



Sisters of the Holy Spirit & Mary Immaculate

Founded in San Antonio, Texas in 1893 to be a passionate voice for justice

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*Sisters of the
Holy Spirit
and Mary
Immaculate*

Sisters' Journey

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Life is About Endings and Beginnings . . . And so much for which to be thankful!

Dear Friends, with this issue of Sisters' Journey, I complete my time in Congregational Leadership! I'm delighted to introduce our new Leadership Team who were elected by the Congregation in March 2015, and were installed on June 24. As a friend of our Congregation said, "Transitions are exciting times, and bring with them a certain unknown, especially for all of us in Religious Life." However we know that the Holy Spirit will be with us into the "unknown," . . . and the Holy Spirit does not disappoint!

We also give thanks, at this time, for our years of ministry in Mexico. Since 1901 many Sisters have served in various communities in Mexico. They have been a blessing for the lives they touched down through the years, and they have been blessed by all the people who have touched their lives. We thank the Sisters for their missionary spirit and the many ways they have so generously shared their gifts!

In religious life, nothing is permanent. Our lives are continually about endings and beginnings—as we bring closure to one ministry we open ourselves to wherever God is calling us. This is true in my own life as I complete my time in Congregational Leadership. After taking a short Sabbatical for rest, prayer and study, I will open myself to God's next call.

It has been a great joy for me to communicate with you through this Sisters' Journey. A huge thanks to our friends, family members, donors and co-workers, all who have prayed for and with us; supported us financially; shared your, and our joys and pain during the past eight years. May God continue to bless you abundantly as you continue to be a friend to our Congregation and all those we serve.

With my personal prayers and personal good wishes always.

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

A NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM IS INSTALLED

In March, we elected a new "Leadership Team." In a simple, prayerful ritual in the presence of family and friends they were installed on June 24 in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Sr. Geraldine Klein, who has spent the past 27 years ministering in Zambia is our Congregational Leader. She and the four members of the Leadership Team will lead the Congregation and represent us on local, state and national organizations.

Each member of the Team is involved in other ministries both outside and within the Congregation:

Sr. Veronica Cahill is a GED teacher and Director of Spirituality at Healy-Murphy Alternative High School in San Antonio, and is General Treasurer for the Congregation.

Sr. Bernie Barrett, re-elected for a second term, is Director of a Social Ministry Program sponsored by LCWR Region V, in Lake Providence, LA

Sr. Katrina Ruane, is Director of Adult Faith Formation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Selma, TX

Sister Loretta Armand, is the newly appointed Director of Formation for our Congregation in the United States



Leadership Team 2015-2019—Left to right: Sister Bernie Barrett, Sister Katrina Ruane, Sister Geraldine Klein, Congregational Leader, Sister Veronica Cahill and Sister Loretta Armand



Milestones in Life: We all experience many milestones in life. In my early life, my birth, baptism, first Communion and Confirmation were milestones celebrated by my family. At age 18, I was to embark on one that would lead me to God. One day God stretched out His hand and beckoned me to walk with Him. I left my family in Bellaire TX to join the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate. My first year, as a Postulant, was a year to discern if this was the life I wanted to live. The second year was for the Sisters to determine if I would make a "good nun." After surviving the first two years, I moved to another wonderful milestone. During the following three years I prayed, worked and lived my "Temporary Vows" of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. Then came the day to decide if I should commit the remainder of my life to God alone and to the service of God's people. But God had a plan—He filled my heart with peace, and so I joyfully took the final step! Years passed quickly and soon I was celebrating my Silver Jubilee; my Golden Jubilee; and now my Diamond Jubilee! For this celebration, the Sisters, my wonderful religious family, were all there. The Mass was very moving: a group of Vietnamese friends blessed the altar in a special religious ceremony, three young musicians accompanied the choir on their violins, and a dear friend was the cantor for the Responsorial Psalm. Having so many of my family and friends added to my joy on this special milestone. After Mass we continued the celebration with a wonderful festive meal. . . . And so I now look forward to the next milestone God has in mind! Thank you God for my vocation to Religious Life, I pray I have served you well with each passing milestone in my life.

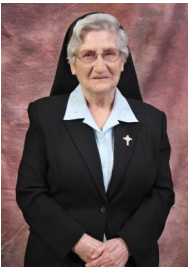
Sister Kay Jo Evelo

IN MEMORIAM

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



Sister Pius X Gorman slipped peacefully into the arms of God on November 3, 2014. We continue to miss Pi's gracious attitude toward everyone!



After a short illness, and without ever losing her commitment to ministry she continued to rock the babies at Healy-Murphy Center almost to the end. Sister Madeleine Cannon went home to God on March 11, 2015.



