

TEL-A-CROSS



Sisters of Holy Cross Newsletter

Winter 2016

CIRCLE THE CITIES WITH LOVE

By Elaine Poitras, CSC

On Sunday, January 15, some 100 people gathered at Infant Jesus Church in Nashua, NH and joined with 95 other groups that gathered in the US, Australia, and Guam to *Circle the Cities with Love*. This community of faith included men and women from diverse faith traditions as well as representatives of 5 religious communities of women and men. The Sisters of Holy Cross, including Associates and a significant delegation of retired Sisters from St. George Manor, were well represented.



The organizers of *Circle The Cities with Love* invited women and men of Faith to come together, holding hands, in prayer and in silent meditation. This 30 minute action was designed as a manifestation of “the power of LOVE from which healing, peace, and justice might flow to our cities, our country and our world.” (from the *Circle the Cities with Love* mission statement.)



We are grateful to Sr. Denise Turcotte, CSC who planned, organized, and led this gathering as well as to all who assisted her. Denise learned of this event from a recent participant in the Berakah Program, who was one of the organizers of the national event. Sr. Denise is to be commended not only for undertaking this endeavor but also for taking the opportunity to proclaim

to those assembled the stand for non-violence taken by the Sisters of Holy Cross. We also extend our gratitude to Father Pierre Baker, Pastor, who not only graciously accepted to host the event at Blessed John the XXIII Parish but participated as well.

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Peace Message by Pope Francis

I wish peace to every man, woman and child, and I pray that the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity and make active nonviolence our way of life... May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life.

In Loving Memory

Sr. Georgette Beauregard

(Anita de L'Immaculée)

September 30, 1934—September 29, 2016



Sr. Georgette was born in Manchester, NH along with her beloved twin sister. She chose to enter Holy Cross in 1955. After her novitiate she taught in the elementary schools in Adams and Attleboro, MA and in Grosvenordale, CT She also taught Religious Education classes at our Lady of Lourdes Church in Pittsfield, NH. Georgette favored internal services: she was a long time dedicated sacristan, a lover of the beauty of nature and a person who cared for all life. She was also an outstanding seamstress . . . a friend of all in need! Her gentleness was ever evident as she cared for animals big and small. A woman of prayer, Georgette favored the Divine Mercy Chaplet and fingered it daily. . . one might even say throughout her 61 years in Holy Cross.



Sr. Louise Fafard, CSC

(Alphonse du Sauveur)

Sept. 14, 1920—October 11, 2016



Sr. Louise was a native of New Bedford, MA. At the age of 17, she chose to join the Sisters of Holy Cross in Canada. After her first vows she taught in the schools in Montreal, Quebec and was later transferred to New England where she taught in Springfield, Attleboro and New Bedford, MA and later in Nashua, Rochester and Manchester, NH and in North Grosvenordale, CT. Following her teaching career she served as a dietitian in New Market and Rollingsford, NH. She also served as Pastoral Minister at the Merrimack County Nursing Home for 23 years.

Sister retired to St. George Manor, Manchester, NH in 2001. In 2010 she was transferred to Holy Cross Health center where she remained until her death. Sister Louise also gave 79 years of prayerful service to the world. We remember Sr. Louise as a woman of prayer. Always attentive to the sick, she loved to share her devotion to Mary and the Angels with them.



Sr. Cecile Charette, CSC

(Cecile-Marguerite)

October 15, 1920—October 26, 2016



Sr. Cecile was born in Lowell, MA. She entered Holy Cross in 1939. Sr. Cecile graduated from Our Lady of Angels in Saint Laurent, Quebec, where her love and gift for music was cultivated. She taught voice and violin for 23 years in Montreal and was later called to serve at Notre Dame College in Manchester, NH where she served as professor of music for 40 years. She also directed the Concert Choir for 23 years.

- A woman of many talents and interests, she also enjoyed listening to opera, reading, traveling and playing Scrabble. She was fond of people. . . young and old! Nonetheless, developing the person and the musical talents of her students was her abiding passion. Sr. Cecile will be remembered for her smile that could light up any room!

These women lived and loved in God...God lived and loved in them, and in death they live on in God.

