

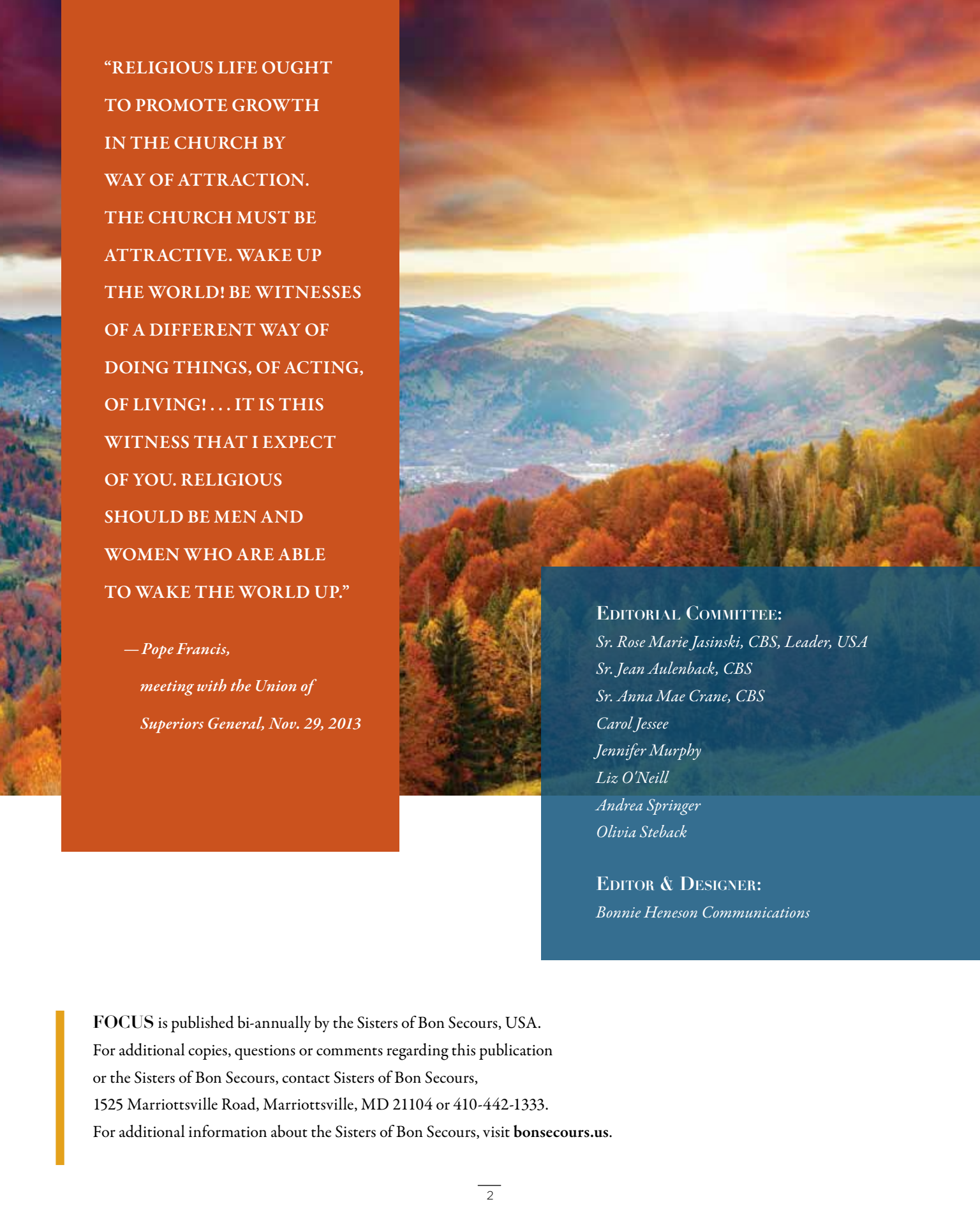
focus

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

FALL 2018



 **Bon
Secours**
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA



“RELIGIOUS LIFE OUGHT
TO PROMOTE GROWTH
IN THE CHURCH BY
WAY OF ATTRACTION.
THE CHURCH MUST BE
ATTRACTIVE. WAKE UP
THE WORLD! BE WITNESSES
OF A DIFFERENT WAY OF
DOING THINGS, OF ACTING,
OF LIVING! . . . IT IS THIS
WITNESS THAT I EXPECT
OF YOU. RELIGIOUS
SHOULD BE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO ARE ABLE
TO WAKE THE WORLD UP.”

— *Pope Francis,*
meeting with the Union of
Superiors General, Nov. 29, 2013

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS, Leader, USA

Sr. Jean Aulenback, CBS

Sr. Anna Mae Crane, CBS

Carol Jessee

Jennifer Murphy

Liz O'Neill

Andrea Springer

Olivia Steback

EDITOR & DESIGNER:

Bonnie Heneson Communications

FOCUS is published bi-annually by the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA.

For additional copies, questions or comments regarding this publication

or the Sisters of Bon Secours, contact Sisters of Bon Secours,

1525 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104 or 410-442-1333.

For additional information about the Sisters of Bon Secours, visit bonsecours.us.

contents

DEAR FRIENDS

Religious Life Today	4
Welcome our New Candidate	4
Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry	4
Bon Secours Mercy Health.....	5

FEATURE

Sisters of Bon Secours Today Reflect on their Rich Heritage	6
---	---

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Heritage Retreat	14
International Formation Committee.....	15

VOCATION NEWS

Come & See Weekends	16
What Attracts Young People to Bon Secours and Vocations	17

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Retreat Weekends	18
World Youth Day Cross and Icon Pilgrimages	19

FORMATION NEWS

Meet Candidate Ji Kyung Choi	20
------------------------------------	----

MINISTRY GRANTS

Awards Given to Five Projects	23
-------------------------------------	----

ASSOCIATE NEWS

The Associates' Relationship with Religious Life.....	24
---	----

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY NEWS

Volunteer Ministry Program Expands to Richmond.....	28
Meet Steve DeLaney	31
Meet Our New Volunteers	32

RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

A Feast for Your Soul: Fr. Leo Patalinghug.....	34
Upcoming Retreats and Events.....	37

HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS

Bon Secours Health System and Mercy Health Join Forces.....	38
John M. Starcher, Jr., New President and CEO.....	38

LIVING OUR MISSION

Edna "Celina" Izaguirre	40
Ivan Tracey.....	40
Angela Fiedler.....	41

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Sisters Return to Marian Hall.....	42
Times Square Billboard.....	42
New Signs at Marriottsville.....	43
New Faces in Marriottsville.....	44

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Looking Back.....	46
-------------------	----

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. Rita Thomas.....	48
----------------------	----

THE DEATH PENALTY

Sisters of Bon Secours Statement	50
--	----



DEAR *friends*

In this issue of *Focus*, we hope to give you a glimpse into Religious life today and, especially, the lives of our Sisters of Bon Secours and some of the journeys they have taken. Though many things have changed over the years, from what we wear to where we live and work, we continue to be united in the fact that we all answered a call from God and are committed to the charism of The Sisters of Bon Secours — Compassion, Healing and Liberation. We have dedicated our lives to giving Good Help to those in Need.®

This has been a busy few months of travel for our sisters with, among other trips, visits to our Motherhouse in Paris. Several of our sisters joined their international sisters for a Heritage Retreat to Paris. Also, in September, I was privileged to lead a pilgrimage for staff from the Leadership Office and Retreat and Conference Center to Paris to share with them the rich heritage of the Sisters of Bon Secours.

