

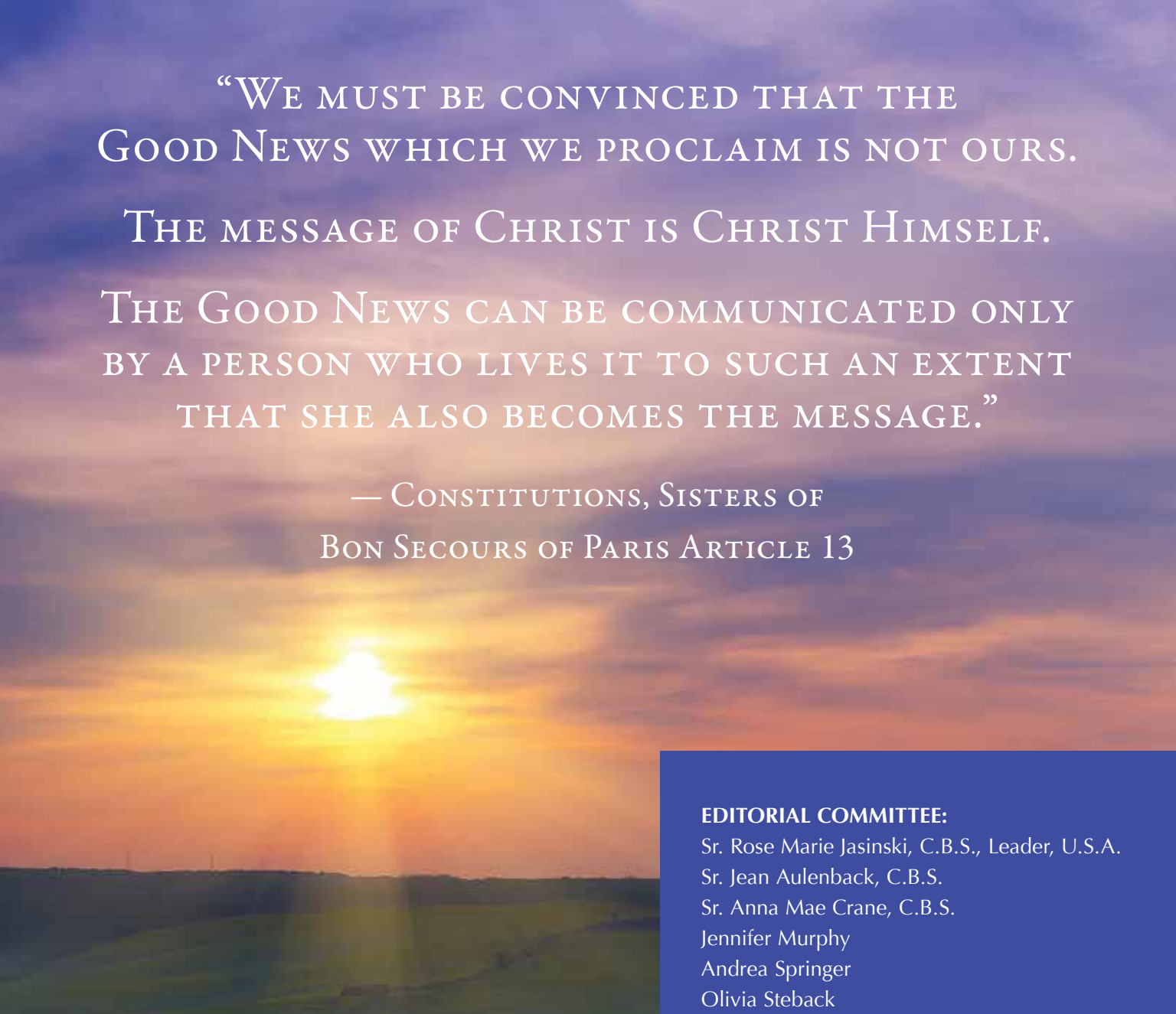
# *f*OCUS

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A.

SPRING 2016



SISTERS OF BON SECOURS, USA



“WE MUST BE CONVINCED THAT THE  
GOOD NEWS WHICH WE PROCLAIM IS NOT OURS.  
THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST IS CHRIST HIMSELF.  
THE GOOD NEWS CAN BE COMMUNICATED ONLY  
BY A PERSON WHO LIVES IT TO SUCH AN EXTENT  
THAT SHE ALSO BECOMES THE MESSAGE.”

— CONSTITUTIONS, SISTERS OF  
BON SECOURS OF PARIS ARTICLE 13

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SISTERS OF BON SECOURS

# Dear Friends

Traditionally, every 25 years the Pope proclaims a Holy Year, which features celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace. Extraordinary Holy Years, such as the current Holy Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same invitation for spiritual growth.

The Holy Year of Mercy, which began on Dec. 8, 2015, and will end on Nov. 20, 2016, is being celebrated not only in Rome, but in dioceses throughout the world. "Mercy is not an abstract word," writes Pope Francis, "but rather a face to recognize, contemplate and serve. Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life." As I reflect on the Holy Year of Mercy and the statement in the Papal Bull that says, "may She never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort," I realize that the Sisters of Bon Secours have been living this way since their founding in 1824. This issue of Focus highlights a few of the ways in which the Sisters of Bon Secours and our affiliates perform acts of mercy and forgiveness every day through their ministries as we continue to bring Good Help to those in Need®.

In this issue, you will also read about the rebranding of Bon Secours Health System and the work Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, chair of the Congregation's Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee, is doing in the area of human trafficking. Additionally, there are stories about the presentation of the second annual

Josephine Potel Award, which this year was awarded to Carlton Cheatom in the housekeeping department at Marriottsville, and some of the special programs for the Holy Year of Mercy being sponsored by the Retreat and Conference Center at Bon Secours.

The entire Congregation mourns the passing of Sr. Justine Cyr, who was called back home to God on Jan. 1, 2016. Her contributions to the Congregation, both in the United States and internationally, were extraordinary and her presence, spirit and determination will be missed by all of us. Sr. Justine was Provincial of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., for three terms from 1979-1988, and it was her foresight that was the impetus for what is today the Bon Secours Health System. For ten years, she served in Rome and then Paris as General Superior of the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris, where she continued to make so many contributions to our Congregation. A fuller reflection on Sr. Justine's life can be found on page 42.

In May, we have two very special jubilees to celebrate, Sr. Katherine Ann Durney's 70th Jubilee and Sr. Mary Regina Flatley's 65th Jubilee. What a rich history both of these sisters have with the Congregation and how integral they have been to Bon Secours' past and present. We will also be celebrating the 25th Jubilee of Hermana Sara Gabriela Ruiz Espinoza who is from Peru and is ministering with us in Greenville, S.C. It will be wonderful to have Sr. Gaby's celebration here in the United States.

Please enjoy this issue of Focus and the wonderful birth of spring, signifying new beginnings and new life as we see the trees turning green and the flowers in bloom. It is truly a time of reflection, and I ask you to think about how you do acts of mercy and offer forgiveness to the people in your life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Rose Marie". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski  
Leader, Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A.



# A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY



On Friday, April 10, 2015, while celebrating a penitential service in Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, saying he wants to make it evident that the Church's mission is to be a witness of compassion. The jubilee year began on Dec. 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. It will end on Nov. 20, 2016, on the feast of Christ the King.

"Let us not forget that God forgives and God forgives always," Pope Francis said. "Let us never tire of asking for forgiveness." The Pope continued, "I am convinced that the whole Church — which has much need to receive mercy — will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time."

"In this jubilee year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May She never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: 'Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.'" (Ps 25:6)

The Holy Year of Mercy is a time for the faithful to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, the Pope writes, "It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel, where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead."



*Left: Sr. Vicky Segura, M.D., is part of the hospice team in Richmond.*



*Right: Sr. Alice Talone serves as a parish nurse in Baltimore City.*

Pope Francis asks that in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year, we dedicate ourselves to living out in our daily lives the mercy which God constantly extends to all of us.

Serving others is at the core of the mission God calls us to. When it comes to serving people in need, the Catholic Church has an incredible track record. The Church feeds, houses, clothes and educates more people and takes care of more sick people than any other institution in the world. Since their founding in 1824 in Paris when Sisters of Bon Secours visited and nursed the sick in their homes, the Sisters of Bon Secours have been performing acts of mercy every day.

We share with you just a few examples of how our sisters today perform both spiritual and corporal works of mercy in their ministries.

*Sr. Vicky Segura*, a physician, is an integral part of the hospice team of the Bon Secours Richmond Health System in Virginia supporting patients and their families at the end of life.

As a Sister of Bon Secours and a physician, I find caring for someone at the end of life a profound privilege. To enable individuals to live well despite the approach of the close of life and to support patients and families at the time of death have been one of the innovative ways that we, Sisters of Bon Secours, share our charism of healing, liberation and compassion.

The first Sisters of Bon Secours, who walked the streets of Paris to care for the dying and their families in their homes, manifested God's unfailing mercy. Very much like our first sisters, I travel to the homes of hospice patients in Richmond and the surrounding counties to provide compassionate care to the sick and dying. The hospice health care team brings the mercy and comfort of God to our patients and their families. The care of the dying is very much for me a commitment to do God's will with a grateful heart as well as a fulfillment of my vocation.

*Sr. Dorothy Brogan* currently serves as chaplain at the Bon Secours St. Francis Cancer Center in Greenville, S.C. Prior to this ministry, she served as home health chaplain with St. Francis Home Health, visiting patients and their families in their homes.

