

Volume 2, Issue 3

Winter 2009-2010

SISTERS' JOURNEY



Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate

A Move Now Completed



Our New Motherhouse — as photographed from the roof of the original Motherhouse

The Sisters of the
Holy Spirit
and Mary Immaculate



Dedication
of the
New Motherhouse
and
Open House

Sat., Feb. 13, 2010

—Invitations will be
forthcoming

We are now “at home’ in our new Motherhouse! Nearly nine decades of community living have been transferred across Yucca Street. Sister Miriam Mitchell recalls, “. . . on the evening of the feast of the Transfiguration, we had our first dinner in the new Motherhouse...it was a major adjustment for the cooks as they adjusted to a whole new kitchen — it is absolutely lovely but nevertheless, new and different.” All who live in community at the Motherhouse found it necessary to hone their patience and understanding in the process of the move; however most Sisters would agree that it has been a worthwhile adventure.



Sisters and visitors participate in prayer together in the community chapel..



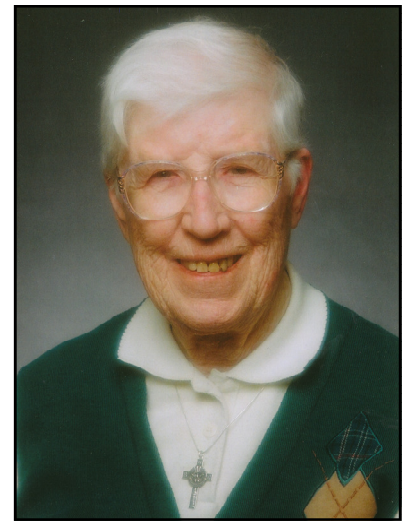
(L-R): Sisters Gabriel, Marguerite, Theresa O’Toole, and Marian relax in the community parlor.



(L-R) Sisters Angelina, Elizabeth Anne, Gabriella, and Pius X celebrate a feastday in the community dining room.

The Legacy of Sister Emmanuel

Our Congregation opened a child care center (Healy-Murphy) to meet the needs of single-parent, teen-aged mothers, and I spend time four days each week holding and rocking the babies. I feel very happy and fulfilled doing this. (2001) —Sister Emmanuel on ministry during retirement



Sister Mary Emmanuel Cahill

1912-2009

Sister Emmanuel Cahill died peacefully in the community infirmary on October 28, 2009. Mass of Resurrection was celebrated in the Holy Spirit Community chapel on October 30, 2009. Sister Emmanuel's personal account of her "Missionary Journey" reads almost like a page from a history book. It emphasizes the affect that national events had on the local people who lived through, and were affected by them. For example, she speaks of the oil boom in Oklahoma which made "millionaires" almost overnight of some people but, at the same time, she watched as the green cattle pastures gave way to the dark pumping jungles of the oil rigs.

The stock market crash affected affluent Eastern benefactors and forced them to end their support of the impoverished students of Uganda Martyrs School in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Sister Emmanuel and the Sisters were forced to petition the grocers and bakers of the city to help keep the children from being hungry. In the dark days of the Great Depression, Sister Emmanuel, (a nineteen-year-old nun) found herself ministering to the sharecroppers and refers to that experience as being "where I learned my first lesson in what 'being poor' means."

She mentions the fact that, during these hard times, despite their poor homes and their dire circumstances, the people handled themselves with dignity.

In 1993, after sixty-three years of active ministry, Sister Emmanuel retired to the Motherhouse. However, she was not yet ready to sit back and relax, so she became a Eucharistic Minister in Baptist Hospital, San Antonio and continued as a Eucharistic Minister until long after her ninetyeth birthday. She also worked at the Healy-Murphy Daycare where she "rocked the babies" Later she devoted her time to praying for the Sisters in active ministry and for those who supported the Sisters.

Even as her physical ailments increased, Sister Emmanuel never lost her sense of humor. She was always ready to share a story or an anecdote reflecting her deep wisdom about humanity.



THE COME & SEE WEEKEND

Holy Spirit Convent

February 26–28, 2010

*Do you think you
may be called to
our way of life
and ministry?*

Come and see!

We welcome :

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



Vocation Directors Sister Genevieve Cunningham and Sister Gabriel Hession plan the Come & See weekends.