We were very pleased to welcome to our Bon Secours family our newest candidate, Ji Kyung Choi, with a beautiful welcoming ritual. Ji hails from Korea but has recently been living in New Jersey. Ji will now start the candidacy

phase of her journey—a time of orientation and transition to Religious life—under the direction of Sr. Elaine Davia, Formation director.

We have had such a wonderful experience with the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM) program in Baltimore over the past 19 years and have talked often about expanding that experience into other areas. It is very exciting to see that dream coming true with the introduction of BSVM in Richmond, Virginia, specifically connected with Richmond Community Hospital. The Sisters of Bon Secours couldn't be more proud of the volunteer ministry program and this expansion. It is especially gratifying to be able to foster a year of spiritual growth for our volunteers. In addition to growing spiritually, volunteers commit to learning through service with others, developing community, living simply and practicing God's justice. Volunteers will serve with Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital's emergency medicine department and patient advocacy team as well as in the Sara Garland Jones Center and on the Care-A-Van, a mobile health clinic.



This fall, the Bon Secours Health System and Mercy Health merger became official with the new entity being called the Bon Secours Mercy Health System. John M. Starcher, Jr., CEO of Mercy Health, has been named CEO of this new entity. Bon Secours Health System's president and CEO Rich Statuto will stay on in an advisory capacity and retire in 2019 after 24 years as CEO of multi-state health systems. The sisters are so very grateful for how Rich has grown our health care ministry over the past 13 years. We know as John takes the reigns that our facilities will continue to be places patients want to go, physicians want to practice and employees want to work. Because both entities have such strong brand equity and name recognition in their communities, current names and brands will remain at each of our facilities.

And finally, we are so excited that all the renovations on Marian Hall have been completed and our sisters were able to move back into their home. Also, if you have been out to Mariottsville lately, I hope you have noticed the beautiful new signage that further enhances our campus.

As the holiday season draws near, I want to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christma and New Year blessings.

Sincerely,



SR. ROSE MARIE JASINSKI
Leader, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Rose Marie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The SISTERS *of* Bon Secours of Today *Reflect on Their Rich Heritage*

People often ask what Religious life is like today and how it has changed. Many sisters no longer wear habits, which in the early years of the Congregation reflected the clothing of the times. Today, many sisters wear contemporary attire, reflecting current styles, along with their Bon Secours pin or pendant. The Sisters of Bon Secours no longer live in a convent. They can be found instead in apartments or houses, living with other sisters or on their own. Some live on the Marriottsville campus and others in the communities around the country in which they minister. Several of our retired sisters, who need more support and care, live on Marian Hall in Marriottsville.

Habit from 1824 and modified habit from 1960. ▶





Our sisters over the years have continued their education with college and postgraduate studies in fields ranging from nursing to pastoral care. Many Bon Secours sisters were attracted to the Congregation because of its health care ministry and worked in nursing and nursing administration for many years. Some of our sisters today are in health care administration, advocacy, chaplaincy, pastoral care, spiritual direction and hospice care. There is no limit as to where their talents allow them to serve, giving Good Help to those in Need.®

What has not changed is the Sisters of Bon Secours' commitment to the poor, the sick and the dying and to living out their charism of Healing, Compassion and Liberation. As we spoke to sisters and asked them to share a little bit about their lives and how Religious life has changed for them, one common thread was that each of them answered the call of God, and their relationship with God continues to be central to all they do and who they are.

Sr. Mary Regina Flatley

says "Although there have been many changes in Religious life since I joined the Congregation, one constant is my relationship with God and the importance of prayer in my life. As a Sister of Bon Secours, my relationship with God has not changed but deepened and evolved over the years, and it is at the core of what I do and who I am. Prayer is my dialogue with God and God's dialogue with me. I feel God's response to my prayers deep in my heart. To the Sisters of Bon Secours, God remains at the core of everything we do and how we live our lives.

We may live in different places, wear different clothes and have different opportunities today, but we stay true to our calling and our relationship to God through prayer every day.”

Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski,

Country leader, says, “In the midst of so much world and church distress, God continues to call for a prophetic response to a message of love, compassion and caring for all people. I am happy to be part of a community of sisters who can be this 'good help' to others, whether through health care or spiritual care. Offering a welcoming space for healing, peace and renewal is at the heart of the overall ministry at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center. It is amazing the number of lives that have been touched over the past 50 years at the Center; we have been richly blessed by this ministry.”



SINCE THE CONGREGATION WAS FOUNDED IN 1824, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS HAVE BEEN OUT IN THE WORLD HELPING OTHERS. IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THEY HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR COMMITMENT, ALONG WITH OTHER WOMEN RELIGIOUS, TO TAKE ON CAUSES AROUND THE WORLD FROM GUN VIOLENCE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ORDER TO HELP MAKE THIS A MORE HUMANE WORLD.



Sisters attending the opening of the second session of Vatican II.



◀ Sister Rose Marie Jasinski visiting with a student at Sisters Academy on Sponsor Day.



Sr. Rosalinda Pajuelo Urena helping a community in Peru.

Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ,

Congregational coordinator: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, says, “As I reflect on the evolution of Religious life in my lifetime, a quote from the Vatican II Document, *Gaudium et Spes*, rises in me: ‘The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well.’ Women Religious took this quote to heart, and it has changed our lives. Catholic Sisters have always ministered to people who are poor and who live on the margins of society through ministries of health care, social services and education — and we still do. What Vatican II propelled us to do was to also work for the transformation of unjust systems that create ‘grief and anguish’ for our sisters and brothers. It called us to a global solidarity. This is so evident in the lives of the Sisters of Bon Secours. We see our Sisters in Ireland engage hotels around the issue of human trafficking. Our Sisters in Peru speak truth to power on environmental and social issues. Sisters in the United States ‘March for Our Lives’ to

advocate for gun safety. Through our membership in the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, for example, we use our voice as investors to call for socially responsible corporate policies and practices with major corporations.

As Sisters of Bon Secours, we embody the words of our Constitutions: *We believe that the struggle for a more humane world is not an option; it is an integral part of spreading the Gospel and involvement in social justice issues is an important part of who we are as Sisters of Bon Secours.*”

Our sisters today have varying careers and give Good Help to those in Need® in different ways. They also make an impact through serving on health care boards, housing boards and other boards in the community that impact social justice issues. Here are a few of their stories and how they have combined their Religious life with careers.

ENJOYING TIME TOGETHER

International Formation Committee holds a group paint night.



