



Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill  
Volume 24, Number 1

# Celebration



**Mission Statement  
of the  
Sisters of Charity  
of  
Seton Hill**

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill is an international, apostolic community of women religious, baptized in Christ, and vowed to continue the mission of His Church. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Elizabeth Seton, the congregation conceives its purpose to be an active ministry on behalf of the Kingdom.

This service is: informed by Gospel values, responsive to the needs of a changing world, guided by the prudent use of available resources, respectful of human dignity, protective of human rights, devoted especially to the poor and oppressed, rooted in faith, animated by prayer, supported by the common life, and performed in humility, simplicity, and charity.

*Contributors:*

Jane Strittmatter, *editor*

Sister Mary Kay Neff, *graphic design*

Julia Cuccaro

Sister Louise Grundish

Sister Susan Jenny

Sister Catherine Meinert



February 2015

Dear Friends,

Greetings as we enter the season of Lent, the season named for springtime. (The word Lent is derived from the German "lente," meaning the season when days lengthen.) While the outdoors may bear little resemblance to the sunny warmth and early blossoms that cheer us, we are experiencing new hope and new life. The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill wish to share some very good news with you.

After two years of preparation of formal legal documents and internal space planning, we are pleased to announce that a new ministry has been launched. The Elizabeth Seton Memory Care Center recently received its provisional license from the State of Pennsylvania, with the expectation that within six months the Center will have its permanent license. Housed in a wing on the first floor of Caritas Christi, our motherhouse, the facility will offer loving, professional care to residents who experience memory impairment. Sisters with this disability will live in the Center, but the intent of the project is to enable laity with memory loss to make their home with us in a safe and compassionate environment. We will share more information as we employ a special staff, publish brochures, inaugurate an application process, and launch a dedicated website for the Elizabeth Seton Memory Care Center. In the meantime, rejoice with us as seeds of this new ministry are planted!

As many of you already know, Pope Francis has designated this year as the Year of Consecrated Life. In a special way the Church calls attention to the lives and contributions of sisters, brothers, and priests who live in religious congregations. Our Holy Father has asked that communities of religious celebrate and tell their stories. Many of you have experienced the witness of our sisters over the years. Please share your stories and memories with us. Please continue to pray for us as we seek the grace to live our vows with integrity and joy every day. As Pope Francis challenged us, "Wake the world with joy!" Finally, the Pope has asked us to be conscientious in inviting women to join in the great adventure of religious life. If you know someone who is searching for a way to give her life to God through service to others, you can help her and us. Pray for her, encourage her, and invite her to consider consecrated religious life. We welcome inquiries and the opportunity to help women discern their calls.

In this issue of *Celebration* you will read stories that we hope will engage you, from the living witness of a sister who puts our congregation's international nature into practice to an amazing journey that carries Mother Seton's legacy from Pennsylvania to a new generation in the Southwest. You will read about a century-old Sister of Charity school that flourishes and about a "can do" benefactor whose longtime generosity to us is deeply appreciated. You, too, are appreciated for every spiritual and material gift you share with us.

May this Lenten season bring all of you to an Easter of renewed joy and hope!

God bless you!

*Sister Catherine Meinert, D.C.*



# Sister Mary Lou Palas— Interprovincial Exchange Ambassador

Sister Susan Jenny



Sisters Yong Son Kim, Mary Lou Palas, and Sung Hae Kim process from the Chapel of the Assumption at Caritas Christi at the end of a missioning service for Sister Mary Lou before her departure for South Korea.

Sister Mary Lou Palas set off on the adventure of a lifetime in mid-August, when she departed for South Korea and a year of ministry spent at Somyong High School. As she wrote, “I know I will be blessed; I am so excited!” With shaky beginnings—a flight delayed, missed connections, a lost jacket, and a complete change of itinerary—she nonetheless arrived early in the morning of August 15 at Incheon Airport near Seoul. Smiling faces of the Korean sisters met her. They gifted her with fresh flowers, whisked her away to the convent, and a new chapter in her life began.