Three Great Women Celebrate Jubilees in Early June



L to R: Sisters Rose McHugh, Kay Jo Evelo and Loretta Armand

mission for the Congregation in Zambia, Sub-Sahara Africa. After taking time to learn a new language, culture, customs, and greetings of the people, she began a twenty five year commitment to some of the world's poorest people. Sister Rose very quickly recognized the desperate need to provide care for orphans and abandoned elderly. Sister Rose was involved in a host of ministries in the Western Province of Zambia until she had to return to San Antonio because of health issues (*Sisters' Journey* Winter 2014 Issue). Today Sister Rose is involved in many activities at our Motherhouse and is a volunteer Librarian at Crosspoint, Inc. in San Antonio. As she celebrates her 60th Jubilee Sister Rose says she is grateful for her family, her Community and the many, many people who have blessed her life!



Sister Kathryn Evelo, better known as Sister Kay Jo, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. Her family moved to Texas when she was two years old. She lived in Bellaire, TX with her parents, her four brothers and two sisters, for the next sixteen years. She attended Holy Ghost School in Bellaire where she met the Holy Spirit Sisters. After completing high school she joined the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, and moved to San Antonio for her Formation and higher education.

During the past sixty years, Sister Kay Jo has taught in elementary schools, and coached their sports, in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Sister Kay Jo said, "My life has been enriched and blessed for the past sixty years, by my Sisters in religion, the children I taught and by their parents. "Thank you God for the gift of my vocation to Religious Life!"

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Sister Rose McHugh, a native of Galway, Ireland spent many years Ministering in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. However her life took a whole new turn twenty seven years ago, with two companions she set out to begin a new



Sister Loretta Armand, I am a native of Houston, TX, and am joyfully celebrating my Golden Jubilee—fifty years of ministering among God's people in the United States and Mexico.

In the hymn "Wake the World with Dawning Joy" there is a phrase that touches me deeply: "Let us sing to God this new day, reach the world in miraculous ways..." Throughout these years I have been gifted with many opportunities to grow in compassionate service among God's people: parish, youth, vocational, Leadership and Retreat Ministry. During the last 9 years I have experienced deeply God's reaching the world in miraculous ways in the ministry of Healing and Wholeness in Mexico.

In 1992 God called me to the beautiful land of Mexico...among the creative poor...within a richness and diversity of cultures... and in a new language. God's callings have blessed me profoundly over these past 50 years. Thanks to you who have nourished and supported me during the many joys and challenges.

Now I leave this sacred land **Mexico** with the power of the Spirit and the openness and responsiveness of Mary Immaculate to embrace new callings of the Spirit as a member of our Leadership Team and Formation Director. May we always sing to God this new day and reach our world in compassionate and miraculous ways.

Joyfully,
Loretta

Sister Loretta's grand nieces and grand nephew added to the beauty of the celebration as they accompanied the choir on their violins.



Vietnamese Dancers from Saint Rita Parish in Fort Worth

During the Jubilee Liturgy, Sister Veronica Cahill, gave a very inspirational reflection after the Gospel. In her remarks she said: "The world would be a different place if these three women had not courageously believed that their mark on the canvas of life had to be carved deeply so that the people they meet, the persons who find themselves on the margins, are given shoelaces to pull themselves out of situations that diminish their dignity as human persons". . . In conclusion she prayed: "May all of us continue to experience the joy of the Holy Spirit, and continue to wake the world with dawning joy."



Saying Goodbye to Ministry in Mexico . . . At least for now

Since 1984, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit had a mission in Oaxaca, Mexico. In the early 1990's we decided to expand our ministry in that country and, after a time of discernment and preparation, Sisters Beatrice Donnellan and Marian Murray went to the state of Nayarit. They were invited to minister in the parish of El Senor de la Ascencion in Santa Maria del Oro. In January 1991 they were joined by Sisters Rita Nealon and Loretta Armand. The parish includes a small town and about 25 villages. Following the call of the Latin American Bishops Conference the main focus of the Sisters' ministry was forming Basic Christian Communities. This included Bible study, catechist formation, liturgy and accompanying the community in their annual "Fiesta Patronal" a key evangelizing moment in each community.



Sisters Beatrice Donnellan, Loretta Armand, Marian Murray and Rita Nealon when they began their ministry in Nayarit in 1992

In 1996, they were also invited to work in the parish of Ixtlan del Rio and Sisters Rita and Loretta responded to that call. Their ministry there also focused on forming communities in the barrios, working with catechists, liturgy teams and choirs. They also did youth ministry, marriage preparation and started a center for Caritas which still provides much needed assistance to people who are poor.

One of the most popular and long-lasting programs in Santa Maria del Oro was an alternative medicine program. Sister Beatrice raised funds to have a center built on the church grounds and provided many classes and workshops to train lay people who continue giving service there. Sister Loretta also gave service there for the past four years.

There is a large federal prison near Tepic, the capital of Nayarit and Sisters Beatrice and Rita ministered at that prison for nine years. Sister Marian followed her long-time desire to work with the Indigenous People of Nayarit. She joined religious from other congregations to work among the Huichol people, accompanying them in their rituals, preparing them for their sacraments and other religious events but also helping them improve their houses and living conditions.



Sisters Marian Murray, Loretta Armand, Beatrice Donnellan and Rita Nealon in 2015

In 2015, after much prayer and discernment, the Sisters decided to terminate our ministry in Mexico. We trust the seeds planted will be nurtured and will continue to bear fruit.