



Images

Summer
2022

A Newsletter for friends of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

Responding to Ever-Changing Needs

Like many religious congregations today, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine are looking at the demographics of our membership and making decisions with regard to that reality. But we are also more aware of how God is calling us to live fully the meaning of this religious life. As Thomas Merton describes, "Our journey in life is interior: it is a matter of growth, deepening, and an ever greater surrender to the creative action of love and grace in our hearts."

As we continue to reflect on our transformational journey, the Sisters of Charity have crafted this edition of *Images* with transformation in mind. This issue offers a glimpse of how our inner work has led us to consistently respond and adapt to the needs of God's people. We have a wonderful history of loving service that has brought us many memories and blossomed into the formation of a foundation that will continue our service into the future. We also have dreams that continue to bless our lives. Such significant directions currently include our dialogue regarding collaboration with the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland; the transformation of the St. Vincent Charity Hospital campus into an expanded place of healing through the implementation of a health campus; and the development of caring for homeless men and women who need care and compassion at both Joseph's Home and the new Mary's Home.

There is already a long history of collaboration with the Ursuline Sisters. In 1851, the novices that came from France at the invitation of Bishop Rappe arrived in Cleveland and were welcomed into the Ursuline novitiate; they were formed as religious and professed as Sisters of Charity. Bishop Rappe also asked a woman completing her novitiate with the Ursulines to become the first superior of our newly formed congregation: Mother Ursula Bissonette. As we have ministered in this Diocese together, our mutual respect, admiration, friendships, shared values and purpose, the attendance of CSA's at Ursuline College and the Ursuline residents living at Regina Health Center have all fostered a desire for both Congregations to examine how we might continue to collaborate, serving the God who is the source of our lives. A joint committee from both congregations, facilitated by Sr. Susan Durkin, OSU, has led our members in dreaming of where God is calling us into the future.

Similarly, the new health campus is as much a product of the current changes in the world as it is a direct result of our legacy of serving others through quality healthcare. We all are aware of the changes taking place in our world that affect the needs of God's people, including technology, economics, scientific advancements, etc. The health campus will be designed to address these evolving needs. In addition, the environment of this new plan will be driven by a focus on health access, wellness, providing alternatives to costly hospital care (such as ambulatory or outpatient settings), and an awareness of the social determinants and their impact on one's ability to achieve a healthy life. All of these are critical components that, if addressed, can provide the tools needed for a healthy population. *(continued on pg. 4)*



Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA

Portrait: *In Memoriam*



Sr. Rosella Holloman

Sr. Rosella Holloman was born Rosa Lee Holloman on March 25th, 1930. After school, she worked at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in the dietary department. While sitting in the hospital chapel on Holy Thursday, Sr. Rosella heard the call to religious life—the gentle voice of God telling her that this was where she belonged. Sr. Rosella entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine in 1950 and professed final vows on August 22nd, 1956.

Much of Sr. Rosella's ministry was spent in healthcare. She graduated from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in 1956, and served at Timken Mercy Hospital as the Nursing Supervisor until 1966. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Cleveland State University in 1973, and her Master's in Nursing from the Catholic University of America in 1975. Sr. Rosella also ministered at St. John Hospital and St. Vincent Charity Hospital as a Psychiatric Nurse Clinician, and at Mt. Augustine as the Director of the Regina Hall Infirmary. She also participated in many outreach services and pastoral ministry. In addition, Sr. Rosella served on several boards, including at Timken Mercy Medical Center and the esteemed Thea Bowman Center.



Sr. Rosella was also an instrumental founding member of the National Black Sisters Conference, and throughout her life she strove to bring continued awareness and significance to the Black Catholic experience. Vanessa Griffin Campbell, a CSA Associate and dear friend to Sr. Rosella, remembers when the National Black Catholic Congress in Baltimore, MD, put out a call for delegates to serve on a Diocesan Committee. She recalls that Sr. Rosella said that she would "think about it."

