

# *f*OCUS

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours

SPRING 2011



SISTERS OF BON SECOURS



“WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO BE  
COMPASSIONATE WOMEN WHO ACT  
JUSTLY, LOVE TENDERLY AND WALK  
HUMBLY WITH OUR GOD.”

—MICAHAH 6:8

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# Dear Friends



SISTERS OF BON SECOURS

As I reflect back on the past few months, it has been exciting to see how our Congregation is working together globally. I was in Ireland in October for the Enlarged Congregation Team meeting, and I was truly inspired by the spirit of the sisters in attendance and the positive feeling of teams working together, being together, and learning to work with each other within the new Congregation structure. In this issue, we share information about some of our Congregational committees and the work they are doing.

In January, I went to Peru for Congregation Team meetings, where we heard reports from each country on their activities and from our mission in South Africa as well as reviewed and approved the 2011 Congregation budget. We also had the privilege to spend a day meeting with and learning about the work of the formation team in the Formation House in Lima, Peru—meeting with the aspirants (candidates), novices and those planning to make final vows in March. It was a pleasure to be able to spend time with these women, who are so much a part of our future.

A highlight of the meetings was, as part of our Mission Focus, to examine our call to embrace the United Nations' Earth Charter, which marks 20 years this year, and to discuss its implications. We also examined what this charter really means to each of us, both individually and as a Congregation. We will plan our prayers around the Earth Charter at our April team meetings in Paris.

In keeping with our ecological concerns as a Congregation, at our 2010 Fall Assembly in the United States, we enjoyed a very interesting and informative speaker, Sr. Miriam MacGillis, O.P., the co-founder of Genesis Farm in Caldwell, N.J., a learning center where people come to search for more authentic ways to live in harmony with the natural world and each other. In 2007, Sr. Miriam was named among the planet's top 15 green religious leaders by *Grist* magazine. We invited other women religious in

the area to join us for this program, and 60 sisters were in attendance. We were also joined by some of our co-workers from the Spiritual Center and our Health System Office. Sr. Miriam's inspiring talk focused on eco-spirituality and how we can all help to preserve the Earth.

In this issue of FOCUS, we look at the second part of our Mission Focus Statement "...to cry out with others against injustice and all that diminishes life on Earth." Our International Peace and Justice Committee, led by Sr. Anne Marie Mack, directly addresses these issues within the Congregation. You also will read about our Ministry for the Poor Fund, which is just one of the ways the Sisters of Bon Secours reach out to its communities to help mitigate some of the injustice we see around us. Bon Secours Health System also shares with us the emphasis being placed on diversity and inclusion throughout the health system.

I want to bring to your attention the article about Bon Secours Spiritual Center, the exciting programs being held there, and the diverse conferences and retreats we host. Please think of Bon Secours Spiritual Center for your organization's next retreat or conference.

Congratulations to our jubilarians. In May, we celebrate Sr. Katherine Ann Durney's 65th jubilee, Sr. Mary Regina Flatley's 60th jubilee and Sr. Alice Talone's 50th jubilee; we recognize how much these dedicated religious women have given to our Congregation over the years.

And finally, we all mourn the passing of Sr. Rose O'Brien, whose presence is missed by the entire Congregation.

May spring and summer be a time of renewal for all of you as we have the opportunity to truly appreciate the beauties of nature around us.

Peace,



Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, C.B.S.

Leader

Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A.



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# *Providing Good Help on a Global Scale*

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES RAISE AWARENESS, PROMOTE CHANGE

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Under the new organizational structure of the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours, the province boundaries have been eliminated—ushering in a profound sense of one international community working together to live out the mission, vision and charism of the Congregation. “I think we, the Congregation Team, are very pleased with how the new structure has facilitated our communication and leadership of the Congregation,” says Congregation Leader **Sr. Pat Eck**. “We talk as a team monthly and maintain a sense of the Congregation’s opportunities and challenges. There truly is the sense of being of one mind and heart; the barriers of province boundaries have been removed.”

To help reinforce and support this international focus, the Sisters of Bon Secours has established international committees—each tasked with addressing vital areas of concern to the life and ministry of the Congregation as a whole. “This past year, all of the international committees, except the Stewardship Committee, have been put in place. There is currently an oversight group for finance that provides some planning and direction,” says Sr. Pat, who is part of the oversight group along with **Sr. Mary Bradshaw** and **Jeanette Burke** from Ireland as well as **Sr. Anne Lutz** and **Carole Hise** from the United States.

While these committees are in their infancy, it is key to understand the role each committee plays in the Congregation and the important work already underway.

“AS SISTERS OF BON SECOURS, THE STRUGGLE FOR  
A MORE HUMANE WORLD IS NOT AN OPTION. IT IS  
AN INTEGRAL PART OF SPREADING THE GOSPEL.”

– CONSTITUTIONS, CHAPTER 2

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

At the 2009 International General Chapter, the Sisters of Bon Secours developed the Mission Focus statement, which calls the sisters “To commit ourselves to defend and care for all creation; to cry out with others against injustice and all that diminishes life on Earth.” Just as each sister is called to live out the Mission Focus in her life, the International Peace and Justice Committee is focused on researching and recommending ways in which the sisters, individually and as a Congregation collectively, can facilitate change.

“As a committee, we will be meeting by conference call every other month,” explains **Sr. Anne Marie Mack**, who chairs the International Peace and Justice Committee. Sr. Anne Marie is joined by **Sr. Fran Gorsuch** for the United States, **Sr. Bernadette Kwasna** for Great Britain, **Sr. Katherine Tierney** for Ireland, **Sr. Noelia Lara Nunez** for Peru and **Sr. Marguerite Provost** for France. During the inaugural committee meeting in January, the committee members reviewed the committee’s mandate and responsibilities. “One of the committee’s responsibilities is to assure that the Congregation remains an active member of UNANIMA International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that advocates on behalf of women, children, immigrants and refugees, and the environment,” says Sr. Anne Marie, president of UNANIMA and the representative for the Sisters of Bon Secours. “The Sisters of Bon Secours joined UNANIMA roughly six years ago because this organization, comprised then of seven small religious congregations, aimed to come together in order to support each other and determine if they could collectively interface with the United Nations. Within the first year, UNANIMA was approved to be an NGO with consultative status at the U.N., enabling the organization to send a representative to serve on U.N. committees. Being a part of UNANIMA enables the Sisters of Bon Secours to have a chance to participate and support different initiatives and help enact change on an international scale.”

Coming up on its 10th anniversary, UNANIMA works to educate and influence policymakers on a global level. While the organization has several important initiatives, UNANIMA is putting heavy focus on three key issues: human trafficking, water issues and the status of women. These compelling human rights issues speak directly to the mission, vision and charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours.

“During our January meeting, we discussed the sisters’ present involvement with trafficking initiatives as they impacted each country,” explains Sr. Anne Marie. “We also talked about the growing interest in ecology initiatives. Part of our ongoing task is to think about what in each country are the most pressing justice issues. I have asked all the committee members to educate themselves about these issues by reading printed publications on peace and justice as well as availing themselves of opportunities to learn more about these issues in their own countries.” For Sr. Anne Marie, this period of education has been an awakening, which speaks to

the importance of the committee's larger role to educate the Congregation about peace and justice issues.

