



Servite Sisters Today

A Newsletter for Our Families and Friends

Servites Celebrate Diamond Jubilees

On April 17, Easter Monday, Sr. Mary Lucy Daniels, 92, Sr. Geraldine Schulte, 91, and Sr. Mary John VanderLoop, 98, were recognized at a Jubilee Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Ladysmith.

Fr. Tony VanderLoop, nephew of Sr. Mary John and a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, presided at the Mass; Fr. Dave Oberts and Fr. Inna Reddy Pothireddy were concelebrants. Deacon Doug Sorenson assisted at the altar.

Sr. Mary McDermott celebrated her 40th jubilee of religious profession as well.

Following the Mass, family and invited guests joined the jubilarians for dinner at JS Supper Club, Ladysmith.



Background

All three diamond jubilarians grew up in the Diocese of Superior. Sr. Geraldine is from Cumberland; Sr. Lucy, from Weyerhaeuser; and Sr. Mary John, from Tony. All three became novices during World War II, in August 1941, and took first vows in 1942.

“It’s rare enough to have one sister reach this milestone, let alone three in the same year,” said Sr. Theresa Sandok, president of the Servites.

Sister Lucy

The Servants of Mary started teaching in Weyerhaeuser in 1936, and that’s where Sr. Lucy first encountered them. “That made a big impression on me,” she remembers.

Her mother also corresponded with a former teacher, a Benedictine nun distantly related to St. Therese of Lisieux, and Sr. Lucy was impressed by the nun’s epistolary skills.

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From left, Servite Sisters Mary John VanderLoop, Geraldine Schulte, and Mary Lucy Daniels celebrated their diamond jubilees in 2017. They were honored at a Mass on Easter Monday at Our Lady of Sorrows, Ladysmith.

President's Message

The Time is ~~Not~~ Now!

As I write this, our nation is still reeling from the October 1 massacre in Las Vegas, yet another in the fast-growing list of attacks that have left scores of people dead and hundreds more wounded.

Sadly, mass shootings have become so commonplace in our country that there is a website devoted solely to compiling the grim statistics day by day: Mass Shooting Tracker. October 1, 2017, the 273rd day of the year, marked the 337th mass shooting in the U.S. this year, resulting in a total of 469 killed and 1,751 injured. Gun violence is a leading cause of death in America.

This tragic epidemic of gun violence cries out for a response from all people of good will. There are those who say, "Now is not the time to be raising the issue," seeming to imply that a right time will come, perhaps after people have had a chance to mourn. But with a mass shooting happening on average more than once a day, you can see how this now-is-not-the-time logic has the effect of postponing the conversation forever.

For Gospel people, it is always the right time to defend human life and dignity. Make no mistake about it – gun violence is just as much a prolife issue as abortion. So too, are racism, immigration, the death penalty, human trafficking, genocide, terrorism, healthcare, unemployment, care of creation, sexual abuse, LGBT rights, the plight of refugees, access to clean water, food, sanitation, and medicine, etc. To quote Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, all life issues form a "seamless garment."

When we reflect on the enormity of human suffering in the world – so much of it caused by human cruelty, injustice, and often just plain ignorance – we can feel overwhelmed and paralyzed to act. At such times it's comforting to remind ourselves that it's not our job to save the world and right all wrongs. All we are asked to

do, no more and no less, is to do all that we can to make our world a better place.

"It helps, now and then," wrote Saginaw Bishop Ken Untener, "to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us."

Each of us is called to address some "tiny fraction" of that magnificent enterprise.



Theresa Sandok, OSM

Sister Helen Prejean, for example, found her call in 1981, when she began her prison ministry in Louisiana's Angola State Prison and became the spiritual advisor of a convicted killer sentenced to die in the electric chair. That experience, related in her book "Dead Man Walking" and later made into a movie, set her on the course of becoming a lifelong advocate for the abolition of the death penalty.

Malala Yousafzai was only twelve years old when she started blogging for the BBC about her experiences in Pakistan and advocating for the right of girls to education. The Taliban attempted to assassinate her on the bus home from school. She survived the brutal attack and became an even more forceful

voice for the 130 million girls out of school worldwide.