What prompted her to consider this ministry? She admits she hadn’t thought much about it, but when the announcement about the position was made, she experienced subtle urgings that led her to take the flyer from the bulletin board and begin praying. “I felt more and more drawn to the task, and so I sent a letter volunteering. From that

moment, I felt very positive and affirmed.” Her feelings were confirmed when Sister Catherine Meinert, United States Provincial Superior, called to tell her that she had been selected to fill the position of English teacher. Said Sister Catherine, “Sister Mary Lou is an experienced and excellent high school teacher—energetic and enthusiastic about the ministry.” Each year since 1986, a sister has been assigned as part of the inter-provincial exchange between the United States and Korea, to teach conversational English to Korean students. Sister Mary Lou is the seventeenth in a long line of sisters who have crossed the Pacific to serve with sisters of the Korean Province.

It did not take her long to settle in. “My years of high school teaching prepared me well. I was thrilled to

be back in the classroom. And my work in nursing homes with music therapy was also helpful.” She took her tambourine with her, and began teaching her students songs. “They love to sing, and it’s the thing many of them say they like the best.”

In less than two weeks, Sister Mary Lou reported that she was adventurous as far as the menu, eating seaweed, acorn squash, rice cakes, tomatoes, and even baked potatoes for breakfast. She picked up chopsticks immediately, honing her skills, much to the pleasure of the sisters and lay teachers, who were surprised and impressed with her efforts.

She ventured out after a brief orientation to the neighborhood, and found her way to the market, a twenty-minute walk. She was able to convey her needs to the shopkeeper by drawing an imaginary picture on her hand. Finally, she was able to purchase the needle

she wanted for a sewing project. Although it took a while, she made the connection. “It was fun!” For Sister Mary Lou, her outgoing personality has made the whole experience into a series of adventures.

The twelve sisters with whom she shares life in the convent are “a very cheerful group,” according to Sister Mary Lou. She experienced some early communication problems, but there was always someone who could tell her what the topic was and she was able to jump into the conversation through back and forth partial translations. There is a lot of laughter in the house. “The sisters I live with know how to have fun. They really celebrate birthdays, and they made my 75th very special—a steak dinner and a Baskin-Robbins ice cream cake!”



Before she began her Korean ministry, Sister Mary Lou was a volunteer at Saint Anne Home, Greensburg. The residents enjoyed her music therapy sessions.



A sister presently preparing to enter a doctoral program in theology in the United States has moved into the Somyong convent, so that Sister Mary Lou can work with her on language skills. It's a mutual arrangement, since Sister Yi Yeon does reverse translations for Sister Mary Lou.

Like most good teachers, Sister Mary Lou reports "loving the students." Although she was surprised by the noise level in the hallways, she conveyed to her classes how she expected them to come into her classroom. It worked! She finds them quite adept at reading English; speaking is more difficult. But that is the task she must accomplish with her students and the sisters. She organized a lunchtime English club so students can practice speaking English. Several teachers meet with her for individual tutoring. She's already working periodically with some students with special needs and with



some middle school students. "I love it," she says.

During a two-week break in the semester, Sister Mary Lou visited with sisters at the Provincial House, and soon found herself tutoring sisters eager to improve their English. Sometimes she encourages those who really have skills—good pronunciation and understanding of sentence structure—but lack confidence. Her comments, not surprisingly, again affirmed her calling to this ministry. "I am enjoying this so much!" There is tangible energy at the Provincial House, with many young sisters beginning their life as women religious. Sister Mary Lou joined them in their practice of Taekwondo. "They think I am young!"

The natural hospitality of the sisters spilled out as they planned side trips to see the sights and to encounter Korean history and culture. Sister Mary Lou visited Gyangjin to see



the Ecology Center, where two sisters minister, and then took off with the sisters for a hike in the mountains. The vistas were "gorgeous" and the hikers enjoyed a picnic high in the mountains, surrounded by lush green tea fields. Once down from the mountain, they went to the Multicultural Center sponsored by the sisters to assist newly-arrived immigrant women from other Asian countries. These women often come as brides for Korean men. The sisters teach them the Korean language and practical skills for everyday life in the country. More importantly, they find the warmth and caring atmosphere created by the sisters

*"I am enjoying this so much!" There is tangible energy at the Provincial House, with many young sisters beginning their life as women religious.*

a welcome oasis in an otherwise foreign land. Sister Mary Lou was clearly impressed. "This is wonderful work," she said.

