

TEL-A-CROSS



Sisters of Holy Cross Newsletter

SPRING 2018

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE



It is with much sadness that we announce the passing away of Sr. Jacqueline Delage, CSC. She, "Jacquie", left us for her eternal reward on February 12, 2018. She was known to many of you, for she is the one, who, with her faithful friend, Sr. Suzanne Levesque, began the Development Office in 1995. Jacquie's great love of Community and of the sisters made her say "yes" to the challenge of establishing a needed office in our Sector. With the opening of the office, she was inspired to

begin writing a newsletter as a means of communication. Jacquie began by going to all the areas where the Sisters labored in order to collect the names of all the former students and that meant searching through Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Vermont. The first edition of Tel-A-Cross was published in the fall of 1995. Sr. Jacquie's first goal was to reacquaint former students with the Sisters so that, once again, we could be part of their lives and hopefully touch them with Peace, Hope and Love. We quote here from Thoreau's words found in the first TEL-A-CROSS: ***"May we be one in mind and heart."*** Jacquie also organized many fund raisers in order to meet the needs of our community as well as to provide occasions where we could all come together. She was the director of the Development Office for ten years. Sadly, failing health forced her to retire. We thank you, Sr. Jacqueline, for all that you did and we ask that from above, you help us continue your legacy in the years to come!

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!!!

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In Loving Memory

Sister Vivian Pichette, CSC

June 29, 1927 - September 11, 2017



Born in Manchester, NH, Sr. Vivian first entered the Sisters of Holy Cross in 1946. She later transferred to the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa in 1949, and returned to Holy Cross in 1979. Sister's extraordinary gift was her ability to work with students with learning difficulties. She was also recognized for her creation of an Innovative Learning Center and had the ability to provide remediation for a range of learning in the area of Language and Mathematics. It was also often noted that Sr. Vivian spent many extra hours in the classroom and it was always evident that children were happy in her presence. In her final years, we can attest to her caring and love offered to the elderly, sick and confused who surrounded her in the infirmary. May she now rest in peace.

Sister Liliosa Shea, CSC

(Liliosa)

January 6, 1928—November 9, 2017



As a native of Nashua, NH Sr. Liliosa joined Holy Cross in 1945. Her 72 years of service were extraordinary. We remember her as the Artist but she was also, at heart, a teacher. She taught in Elementary and High School in Ontario, Canada, Manchester and Somersworth, NH. She taught religious education at St. Pius X Church, Manchester, NH, was the founder of Notre Dame College Art Department and Art Professor there for 18 years. Within the community she served as a local superior and as a member of the Regional Team. In her later years, sister transferred to St. Albans, VT. There she served as the parish religious educator and pastoral minister. We will always remember Sr. Liliosa as a woman of deep faith, of great devotion to Mary and as one who lives on in the mastery of her artistry.

Sister Irene Ricard, CSC

(Sister Mary Antoinette Martyr)

July 19, 1934—December 8, 2017



A native of Pembroke, NH (better known as Suncook), Sr. Irene ministered in the field of education from Elementary to Junior High and on to College. After twenty years at Notre Dame College, she completed her next eight

years of that teaching career as a "Lecturer" and "English and Writing Assistant" at the Academic Resource Center of St. Anselm College. It is well known that Sr. Irene was loved and appreciated by her students and co-workers. When she became too ill to work, she then became the model of peace and acceptance, able to say her "yes" to God's will. We learn so much from one another.

Sr. Frances Lessard, CSC

(Sister Rose-Frances)

October 5, 1928—December 19, 2017)



Sister Frances was born in Manchester, NH As a Sister of Holy Cross she spent most of her life in NH. She was faithful to Holy Cross for 70 years, and all of these years were dedicated to Education. Twenty of these years were spent in Elementary, Junior and Senior High Schools. Her involvement in college level education began at Notre Dame College as Academic Dean and she later became Founder and Director of Academic Advising. When Notre Dame College closed she continued that role at Hesser College and later moved on to St. Anselm College.

Definitely, she was an educator at heart, and devoted to her students. Sr. Frances pushed, encouraged, praised and challenged her students...and even saved them from failure! Above all, Sr. Frances was a woman of prayer and of fidelity to her call.