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem in protest of the oppression of black people and people of color in the United States. For this he was blacklisted by the NFL and called an expletive by President Trump. "To me," said Kaepernick, "this is bigger than football, and it would be selfish

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Servite Sisters Leave Florida after Nearly 50 Years

The ministry and presence of Ladysmith Servite Sisters in Florida came to an end in October 2017, when the last three remaining Sisters moved north.

Sisters Loretta Lonsdorf and Rosanne Fogarty moved to Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and Sister Jeannine Percy moved to Adolorata Villa in Wheeling, Illinois.

Sister Loretta began ministering in Brooksville, Florida, at St. Anthony Parish in 1982 as director of the RCIA program for those entering the church. She retired in 1999 and volunteered in various areas of parish ministry before moving to Sun City Center, Florida, in 2010.

Sister Rosanne arrived in Sun City Center in 2005. She did music ministry at St. Anne's Parish in Ruskin and at Our lady of Guadalupe Parish in Wimauma. She also worked in Hospice and prison ministry.

Sister Jeannine also moved to Sun City Center in 2005 and worked as a consultant with religious communities that sponsor health systems and with leadership teams of women's religious institutes.

The first Servite Sister to arrive in Florida was Sister Mary Charles Prince, who moved there in the late 1960s and taught French in the Pinellas County Schools until she retired 1984. She died in St. Petersburg in 2007 at age 89.

Sister Mary Angelica Vogel lived in the Florida Keys from 1972 to 1975 and taught at San Pablo School in Marathon, where she also served as principal.

Sister Rosalie Hennessey moved to Tampa in 1982 and served for ten years as executive director of Alpha House of Tampa, a crisis center for pregnant women. Alpha showed its appreciation for her service in 2001 by naming a new building "The Rosalie Center" in her honor. She retired to Sun City Center and died in 2011 at age 82.

Sister Rosemary Mayer went to Orlando in 1984 to serve as an administrative assistant at Orlando's BETA Center, an organization that assists teen mothers and at-risk families. She retired in 2003 and continued to live in Orlando, where she died in 2017 at age 85.

All told, the presence of Servite Sisters in Florida spanned nearly 50 years.



(Above)
From left, Sisters Rosanne Fogarty, Rosemary Mayer, Rosalie Hennessey, and Jeannine Percy celebrate Christmas together in Florida in 2005.

3 Servites Celebrate 75-Year Jubilees

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She had plenty of time to interact with the Servites during a three-week hospital stay following a surgery – the hospital was staffed by sisters – and Sr. Lucy knew when she was very young that she wanted to join the community.

But, the oldest of 14 children, Sr. Lucy was needed at home. She wanted to join at age 12, and her mother let her go when she was 15. “I was the first one to leave home, and of course, my mother wasn’t too happy about that,” she added.

But, in the end, Sr. Lucy was there for her mother. After retiring in 1995, she returned to Weyerhaeuser until her mother’s death. “I left her with all those little children, and I came back to care for her in her old age,” she said.

In her 75 years of professed life, Sr. Lucy has embarked on many ministries – teaching in various capacities, serving as the Servites’ director of novices and postulants, and working as a licensed administrator of a nursing home in Illinois, to name a few.

“I’d always been interested in the sick and the dying,” she added. “Of course, my calling was really with the sick and dying, and not at a desk.” So, she took classes in clinical pastoral education at St. Joseph Hospital, St. Paul, and ultimately worked in pastoral care. “I was the first woman chaplain at Ladysmith since 1912,” she said. “I was so happy, because I could be with the sick and the dying.”

She worked in hospital chaplaincy from 1978 until her retirement in 1995. These days, Sr. Lucy greets parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows, Ladysmith, and – in her words – “I talk a lot.”

“I really didn’t have a temptation to ever leave or go home,” she said of her vocation. “I felt like this was the right vocation for me, and I feel so grateful ... I feel so, so blessed ... to be a sister and a Servant of Mary.”

Sister Geraldine

For Sr. Geraldine, interacting with Servite sisters inspired her vocation. “When I was growing up, the sisters use to come to our town during the summer,” she said. It was the way they acted, especially the younger sisters, that caught her attention. Sr. Geraldine also got

to know a Notre Dame Sister who came home to visit family in the summer, and those visits also spurred interest in a religious vocation. When she was old enough, she decided to join the Servants of Mary. “I’ve always been attracted to prayer and silence and so on, and I think that’s one of the things that drew me to the sisters,” she added.