"Our chapter document 'Our Journey' calls us to raise one another's consciousness about global justice issues around women, youth and children," says Sr. Anne Marie. "The International Peace and Justice Committee is committed to do just that. We are continually looking for who to partner with in order to have a more powerful voice. Organizations like UNANIMA that are committed to helping the poor and marginalized throughout the world are extensions of our ministry." The Sisters of Bon Secours' mission to provide "Good Help to Those in Need<sup>®</sup>" can be seen by their active participation in UNANIMA, looking for ways to address justice issues in each of the countries where the sisters serve, and educating themselves and others on issues that demand and warrant action and prayers. For more information about the work UNANIMA does, visit [www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org).

## SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

The International Sponsorship Committee, which meets via telephone bimonthly, has been tasked with ensuring that the spirit and charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours are present in all of the sisters' sponsored ministries throughout the world. Chaired by **Sr. Nancy Glynn**, this committee is comprised of **Sr. Goretti Spillane** of Ireland; **Sr. Rocio Zapata** of Peru; **Sr. Rita Thomas** of the United States; and **Thom Morris** and **Martha Riva**, who are both involved with sponsorship in Bon Secours Health System, U.S.A. These committee members, appointed by the Congregation Team, will serve the Congregation in this capacity for a five-year period as mandated by the Congregation Team.

According to Sr. Nancy, the first goal of the committee has been to become educated about all the sponsored ministries throughout the Congregation. Guided by this knowledge; recommendations from each country team; and the Mission Focus, which calls every member of the Congregation to ecological awareness, the International Sponsorship Committee has already made suggestions to the Congregation Team. "In addition to the formal reports that we present twice a year, we give recommendations to the Congregation on an ongoing basis," explains Sr. Nancy. "These recommendations can range from changing present ministries or adding new ministries to addressing how we support these sponsored ministries. The International Sponsorship Committee—like all of the international committees—looks to share resources. By seeing the whole picture, we aim to implement the best practices possible, while respecting that each ministry is directed and implemented in a different way by each country as each country is different. This is why we work so closely with each Country Team and are in constant communication with the country leaders."



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The purpose of the International Membership Committee is to promote as well as support vocation and initial and ongoing formation efforts throughout the Congregation, according to **Sr. Pat Dowling**, who serves as chair of the committee. The committee will do this through a number of ways.

“We will assure that there is a vocation and initial formation program in each country and that there are current policies and procedures that are in sync with our values to guide these programs,” explains Sr. Pat. “We also provide a forum to share ideas and resources, serving as a support network among vocation/formation teams and encouraging collaboration. Like the other international committees, the membership committee is a conduit for sharing resources.”

The International Membership Committee also aims to provide resources to all the sisters. “As part of ongoing formation and development, the committee will make recommendations about opportunities for education or programs that benefit sisters across the Congregation.”

In keeping with the international aspect of the committees, the membership committee is also working on an international experience for those in the second year of the novitiate and those who are temporarily professed. “This not only strengthens the sister’s sense of identity and belonging across the Congregation, but also fosters leadership and appreciation of our heritage,” comments Sr. Pat. “In addition, our committee’s vocation efforts make sure that there is oversight and that a plan exists for the Congregation that is implemented at a country level. We will make suggestions about identifying and inviting potential candidates as well as ways to encourage participation from all the sisters.”

Sr. Pat is joined by seven other members who comprise the International Membership Committee: **Sr. Maureen Condon**, formation director, Ireland; **Sr. Elaine Davia**, formation director, U.S.A.; **Sr. Liliás Clare Kane** of Scotland; **Sr. Marie Dominique Monchy** of France; **Sr. Bridget Theresa O’Sullivan**, vocation director, Ireland; **Sr. Elena Serano** of Peru; and **Sr. Solange Vitry**, vocation director, France. Together, the committee has established three priorities for this year. First, the committee is planning to conduct a formation and vocation summit to discuss and address a comprehensive approach to vocation and formation. Second, the committee is working to develop and expand a formation program that will potentially include an international element. Third, the committee is working on an ongoing formation program that addresses the mystical and prophetic aspect of the lives of the sisters as it relates to the Mission Focus.

# BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM *Focuses On Diversity And Inclusion*

“AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF SERVICE THAT ENCOURAGES DIVERSITY AND AFFIRMS ALL PERSONS AND THEIR UNIQUE GIFTS TO BRING ABOUT THE GOOD WORK GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US IN RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES SERVED...”

– BON SECOURS MINISTRIES DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT

In response to Bon Secours Ministries Directional Statement, Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI) has formalized and re-energized its commitment to diversity and inclusion in the workplace by integrating a diversity and inclusion initiative in its 2010–2012 Strategic Quality Plan: “Attract, retain, and develop an exceptional workforce and build a culture of inclusiveness and integrity that values diversity.”

BSHSI has appointed a chief diversity and inclusion officer, Barbara Delano, to spearhead this effort and established a Diversity and Inclusion Council with representatives from all local systems. This council is exploring ways that BSHSI can ensure it has a diverse and inclusive workplace as well as develop a systemwide diversity and inclusion plan. Multidisciplinary diversity and inclusion teams and leaders are also being identified in each local system, and each local system will develop its own diversity and inclusion plan based upon the initiatives in the health system’s diversity and inclusion plan.

“We need to understand that diversity and inclusion are not synonymous,” explains Barbara Delano. “Diversity is all about us...no one is excluded.

Diversity refers to the differences that distinguish people. It encompasses both what is outwardly visible—such as ethnicity, gender, age, language—and what is invisible such as our life experiences and personal perspectives. We react and think differently, approach challenges and solve problems differently, communicate differently, and respond to our environment differently. Managing diversity is all about respecting, honoring and valuing our differences so that they work for all of us, not just for some of us.

“Inclusion enables diverse individuals to leverage the full potential, gift and perspective of one another. It focuses on welcoming and involving diverse people fully into the organization’s community and engaging them equally in fulfillment of the organization’s mission,” continues Delano. “Inclusion asks us to move beyond tolerating differences to embracing them. It leads us to recognize the powerful contributions that people who are different from ourselves make to any and all endeavors we undertake.”

A culture of inclusion is an environment in which the differences and unique contributions of every individual are respected, valued and sought after as well as where all people participate equally in the life of the organization. An inclusive organization is one in which the diversity of its different members has the opportunity to positively influence policy, strategy, management, operating systems, core values and criteria for success.

“Striving to improve diversity and inclusion is more than just a social responsibility or spiritual aspiration for Bon Secours; it is also a business strategy and a strategic item for achieving our goals and fulfilling our mission,” says BSHSI President and CEO Rich Statuto. “By embracing diversity and inclusion, we open ourselves to serve without boundaries or qualifications, to attract the best and brightest talent, to appreciate the unique gifts of each individual, and to realize and leverage our collective strength as an organization in fulfillment of our mission.”

There has been a significant shift in the demographics of America. In 2008, one third of the U.S. population was diverse. By 2016, it is anticipated that 47 percent of the labor force will be female, and, by 2042—less than

35 years from now—minorities today will be the majority in America. Organizations need to prepare today for this demographic shift.

