

# SISTERS' JOURNEY

*Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate*



## Congratulations, Jubilarians!



*Pictured above, L-R: Sister Doloretta Madigan (60 years), Sister Dorothy Carey (60 years), Sister Carmelita Mulry (60 years), Sister Veronica Mitchell (60 years), Sister James Frances Ambrose (50 years), Sister Monica Carroll (60 years), and Sister Rita Nealon (50 years).*



### THE COME & SEE WEEKEND

Holy Spirit Convent

October 9-11, 2009

*We welcome women who are called to our way of life and ministry.*

**We welcome women**

- who have completed high school or GED
- professional women
- women who are considering a career change



Vocation Directors Sister Genevieve Cunningham and Sister Gabriel Hession discuss plans for the next Come & See.

A vocation in the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate is a call to follow Jesus as he was led by the Spirit in total trust and abandonment in giving himself in compassion for the poor.

Contact Sister Gabriel at [gghession@hotmail.com](mailto:gghession@hotmail.com)

This summer, seven Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate were honored for their commitment to the people of God and to their community. Together they represent 370 years of service; individually, they have stories of lives changed through the Congregation's Mission and through the ministries they have carried out over decades of service around the world. The following narratives give a glimpse of the work of our Jubilarians in their own words.

**Sister Dorothy Carey:** I am the oldest child of Eileen and Patrick Carey. I attended high school at the Convent of Mercy and, later, joined the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in

Mountbellew, Ireland. I did my formation training at our Motherhouse in San Antonio. I cannot thank God enough for my vocation which has provided me with the support of my Sisters, opportunities for educational advancement and spiritual growth. I have served as a teacher, principal, director of religious education, and worked with the economically poor.

Suddenly, I find myself in the 60<sup>th</sup> year of my religious life! I am grateful to all who have been part of that life along the way.

**Sister Monica Carroll:** I am one of nine children, raised in Dublin, and educated by the

## Jubilarians (Continued from page 1)

Irish Sisters of Charity. However, I chose to enter the SHSp's.

In April 1948, I journeyed with three other postulants to San Antonio, TX and was professed in August 1949. From then until 1971, I followed the life of a Holy Spirit Sister but then the "God of Surprises" took over my life. I found myself working in administrative positions within the community, in neighborhood development, in ministry to the elderly (including our own retired Sisters) and, for the past sixteen years, ministering in Zambia. When asked when I plan to retire, I simply answer "I am waiting for the next invitation from my God of Surprises!"

**Sister Doloretta Madigan:** As an eight-year-old child, I attended my first movie --- the story of missionaries in Africa working with the poor little children. However, it was to Texas, not Africa, that the missionary call came and the seeds of my vocation became a living reality for me. I have Masters Degrees in administration and in special education combined with a heart filled with loving compassion for the poor. I have taught in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Although I am officially retired, I continue to work as a reading skills teacher. After celebrating my diamond jubilee and enjoying a trip to my homeland, I am full of zeal to continue my work with the children at St. Cecelia's School, San Antonio.

**Sister Veronica Mitchell:** I was born in Galway, the sixth of seven children. I always thought about becoming a Sister and decided to enter the SHSP's. I traveled to San Antonio where I began my formation training. I graduated with Bachelor and Masters' degrees, taught school in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri and served as an administrator in Dallas and Laredo. I then became an L.V.N. After working in a hospital and nursing home, I returned to minister in schools and currently serve as a school nurse at Good Shepherd in Garland.

**Sister Carmelita Mulrey:** I am the fourth of Katie and Tom Mulry's eight children. A teacher once said that I "would make a great missionary some day." In 1948, that prediction became a reality when I decided to enter, and began the initial stage of my formation as an SHSp – a missionary order. I came to San Antonio, Texas where I completed my religious and professional training.

I have served as a teacher, administrator, social worker, and director of religious education, and – for the past eleven years – in parish ministry, and have touched thousands of children, infirm persons, and the poor. I can truly say that I have been joyfully and spiritually enriched by every person who has touched my life.

**Sister Jane Francis Ambrose:**

Little did I know, fifty years ago, when I took my first step into the

"unknown world" of religious life that this would bring me so much happiness. Leaving New York and going to Texas was quite frightening, but the kindness of the Sisters made me feel at home. I taught for twenty-three years and served as an administrator of a nursing home for eleven years. I am currently serving the residents of the nursing home through pastoral care. I must say that the Good Lord has been exceptionally good to me. I am so grateful to the community and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during all these years.

**Sister Rita Nealon:** I was born in Limerick to Mary and David Nealon, and joined the Holy Spirit Sisters in 1958. Being an SHSp has been a privilege and a challenge for the past 50 years. I taught at Little Flower and Holy Cross High Schools in San Antonio where I touched many young lives. I worked in congregational administration, and had opportunities to be involved in struggles for social justice and the rights of the poor and the immigrants. I now minister in Mexico and find that I am challenged by the simple life there. I pray that God will give me the health and strength to continue in ministry for some time yet.

Although the ministries of these Sisters vary, their commitment as Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate have had the same goal: to serve the poor in their need. We thank God for them as they serve the people of God with fidelity and zeal.

## A New Missionary Joins Our Zambian Community



Sister Jo Murray, S.H.Sp.