On this hiatus from her regular teaching assignment, she visited Saint Joseph's School, where she interacted with students from kindergarten through high school. Little ones tried their English, shaking Sister Mary Lou's hand with a smiling, "Nice to meet you." One high school student, told her, "I want to go to Pennsylvania," to which she replied, "Then come along with me!"

Visits to Buddhist temples and to a celadon museum (preserving the history of the unique jade-colored pottery of Korea) ended her two-week break. But this was not the end of her ongoing explorations. A recent ice-fishing adventure was added to her accomplishments. "We caught three fish which we roasted over burning logs and ate on the spot. It was amazing how good they were!"

With the community, she celebrated the silver jubilees of eight sisters at a beautiful liturgy and party. Mothers and grandmothers of the sisters dressed in the traditional

Korean formal "hanboks" and the community remembered its history through a presentation about the four founding U.S. sisters who came to Korea in 1959.

In mid-October, the Korean province gathered for its annual "Planting Love" fundraiser for the Eunhae School for the Blind. It is "an elaborate affair," according to Sister Mary Lou who was moved by the entertainment provided by students with serious physical disabilities: singing, playing instruments, dancing.

Teaching continues and Sister Mary Lou continues to love her students and her ministry. She is impressed with the dedication of the other sisters, who after long days in the classroom take turns monitoring the school until 10 p.m. Korean students spend many hours studying and the sisters stay with them well into the night. The influence of the sisters cannot be minimized, Sister Mary Lou observed. Already this year, twenty students have been baptized or received into the church. The faith is strongly felt at Somyong High School, thanks to the ministry of the "Seton Sisters," as they are familiarly known. Her own



contribution of skill and spirit is a real gift to them, as Sister Mary Lou continues to be both a blessing and blessed in her ministry and life.



# Walking Her Talk—Kathy Rother Shares the Legacy of Elizabeth Ann Seton

Jane Strittmatter

*“She pioneered free education and stood for the rights of the poor and destitute, for racial equality and for religious freedom. Most importantly, she was a woman of consummate faith and hope and love. And she is ours to know; in her experience we can recognize our own and she can leaven our lives, as does a friend.”*

Saint Elizabeth Seton: *The Holiness of an American Woman*

Sister Mary Schmidt, SC

As a little girl, Kathy Rother grew up with stories of the consummate faith, hope, and love of a holy woman named Elizabeth Ann Seton. Kathy’s mother was a student of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, having attended both Saint Joseph Academy and Seton Hill College in Greensburg. “She knew so much about Elizabeth’s life—her marriage and children, the loss of her husband, her conversion to Catholicism, her difficulty with her sons, and her call to open Catholic schools. I knew her whole story. It was like a movie—a made-for-TV movie,” says Kathy of her mother’s teachings. “We had a little statue of her that said ‘Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton’—a bust of her in the habit.”

Like her mother, Kathy grew to admire Elizabeth for her trust in God, her perseverance through hardships, and her work as an educator. The rich experience of Elizabeth, initiated by the stories told to her as a child, shaped Kathy’s future. “That’s what got me to Seton Hill.”

The holy woman of Kathy’s childhood devotion became the first native-born North American to be canonized a saint in 1975. A few years later, Kathy entered religious formation with the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. But after a time, Kathy realized that she was

called in a different direction. As a former member of the community, she never lost her connection to Elizabeth Ann Seton or the Sisters of Charity. She treasures her bonds with the Sisters of Charity who, like their foundress Elizabeth, are pioneers in Catholic education. “It is a great and honorable legacy that should continue.” And continue it Kathy does with Elizabeth leading the way.

A Catholic educator for 36 years, Kathy feels privileged to be doing the work that was close to Elizabeth Seton’s heart. “I am walking her talk,” she explained. Like the pioneer Sisters of Charity who in 1933 were sent to staff schools in Arizona, Kathy has taught in the Southwest for most of her career. From 1984 until 2011,

Kathy served at her high school alma mater, Salpointe Catholic High School, Tucson, Arizona, first as a teacher and later as an administrator. She demonstrated her own Setonian pioneering spirit when she became the first lay principal of Bourgade Catholic High School in Phoenix at the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

Bourgade Catholic boasts of the highest ratio of Catholics students (95%) of any of the high schools in the Diocese of Phoenix. Financial aid is provided to 85% of the student body composed of diverse ethnic backgrounds. A large number of these urban students are second generation immigrants and first generation high school graduates,” Kathy explained. “We accept students who don’t ever think they will go to college, but we get them there!” In fact, merit scholarships totaling over \$18,000,000 were awarded to the 104 members of the 2014 graduating class, many of whom are now first generation college students. Heading such a school is certainly an experience that Kathy shares with Elizabeth.