It also has been demonstrated that diversity and inclusion are catalysts for innovation and creativity. When people embrace the differences of others, actively seek diverse opinions and perspectives, and engage in trusting relationships and hearty dialogue, creativity flourishes and the best solutions are discovered.

What does all this mean for BSHSI? Our vision and mission are centered on the communities we serve. The demographics of these communities are changing. As they become more diverse, new insights, understanding and empathy will be required to serve the needs of people. By adopting the best practice of mirroring—aligning our workforce to the demographics of our local communities—BSHSI can maintain and even enhance the level of care and help it provides as we continue to fulfill our mission to give “Good Help to Those in Need®.”

Our goal is to have our employees, patients, residents, physicians, volunteers, vendors and communities experience our culture of inclusion whenever they come in contact with us. Individuals who come to BSHSI facilities will experience our respect and concern for their unique needs in every aspect of their care. We will actively engage in procuring supplies and services from diverse vendors and suppliers, including minority- and women-owned businesses. We will ensure that all phases of our talent acquisition processes are designed to centerpiece BSHSI’s commitment to diversity and inclusion to include the recruitment of an exceptional workforce and the identification, development and advancement of diverse leaders.

With the leadership of Barbara Delano, the Diversity and Inclusion Council and local system teams, the health system strives to achieve a shared understanding of diversity and inclusion as well as the celebration of our differences to create an even stronger organization positioned to reflect the demographic changes that are coming in America.

# A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE

**Sr. Anne Lutz** was named executive vice president of Sponsorship of Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI) in 2005 and became part of the Executive Management Team. She enjoys having a seat at the table and helping to plan the future of BSHSI. Reporting to Sr. Anne are all the sponsorship leaders in the local systems as well as the health system's departments of Mission, Government Relations and Advocacy, Ecology and Global Ministries, and Community Commitment.



"I enjoy working behind the scenes and under the radar to get things accomplished," says Sr. Anne. "It has truly been a privilege to share the sisters' health care charism with the very gifted and talented people throughout the entire system who work at Bon Secours. Our employees not only reach out to our patients and residents, but also to their co-workers. It is truly humbling to see all the good work that is being done in our local systems and watch people giving 'Good Help to Those in Need®'. What is my ministry really all about? My call is to be able to continue the legacy of bringing Jesus' loving presence of compassion, healing and liberation to those we serve. It's about the people we serve and the people who work alongside us, who live the mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours every day."

In her role as executive vice president of Sponsorship, Sr. Anne explains that she has both power and responsibility; this is not something she takes lightly. "With power comes accountability, and BSHSI is very fortunate to have wonderful, dedicated and talented leaders. The senior vice presidents of Sponsorship are truly a gift to the system. I am the ambassador and facilitator to see that the right things happen, but I could not do my job without the people who report to me and all of my co-workers."

Sr. Anne Lutz started her health care career as a registered nurse at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Mich. After 10 years in Michigan, she moved to Pennsylvania, where she was the administrator for a 300-bed skilled nursing home facility for the archdiocese. She returned to Marriottsville, Md., in 1988 to assume the position of vice president for Mission for BSHSI. She then served as a senior vice president of Sponsorship for the health system and was responsible for Bon Secours facilities in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Sr. Anne also serves on the boards of Bon Secours Ministries and Bon Secours, Inc., parent companies to BSHSI. She is president of the board of the Bon Secours Assurance Company, president of the board of Bon Secours Charity Health System in New York, and a board member of Roper St. Francis Health System in Charleston, S.C.

## SR. FRAN GORSUCH

### *Serves the Invisible People of Rockland County*



**Sr. Fran Gorsuch** meets God in the faces of those she helps. “My spirituality is at the moment of encounter—to be there, to hear their needs. As sisters, we’re called to universal love—to love everybody. Some people may not appear lovable, but you get to know them. We’re all so much more alike than we are different,” Sr. Fran says.

Sr. Fran sees our similarities in an unlikely place: among immigrants from Haiti, Latin America, Russia and Eastern Europe, India, Pakistan and the Middle East who are now living in Rockland County outside New York City. As director of Community Initiatives with Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, N.Y., part of the Bon Secours Charity Health System, Sr. Fran advocates for disadvantaged people in communities that have some of the fastest growing immigrant populations in New York.

She helps people who need medical care by connecting them with appropriate caregivers, including Good Samaritan Hospital. Sr. Fran is part of the Rockland County Immigration Coalition, an organization that helps defend and protect the rights and human dignity of all who seek to call the United States their home.

Spirit of Rockland, located on the campus of Good Samaritan Hospital, partners with organizations to protect victims of child sexual abuse, human and sex trafficking, domestic violence, elder abuse, abuse of people with disabilities and those who are undocumented, among others. The organization seeks to bring perpetrators to justice and provides legal assistance, counseling and referrals to victims who struggle to defend themselves.

Sr. Fran uses her contacts in Rockland County to access the system for people in need. Providing this face-to-face assistance is the most rewarding part of her ministry at Good Samaritan Hospital. “That’s the thing that makes me feel like I’m living my calling as a sister of Bon Secours. It’s where the rubber meets the road,” Sr. Fran says.

In addition to serving as director of Community Initiatives at Good Samaritan Hospital, Sr. Fran is a member of the Vocation Formation team in the United States, where she shares her calling as a sister of Bon Secours with people interested in religious life. “I want to share with other women the richness of my life and say this too is possible for you if this is what you want to do with your life and energy,” she says.

She networks with vocation directors, college ministers and leaders as well as visits campuses in New York and New Jersey to talk with students about prayer and spirituality. “As I get to tell my story and hear other people’s stories, dreams and hopes,” Sr. Fran says, “it rekindles the flame in my heart to continue to believe in what I’m doing and keep doing it.”

## *Sisters Of Bon Secours In Peru Pursue Excellence In Education In Underprivileged Neighborhoods*



**Sr. Sara Gabriela**, a sister of Bon Secours in Peru, is committed, along with our other Peruvian sisters, to providing quality education to the poor and underprivileged in Azapampa. Since 2005, the Bon Secours Sisters of Peru have been working with the Department of Junín in the Province of Huancayo in the District of Chilca, Barrio de Azapampa, together with the “Fe y Alegría” Association of Schools. The official name of the school with which the sisters are involved is “Buen Socorro,” or Bon Secours.

The sisters’ commitment is to a migrant population, who fled from the highlands of Peru during the violent clashes suffered in Peru during the 1980s and then again during the economic crisis of recent years. The sisters’ mission is an extremely valuable and important one; its main purpose is to provide quality education to the children and youth of Azapampa so that they can have access to the best schools in this emerging country as they continue their education.

A case in point is the story of José Luis Herrera Hinojoza. This 13-year-old student, who attended the Bon Secours school, was admitted to one of the most prestigious and highest ranking schools in Peru, Colegio Mayor Presidente de la República. Three hundred of the most qualified students from all the schools in Peru compete for admission and are evaluated by a team of qualified professionals in various subjects. Of this large and competitive pool of applicants, only 10 are accepted each year.