A Good Steward

By Elaine Theoret, CSC



What does it mean to be a good steward? I think it means administering someone's goods and property with justice and integrity.

For eighteen years now Sr. Pauline Labrie has been the finance director of our sector. I cannot even begin to imagine what those years that involved the major and not so major challenges, re-

sponsibilities and decisions.

Who is this woman and how has she been able to handle all of this for so many years? Pauline is first a woman of deep faith. She trusts the Spirit and listens to that inner voice believing that God will provide. Whenever a sister approaches her, she can be sure she will be received warmly. Pauline always finds time to listen not just with her ears but with her heart as well. She always gives one the time needed.

Justice is very important to Pauline. She always stands on the side of what is right and just. For her a sister's needs is very important and she will do her utmost to see that this happens. There are times when hard decisions call for difficult answers and yet Pauline does so with a great deal of compassion.

We, in this sector, have been very blessed to have her as our finance director. Pauline, please know that all your hard work, difficult decisions, and challenges have not gone unnoticed. We truly appreciate all you have been and continue to be for us here in our sector. We thank you and we ask our loving God to continue to hold you gently.

Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done!



Finance Office Staff

L. Pauline Labrie, CSC Director
Kelly Murphy Financial Advisor
Suzanne Payette, CSC Assistant

Upcoming Events

May 11, 2017 At Holy Cross Hall at 6pm Cost \$15

Spaghetti supper to benefit the **Holy Cross Family Learning Center.**

FAIR OCTOBER 14, 2016

THINGS NEEDED

- Penny Sale Prizes
- Old Jewelry
- Gift certificates of \$10 or more
- Knitted goods

Your help is always greatly



Mass is celebrated on the 26th of each month for you, our benefactors.

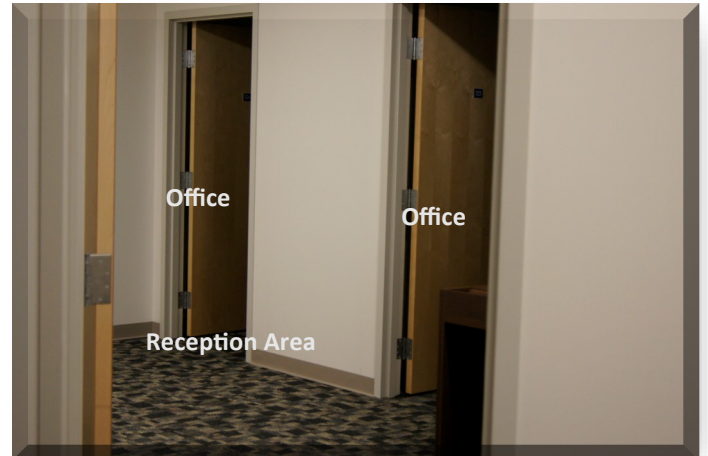
It's A Very Moving Story

By Elaine Poitras, CSC

If there were one word to define the lives of the Sisters of Holy Cross over the last year it would be **"MOVING"**! The very essential and costly renovations needed at St. George Manor have required a great deal of sacrifice and relocation. You might remember that, in order for the renovations to be completed the Sisters living at the Manor had to **MOVE** and then **MOVE** back. Some of our houses that were not particularly "elderly friendly" have been or will be sold. Sisters who called those houses "home" have also had to **MOVE**. Land on either side of the Manor has been sold. A parcel of that land holds our Administrative Offices and so now these will soon **MOVE** from the converted warehouse space at 377 Island Pond Road to newly designed office space behind the chapel at **365 Island Pond Road**.