Sr. Jacqueline Delage, CSC

(Sister Gerard of the Cross)

October 17, 1936—February 12, 2018



Sr. Jacqueline was born into a warm family of 3 sisters and 3 brothers in Nashua, NH and entered the Sisters of Holy Cross in 1956. She served the Congregation for 62 years. She ministered as an Elementary and Junior High School teacher in Grosvenordale, CT, Springfield, MA and Nashua, NH. Sr. Jacqueline also served as principal of St. Joseph School in Springfield, MA, and as Director of Religious Education in Greenville, NH, Brandon, FL and Suncook, NH. She was then named as interim administrator of Holy Cross Health Center, and later began the Development Office in the US Sector. Sr. Jacquie will be remembered as a "go getter", as well as for her sense of humor, her great love of Holy Cross, and above all as a woman of faith.

2018 JUBILARIANS

50th



Sr. Pauline Maurier, CSC



Sr. Joann Apicelli, CSC
(Sr. Mary Ellen)



Sr. Louise Auclair, CSC
(Sr. Louise of the Trinity)



Sr. Jeanne Boucher, CSC
(Sr. Edmund of the SH)



Sr. Jacqueline Brodeur, CSC
(Sr. Jean-Alfred)

60th

40th



Sr. Pamela Nolan, CSC



Sr. Lucille Gravel, CSC
(Sr. Roland of the Cross)



Sr. Suzanne Payette, CSC
(Sr. Rollande of France)



Sr. Cecile Provost, CSC
(Sr. Denis of the Redeemer)

65th

70th

75th

25th



Sr. Louise Audette, CSC
(Sr. Paul Michael)



Sr. Estelle Neveu, CSC
(Sr. Cecile Estelle)



Sr. Berthe Viens, CSC
(Sr. Philippe)



Sr. Therese Rioux, CSC
(Sr. Clement)



Judy Boivin, HCA
Holy Cross Associate

Congratulations to all our Jubilarians.

*May God touch each of you with kindness, compassion
and love.*



A Heartfelt Farewell

Elaine Poitras, CSC



If you are related to a Sister of Holy Cross, know a Sister of Holy Cross, or even just know Sisters of Holy Cross in general you have likely heard of Pittsfield, NH, a small town once characterized by its *growth, hospitality* and *production*. One parcel of land in Pittsfield has long been known for exactly those characteristics. We know it as 96 Fairview Road, a special setting that fills the senses with nature's exquisite beauty and welcomes those who seek to live peacefully, close to the land, in search of respite and relaxation, and, often, to nurture one's spirituality there in the bucolic presence of the Creator. It is no surprise, then, that it has throughout its history hosted a number of distinguished summer resorts, a corporate apple orchard, and a Franciscan Retreat Center prior to its purchase by the Sisters of Holy Cross in 1965.

It was then that Sacred Heart Province moved its Provincial House from Manchester to Pittsfield providing both a residence for the Provincial Council and office space to accommodate the work of supporting the Sisters and the mission of Holy Cross as well as for managing Provincial business. A local community of Sisters was also formed. These Sisters occupied a separate wing and attended to the management of the property in addition to a ministry of hospitality and presence. The Sisters welcomed parishioners to daily Mass and provided meeting space for various groups. Sisters from throughout the Province gathered there for their annual retreats and, for the first time, were able to enjoy fun, rest, and relaxation on vacation by the lake. In time, the Sisters were allowed to vacation else-

where while the number of Sisters overall was beginning to dwindle. Due to the resulting decline in summer visitors, the lake was sold. Congregational restructuring changed the Province to a Region and Regional administration relocated back to Manchester in 1990. By 1992 it was evident that due to age and dwindling numbers, the Sisters could no longer continue the work of hospitality and upkeep of the property. Pittsfield began a new phase in its history of growth, production, and hospitality.



Berakah, A Place of Blessing took its place both in the history of this property and in the history of Holy Cross when, in May of 1993, Sisters Pauline Plante and Claire Coll accepted the invitation of Sr. Lucille Cantin and the Regional Leadership Team to expand the already existing and

successful program that they directed in Londonderry, NH. In August, 1993, the new staff, including Sisters Pauline and Claire, was comprised of Sisters Doris Gagnon, CSC, Mary Schneiders, OP, Barbara Metz, SSND, and Father John Burchill, OP as it prepared to welcome the first participants for a sabbatical program for Women Religious.