“José Luis’ nomination was broadcast to the whole school, and thanks to his self-assurance, confidence and outstanding academic achievement, he was accepted for admission. We are all very proud to have one of our students admitted to this renowned school,” says Sr. Gabriela. “We, the Bon Secours Sisters of Peru, feel happy, satisfied and increasingly committed to our youth. It is an act of justice to work so that these young people have the opportunity all humans deserve: a quality education.”

The Congregation applauds the wonderful work our sisters in Peru are doing in the field of education.

# Associates Bring Light to Struggling Urban Areas

By Amy Kulesa, director, Bon Secours Associates

As sharers in living out the Mission Focus of the Sisters of Bon Secours, the associates of Bon Secours involve themselves around the country in a wide variety of social justice and peace initiatives. Associates are involved in different avenues of service according to their gifts and the particular needs that resonate with them as individuals. Some involve themselves in this work through their participation as co-workers in Bon Secours Health System. Others, who work in other settings or who are retired, serve in many places and ways that bring compassion, healing and liberation to the lives of those they touch.

There are many examples of faithful work on behalf of justice and peace in which associates are engaged in their communities. Associates in different areas serve urban residents by hospital volunteering; collecting gifts and needs for families in crisis (both at Christmas and throughout the year); donating toys for ill, poor and homeless children; and supporting community food pantries and neighborhood clean-ups. A number of associates show they are “Good Help” by visiting the elderly and assisting them with their needs, both through advocacy and by being a compassionate presence. Several serve as full-time caregivers for loved ones with chronic or terminal illness. Associates are advocating on behalf of the homeless in different regions around the country by providing health care, meals, housing and counseling. In addition, several associates share their compassion and faith by visiting inmates in prison. Others offer their support for our military troops overseas by encouragement through letter-writing. One associate facilitates an Alzheimer’s support group in her area for those impacted by that illness’s devastation, and another teaches workshops on the healing power of forgiveness.

Additionally, associates take active roles in criminal and social justice alike. One associate, for example, writes to local and federal representatives against capital punishment—especially when execution is imminent—and she petitions local representatives for an extension of the statute of limitations regarding sexual abuse victims. Two other associates are involved in cooking and distributing meals for Aid for Friends. Another associate has taught peace and forgiveness classes, while another supports Habitat for Humanity, Call to Action, and Amnesty International through financial donations and prayer.



The accompanying photos show associates in Greenville, S.C., hard at work in the community garden created for the local neighborhood around St. Francis Hospital. This spot of green and the flowers and produce it yields are a way to “green” an urban area and encourage healthful living among those who live there.

Associates have been involved in collecting women’s clothing for patients at two different sexual assault units in the Baltimore area as well as volunteering to help the women who are admitted there. Associate co-workers at Bon Secours DePaul Hospital were instrumental in the creation of a program called the Life Coach Model of Care; this partners with other local programs to assist the uninsured and underinsured who present themselves at the emergency room. Through these services, individuals and families receive helpful follow-up to their hospital visits with the goal of improving access to primary care services for their future needs.

In all of these ways and many more, associates join with the sisters to “commit ourselves to defend and care for all of creation; to cry out with others against injustice and all that diminishes life on Earth.”



*(L. to r.) Ann Bourey and associates Liz Keith, Mary Jane Strobel, Donna Meyer and Sharyn Barlik share their gift of gardening in Greenville, S.C.*



*(L. to r.) Associates Donna Meyer, Mary Jane Strobel and Liz Keith tend a community garden for the neighborhood of St. Francis Hospital in Greenville, S.C.*

# BON SECOURS VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

By Shannon Curran, director, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry provides young adults with an experiential opportunity to both learn about urban poverty and to question the injustice which creates and perpetuates this poverty. Volunteers participate in a formation program that guides this learning and questioning. In the first half of the year, formation focuses on having the volunteers articulate how their new experiences are provoking their senses. In the second half of the year, we connect the volunteers' senses to their developing social awareness by centering formation on raising questions about the volunteers' experiences and the experiences of their neighbors. In the following reflection, Rachel Mattos, one of our current volunteers, generously and vividly shares how she moved from sensing to questioning our country's devotion to violence.

Personally, Rachel's reflection caused me to take a new look at Albert Einstein's statement that we "cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war." Although I encounter this quote daily in my office, Rachel's words helped me to more clearly see how the value we place towards military spending prevents us from truly meeting the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors and prepares us to respond to those needs defensively rather than compassionately.

I thank Rachel for provoking my senses and deepening my questions, too.



## ***Rachel Mattos' Reflections:***

*Blocks of decaying shells that once were houses, bullet holes in windows, and tributes to the fallen are all images we would normally associate with a war zone, so it's no wonder inner-city Baltimore is often compared to such an environment. These are the sights of the city, the everyday sights that remind those living in these areas that their government has forgotten them.*

*When I first moved to Baltimore in September 2010, one of the things I couldn't stop thinking was, "I have grown up in a different country than the people in this community." The truth is I grew up 45 minutes away, in the same state. The reality is that I never thought the United States that I lived in allowed its own people to live in such hardship and despair.*

# "...TO CRY OUT WITH OTHERS AGAINST INJUSTICE AND ALL THAT DIMINISHES LIFE ON EARTH."

- MISSION FOCUS STATEMENT, SISTERS OF BON SECOURS

*Seeing the disparity in my ideas about my country and the truths of the matter made me want to understand how things became this way. Brendan Walsh and Willa Bickham, two members of the Viva House Catholic Worker community, opened my eyes to the U.S.'s skewed ideas about spending. Having lived through the Vietnam War, they explained to me how the funds for the "War on Poverty" were drastically cut and instead used on the military budget for the war. I knew that war affected those from poor areas in that those without a chance to go to college often enlist or, as was the case in Vietnam, are drafted for military service. But I had no idea how directly the U.S.'s involvement in foreign wars affected the poor and the programs that assist them.*

*I see it now. I see the connection. I see that as a country we'd rather pour money into violence overseas than into the effort to stop the poverty that leads to violence in our own cities. After working in an area that desperately needs government funding to get back on its feet, after working at a family support center whose participants rely on programs like WIC and food stamps to get by, I see how important the federal money spent on public programs is to my community and so many like it. I'm also more sensitive to the fact that these programs are in jeopardy as the government rewrites the federal budget. To cut these programs is to say that they don't matter.*

*We have the money. Billions are spent on the military, fighting an abstract enemy in the "War on Terror." But the real evil in this situation is the lack of outrage against the injustice of how our country's money is spent.*

In addition to visiting Viva House, as part of their formation, the current Bon Secours volunteers read Dr. Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech and David Hilfiker's "Urban Injustice." Both King and Hilfiker write about the direct relationship between military spending and domestic poverty. If, like me, you were touched by Rachel's reflection, then you might like to pursue the work of King and Hilfiker, too.

Also, as we go to print, along with WIC and many other community action programs, Congress has proposed cutting the Corporation for National and Community Service and AmeriCorps. Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry is an AmeriCorps program, and this funding helps make it possible for Rachel and our five other volunteers to commit a year of their life to service.