"Sister Rosella always said she would think about everything, and I knew it was her way of saying, 'Yes!'" Griffin Campbell said.



Sr. Rosella went on to serve as a committee chairperson. Through her fierce commitment and deep love for others, she worked to establish relationships with Cleveland-area Catholics from Nigeria, Somalia, Kenya, Ghana, the Congo, Nairobi and Tanzania. She helped to implement the African Catholic Sunday Celebration, which was always held on the fourth Sunday in June. This event continued every year until the start of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

Many Sisters and friends remember Sr. Rosella's quiet way of opening her heart to others. Sr. Rosella lived over 72 years in community, and went home to God on January 11th, 2022.



Sr. Rosella receiving the Harriet Tubman Award, 2011, standing with Sr. Regina Fierman (left) and Sr. Catherine Walsh (right).



Sr. Helen Mary Frank

One of thirteen children, Sr. Helen Mary Frank, also known as Sr. M. Eugene, was born on January 18th, 1925. She entered the CSA community in 1945 and pronounced her final vows on August 28th, 1950.

Sr. Helen Mary was a graduate of St. John College, and ministered as a teacher at many Catholic schools within the Diocese of Cleveland. Her ministry broadened over the years, and Sister also served as a Cottage Supervisor at Parmadale, an Occupational Therapy Assistant at Mt. Augustine, and the Director of Public

Service at Timken Mercy Medical Center. She went on to serve at Timken Mercy in a variety of roles, including as an outpatient scheduler, a hostess to patients' families, and a volunteer. She retired to Mt. Augustine in 2004.

In 2020, Sr. Helen Mary celebrated 75 years as a Sister of Charity of St. Augustine. She was able to enjoy the formal Jubilee celebration the following year, surrounded by family and friends.

"Sr. Helen Mary was a delight to know," said Sr. Mary Lois, CSA. Sr. Mary Lois was a longtime friend of Sr. Helen Mary, and the two of them lived in the same local house together for several years. "She was a gem. Everyone enjoyed interacting with her. She brought so much joy to those who knew her."

Sr. Helen Mary passed away on November 2nd, 2021. Her life was filled with faith and loving service to all.

Sr. Theresa Bontempo

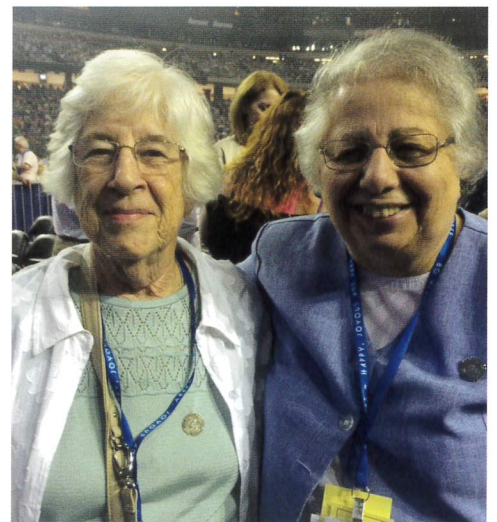
Sr. Theresa Bontempo, formerly Sr. M. Carmela, was born on March 26th, 1925. She pronounced her final vows with the Sisters of Charity on August 22nd, 1952. Sr. Theresa graduated from St. Vincent Charity Hospital with a diploma in nursing, and later received a Bachelor's in Nursing at St. Xavier College, Chicago and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Minnesota at St. Paul. Throughout her many years of ministry, Sr. Theresa served in part at St. John Hospital, St. Thomas Hospital, Timken Mercy Medical Center, St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, and the Home Care Program of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Cleveland. She also served on the boards of the St. Ann Foundation and Timken Mercy Medical Center.

"Sr. Theresa had an uncanny sense of showing up wherever she was needed," Sr. Kathy Andrews, CSA said. "Day or night, convenient or not, she never hesitated to respond in any way that she could."