Sr. Geraldine graduated from Viterbo University, La Crosse, with a bachelor’s in biology and a minor in mathematics. She went on to earn a master’s degree in natural science from the University of Oklahoma.

Teaching was Sr. Geraldine’s ministry for much of her professed life. “I used to like teaching,” she added. “I taught in many places. I taught in New Jersey and West Virginia and Illinois.” She taught every grade from one through eight, as well as in a Catholic high school and at Mount Senario College, the Servites’ former college in Ladysmith. “I had a lot of subjects to teach,” she said with a laugh.

In 75 years of being a professed Servant of Mary, Sr. Geraldine has had the opportunity to go places she wouldn’t have otherwise gone, and to enjoy experiences she wouldn’t have otherwise had. “I’ve always been able to do things that I don’t think I would have thought of doing,” she said.

Sister Mary John

Before and briefly after she joined the Servites, Sr. Mary John was a teacher. “I wasn’t successful at that,” she said. “I wasn’t able to handle the children, so I quit that with tears.”

She switched careers, taking a nurse’s aide position at St. Mary’s Hospital, Ladysmith, and that’s where she encountered the Servites, who fostered her vocation. She was also the first of three family members to profess a religious vocation; her sister, Servite Sr. Mary Bernice VanderLoop, joined her in the convent in 1947. Sr. Mary John credits Sr. Mary Bernice, who died in 2011, with inspiring their nephew’s vocation to the priesthood.

After entering the convent in 1941 and professing first vows in 1942, Sr. Mary John taught elementary school

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Sister Mary Celebrates 40 Years of Profession



Sister Mary McDermott celebrated 40 years of religious profession along with the Sisters who celebrated their diamond jubilees on April 17. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 7, 1950, the third of six children. She entered the convent in 1975 and professed first vows in 1977. She earned a bachelor of science degree in medical technology from the University of Minnesota. She ministered as a medical technologist for more than 30 years at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. She now lives at the Sisters' residence in Ladysmith.

75-Year Jubilarians

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for a few more years before enrolling in St. Francis School of Nursing, La Crosse. Her career in health care spanned three decades – after beginning in general nursing, Sr. Mary John helped open a hospital in Kewanee as an administrator, and then returned to Ladysmith to serve as director of nursing at St. Mary's Hospital and St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home. She was later a staff nurse at Rusk County Memorial Hospital and served many years on the Servites' leadership team.

After retirement, Sr. Mary John continued her ministry in peace and justice advocacy. Well into her 90s, she was sharing Gospel wisdom on the local radio station.

Today, age 98, she's in an assisted living facility. Linda Reissner, who has been helping with the sister's hair, nails and personal care for the past two years, was told Sr. Mary John was "one of the most meticulous nurses at one of the hospitals here in town."

"She is just one of the sweetest and most pleasant and absolutely kindest people I've ever met," Reissner added.

*By Anita Draper
Superior Catholic Herald (4 May 2017)
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President's Message

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on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

There is a common thread running through these stories and thousands more like them, namely, that in the face of an intolerable human situation, an individual feels compelled to respond, to do whatever he or she can in order to right the wrong, regardless of the consequences to self.

Such people of courage inspire courage in others. The task seems less daunting and the goal more achievable when we work toward it with others. Pope Francis @Pontifex recently tweeted: "When you experience bitterness, put your faith in all those who still work for good: in their humility lies the seed of a new world."

This commitment to work together for the common good is reflected in a resolution of the Leadership Conference of Religious Women: "We pledge prayer, education, and advocacy and commit to using our collective voice, resources, and power in collaboration with others to establish justice which reflects God's abundant love and desire that all may have life."

There is plenty of work for all of us to do. We need only listen to what echoes in our hearts in order to know where we are called and feel compelled to act.