Pictured above (l to r) back row: Rhonda Hooker, Novice Jennifer Doyle, Sr. Pat Dowling, Sr. Nathalie Lundolo, Sr. Jacqueline Rebours, Sr. Angelita Jave Ruiz, Sr. Vicky Segura, Sr. Fran Gorsuch, Yvonne DeBruin, Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski and front row: Sr. Martha Leamy, Sr. Katie Pierce IHM, Sr. Elaine Davia, Sr. Rosa Gomez (seated), Sr. Nora, Sr. Sara Gabriela Ruiz Espinoza and Sr. Janet Cordova Alberca.

Sr. Anne Marie Mack,

senior vice president for sponsorship of the Bon Secours Richmond Health System, talks about her ongoing commitment to serve. “To me the basis of my Religious ministry has always been to serve. I see all of the sisters of Bon Secours today continuing to use our talents and gifts to work with our partners who share our mission and values to provide service to those in need. In 1965, I joined the Congregation and was attracted to the Sisters of Bon Secours because of its health care ministry. I was blessed to be able to combine my calling to Religious life with a rich and satisfying career in health care and to get the education I needed along the way. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Delaware and worked in Baltimore and Grosse Point, Michigan, as a medical-surgical nurse. After several years, I went back to school and earned my master’s in nursing, which opened up new opportunities for me. I became, for example, a clinical administrator for a long-term care facility in Grosse Point, which was a whole new challenge. I believe we never stop

learning and continued to take seminars and avail myself of continuing education opportunities throughout my career.

I was then called back to Marriottsville in 1996 and had the privilege of serving for eight years as president of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. Once my term of office was completed, I started a new chapter in my life and went to Richmond to serve as vice president of mission at St. Mary’s Hospital. For the past several years, I have served as senior vice president of sponsorship for the Bon Secours Richmond Health Care System, a rewarding position I continue to hold today. Additionally, I have become involved with social justice and advocacy issues for those in need and currently serve as chairperson of the Congregation’s International Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee. This is an extremely important focus for the Sisters of Bon Secours today.

In all of these positions, I have been encouraged by my community to get the required skills and continue to grow

and serve and to, at the same time, grow spiritually. I have enriched my spiritual life through retreats and seminars on spirituality. I am especially pleased to see the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing in Richmond start to give courses on nursing and spirituality. My journey as a Sister of Bon Secours has been rich and exciting and one of lifelong learning, service and personal growth.”

Sr. Vicky Segura,

a hospice doctor in Richmond, found her calling in hospice work and today continues Bon Secours' long tradition of caring for the sick and dying. She says, “When I entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours, I had completed medical school and at the time was a practicing pathologist on Long Island in New York. I am not sure the Community knew exactly what to do with me, but over time we found a way to combine my medical training with Bon Secours' mission through what was at the time a very new movement coming to the United States from England, the Hospice Movement.

THERE WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE A HUGE NEED TO CARE FOR TERMINALLY ILL AND DYING PATIENTS, AND HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE ALIGN WELL WITH THE MISSION OF THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS TO CARE FOR THE SICK AND DYING AND GIVE GOOD HELP.

When doctors in Richmond began to accept the importance of hospice and palliative care, an opening

came up in Richmond to work with the dying, and I answered the call and took the position. I have never looked back, and I appreciate that my Congregation helped me identify this ministry. The whole concept of holistic health care and treating the whole patient appealed to me. Working in Richmond with other professionals such as social workers and nurses, we have become leaders in hospice care, which today has evolved into a true specialty. I am especially proud of the fact that in Richmond we just opened Hospice House, a 16-bed, fully staffed hospice facility established with the help of donations from the community. I truly found a way to combine my profession with my vocation.”



Sr. Chris Webb, a hospital chaplain, with Sr. Eileen O'Connor, a chaplain in training.

Sr. Chris Webb,

chaplain at DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, Virginia, says, “I started my career as a medical technologist and realized, while interacting with patients drawing blood, that many patients just need someone to talk to, to sit with them. Families also are often in denial and need someone to help them accept what the patient is going through, especially if the patient is terminal. The needs of these patients called to me, and I entered a Chaplaincy Program in Charleston, South Carolina, and became a board-certified chaplain in 2004.



Srs. Sara Gabriela Ruiz Espinoza, Kathleen Moroney, Dorothy Brogan and Sr. Rosa Cristina Sanchez Chigne working together in Greenville, South Carolina.

I entered the Congregation of Bon Secours in January 2005 and was attracted to the Sisters of Bon Secours because of their health care ministry and commitment to the sick and dying. Being a Sister of Bon Secours has added a special spiritual dimension to my chaplaincy. It has often made, for example, people who say they are not religious more open to talking with me about the strength God gives us. There are often patients who ask, ‘How can you be a sister and a chaplain?’ as their image of a chaplain is the male military model. Today, I am a chaplain at DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, Virginia, where both my vocation and my ministry have worked together to give patients comfort and bring into their lives an awareness of a God who loves them.”

OUR SISTERS LIVE QUITE DIFFERENTLY TODAY THAN WHEN THEY ALL WERE LIVING TOGETHER IN A CONVENT. WE ASKED A FEW OF OUR SISTERS HOW THEY CONTINUE TO FEEL CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY WITH VERY DIFFERENT HOUSING MODELS IN DIFFERENT PLACES.

Sr. Katherine Moroney,

a volunteer chaplain in Greenville, South Carolina, says, “If 20 years ago, when I came to America from my Congregation in Ireland, you had told me I would be living in my own apartment and handling a budget, I would have said no way will that ever happen. I have learned over the years, however, that living in community does not mean where you live but rather how you live. For 12 years, Sr. Marie Lucille and I shared an apartment in Port Charlotte, Florida and then for three years we lived together in Greenville. We shared the responsibilities of running a household and did many things together. When Sr. Mary Lucille moved to Mariottsville, I realized I was on my own and had even more responsibility. Today, I have my own apartment in the same complex as Sr. Dorothy Brogan and our Peruvian sisters, Sr. Gaby and Sr. Rosa. We have in a sense formed our own community where we pray together, share meals and do things together, as well as regularly check in with each other to be sure everyone is all right. Having my own apartment makes me see a different side of life. In Ireland, for example, everything was done for you. If anything, I have become more responsible as a Religious. For example, we take the vow of poverty, which does not mean deprivation, but rather responsibility — living within a budget and knowing what you are spending.

In addition to the sisters in my complex, I have formed a community with the chaplains I work with at our hospital in Greenville. I am a volunteer chaplain two to three days a week and have connected with the other chaplains. We have lunch together, talk and sometimes offer comfort to each other. The patients have also become an important part of my life. I transitioned from being a nurse, where we offer comfort but are trained to fix things, to being a chaplain, where we do not fix things but rather listen to our patients and be with them to provide comfort.

I am truly an extrovert and like to be with people and have found many ways to keep connected with my Congregation and the hospital community. I also believe there is something about being a part of a small Congregation that allows you to always feel connected regardless of how or where you physically live.”

