

# Mary Notes



Sisters of Mary of the Presentation

Maryvale Convent, Valley City, ND 58072

Volume 51 No. 2 July 2019

## Life and Its Difficulties

By Sister Suzanne Stahl, SMP



Many Sisters, colleagues, family members and friends have recently died or are in need of surgery or are seriously ill. I guess these things increase in life as one gets older. What to do with all of that? Feel despair, self-pity or sadness, or look for the silver lining and feel hope?

I've been thinking about this and asking God about it in my daily prayer. The scripture that came to me is Jesus, in his agony in the garden before carrying his cross and being crucified. "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Still, *let it be as you would have it, not as I.*" (Matthew 26:39)

Psalm 139:13 says that I am created by God who formed my inmost being - in my mother's womb. (Thanks God, Dad and Mom!) I am here to live out my *Creator's will* for me. The cup of suffering....no one ever promised me/us freedom from loss, illness and woe. It is part of loving....if I never love and connect to others I won't have loss. If I don't live, I could avoid illness and physical pain. If I don't do anything, I can avoid mistakes, distress and maturing. But, I want to live, love and grow. Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. (Luke 2:40) I want to follow *God's way and live and love* as Jesus did. Let's keep living life despite the struggles.

# Tending Your Soul: God's Spiritual Garden

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard



“Tending Your Soul: God’s Spiritual Garden” was the theme of this year’s Women’s Retreat which took place at Maryvale, March 29-31 and July 19-21, 2019. We had 60 women in March and July participate in this rich spiritual encounter thirsting for God, the Gardener of their souls. This retreat was led by Sister Dorothy Bunce and Sister Anne Germaine Picard.

The imagery of a garden is used in various ways throughout Scripture to speak of a relationship with God, spiritual growth and conversion. Jesus also very often uses garden imagery to teach a gospel lesson. The prophet Isaiah expresses the Word of God this way, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

The women were led through personal reflections, group sharing, and prayer experiences using scripture as the center of a call to personal conversion and growth tending their soul, the dwelling place of God. Sisters Dorothy and Anne Germaine gave several teachings on Spiritual Growth and Tending God’s Spiritual Garden within us. The women also joined the Sisters at Maryvale for prayer and the Eucharistic celebration.



March 29-31, 2019 Retreatants



July 19-21, 2019 Retreatants



# SMP HEALTH SYSTEM LEADERSHIP RETREAT

By Sister Marlyss Dionne

SMP Health System, inspired by the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, provides leadership to its Catholic healthcare ministries as they work to fulfill the healing mission of Jesus.

The Retreat was held at Chandler, Arizona on March 14 - 16, 2019. Leaders and Board Members from all of our Healthcare Ministries : Sponsorship/SMP Health Ministry, SMP Health System, Presentation Medical Center - Rolla, St. Aloisius Medical Center- Harvey, St. Andrew's Health Center - Bottineau, St. Margaret's Health - Spring Valley, Il., Prairieland Home Care - Spring Valley, IL, SMP Long Term Care : Ave Maria Village - Jamestown, Maryhill Manor - Enderlin, Rosewood on Broadway - Fargo, Sheyenne Care Center - Valley City, and Villa Maria - Fargo. The total group, including spouses and some other staff of several facilities, was 105 persons. It was wonderful to visit with so many involved in our healthcare ministries!

The guest speakers for the three days included:



Jon Green is a graduate of University of North Dakota with a BSBA in Business Administration and Personnel Management. He is currently the Executive Director at Altru Health Foundation in Grand Forks, ND He spoke about "Creating Positive Relationships through Effective Communications."



John Paul Carson, MD, specializes in general adult infectious disease, serves as a Professor at UNDSMHS, NDSU Dept of Public Health, and Director of NDSU for Immunization Research and Education. John spoke beautifully about the role of Spirituality in our healthcare ministries:.



Tom Moraghan, MD, spoke on the "Holy Spirit as your Doubles Partner in Medicine"- also emphasizing the importance of Spirituality in out healthcare ministry. Tom is serving at Essentia Health in

Brainerd, MN.

Speakers continued on page 4

Sister Suzanne Stahl, Regional Superior of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, raises her hands in blessing to all those gathered at the SMP Health System biennial Conference held in Scottsdale, AZ March 14-16, 2019.





Terry Judd, SMP Health Ministry Member, and Sister Elaine Lange, SMP Regional Assistant, gave a presentation together that explained to the group that Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System is now a ministerial Public Juridic Person (PJP) and what exactly this means for the leaders and employees of each of the System's Ministries. A ministerial PJP represents the Church in the same way the



Sisters have in the past. The presentation gave clear examples from the past and the present of how each leader and employee is called to further the healing ministry of Jesus with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation now and on into the future. This will require a commitment to ongoing education and formation that will allow us to truly LIVE the mission.