After taking on leadership responsibilities at Bourgade Catholic, Kathy learned that a capital campaign completed in 2006 had raised money that was set aside for a chapel renovation project. A sparsely furnished room in the school’s student services building that served as the prayer space was transformed when renovation work began in 2013. The façade was redone and new religious furnishings were made for the chapel.

As the project progressed, plans began for the chapel dedication and the consecration

of the new altar at the request of the Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmstead, Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix. Consequently, school personnel discussed how they would go about choosing and acquiring a first class relic, a Church requirement for the consecration ritual. It was obvious to Kathy that a relic of Elizabeth Ann Seton would be most appropriate because it was Elizabeth who laid the foundation for Catholic education in the United States.

Although Kathy had several third class relics of the saint, they did not meet the requirements for the rite of consecration.

With confidence in the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Kathy put out a call for help to her friends in the congregation for a first class relic of Elizabeth Ann Seton, complete with Church documentation confirming its authenticity. As is typical within the community, the word spread quickly among the Sisters of Charity that there was a need; and, as it often happens, networking within the community expediently identified a sister who could help. Sister Susan Yochum relayed Kathy’s need to



Kathy Rother (left) shared the legacy of Elizabeth Seton with her students in a special way thanks to the generosity of Sister Mary Halloran (right).

Sister Bernadette Manning, who in turn notified Sister Mary Halloran, who had an answer for Kathy.

Gracious and kind, Sister Mary is always quick to provide assistance. On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 1999, she received a first class relic of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton from the community. “During the last fifteen



years, others who needed Elizabeth’s comfort were grateful to have her presence during their time of prayer and I was happy to provide the relic to them. When Kathy Rother’s

request was made known to me, I was certainly motivated to share my gift with the Bourgade Catholic High School,” explained Sister Mary. “I presented the relic as a tribute to our pioneer sisters who represented Elizabeth Ann Seton during the last century, long before and after her sainthood was declared, and to those Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill who currently minister in the Southwest.”

When Kathy announced that the school was in possession of a relic of Elizabeth Ann Seton, the chaplain, campus minister, and faculty reacted with amazement and

*Learn more about Elizabeth Ann Seton by visiting the Heritage Museum at Caritas Christi and our website, [www.scsb.org](http://www.scsb.org).*

*You may also experience the legacy of Elizabeth Ann Seton by visiting the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland, during the shrine’s Year of Celebration to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Mother Seton’s canonization. For more information, go to [www.setonheritage.org](http://www.setonheritage.org).*



A Year of Celebration to Commemorate Mother Seton’s Canonization on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1975

gratitude. On September 10, 2013, the relic was carried into the chapel dedication ceremony as the Litany of Saints was sung. With great respect, Bishop Olmstead honored Elizabeth Seton with his homily, telling the congregation of Elizabeth’s drive in executing her mission and the importance of her contribution to Catholic education. “I was elated to have a physical presence of my heroine present in the Bourgade Catholic High School Chapel,” said Kathy.

Sister Mary Halloran’s treasured relic was placed underneath the newly dedicated



altar and the tile space marked with crosses. A sign in the chapel notes the presence of the relic and recognition of Sister Mary Halloran’s meaningful gift to the students, staff, and families at Bourgade

Catholic High School, where Elizabeth’s story will continue to be told.

“The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, who have ministered at several schools in Tucson and Phoenix since 1933, will always have a presence in the Southwest because of Sister Mary’s relic in the Bourgade chapel,” Kathy reflected. “Elizabeth will always be a part of this school, present beneath the altar where the Eucharist that she loved so dearly is celebrated at each liturgy.”