Sr. Mary Shimo,

Congregation secretary, who oversees the Archives for the Sisters of Bon Secours and was previously director of volunteers at Bon Secours Hospital Baltimore, adds, “It is very easy for me to stay connected with my community. I see the sisters daily, we pray together, minister together and share a meal together. Community is more than physical presence. It is spiritual presence as well as emotional presence. I am present with the sisters in the USA as well as in our other countries in this way.”

TRAVEL AND LEARNING ABOUT OTHER CULTURES IS A FULFILLING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF US, AND AS PART OF A GLOBAL CONGREGATION, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND SERVE IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

Sr. Pat Eck,

Congregation leader, says, “We, as Sisters of Bon Secours, are fortunate that we live and serve in a number of countries and cultures. We are also small enough to know and care for one another. That helps us to remove barriers between us and to celebrate the richness we each bring to the Congregation.”

Sr. Fran Gorsuch made her voice heard at the Women’s March in Washington, D.C. ▶

THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS NEVER FORGET THE IMPORTANCE OF JOY IN THEIR LIVES, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY LIVE OR THEIR MINISTRY.

Sr. Fran Gorsuch,

coordinator, Trauma Informed Care, Bon Secours Hospital Baltimore, says, “Joy is the experience of seeing hope in the least expected places, as well as experiencing delight in any way that celebrates life. I find joy in a flower (or a weed) growing through a crack in the sidewalk, as much as in the face of a new parent or a wise elder. Unless I see and celebrate joy, I cannot have the hope and energy needed to advocate for others and for change. Joy is a lifeline to God’s presence and care even when things seem darkest. Far from being superficial, joy is moments of deep-down contentment that all really will be well.”

We hope these reflections have given you a better understanding of Religious life today and a window into the rich and fulfilling lives of the Sisters of Bon Secours as they serve God to give Good Help to Those in Need®.



Reflections

ON THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS HERITAGE RETREAT

GOD'S LOVE AS LIVED IN BON SECOURS

In June, Sr. Dorothy Brogan, Sr. Fran Gorsuch and Sr. Vicky Sergura attended the Heritage Retreat in Paris, France, where they had the opportunity to renew their vows and experience the story of the Sisters of Bon Secours. The retreat's theme, "God's Love as Lived in Bon Secours," provided rich material for reflection, prayer and group sharing.

"I am most grateful for the opportunity to have experienced this time of retreat at our Motherhouse, the Maison Mere," said Sr. Dorothy. "It was a grace-filled experience to be in the place where our founding sisters lived and ministered, and for me personally, it was a time of deep gratitude for my call to Bon Secours and my ministry with the sick and dying."

"My experience far exceeded my high hopes!" said Sr. Fran. "Significant moments for me were trips to Becordel and Le Harazee, rich prayer and conferences, faith sharing, the renewal of vows at St. Sulpice and the visit to the Montparnesse Cemetery. Especially meaningful were the meals shared in silence where I rediscovered the power of community that is felt much deeper than the spoken word."

"There were many insights about Bon Secours — not only our origin and charism but also our ministry and community. Being reminded of our roots as well as our call to community was very valuable," said Sr. Vicky. "I would summarize it as a transformative experience."

INTERNATIONAL FORMATION COMMITTEE MEETS



Enjoying a group paint night.

Pictured (l to r) Sr. Jacqueline Rebours (France) and Sr. Rosa Gomez (Peru) with guest facilitator/educator, Sr. Katie Pierce, IHM.

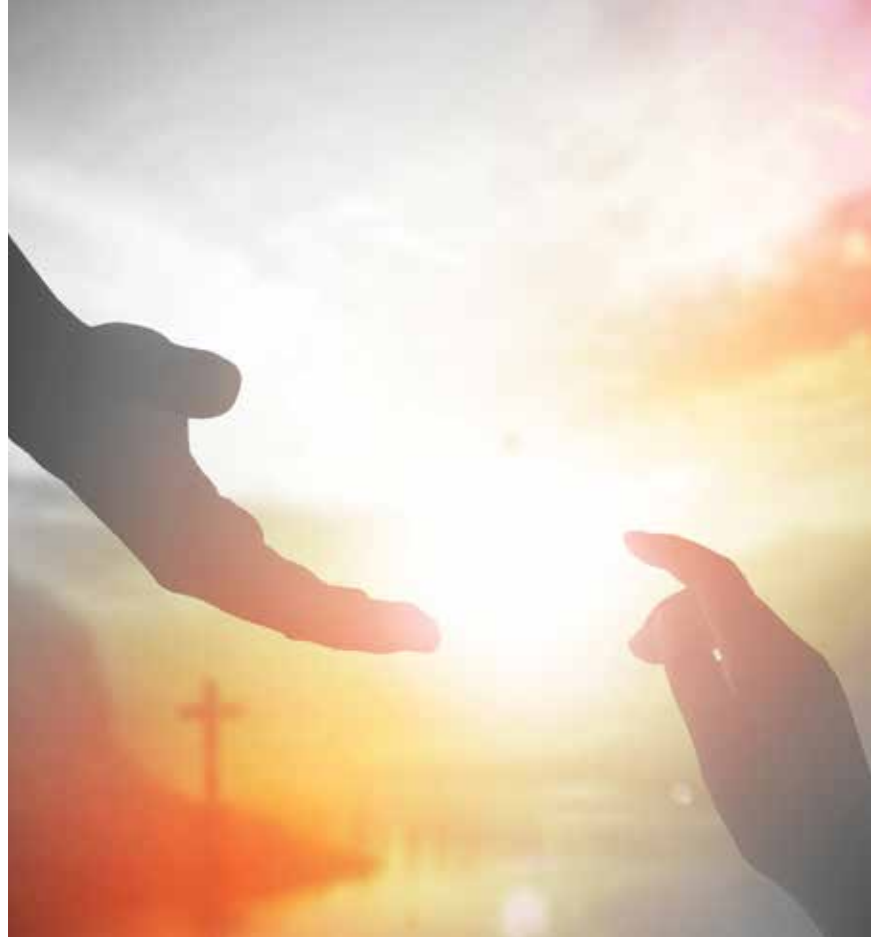


Celebrating Peruvian Independence Day.

Pictured back row (l to r): Françoise Gauthier (translator), Sr. Janet Cordova Alberca, Sr. Nora Jimenez Cruz, Sr. Martha Leamy, Sr. Vicky Segura, Sr. Katie Pierce, IHM, Sr. Angelita, Yvonne DeBruin, Sr. Elaine Davia. Front row (l to r): Sr. Sara Gabriela Ruiz Espinoza, Sr. Rosa Elena Gomez and Sr. Jacqueline Rebours.

2019

COME & SEE WEEKENDS



March 15-17
October 25-27

Come and 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 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. Also, check our website for dates and times of our chat room discussions.

Visit our websites at BonSecoursVocations.org and LifeAsASister.org.