Mark J. Lindquist, a motivational speaker, who spoke on "Passion! 8 Steps to Ignite Yours". Mark started his life at an Orphanage in Seoul, South Korea was adopted and was raised on a rural farm in Minnesota. I was so impressed by the speakers for the emphasis they placed on the role of Spirituality in our ministries.

We participated in daily Mass and the choir, if we so desired. Afternoons were left free to travel, play golf, visit sites of interest or just plain relax outside or in the outdoor pool. All of our meals, except breakfast, were served at tables outdoors. These gatherings allowed us to get to know and visit with others from all of our healthcare ministries. At the Sunday-privileged Mass on the evening of March 16 we were Missioned for Ministry by Sister Suzanne, Regional Leader. Leaving these precious days of retreat, we went forth to live out the theme of these days: "Formed, Faithful, Forward."



Aaron Alton and JT Kennelly bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the closing Mass.



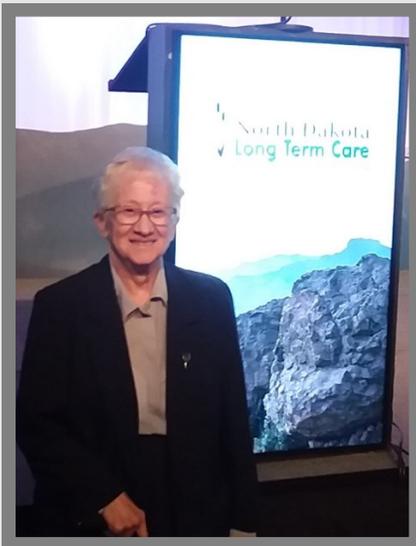
Father Dale Kinzler



Deacon Jim Hunt, Deacon Jim Eggl.

# Sister Dorothy Bunce named North Dakota Chaplains Association Champion 2019

By Sister Dorothy Bunce and Amanda Kunze



On May 8, 2019, Sr. Suzanne Stahl accompanied Sr. Dorothy Bunce to the North Dakota Long Term Care Conference Gala Banquet in Bismarck, ND where persons chosen by their Long Term Care facility were recognized as outstanding in their respective department. The North Dakota Chaplains' Association chooses to feature a Chaplain each year to represent the Chaplain's organization.

Sr. Dorothy says she was touched by being singled out for this award, although her focus has never been strayed from what she considers her true calling: providing patients with spiritual care. "Being recognized for my work with our patients is certainly an honor," Sr. Dorothy says. I feel blessed that I can help bring people to God."

Sr. Dorothy has provided numerous patients with prayer, support, and spiritual guidance since she joined CHI Mercy Health in June of 2010. Keith Heuser, president of CHI Mercy Health, makes the following comments on Sister Dorothy's chaplaincy: "Sister Dorothy has been an incredible blessing to this facility. She touches every patient and family who comes here. She is attentive to the whole person, not just to the injury or illness that brought them here. She has an incredible compassion for the sick and marginalized, being the first one to offer help wherever it is needed. She can go from helping a child of a patient understand what is going on, to praying with someone who has no family, to helping a dying patient be more comfortable with their transition. On top of all this, she is a joy to be around. Her humor, hearty laugh and the ability to embrace any challenge make her a precious and essential part of our everyday activities here. She truly brings the love of Jesus to work every day and we are the beneficiaries!"

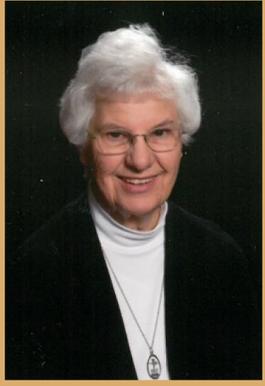
"The people that I meet are yearning for God," Sr. Dorothy says. "I remember talking with a young man, who explained he was dying of cancer and had strayed from his practice of faith." The young man asked Sr. Dorothy if she could help, and she said she would be happy to. She spoke to the young man about his faith and helped him make his final arrangements before he passed away. "It was all in God's hands," she adds. "I'm not taking any credit. God let me play that role in that young man's life."



Board Chair of the ND Long Term Care Association, Craig Christianson, speaks at the ND LTC Conference.

# Where do I go from here? “Come and See.”

A Story about Sr. Anne Germaine written by Amanda Kunze



Sr. Anne Germaine Picard’s story begins before she was born and through the love and faith of her parents who brought her into this world and through their lives, they said, “Come and See.” They brought her to the waters of Baptism again saying, “Come and See.” All throughout her childhood by praying daily through family prayer, meal prayer, attending Sunday Mass and attending Notre Dame Academy at Willow City, ND were all pathways for her to “Come and See”. Little did she know at the time, the Sisters at Notre Dame Academy would change her life forever. It has been 59 years since Sr. Anne Germaine’s initial response of “Come and See,” into the Religious Life as a Sister of Mary

of the Presentation. I personally do not know how this is possible as she doesn't even look to be 60!