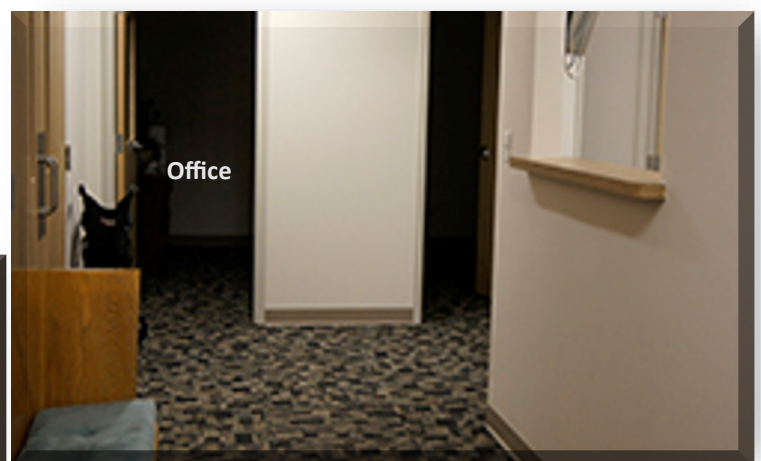
Our Sisters on the clinic level at the Manor are delighted with their new "suites" that include a bedroom, sitting room, and a private half-bathroom. They are thoroughly enjoying decorating their newly expanded personal space. The rooms on the 2 levels above the clinic are being refreshed with new paint and new carpeting. All the rooms have new windows, phones and access to wi-fi.

New chairs and carpeting in the renovated, albeit smaller chapel, create a more intimate atmosphere conducive to deepening both personal and communal prayer and reflection. The Administrative Offices, just behind the chapel, include a welcoming space at the front of the office suite for the receptionist as well as offices for the US Sector Leader, and for those Sisters responsible for Com-



munity, Finance, Development and for the administrative assistants. There is also a conference room and small dining area. An elevator serves visitors and is located at the entrance found in the back of the building.

So, there has been and will be a great deal of MOVING! There are two things that are particularly MOVING, however. It is incredibly "MOVING" to see our retired Sisters, women who have given their lives to the service of God's people, happy and comfortable. It is also incredibly MOVING to realize what a major part you have played in making this project a reality through your prayerful and financial support! We can't thank you enough. God bless you for your generosity!



Welcoming Area that leads to reception and offices

WE ARE FAMILY

Sr. Catherine Poirier, CSC & Sr. Lucille Gravel, CSC

Our many friends of Holy Cross are well aware of the challenges that we have faced in renovating our age-old residence for our frail, aging sisters. It is likely that most of our readers are familiar with the challenges of home improvements. The older the structure, the greater the problems! Now, add to this a significant number of elderly sisters gently tiptoeing around the workers, the tools, carpeting, and cans of paint while inhaling fumes, etc... It worked for a while but soon became evident that time and safety called for action.



So it is that Sr. Rachel Jette, our Community Director, had to displace our sixteen elderly sisters! Suitcases and bags were packed quickly and all furnishing was stored and the miracle unfolded!

Ah! The five sisters at Holy Infant Jesus Convent in Nashua responded to Sr. Rachel's call. They generously made room, first in their hearts, and then in the convent. Seven sisters were somehow added to the five! Additional care was added by the regular visitations of leadership and the Clinical Director.

Two months later, those who opened their hearts and doors realized that this experience enhanced their love for one another in Holy Cross. It was indeed a blessing and an opportunity to grow in wisdom, charity and the understanding of what it means to be members of the Family of Holy Cross.

Nine more sisters in need of a temporary home! A call to the Monastery of the Precious Blood. . . Without a mo-



ment of hesitation our sisters have a home where they are soon received with hugs and words of welcome!

What an opportunity to spend two months in an atmosphere of monastic silence and prayer in a world that is filled with activity and noise! The Precious Blood Sisters were generously attentive to every possible need and comfort. They even shared the companionship of

their two Bichons Betty and Wilma.

Upon the time for departure both communities gathered for prayer and thanksgiving. We, the Manor sisters, were especially pleased to have learned the names and faces of the cloistered women of prayer and to experience them as wonderful, smiling women who minister to all through their lives of prayer and love for all of humanity. They are indeed the guardians of our city and they are now our friends. . .



Betty & Wilma



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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.

Contributing Editor: Pauline Morneau, CSC
Layout/Photography: Suzanne Levesque, CSC

Memorial Donations Given in Memory of:

Rolande St.Denis, CSC
Sr. Jeannette Beaudoin
Germaine Michaud
Robert Lavallee
Joseph & Alma Gagne
Cecile Charette, CSC
Catherine Tucker
Carl Charbonneau

Yvonne Richard, CSC
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