Sr. Theresa loved to cook, especially her homemade spaghetti sauce and banana bread. She enjoyed volunteering as a Red Coat at Playhouse Square and at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center.

As Sr. Kathy put it, "In the quiet, sensitive part of her being, Sr. Theresa faithfully loved God, CSA, her family, friends, and [everyone] she so generously served with untiring dedication."

Sr. Theresa died on April 3rd, 2020. Her honest spirit and friendship are deeply missed.



Sr. Theresa (left) and Sr. Judith Ann Karam, 2016.

Ever Changing...

Responding to Ever-Changing Needs

(continued from pg. 1)

Twenty-two years ago, our Sisters had a vision for Joseph's Home: a place of respite care and compassion for men without resources or permanent shelter. As soon as this vision was implemented, the need for a Mary's Home emerged. Our biggest cheerleaders in this initiative were those same Sisters who had the original vision for Joseph's Home. We are so grateful to feature Mary's Home in this issue. The facility is now open and serving women with a program of achieving a higher quality of life.

In all of these new initiatives, we again are reminded of Sr. Mary Patricia Barrett, CSA as she said, "We have never done it alone." Aren't we blessed today to have our Congregation, our Associate members, our shared vocation as religious with others, and the co-ministers who embrace this blessed transformational journey?

"Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new." (Graced Crossroads, Ted Dunn, pg. 17)



From the archives: St. Vincent Charity Hospital, 1955. Throughout its long history, the hospital continually adapts itself to the needs of the time, dedicated to serving those who are most in need of God's healing love.

St. Vincent Charity Health Campus

Since the Congregation's founding in 1851, caring for the whole person has always been an integral principle of CSA's healthcare ministry. Healing is focused on the *whole* patient — their spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs.

Similarly, the Sisters of Charity Health System has worked to meet a wide array of these needs through the work of various ministries. Examples include housing projects, fatherhood engagement, quality child care, behavioral health services, hospital care, eldercare, homeless respite care, community outreach ministries, etc.

Today, with the leadership of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, the Health System has moved forward with the development of a new health campus, with St. Vincent Charity Hospital as its anchor.

St. Vincent Charity has been on E. 22nd Street since its founding in 1865. (E. 22nd Street is also known as "Sr. Ignatia Way," named after Sr. Ignatia Gavin, CSA, who worked with Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson to found Alcoholics Anonymous. Sr. Ignatia also developed Rosary Hall Solarium at St. Vincent's in 1952.) With this location, the hospital stands right in the Central neighborhood. The health campus's vision is to bring healing services to serve the people of Central, and to encourage the community to be responsive to their holistic services.

To understand the needs of the health campus, numerous interviews were held in the community during its development. These meetings included civic and nonprofit leadership, community ambassadors and the St. Vincent Charity family. Primarily, these meetings sought to gain an understanding of what priorities may be beneficial to the people who will be served.

This bold new project continues to move towards implementation. A health campus board has been created that represents the Foundation, the hospital, the Central community and the CSA Congregation. The board is currently collaborating with MASS Design, an architectural firm, to discuss design options, planning with prospective partners and fund development.

Collaboration with the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

On May 1st, 2022, the Sisters of Charity welcomed the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland (OSU) to Mt. Augustine. Both congregations met in the spirit of collaboration, as partners on the ever-changing journey of transformation. This relationship between CSA and OSU is a direct result of the 2021 CSA Chapter decision to work together in responding to ministerial, pastoral, and spiritual opportunities. The Sisters were blessed to be able to hold the meeting in person and observed all appropriate COVID safety protocols. It was a joyful occasion filled with reunion, conversation, and togetherness.



(l-r) Sr. Mary Jacob Yelcho, CSA and Sr. Maryanne Quinlivan, OSU



(l-r) Sr. Maureen McCarthy, OSU, Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA, Sr. Marie Ellen Kuhel, OSU



(l-r) Sr. Susan Zion, OSU and Sr. Denise Stiles, CSA



Christine Horne Joins the CSA Board of Trustees

In 2022, the Sisters of Charity welcomed Associate Christine Horne onto the CSA Board of Trustees, making her the first Associate member to serve on this committee.