## Saint Philip Students

Live the ANGELWAY for 100 Years

*Sister Louise Grundish*

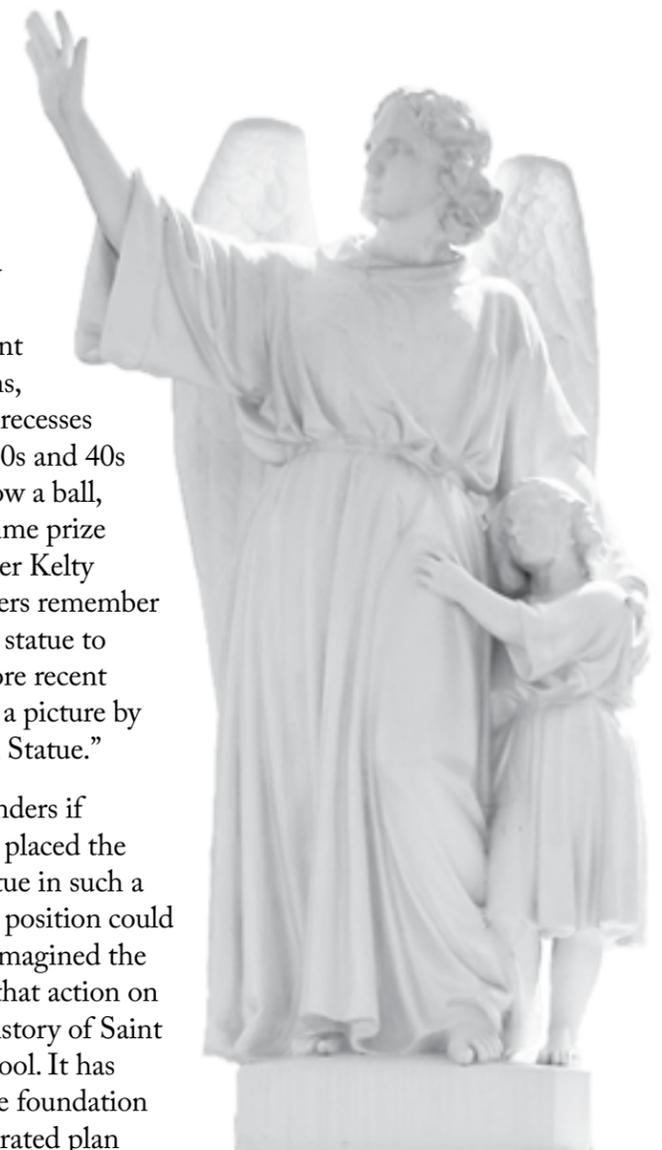
Construction of Saint Philip School in the Crafton neighborhood of Pittsburgh was completed one hundred years ago. Under the leadership of Sister Benigna Doran, the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill enrolled 200 students when classes opened in 1915. The sisters’ return to Saint Philip Parish to staff the school that year was an exciting and wonderful reunion. Due to a number of hardships, they had been forced to leave the parish after staffing a school there from 1885 to 1891. An angel statue was erected at the corner of the school yard when the sisters reopened the school. For the past 100 years, students of Saint Philip School have passed that same statue daily as they enter and leave the school.



The angel statue has held a particularly special spot in the lives of Saint Philip parishioners as they remember times spent in schoolyard races and rosary processions, in lining up for first communion, and in recesses with ball games and jumping ropes. Students of the 30s and 40s often tell of the fun with Father Kely. He would throw a ball, and if it was caught, Father often gave a nickel or a dime prize to the lucky recipient. Some also remember that Father Kely would share bags of candy as he joined in recess. Others remember Sister Maura calling them over as they walked by the statue to send them on an errand to the store. Of course, in more recent years, most parents captured the first day of school in a picture by the “Angel Statue.”



Graduating Class of 1935 with Sister Miriam Fidelis Guinagh and Sister Demitria McMahon



One wonders if those who placed the Angel Statue in such a prominent position could ever have imagined the impact of that action on the long history of Saint Philip School. It has become the foundation of an integrated plan



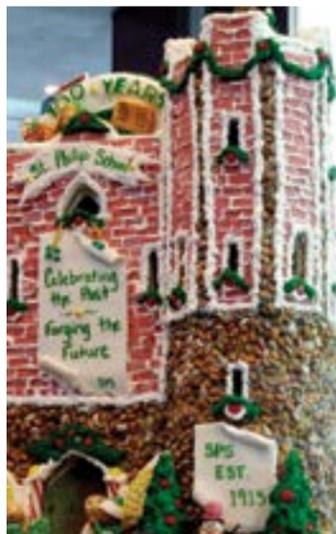
for helping students and staff live out their Catholic identity. The name given the plan is ANGELWAY, an acronym for Achieving Natural Goodness in Everyday Life. Through focus on the foundational virtues of self-discipline, generosity, responsibility, friendship, stewardship, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, holiness, work and respect, the children are encouraged to practice faith in everyday life. In a three-year cycle four virtues are explored each school year, and students at all grade levels work on the virtue emphasized.