I see my ministry as being present with the sick and their families and listening, encouraging and supporting people emotionally and spiritually on their treatment journey, which can often be a roller coaster ride. It is a privilege for me to accompany them on this journey—it is truly God’s work, and I find that people are very open to spiritual support regardless of their religion. I also have the joy of celebrating with patients when they finish their treatment and go on to live their lives as cancer survivors. It is very rewarding work just being with those going through a difficult time.

When I worked in home health, I helped people grapple with the very difficult choices they had to make when faced with end-of-life decisions. Just being a listening, supportive presence makes a difference.

*Sr. Anna Mae Crane* volunteers two days a week at Bon Secours’ Women’s Resource Center in Baltimore preparing meals.

I help cook and prepare wholesome lunches for the women served at Bon Secours’ Women’s Resource Center. These women often have just a half hour to eat lunch and sometimes this is their main meal of the day. We treat the women who come through our doors as guests, and lunch is served to them, rather than presented buffet style. This is a wonderful non-judgmental environment where the staff and volunteers are compassionate, patient and forgiving to all the women in the community who use the center.

This free community resource has classes for women, including a computer lab to help them with job searches, and holds events such as spa days. Women may also use the center to collect their mail, do laundry or take a shower. The Women’s Resource Center does acts of mercy every day, and I am honored to be a part of this very special place as I do my small part to make life a little better for these women.

*Sr. Elaine Davia* is a family nurse practitioner and has practiced in a variety of outpatient settings. She currently ministers in Maryland at St. Francis Outreach Center in Baltimore and at Access Carroll in Carroll County.



*Left to Right: Sr. Elaine Davia, Sr. Anna Mae Crane and Sr. Dorothy Brogan*



I usually am not thinking that “I’m doing a spiritual or corporal work of mercy” when I’m involved in my ministry or even life itself. But as I started to reflect on both the spiritual and corporal acts of mercy Pope Francis referred to when talking about this Holy Year of Mercy, I looked at the list and found that as a sister, as a nurse, with my participation in various committees and boards, and even as a member living in community, God calls me at various times to practice one of these works of mercy. During this Year of Mercy, I have decided to spend time reflecting on each one of these “works” to decide how I do or do not give expression to them.

*Sr. Alice Talone* ministers as a parish nurse at St. Peter Claver, St. Pius V Parish in Baltimore City.

The Holy Year of Mercy, opening the door, the door is Jesus. As I am blessed to go into the homes of the poor as a parish nurse, I am welcomed by the Christ Person, and I pray that I may be Christ to the Other. I am shown loving hospitality. The doors of our lives are opened to each other where Jesus enters. I am blessed to be welcomed by so many who seek Christ. We visit, pray and share Eucharist; the charism of Bon Secours is felt—Compassion, Healing, Liberation.

In the Jubilee Year of Mercy, “open wide the doors, the doors of our hearts” is Pope Francis’ call to us. As I go through the doors, I open my heart and feel the Other opening her/his heart. When I leave I say, “I love you,” which I truly feel, and am told by the Other, “I love you.” My heart is full. How truly graced I am!

*Sr. Chris Webb* is chaplain at DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, Va., interacting with patients and families throughout the hospital.

As I reflect on this Holy Year of Mercy, I recall the Gospels, and especially Matthew 25. The sheep and the goats are separated. The question is “When did I do these things, Lord?” The answer was when you visited the sick and those in prisons, when you gave a drink to the thirsty and food to the hungry. It sounds like, to me, that they are doing these things, not because the Lord requested it or commands it, but because of the needs of the people—being other-centered. Faith and our belief system, along with prayer, can bring us this understanding.

This is for me all about recognizing my gifts and using them with and for others. The needs are there, certainly for those in the hospital. As a chaplain, I help those sick, suffering and dying in many ways to open the doors for health and wholeness. And Peace. It is the iconic presence of God as I minister—there is a God who loves each person. Being the hands, feet, lips and heart of God.

*Sr. Chris Webb is a hospital chaplain at DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, Va.*



*Sr. Jean Aulenback* and the other sisters on Marian Hall do acts of mercy every day as they pray for others.

We receive prayer lists from the book in the chapel when people who attend Mass ask for the sisters' prayers; from people who call the sisters and ask for prayers; and from a list that is posted daily on the bulletin board on Marian Hall of people we know in need of prayers. We pray for those who are ill and for those who have died as well as for people's private intentions. We pray for our caregivers and for all the caregivers and people who join the Sisters of Bon Secours in their ministry. We also pray to fix the ills in the world, such as human trafficking. We pray for those who are victims of natural disasters, who have lost their homes and love ones in tornados and hurricanes. We pray for world peace. The power of prayer is indeed strong. Even though we are all in different stages of health on Marian Hall, we can still make a meaningful contribution to the Congregation through prayer, and in this way, live acts of mercy daily.

*Sr. Winifred McCabill* ministers as a parish sister in Great Britain.

To me, our Bon Secours charism resonates with Pope Francis' Open Door Year of Mercy. Ministry as a parish sister creates an "open door" of home, heart and spirit for many people of all religions and none, all ages, nationalities and genders, who wish to visit and share their joys and sorrows. Many married couples are experiencing relationship problems. There are broken homes, children with special needs, substance abuse, poverty and many other such problems that require a listening ear or connecting people to groups or getting them professional help. Sometimes, I even find myself babysitting to give a mother a rest because she has been up all night with a sick child.

I visit people in their homes, hospitals, nursing homes and day centers. I purposely walk around the facility on all my visits as I meet so many people of all ages who just want to chat. Some may make a request for a visit because they are a bit lonely, and I consequently add them to my list of visits on a daily basis.

I am also a member of the CAFOD (Catholic Association for Overseas Development), which is involved in bringing an awareness of world poverty and ecological issues, firstly to ourselves and then to the wider community. We also work toward finding the ways and means of living simply so that others may simply live, and we consider how this impacts the whole world. At times, I feel so hopeless and helpless seeing the many problems some people experience. Hopefully, I can show these people kindness and care and bring all their needs to the Lord in prayer.

The message of Christ is Christ himself – this is the Gospel message of mercy we hope to become.

*Left: Sr. Jean Aulenback*

*Right: Sr. Winifred McCabill, a parish sister in Great Britain (l.) with Sr. Anne Campbell (c.) and Sr. Bernadette Kwasna (r.).*



*Sisters Sandra, Gumercinda and Leonila enthusiastically discuss ideas for addressing human trafficking in Peru at their recent Assembly.*



# BEING AGENTS OF MERCY TO THOSE ENSLAVED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*by Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, Coordinator Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Congregation of Bon Secours of Paris.*

In announcing the Jubilee Year of Extraordinary Mercy, Pope Francis summoned all Catholics to live this year in the light of Jesus' words: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." For the Congregation of Bon Secours, mercy is lived in vivid and vibrant ways as we respond to our Chapter 2014 call to "cry out against human trafficking." Survivors of human trafficking hunger and thirst for healing—physically, emotionally and spiritually. They ache to be clothed with compassion. Coerced, lured or forced from their homes and homelands under the guise of deception, they long for a place where they can feel safe and secure. Most of all, they yearn for liberation from the physical and psychological imprisonment and its subsequent trauma that human trafficking inflicts on them.

Through the leadership of our Congregation's International Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC), sisters and Associates are involved in educating and advocating on behalf of victims and survivors of human trafficking in varied ways. In Ireland, Srs. Katherine Tierney and Mary Leamy report that sisters have spoken about human trafficking several times on local radio stations. In partnership with the Sisters of Mercy, they are also making efforts to counter child prostitution in the hospitality sector with a training program for hotel staff in Kerry that has been very well received. At the recent Assembly in Peru, our sisters dedicated a session to discussing human trafficking and how they can best respond by developing partnerships with other organizations and by involving their associates.

Recent advocacy efforts around human trafficking have been robust in the United States as well. In collaboration with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, Bon Secours U.S.A., as well as our Associates and colleagues, wrote and called our senators. They urged them to co-sponsor the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015, which would require businesses with over \$100 million in worldwide gross receipts to publicly disclose in their annual filings and on their websites what efforts they are taking to

address human trafficking and the worst forms of child labor in their supply chains. Sr. Anne Marie Mack, chair of the International JPIC Committee, notes that there have also been successful efforts raising awareness of human trafficking within the Bon Secours Health System. Earlier this year, the sisters offered housing to an Asylee woman, decreasing her chances of becoming prey to traffickers, which is often the case for immigrants and Asylees in an unfamiliar country.

Pope Francis invites all of us “to become agents of God’s mercy, channels through which God can water the Earth and make justice and peace flourish.” We, Sisters of Bon Secours, open ourselves to this invitation and respond with a full-throated “yes” on behalf of trafficking victims world-wide whose cries and tears have touched our hearts.

## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE, PEACE & INTEGRITY OF CREATION COMMITTEE

Sr. Theresa Margot Benítez Montero, (Peru)

Sr. Fran Gorsuch, (U.S.A.)

Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, co-chair

Sr. Mary Leamy, (Ireland)

Sr. Anne Marie Mack, (U.S.A.), chair

Sr. Noelia Lara Núñez, (Peru)

Sr. Marguerite Provost, (France)

Sr. Alice Talone, (U.S.A.)

Sr. Katherine Tierney, (Ireland)

Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, (Peru)

Sr. Chris Webb, (U.S.A.)