Horne brings a wealth of experience to her new role, having served in Catholic ministries and in the nonprofit sector for over thirty years. She is a former Director of Joseph's Home, and currently ministers as the Senior Director of Organizational Development on the leadership team for Catholic Charities.

"Once I left my position at Joseph's Home, I knew I had to stay connected with the CSA congregation!" Horne said. "I couldn't think of a better way than formally joining the community as an Associate."

This year, Horne also became the first Associate member to join the Gift and Donations Committee. This committee's aim is to identify and support persons, organizations, or worthy causes in need of financial assistance.

"I continuously seek out ways to serve the community in any way that my skills and talents will allow," Horne said. "The best way I can do this is to learn all I can about CSA structure, governance and ways of doing business by serving on the Board and Committee. That way, I can carry these efforts forth."

The Book Clubs

Today, religious communities are being called to a challenging future, acknowledging our fewer and older members. For CSA, the book *Graced Crossroads* by Ted Dunn appeared as one possible tool to explore how we can respond to today's challenges. Our Sisters grouped into informal study groups, discussing the book and other pertinent material. These meetings generated a positive shift in our ability to communicate on a deep and honest level. Opening our hearts to one another has allowed us to face with less fear the future which God sets before us.

Spotlight: *Mary's Home*

On March 14th, 2022, Mary's Home officially opened its doors to serve women experiencing homelessness. Although the pandemic posed significant challenges to its development, it also ultimately informed its design. Quarantine rooms provide a safe and separate space for individuals suffering from COVID and other infectious diseases. The decades of experience with Joseph's Home also influenced Mary's Home; the facility includes as many handicapped restrooms as possible, sufficient showers, and privacy for each resident.

The capital campaign for Mary's Home was launched in 2020. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland provided the lead gift, which enabled the project to begin in earnest. Mary's Home surpassed their original funding goal, and raised a total of \$1.55 million in only 15-16 months.

"I think that the project met the moment. People thought about what it meant to be at home, to shelter in place [during lockdown]," Beth Graham, executive director, said. "Even now, people without housing and resources are more likely to get COVID and complications from COVID. I think this happened during a moment in time when people were thinking about these issues, and it managed to hit home."

One week after its opening, on March 21st, Mary's Home welcomed its first resident. By June 2022, four women had already been served, and three others were in residence. One such woman, Ms. Mildred L. Dixon, entered on March 24th. By early June, she was preparing to transition into permanent housing. Dixon said that Mary's Home was the "bridge" between a permanent home and a shelter, and that the space helped her prepare for the next phase in her life.

"Getting a place to live shouldn't be the end of it," Dixon said. "It's supposed to be a step—how far you can go, and [where you can] explore how much farther you can go to better yourself."

Dixon is an active member of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. She is one of the advocates for the Homeless Bill of Rights, which has been in development since 2018. Dixon is also an aspiring fashion designer and poet; her work has been featured in the *Cleveland Street Chronicle*.

Dixon stressed the importance of engagement within facilities. Still mindful of the pandemic, Mary's Home is gradually implementing more programs, such as music and art therapy. Occupational and physical therapy students also visit Mary's Home, along with podiatrists from Kent State. Mary's and Joseph's Homes work to connect individuals with AA and NA groups, and help facilitate access to transportation and legal representation.

Graham admits that the challenges are far from over. Both Mary's and Joseph's Homes serve an aging population—a growing concern for facilities nationwide. Moving forward, Graham hopes to continue to adapt to the needs of geriatric care. Most importantly, though, Mary's Home will continue to focus on each resident's unique goals and needs during what is often a difficult time in their life. Building trust between residents and staff, and ultimately moving them forward to a safe and permanent home, will always be at the center of the ministry.