When a fervent plea for "another Sister" came from our Zambian community in the early months of 2009, Sr. Josephine (Jo) Murray was the first person asked if she would be willing to go. True to her adventurous, trusting and open spirit, her answer was a simple, "Yes, I will go." On August 3, 2009, Sister Jo set out by air and by land on the 30+ hour journey to Mongu, capital of the Western Province of Zambia, Africa. We have three "missions" in the Western Province, one of the poorest areas on the African Continent. Sister Jo will serve as companion and mentor in our Formation Community for the next two years.

It has been said that the human spirit is "an ocean of possibilities." That is certainly true when it comes to Sister Jo. Religious Life has been a fertile garden for nurturing the many God-given gifts in the "oceanic" depth of Sister Jo's multi-faceted life. Over the fifty plus years of her life as a Sister of the Holy Spirit, she has served in many different ministries — in Texas, Louisiana, Ireland, and Ghana, Africa -- as teacher, principal, pastoral minister, nurse,

administrator, community superior, centering-prayer guide, home health-care provider and she has also served as a member of the Congregation's General Council.

Her hidden artistic talents emerged in Ireland when, while taking an art class, she painted many beautiful scenic oil paintings. Within the community, Sister Jo is a "home maker," *par excellence*, a commu-



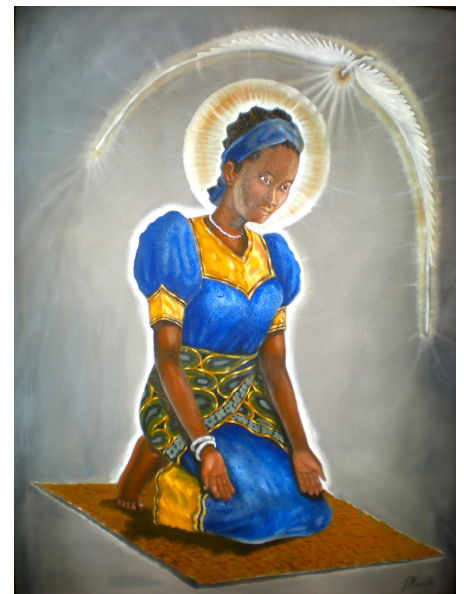
The children of Zambia are a source of great joy and inspiration to our missionary Sisters.

nity nurturer, a listener, and a trusted "sister" to many. She is a noted baker and gardener. We have enjoyed her brown bread, rich fruitcakes and occasional Irish Coffees, all of which have added "spice" to our lives. Her flowers and shrubs adorn and beautify the grounds around our former Motherhouse.

Now in Zambia, we pray that God's Reign of love, life and beauty continue to flourish in Sister Jo's own life and in the lives of all she touches. We will miss her warm and friendly presence here in San Antonio, but we rejoice in God's plans for her and for our young, growing community in Zambia.

Prior to her leaving for Zambia, the Sisters gathered at the Motherhouse, to thank her and say "good bye" to Jo with our traditional blessing for those embarking on new adventures.

*May God bless and keep you,  
May God's face shine on you,  
May God be kind to you  
and give you peace.*



Zambian painting of  
Our Blessed Mother

## Message from Sister Miriam —



Dear Friends,

Greetings and blessings to you from all the Sisters here at 300 Yucca Street, and also from our Sisters ministering in the U.S., Mexico, and Zambia, Africa. Those of us who are living at 300 Yucca Street are now settled into our new home. It is beautiful and comfortable, and gradually, we are getting rid of all the glitches! Thanks to all of you who, through your prayers, and generous financial gifts, have helped make this new

home a reality, especially for our frail and retired Sisters.

Our biggest challenge during the past few months has been the rezoning of our property in preparation for the sale of our old Motherhouse to *Crosspoint*, a social service re-entry program for people who are dealing with various challenges in their personal life. This organization helps people dealing with these various challenges—emotional, mental, social, and spiritual—and prepares them to return to family and community as healthy citizens. We expect the sale of the property to be finalized before the end of October. Please continue to pray that all will go well.

In this issue we are highlighting the Sisters who, during the past summer, celebrated the Golden (50 years) and Diamond (60 years) Jubilees of their religious profession. Annually,

we take time to thank God for the gift of the Jubilarians and to celebrate their faithfulness to their commitment for so many years. When women take perpetual vows as Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, they commit themselves to spending the rest of their lives as women of prayer, living in community, and ministering to people who are underprivileged and/or deprived of their human dignity. The women who celebrated this year have certainly been faithful and have given us much reason to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

This year, we also have another reason to rejoice with “exceeding great joy.” Since the printing of the last “Sisters’ Journey,” four young women have been received into our pre-novitiate community in Zambia, Africa. We are hopeful that, before long, our U.S. affiliate will also become a pre-novice (hopefully with two or three companions).

On October 9 –11, 2009, we are hosting a “Come and See” program for women (18 –45) who are discerning God’s call in their lives. We ask that you keep the participants in your prayers, asking God that they will be open to the call of the Spirit, and will follow wherever the Spirit may be leading them.

Thanks to each one of you for your love and support. On the second Sunday of each month, Mass is offered in our chapel for all of your intentions. We hope and pray that you will continue to partner with us as we carry out our ministry to some of God’s poorest and most oppressed people.

Blessings always.

Sister Miriam



*Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate*

*Founded in Texas in 1893  
to Serve the Poor in Their Need*

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