



Grey Nuns Regional Voice

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St. Joseph Region, Lexington, MA

Sisters Theresa and Irene Leave MI

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In April Sisters Irene Harper and Theresa Rousseau left the MI Residential Community. There was sadness in leaving MI after 30 plus years and many residents expressed their sadness at seeing them go. *"Their biggest fear is no religious services on Wednesday night and no organized Masses once a month. Both of us reassured them it would be taken care of by administration."* says Sr. Theresa.



The Holy Union Sisters in the complex, with whom Sisters Theresa and Irene often met with, celebrating birthdays, and praying together, organized a pot luck dinner in conjunction with Sister Jeanne Poor on March 23rd.

Prayer and sharing was part of saying their goodbyes. On March 23rd, Kathy Callahan and Barbara Grant had a tea for the Sisters to thank them for their services and to allow the MI Nursing Staff and patients to express their farewells and best wishes.

March 24 was the last time Sisters Irene and Theresa had a Mass at MI Residential for the residents. They had planned anointing of the residents at this Mass and Father James Wenzel, O.S.A and Father Peter Gori, O.S.A agreed to be the celebrants. Following the mass a collation was served in order to give the residents a chance to say good bye as well.



Sister Theresa writes, *"A journey's end, but Sister Irene and I look forward to a new journey in Lexington."*

Editor's Note:

If you are receiving the paper version of this newsletter and would like to receive it electronically, please send an email to Peggy Kelly at

pkelly@sgmlex.org.

Thank you!



A New Ministry for a Grey Nun

Sr. Mary Sears, SGM, (84) member of the Youville Place Community in Lexington, MA, is a nurse by profession and served in Grey Nuns Administration for many years. She always loved children. When she was Provincial Superior, I remember how excited she was when she came for the Official Visit at Mount St. Ann (residence for children) in Worcester, MA. She often would ask about certain children she had met then.

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In 2009, Sr. Mary was given a St. Brigid Parish bulletin where they were asking for volunteers to tutor elementary school children of neighboring towns on a one-to-one basis. Now that Sr. Mary's Grey Nun friend whom she had visited faithfully in Lawrence, MA had died, she found herself having more time on her hands. So she decided to look into the request and was accepted as a volunteer.

Every Monday and Wednesday morning Sr. Mary drives to the Mac Arthur Elementary School in Waltham, MA where she tutors reading to a first grade boy for a half hour and then two second grade boys for another half hour.

On Tuesdays, she walks over to the Armenian Academy behind Youville Place, and helps a fifth grade girl with her reading.

Sr. Mary speaks fondly of her students. She is happy to have found an additional way to show the compassionate love of the Father to others, this time with God's little ones.

-Suzanne Forget, SGM

Friendly Visit to St. Joseph Area



When the Sisters of St. Joseph Area (USA) first heard that Sr. Jacqueline St. Yves, SGM, Congregational Leader, was planning on making a friendly visit to them in the spring of 2010, they were looking forward to it. The date finally arrived: Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Sr. Jacqueline traveled by bus from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She was picked up at the terminal in Boston, MA by Sr. June Ketterer, Area Coordinator and Sr. Gladys Marhefka. Sr. Suzanne Forget was at the Mass. Avenue residence in Lexington, MA preparing a simple supper for their arrival. After warm greetings, it was a pleasure for all the Sisters to enjoy Sr. Jacqueline's presence among them. She had a lot to say and seemed to be much at ease and in great spirit. After supper, as the evening was already advanced, Sr. Jacqueline retired to her room.

The next day March 3, Sr. Jacqueline went to Youville Place Assisted Living Residence in Lexington, MA where she was welcomed and settled in the guest room. There was Mass at 8:00 AM and Sr. Jacqueline spent the rest of the day visiting the 19 Sisters in their apartments or chatting with them in the halls or at the country kitchen over a cup of coffee. She seemed to enjoy herself and so did the Sisters.

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“We will live the Year of the Transfer of the Remains and look to the future.”