# THE CONGREGATION CELEBRATES WITH 50 YEAR JUBILARIANS.



*50 year Jubilarians celebrate in the Fall with Sr. Pat Eck: (L. to r.) Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, Sr. Pat Eck, Sr. Anne Marie Mack and Sr. Anne Maureen Doherty.*

## 2016 JUBILEES



### CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

#### **SR. KATHERINE ANN DURNEY**

Sr. Katherine Ann, familiarly known as Sr. Kay, 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., Sr. Kay was a registered nurse when she entered the Congregation in 1946. She received her nursing home administrator license in 1977.

Over the years, Sr. Kay served as operating room and night supervisor at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore, Md., as director of nursing and assistant administrator at Villa Maria in Miami, Fla., and as assistant administrator in Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Mich.

In 1987, she became a certified pastoral care chaplain and, for several years, ministered to patients and residents in Bon Secours Nursing Care Center in Ellicott City, Md. She also served in Virginia as chaplain at Bon Secours DePaul Hospital and Province Place of Norfolk. “It was a deeply rewarding and fulfilling experience to minister to people who hunger for love, compassion and the Word of God,” said Sr. Kay. After Sr. Kay retired in 2000, she volunteered at Bon Secours Assisted Living facility in Norfolk, Va. “In a small way, I was able to provide Good Help to Those in Need\*.”

Sr. Kay served as president of the board of trustees of Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Mi., and Villa Maria in Florida. She has served on the Congregation’s Council of Presidents, the Sponsorship Task Force, and the board of directors of Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore and Bon Secours Housing, Inc.

“What a wonderful life I have experienced as a Sister of Bon Secours for 70 years,” says Sr. Kay. “The community has always been a source of strength and inspiration to me, and has given me many opportunities to grow spiritually and professionally. My primary life source has been, and continues to be, prayer.”



### CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

#### **SR. MARY REGINA FLATLEY**

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., Sr. Mary Regina attended Notre Dame High School in Moylan, Pa. After graduation, Sr. Mary Regina entered the Congregation of Bon Secours in 1951 and attended Bon Secours School of Nursing. She went on to receive her BSN 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 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. She also was vice president for mission at Bon Secours DePaul Hospital in Norfolk, Va., and regional vice president for sponsorship for the Southeast Region. Sr. Mary

Regina has served on several Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI) facility boards around the country and was chair of the board of BSHSI from 1986—1988.

In 1988, Sr. Mary Regina was elected provincial of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., a position she held until 1995. In November 1999, Mary Regina was elected to the Congregational Leadership Team in Paris, France, where she lived for five years. 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. Today, she especially enjoys having the time to read, everything from spiritual material to scripture and light reading. She also continues to walk with others in their Formation Journey.

“Being a Sister of Bon Secours has been a journey of growing in ‘acting justly, loving tenderly, and walking humbly with my God.’ I also have enjoyed the special privilege of being able to help others to walk in their journey as they explore their relationship with their God and with themselves. One of the highlights of my many years as a Sister of Bon Secours was my five years in France working with the Congregation and being a part of ‘On Our Journey.’ Sr. Colette and I visited all of the English speaking sisters during those years to hear about their journeys. It was so special to really get to meet and know our sisters in other countries, and I still keep in touch with many of them today. I think the best thing about retirement is that I now have the time to ponder my experiences of life, which have been so very rich as a Sister of Bon Secours for the past 65 years,” says Sr. Mary Regina.



## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

### SR. SARA GABRIELA RUIZ ESPINOZA

Sr. Sara Gabriela Ruiz Espinoza, affectionately called Sister Gaby, was born in the city of Chulucanas, Piura, Peru; she is the fourth of nine children. Her father, a farmer, died 19 years ago, and her mother, a teacher, successfully raised all her children. She is now retired and in the words of Sister Gaby, “my mother was the best gift God has given us and continues giving to all my family.”

Sister Gaby entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours on August 17, 1989, and made her first vows on March 19, 1996, and her final vows on January 24, 2002.

Sister Gaby served as community coordinator in the Josefina Potel – Wichanzao and Francis Paula Huancayo communities and in 2009 graduated as a psychologist.

Sister Gaby has served with great success in pastoral ministry with adults and children in all the Peru communities. In 2009, she worked as a psychologist in the Francis Paula Community and in the Fe y Alegría #66 Bon Secours School. She also worked in the Catholic Medical Mission Board NGO Congregation Project.

In 2014, she was elected as a delegate to the General Chapter, and in May, 2015, she traveled to Greenville, SC, to serve in parish ministry for five years in the United States. Sr. Gaby is currently taking English lessons and driving lessons while working with the parishioners of San Sebastian Parish in Greenville and in the Santa María Magdalena Parrish. We are pleased Sr. Gaby is able to celebrate her 25th Jubilee with the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A.

# THE CONGREGATION OF BON SECOURS CELEBRATES 2016 JUBILEES

## 75TH JUBILEE

Sr. John Chrysostom Duggan, Cork, Ireland

## 70TH JUBILEE

Sr. Katherine Ann Durney, Marriottsville, U.S.A.

Sr. Mary Gregory Hennessy, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Mary Eugenia Fraher, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Mary Reginald O'Sullivan, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Mary Cornelius Mullane, Cork, Ireland

## 65TH JUBILEE

Sr. Mary Regina Flatley, Marriottsville, U.S.A.

Sr. Mary Laboure Ryan, Cobh, Ireland

Sr. Mary Angela Leamy, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Marie Pierre Guillet, Vendôme, France

Sr. Marie Thérèse Parsy, Vendôme, France

Sr. Loreto Ahearne, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Theresa Philomena Fitzgibbon, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Christine Marie Lefebvre, Vendôme, France

## 60TH JUBILEE

Sr. Marie André Malmert, Vendôme, France

Sr. Jacqueline Rebours, Vendôme, France

Sr. Mary Veronica Norton, Dublin, Ireland

Sr. Mary Angelique Collins, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Mary Columbanus Byrne, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Monique Marie Delepoux, Maison Mere (Paris), France

## 50TH JUBILEE

Sr. Mary Martha Leamy, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Patricia Eck, Marriottsville, U.S.A.

Sr. Marian Goretti Spillane, Dublin, Ireland

Sr. Marie Ryan, Cork, Ireland

Sr. Marian Paschal Barry, Cobh, Ireland

Sr. Brigid Teresa O'Connor, Cork, Ireland

## 25TH JUBILEE

Hna. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, Lima, Peru

Hna. Sara Gabriela Ruiz Espinoza, Peru (Currently ministering in Greenville, S.C.)





## Carlton Cheatom Receives Josephine Potel Award

*Country Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski presents Josephine Potel Award to Carlton Cheatom.*

Carlton Cheatom, a house person in the housekeeping department for the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, was honored with the second annual Josephine Potel Award. This award recognizes an employee of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., or the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, who embodies the spirit of the Sisters of Bon Secours and lives its charism and mission, being Good Help to Those in Need®.

Carlton's nomination describes how he helps and cares for others every day through his positive relationships with co-workers and guests. In every interaction, he is making a connection with others, helping others, and sharing God's word. Everyone describes Carlton as having a huge, caring heart, a smile on his face, and always contributing to the mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours. He lifts people up around him with his can-do attitude, while doing his job and pitching in to help others, whenever and wherever needed.

Carlton is someone who truly loves working for the Sisters of Bon Secours. He not only embodies the mission on a daily basis through his job, he goes beyond his work by touching the lives of those around him in everything he does. Outside of the Retreat and Conference Center, Carlton is dedicated to expanding his knowledge, is involved with his church, volunteers as a Big Brother to two mentally disabled children, volunteers as a mentor to men and women striving to beat addiction, and encourages and shares his faith. He works hard every day helping in his own way to carry out the Sisters of Bon Secours' mission.

# HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE CALLED TO BE A SISTER?

*by Sr. Pat Dowling, Vocations Director*

Quite frequently I am asked, “How do you know if you are called to be a sister?” Though becoming a sister within religious life may not be the vocation that most people follow, it is a vocation that women continue to choose and live out in very meaningful ways.

You know how one thing leads to another and then to another, and before you know it, you’ve arrived at a juncture, and you think, “How’d I get here; how did that happen?” At each point, something attracts you; draws you by a desire. Finding your vocation in life happens through longings and desires which God plants deep within us. The steps we take in life that lead us along a path are not quite as coincidental as they seem and are prompted by our desires and the choices we make.

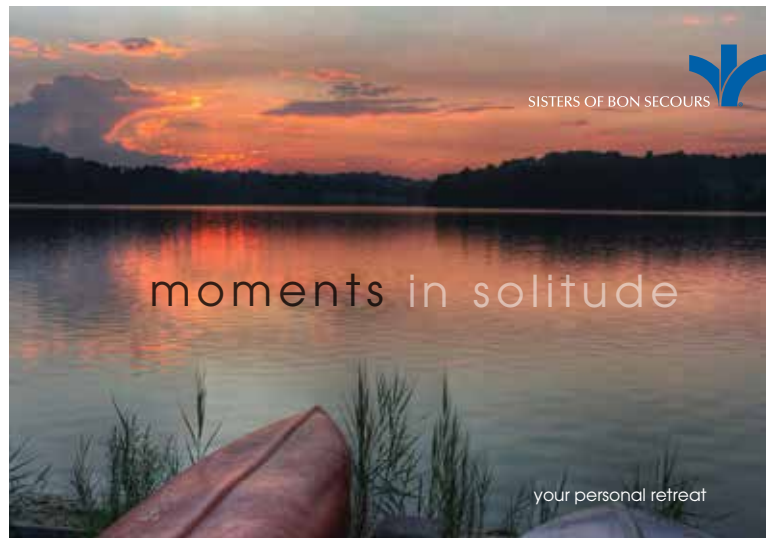
A vocation is about who I should “be” and what I should “do.” This is different from a career. So how do you know? Start with some questions such as: What are you passionate about; what are your dreams? What do you feel drawn to and what not? Where can you use your gifts and talents from God now and in the future? What is your personality like? As you look back over your life, where were you drawn? St. Ignatius, a guru of discernment, even suggested imagining yourself on your deathbed looking back over time.