@PatTheNun
@ SrsBonSecours



facebook.com/
BonSecoursVocations



youtube.com/
cbsvocations



pinterest.com/
bonsecours



Imagine a Sister's Life

WHAT ATTRACTS YOUNG ADULTS TO BON SECOURS AND VOCATIONS?

by SR. PAT DOWLING
*Vocation Director,
Sisters of Bon Secours*

When asked this question, I automatically thought about the charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours that the Spirit fanned into flame in our 12 young women founders in 1821. That unquenchable flame is actually God's gift to the world deeply rooted within us — to bring God's message of love and hope to all through Compassion, Healing and Liberation. It is still as relevant today as it was in their day.

What continues to attract young women is their love of God and wanting to share that with others in ways that will make our world a better place for all. They believe God is calling them to live their lives in a way that bears witness to God's love each day. Something deep within that cannot be quenched impels them to love fully so that others will know God's love and action in the world. That something is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It incorporates all the Gospel values Jesus proclaimed through the call he experienced and lived out.

Today, many people call into question why they should remain Catholic. Through conversations with young adults, I find they struggle with their own reflections and choices. Their faith and God's continued love for them, as well as the Church's rich foundational traditions and truths, gives meaning, sustenance, a sense of belonging and a way to embody the love of Christ. They still experience this in the Church, despite current challenges, but they want change. They want to use their gifts, talents and love of God to bring about a more just and humane world. They want to be active participants, not passive pew sitters. Moreover, they want to do it collaboratively.

A year ago, we asked young women and men what it means to be a Bon Secours Young Adult, and we discovered their love for our charism. Bon Secours charism retreats have fanned their desire to live out our charism — to see and work in the world through the lens of Bon Secours. To them, it's a way of being in the world. It's how they find God — in and through others, events, nature, etc.

Young women attracted to Religious life want to make a difference in the world. They desire to put God at the center of their lives in such a way that it is obvious to others to whom they have given themselves. They want to belong to something greater than themselves that points to the Gospel values and share with others a common vision pointing to God's love for humanity and all of creation. What detracts, discourages, destroys or denigrates God's love and desire for goodness is what they want to engage the world in addressing. Religious life is a contradiction to the world's values, yet it gives witness to what all hunger for — a way of being, knowing God's love and hope for all.

GOD STILL CALLS; THE QUESTION IS,

**“AM I OPEN ENOUGH TO HEAR IT,
TO COURAGEOUSLY DISCERN
A WAY OF LIFE THAT IS
FULFILLING AND GIVES MEANING,
AND WILL I SAY YES?”**

2019

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THESE UPCOMING
FARM WEEKENDS

AND REGISTER ON
OUR WEBSITE:

bonsecoursyoungadults.org

February 16-18, 2019

Bon Secours Townley IV Farm
Amherst, Virginia

August 2-4, 2019

Bon Secours Townley IV Farm
Amherst, Virginia

FOR UPCOMING
INFORMATION,
FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM AND
FACEBOOK:

[@bonsecoursyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/bonsecoursyoungadults)



August retreat guests enjoy the Townley IV Farm property
with Sr. Pat Dowling, Sr. Chris Webb, Nick Stein and Lauren DeSmit.

WHEN ON A WEEKEND RETREAT, BON SECOURS YOUNG ADULTS

are promised three things: they will always be well fed, they will belong and conversations will be focused on what really matters in life. Our most recent retreat took place this past August at Townley IV Farm in Virginia and centered on God's liberation. Our time was spent on self-care, building authentic friendships, having quality time with Jesus and finding liberation from the chaos and transitional nature of young adult lives. If you are interested in experiencing a Young Adult retreat for yourself, be sure to register for our upcoming retreats in February and August!

Bon Secours Young Adults Mary Beth Keenan and John Keenan visit the chapel at the John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.



WORLD YOUTH DAY CROSS AND ICON PILGRIMAGES

The World Youth Day Cross, which is accompanied by a Marian Icon, has traveled the globe since 1984 and has visited every continent and countless countries. Young people have carried it not only to shrines but to schools, hospitals and prisons. It has been in places of great beauty and of great hardship — truly living out its mission to be a symbol of Christ’s love for humanity.

This past summer, it toured the United States on its first planned visit in 25 years. On World Youth Day in January, the Bon Secours Young Adults are making two separate pilgrimages — one to see the World Youth Day Cross and Marian Icon in Panama City, Panama, and for those who cannot travel so far, one to the John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.



Happy retreat guests in the Townley IV Farm kitchen with Sr. Chris Webb.



MEET

CANDIDATE

Ji Kyung Choi

We welcome Ji Kyung Choi who started her candidacy on August 28, 2018. Originally from South Korea, Ji had been living in Palisades Park, New Jersey, before she joined the Sisters of Bon Secours in Marriottsville, Maryland.

Ji shares her journey into Religious life: “I finished high school and college in the United States and then worked in information technology for more than 10 years as a systems, applications and products security administrator managing data, applications and processes in industrial data processing.

I met Jesus through the Charismatic movement and sought out work that would delight Him. Volunteering in my parish deepened my faith in Christ and increased my desire to serve Him. This desire led me to look into Religious life. I entered one of the Korean congregations and lived Religious life with them for about four years, but I left because it was not a match for me. However, I left with the desire to go through a formal process of discernment.

I continued to discern my vocation and to look for the community that God was calling me to. I found the Sisters of Bon Secours through the website “Vision Vocation Network,” and I connected with Bon Secours because of Sr. Pat Dowling’s response to my email. I started the discernment process with her after I participated in a Come and See Weekend. I learned about the spirituality, charism, ministries and history of the Sisters of Bon Secours through the discernment process. It spiritually nourished me, and I felt grateful during the process.

Candidate Ji Kyung Choi hopes to connect with young adults through music.



As part of Ji's Welcome Ritual, the sisters promise to encourage and support her.

While getting to know the Sisters of Bon Secours, I was drawn to all the good help offered by their ministries. All the work Bon Secours has accomplished seems to be the fruits of the Holy Spirit. I am inspired by how the sisters are open to hearing the guidance of the Holy Spirit in finding the ministries where there are needs. In addition, I love the history of Bon Secours and how their ministry started by providing overnight care to the sick. It was like thinking outside of the box, since a Religious around that time was not allowed to stay outside the convent overnight.

Through the process, I got to know the sisters and gain a sense of their life by spending time with them in their communities. As I spent more time with the sisters, I felt deeper love from them. I felt that Christ in each sister was calling me to their community. I am grateful and delighted that I have found a good community and that God has called me to Bon Secours. It has been a long journey that brought me home. I am very delighted by the warm welcomes from all the sisters, associates, employees and volunteers.

During my candidacy, I will be providing good help to those who need computer skills and will utilize my IT background through community work in Baltimore. I will also be involved in the spiritual ministry at the Retreat and Conference Center and the Bon Secours Young Adult Ministry program. I am also a musician, and I hope to play guitar and lead singing during liturgy and retreats, and hopefully, I will connect with the young adults and help in the growth of their faith.”

“ I LOOK FORWARD TO WALKING MY NEW JOURNEY ALONG WITH JESUS, SEEING HOW HE LEADS ME TO BE A SISTER OF BON SECOURS AND LEARNING HOW HE REVEALS HIS WORKS THROUGH ME IN THE COMMUNITY FULFILLING THE CALLING OF OUR CHARISM. ”



Sr. Nathalie Lundolo and Ji Kyung Choi show each other the symbol of entering the community received during their Welcome Rituals.