At 3:30 PM that day, there was a meeting of the Sisters of Youville Place and Mass. Avenue in the Adult Day Center. Sr. Jacqueline again showed much graciousness in greeting the Sisters and addressed them for about an hour. She indicated that she was happy to be among them, reviewing with them what she wrote in her Communique of December 13, 2009 concerning the development of the future residence for the Grey Nuns and other parties. Construction should begin in the fall and probably by early 2012, it will be ready to be occupied by Grey Nuns and Diocesan Priests in any of its three levels: independent living, semi-autonomous/ assisted living and Nursing Home. Sr. Jacqueline briefly spoke about the South America missions, Chateaugay, and Nicolet.

Speaking of the General Chapter of 2011, Sr. Jacqueline emphasized that it would be marked by simplicity, minimizing lengthy reports. “We will live the Year of the Transfer of the Remains and look to the future.” She personally feels that the event of the Transfer of the Remains of Saint Marguerite d’Youville is an inspiring, joyful, and hope-filled event. She announced that its original date in October has been changed to December 7-9, 2010, as Blessed Brother Andre of Montreal (Praise God!) will be canonized in October. There followed a few questions which Sr. Jacqueline answered graciously. Sr. June warmly thanked Sr. Jacqueline for her positive presence and her transparent sharing and closed the meeting with a beautiful prayer on “*Praying the Beatitudes Today.*”

For her approaching birthday, Sr. Jacqueline was given a lovely corsage. There followed an agape dinner of salad, delicious pizzas, and tasty chicken potpies, enjoyed by all. There was much conversation and camaraderie among all the Sisters. Then, all sang Happy Birthday and “C’est a ton tour” when the cake with candles was brought in. Some gifts were presented to Sr. Jacqueline for which she was grateful. Then there was some spontaneous singing of popular songs/ hymns initiated by different tables! “How good it is for Sisters to be together!” There were some homemade cookies distributed, courtesy of the Sisters in North Stratford, NH who could not be present. At the end, Sr. Jacqueline thanked everyone and all left the Adult Day Center with a peaceful and grateful heart.



On Thursday March 4 at Youville Place, Sr. Jacqueline continued her visit, greeting the employees and the residents as well as the Sisters. At 11:30 AM, Sr. June accompanied Sr. Jacqueline to have lunch with the Grey Nuns Chaplain Rev. Walter Cuenin, who works full time at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. It was a very enjoyable meeting. Then the two travelers visited the Sisters in Lawrence, MA as well as Sr. Camille Noel, patient at the Maristhill Nursing Home, Waltham, MA. After Sr. June drove Sr. Jacqueline back to Youville Place, where she returned to her community at the Mass. Ave. residence, Lexington.



Friday March 5 brought Sr. Jacqueline and Sr. June to the North Stratford, NH community, where Sisters Helene Georges and Marie Mansfield warmly welcomed them. There followed a delicious agape luncheon which was most pleasant. It was nice for the missionaries to have a chance to visit with Sr. Jacqueline as she affirmed their commitment and enthusiasm in reaching out and serving the people of St. Marguerite d’Youville Parish (Sacred Heart and St. Francis Xavier Churches). Many people of the surrounding area have been seriously impacted by the economic crisis.

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By Friday evening, Srs. Jacqueline and June had traveled to the Grey Nuns House in Marshfield, MA for a couple of days of R & R. They both returned refreshed and grateful!

"How good it is for Sisters to be together!"

~Sr. Jacqueline

On Monday March 8, Srs. Jacqueline and June took a plane to Toledo, Ohio to visit Sr. Marcia Wiley. On March 9, while Sr. June, Board Member, attended a meeting at Mercy College, Sr. Jacqueline visited with Sr. Marcia and her mother Annabelle, to the delight of both. On March, 10, Sisters Jacqueline and June returned to the Mass. Ave. Residence, Lexington, MA for supper. Sr. Jacqueline visited Sr. Suzanne Forget that evening and chatted with Sr. Gladys Marhefka on her way to the bus terminal the next day, March 11.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Area were most grateful to their God and to Sr. Jacqueline for the joys and blessings received during her friendly visit. Sr. Jacqueline's gentle and approachable manner, as well as her gifts of insight and sound spirituality, are well appreciated.