A vocation to 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 sghession@hotmail.com

Ministry Outreach: Caring for Patients and Their Families at Santa Rosa City Center

By Sister Marie Leonard

Having served in Pastoral Care at Santa Rosa Medical Center for fourteen years, I retired in June 2008. I then applied for part-time ministry at Christus Santa Rosa City Center, which is only a short distance from the Motherhouse, where I reside.

Presently I am engaged in Pastoral Ministry on a twice-weekly basis. I also serve as Eucharistic Minister once a week and occasionally substitute for other chaplains. Pastoral Ministry entails making initial

spiritual assessments, developing Pastoral Care plans for patients and families, and assisting patients in completing Advance Directives and Medical Power of Attorney forms. I also document all my work within a highly developed computer system. Most recently I have been providing pastoral care for post-partum Children's Medical, for Adult Telemetry, for Adult Intensive Care, and for Adult Rehabilitation Services.



Sister Marie visits with a young patient



Post-Partum care includes spending time with new mothers and fathers.

For All You Do and Have Done— We Are Grateful

Thank you so much for having shared your gifts with us this year! You have given us prayers, moral and financial support, and spent time with us. For all these gifts we are very grateful.

Please be assured of our continued prayers for you and of our appreciation of your invaluable contributions.

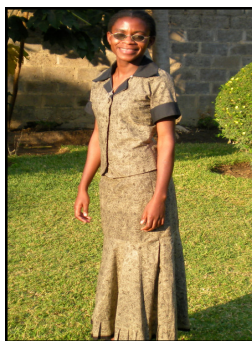
At this time of year, many people are considering their year-end giving. If you are among that group, please consider the Sisters in your plans for year-end contributions. Your donations of cash (as well as stocks and bonds!) are greatly appreciated.

With your partnership in our efforts, we continue the legacy of our Congregation which is to carry out the mission of our foundress, Mother Margaret Mary Healy-Murphy "to serve the poor in their need".

Our legal name is: Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Journeys Along the Way...

Sister Jane Frances Ambrose is Pastoral Minister at Mother of Perpetual Help Nursing Home in Brownsville, Texas. MOPH is one of the sponsored ministries of our Congregation. Sister Jane is truly an angel of love and gentle care for the poor and/or frail elderly who are residents of the Nursing Home.



Sister Mary Munsaka is a Temporary Professed Sister in Zambia. At present she is in nursing school studying to become a nurse. Sister Mary has a special gift in caring for the sick and the frail. She is following in the footsteps of her mother and her sister who are both nurses.

Sister William, our 92 year- old senior member spends much of her time in prayer ministry when she's not walking around talking to Sisters, reading everything on the bulletin boards and keeping herself up-to-date on all the latest news and the activities of the community.



Message from Sister Miriam— Developing Our Past: Building for the Future



Dear Friends,

In the name of all of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, I wish you an abundance of God's blessings during this Holy Season of Christmas. Thank you for the many ways by which you continue to help us bring the compassion and love of Jesus to some of the world's most oppressed people.

We, as a Congregation, are blessed by your partnership with us as we carry out our mission to serve the poor in their needs - and this includes children, families and individuals from all walks of life and

from a variety of faiths.

I hope 2009 was a good year for you despite whatever challenges you may have experienced. For us it was a very good, but very busy year. We are now settled in our new home. (We sent you a postcard announcing that we had moved). We continue "to live simply, so that others may simply live."

Three months after our move, we were blessed to sell our former Motherhouse to Crosspoint, Inc., an organization operating a re-entry program for people who have been incarcerated for chemical addiction, non-violent federal offenses, etc. We believe Crosspoint is continuing the mission we began in that building - ministering to people who find themselves on the margins of our society.

We continue to carry out the mission and charism of our beloved foundress, Mother Margaret Mary Healy-Murphy. I am very grateful to those of you who have supported us on a regular basis over the years, even despite the economic chal-

lenges we have all faced. We all realize that, when the economy is bad, those who suffer most, are the people who, every day, struggle for survival— even in good times.

If you have traditionally responded to our annual Christmas mission appeal, we ask you at this time, once again, consider a gift. Every gift is a blessing to us in our ministry!

May you experience God's unconditional love during this Holy Season of Christmas. May the New Year be blessed with success, happiness and good health in your personal life and in the lives of those you love and may Christ's Peace be with you always.

Gratefully in the Holy Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Miriam Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Miriam Mitchell, S.H.Sp.
General Superior



Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate

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

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