Carve out a bit of space and time in your day for God and for a heartfelt chat, with the time to listen within to God. Ask God for clarity when you ponder some of the questions above. Ask God, “What do you desire for me?” In addition, ask yourself, “What do I want and desire too?” Trust what’s in your heart and, as St. Ignatius advises, use your head too – about reality. God wants us to become our truest selves, and when this happens, it will bring joy. Over time and with some patience, we gain clarity through reflection and trust in God’s help, talking with others, checking out our longings and desires and accepting them, and growing in love, freedom and compassion.

If God is calling you to be a sister, you sense an inner rightness and a sense of joy, excitement, contentment and a longing. Doubt is normal, so don’t let it prevent you from checking it out. Others will affirm your vocation too, such as a vocation director with whom you would discern. If you have wondered about a vocation as a Catholic religious sister, consider taking the steps to explore this life option. We would be glad to talk with you about a vocation as a sister. A helpful website to check out is [www.LifeAsASister.org](http://www.LifeAsASister.org).

# Moments In Solitude: Your Personal Retreat

For a copy of this inspirational booklet,  
email [CBSVocations@bshsi.org](mailto:CBSVocations@bshsi.org)  
or call 410-442-3171.



## Come *See* the Sisters of *Bon Secours*

Come & See Vocation weekends are for single, Catholic women ages 18-48 who wonder about religious life as a Catholic sister and are searching to understand their vocation in life. Spend time with sisters and listen, share, pray and reflect on God's voice within the quiet of your heart. Come with your questions and desires for a place to share and to discover God's call in your life. For more information, contact Sr. Pat Dowling at 410-442-3172 or email us at [CBSVocations@bshsi.org](mailto:CBSVocations@bshsi.org).

Visit our websites at [BonSecoursVocations.org](http://BonSecoursVocations.org) and [LifeAsASister.org](http://LifeAsASister.org).

Facebook: [facebook.com/BonSecoursVocations](https://facebook.com/BonSecoursVocations)

Twitter: [twitter.com/PatTheNun](https://twitter.com/PatTheNun) or [twitter.com/SrsBonSecours](https://twitter.com/SrsBonSecours)

YouTube: [youtube.com/user/cbsvocations](https://youtube.com/user/cbsvocations)

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/bonsecours](https://pinterest.com/bonsecours)

App: [Imagine a Sister's Life](#)

### 2016 Come & See Weekend Dates:

June 17 – 19, 2016

October 21 – 23, 2016.

Also, check our website for dates and times of our Chat Room discussions.





# BON SECOURS YOUNG ADULTS: A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE IN THEIR 20<sup>S</sup> AND 30<sup>S</sup>

Bon Secours Young Adults are a community of people in their 20's and 30's, single and married, centered in relationship with Jesus Christ and committed to being the Good News of compassion, healing, and liberation. Nourished by and flowing from our love for God and each other we are:

- **Community:** Joyful and diverse, we come together in prayer, laughter, creativity and hope ready to offer welcome, support, encouragement, challenge and companionship to each other and all who we encounter.
- **Faithful:** As developing leaders connected to the Catholic Church through the charism and tradition of the Sisters of Bon Secours, we seek to embrace ever more fully our living faith in a loving God.
- **Servants:** Called to be “Good Help to Those in Need,” we are dedicated to “defending and caring for all of creation and to crying out with others against injustice and all that diminishes life on earth” as we seek to bring wholeness to body, mind and spirit in our communities and world.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Chapter Gatherings – Bon Secours Young Adults (BSYA), wherever they are, gather monthly for faith sharing, service projects, and building community by having fun. We currently have three chapters running with more to come in the near future. If you would like to start a chapter in your area, contact Nick at [Nicholas\\_Stein@bshsi.org](mailto:Nicholas_Stein@bshsi.org) to begin the process.
  - **Washington, D.C. Chapter** – For more information, contact Kelsey Oesmann at [koesmann@gmail.com](mailto:koesmann@gmail.com).
  - **Baltimore Chapter** – For more information, contact Rick Shipley at [rwshipley@gmail.com](mailto:rwshipley@gmail.com).
  - **Southwest Virginia (Roanoke/Blacksburg) Chapter** – For more information, contact Mary Beth Keenan at [mbwis36@vt.edu](mailto:mbwis36@vt.edu).
- Kelsey Oesmann, a founding member of the Washington, D.C. chapter, will be spending her summer taking a break from her job to be “good help” full time. She is doing an amazing project called “Bike and Build.” Please visit her website [coasttocoastkelsey.com](http://coasttocoastkelsey.com) to learn more and to find out how your support can make a difference.
- May 20-22 – Young Women’s Running and Wellness Weekend at Townley IV Farm, Amherst, Va. If you are in your 20’s and 30’s and looking for a weekend away to focus on your own health and wellness in a luxurious locale surrounded by a supportive and nurturing community, this is the weekend for you. Free to Bon Secours employees, friends and family. Space is limited to 25.
- July 21-Aug. 1 – World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, and Krakow in the Capitol. Nick will be helping to lead the Archdiocese of Baltimore Young Adult pilgrimage to Krakow this summer and the formation and preparation for this pilgrimage is well underway. We have close to 50 young adults participating, many of whom are Bon Secours Young Adults. Our monthly meetings have been times of deep prayer and learning for all involved. In addition to the gathering in Poland, on Saturday, July 30, there will be a special stateside gathering in Washington, D.C., with an expected attendance of 2,000 young adults. Held at Catholic University and the Basilica all day Saturday, we are planning on having a Bon Secours presence.
- Aug. 12-14 – BSYA’s annual “Family Reunion” at Townley IV Farm, Amherst, Va. Fun, relaxation, and spiritual nourishment for all.
- Sept. 17 – “The Catholic Imagination Retreat,” in partnership with Charis Ministries, will be held at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, in Baltimore, Md. Bon Secours Young Adults will be offering this one-day, peer-led retreat on all things creative, imaginative and Christian. Register at <http://charis.website> under the title “Choosing to Be Catholic.”
- Dec. 2-4 – “St. Ignatius of Loyola’s Spiritual Exercises: A Retreat for Young Adults,” in partnership with Charis Ministries, will be held at the Retreat and Conference Center at Bon Secours, Marriottsville, Md.

For more information on any of these events or to participate, please contact Nick Stein at [Nicholas\\_Stein@bshsi.org](mailto:Nicholas_Stein@bshsi.org) or call 410-442-3148. Also, please find more information on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/bonsecoursyoungadults](http://www.facebook.com/bonsecoursyoungadults) or at [www.bonsecoursyoungadults.org](http://www.bonsecoursyoungadults.org).

# BON SECOURS YOUNG ADULTS ADVISORY BOARD

The Bon Secours Young Adults Advisory Board serves to guide and strategically grow the ministry in the spirit of the Sisters of Bon Secours. Board members include Rick Shipley, Erin Mackey, Michael Ward, Sarah Jarzembowski, Fr. Robert Albright, Patricia Gavilan, Sr. Fran Gorsuch, Sr. Christine Webb, Sr. Patricia Dowling, ex officio, and Nicholas Stein, ex officio.



*Sharing a meal at the “Liberation” Retreat, one of three Bon Secours Young Adult retreats focused on exploring the Charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours. January 2016, Townley IV Farm, Amherst, Va.*

# MINISTRY GRANTS AWARDED

## ■ \$8,750 – Vital Sign Monitors

The Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged in Baltimore requested an enhancement of its vital sign monitoring equipment. This purchase will update the current system and provide more accurate and timely readings of vital signs for critically ill residents within their facility. Monitors will be placed strategically throughout the facility to be able to more readily identify potential medical emergencies among residents.

## ■ \$30,000 – Career Development Program: Reentry Success Program for Returning Citizens

The Bon Secours Baltimore Health System's Community Works Program requested funding to support the initiatives aimed at assisting people who have been, or will soon be, released from prison. Director Anees Abdul-Rahim's work in coordinating personal assessments, workshops and seminars aimed at re-orienting persons to a new life within their community has greatly impacted the quality of the local neighborhood. The funds will be used for his salary.

## ■ \$10,000 – Tuition Assistance Program for Mercy High School in Baltimore

Mary Beth Lennon, president of Mercy High School, Baltimore, applied for funding to provide tuition assistance for students in need. The committee recognized the connection with Sisters Academy and viewed this request as an extension of support to the young women moving into high school who have benefited from the quality education they received in their primary school education.

## ■ \$22,020 – Jim's Local Market Community Room-Bon Secours DePaul Health Foundation

The Bon Secours DePaul Health Foundation sought funding to support efforts to educate consumers to healthy nutritious food choices. In collaboration with Jim's Local Market, an educational process will be established to provide seminars to help people shop healthy, using the store as the laboratory to demonstrate exactly what healthy food choices look like. This service takes a very practical look at people's current situations and identifies exactly what would be most helpful in encouraging people to develop better eating habits. This initiative is self-evident and meets the criteria of bringing Good Help to Those in Need®.