# GRANTING GOOD HELP SISTERS OF BON SECOURS MINISTRY GRANT FUND EXTENDS THE MINISTRY

“The Sisters of Bon Secours Ministry Grant Fund is an outreach of the Sisters of Bon Secours as they seek to be true to their mission,” explains Thomas J. Butler, director of Mission Services of Bon Secours Health System and chair of the committee that oversees the Ministry Grant Fund. “In addition to giving of themselves—their time, talent and abilities—the sisters give some of their monies so that the greater area might benefit from their resources in an immediate way.”

Twice a year—January 1 and July 1—the Sisters of Bon Secours Ministry Grant Fund accepts requests for financial support from organizations that are part of or associated with the work of the Sisters of Bon Secours. The committee, comprised of *Thomas Butler*; *Srs. Frances McCabe, Elaine Davia* and *Bernie Claps*; and *Ross Darrow* in the Finance department of BSHSI, reviews each proposal. “The sisters have established criteria for eligibility,” says Butler. “We accept requests from the sisters of Bon Secours or local communities, the Bon Secours associate and volunteer ministries, BSHSI and its subsidiaries, other religious communities, and civic organizations in locations where sisters of Bon Secours serve.”

After the committee reviews the requests, they present their recommendations to Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, leader for Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., who in turns shares the recommendations with the Leadership Team. Once a decision is made, the Ministry Grant Fund Committee contacts those who requested funds to inform them of the decision; funds are dispensed in May through early June.

Having served on the committee for a year prior to taking the reins as committee chair, Thomas Butler has had the privilege to gain insight, awareness and inspiration from these fund requests. “We recently reviewed the January 2011 requests, and all of us were deeply touched by these proposals, which were all unique and highlighted important needs that we were not previously aware of,” comments Butler. “We were touched by the commitment and generosity of those making the request—many of whom make great personal sacrifices to ensure that the needs of the poor and most vulnerable are met.”

As the Sisters of Bon Secours prepare to award funds to the organizations who made requests for this grant cycle, it is clear that by providing an opportunity to share their funds with those in need, the Sisters of Bon Secours Ministry Grant Fund is truly an extension of the sisters’ mission, vision and charism. The Ministry Grant Fund helps continue the sisters’ commitment to provide “Good Help to Those in Need.”

## CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

### *Sr. Katherine Ann Durney*

Sr. Katherine Ann was born in Wilmington, Del. She attended St. Thomas–Lore & Bayard Grade School and Wilmington High School. A graduate of St. Francis School of Nursing in Wilmington, Del., she received her nursing home administrator license in 1977.



“What a wonderful life I have experienced as a sister of Bon Secours for 65 years,” says Sr. Katherine Ann. “My mother and father were examples of good Christian living from whom I received love and support. I had four siblings: three sisters and one brother. My sister Elizabeth was also a sister of Bon Secours. I was a registered nurse when I entered the convent on November 21, 1946.

“The community has always been a source of strength and inspiration to me,” she continues. “It has given me many opportunities to grow spiritually and professionally. Over the years, I have served as night supervisor in a hospital, as director of Nursing, and an assistant administrator in a nursing home. In 1987, I became a certified pastoral care chaplain and, for several years, ministered to patients and residents in our institutions who hunger for love, compassion and the word of God. It was a deeply rewarding and fulfilling experience. Today, I am retired and volunteer at Bon Secours Assisted Living facility in Norfolk, Va. In a small way, I am able to provide “Good Help to Those in Need®.”

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

### *Sr. Mary Regina Flatley*

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., Sr. Mary Regina attended Blessed Virgin Mary Grade School in Darby, Pa., and Notre Dame High School in Moylan, Pa. After graduation, Mary Regina entered the Congregation of Bon Secours and attended Bon Secours School of Nursing. She received her B.S.N. from Villanova and her master’s in education with a focus on counseling from the University of Delaware. She also received a certificate in spirituality/spiritual direction from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif.



Sr. Mary Regina worked as a staff nurse and head nurse at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore and St. Francis Country House in Darby, Pa. She also was a clinical director in the Bon Secours School of Nursing and served as vice president of Mission and associate director at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore.

In 1988, Sr. Mary Regina was elected president of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A. She served in that position until November 1995, when she was elected to the Congregational Leadership Team in Paris, France. On returning to the United States in 2005, she retired to Venice, Fla.; during her time in Florida, she assisted in the formation program, holding classes in spirituality and other topics. Sr. Mary Regina returned to Marriottsville in December 2010.

“I look back on the whole experience as one long journey with many milestones over 60 years. In one sense, it seems like a long time and in another sense it doesn’t feel that long,” says Sr. Mary Regina. “I’ve been blessed by being in service with people, through nursing and care of the elderly. Service is what it’s all about. I’ve enjoyed watching people grow and sharing experiences with them as we each take steps forward on our own journeys.”

Sr. Mary Regina believes her years of service can be summed up by the following quote from Micah 6:8: “This is what Yahweh asks of you; only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.”

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



*Sr. Alice M. Talone*

Born in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Sr. Alice attended St. Colman’s grade school and Villa Maria Academy and is a graduate of the Bon Secours School of Nursing in Baltimore. She received a B.S.N. from the University of Pennsylvania and a M.A. in pastoral ministry from Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

She has served as a nurse, pastoral associate and patient advocate. In her community, she has served as vocation director and most recently president, a position she held until 2009. She is also a member of the Bon Secours Health System’s board of directors and its committees.

“Being a sister of Bon Secours for 50 years has been a gift from God. It is difficult to believe it has been 50 years!” says Sr. Alice. “God’s call was discerned with a lot of prayer before entering the Congregation and has continued as I developed a deeper prayer life through these 50 years. This jubilee is a gift for which I am most grateful. My ministries through these years have been God blessing me through women and men in various forms of mission and with the support of community, family and friends! Thank you, my Trinity!”

# THE VIII TEAM

## New Outreach Initiative for Vocation Formation

Under the leadership of Sr. Pat Dowling, vocation director for the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., the development of the VIII team is underway. This VIII team—which stands for Vocations: Identify, Initiate, Invite—aims to expand vocation efforts by identifying and inviting women to consider a vocation. According to Sr. Pat, the team will make special efforts to have contact with young adults (women age 40 and below), animate sisters, and develop and nurture personal relationships with individuals considering a vocation.

Joining Sr. Pat as members of the VIII team are Srs. Fran Gorsuch and Dorothy Brogan. Since mid-January, Sr. Fran has been working part-time with the Vocation Formation Team. “She is forging new relationships with college campus ministry programs, parishes, diocesan offices and our local health systems,” explains Sr. Pat. “She is meeting with various individuals to create opportunities for the Sisters of Bon Secours to contact young adults and provide a deeper introduction to our Congregation.” Toward the end of 2011, Sr. Dorothy will begin meeting with campus ministers and students in Greenville, S.C., one day a week in order to develop relationships with young people in the area.

“Each of the eight members that comprise the VIII team will further create networks that will be an extension of the team,” says Sr. Pat, who has been attending, as an exhibitor, national conferences geared toward young adults. These national conferences have enabled Sr. Pat to build contacts; after talking with campus ministers about holding a busy student retreat, Sr. Pat is slated to work with student leadership to develop a student retreat for a Virginia college in October. “At the ‘Focus’ conference in January, there were a few thousand attendees—all of which were young adults,” explains Sr. Pat. “Roughly 40 people signed up to receive a weekly prayer from the Sisters of Bon Secours via e-mail. As part of our outreach effort, I have been gathering names of young adults to add to a mailing list of those who receive a weekly e-blast, which includes a vocation prayer.”