An Eastertide Project for the Homeless of Boston

Associates of St. Marguerite

On Sunday, April 11th, the Lexington cluster hosted Brothers Didacus and Maseo of the Little Brothers of St. Francis. They came as guests of the Lexington cluster to share the history of their order and to explain their inner city ministry while also hearing about St. Marguerite d'Youville and our Associate activities.

To assist the Brothers in their work the Associates contributed full bags of new, white cotton socks to be distributed by the Brothers to the homeless of both Boston and Lawrence. A helpful \$100 check was also presented for their ongoing outreach needs.



Relief for the People of Haiti



A united financial collection from every cluster of the Associates of St. Marguerite d'Youville was recently held. All of the money raised was distributed as direct aid to our Haitian sisters and brothers most in need. Following the release of \$1,500.00 from the Associates central Treasury and approved by the Board of Directors, the clusters of Lawrence, Lexington and Nashua were able to contribute an additional 1,200.00. Three individual checks of \$900.00 were then forwarded to three branches of Grey Nuns who now minister in Haiti:

The Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe, The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa. The Associates were very pleased to keep the distribution of these funds within the larger Youvillian family so that we could be assured that the money would be given quickly to those most in need. In addition, the Toledo Associates made their own contributions to the Mercy Sisters Haitian Relief program through the St Vincent Mercy Medical Center.



ASMY Board of Directors



Shown left to right are Debbie Dionne, Board Secretary, Camilie Twiss, Board Chairperson, Pat Hurd, the Nashua Cluster Board Representative at Large, Tom Fallon, Executive Director of the Associates, Dick Ryan, the Lexington Cluster Board Representative at Large and Susan Lemaire, the Lawrence Cluster Board Representative at Large. Missing was Richard J. Plamondon, the ASMY Board Treasurer.

The new members of St. Marguerite d'Youville Board of Directors have been chosen. Through both election and appointment the following Associates have generously agreed to serve on the ASMY Board for the 2009-1010 year.

Special thanks is extended to both Kathy Brandt and Mary DiLuna who have stepped down from the ASMY Board. Mary has been the Lexington Cluster Representative at Large and Kathy has served as both the Vice-President and Secretary. Both of these faithful Associates have served for many years and have worked hard to help the Associate Board Leadership grow stronger as we have all embraced and instituted the necessary changes brought about by autonomy.



5th Annual 'All That Jazz Brunch' a Success!

On Saturday, March 27th, *Neighbors Who Care* held their 5th annual musical brunch at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham, Massachusetts. "The Jem Jazz Trio" entertained nearly 100 guests from their extensive collection of jazz standards. As usual, guests were treated to a delicious brunch served by the friendly staff at the Chateau. There were fifteen raffle prizes with tickets only \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. This led to many excited guests buying tickets with enthusiasm. Many who attended are loyal supporters who have come to several of the brunches. With support from them, new attendees, plus our generous sponsors, *Neighbors Who Care* was able to raise over \$20,000!



We could not have accomplished this without the hard work of so many which included Sr. Dorothy Cooper, SGM, Nancy Mulvihill Callahan, Jim Callahan, Peter Hermes, our excellent emcee, and Paula Anton and Anne Cody, who worked so hard on the raffles. Jean Griffin, as well as many others, helped to set up the hall. We also owe a great debt of gratitude to Louis Nocera, the owner of the Chateau, who generously makes the Chateau available to us each year. In addition, we are very grateful to the wonderful volunteers of *Neighbors Who Care* who selflessly donate their time and care to the clients who include homebound older adults and adults with disabilities.

Neighbors Who Care has been up and running now for over five years. It has served over 105 clients providing such services as escort and transportation to medical appointments, help with grocery shopping, friendly visiting, and help with reading and bill paying. Most importantly the volunteers have given friendship and emotional support to older adults who sometimes do not have family to help them with the difficulties they face in their later years.

~Eve Carr
Coordinator