Staff full time and volunteers

With the departure of Sr. Barbara and Fr. Burchill from the program came the arrival of Sisters Janice Rosman, OSF and Maureen Kelly, OSF as full-time team members. Later, Sr. Elaine Marquis, CSC joined the staff as administrative assistant replacing Sr. Doris. There was also a fairly large contingent of part-time and auxiliary staff available to serve the participants.

Berakah's success was astounding! Participants arrived from the world over, from 6 of the 7 continents. Over 19 years some 700 Sisters from numerous Congregations and diverse languages and customs came for rest and renewal. They came for support through life transitions, for guidance and counsel for their personal and spiritual journeys, to enjoy a new breath of life after many years in demanding ministries, and for "all of the above".

The courses and programs were rich with opportunities for exploring the depths of the many facets of one's life and being. These were supplemented by meaningful prayer and liturgical experiences, individual growth counseling and spiritual direction, guest speakers/facilitators who addressed topics relevant to the lives of women religious, as well as enriching activities such as dance, art, and field trips. There was even a pilgrimage to the Holy



Shrine to Our Lady of Smiles

Land at the end of the second semester for the first couple of years! Summer retreats and special programs provided life-giving and consciousness-raising opportunities for anyone seeking a time of quiet reflection and spiritual renewal. Although, with heavy hearts, the sabbatical program ended in May, 2012, Berakah reopened its doors in October, 2012 as a Retreat and Spirituality Center. While programs and service continued to be offered, independent groups booked weekends and experienced Berakah's warm hospitality.

In response to an invitation from the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids the staff agreed to host a one-month program entitled, "*Retirement for Mission — Journey into Deeper Love*" in the late summer of 2015. It was an immense success and so was repeated in 2016. The last program offered at Berakah was

The Mystical Perspective of Earth and



Peace Pole

Cosmic Consciousness: Walking the Sacred By-Paths".

Berakah was faithful to its mission until the very end. For 24 years it supported spiritual and personal *growth*, welcomed Sisters from all over the world with open-hearted *hospitality* and *produced* hundreds of women religious renewed for their mission to the people of God. So now, it is with profound gratitude and a touch of sadness that we say good-bye to this parcel of land on Fairview Road in Pittsfield, NH. We, Sisters of Holy Cross, praise God for the opportunity to have inhabited this tiny piece of the universe for just over 50 years and to have witnessed its outreach to the world. We pray that the spirit of *growth, hospitality, and production* that has served so many for so long and in so many different ways will continue long into the future.

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE U.S. SECTOR



Claire Coll, CSC
On Going Formation



Elaine Marquis, CSC
Community



Pam Nolan, CSC
Mission



Diane Dupere, CSC
Sector Leader

**God thank you for these leaders
whose hearts are large enough
to match the breadth of our own souls
and give us souls strong enough to
follow these women of
vision and wisdom.**

THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND SOLIDARITY MISSION GROUP OF THE U.S. SECTOR

By Lucille Gravel, CSC

For six years, we have been educating ourselves on the issue of human trafficking. Through reading, viewing DVDs on the topic, hearing from victims of trafficking, we became aware of the enormity of the situation of human trafficking in the world, in our country and even in our “backyards”.

This awareness spurred us to action; we wanted to become involved with victims of human trafficking. We started networking with Real Life Giving, a community outreach program which educates on trafficking in New Hampshire and encourages action and advocacy. Two years ago eight members of the group attended their workshop: *Human Trafficking 101*. This past fall we invited **Real Life Giving** to offer this same workshop to the sisters in the U.S. Sector and lay persons. There were about sixty in attendance. We plan to sponsor it again so more people can be made aware of this horrific situation.

We have also been involved in their Backpack Cam-

paign. These backpacks provide personal care items to victims and at-risk adults and youth. Last year ten backpacks were prepared and given to **Real Life Giving** for distribution to these victims. With the help of the Sisters, Associates and Companions in the U.S. Sector, we have just prepared eight more backpacks which were given to Donna Plourde, Director of **Real Life Giving**, when she attended our Rights of Women and Solidarity Mission Group meeting on Monday March 5th. We plan to continue networking with this organization in the future and using every opportunity to learn more about this issue.