In addition to electronic outreach efforts, which also include using Facebook as a vocation resource as well as plans to develop an interactive section of the vocation

website that enables visitors to picture themselves as sisters, the sisters and associates are also using impact cards to spread the word. “We developed these impact cards last year for anyone to use,” comments Sr. Pat. “The front features a photo and a scripture quote; the back poses the question ‘have you ever considered religious life?’ and leaves space for the person to include their personal contact information. We have given these to all the sisters as well as Bon Secours associates and volunteers.”

Through these various methods, the Vocation Formation Office and the VIII team are clearly focused on developing personal connections to help others learn more about the Sisters of Bon Secours. “We are currently working on developing a mission trip this summer for young adults to engage in volunteer service for a week in the Baltimore area,” says Sr. Pat. “We also make sure to invite our neighbors to participate in upcoming vocation events, which Sr. Mary Shimo announces during Sunday Mass at the chapel on the grounds at Marriottsville.”

If you are interested in learning more about the Sisters of Bon Secours, are considering a vocation, or would like to participate in the mission trip this summer, contact the Vocation Office via e-mail at [CBSVocations@bshsi.org](mailto:CBSVocations@bshsi.org) or call 410-442-3172.

# Come & See *Bon Secours* the Sisters of

Single Catholic women who want to explore the possibility of religious life: here's your opportunity to meet and talk with sisters, receive input, have time for reflection on a vocation, and be with other women who are also exploring their calling.

**2011 Come and See  
Weekend Dates:**

June 24–26

October 21–23

For more information, visit <http://BonSecoursVocations.org>. Our website also has links to a variety of social media outlets of which the Sisters of Bon Secours are a part. Join us online on Facebook and Twitter.

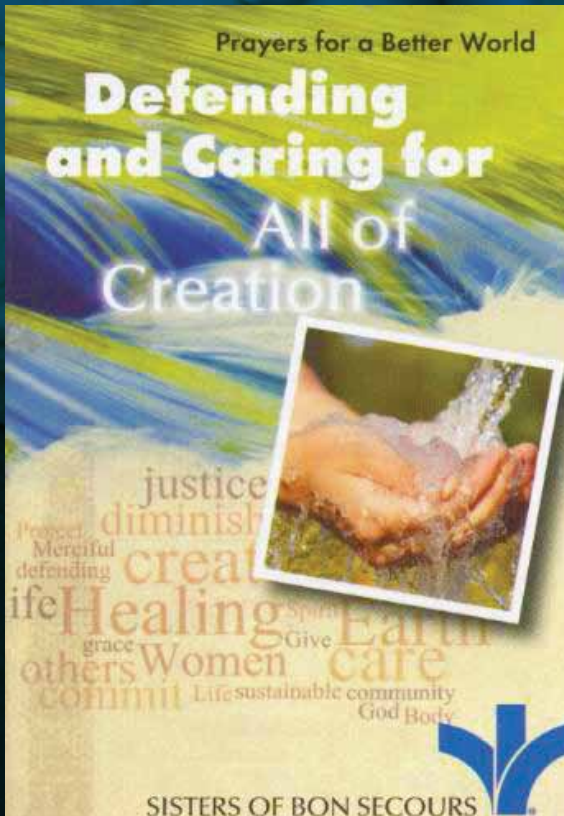




# PRAY WITH US

The Sisters of Bon Secours recently published its 2010 prayer book. Contact [CBSVocations@bshsi.org](mailto:CBSVocations@bshsi.org) if you are interested in receiving a copy via mail. Copies of the prayer book also are available in brochure racks throughout the Marriottsville campus.

You can also download copies of the 2008, 2009 and 2010 prayer books; visit <http://bonsecoursvocations.org/pray-with-us/your-prayer-corner> and select the prayer book you would like to see.



# BON SECOURS SPIRITUAL CENTER: A Retreat And Conference Center A Special Place Of Renewal

Bon Secours Spiritual Center is a gem in the Baltimore-Washington area. A place of calm and peace in a beautiful country setting, where people of all denominations can come individually or as part of a group to rest, relax and rejuvenate or have a strategic planning or training session. The center has a warm and hospitable staff, whose service exceeds expectations. There are 70 attractive air-conditioned bedrooms with private baths for multi-day conferences and retreats, superior meals served in attractive dining rooms, hospitality lounges, conference rooms of all sizes, an indoor fitness center, outdoor pool, a lounge and library, and a bookstore. The beautiful grounds with walking paths, pond, a footbridge, and even a Japanese peace garden have many quiet spots for relaxation and reflection and for exploring and enjoying the presence of God. There is also the opportunity to walk the labyrinth located on one acre of sacred space. One of the focal points of the spiritual center is the beautiful chapel, where services and special events are held. The chapel is always open to visitors of all faith traditions for prayer and contemplation.

“The grounds and environment of the spiritual center are very healing,” Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski says. “The center meets a real need in today’s world for the space and time to reflect on one’s life and become centered...whether at a business conference or a spiritual retreat.”

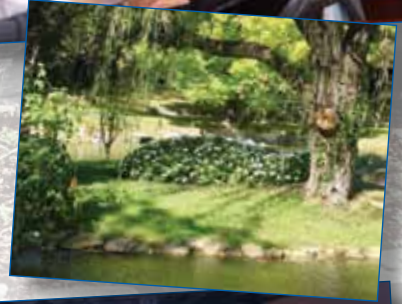
Conveniently located to both Baltimore and Washington, Bon Secours Spiritual Center hosts many business and non-profit organization conferences. It is the perfect setting to get people away from their everyday environment and inspire creative thought and planning. The center features two large conference rooms that can accommodate up to 150 guests as well as smaller meeting rooms



for breakout sessions and informal comfortable seating areas. A full range of audio-visual and projection equipment is available and a full-service conference staff is ready to help with meeting preparation and conference facilitation.



The center's staff also provide a variety of experiences throughout the year for the public, including directed and guided retreats, days of prayer, workshops, seminars, and other creative opportunities with gifted national and local presenters. Both individual and group spiritual direction may be arranged for those wishing to deepen their relationship with God. The spiritual center is continuously evolving and offering new programs to serve the changing needs of the community. Fifty-six retreats are planned in 2011. Some programs last just a few hours such as Mother's Day and Father's Day events, some are full-day retreats, and some are two–five days in length or even longer. Among the many offerings are free, one-day retreats for job-seekers and the bereaved as well as free concerts on the third Sunday of each month. Programs are ecumenical, and people of all faiths and nationalities are welcome at the center.



“Whether hosting a corporate conference, a board retreat, or a religious retreat or simply offering programs designed to help people live healthier, happier lives, Bon Secours Spiritual Center is a very meaningful ministry for the Sisters of Bon Secours as it works to bring people to wholeness and deepen their spiritual connection to God and nature,” says Larry Kaskel, recently named operations manager of the center.

