



*Sisters of the
Holy Spirit
and Mary
Immaculate*

Sisters' Journey

August 2014 Volume 4, Issue 2

“COME AND SEE”

*Come and experience what
it's like to live in a
convent.*

Participate in prayer,
meals, and recreation with
the Sisters.

*Walk in the shadow of Mother
Margaret, our foundress.*

*Learn about our charism, our
ministries, our spirituality, and
our great love for God's poor.*

*Spend a day, a
weekend, a week
with the Sisters*

to learn first-hand how the
Sisters live out their lives
through the vows of poverty,
celibacy, and obedience.

Register for a "Come and
See" weekend online or
by mail (pdf) at
www.shsp.org.

Next "COME AND SEE"

Weekend

October 24 - 26, 2014



Eight Sisters Celebrate 450 Years of Commitment



Back Row, L to R: Sisters Bernie Barrett, Pat Crehan, Peggy Kenny, Maureen Finnerty and Genevieve Cunningham

Front Row, L to R: Sisters Angelina Kilbane, Carmen Molina and Evelyn O'Flaherty

In the Book of Wisdom we read, *"She (wisdom) is the untarnished mirror of God's active power. She is one, and makes all things new and in each generation passes into holy souls."*

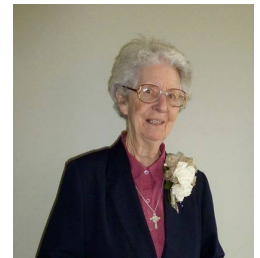
On June 6, 2014 we gathered with family and friends, to join in the Congregation's Jubilee celebration for eight women who have allowed God's Wisdom to shape their lives down through the years. Family members of the Sisters traveled from far and near to join in the festivities. Many co-workers and friends of the Jubilarians also joined in the celebration.

Each of the Sisters marking a special milestone in her life, heard the call of Jesus 50, 60 and 70 years ago, and followed in the footsteps of our beloved Foundress, *Margaret Mary Healy-Murphy*, in answering that call. The "fiat" of each woman changed her life dramatically, and also changed and blessed the lives of the thousands of people she has touched down through the years.

As we celebrate a Jubilee, we the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, gather to thank God for the gift of each of the women; we thank the women for their fidelity to their call, and we thank their families, friends and coworkers for their prayers, love and

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last issue of *The Sisters' Journey* two of our beloved Sisters returned to God in death



Sister Mary Margaret O'Grady slipped away peacefully into the arms of her Beloved on March 9, 2014. We continue to miss her brilliant mind and gentle spirit.



After a short illness, and without ever losing her sense of humor, Sister Kathleen Mary Walsh went home to God on May 31, 2014. How we miss her wonderful laughter!



Our Jubilarians Reflect on their years of Service



Sister Maureen Finnerty
70th Jubilee

At age 15 I joined the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. In 1946 I, with five companions left Ireland for Texas.

I earned a Masters in Ed. and spent a year in Mexico studying Spanish. I was a teacher and a principal during the next 58 years. I also served as the Administrator of the Motherhouse for six years. I retired from teaching in 2005 when hurricane Katrina destroyed our school in Pascagoula, MS. I was received into the Congregation and made my first profession in my home town in Ireland; we were not able to travel due to dangers in the aftermath of World War II. A favorite memory is the opportunity I had to teach music in the schools and watch children learn and grow! I'm grateful to God for calling me to



Sister Angelina Kilbane:
60th Jubilee—I grew up in a faith-filled family in County Galway, Ireland. My two brothers became priests; one of my sisters and I became Sisters.

My family lived close to the Church and the convent, where our Sisters taught. Although there were challenges in my life at times, I always had a support system in my companions. I was a teacher and principal in schools in various parts of Texas. My last 20 years were in Beaumont. All of my ministry responsibilities were great experiences. I have always been very happy and satisfied in my vocation.

I am grateful for the blessings of my God, my family and my Congregation.



Sister Evelyn O'Flaherty: 60th Jubilee—I had the singular privilege of being from the same part of Ireland as our Foundress. I grew up in a large faith-filled family, and heard God's call when I was sixteen. Three in my family became Religious Sisters. After getting a BA in Elementary Education and an MA in Guidance and Counseling I taught in elementary schools in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. I also have happy memories of six years working with Saint Lawrence Social Apostolate in Kraemer, Louisiana. Because of health challenges, as a result of a cerebral brain aneurysm I suffered in 1991, I retired. I am now grateful for the care I receive at our Motherhouse and the opportunity I have for daily Mass and prayers. As I look back over the years, I am grateful to God for all the graces



Sister Carmen Molina:
60th Jubilee—I grew up in Dallas, Texas and started going to the Catholic school in 2nd grade which was staffed by the Holy Spirit Sisters.

I got my degree in education from Our Lady of the Lake University and later became an LVN and received my nursing license through St. Philip's College. I taught in both Mexican and African American schools; I especially loved teaching 3rd and 4th grades. I consider all of my ministry experiences significant. At this time I continue to minister in whatever way I can and wherever I'm needed. I especially enjoy visiting the sick at Baptist Hospital in San Antonio.