*Front row (l. to r.) Elizabeth Modde and Mackenzie Buss  
Back row (l. to r.) Gerard Ondrey, Nicole Odlum, and Alex Yeo*



## THE COMMUNITY OF BON SECOURS VOLUNTEER MINISTRY: MEET CHRIST IN SERVICE

*“The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise.” ~United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

The above description of the Corporal Works of Mercy reminds us that Christ lives within all of creation, unifying every living being. When we experience this sacred reality, we come to understand our actions as a means by which we may bring healing and wholeness to the Body of Christ. As our Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers practice the Corporal Works of Mercy through their service, they develop a deeper appreciation for the web of relationships which connects each of them in both an intimate and a personal way to all those they meet in their daily lives. In the reflections below, the volunteers share encounters which illustrate this growth. It is in the act of responding to their neighbor’s hunger and thirst for dignity through the Corporal Works of Mercy that our volunteers meet Christ in service.



## FEED THE HUNGRY AND GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

When I bring a patient a container of apple juice or a pack of graham crackers, it often doesn't register in my mind as a significant action. After all, most patients get three meals a day while in the hospital, something many of them do not receive outside the care of Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore. However, during my year of service I have come to realize the importance of these gestures lies not in their magnitude, but in the greater recognition of the human dignity these acts symbolize.

The patients I encounter, many of whom struggle with poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, and other afflictions that contribute to their marginalization from mainstream society, are not used to being waited on or served. On the other hand, I am accustomed to going out to restaurants with family or friends, people taking my order, cooking my food, filling up my drink glass, and removing my dishes when I am done. When offering a patient a snack, I don't quite have the selection of a five-star restaurant to choose from, but when I am asking a question as simple as, "Would you prefer apple, cranberry, or orange juice?" I feel I am embodying the ways in which I have been served. "Waiting" on patients, taking their "orders," bringing them food, and clearing things away when they are done all feel like true acts of mercy. I am showing them that I find them important by honoring their requests and responding in a full and prompt manner.

In my mind, this is what it means to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy of feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. In the above scenarios, the acts are not important because the people I am serving are in danger of starving to death in that moment, but because of the dynamic they represent: seeing and honoring Christ's presence in all people elicits the desire to serve. — **Gerard Ondrey**

## SHELTER THE HOMELESS

Through my ministry in the emergency room I have been able to work with many of the homeless men and women who reside in our community. These individuals come to Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore seeking medical care and assistance with their social problems. My role, when I first meet them, is to ensure that their non-medical needs are addressed. One of the main organizations the hospital partners with is Healthcare for the Homeless, a nonprofit that provides medical care and social service assistance. With their aid, I have been able to provide patients the support and resources needed to help them transition out of homelessness. — **Alex Yeo**

## VISIT THE SICK

Our volunteer community has been fortunate enough to avoid sickness so far (thank you Lord!); however, every day at the hospital, we work with those from the greater West Baltimore community who are ill. In my experience, it is often the sickest patients who are the most difficult to be present to. All of our renal patients have a lot going on in their lives, from physical ailments, co-morbidities, and actual disabilities to the myriad of social problems that living in an impoverished neighborhood presents. In spite of the massive obstacles that all our patients face, there is still a huge range in energy levels and overall health. The chipper, friendly, energetic patients are often the easiest to build relationships with. At first, I was daunted by the prospect of talking to the older, quieter, sicker renal patients. As I have grown and learned with Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry this year, I have come to understand that our service isn't necessarily about entertaining patients, solving little problems, or even listening to them. It's about being there for them with your whole soul.

That is the mentality that empowered me to smile a bit and sit down next to one of our elderly, quiet, very sick nursing home patients. Sometimes, I'll hold her hand or say something that I am thinking of, but mostly I just sit there beside her. It's really a silent visit, a moment of being present to one of my sisters in Christ in the only way I know how — to just be together. I don't have much else to offer her, but something about those tiny moments, no matter how small and simple, just feels right. It's like a little slice of the Holy Spirit is there in right relationship with us as we sit and simply be together. — **Mackenzie Buss**

## VISIT PRISONERS

It is not unusual to pass a man or woman walking down the hallway in handcuffs, flanked by two security guards. Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore ministers to patients from the Department of Corrections. In fact, some patients admitted to St. Martin's Hall Inpatient Unit will be discharged to the police. Seeing these patients, shackled to their beds, I find myself trying to imagine what they must be feeling. Some are visibly anxious. With a small idea of the dehumanization that can be experienced in prison, I feel privileged to extend warmth and kindness to our prisoners at the hospital. Recognizing basic humanity and dignity of both patients and the guards in their rooms can be as simple as smiling and offering a cup of water. — **Elizabeth Modde**

## BURY THE DEAD

In the ER, you rarely get the opportunity to develop a lasting relationship with a patient. There is a very specific process: triage, treat, and either discharge or admit to the inpatient floor. The focus is on efficiency not casual conversation. Regardless, many of the patients that come to the ER are often not able to engage in conversation. This year, however, I had the privilege of meeting a patient, let us call him David\*, who had developed a lasting relationship with the ER staff.

David, admittedly, was not the most pleasant patient to work with; as a homeless man and an alcoholic, he had been cycling through the ER for over twenty years. I was always impressed that, despite how frustrating it was for the staff to see him constantly return to the hospital, they were able to retain hope for his future. He was always given a place to rest out of the cold, a warm meal, and often times new clothes. The ER staff was his family. Their relationship may have begun begrudgingly, but was now one of love and concern. When David passed away this winter, the mood in the ER was one of sadness and relief. Knowing that he had moved on to a better place brought solace to those who had worked with him.

Being one of the last people to work with him, I was given the task of organizing his memorial service. Visiting the different departments of the hospital to raise publicity about the service, I was amazed at how many people in the hospital knew of him or had stories about caring for him. The hospital staff had given him many resources and much love, but he also gave back to us. During those difficult and frustrating moments of caring for him, he taught us how to love and to be patient; how to look past one's impulsive judgments and tap into a deeper desire to care for one another as members of God's creation. For those lessons, we are eternally grateful, and his presence will be greatly missed. — **Alex Yeo**

*\*Name has been changed to protect the patient's identity*



*Elizabeth Modde and Gerard Ondrey at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore*

## **GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR**

Through my ministry, I had the privilege to deliver Christmas gift bags to the many seniors I visit every month for blood pressure screenings. Around Christmastime each year, women from local Baltimore churches donate gift bags filled with simple personal hygiene products, laundry and dish detergent, and hand-knit scarves. For many of the residents, this may be the only Christmas present they receive. When I told them they could keep the entire bag of gifts, the look on their faces was humbling. The gratitude and appreciation they expressed was inspiring; this simple, unexpected gift bag brought them so much joy. One woman actually came back down from her apartment after leaving with her gift bag to thank us again for the things we gave her. That was an extremely powerful moment for me, because I realized how much these simple items, items most people consider a necessity, meant to the seniors. — **Nicole Odium**

Pope Francis writes that, “Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.” Please continue to remember our volunteers in your prayers as they take Pope Francis’ words to heart and strive to courageously live lives of mercy and hope.



*Top row (L. to r.) Sr. Fran Gorsuch and Sr. Elaine Davia; Bottom row (L. to r.) Candidate Maria Wenas, Presenter Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, and Traci Verduco.*

## REFLECTIONS FROM FORMATION DAY

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN THE SPIRIT OF BON SECOURS

During the weekend of January 15, a very inspirational and thought-provoking Candidates Weekend was held at Marriottsville with the theme being Catholic Social Teaching in the Spirit of Bon Secours. Joining our two candidates Traci Verduco\* and Maria Wenas and Formation Director Sr. Elaine Davia were Sr. Alice Talone and Sr. Fran Gorsuch. Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, chair of the Congregation of Bon Secours' Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Committee, was the presenter for the weekend. We asked some of those in attendance to share some of their reflections on the weekend.

#### **Sr. Fran Gorsuch**

During the weekend, I gained some new insights on the vow of Chastity, meaning that it is about hospitality and solidarity and unapologetic loyalty to people who are poor. Another reminder for me during the sessions was about being available for mission, being mobile and willing to engage. I especially liked the Haitian proverb: "We see from where we stand." If I stand still for too long, I will never see differently, I might never have a new perspective. The human urge is for comfort and stability, while the missionary call is for engagement and a willingness to be shaped by new experiences, new cultures, and new encounters. I also took away with me the thought that, if everyone in the world lived as we do in the United States, we would need three earths!

### **Traci Verduco\***

When I think back on what I learned from the Candidates Weekend, I realized it was the third time that I learned about Catholic Social Teaching, and the third time really deepened the meaning, importance, and understanding of it for me. It made me see that Catholic Social Teaching is interwoven into the hearts of women religious, and also how it affects and is connected to everything in our lives.

### **Sr. Alice M. Talone**

The time spent together with our candidates was faith-filled. Being with these women made me realize that I need to be energized in my Calling and show that Calling to them. They are studying the founding of our Congregation and are so eager to be about Bon Secours. I pray to be able to be to them examples of our founders Josephine and Angelique and to share with them how I live our Charism.

### **Sr. Elaine Davia**

One of the fun things we did during the weekend was look for how Catholic Social Teaching was expressed in the lives of the first Sisters of Bon Secours. It was amazing to see how they lived out these teachings so creatively in a very different setting and time. Sr. Mary Beth's way of tying in Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation to the vows was moving and shows that we are always learning how to live the vows more deeply and meaningfully, no matter how many years we have lived in religious life.

### **Candidate Maria Wenas**

The weekend opened with sharing the history of the Sisters of Bon Secours. This session lit me up to the awareness that, from the beginning, the founders have implemented Catholic Social Teaching as the central essential element of faith. It is a teaching based on the life and words of Jesus Christ in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of Our God is upon me: because the Most High has anointed me to bring Good News to those who are poor. God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive, recovery of sight to those who are blind, and release to those in prison – to proclaim the year of Our God's favor." And that teaching still is carried out today.