Another important aspect of ANGELWAY is the opportunity to practice traditional Catholic devotions. Students have opportunities to pray the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross, attend Benediction, and learn about the

lives of the saints. The third component of ANGELWAY is a focus on social ministries. Children participate in the Vincent de Paul food bank as well as projects for Appalachia, Chimbote, Haiti, and other areas dealing with crisis. Respect for life at all ages is stressed and opportunities are provided for students to offer care or solace for those with life challenges.

Sister Geri Marr, who has served as the 20th Principal of Saint Philip School since 1996, cannot begin to talk about ANGELWAY without exuding pride and excitement. Parents and returning alumni have remarked on how impressed they have been with students they met at school functions or Catholic Schools Week events. At the 2014 National Catholic Educational Association Convention, Sister Geri accepted the Sadlier Catholic Identity Award. The citation reads in part, “for promoting a vibrant, living, and dynamic Catholic identity.”

The 2014-2015 school year has held additional excitement for Sister Geri, her staff, the students, and the Centennial Committee, all of whom have been celebrating the school’s centennial year. One of the highlights was the opening liturgy of September 28, 2014, with Bishop David Zubik as the celebrant. Many distinguished graduates of the school were in attendance. In addition,



there have been family fun days and nights, skating parties, car washes, and contests.

Students also celebrated the milestone birthday of their school in their commitment to those who need their concern and compassion. Their service projects have included a food drive, visits to nursing homes, collections for veterans and patients at Children’s Hospital, and prayer bracelets for the sick and elderly. During the Christmas season, a group of Saint Philip students received first prize in the Middle School Category of the PPG Wintergarden Gingerbread House Competition for their rendition of Saint Philip School.

As the centennial year progresses, many more events will take place. During Lent, the students intend to travel to Caritas Christi to pray their Shadow Stations of the Cross with the Sisters of Charity living at the motherhouse. This event is a gesture to thank the Sisters who have staffed the school through these hundred years. The crowning event of 2015 will be the Gala at the Grand Hall on Friday evening April 10, 2015. It is planned to be a grand reunion of the members of the 175 year old Saint Philip Parish and the 100 year old Saint Philip School, described in recent days as one of the best places to raise your children.

When the current eighth grade class prepares to leave the school in May, the Centennial Committee members, who have diligently labored to celebrate 100 years of Catholic education at Saint Philip School, will pass the torch on to the next generation who will enter the school in September, 2015. The newest members of the Saint Philip School community will begin a new year under the watch of the

Angel Statue at the corner of the school yard, standing tall and waiting to greet them.

Father Kelty’s dream of a vibrant and healthy school continues in the buildings he saw erected as a young priest. The stories of the many Sisters of Charity who taught at Saint Philip will remain legendary and give tribute to the virtues taught there. And the many vocations to the priesthood and religious life that evolved from Saint Philip School will continue give impact to the “Church Alive!”

The contributions of many generous donors to the Centennial Celebration of Saint Philip School help to assure the health of the school for years to come. May ANGELWAY keep Catholic identity strong in Crafton and everywhere that dedicated graduates go on to practice and live their Catholic faith, achieving natural goodness in everyday life.





9.15.2014

## Interview of Frank B. Fuhrer, Jr

By Julia Trimarchi Cuccaro, Esq.

Director of Development

**Q. Mr. Fuhrer, was there some specific ingredient in your background that gave you the impetus to start your own business?**

Yes, two reasons: first, my Dad. I grew up in East Brady, and my Dad had his own clothing store. So I knew a little about how it is to work your own business. I really had great parents.