EDITOR'S CORRECTION: Our last issue mistakenly stated Sr. Nathalie Lundolo was from the Dominican Republic of Congo. Sr. Nathalie is from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

\$72,500

IN MINISTRY GRANTS AWARDED

BOUTIK SANTE - \$15,000

Boutik Sante is a community health store that provides products to alleviate, cure and prevent illness and disease among the Haitian population. It is sponsored by Fonkoze USA, a collaborative network established to empower Haitians, especially women, by establishing financial and non-financial services to help lift them out of poverty and live meaningful and productive lives. Fonkoze trains the health care procurers who obtain the pharmaceuticals and health products provided by Boutik Sante. Fonkoze will train an estimated 1,800 people whose work will then touch the lives of over 2 million Haitians. Funding will address training costs as well as the procurement of health products.

DISPENSARY OF HOPE - \$12,500

Funding will facilitate the application and probation period required for Maryview Foundation Healthcare Center to become a network affiliate of Dispensary of Hope, a non-profit licensed drug distributor. Maryview Foundation hopes this will extend the services of the Dispensary of Hope throughout the Bon Secours Mercy network and benefit those most in need by providing low/no-cost drugs to serve people in the Portsmouth, Virginia, region who are under or uninsured and need specific medications to treat their illnesses.

ASSOCIATION GRUPO DE TRABAJO REDES - \$15,000

Association Grupo de Trabajo Redes promotes the well-being of child domestic labor by conducting workshops that offer instruction, support, education, nutritional assessments and encouragement for young girls trapped in domestic work in Peru. Support includes health counselors and psychologists who provide critical services to help young girls protect themselves. Funding will enable young girls to travel to La Casa Pancita, the home base for Association Grupo de Trabajo Redes, and participate in these workshops.

RICHMOND YOUTH PEACE PROJECT - \$15,000

This imaginative program by the Richmond Peace Education Center seeks funding to train 50 young people to be deployed as peace activists within the most troubled neighborhoods in Richmond, Virginia. Many of these young people will come from the neighborhoods most at risk and know firsthand what is at stake. They will be trained to teach a wide variety of nonviolent conflict resolution skills to help reduce the level of violence caused by guns in their schools and communities.

REWILDER - PRIMAL WISDOM PROJECT FOR SPIRIT, SELF, SOCIETY AND SURROUNDINGS - \$15,000

ReWilder is a contemporary non-profit born out of the work and insight of author Fr. Richard Rohr that connects nature with the fundamental beliefs of Christianity and world religions by providing online resources as well as retreat experiences in North Carolina and the Pacific Northwest. ReWilder attempts to bring people to a relationship with the natural world that will enhance their understanding of self and the environment in which they live. Funding will address start-up costs including web-design, resource development and scholarships for young people seeking to participate in the retreat programs.

THE ASSOCIATES RELATIONSHIP *with* Religious Life

THE BON SECOURS ASSOCIATES PRAYERFULLY COLLABORATE WITH THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS IN DIVERSE MINISTRIES THAT EXTEND COMPASSION AND HEALING TO PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. HOW DO THE ASSOCIATES INTERACT WITH SISTERS TODAY, AND HOW IS THE ASSOCIATE LIFE ONE THAT REFLECTS THE CHANGES IN RELIGIOUS LIFE TODAY? HERE ARE THE TESTIMONIES OF SEVEN ASSOCIATES WHO ARE COWORKERS WITH THE SISTERS IN DIFFERENT ARENAS OF MINISTRY AND SERVICE.

by AMY KULESA
Director, Bon Secours Associates





Patty Gavilan of Richmond, Virginia, says, “In my 15 years at Bon Secours, the sisters have been part of my life in a variety of ways. They were my spiritual support when I started as a nurse. As the years have passed and my role has evolved, I have had the honor of working on medical mission initiatives with many of the sisters in Richmond and Peru. I have learned and continue to learn much from these women of God. I have learned how to be a compassionate and humble servant leader, and many of the sisters are mentors and friends from whom I continue to learn to be a better human being. As an Associate I have met more of the sisters and enjoy sharing time with them. Our role as Associates is to learn from the sisters how to ‘go and do likewise,’ in ways large and small.”

Johnny and Pam Phillips, of Norfolk, Virginia, have been Associates for over 30 years, both in Florida and now in Virginia. **Johnny** says, “I met Sr. Rita Thomas at the first Associate gathering I attended at Hampton Roads. I saw a diminutive, soft-voiced individual. I also noticed that when she spoke everybody listened. I had worked with many managers and leaders during my years in the Army as well as during my time as a Bon Secours floor nurse. Sr. Rita was one of those rare inspirational leaders.

Associate Patty Gavilan with Sr. Sandra.

A few years ago, Associates decided to discuss the problem of human trafficking in the Hampton Roads area. A dense military population makes prostitution lucrative; crop fields south of Virginia

Beach attract undocumented immigrants for harvesting as well as housekeepers for hundreds of tourist hotel rooms.

I remember one horrible story after another about the human exploitation in our region until finally Sr. Rita interjected,

‘All of these stories are certainly troublesome, but what are we going to do about it?’ That one simple question shifted many of us from being reporters to becoming doers, resulting in education programs for Bon Secours employees regarding human trafficking recognition and victim treatment as well as informative visits to Virginia lawmakers about the extent of the problem. This latter effort contributed to the more comprehensive anti-human trafficking laws now enforced in Virginia.”

Pam shares her personal experience, “In 1993, the Bon Secours Venice Hospital in Florida was in financial trouble. I attended a meeting which included the hospital leadership, including Sr. Mary Catherine Rogers and key doctors to brainstorm ideas about improving the financial picture. Proposals mainly included expanding certain business lines, eliminating others or letting a percentage of employees go.

“WE MUST BECOME
AWARE OF THE SACRED IN EVERY
ELEMENT OF LIFE. WE MUST BRING
BEAUTY TO BIRTH IN A POOR AND
PLASTIC WORLD. WE MUST RESTORE
THE HUMAN COMMUNITY. WE MUST GROW
IN CONCERT WITH THE GOD WHO
IS WITHIN. WE MUST BE HEALERS
IN A HARSH SOCIETY.”

— JOAN D. CHITTISTER
ILLUMINATED LIFE

One doctor proposed changing the structure of the hospital to a ‘concierge’ business, in which individuals would annually pay an expensive set fee in order to be treated there. I had seen

Sr. Mary Catherine upset before and began to squirm in my chair as, for the first time, I saw her face turn red from anger. ‘Bon Secours will never tolerate a hospital that does not serve the needs of the poor!’ she emphatically pronounced. After a long pregnant pause, discussion continued, but not about concierge issues.”

