familiar with the program. Judy was quick to volunteer for the position.

Judy states, "I don't know how Sister Bea does it—to direct so many children with their many different personalities and needs! The children have lots of energy. Sister Bea keeps the extended care program running so lovingly and so smoothly, it truly is a gift to the families."

Mrs. Ceal Solan, Conn-Area Catholic School Principal, amplifies Judy's observations. "Sister Bea is responsible for giving the program its appeal. She provides games, activities, crafts, and homework assistance. Don't think she hasn't taken her turn at the pool table or the basketball hoop. What makes the program so special is the 'activity' she provides. She is not just a 'supervisor'. She takes time to know the kids, and whenever teachable moments arise, she is there to address them. She treats all of the children with respect and they respond well to that. The entire faculty and staff are amazed at the patience she has with the variety of ages and personalities that gather there each day. She never ceases to amaze me. We are blessed to have her leading this program."

The children that Sister Bea cares for each day would quickly concur with Mrs. Solan's assessment. The happy and excited voice of a third grader's "I get to stay with Sister Bea today!" is strong testimony to all the love and dedication that she has given for years and continues to give each day to the children entrusted to her care.





# Sister Diana Taufer — Evangelist!



**As the Sisters of Charity celebrated the first National Catholic Sisters' Week earlier this year, we examined the lives of some of the giants in the history of the community.** One such person was Sister Evangelist / Diana Taufer (1918-2004), a forward-thinking woman who would have found herself quite at home in today's world.

In the newest articulation of the life of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill is this challenge: "We continue the mission of Christ to reveal the reality and beauty of God's love in the plan of salvation for all people and creation. In all of our ministries we promote peace and justice, accepting our limitations while striving to overcome all forms of discrimination." (*Constitutions, Article 78*)

Long before intercultural sensitivity was discussed, Sister Diana had a passion about learning all she could about and from Native American people in the Southwest. It was a hands-on experience of intercultural which served her well as she continued to minister among her beloved Yaquis. In her full story, readers will meet a woman who was truly a student of life.

**Diana Mary Taufer**, oldest child of Mary Milz and George Taufer, was born in Demarest, New Jersey, but she came to know of the Greensburg-based Sisters of Charity when she expressed interest in attending Seton Hill College. In her sophomore year, Diana decided to enter the community. . . . Diana began the novitiate September 8, 1937 and four months later received the name, Sister Evangelist. . . . Although she reverted to use of her baptismal name after Vatican II renewal, Sister Diana retained throughout her life the characteristics of an evangelist.

— *From the Funeral Liturgy Reflection given by Sister Joyce Serratore, December 23, 2004*



**E**vangelist . . . a prediction . . . it became a "life" for Sister Diana Taufer, not just a name given to her as a young novice on January 1, 1938. That "life" throbbed with integrity, creativity, spirituality, generosity and intellectual pursuit.

Sister Diana recognized education as the heart of that "life," both for herself and for those who would benefit from her presence as teacher and preacher. As she wended her way from grade school teacher through high school and college, her personal interests expanded in conjunction with her creativity and scholarly pursuits. Gifted students, targeted to stretch their intellectual muscles, responded willingly. She was moderator for the first Catholic high school team to win the Battle of Wits on local TV. Her 17 years as a debate coach included recognition as a National Forensic League Diamond Coach.

"I have every confidence in the maturity of her judgment and steadfastness of purpose," commented her pastor in his letter of recommendation for her to enter the Sisters of Charity in 1937. He was so right! Sister Diana prepared herself for the education ministry, earning a BA with a German major and a history minor from Seton Hill College, an MA in German, and 20 years later, an MA in Asian history from the University of Pittsburgh. She held Pennsylvania certification to teach secondary German, history, art, English and Latin.

While serving as chair of the Social Studies Department at Canevin High School, she became involved with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Subsequently, she received the Donald Farr Award "For outstanding leadership and unswerving devotion to the ideal of quality education in international affairs. . . her creative effort, imagination, and constructive ideas significantly assisted in the maintenance of a consistently high quality in the Council's education programs." Amnesty International and Bread for the World also benefitted from Sister Diana's efforts.

Acknowledging the contribution that travel/study had made to her growth as a teacher and minister, she wrote in her memoirs, "I can remember thinking in my

Sister Mary Nolan



novitiate days as I looked out over the Greensburg hills from a window in "4<sup>th</sup> Admin" — I will never get to travel again! Well, I've been to France, Italy, Russia, Czechoslovakia, India, Canada, and Mexico (three times!)." All were for study and travel, gifts of scholarships or grants.

There was no thought of such opportunities back in the '60s when Sister Diana supported the United Farm Workers' grape and lettuce boycotts. That experience planted a "seed" that would grow and flower in many ways in her life and be harvested in her ministry to the Native Americans.



Sister Diana was known for her innovative teaching methods. She is pictured here holding class outdoors with girls who attended Elizabeth Seton High School.

At Canevin High School, Sister Diana played a role in bringing about a major change. Once a co-institutional school (boys on one side taught by male faculty, and girls on the other taught by religious and a few lay women), the school became co-educational. "It is well known that Diana was never one to believe there was any advantage in a separation of the sexes," noted Sister Joyce Serratore.



Sister Diana's transition from education ministry in the formal classroom setting to Parish pastoral work occurred when she was in Arizona teaching at Seton High School. . . . Requesting [permission from the Sisters of Charity Council] to take up ministry in Guadalupe, she offered a profile of the parish population—60% Mexican American and 40% Yaqui, who as a whole are Spanish speaking. . . . Her ministry in religious education developed over the years and outreach to her beloved Yaquis intensified. Sister Diana was convinced, ". . . it is the most important work of my life."