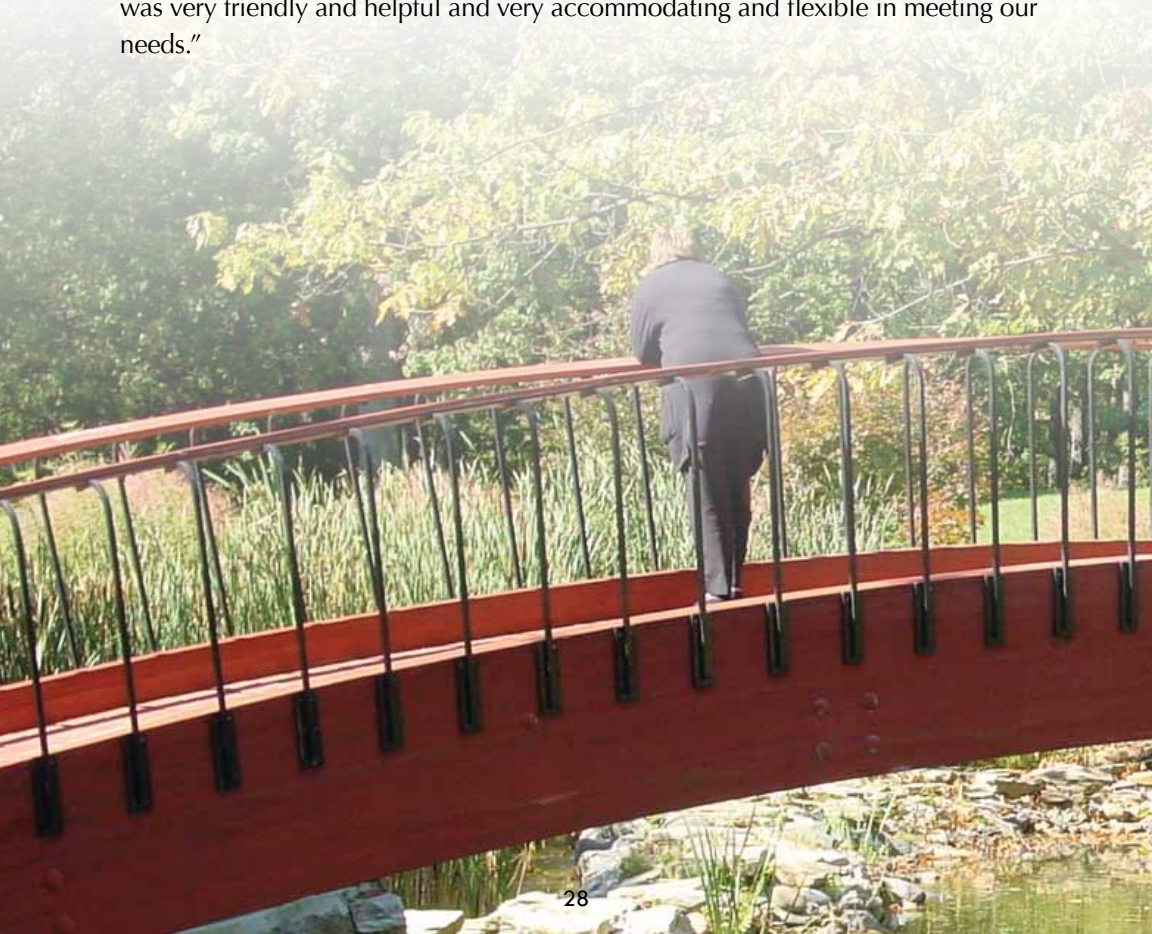
# SHARING EXPERIENCES AT BON SECOURS SPIRITUAL CENTER

## **From Bon Secours Health System's Chief Diversity Officer**

"I have had exceptional experiences with our two diversity and inclusion summits. I wanted to do something creative and different for our evening dinners. For the first, the staff prepared foods from around the world, and the second one was traditional holiday foods from around the world. At both events, the food was incredible. The staff researched and created wonderful experiences for our Diversity and Inclusion Council members. In addition to the food, they worked with me on lovely decorations, actually transforming the cafeteria into a café and a meeting room into a lovely restaurant setting. Both events received rave reviews from council members."

## **From The School Sisters of Notre Dame**

"We were very satisfied with the experience. Everything was in place to allow us to meet in a peaceful, prayerful and pleasant setting to achieve our purpose. The staff was very friendly and helpful and very accommodating and flexible in meeting our needs."



### **From an attendee at SoulCollage and the Labyrinth retreat**

“The instructor was awesome. The environment very conducive for the class. Beautiful and peaceful. Bon Secours is always a wonderful, sacred place for me.”

### **From Howard County Volunteers**

“Everyone was very pleased with the hospitality at the spiritual center from start to finish. We thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon. The food was very good; the room was perfect for our guests. Thank you for your help in planning along the way. Everyone felt very comfortable with the friendly staff and wonderful environment.”

### **From United Marriage Encounter**

“The food was exceptional with lots of healthy choices. The retreat center was quiet and welcoming. Our experience at Bon Secours was delightful.”

***If you are interested in holding an event at the Bon Secours Spiritual Center or for more information about upcoming events, call 410-442-1320 or visit [www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org](http://www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org).***



# *Sisters of Bon Secours Book Club* BROUGHT TOGETHER BY BOOKS

Every other month, the 30 members of the Sisters of Bon Secours Book Club gather via telephone conference for an hourlong discussion. Whether the sisters are gathered in a conference room in Marriottsville or in their own home in Maryland, New Jersey, South Carolina or Virginia, the book club members from all across the country call in to discuss a book or article and to share insights.

*“The book club keeps the sisters close-knit even though we’re so far apart,” says **Sr. Mary Regina Flatley**, a book club member. “Every other month, we have the opportunity to connect for an hour on the phone.”*

Each call begins with a prayer and then launches into open discussion, with each member getting her chance to speak. The sisters take turns facilitating the discussion.

The members agree as a group what to read for each call. They’ve read books on spirituality and leadership as well as articles on religious life and the Church. Recently the sisters read “Bounce: Living the Resilient Life” by Dr. Robert J. Wicks, a book about stress in modern life. “Our category of books is broadly spiritual,” explains Sr. Mary Regina, “but the topics are also practical to help us better our lives.”

This spring, the sisters are reading “Compassion” by Christina Feldman. Because compassion is one of the sisters’ charisms, Sr. Mary Regina feels it is a good choice for the group. “The book club is about personal sharing and growth,” she notes. “We can have varying opinions and can listen and learn from one another.”

Sr. Mary Regina believes that the book club is one of the best things the sisters have done for themselves recently and that only one thing could make the book club better: “We need Skype!” she laughs.



# EYES TO THE SKY

*Sr. Jean Aulenback has been watching the stars for more than 70 years*

In the early morning hours of December 21, 2010, the attention of tens of millions of people was drawn skyward to watch the total lunar eclipse, the first total lunar eclipse in almost three years. Though **Sr. Jean Aulenback**, 81, was warm in her bed at the time, she could anticipate the awe and wonder that viewers would feel as they watched the Earth's shadow creep across the moon's surface.