**And the second?**

Well, my Dad was real upset with me after college. I went to Allegheny College. I loved it, and I was a good athlete and student. But when I came home after graduation, I sort of wasted my time for two years. My Dad decided to give me some tough love. He said I know you have talent, and then he threw me out of the house. Boy, he was tough, and I knew he meant it. So, my Dad went out and enrolled me in the Katz School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh.

I decided I'd show him. And I did. I graduated first in the class of 108 at Katz. I told my Dad I did it for him. But by now I knew I wanted to do it for myself.

**What happened after that?**

I went out and worked for Joseph Horne's and then the Heinz Company, and I managed to get myself fired from both jobs in about three months. Charles Heinz called me in and told me I was a nice kid but not cut out to work in a bureaucracy. "You should work for yourself and you'll do well."

**Was that a surprise?**

Well, I walked the streets of Pittsburgh for thirty days just thinking. I had no money. I wondered if I could sell. I finally decided I wanted to try insurance. So I went around and asked everybody I met, "What's the best insurance company you know?" I wanted the best.

**Who was that?**

It turned out to be Northwestern Mutual out of the mid-west. I went and interviewed and they gave me a job. I worked five years and brought my brother Richard with me too. He eventually had his own agency.

**You found you could sell?**

Yes, but in 1956, my Dad died suddenly, and I took a leave of absence to go home and help my mother run the store. I just thought it would be for six months, but I ended up being in East Brady for eight years. Still broke with a family to feed. I didn't make much money, and I was feeling pretty low. Finally I had to get out. I was intrigued with mass marketing, and I knew that's what I wanted to try.

**Explain what you mean by mass marketing.**

I just didn't want to do one-on-one sales. I knew I'd be bored with that. I knew the future was in the mass market. I didn't make a sale for four months. I was dead broke.

It turns out my mother had inherited a little money, and she loaned me \$20,000. She believed in me.

**What did you do with the gift?**

I became a millionaire in three years.

**Wow! How did that happen?**

I went to see Bob Cochran, the auto dealer. Bob asked me "how many accounts do you have?" I knew enough not to lie to him, so I told him, "If I get you and four more, I'll have five!" He laughed and gave me his business and some business leads. I ended up insuring installment loans. Mass marketing credit life insurance. I had all these companies - banks, auto dealers, you name it, and they worked for me, and I paid them a commission.

It was the best thing I ever did. Charles Heinz was right. So were my parents.

**There are more and more students in Pennsylvania studying entrepreneurship, including students at Seton Hill University, which as you know, was founded by the Sisters in 1918. Could you tell them the key ingredients, in your view, to being a successful entrepreneur?**

You've got to want to do it! You've got to be flexible, and you can't be afraid to take a risk—a logical risk—and you can't be afraid to lose.

**How important is financial and accounting expertise?**

It's further down on the list, but you do have to know money and how it works. The basics are all you need.

**What would you tell people who are looking for capital and are facing a bank for the first time?**

The only time a bank wants to lend you money is when you don't really need it. I always put my own money back into the business. But to get big, you need a bank.

**Your current wholesaling distribution business, how did you get into that?**

It was a lark. I've owned a lot of businesses, but I sell them if they don't make enough money. I never lost any money on a business either. Take this business—we went from handling about half a million cases in 1982 to about fifteen million today. I'd say we're in the top twenty distributors of Anheuser-Busch in the country.

**Amazing story! What was the last book you read?**

Patton. It was good. I like to read history, especially history of sports. I was a pretty good athlete in college, and I loved playing football and golf.