Lynn Moran is one of our newest Associates in Maryland. She observes, “In my experience working with sisters, I find that they do not work in ordinary time, but in time consecrated. As an Associate of the Congregation, I see the Word in action. As a witness to consecrated life, I see it as a life of constantly teaching or making plans; busy, but never in a rush. I think the prayerful life leads us to trust the outcome of all things. As an Associate, I believe our collaboration with the sisters is spiritual in its essence. Proverbs 3 says *acknowledge God in all your ways and he will make straight your path*. There is much work to be done. It starts from the inside out; to be shown the way is a blessing.”

Jesse and Holly Collins, a couple from Maryland, have journeyed with the Sisters of Bon Secours for over 30 years. They share, “In our years as candidates and following our commitment as Associates, the sisters, all of them, were always aware of the Associates. They placed their concerns for others, including Associates, above themselves. This is the first lesson we received from the sisters. The sisters dedicate their lives to conveying their love of God and His love for everyone in whatever capacity they are serving at the time: a great lesson for all of us to practice.”

Pat McGrath, a former member of the Congregation and an Associate for many years in the Philadelphia area, has journeyed as part of the Bon Secours family in different capacities. Her reflections relate to the way community is formed and has been sustained over many years and miles. She states candidly, “St. Augustine said that prayer changes things. I add, also, that time changes things. In the 1980s, there were many sisters living together and doing ministry in the institutions close by. We were invited to come and see if we wanted to belong as Associates. When we gathered, time was spent praying, sharing and socializing. Some of us worked alongside the sisters.

Over the 35 years since I became an Associate, there have been many changes in my life and definitely the communal life of each sister of Bon Secours. I remember when Religious community life meant living, eating, praying, playing together and more. However, Religious life has slowly evolved into different expressions. Many of the sisters now live alone or with one other sister. Associates, too, live separately, but gathering on a regular basis to share and care through prayer consolidates us into one faith community. Attending and participating

in the sisters’ assemblies enables me to further observe their commitment to the community and each other as well as the deep trust, intimacy and love between and among the larger community of sisters. This gives me reason to attend not just the assemblies for breathing in Bon Secours’ charism but also the Associate retreats for developing a bond with our larger community.”

THESE ARE JUST SEVEN
VOICES OF THE OVER
60 ASSOCIATES IN THE
UNITED STATES WHO HAVE
COMMITTED TO CENTERING
THEIR MINISTRIES AND
PERSONAL VOCATIONS
AROUND THE CHARISM OF
BON SECOURS. EACH STORY
ATTESTS TO THE EVOLVING,
EMERGING RELATIONSHIP
OF BEING A COWORKER
IN THE VINEYARD IN THE
BON SECOURS FAMILY
AND THE DIVERSE, RICH
WAYS THIS MEANINGFUL
RELATIONSHIP MANIFESTS
ITSELF IN TODAY’S WORLD.

BON SECOURS

Volunteer Ministry *Expands to Richmond*

by OLIVIA STEBACK

Program Manager

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry

IN 1999, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS LISTENED TO A CALL INSPIRED BY GOD'S SPIRIT TO SHARE THEIR CHARISM AND MISSION WITH YOUNG ADULTS.





The sisters invited lay young men and women to join them in living with and serving the people of West Baltimore. Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM) originated from the response to this call. After some time, the sisters felt a desire to expand BSVM and to offer young adults a similar experience in Richmond, Virginia. Director Shannon Curran led the way in making the sisters' vision a reality. Her response was a labor of love as she worked tirelessly to bring the Richmond community to life while fully supporting our volunteers in Baltimore. We are pleased to announce that, with this 2018-2019 year of service, the BSVM community is now living and serving in both West Baltimore and East Richmond.

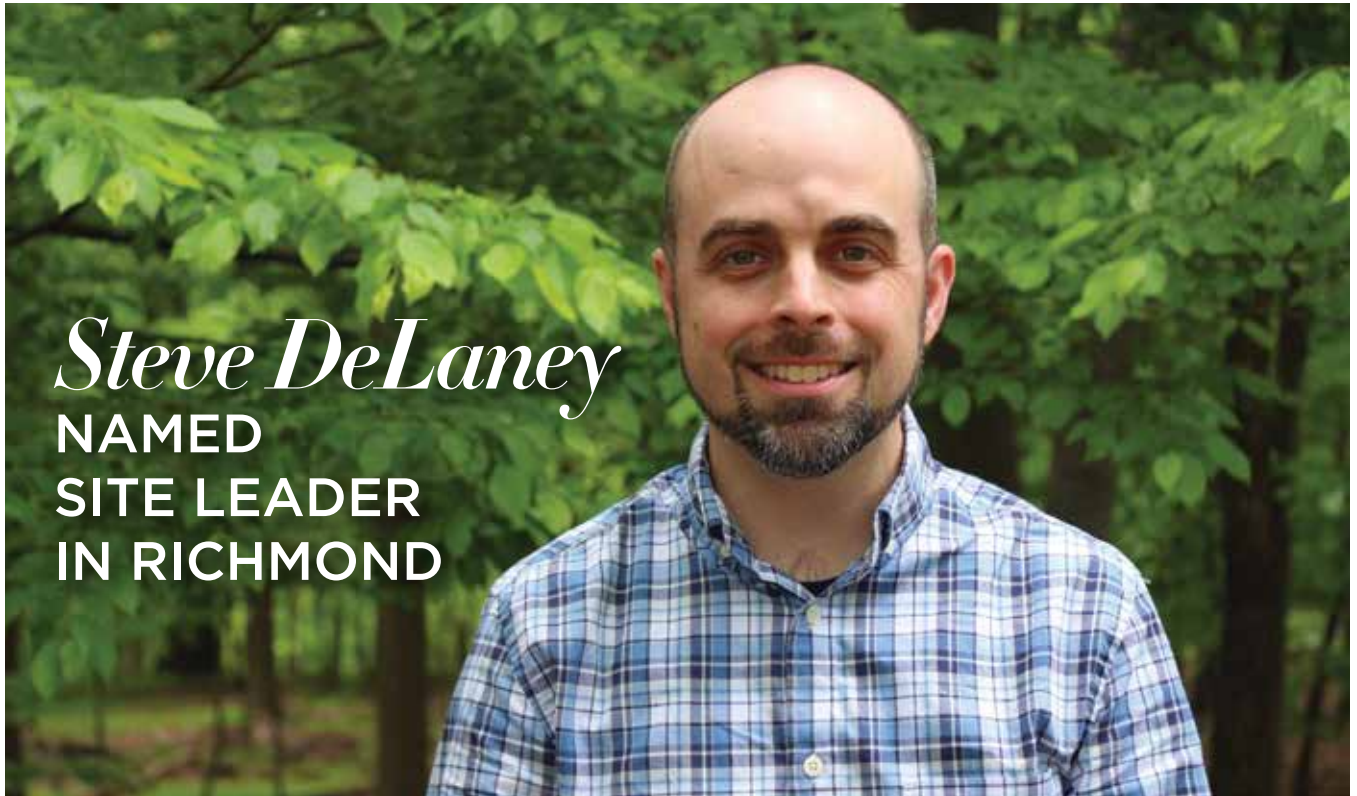
One of Shannon's initial steps was to create a team of BSVM staff to support the expansion. The spirit of new life that inspired the sisters was very much present as Shannon began to build a BSVM staff community. This staff growth was possible because Shannon first listened to a call within her own heart over 20 years ago, a call to use her gifts to serve and learn with people in West Baltimore. This led to a deeper call to invite young adults into, and accompany them through, an experience she found transformative and life-giving. Each staff member that she and the sisters have invited to

be a part of BSVM's mission has listened to similar, yet individually unique, tugs from the Holy Spirit. Over half of the BSVM staff participated in a similar ministry as a full-time volunteer and continued life in intentional community following his or her year of service.