As I sat down with Sr. Anne Germaine and talked about her journey as a Sister of Mary of the Presentation, I was captivated how one “Come and See” moment opened up many “Come and See” moments for her. From a student in Chicago to an X-ray technician in Spring Valley for 4 years and another 12 years in Bottineau, healthcare was her place to be until a different “Come and See” moment appeared in parish and youth ministry with opportunities in campus ministry, and vocation and formation ministry. Along her path Sr. Anne Germaine found she was called to be in Illinois with other Sisters of the Community. In 2013 when, Sr. Elaine Lange left Princeton, IL to move back to North Dakota, this left Sr. Anne Germaine as the lone Sister of Mary of the Presentation in Princeton, IL. She was told, “You will find your way.” Sister Anne Germaine did find her way... developing relationships within the community and parish through prayer, faith and support. In Illinois, Sr. Anne Germaine spread the word of the Lord to her civic community by forming prayer groups, holding bible studies, vocation, ministry prayer in the nursing home and formation at St. Margaret’s Hospital. Many powerful, moving, uplifting stories were shared with me which required the Kleenex box to be brought out. The power of prayer is a beautiful thing. The Love, Faith and Trust, Sister Anne Germaine has for the Lord is an asset that no one can take away from her.

Sister Anne Germaine packed up the house in Princeton the last week in May with the help of Sister Elaine, Mary Ann Michelet and many volunteers, as moving is not an easy task. They arrived at Maryvale on June 3rd. Sister Anne Germaine will be living at Maryvale until August, when she moves to Harvey, ND. She will be with Sr. Mary Agnes Huber and will be active in parish ministry, formation director and as Associate Director. Sr. Anne Germaine closes another chapter in her book as a new “Come and See” chapter opens in Harvey, ND.

I asked Sister if there was anything else she hoped to accomplish yet in her life. She laughed and

said, “I want to become a Saint. Live a life of holiness and grow within that relationship.” Sister Anne Germaine’s “Come and See” journeys thus far are motivational, powerful and heart clenching but haven't always been easy. “How did you get through those challenging times?” I asked. She told me, “If I didn't have faith and trust, I would have fallen off the path many times.” She also added, “Community Life, it makes those hard times a bit easier to handle because we share the same mission and values. We support one another.”

The last question I asked Sister Anne Germaine didn't come easy for her. I asked, “What are you going to miss the most about Princeton, Illinois?” It was silent. With teary eyes and a soft quiet voice, she said, “The prayer groups, bible studies, nursing home, hospital and all the developed relationships that I built within the community is what I am going to miss.” There was a long silent pause.... “and there will be no more Sisters of Mary of the Presentation left in Illinois,” she said.

## **FAREWELL... ST. LOUIS PARISHIONERS**

Dear St. Louis Parishioners,

When I made my Profession of Vows in 1960 I promised Obedience to “Go where there is need of me.” It is with that openness that I accept to say “Good-bye” to my parish family and do new parish ministry in Harvey North Dakota. I spent 12 years in Harvey at Aloisius Medical Center and as Hospice Care Chaplain before coming to Princeton. In December of 2008 I moved to Princeton to facilitate Community Life among our Sisters in Princeton as I continued my position as Vocation Director for my Religious Community. It was truly a faith journey, I grew as God led me into new territory and encounters. I also became a board member of St. Margaret’s Health in Spring Valley, IL and a member of the Mission Integration team to keep before our employees the meaning of “The Healing Ministry of Jesus” in all of our care. We are grateful for Deacon John Murphy who directs our Pastoral Care services and Ethical and Religious Directives to staff, our board members and patients. I will continue to be a board member of St. Margaret's.

I want to thank YOU... for the witness of the gospel I have been immersed in these past 12 years... the Bible Studies, gathering for Prayer, the Eucharist, funeral luncheon services, Eucharistic ministry going out to the most vulnerable in our midst, You, my people, have taught me so very much about what it means to be a companion to one another in the parish... and it goes outward to others. Thanks. You are that transforming fire of the Holy Spirit in Princeton.

Thank you for all your support and affirmation you have given me... your Love, faith sharing, services, etc... and the wonderful celebration you prepared and held as my farewell and a year ago gifting my Religious Community with a car. WOW! This is a memory I will never forget. Thanks abundantly for your generous financial support to our community and especially for our African Mission. We will soon be starting a mission in Congo. Pray for us, as we do God’s will.