"We're just getting started," Graham said.

Left to right: The garden outside Mary's Home; Ms. Mildred Dixon; a resident room



Glimpses

CSA received the Heirloom Award on September 16th, 2021, during the 50th Anniversary celebration of Famicos. Sr. Henrietta Gorris, CSA founded Famicos following the Hough racial riots in Cleveland. Sr. Joan Gallagher served on the Board of Famicos for many years.

State Representative Bill Roemer presented a special commendation to CSA on March 31st, 2022, honoring the community's 170th anniversary. Sr. Xavier Gorman accepted the commendation on behalf of the community.

On April 22nd, 2022, CSA presented **Marjorie Lang, RN** with the Caritas Award at the St. John Hospital reunion. Marge was the 2020 Caritas Award recipient; the award presentation had been delayed due to the pandemic.

Requiescat In Pace

Marion Alexander, Associate
Sr. Helen Mary Frank, CSA
Sr. Rosella Holloman, CSA
Betty Ricci, Associate

We'd love to hear from you!

As you may have noticed, our newsletter has undergone its own transformation, and we want to know what you think! Please send comments, questions, article suggestions for future issues, etc. to sisters@srsfcharity.org.

Images is a newsletter published by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. For more information, visit our website: www.srsfcharity.org

Jubilee

A Long-Awaited Celebration

After two years, one postponement, and countless changes in plans, Sisters who celebrated their Jubilee in 2020 finally held a formal celebration at Mt. Augustine on September 26th, 2021. Associates, family and friends gathered to celebrate the Jubilarians: Sr. Helen Mary Frank, 75 years; Sr. Joan Gallagher, Sr. Rosella Holloman, Sr. Mary Jacob Yelcho, 70 years; Sr. Katherine Andrews, Sr. Mary O'Grady, and Sr. Mary Dorothy Tecca, 60 years.

Regina Health Center nursing staff helped administer COVID tests to all guests upon arrival. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon filled with reunion, celebration, and joy. We are grateful for the service, patience, and perseverance of these Sisters. Truly, their lives are a reflection of God's love.

1. Sr. Mary Dorothy Tecca (third from left) with her family
2. Sr. Joan Gallagher (right) with her family
3. Sr. Mary Jacob Yelcho and Tom Keith, president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation in South Carolina
4. Sr. Mary O'Grady (third from left) with friends from St. Patrick Parish
5. Sr. Kathy Andrews (center) with her family



Address service requested.

CSA Appoints First Lay Archivist

The Sisters of Charity have recently appointed Marissa Ortosky as the community's archivist, making her the first ever layperson to take on this responsibility. Our former archivist, Sr. Mary Denis Maher, has been appointed Senior Archivist and will act as a consultant to Ortosky in her new role.

CSA is immensely grateful to Sr. Mary Denis for her service and leadership. Sr. Mary Denis had served as the community's archivist since 1993. Her professional contributions, to both CSA and throughout the United States, are truly immeasurable.

Sr. Mary Denis is certain that Ortosky is the "right person" for the job. Sr. Mary Denis welcomed her as Assistant Archivist in 2016. Ortosky came with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Notre Dame College, and received a Master of Arts in English Literature from John Carroll University in 2019. That same year, she also took on additional responsibilities as the Congregation's administrative assistant.

Throughout her time in the archives, Ortosky has been a responsible steward of safely centralizing, organizing, preserving, protecting, and making available archival materials. She has also started several initiatives, including the development of unique, temporary exhibits for CSA Sisters and Regina Health Center residents during American Archives Month in October. In all her work, Ortosky brings a vibrant enthusiasm and a sincere eagerness to learn.

As Sr. Mary Denis said, "[The archives] will be in excellent hands. Marissa has been with me and learned a great deal of valuable, historical information. She has the skills and competencies to do a great job for a ministry so important to CSA."



Sr. Mary Denis Maher, CSA