In the words of an ancient Jewish elder: "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Theresa". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sister Theresa Sandok, OSM

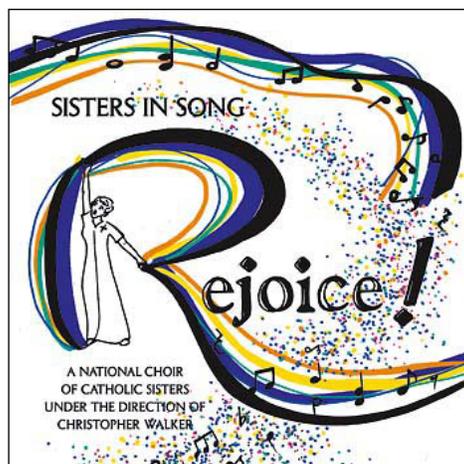
Singing Their Hearts Out

Ella Fitzgerald once said: “The only thing better than singing is more singing” – a sentiment shared by several Servite Sisters, who manage to eke out time in their busy schedules for singing.

Sister Cecilia Fandel sings with the Superior Diocesan Chorale, a group whose members come from across the diocese. They practice in the former Servants of Mary motherhouse in Ladysmith, convenient for its central location. The group performs for liturgical events at the cathedral in Superior, in parishes, and abroad. Asked why she joined the Chorale, Sister Cecilia said: “I love to sing. I get a spiritual joy from singing religious songs.” One of her favorites is Alison Krauss’s “Down to the River to Pray,” popularized in the film “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”

Until recently, Sister Rosanne Fogarty sang with the Women’s Chorus of Sun City Center, Florida. The group performs both secular

(CD Cover) Sister Rosanne Fogarty sang with the chorus of 80 Catholic nuns from across the nation who recorded “Sisters in Song Rejoice!” Proceeds help fund retirement needs of religious sisters, brothers, and priests.



and sacred choral music and presents a concert twice a year. Sister Rosanne joined the chorus because, she said, “I like to sing with a group of people. I think I have something to contribute with my voice.” Apparently, others think so, too. In the year 2000 she was one of 57

new members selected from over 600 Catholic nuns who submitted audition tapes to join the Sisters in Song choir. Directed by Christopher Walker, the choir was comprised of 80 sisters from over 50 religious congregations in 28 states across the nation. Their CD “Sisters in Song Rejoice!” is still available online.

Sister Theresa Sandok sings with a massed choir comprised of priests, brothers, and sisters in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The choir performs at an annual liturgical service celebrating consecrated life. Archbishop Jerome Listeki presided at this year’s event, “Enflamed by the Spirit,” which took place on Pentecost Sunday in St. Joseph Chapel, a magnificent, century-old edifice located on the campus of the School Sisters of St. Francis. Sister Theresa, who also serves on the planning committee, said: “My favorite piece this year was Johann Geisler’s ‘Die Frucht des Geistes ist Liebe’ (‘The Fruit of the Spirit is Love’), despite the challenge of singing in German.”

Sister Rita Stoeberl joined St. Mary of Vernon Adult Choir in Indian Creek, Illinois, in 2001, as a way of



Above: Sister Barbara Thomalla, center, performs with the Twin Cities show choir Harmonic Relief.

getting involved in the parish. The choir sings all types of church music, from familiar hymns and spirituals to classical pieces, such as selections from Handel’s Messiah. “What I like about being a part of the choir,” she said, “is the sense of community and caring among the members. It’s almost like an extended family.” One of her favorite songs is “Rise, O Jerusalem,” sung at the end of the Holy Saturday service. Shalom Media USA has selected the St. Mary of Vernon Adult Choir as one of the Chicago-area church choirs to feature on its website.

Sister Barbara Thomalla performs with Harmonic Relief, a show choir in the Twin Cities. The group’s repertoire includes folk, rock, show tunes, jazz, and contemporary music, along with choreographed dance ensembles. They present an annual spring show in May and perform outdoor concerts in summer. Sister Barbara, who works as a public health nurse, said she joined the choir because “I like singing and

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Servants of Mary Receive Legacy Award

The Ladysmith Servite Sisters were honored as this year's recipient of the Community Legacy Award at the annual awards banquet of the Greater Ladysmith Area Chamber of Commerce on April 20, 2017.

In nominating the Sisters for the award, Nancy Wheeler, former administrator of Servite Center for Life, wrote: "My guess is that there isn't one person in Ladysmith or even the County who hasn't experienced the legacy of the Servants of Mary, whether they know it or not. Who hasn't had need of Rusk County Memorial Hospital or Nursing Home? Who hasn't been taught by, or had children taught by, a local teacher who earned his or her teaching credentials at Mount Senario College? Even many of our social workers and police officers earned their degrees at Mount Senario College."