Through all this I say... I have been God’s Lighthouse... just the house. God’s Indwelling Light shines

out to all I encounter or serve. Keep your eyes and heart on the Light of God. God is there for YOU. Pray for me to keep God's Light shining out in order to touch lives with His Love where God places me.

Peace and Prayer,

Sister Anne Germaine

**God's Lighthouse**

By: Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP

*I have been formed in God's hands.  
To be God's presence wherever I may land.*

**I am God's Lighthouse.**

*Within me is an eternal flame  
That brings Hope to all who see;  
I need to believe and trust  
That God is living in me.*

**I am God's Lighthouse**

*My heart bursts with Love;  
Empowered from above;  
To shine, to glow, to show,  
God's everlasting Love.*

**I am God's Lighthouse**

*The world around me  
Is dark, is lonely, and is lost;  
Only because it doesn't focus  
On the light flowing from the Cross.*

**I am God's Lighthouse**

*I am filled with awe  
When I come to know,  
God Chose Me  
To make His Light show.*

**I am God's Lighthouse.**



## Sisters' Farewell Party

Thank you to all that helped with decorations, set up, brought food, wine, served, and stayed to clean up. Sister was overwhelmed with the outpouring support of love and kindness. Your participation was greatly appreciated and will be forever in her heart. Thank you again for sharing your time, talent, and treasures.

— Linda McCabe



**Lynn Ehrmantraut Lowe** Not sure if she has proven miracles on her resumé yet, but I do think we've had a saint among us these past years...we are so blessed... 🙏

**Linda Keese McCabe** What a blessing she has been to our Parish and Community. She may be leaving, but she will never be forgotten 😭

**Colleen Yucus** Love you Sister, continued blessings!

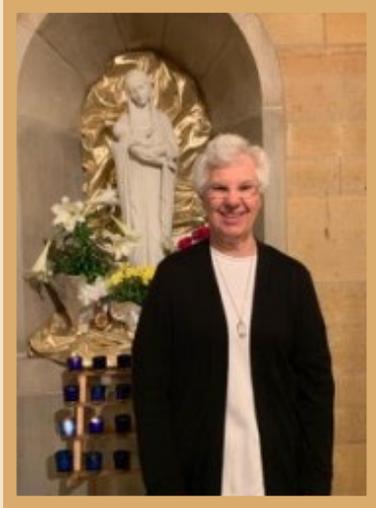


**Karen Towns** Sister Anne Germaine has touched so many lives here.... we will miss her but will never forget all she did for us!! Our family will be forever grateful for her guidance & prayers as Mom journeyed home.... ❤️



**THANKS AND ANNOUNCEMENT:** Speaking of returning home, last Sunday, we had a glorious celebration of gratitude to honor Sister Anne Germaine, as she returns home to North Dakota, and indirectly also to the rest of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, a number of whom have served Saint Louis Parish for the past 55 years. I want to thank the women of CCW for taking the initiative with that important celebration. Thanks for helping us remind Sister on her way out, not only of how much we love and appreciate her, but also that Saint Louis knows how to party! Thank you to all those who came and helped support it with such a great turnout. Lastly, for anyone who was not present to hear the announcement, we have decided that the Thanksgiving collection will continue to be directed to the African Missions of Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. As we strive to give back to those in need, it will be fitting that we annually do so with true spirit of thanksgiving to a religious order who has given us so much over the years!

Christ through Mary,  
Father Gifford–  
St. Louis Parish



# Go where I am Needed

By Amanda Kunze



Many laughs, many tears, many smiles, many gatherings, and many friendships are all memories made in Princeton, IL that the Sisters will cherish. In 1964, the St. Louis Parish purchased a little brick house that was used as a convent for the teaching Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. In the January 1966 edition of Mary Notes, the Sisters used this quote: "A man's home is his castle, so the saying goes. *Our home is our castle- fit for queens.* Sister

Eloise Marie Pulskamp said, "I liked it there in Princeton, I taught 1st grade for 22 years." Sister Anne Germaine said, "I helped Sr. Elaine Lange out in the classroom while she was having medical care." Sr. Rose Therese Sevigny said, "The Parish renovated the entry way of the house and made us a Chapel." Sister Rose Therese will never forget the pear tree in the front yard and the mess it made. The Sisters vacated the convent on June 11, 2004, when it was needed to begin a preschool for St. Louis School.



Sr. Margaret Heber (Sr. Ruth Ann), Sr. Dorothy Bunce (Sr. Ann Lucy), Father Culleton, Sr. Dorothy Bertsch (Sr. Rachel Marie), Lay Teacher, Mrs. Sullivan.



Sister Carol Jean Kuntz, teacher 1983-1988, 1993-1996, Sister Eloise Marie Pulskamp teacher 1982-2004, Sister Barbara Marie Pfeifer, teachers aide, librarian 1982-1986.