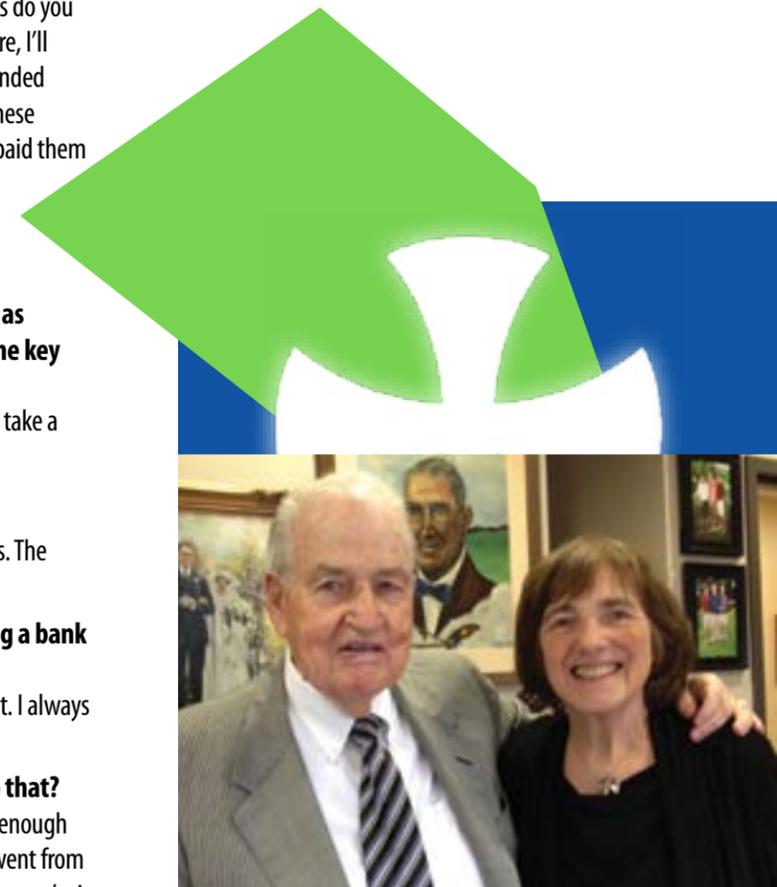
**Who do you most admire in golf?**

Bobby Knight. He was a unique man.

**Who is, for you, in your entire life, the most influential religious or spiritual person?**

That's easy. I was an altar boy for twelve years at St. Eusebius in East Brady, and Father Eustace was our priest. I loved him and think of him as the number one priest I've ever known. He was a quiet man. He was good to me. He was the most humble man I've ever known, and I've never forgotten him.

This is the first of a series of *Celebration Magazine* interviews that we are doing to celebrate, and share with you, our readers, the remarkable accomplishments of some of our friends, benefactors, partners, and volunteers. These are people who in some way demonstrate in their lives a great appreciation for their communities and for the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. Our first interview is with Frank B. Fuhrer, Jr. Mr. Fuhrer is a native of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, a community investor, entrepreneur, philanthropist, sports enthusiast, founder of Frank B. Fuhrer Wholesale in Pittsburgh's historic South Side, and longtime friend and supporter of the good works of women religious—in particular the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill. I was accompanied on this interview by Sister Jean Boggs.



Frank B. Fuhrer, Jr and Sister Jean Boggs

# 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*

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Greensburg, PA  
Permit No. 434



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 8, 2015**

### Lenten Visit and Vespers

Caritas Christi, Greensburg  
2:00 p.m.—Visit and Refreshments  
3:30 p.m.—Solemn Vespers  
724-836-0406, ext. 6615

**MARCH 28, 2015**

### Sounds of Charity Concert

McKenna Center  
Seton Hill University, Greensburg  
6:30–9:30 p.m.  
724-836-0406, ext. 6615  
Benefits the mission and ministries  
of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

**APRIL 1, 2015–MAY 31, 2015**

### Summer Cash Ticket

available for purchase  
DePaul Center, Greensburg  
8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
724-836-0406, ext. 6646

**MAY 22, 2015**

### Wellness Conference

Caritas Christi, Greensburg  
9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.  
724-836-0406, ext. 6640

**JULY 11-12, 2015**

### Jubilee Weekend

Greensburg

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**

### 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton

Time to be announced.

**OCTOBER 24-25, 2015**

### Concerts and Mass with Kim and Reggie Harris

Time to be announced.

The Sisters of Charity  
OF SETON HILL  
*present*

ANNUAL  
SOUNDS  
OF Charity

**March 28, 2015**

McKenna Center, Seton Hill University

*Featured Entertainment*  
**Glass City Swing Band**

**6:30** Hors d'oeuvres, Raffle Baskets,  
Silent Auction, Cash Bar

**7:30** Big Band Music  
Concert & Dancing

Early Bird Tickets – \$35  
until March 6

Tickets – \$40 after March 6  
Student Tickets – \$15

McKenna Center,  
Seton Hill University

*Free valet parking available.*

Call 724-836-0406, ext. 6615.

All proceeds benefit the mission and ministries  
of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