—From the Funeral Liturgy Reflection given by Sister Joyce Serratore.

To be more effective, she went to school to study Native American Spirituality and learned the essence of the Indians' belief: the practice of the interdependence of all creatures, animate and inanimate; the recognition of the spiritual essence in all things; and belief in the inherent wholeness of humanity. To facilitate communication, she went to school to learn Spanish.

That language capability helped her to direct parishioners in creating stained glass windows at St. Margaret Church in Phoenix—after she took classes to learn that skill herself! Another project sent her back to school again, even though she was an accomplished artist herself. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church needed the Stations of the Cross. After researching various mediums, Sister Diana decided on repoussé, a process of hammering metal to create designs in relief. Three high school students and Sister created the 14 burnished plaques, each one includes a deer head, the Yaqui's symbol, and scrolls representing Mexican culture. As founders of Guadalupe, the Yaquis find special inspiration in those stations.



As a master catechist, Sister Diana used interculturalism to show the parallel similarities between the Catholic Church's teachings and the Indian belief in the interdependence of all creatures. A plaque found in the Jemez State Mountain states "We have no word for 'religion'. We have a spiritual life that is part of us 24 hours a day."

That "seed" planted in the '60s by Sister Diana matured into a gift of presence—a presence that understood the Native American culture, history, traditions and ceremonies. On the occasion her 50th anniversary, Sister Diana commented, "My life as a Sister of Charity has called for the use of every gift I have, except one—I think I would have made a good priest!" Teacher, preacher, artist, writer, advocate—Sister Diana accepted the challenge ". . . every Christian should lead his/her life as though writing a fifth Gospel."

## National Catholic Sisters Week Sheds Light on Sisters' Ministries

*"Religious life ought to promote growth in the Church by way of attraction. The Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in this world."* —Pope Francis

The first National Catholic Sisters Week, celebrated March 8–14, 2014, was an opportunity for women religious across the country to heed the Pope's advice and give witness of acting and living differently in this world. As part of Women's History Month, the week helped to call attention to the significant role Catholic sisters have had historically and to provide a contemporary view of the lives, mission, and works of women religious today. Funded by a generous, three-year grant provided by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to Saint Catherine University, Saint Paul, Minnesota, the initiative is part of a three-year project intended to shed light on the tremendous impact Catholic sisters continue to make today in education, health care, social justice, criminal justice, theology, the arts, and politics.



Vocations Coordinator Sister Barbara Ann Smelko and Seton Hill University student Marissa Corona attended the National Catholic Sisters week kick-off at Saint Catherine University.



The kick-off event for National Catholic Sisters Week was held at Saint Catherine's where women religious and college-age women came together to honor ministries of Catholic sisters that are an integral part of American history. In addition, the kick-off event was a forum to explore the possibilities of using new media tools to bring visibility to the vital contributions sisters are making on the frontlines of social change. Through web sites, social media, and blogs, Catholic sisters clearly illustrate that they continue to stand with the poor and vulnerable, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or religion. The use of social media is a powerful way to build relationships with young people who may know little about religious life.

The inaugural National Catholic Sisters Week was a wonderful opportunity to rejoice in the past, look to the future, and invite others to serve Christ with us. On the heels of this historical event, we prepare for the Year of Consecrated Life which will begin in October. Objectives outlined by the Holy Father for the year are to make a grateful remembrance of the recent past, embrace the future with hope, and live the present with passion. The Year of Consecrated Life will have an evangelical focus as religious persons "wake up the world" by inviting others to celebrate the beauty of following Christ. During this holy year, social media will be an evangelical tool with the potential to ignite an awareness of the many different ways to serve the Church and kindle an openness to the call of God in those compelled by the love of Christ. Plan to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life with us!

Visit us on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/scsh.us](http://www.facebook.com/scsh.us).

March 8-14, 2014, was proclaimed "Catholic Sisters Week" in Westmoreland County. The Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners recognized the Sisters of Charity as an integral part of Westmoreland County history and commended them for their contributions to the communities of the county. Provincial Councilors Susan Jenny and Barbara Einloth accepted the proclamation at the county courthouse. Pictured from left to right: Commissioner Tyler Courtney, Sister Susan Jenny, Sister Barbara Einloth, Commissioner Charles Anderson, and Commissioner Ted Kopas.

## Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

DePaul Center  
144 DePaul Center Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601-1253  
724-836-0406  
412-243-4651 (Pgh.)  
724-836-8280 (FAX)  
*Address Service Requested*

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## *Upcoming Events*

*First Tuesdays of the month  
through August*

Taizé Prayer for Peace  
Caritas Christi  
8:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.  
724-836-0406, x 622

*July 12-13, 2014*  
Jubilee Weekend  
Greensburg

*Seton Experience*  
A visit and tour of Caritas Christi  
Call for reservations  
724-836-0406, x640



**It was a rainy evening, but nothing could dampen the spirits of our guests who attended the 6th Annual Sounds of Charity held at Seton Hill University on March 29.**

Pianist Marvin Huls set the mood for a spirited evening with cocktail music. Cecilian Hall was transformed into a cabaret where a full house enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as vocalist Cori Poklembo urged couples to dance to the robust sound of Glass City Swing Band. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for the Sisters of Charity to visit with many former students, co-workers, Seton Hill Alumni, and friends.

Proceeds from the Sounds of Charity benefit the mission and ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. Kudos to Sister Louise Grundish, Terri Murphy, and the entire committee who planned the fundraiser. Special thanks to all who donated items for the basket raffle and silent auction, our sponsors, and our guests for their generous support. The 6th Annual Sounds of Charity event was the most successful yet.