Sister Rose Therese Sevigny, teacher 1980-1984 and 1996-2001 and one of her students, on her 1st Communion.



Sr. Anne Germaine, Picard, 2008-2019, Sister Dorothy Bertsch, teacher & 1st Principal 1964-1979, Sister Marlyss Dionne, Principal and part time teacher 1979-1983, Sister Dorothy Bunce, teacher 1964-1969 and Sister Elaine Lange., teacher 2001-2013.



Sister Elaine then moved to Spring Valley, IL to live with the Sisters who worked at St. Margaret's Hospital. She drove into Princeton to teach for 4 years until the Sisters purchased a cozy little house on Thompson Street and named it "Presentation House." Presentation House was a cute little convent for us," said Sister Anne Germaine. Sister Elaine added, "we had a garden in the backyard for a couple of years."

Relationships with each other and with our Associates were built and strengthened at the Presentation House each Sister added. The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation have had a presence in the community for 55 years. Just think how many lives the Sisters have impacted during those 55 years of service to the community of Princeton!



Sister Elaine and Sr. Anne Germaine relaxing on the swing in the backyard.



"Look what we grew!"



A Lovely Meal. From L to R: Sr. Elaine, Sr. Dorothy Bertsch, Sr. Suzanne Stahl, Mary Woodshank, and Sr. Anne Germaine.



Pizza supper with the 8th grade girls.



Sister Dorothy Bertsch and Sister Anne Germaine

**Memories are created... Friends are always welcome...  
and Families are forever...**

# BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AT MARYVALE... EVEN A TURKEY!



## THE GLORY OF GOD

By: *Sister Carol Jean Kuntz*

As I walk from place to place  
I feel the warm sunshine on my face.

Trees are moving to and fro  
Some branches hanging low.

Birds have built their nest  
With little ones, there is no rest.

I see geese two by two  
Soon there will be more than a few.  
I love the smell of fresh tilled grounds  
And I love to hear the nature sounds.

Yes, as I walk from place to place  
God's glory is reflected all over the place.



## I LOVE YOU

By: *Sr. Agnes Marie Zimny*

“How much,” you ask? My darling one,  
From here to way beyond the sun!

The outer space, from start to star  
Measures not how dear you are.

As wide spread fragrance of a rose  
In wafted scent, unmeasured goes.

As autumn leaves, borne on the gale  
So is my love's uncharted trail.

The Sisters wear the Mardi Gras masks they made during the Mardi Gras Party held at Maryvale on March 3, 2019. The party was planned by Sister Rose Therese Sevigny and Sister Therese Celine Craven. They wore beaded necklaces and played games as they rejoiced one last time before Lent began on March 6.



From left to right: Sisters Therese Celine Craven, Rose Therese Sevigny Mary Jane Pulskamp, Fr. Don Leiphon, Sisters Miriam Braun, Marlyss Dionne, Dorothy Bunce, Elaine Lange, Eloise Marie Pulskamp. Seated are Sisters Giustina Zanin, Frances Marie Voigt, and Dorothy Bertsch.

## Maryvale receives a Grant

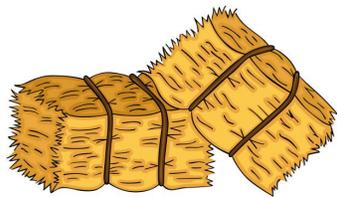
Maryvale was selected as a recipient for the 2019 Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation Grant. With this grant it allows Maryvale to establish first response equipment on the premises which includes an AED and supplemental oxygen and supplies.

“As a regional retreat center and far from EMS personnel, it is important that we provide a safe environment for our guests at Maryvale” said Gail Pederson, SPRN, HN-BC. Andrea Nelson (left) presents Maryvale with a \$750 grant to Gail Pederson (right).

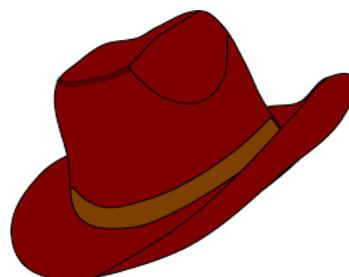


# VILLA MARIA RESIDENT AND FAMILY PICNIC

On June 14, Villa Maria in Fargo, ND held their annual resident and family picnic. Sisters Mary Ann Schmitz, Sharon Houle, Mary Jane Pulskamp, Anne Germaine Picard, and Suzanne Stahl were in attendance for the cowboy themed gathering.



SISTER ANNE GERMAINE... BOOT N' SCOOTIN WITH A RESIDENT.



“HOWDY... SISTER MARY ANN. YOUR COWBOY HAT SURE DOES LOOK PURDY.”