The Sisters of Bon Secours, from the early days, cared for the poor, the sick, the dying, and the vulnerable. They came to and stayed at patients' homes bringing hope to the needy and wanting to set them free from their struggle. The sisters' ministry was rooted in, and strengthened by, their spiritual lives. In relationship with God, we experience the conversion of heart that is necessary to truly love one another as God has loved us.

The Candidates Weekend taught me that God gives his image as Trinity, one who is not alone, is communal and social. Therefore, we live to care for one another. The weekend nourished me to give myself, like the image of the rose bud among the roses in the community, to try to survive and understand the treasure of the Kingdom of God.

*\* The Formation period is the time when candidates explore their relationship to God and to committing to Religious life and often realize that this may not in fact be their chosen path. Traci has made the decision since this Candidates Weekend to leave the community, and we wish her well on her journey.*



Left: Associate Laura Dillman is volunteering at Susie's Cause Health Fair in Baltimore. Shown with her son Walter.  
 Right: Associate Eileen Fernandini participating in a mock disaster drill in Baltimore during Nurses Week.

## ASSOCIATES: *Instruments of Mercy*

by Amy Kulesa, Director of Associates

"Blessed are the merciful" are the words of Jesus to his followers in every age. Mercy is defined, according to circumstance, as: "clemency, compassion, grace, charity, forgiveness, forbearance, humanity, an act of divine favor or compassion, a fortunate circumstance, compassionate treatment of those in distress."

Called to relieve the suffering of the sick, the dying, and the poor in concrete acts of mercy, Bon Secours Associates manifest their calling in ways unique to the many circumstances in which they live and serve. Following the tradition of the earliest Sisters of Bon Secours, many Associates have tended the sick as bedside nurses or in other capacities as medical professionals. Others walk side-by-side the suffering, offering spiritual support as chaplains and hospice care professionals. Rather than drain one's energy, such work can be immensely rewarding and inspiring as caregivers witness the depth and richness of the human spirit in times of crisis and terminal illness. Recently certified as a grief counselor, Richmond Associate Ursula Ardy has spoken of how fulfilling it is to walk with people through the grief process as they learn to live again after losing a loved one. She regularly shares "grief notes" in the bimonthly Associate newsletter to encourage her fellow Associates as they journey through grief and loss.



*Left: Associate Irene Chakravarthy administering a flu shot to a patient in Baltimore at Community Day.  
Right: Marriottsville Associates after cleaning up the Peace/Zen Garden in Marriottsville last fall.*

Prison ministry is another specific area in which several Bon Secours Associates have encountered God’s abundant mercy for the incarcerated whom they serve as well as for themselves. In serving those who have committed crimes and are facing the consequences of their actions, we witness how vulnerable we all are and how prone to hurting others. During this Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis asks each of us to reflect on the disposition of our hearts. How often do all of us, not just those in prison, act and respond to others out of selfish concern, anger and unmet emotional needs, and thus damage relationships? In prison ministry, the actions of grace and repentance, and the subsequent transformation of lives, is powerfully evident. Jesus called his followers to visit those in prison. Simply visiting and sharing the gift of presence to those who feel cut off from society due to their mistakes and sins yield beautiful fruits of the Spirit’s gifts of compassion, healing and liberation—the mission of Bon Secours.

Finally, and so importantly, Associates, as representatives of Bon Secours living in families and as single people in the midst of our busy society, exercise mercy, most of all, in their care for each other, family members, neighbors, and in myriad volunteer organizations. Being a supportive presence for an ailing spouse or elderly parent or friend is the quite ordinary, and yet essential, manifestation of mercy to which we are called in becoming the hands, heart and feet of Christ. Mercy starts at home, and, as director, I am continually moved and inspired by the heroic care and compassion our Associates extend to loved ones, other Associates and the sisters, as well as many, many patients, the poor and strangers in need.



## THE YEAR OF MERCY AT THE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER AT BON SECOURS

During this Year of Mercy, the Retreat and Conference Center at Bon Secours is carrying the theme throughout many scheduled retreats.

On April 2, we were pleased to host Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM, as he presented a day retreat to introduce the theme to a sold-out group of guests. This retreat explored the topic of a world where violence and military solutions rule and how the concept and practice of mercy is evermore needed. Fr. Joe addressed this area of spirituality from the point of view both of individual relations as well as national and international relations. He then discussed the Holy Year theme and how it relates to various marginalized groups of people. The day inspired all who attended with this compassionate urgency.

During the weekend of April 8-10, the Center hosted a silent women's retreat, guided by Fr. Dennis Mason, OFM, with the theme "God's Mercy Endures Forever." The women were inspired by this weekend, exploring "By the gracious mercy of God, we live, we believe, we hope and we love." Together, they learned how to become more gracious receivers and sharers of God's mercy by listening to presentations by Fr. Dennis and participating in prayer services and Mass





and reconciliation services, as well as having time for personal prayer and meditation. This silent women's weekend will be a new annual retreat, and Fr. Joe Currie will be leading it next April 21-23.

Looking ahead, on June 1, Fr. Robert Albright will be presenting "A Year of Mercy: How Are We Doing So Far?" for our monthly Friends Day of Prayer. His presentation will explore: a new look at Jesus by revisiting The Beatitudes; a new look at Pope Francis by revisiting The Prayer of Saint Francis; a new look at ourselves by revisiting our 2016 New Year's Resolutions. You won't want to miss this Friends Day with Fr. Bob.

Dr. Thomas Little will present a Year of Mercy retreat on Saturday, June 4. His mercy theme will specifically relate to forgiveness. More details about this retreat can be found on our website.

We will also be hosting a special Year of Mercy Retreat on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, presented by Fr. Jim McBurney. Please visit our website for more information about the presenter and theme.

Visit our website at [www.RCCBonSecours.com](http://www.RCCBonSecours.com) or call 410-442-3120 to register for these programs.

"I AM CONVINCED THAT  
THE WHOLE CHURCH  
CAN FIND IN THIS JUBILEE  
THE JOY TO REDISCOVER  
AND MAKE FRUITFUL  
THE MERCY OF GOD,  
WITH WHICH WE ARE  
ALL CALLED TO GIVE  
CONSOLATION TO EACH  
MAN AND EACH WOMAN  
OF OUR TIME. WE ENTRUST  
IT TO THE MOTHER  
OF MERCY, SO THAT  
SHE MAY TURN TOWARDS  
US HER GAZE AND  
WATCH OVER OUR PATH."

— POPE FRANCIS

# UPCOMING RETREATS AND EVENTS AT THE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER AT BON SECOURS

We have a full schedule of inspiring day, weekend and week-long retreats planned this summer into the fall. Many retreats offer early bird discounts and space is limited. Here are a few highlights of upcoming weekend and week-long retreats:

## SUMMER RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Directed Retreat, June 5-11:** Sr. Gail De Maria, CSJP, Fr. John Haughey and Mary Perschy will guide retreatants during this week-long silent directed retreat. Guests will meet with a spiritual director each day as they listen for God's voice in their lives.
- **Directed Retreat, July 10-16:** Rev. Stephen Wade, Sr. Bernadette Claps and Sr. Pamela Jablon, SSND, will lead our July retreat and guide retreatants as they meet with them each day during this silent retreat.
- **Spirituality: Finding the Balance, July 22-25:** Join Fr. Robert Albright for a long weekend retreat as we retreat to a time of achieving wholeness and balance — wholeness that opens one to a deeper and fuller life with God.
- **Directed Retreat, Aug. 5-8:** Fr. Phil Cover and Sr. Bernadette Claps will guide this long weekend of silence and provide daily spiritual direction with guests.
- **Aging with Grace, Aug. 12-14:** This weekend, led by Gordon Creamer, will focus on celebrating the meaningfulness of the aging process and the presence of God throughout it, emphasizing its uniqueness and universality.



- **Soul Sisters, Aug. 14-20:** We are proud to host popular retreat leader Edwina Gateley for this special summer retreat. Explore the feminine divine and how women have a significant role to play in bringing balance and healing to our world of war and suffering. Look at the role of women in scripture as well as the call to transformation in the Christian tradition. The history of God as mother will be examined and the importance of compassion in the process of healing for ourselves as individuals as well as the global community. Review the experience of some contemporary women whose struggle for new life is a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit and the redeeming power of God's grace.

## FALL RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Women's Wellness Weekend, Sept. 22-25 or 23-25:** Join this annual women's retreat as we explore the theme "You Are Not Alone." The feature presentation will be given by Kathy Anderson and a variety of workshops around spiritual, creative and exercise themes will also be available. This year we have added an early arrival option to the weekend so that some of our guests can enjoy a day of relaxation and meditation before the weekend begins. You won't want to miss this fun and inspiring women's weekend!



- **Carrie Newcomer Concert & Writing Retreat, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1:** We are pleased to welcome acclaimed singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer for a concert on Friday, Sept. 30. She will also be providing a writing workshop on Saturday, Oct. 1. There is an overnight option for guests to attend both the concert and the writing retreat. Carrie Newcomer's latest release "A Permeable Life" is her twelfth studio recording. Newcomer has attracted a devoted following with her warm voice, exquisite melodies, and view of the world. She has been described as "a soaring songstress" by *Billboard*, a "prairie mystic" by the *Boston Globe*, and *Rolling Stone* wrote that she "asks all the right questions." Don't miss this special event!