Accepting the award on behalf of the Sisters, Sister Cecilia Fandel said: "One of the Servants of Mary Sisters' values is service. It's in our name. It's what we do. However, what was accomplished here in Rusk County was due not only to the Sisters. The Sisters have always worked in collaboration with the people in Rusk County. So as you celebrate us, we, in turn, thank you for all you have done to make these wonderful accomplishments possible."

The first Sisters came to Ladysmith in 1912 to teach at the parochial school, which continues to this day. Once there, they saw the unmet needs of the local community and worked to address them. Over the years, the Sisters raised money to build and staff a hospital, school of nursing, nursing home, college, and ecumenical spirituality outreach program.

At their peak, the Servants of Mary numbered over 180 women. Today, though smaller in number, the Sisters continue to contribute to the local



Above: Sue Farrell (left) on behalf of the Greater Ladysmith Area Chamber of Commerce presents the Legacy Award to the Servants of Mary, represented here by Sister Cecilia Fandel.

community by volunteering in any number of programs and organizations and, through the Servite Center for Life, creating a spiritual space and providing enrichment programs for the people of the area. The Sisters' grounds, which are open to the public, include a labyrinth, rain garden, Native American medicine wheel, peace pole, flower garden, and Sisters' cemetery.

Each year the Chamber of Commerce presents awards in a variety of categories to recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding service to the community. This year, the Chamber presented thirteen awards. Nancy Wheeler, who nominated the Servants of Mary, was herself honored with the Community Leader of the Year Award. North Cedar Academy, located on the campus of the former Mount Senario College, received the New Venture of the Year Award.



performing, and I was looking for something fun to do. Singing relieves tension from the responsibilities of work and community." Among her favorite selections is "Ashokan Farewell," whose haunting melody was the theme song for the Ken Burns PBS special on the Civil War.

Left: Sister Rita Stoeberl cantors at St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church in Indian Creek, Illinois.

In Memoriam

Sr. Mary Catherine Izral, OSM 1919–2016



Sister Mary Catherine Izral, 97, died peacefully on November 17, 2016, at Regina Senior Living, Hastings, Minnesota. Earlier that year, she celebrated her 75th jubilee of religious profession.

She was born in Chicago on April 30, 1919, to John and Teresa (Zahora) Izral, who immigrated to the U.S. from Jablonka, a village in Austria-Hungary that today is part of Poland. Her family moved to a farm in Catawba, Wisconsin, when she was in first grade.

After completing high school she moved back to Chicago, where she worked in the hosiery department at Sears “when they still had silk socks,” she would say with a grin.

She entered the Servants of Mary in 1939 and professed first vows in 1941.

She earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Catherine and a master’s from the University of Minnesota. She taught in Catholic elementary schools in Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Illinois for 35 years and later taught religious education and did sacristy work at St. Agnes Parish in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

In 2007, she retired to Regina Senior Living.

She was preceded in death by her parents and five sisters. She is survived by her brother John, a retired Catholic priest living in Mississippi, and by the Servite Sisters, with whom she shared life for 77 years.

Sr. Bonnie Alho, OSM 1942–2017



Sister Bonnie Alho, 74, died peacefully on January 28, 2017, at Dove Healthcare in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, following a short struggle with liver cancer.

She was born in Superior, Wisconsin, on February 6, 1942, to Jack and Agnes (Osman) Alho, the oldest of two children. She joined the Servants of Mary in 1958 as a high school junior. When she became a novice in 1960, she received the name Sister Mary Thaddeus. She later returned to her baptismal name.

She earned a bachelor’s in education from Mount Senario College, Ladysmith, a master’s in religious education from St. Thomas University, Houston, and a certificate in clinical pastoral education from St. Francis Hospital, La Crosse.

In Memoriam

Sr. Teresa Schueller, OSM 1930–2017

She also participated in the Ministry to Ministers program at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio.

She taught for eleven years in Catholic elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. She served for eleven years on the staff of the Diocese of Superior's Religious Education Department. She ministered for ten years as director of religious education at our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Ladysmith, and for thirteen years as pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish, Rice Lake.