*Commemorating  
60 Years  
of Religious Profession*

*Sister Mary Agnes Hüber*

*Sister Sharon Houle*



*Sister Giustina Zanin*

*Sister Dorothy Bunce*

July 7, 2019, what a beautiful Sunday it was at Maryvale! The sun was shining, the birds were chirping as the Sisters celebrated the 60th Jubilee of Sister Mary Agnes Huber, Sister Sharon Houle, Sister Giustina Zanin, and Sister Dorothy Bunce. Mass was celebrated at 10:00 A.M. followed by brunch. As brunch was finished, everyone had an opportunity to share stories about our Jubilarians. Much laughter ensued! It was a joy to celebrate so many years of service given to God's people. Following are highlights of each Sister's life.

**Sister Mary Agnes Huber** attended St. Catherine's High School in 1960 in Valley City, ND. She became a Certified Food Service Manager and worked in the dietary departments of St. Margaret's Hospital (1959-1960), St. Andrew's Health Center (1960-1965), St. Aloisius Medical Center in Harvey, ND (1965-1973), Maryvale Convent in Valley City, ND (1973-1974) and Presentation Medical Center in Rolla, ND (1974-1976). Wanting more in life, I went back to school to become a Chaplain. Part way through schooling I was selected Provincial Assistant for 4 years. I served as Chaplain at Presentation Medical Center in Rolla, ND and since 2008 Sister Mary Agnes has been serving as a Chaplain at St. Aloisius Medical Center in Harvey, ND.

**Sister Sharon Houle** received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND in 1965 and Masters of Science in Nursing at University of Washington in Seattle, WA in 1968. Sister Sharon has worked as a nurse or as an instructor in the nursing field for many years. Her ministry has taken her from North Dakota to Wisconsin, Montana, Washington, Minnesota, Illinois and back to North Dakota. She currently serves as a Parish Nurse for Nativity Catholic Church in Fargo, ND.

**Sister Giustina Zanin** served the SMP Community as a seamstress, cook, and domestic worker for many years. She served for a short time in North Dakota, but spent the majority of her Religious Life in Illinois. Sister Giustina worked at St. Patrick Convent and School in Washington, IL from 1979-2005. She helped the "Kitchen Ladies" and the children over the lunch hour. She taught the children sign language as she helped them clean off their trays. They loved her, showering her with daily hugs. Sister Giustina came to Maryvale in 2005, working as out seamstress, and began her prayer ministry. She retired after having a stroke in 2016 and now serves in full-time prayer ministry.

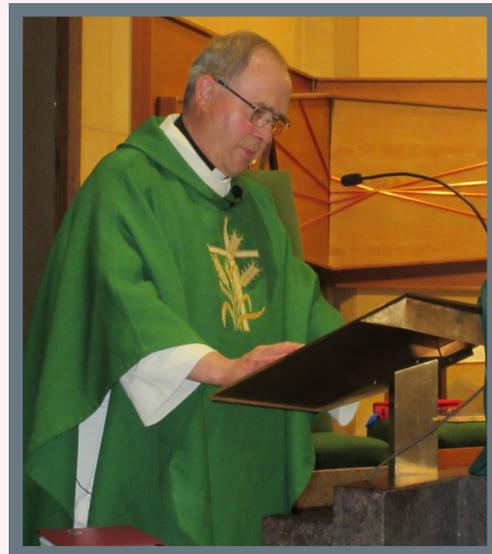
**Sister Dorothy Bunce** attended St. Bede's Academy in Spring Valley, IL from 1959-1962. She received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at College of Great Falls, MT in 1967. She taught at St. Catherine's School in Valley City, ND in 1962-1963, 1968-1969 and St. Louis School in Princeton, IL 1964-1968. After her teaching she was Provincial Councilor from 1970-1976, Provincial Superior from 1984-1992 and Provincial Assistant from 2001-2005. She has been the Spiritual Director and Retreat Leader at Maryvale since 1993, Formation Director for SMP from 1976-1984, 2005 to present. Sister Dorothy Bunce now serves as the Pastoral Care Chaplain at CHI Mercy Hospital. She has held this position since 2010.

“It is hard for me to believe that it has already been 60 years since I made my commitment with the Sister of Mary of the Presentation. It just seems like I celebrated my 50th and now its 60 years. Father Leiphon’s homily was based on our Constitution which was very meaningful, as well as receiving cards from the Sisters, offering prayers and support as I continue my journey as a Sister. Thank You for everything.”

Sr. Mary Agnes Huber



Sisters Giustina, Dorothy, Mary Agnes and Sharon renew their vows of Poverty, Obedience and Consecrated Chastity.



Father Don Leiphon give his homily.



Sister Sharon reads the 1st Reading.