- **Paula D'Arcy Presents "Light Hidden in the Darkness," Oct. 14-16:** We are proud to welcome back popular author Paula D'Arcy for another inspiring weekend this fall. Aware of the great pressures and upheaval filling this world, popular spiritual author Paula D'Arcy will speak about the true journey that asks us to mature as persons and belong with great fidelity to God. It's then we may begin to understand the soul's invitation and what it means to open ourselves to a lived experience of Love.

*Precious in God's sight you are,  
divinely made in God's delight,  
endowed with beauty wove deep within,  
brighter than the darkest sin.*

*Free in God's sight you are,  
to rise in rainbow'd glory,  
to claim the God-light in your soul  
and tell the world your story.*

*-Edwina Gateley*

For a complete retreat and event schedule with registration options, please visit [www.RCCBonSecours.com](http://www.RCCBonSecours.com). You may also call the Welcome Center at 410-442-3120 for additional information and to register.



## OUT OF MANY, ONE. INTRODUCING A NEW LOOK REFLECTING ONE BON SECOURS

*By Diana Stager, Director, Marketing and Communications for Bon Secours Health System*

That venerable Latin motto that appears on U.S. coins, “e pluribus unum,” translates to the phrase “Out of many, one.” In American history, the motto was meant to represent that a single nation emerged from many states. More recently, it suggests that out of a wide variety of peoples, races, religions, languages, and ancestries, a more unified people and nation has emerged.

In 1973, the Sisters of Bon Secours convened for the first time the chief executive officers of all Bon Secours facilities to share plans, problems, and opportunities as well as to consider the possibility of shared services. Regina Clifton, then a member of the Sisters of Bon Secours Congregation and president and chief executive officer of Bon Secours Health Care Commission, said at the time, “This is a new beginning—with the help of God, it will be a means of strengthening the influence of the philosophy of the Sisters of Bon Secours.” Or in other words, “out of many, one.” Since those early beginnings, the health care ministry of Bon Secours has grown exponentially. Once a handful of hospitals and long-term care facilities, Bon Secours now encompasses a multitude of facilities, services, and programs that strive to create healthy communities locally and also throughout the world.

Bon Secours Health System has evolved from several hospitals and long-term care facilities working independently of the others to “One Bon Secours,” a coordinated system of programs, services, physician practices, and facilities located in ten communities in six states. Functioning as “One Bon Secours” enables sharing of resources, best practices, and expertise; leveraging purchasing power to achieve cost efficiencies; and providing better coordinated care and outcomes.

In 2015, Bon Secours recognized that its evolution to “One Bon Secours” was not being reflected clearly to employees or the communities it serves. Signs, websites, and printed materials displayed many different names—names of programs, services, physician practices, and facilities. While the blue fleur-de-lis has long been prominent, it has not always been clear that it is referring to Bon Secours.

A rebranding initiative was undertaken to create a new look for Bon Secours to communicate that it is one united organization. The most visible result of the rebranding initiative is the redesign of the Bon Secours logo. The refreshed logo modernizes the fleur-de-lis and strengthens the name Bon Secours with a bolder typeface that is more contemporary and easier to read. The beautiful blue fleur-de-lis, with its powerful history and representing the founding of the Sisters of Bon Secours in France in 1824, remains prominent—and now the words and lettering have been changed to take on that same strength and identity.

Although the logo is updated, Bon Secours facilities, services, and physician practices will continue to keep their current names and will soon be adopting the new logo to use with their name.

Becoming “One Bon Secours” though, does not mean we are stripping away individualism to create a standardized “product” in each of our markets. In fact, the diversity of our communities, the uniqueness of our employees, and the variation in how we respond to our shared ministry are all part of our strength. What “One Bon Secours” strives for is the consistency of quality, of mission, of values. It ensures that when you see our logo, you can expect to be treated with respect and with compassion by a ministry that is extremely accomplished in what it does. And, it is a ministry that is not afraid of partnering with other organizations to ensure the best for the people who depend on us.

Becoming “One Bon Secours” makes us stronger and better able to provide “Good Help to Those in Need.®”

# LIVING OUR MISSION



*Mark Dickson*

*Vice President of Mission, Roper St. Francis Healthcare*

Mark Dickson serves as vice president of mission for Roper St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, S.C. In his executive leadership position, Mark guides the local mission and operations in our joint venture in Charleston. Mark is involved in patient advocacy, spiritual care, community outreach, ethics and teamwork support across the entire organization.

*“From visiting the sick and learning Clinical Pastoral Education from Sr. Gemma Neville over 20 years ago, to serving in the mission role and being able to work closely with Sr. Anne Lutz, Sr. Pat Eck, Sr. Nancy Glynn, Sr. Pat Dowling, and others, I have been extremely blessed by their embodiment of the charisms of healing, compassion and liberation that has definitely influenced, and even imprinted me profoundly, in the ways of ministry as a lay person working in the Church and with Catholic health care today. The sisters have empowered me to bring their mission into this local setting in Charleston, which in partnership with other organizations has formed the joint venture called Roper St. Francis. We are faithful, joyful and successful thanks to the mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours, who helped establish and guide this collaboration that I am honored to minister with. May God bless them always!”*

*Emma Barksdale*

*Administrative Director, Risk Management, Senior Risk Manager,  
Bon Secours St. Francis Health System*

Emma Barksdale began her career with Bon Secours 35 years ago. Emma is the administrative director of risk management at Bon Secours Health System in Greenville, S.C. She serves as a resource on risk-related issues, providing around-the-clock assistance to all leaders, medical staff and co-workers. In her role, Emma implemented a physician practice called Quantros Safety Rounds to improve patient safety; co-facilitates Process Improvement Team Meetings; and plays an instrumental role in the development and implementation of Safety Huddles in order to ensure a safe culture for patients and employees.



*“I am particularly attracted to the part of the mission statement that says ‘we commit ourselves to bringing people and communities to health and wholeness through the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.’ This reflects that we are not totally dependent upon just our professional training to care for the needs of our patients, but we can also call upon a higher and more spiritual power for guidance.*

*I am also touched by the mission of St. Francis as a faith-based organization and its focus on building healthier communities. All of my life I have been able to benefit from the experiences and support provided to me by family, friends, and other Associates. I now believe I have reached a point where I can give to others. I have especially been affected by the way St. Francis approaches the community initiative with Triune Mercy Center for the homeless. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate with this ministry by reading to the children and helping to provide clothing for those in need. I feel blessed to be a part of the St. Francis family. It is truly a ministry where we promote compassion, liberation and healing in extending the charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours. As a result of the mission, I have enjoyed having the opportunity to reach out to each patient and customer and minister to their spirit. It is so fulfilling for me to live out our mission daily and to be ‘Good Help’ to all in need.”*



***Jul Monk***  
***Personal Chef, Marian Hall***

Jul Monk began her work at Bon Secours in 1995 in the food services department. Now, 20 years later, Jul is still supporting the Sisters of Bon Secours’ mission. Jul currently serves as the personal chef to the retired sisters who live on Marian Hall in Marriottsville.

*“Preparing meals for the sisters is a way to share myself with them. I get to nourish the sisters as they have nourished others in their years of service. Seeing the sisters on a regular basis has been very gratifying. A smile, a touch or a warm cookie goes far. One of the sisters described my work ‘like having a mother again.’ Hearing this fills my heart with pride. Years of service at the Retreat and Conference Center has taught me to be ‘Good Help.’ I am forever grateful to the sisters for allowing me to be a part of their very special community.”*

# Around the Congregation



*(L. to r.) Sr. Anne Marie Mack, Sr. Vicky Segura and Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski*

Country Leader **Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski** was honored to have been asked to give the commencement speech by the Bon Secours College of Nursing in Richmond, Va. The message she gave to the graduates was the role they would be playing in “Healing the World.” She quoted words from a song that went, “May all I do today be for the healing of the whole, may all I do today mend a broken world, may all I do today bring blessing on the earth, may all I do today be for the good of all.”\* Sr. Rose Marie shared with the graduates several ways they can be a part of healing the world. For example, develop a listening attitude and listen to the deeper meanings being spoken around us. She also stressed how being with is as important as doing for. Healing is enabled not only by what we do for a patient, important as that is, but also by our presence – our ability to “be with” someone in their suffering, in their time of illness and struggle. She concluded her remarks by saying that at the heart of all of this healing is us. “The great need to take care of ourselves; to heal, to be with and to listen to ourselves. Take time to celebrate the gift of healing that is within you and be proud of the expansiveness of that gift. Be proud of all of the hard work you put into arriving at this day – this graduation!”



**Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski** and **Sr. Fran Gorsuch**, along with cat Polly, have moved back to Maryland from New Jersey and are now living in Ellicott City in Howard County. The Baltimore and Marriottsville sisters are all delighted to have them back.



Welcome to **Grace Wolbert** in her new position as Bookstore Lead in Marriottsville. Grace invites everyone who comes to Marriottsville to visit the bookstore and stop by to say hello.



Internationally, the Congregation of Bon Secours has started another ministry in Peru, where the people of Huacho, a town of 25 small villages with a total population of approximately 1,500, have requested the presence of the sisters for pastoral care and spiritual accompaniment. Also, the clinic in Trujillo has been expanded and renovations have been completed to the sisters' home there.

The Focus editorial committee welcomes new members, **Sr. Anna Mae Crane** and **Olivia Steback**. Olivia works with our Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry. We also want to thank **Sr. Pat Dowling** for her many years of dedicated service in helping to produce *Focus*.

JANUARY 25, 1933 — JANUARY 1, 2016



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IN MEMORIAM  
SISTER JUSTINE CYR

PAST LEADER OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF  
BON SECOURS AND THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS, U.S.A.