In the Diocese of Superior, she served on the Diocesan Deacon Board and the Superior Mutual Ministry Team. She helped establish the Marriage Encounter program and the Teens Encounter Christ, Fiat, and Quest programs for teenagers. She helped organize the Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation and served on its board. She also served as assistant to the Saint Peregrine Community of Secular Servites.

An avid sports fan, she especially enjoyed cheering on the Green Bay Packers.

She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her brother Gregg, nephew Kieran, niece Tammie, and the Servite Sisters, with whom she shared life for 59 years.



Sister Teresa Schueller, 87, died peacefully on February 24, 2017, at Ladysmith Care Community in Ladysmith.

She was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith on February 24, 1930, to William and Isabella (Franzen) Schueller of Jump River, the youngest of four children.

She attended the one-room Pioneer School in Jump River for grades 1–8 and graduated from St. Mary's High School in Ladysmith, where she was taught by Servite Sisters. She entered the convent in Ladysmith in 1948 and received the name Sister Mary Loyola. She later returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Teresa earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Viterbo University, La Crosse; a mas-

ter's in counseling psychology from Loyola University Chicago; and a certificate in spiritual direction from St. Norbert College, De Pere.

Her teaching career spanned nineteen years. She taught in elementary schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Minnesota, West Virginia, New Jersey, Illinois, and Wisconsin; she was principal of Sacred Heart School in Almena; and she taught at Servite High School in Ladysmith. While teaching at Servite High, she also oversaw the aspirants, who were high school students seeking to be Sisters.

In the Diocese of Superior, she worked for Catholic Charities in Superior and Rhinelander, was a liaison to wives and families in the Permanent Diaconate Program, and served as a pastoral associate at Our Lady Queen of the Universe Parish in Woodruff.

She was a counselor with Lutheran Social Services and initiated the Christian Counseling Service in the Woodruff-Rhinelander area. She was a hospice chaplain with Dr. Kate Home Health & Hospice in Woodruff and also ministered as a psychotherapist and spiritual guide.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and a sister. She is survived by a sister-in-law, Anna, nieces and nephews, and the Servite Sisters, with whom she shared life for 69 years.

Grateful Student Thanks Sister Years Later



Don Tardiff (left) in eighth grade, and (below) with his wife.

Every once in a while, we hear a heartwarming story of how a Servite Sister changed someone's life.

Recently, Don Tardiff of Frenchtown, New Jersey, sent us this note of appreciation for a Servite Sister who made a lasting difference in his life:

I had always wanted to thank Sister Mary Eileen McGing for helping me way back in 1964 (8th grade) at St. Joe's in Carteret. She made my father George make sure I was at the school every morning on Saturday so she could work on my stuttering and word vocabulary because, as she said, and I quote: "Don will never make it through high school with his stuttering." Basically, in 1965 I was going to get bullied.

Well, that young lady managed to pull it off, and I made it through high school, the work place, family (three kids, three grandkids), and life. I have not stuttered since 1965. (Correction: I did stutter when I first tried to introduce myself to my now wife of 42 years at a high school dance when I first saw her.)

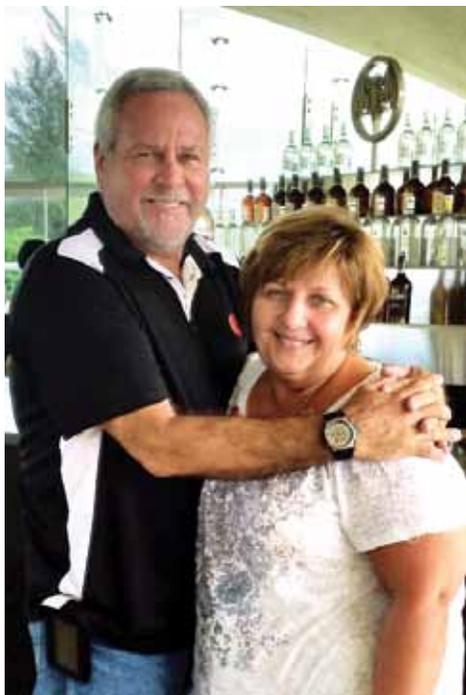
My only regret in life was that I did not get a chance to thank Sister Mary Eileen while she was still with us – but I always thought of her. I would like it if a prayer is said over her resting site if possible in my name, maybe on her birthday or at your convenience.

Thank you very much.