LETTER TO THE STUDENTS OF PARKLAND FLORIDA

We, the sisters of Holy Cross, are a community who have given most of our lives reaching out to the young. We have been deeply touched regarding all that the young are experiencing, such as the shootings taking place in so many schools. We are proud of these young students for letting the world know that they do not feel safe not even at school. Our hearts go out to them. So it is that one of our members wrote a letter on our behalf to the students in Florida assuring them of our prayers. Please join us in prayer...

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
c/o Ty Thompson, Principal
5901 Pine Island Road
Parkland, FL 33076



Dear Mr. Thompson, Staff and Students,

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are alright, they are happy. *(Sister Mary Southard, CSI)*

We write this letter to tell you we are with you in these days of mourning, of suffering in ways only you know—deeply know. This is our proactive stand of support for you since we are now retired, most of us, having been teachers and now are among the grandmothers/great-grandmother kind of women.

We encourage you to keep on giving voice to your heart's desire for justice for yourselves, for those friends so cruelly and suddenly ripped from your lives, from the lives of their families, their parents, indeed from us all!

Maybe this promise of our prayers seems not enough but, trust us, we're good at praying and at loving you. Have we not heard you plea so passionately and eloquently, for the banning of automatic and semi-automatic ammunition, because it's the right, the human thing to do? Have we not seen you bearing banners in protest to awaken us from our indifference?

We a, the undersigned, have spent our lives praying and teaching and caring for our young because you are our promise of a better future.

Here, then, is what we pray for you all: Go forward, comforted by your loved ones' presence, strengthened by all the surrounding love and prayers of those who care.

With Peace and Love,

By Sally Stearns, CSC

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 12 , 2018
HOLY CROSS YARD SALE
AT HOLY CROSS HALL
357 Island Pond Rd
Manchester, NH
From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MAY 17, 2018
Spaghetti Supper
To benefit Holy Cross
Learning Center.
Where: **HOLY CROSS HALL**

HOLY DROSS ANNUAL FAIR
October 13, 2018
Where: **HOLY CROSS HALL**

If you can help the following articles are needed:

- ◆ stuffed animals in good condition.
- ◆ Prizes for Penny Sale (new items)
- ◆ Knitted Goods
- ◆ Gift Certificates \$10 or more

Your help is always greatly appreciated!!

Send or bring articles to :
Sisters of Holy Cross
365 Island Pond Road
Manchester, NH 03109

Please label package
for Fall Fair
And add your name.

THANK YOU



TEL-A-CROSS

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Manchester, NH 03109-4811

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We do not share our mailing list. cscdevoffice@srssofholycross.com.

Newletter Subscription: To subscribe or unsubscribe, contact the Development Office at 603-622-9504 ext. 23 or

Memorials

Why Not...

Send a donation to the Development Fund in memory of a loved one who has been called home to God? Put a notice in the paper suggesting that friends of the deceased do the same. Your loved one will be included in the daily prayers of The Sisters of Holy Cross.

Memorial Donations In Memory Of:



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|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Joann Shevlin | Anita Sweeney | Langlois Family | Stephen Mendoza | Marcia Leclerc |
| Jane Gendron | William Twining | Fluette Quiette | Albert Labrecque | Robert Provencher |
| Rolande St.Denis, CSC | Frances Morrissette | Louis & Marie Roy | Suzanne Pirog | Irene Ricard, CSC |
| Robert Lavallee | Pauline Chisholm | Roger Delage | Susan Rioux | Diane Zaffero |
| Lucienne Martell, CSC | Chuck Cannizaro | Isabelle Smith | Yvette Desjardins | Marjorie Willett |
| Therese Bolduc, CSC | Cecile Charette, CSC | Thomas Daignault | Susan Rioux | Betty Austrino |
| Frances Lessard, CSC | Elena Rey | David Valent | Irene Ricard, CSC | Janet Hollister |
| Jacqueline Delage, CSC | Charles Lamy | Laurette Quiette | Robert Provencher | Albert Labrecque |
| Lorette Santa Barbara | Jane Tafe | Roland Antil | Fluette Quiette | Langlois Family |
| Yvette du Cap, CSC | Cecile Chabot | Jeannette Dick | Stephen Mendoza | Anita Sweeney |