Fr. Molina was the Celebrant for the Liturgy



Beautiful flowers adorned for the Church for the celebration



Sister Carmen with her sister, Molly Leanos and her nephew, Fr. Artura Molina



Sister Pat Crehan: 50th Jubilee! I thought about becoming a Sister several times while growing up. I was influenced by the Sisters who came to visit our school—I decided I wanted to become a missionary.

Later, in high school, I was influenced by the way the Holy Spirit Sisters treated everyone. When I finished high school I joined the Congregation and arrived in San Antonio in Nov. 1962. There were initial challenges—different cultures, accents, etc.

After earning a Masters in Education I taught and became principal in various schools of the Congregation. Some of my fondest memories are—taking children on Field Trips. I also have fond memories of my time in Natchez, MS where I was the principal of the grade school. Later I became a Director of Religious Education, a position I hold today at Holy Redeemer



Sister Bernie Barrett: 50th Jubilee—Although I attended a high school staffed by the Loretto Sisters, and they were probably the ones who helped ignite the spark of God's call, I was destined to be-

come a Holy Spirit Sister. I had five cousins who were Holy Spirit Sisters in Texas and it was the Holy Spirit Sisters who helped me realize God's call. I got my undergraduate degree in Education and got a Masters in Pastoral Studies. I left the school system and did Parish Ministry in Louisiana for ten years. At present I live and work in Lake Providence, Louisiana in a program sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Region V. "Closing gaps while building bridges of Faith is what Sister Bernie spends her time doing." My involvement in various civic organizations and interfaith groups is a strong witness to the church's concern for the people of Lake Providence. God's grace and the prayers of family and Community



Sister Peggy Kenny: 50th Jubilee—I grew up in a small community in Co. Galway, Ireland. After completing High School I joined the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, even though I had cousins in other orders. I was inspired by the teaching and work of the Holy Spirit

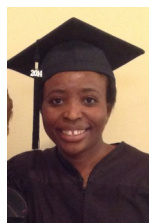
Sisters. After getting a Masters Degree in Education I spent most of my years teaching, though I spent four great years doing parish ministry in a rural community in South Louisiana. One of my fondest memories is from the time I was in Mansura, LA. We did parish ministry, visited the prison and people's homes—and we did all our visiting on bicycles. The the people kept us supplied with fresh fish! For the past 16 years I have taught at St. Mary of Carmel, an inner city school in Dallas, TX. I love to watch the children grow and develop.

Today I stand at the threshold of my Golden Jubilee, filled



Sister Genevieve Cunningham: 50th Jubilee I attended elementary and secondary schools in Galway, Ireland. In high school I was taught by the Holy Spirit Sisters. I was especially inspired by Sister Emmanuel, whose stories about life in Texas lighted a flame in my heart. I arrived in San Antonio shortly

before my 18th birthday. I received my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Our Lady of the Lake and Incarnate Word Universities respectively. I taught in schools in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Although becoming familiar with different cultures, from my own, was a challenge, it has also been my greatest blessing. At present I'm the health coordinator at Little Flower Elementary School where I have spent the past 13 great years. I feel I have been very blessed at having been exposed to different cultures. I was also blessed to have the opportunity to spend a couple of years in Ireland caring for my aging mother. I am so grateful that God, my community and my family have always



Sister Maimblowa Lutangu returns to Ministry in Zambia; After spending three years at the Motherhouse and graduating from our Lady of the Lake University in May 2014, Sister Maimbolwa bid farewell to San Antonio to return to Zambia to continue



Sisters of the Holy Spirit & Mary Immaculate

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...and so much for which to give thanks!

Dear Friends, each time I write I am so aware of the reality that we, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit have so much for which to be grateful! Pope Francis said, *“The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats the most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.”* As we thank God for the joy of celebrating with Sisters marking 50, 60 and 70 years of commitment to God’s call, we are also very aware that we can only celebrate if we are truly faithful to the call of Jesus in the Gospel, which is so wonderfully expressed by Pope Francis.

We thank God for Sisters, who after giving their all, have now gone to join all who faithfully kept the Gospel alive to the very end. During the past year, Sisters Mary Margaret O’Grady and Kathleen Mary Walsh went home to God peacefully, after living such a life—they had celebrated sixty and seventy years respectively in our Congregation. And each one ministered among some of God’s poorest in the U.S. and Zambia during their lives.

If you lost a loved one in death during the past year, I extend the sympathy and prayers of all of our Sisters. And if your family is dealing with sickness or any other difficulties at this time, be assured of our prayers. We pray daily for all who support us by their love, prayers and/or financial support. We also offer Mass on the second Sunday of each month for your intentions. Feel free to let us know by phone or e-mail if you need prayers for a specific intention. Please join us in prayer for the host of children, from Mexico and Central America, who are crossing our borders, desperately fleeing extreme poverty and persecution. May we all welcome them as we would welcome the suf-

When you have finished reading this newsletter, please consider passing it along to a friend. Thanks!