If you have a memorable story about a Servite Sister that you would like to share, please send it to ***Servite Sisters Today***, PO Box 389, Ladysmith, Wis. 54848, or mhsec@centurytel.net. We look forward to hearing from you.



Sr. Mary Eileen



Sister Scarecrow and Sister Rosemary

This fall Sisters Rosemary Fandel, De Lourdes Plourde, Marguerite Samz, and Cecilia Fandel, aided by our administrative assistant Mary Heintz, participated in Rusk County's annual "Leaf it to Rusk" festival by entering Sister Scarecrow in the scarecrow display. Pictured here is Sister Rosemary with their not-so-scary creation.



**We are deeply grateful to you, our donors,
and hold you in our prayers.**



**Please notify us if your name has been inadvertently
omitted or misspelled.**

***Indicates multiple gifts during this time period**

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- Bonczyk, Debra & John***
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- Widmar, Mary & John***
- Wildenberg, Pat**
In memory of S. Bonnie Alho, OSM
- Will, Sandra & Randy**
- Willger, Beverly & Joseph P.***
In memory of S. Bonnie Alho, OSM, S. Teresa Schueller, OSM
- Winger, Carl***
- Winkel, S. Jovita, CSA**
In memory of S. Bonnie Alho, OSM
- Wohnick, Mary**
In memory of S. M. Catherine Izral, OSM
- Wooden, Carol & Robert P.**
In honor of S. Sharon McCarthy, OSM, S. M. Eugene Baiardo, OSM
- Woodward, Michael J.**
- Wozniak, Rev. Timothy J.***
In honor of Margaret Wozniak
- Young, Glenda M.**
In memory of S. M. Joan LeBlanc, OSM
- Younger, Kristy & James**
- Zindrick, MaryBeth & Michael R.**
- Zorn, Mary K.***

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Motherhouse Pipe Organ Gets New Life

On the evening of Sunday, October 1, 200 music lovers gathered in the Spooner High School auditorium for the first public concert on the newly installed 340-pipe Wicks organ. The organ was a gift to the Spooner School District from the Ladysmith Servite Sisters, who purchased it for their motherhouse chapel in 1960 from United Organ Company in Milwaukee. The 340-pipe organ has 26 stops and contains all four families of pipe organ tone: the diapason, flute, string, and reed.

Over the years, many Sisters played the organ and taught many more to play. Finding a suitable time to practice could be a dicey proposition. The chaplain's quarters adjoined the chapel, and many's the time that an irate priest had his afternoon nap disturbed by a Sister playing the organ at full throttle.

When the Sisters sold their motherhouse in 2010, they started looking for a home for the organ. Timothy Kern, a music teacher at Spooner Elementary School, had played it at the motherhouse on a number of occasions. He urged the Sisters to put it in the Spooner High School auditorium, "For students, teachers, and community to play and enjoy." The Sisters agreed. Their commitment to the education of youth, along with their longtime ties to the Spooner community – beginning in 1958 when they arrived to teach at St. Francis de Sales School – convinced them this would be an ideal home for the treasured instrument.

At the dedication concert in Spooner, the audience heard pieces that demonstrated the wide range and gorgeous sound that the organ produces. Lynn Emmons, associate organist at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Eau Claire, said that the reed stop on this organ had the most beautiful sound of any she had played.

Sisters Virginia Schwartz and Barbara Thomalla represented the Servite Sisters at the event. "The concert was just lovely," said Sister Virginia. "It was fascinating to watch Lynn play parts of some songs with only her feet," she added. Sister Barbara was interested to learn that very few high schools have a pipe organ. Howard Nolte, the master technician who installed the organ in Spooner, said he knows of one in Hibbing and one in Duluth.

Though this organ is more than a half-century old, that is not old for an organ, according to Nolte. Some organs in Europe are more than 500 years old, and because the pipes do not deteriorate with age, an organ could make music forever if properly maintained.

The concert was organized by the Intermezzo Music Club, an area association that promotes live music performance and awards scholarships to area youth. Proceeds from the concert were donated to the Organ Fund of the Spooner Education Foundation for remaining installation and future maintenance costs.

Timothy Kern, pictured here with Sister Barbara Thomalla (left) and Sister Virginia Schwartz, convinced the Sisters to donate their chapel organ to the Spooner School District.