Sister Dorothy Bunce reads the 2nd Reading.

# The Diocese of Peoria invited the Jubilairians to respond to a few questions they were asked.....

## 1.) What do you wish everyone knew about your vocation?

**Sister Dorothy Bunce:** I want others to know that my vocation to religious life is a call from God to live a life of service to his people. It is a life which teaches me how to love and serve others which is really God's desire and purpose for each person. Different vocations for other people may go about this purpose in various ways but it all comes around to giving honor and glory to God through Jesus and in the Spirit.

**Sister Giustina Zanin:** My mother, my oldest brother Attilio and his wife, Loretta hoped that I would be a Sister and that dream came true.

**Sister Mary Agnes Huber:** The Lord works in a different way, as I was hoping to get married and have a large family and that we would live on the farm. At a young age, in grade school, a Sister of Mary of the Presentation, a teacher at St. Catherine's School, gave me a booklet about the Sisters. I was to take it home and read it. Which I did. After I gave it back to her, she asked me what I thought about it, and I answered her that it was OK. I know the seed was planted at that time, but I gave it no further thought. When I was going to high school, is when I felt there was something else, so I mentioned it to my parents. After that I went to see the parish priest in Fingal, ND and he was quite sure that I had a religious vocation. From then on, things fell into place. I entered at a young age, but as my time went on, I had many different experiences which have led me to where I am now.

## 2.) What has brought you the most joy and why?

**Sister Dorothy Bunce:** Perhaps the most joy has come through living with other companions who witness a mutual commitment to God alone and availability to God's people. This commitment expands throughout life into various ways one is called in apostolic service.

**Sister Giustina Zanin:** Community life with my Sisters in Christ has brought me the most joy. We Sisters work for God and I experience a family-like spirit living in community.

**Sister Mary Agnes Huber:** Some of the things that have brought me joy were when I made my first retreat. I learned so much about myself, and spiritual direction has helped me to continue learning. Both of these experiences have led me to deeper insight into myself which has helped me in my ministry as a Chaplain.

## 3.) What advice would you offer someone discerning a vocation to consecrated life?

**Sister Dorothy Bunce:** The advice I would offer someone who is discerning a vocation to the consecrated life is to be open to discern. One does this through prayer, seeking advice from persons who can help one discern and visiting with someone who lives consecrated life.

**Sister Giustina Zanin:** I would advise that they pursue Religious Life and they not listen to negativity about it from family or friends if they feel interested or are being called by God to Religious Life.

**Sister Mary Agnes Huber:** When I first mentioned to my parents the idea of being a Religious Sister, I never dreamt that by giving up having a family of my own, I would receive a much bigger family—the people that I have met along the way. As I lived my life, I have learned to let go of my fear of new things and I have learned to have great trust in God. God has never asked me to do anything that he not given me the grace to live through. Jesus has always been there for me.

# Maryvale Spiritual Life Center 2019-2020 Retreat Schedule

## Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction encourages a person to explore a closer relationship with God. With the aid of a spiritual director, one reflects on the experiences of daily life and how God is active in one's life. Suggested donation per day is: \$30-\$55



## Directed Retreat



A directed retreat is a silent retreat which focuses on the personal prayer of an individual, and the unique experience of God in the life of the person. Each day the retreatant meets with the retreat director to reflect on one's prayer and to receive material for further prayer. Suggested donation per day is: \$50-\$85 and includes 3 meals.

## Private Retreat

A private retreat allows a person to be alone in a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere.

## Ignatian Retreat

The Ignatian retreat is steeped in the Gospels and is based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. This is a silent retreat where one is able to meet Jesus in the experiences of Jesus' own life. Conferences and individual direction are included in this retreat.



**Four weekend retreats are offered: September 13-19, 2019; December 6-8, 2019; Jan. 31-Feb 2, 2020, May 3-5, 2020** Suggested donation per day is: \$85

## Women's Retreat: Knowing Our God Through the Psalms

This retreat is designed to guide participants who wish to enter into a deeper prayer based on the psalms. The different kind of psalms express a variety of subjects, moods and attitudes experienced by all of us. These ancient prayers have formed the spiritual life of people for centuries.

**The weekend retreats are offered: March 6-8, 2020; July 24-26, 2020;** Suggested donation is: \$85

## Three Hour Retreats Suggested donation is: \$18

Participate with others in these 3 hour retreats which are designed to assist a person who desires spiritual growth. The format for these retreats allows for small group gatherings which enable participants to converse on their prayer experiences and encounters with God.