Sr. Jean, sacristan at the Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, Md., has been an avid star watcher since her childhood days in Nova Scotia, when her mother would sing her “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” as a lullaby. “Behind my home in Nova Scotia was a hill shaped like a loaf of bread. Many nights I would go up there and sit and just look at the stars,” explains Sr. Jean.

As she grew up and began researching astronomy and the life cycle of stars, Sr. Jean began to realize the vast enormity of the night sky. “I learned that we were witnessing events that happened even before humankind was on the face of the Earth. It gave me such a thrill to know that God is the one who is controlling all of this,” she says.

After Sr. Jean immigrated to the United States in 1952, she made it a point to continue watching the sky. When serving at Bon Secours Baltimore Health System, Sr. Jean would go onto the roof of the hospital to see the stars and planets. In the 1990s, she remembers watching a meteor shower from behind the Stone House at the Bon Secours Spiritual Center. “There were 30 or 40 of us out there, watching the big show in the sky. It was a beautiful shared experience—a spiritual experience,” she recalls.

Sr. Jean’s love for astronomy brings her closer to God. “It’s just me and God out there,” she says. “It’s like he’s putting on a show for us to see.”

Sr. Jean suggests checking local newspapers and online to find out when you can witness the next “big show in the sky.” The next total lunar eclipse visible for North America will occur on the night of April 14–15, 2014.

# LIVING OUR MISSION

For the past three years, *Sunshine Monk* has served as project coordinator for the Vocation and Formation Office in the United States, utilizing outside-the-box thinking to promote vocations and share the message of the Sisters of Bon Secours with young Catholic women. Sunshine's unique name has added some comic relief to the little hallway on the first floor, with guests sometimes stopping by just to meet "the famous Sunshine Monk."



*"As soon as I arrived at the Sisters of Bon Secours, I absolutely knew that God had led me here. My feeling was confirmed one day when I overheard someone say, 'No one ends up at the Leadership Office by mistake.' Being here and around the grounds, I feel God's presence all the time. I know he has brought me here to calm myself, listen and be still. The sisters have become my family, helping both my life and my spirituality to grow. They make me want to strive for more in my own mission of empowering others through love. I've seen firsthand the good the sisters do for people, and it's just incredible to be a part of it. These are some of the most wonderful people I've ever met."*



Since 2006, *Ed Gerardo* has been a valued member of the Bon Secours Health System Mission Department, where he has initiated and supported a number of programs related to community commitment and social investments. He provides leadership for community outreach activities and community benefit reporting systemwide as well as executive oversight for the Healthy Community Initiative, Mission Fund grant process, and Community Investment Fund. One of Ed's important roles is liaison to the Sisters of Bon Secours and other organizations; he is BSHSI's liaison with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) and serves on the ICCR board of directors.

*"I am truly blessed to minister among and with the Sisters of Bon Secours and the employees of the Bon Secours Health System. Sparked by the vision and energy of the Sisters of Bon Secours, the health system has adopted innovative approaches to extending compassion, healing, and liberation among the people and communities we serve to bring about health and wholeness. All this is possible because of the vision and mission of Bon Secours and the incredible commitment of our people to transform hurt into hope, to make God's love real in the world today."*



**Howard Wilen** is the director of Physical Rehabilitation at Good Samaritan Hospital in New York, overseeing physical, occupational and speech therapies as well as audiology for the hospital. Howard is also a physical therapist and treats inpatients. He has been with Good Samaritan for more than 15 years.



*“I truly feel blessed to help people and make a difference in their lives. A hospital can be a very scary place for people, and it is our responsibility and privilege to minimize fears and bring some comfort to patients and their families. Showing our caring and compassion, respecting their privacy, advocating on their behalf, treating people like we would want ourselves and our families treated is such an important thing to do. Many of us have been treating patients for many years, and, although it may be routine for us, it is anything but routine for our patients. Taking the time to use AIDET (Acknowledge, Introduce, Duration, Explanation, Thank) reassures our patients and reduces their anxiety level.”*



**Jacqueline Edwards** has been a part of the Bon Secours Baltimore Health System for two years, first serving as a student volunteer in the Job Readiness Program and then becoming employed as a receptionist. She now serves as volunteer specialist for the volunteers and student programs at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

*“I have been instructed by the word of God to carry out a great mission. Thanks to the sisters of Bon Secours for their teachings, dedication and spiritual gifts, I have a greater focus on the mission to help those in need. I certainly have experienced the values of the sisters firsthand as a former patient and have learned to accept conflicts as Jesus did to accomplish my mission. To be a spiritual example and able to withstand life’s challenges is truly by God’s grace, which is sufficient for me. Seeing the Bon Secours mission through the eyes of the sisters is a very rewarding experience.”*

# Around the Congregation



Two of our co-workers *Shannon Curran*, director of volunteer ministry, and *Rose Kurtz*, manager of guest services for Bon Secours Spiritual Center, graduated from the *Great Start, Good Help* program for new managers offered by Bon Secours Health System. There was a lovely graduation ceremony and event. Shannon Curran (second from the left) and Rose Kurtz (far right) are pictured at the Great Start, Good Help graduation ceremony.



We welcome *Sr. Mary Regina Flatley* back to Marriottsville after her many years in Florida.



Congratulation to *Sr. Chris Webb* who will receive a graduate certificate in spiritual direction from the diocese of Virginia in May.



Congratulations to *Andrea Springer* who completed her master's degree in liberal studies at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore.



We are pleased to announce that *Larry Kaskel* is the new operations manager for Bon Secours Spiritual Center.

# IN MEMORIAM

SR. ROSE O'BRIEN 1915-2010



*Sr. Rose O'Brien*, a sister of Bon Secours, died on Dec. 9, 2010, in Marriottsville, Md., on Marian Hall, the home of Bon Secours' retired sisters. Born Margaret O'Brien on March 7, 1915, in Philadelphia, she entered the Congregation of Bon Secours in 1932 and made her first profession in 1935. She made her final vows on May 24, 1941. Sr. Rose became acquainted with the Sisters of Bon Secours while volunteering at the then St. Edmond's Home for Crippled Children in Pennsylvania. Coming to Bon Secours was providential for Sr. Rose. "I felt that I had a vocation, but did not want to be a teaching or cloistered nun," she recalled. "At St. Edmond's, I was drawn to help the little ones in need and that was what our lives were about...going where there was a need."

Sr. Rose followed that path throughout her 78 years as a sister of Bon Secours. She was a student nurse at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore from 1934-37, and, upon graduating in 1937 from the Bon Secours School of Nursing, she served at the school as an instructor in pediatric nursing until 1942. From 1942-63, she worked at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore as a medical technologist in the clinical laboratory and taught microbiology. In 1963, Sr. Rose moved to Massachusetts and served at Bon Secours Hospital in Methuen as a clinical laboratory medical technician. From 1965-91, Sr. Rose served in Richmond, Va. She taught at the School of Medical Technology, worked at St. Mary's Hospital as a medical technician, and then became chief medical technologist as well as certified in blood bank technology. Sr. Rose remained in Richmond until 2005 when she retired to Marian Hall.

Sr. Rose is survived by her community and a brother, Father Joseph O'Brien of Philadelphia; a niece, Jane Mooney, her husband, Patrick and family of Ocean City, Md.; and several dear friends in Richmond.

# focus

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