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“Clearly Sr. Justine was a leader, she accomplished so much. But I think the measure of Justine is in her relationship with God,” said Sr. Pat Eck, congregation leader of the Congregation of Bon Secours of Paris in her eulogy.

On Jan. 6, 2016, the chapel in Marriottsville was filled with Sr. Justine’s family, which included her sister and many nieces and nephews, nurses from Marian Hall, Associates of Bon Secours, friends, colleagues from the health system, and her sisters of Bon Secours, including representatives from Ireland and Peru, as all came together to celebrate Sr. Justine’s life. “Everyone has come together with their memories and stories of how Sr. Justine touched their lives, her incredible influence, leadership, inner strength and wisdom,” said Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, country leader of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A.

On Jan. 1, 2016, Sr. Justine Cyr, past superior general of the Congregation of Bon Secours of Paris and past provincial of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., died at the age of 82.

Sr. Justine was born in 1933 in North Andover, Mass., and joined the Sisters of Bon Secours in July 1952, making her final profession on Sept. 8, 1960. She received her nursing degree from the Bon Secours School of Nursing in 1957 and continued her nursing education by obtaining a bachelor of science in nursing from Catholic University in 1966.

For many years, Sr. Justine worked in Bon Secours hospitals in Baltimore, Md.; Darby, Pa.; Methuen, Mass.; Grosse Point, Mi.; and Richmond, Va., as a pediatric nurse, director of nursing, associate hospital administrator and hospital administrator.

It was Sr. Justine's vision in the late '70s that saw health care changing across the country and the need for hospitals to work together in formal health care coalitions. Her leadership was the impetus for the formation of the national Bon Secours Health System in 1983. From 1973 to 1977, she served as Bon Secours Health Care Facilities coordinator, the precursor to Bon Secours Health System. She also served as chairperson of the Bon Secours Health System board.

"Sr. Justine was an amazing woman and leader. Her vision and attention to detail provided a strong foundation for the successes of Bon Secours Health System," said Richard Statuto, president and CEO of Bon Secours Health System.

Sr. Justine held many positions of leadership in the Congregation, and in 1979, she became provincial of the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., a position she held for three terms until 1988. Among her many accomplishments, in addition to helping form the Bon Secours Health System, was the establishment of the Associates program in 1981 and the creation of Mission positions in Bon Secours' health care facilities.

"Sr. Justine's gifts for leadership were extensive and served the Congregation and the Church in so many ways over the years. This same gift was evident during her retirement days on Marian Hall, where she led by her example of patience and prayerfulness. Her personal health challenges in recent months prompted her to lead in new ways, in ways that reflected her deep spiritual strength and courage. Her life and example will continue to inspire many," said Sr. Rose Marie.

From 1989 until 1999, Sr. Justine served the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours internationally as superior general, a position she held for two terms, five years of which were in Rome and five in Paris, after she relocated the Congregation's headquarters to Paris. Among her major accomplishments as superior general was the establishment of Peru as a province in 1994, along with the Mission Fund; assisting Ireland and Great Britain create health systems in their countries; restoration of the chapel in the Sisters of Bon Secours' Motherhouse in Paris; and celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Congregation in 1999.

After Sr. Justine returned from Paris, she enjoyed a sabbatical during which she earned a master's degree in spiritual and pastoral services from Loyola University Maryland. She then became a member of the Spiritual Retreat Team at the Retreat and Conference Center of Bon Secours. She also served in a variety of ministries in Catholic health care over the years and led change in Catholic health care to include the creation of the national Coalition on Catholic Health Care, U.S.A. Sr. Justine retired to Marian Hall in Marriottsville in 2009.

"We have been graced with Justine's presence and leadership in Bon Secours since she joined us in July 1952. There is not a part of us that she has not influenced. She has been a leader in the U.S.A. and internationally in health care as well as religious life. For us, she is the epitome of the valiant woman in Proverbs: a virtuous woman, a wisdom figure, a woman of strength. We will miss her greatly; she has been a model for us in every part of her life. We know her legacy will continue to be a part of us," said Sr. Pat.



## WEST END/NEW HOPE DRUG CENTER IN WEST BALTIMORE HAS PERFORMED ACTS OF MERCY SINCE 1971

*by Mary Herbert, Special Collections Archivist, Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A.*

Pope Francis called this particular Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to direct our attention and actions “on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s actions in our lives.” In other words, Pope Francis is challenging us to put mercy in motion in our own lives. The Sisters of Bon Secours have been engaged in acts of Mercy since their founding in Paris, France, in 1824. They provided round-the-clock care because they understood a patient needs continuous care, care that would not be interrupted at night, a most difficult time for the sick. On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Sisters of Bon Secours’ ministries in the United States, one of their Baltimore advocates, Fr. Broydrick, affirmed the good help of the sisters: “Continue your great work of mercy among the afflicted, not only from one jubilee to the next, one century to another, but until time disappears and God has dried the tears from our eyes, and suffering, grief and pain are replaced by unchanging joy, infinite happiness, and the true and eternal life which has been promised by our Father who is in heaven!”

In time, the Sisters of Bon Secours in the United States expanded their errands of mercy beyond Baltimore to cities in other states around the country. However, Baltimore City has remained a vital concern for the sisters. Under the leadership of able administrators such as Sr. Theophane Klingelhofer and former hospital president Alvin M. Powers, Bon Secours Hospital Baltimore grew and changed to meet the needs of the inner city community it serves.

Bon Secours means “Good Help,” and it takes on a special significance when we consider that the history of individuals, as well as that of people, shows us that in God’s mercy, God always placed a remedy alongside of an evil. The sisters responded to the need for a remedy to evil when they opened the West End Drug Abuse Program in Baltimore in June 1971. The program developed out of a dialogue with the West Baltimore Community Health Care Corporation and community concern over the problem of drug abuse dependency in the Baltimore community.

Initially, the general objectives of the program were to provide intake and referral services, including a maintenance program and detoxification procedure after which the client is encouraged to remain drug-free. Responding to related needs, the program has come to provide inpatient and outpatient medical and counseling services to persons in need of treatment for a variety of chronic chemical dependencies, including alcoholism and smoking cessation. During this era, Executive Director Adolphus Albertie was quoted as saying, “We tear down walls, build up self-esteem, help people feel worthy and whole.”

Envisioned as an equal opportunity program, Sr. Theophane was the responsible party signing off on behalf of the hospital and the West End Drug Abuse Program that Bon Secours would comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and later, with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The West End program was applauded by the administration of Mayor William Donald Schaefer.

Since opening its doors in the early 1970s, the program remains strong at 2401 West Baltimore Street, in the Poppleton Community of West Baltimore. By 1983 the West End program was serving anyone with drug and/or alcohol dependencies. As a continued commitment to the community, in 1991 the Sisters of Bon Secours renovated the interior of the Center. The renovation doubled West End’s ability to service neighbors, up to 450 patients, and offered more group and family therapy, more support for patients including clothes and food, and created drug prevention programs for area schools. Hospital employees were invited to suggest a new name for the Center during the renovation year. Administrative Assistant Meg McCann submitted the selected, and still current, name for the Center: New Hope Treatment Center.

The invitation to the newly renovated Center’s open house read, “The best and most beautiful work anyone can be engaged in is service to a neighbor.” As Sr. Mary Regina Flatley, then provincial of the Sisters of Bon Secours U.S.A., quoted from Jeremiah 29:11 – We know the plans God has in mind: “Plans for our welfare, not for woe. Plans to give a future of hope.” During the 1991 open house, Alice Poole, then charge nurse at the West End Drug and Alcohol Center noted, “It’s not just a place that treats drug addictions. It’s a place that gives people new hope.”

The need for the Center is stronger than ever today. In May 2015, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reported that a total of 1,039 drug- and alcohol-related intoxication deaths occurred in Maryland in 2014.

Three hundred three (303) of those fatalities, or one third of the total for the State, were losses to Baltimore City. Eight hundred eighty-seven (887), or 85 percent of all intoxication deaths that occurred in Maryland in 2014, were opioid-related. During New Hope's Fiscal Year 2015, approximately 560 patients were served; the total patient volume was 124,590, which includes visits/services.

The West End/New Hope Center has been a noiseless minister of mercy over the years. No news clippings applauding the Center's work are to be found in the sisters' archives. However, those served by this ministry of mercy have felt compelled to speak about the benefits on the Program's website.

"If you are serious about getting help for your addiction, you WILL get it here."

"I am given random breath tests and random urinalysis every so often."

"I would highly recommend this treatment program."

New Hope Treatment Center continues to be a Bon Secours community witness of compassion. Current Program Director Jocelyn Bratton-Payne puts mercy in motion daily. Ms. Bratton-Payne reveals: "the rate of families we see living in poverty is 48 percent, compared to the 34 percent rate for Baltimore City. New Hope views socioeconomic factors as eminent determinants of drug use among the targeted population. Our patients present with poverty, illiteracy, limited job opportunities, educational underachievement, increased access to drugs, and environmental stressors within their neighborhoods that serve as the underpinnings of substance abuse." As a visible example of Jesus, Bon Secours Hospital New Hope Treatment Center assures that Pope Francis' call during this Holy Year of Mercy extends to both Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

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## REMEMBER WHEN....

Left: Sr. Mary Regina Flately (r.) and Sr. Nancy Glynn (l.) in Methuen in the 1980s.

Right: Sr. Mary Regina Flately, the provincial for the Sisters of Bon Secours, U.S.A., has audience with Pope John Paul II, circa 1992.





# focus

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