**Embracing Change as a Time of Grace: September 7, 2019; 1:00-4:00 pm, March 28, 2020; 1:00-4:00 pm**

**Listening With the Ear of Your Heart: December 19, 2019; 1:00-4:00 pm, May 3, 2020; 1:00-4:00 pm**

## Mother-Daughter Retreat: October 16, 2019 6:00-8:30 pm Suggested donation is: \$18

This retreat will provide mothers and daughters with mutual experiences of prayer and sharing along with personal prayer time. Brief conferences will enable retreatants to engage in helpful conversation.



# 1st Annual St. Catherine's School Mother-Daughter Retreat held at Maryvale

By Amanda Kunze & Sr. Anne Germaine Picard

My 12 year old daughter kept asking me. "Mom, when is Maryvale going to have a mother-daughter retreat that I can go to?" "Good question," I responded. The more I thought about it, I thought it would be neat to get the mothers and daughters of St. Catherine's School together. I quickly sent an email to the Dean of Students, Dawn Ihry asking her if she thought this was a good or a terrible idea. She thought this was a great family building opportunity as mothers and daughters could strengthen their relationship in a faith based atmosphere, plus get to know other mothers on a deeper level.

The next day I talked with Sister Dorothy Bunce and she thought it was a great idea as well, her exact words were, 'Let's do this!' As soon as we had the date set, my daughter wrote it on the calendar in BIG letters, MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT. She was excited to get to spend some time with HER MOM!

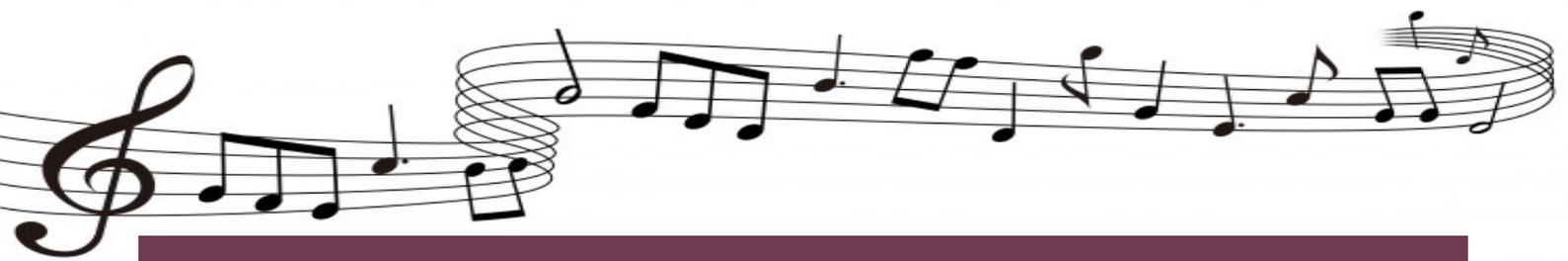
The retreat day finally came. We arrived early so we took the opportunity to take a walk on the Maryvale grounds. We walked to the cemetery, Stations of the Cross, through the Prayer Tunnel and even took a selfie of ourselves at the shrine.

There were 5 mothers, 1 grandmother and 6 daughters who attended the retreat. It was inspirational for to me to hear from other mothers that sometimes being a mother can be a real struggle. It was also reassuring for the children to tell their mothers they are the best because....

Our focus on the evening was reflecting upon the gift of motherhood and the meaning of being a daughter as we shared stories and affirmation of one another in a prayerful atmosphere. We closed the evening by going to Chapel and praying the Rosary reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and how each mystery connects with their lives. We missioned them with a blessing and a symbol to always walk with Jesus.

We ended the evening with a group picture outside and the children blessing the retreat directors, Sr. Anne Germaine and Sr. Dorothy Bunce. As soon as we got into the car to head home, Jayda says, "Mom, when is there going to be another retreat because that was fun." We got home and of course she told her brothers all about the night. A special thank you to Sr. Dorothy & Sr. Anne Germaine for going along with my idea to have this retreat. It was a great evening spent with MY DAUGHTER!





## Valley Troubadours give concert at Maryvale

Maryvale welcomed once again the Valley City Troubadours on Monday April 22, 2019, for their 43rd Annual Spring Concert in our auditorium. About twenty men sporting their purple vest and tie had abandoned the traditional black suits. They looked very sporty!

A group of residents from Legacy Place and Bridgeview Estates came in buses to view the performance along with several other people from Valley City.

At 6:30 pm they began their performance. A variety of spiritual and secular music delighted us with a few solos in the group which added a little humor. Some of the selections included, "All Hail the Power of Jesus", "Kansas City", "Don't Fence Me In", "There is Nothing Like a Dame", "This Little Light of Mine", and "Alexander's Rag Time Band."

At the end of the program the Sisters provided cookies and lemonade for all in attendance. A time of visiting and rejoicing followed with many complimentary words about their great music and handsome new attire.

Hopefully we will see them next year!