The staff of BSVM are committed to daily work that is not simply a job. It is a ministry that expresses and shares the mission and charism of Bon Secours, a form of service that incorporates the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours' passion for God's justice, intentional community, service learning, prayer and living in a way that respects all of creation. The most recent member of the team, Richmond Site Leader Steve DeLaney, is the first staff member to accompany the volunteers in Richmond.

FINALLY, GOD'S SPIRIT
MOVES THROUGH YOUNG
ADULTS ALL OVER THE
COUNTRY, URGING THEM
TO CONSIDER A YEAR OF
SERVICE AND COMMUNITY.





Steve DeLaney
**NAMED
SITE LEADER
IN RICHMOND**

The students who respond to the call to serve with BSVM, respond not only to a call to give of themselves, but to also receive new life through the relationships they create within their service experiences. They come to BSVM with open hearts, trusting God's quiet nudges. Many of their peers choose to accept educational internships or employment opportunities. The volunteers follow a very different path, one that, if they are open, leads them to deep transformation. As our eighty BSVM alums have taught us, and as the BSVM staff have experienced, the volunteers are changed forever through the love, challenges and joys they encounter within each relationship they form.

We ask you to keep our volunteers and the entire BSVM community in prayer as we embark on this new and exciting year of growth!

Welcome

TO STEVE DELANEY

Steve has joined the staff of Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry, where he serves as the site leader for BSVM volunteers based in Richmond, Virginia. Steve brings many years of ministry experience, with a background in jail ministry, education and parish work. He studied at George Mason University and Catholic Theological Union, and he lives with his wife, Allison, and their two sons, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Steve loves to hike, work in the garden and coach his son's soccer team. We welcome Steve to the Bon Secours' family.

Welcome



Jonah Cremin-Endes

University of Notre Dame

Hometown: Guilford, Connecticut

Patient Liaison:

Renal Department

Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital



Paula Hastings

University of Notre Dame

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Patient Liaison:

Behavioral Health

Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital



Fiona Shorrock

Loyola Marymount University

Hometown: San Francisco, California

Program Assistant:

Care-A-Van

Bon Secours Richmond

Health System



Rebecca Judge

St. Joseph's University

Hometown: Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

Program Assistant:

Community Nutrition

Bon Secours Richmond

Health System



Andres Cuartas-Olarte

St. Edward's University

Hometown: Austin, Texas

Patient Liaison:

Emergency Medicine

Bon Secours Richmond

Health System

New 2018-2019 Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers



Jocelyn O'Kane

College of the Holy Cross

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Patient Liaison:

Diabetes Education

Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital



Chris Dethlefs

University of Notre Dame

Hometown: La Vista, Nebraska

Patient Liaison:

Patient Advocacy

Bon Secours Richmond

Health System



Mara Scarbrough

Birmingham-Southern College

Hometown: Memphis, Tennessee

Child Care Aide:

Family Support Center

Bon Secours Community Works



Christian Wood

University of Notre Dame

Hometown: Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Patient Liaison:

St. Martin's Inpatient Unit

Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital



Maggie Rybak

John Carroll University

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Patient Assistant:

Sarah Garland Jones Center

Bon Secours Richmond

Health System

1 FEAST *for your* SOUL

FEEDING OUR SOULS
SO THAT WE CAN
FEED OTHERS

**Fr. Leo Patalinghug
Presents LENTEN
WEEKEND RETREAT**

Fr. Leo Patalinghug was born in the Philippines and raised in Baltimore. He attended the University of Maryland and received his bachelor's degree in political science and journalism. After a year of discerning while working, he went to the vocations office in Baltimore, and they sent him to the Theological College at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He then received advanced degrees in sacred theology with a specialization in Mariology from Pontifical Gregorian University and Pontifical Maranium Institute in Rome. How did this path lead him to become an internationally acclaimed speaker, featured on major news networks? How did he become a chef, winning the Food Network's "Throw Down with Bobby Flay!" cooking competition? Let's learn more about this energetic priest with a passion for spreading the Gospel message in unique ways!



by JENNIFER MURPHY
Manager of Retreat Services

Q *How did your interest in cooking begin?*

A I always had an interest in cooking. I studied culinary arts during my semester break in Rome. I went to cooking classes, met with restaurateurs, made it a hobby and then it turned into a ministry when I returned to the United States.

Q *Do you think cooking breaks the ice, so to speak, so that others feel more comfortable and open with you?*

A Yes, when I travel a lot of people assume that I do regular parish work, and I find that food, in general, is the easiest way to connect. The roman collar can put people off, so we begin talking about food.

A love of food and the mission to serve people has made the Christian message effective and very clear. The rest of the world sees the food connection much more clearly than dogma or theology, which is very similar to Jesus in his first miracles with food. He fed them before he could teach them.

Q *What other ways do you tie cooking and eating into theology, and why are people so receptive to this platform for learning more about spirituality?*

A Part of my presentation has to engage all of a person's senses. That's what cooking does, but it's also a unique avenue for people to understand the Christian message. We don't celebrate our faith anymore; we kind of practice it like someone is practicing piano lessons. People need a better sense of life and joy, and that's why my presentations are funny. Laughter and joy are signs that someone is accepting the Gospel. I take celebrating our faith very seriously.

Q *Why is it important for us to eat together as families and friends?*

A I don't think it's *important*. I think it's *necessary*. Without a family meal, you won't be a family much longer. I take this faith and fidelity very seriously. My message is about making priorities and following a recipe. If you want to have a joyful family life, then what are the ingredients? The family meal is the first of the ingredients, because in a family meal we do what we do at Mass. We encourage each other, we pray, we celebrate, we become one. It's communion. While people may think, "What a cute, fun message," I'm trying to change their life. We become human by feeding one another and by being in communion with each other. Think about it, every animal feeds their young, but only humans cook!

Q *You talk about how important it is for families, and families with children in particular, to eat together and unplug. How does this philosophy translate for older adults and those without families?*

A The advice is simply to make sure that you're not eating alone. We are not meant to be eating alone. If we're finding ourselves eating alone all the time, we need to ask why. Why don't people want to eat with me? Why don't I want to eat with others? These are questions we need to reflect on more deeply. We're not meant to be alone.

Q *What advice do you give for preparing for Lent amidst the hectic pace of life today?*

A Lent becomes a time to focus on those people who don't have what we have. Develop compassion. I think that our focus is too much on what we eat rather than who we're eating with. If we really take Lent seriously, we will eat with people we don't like or know or understand, and in so doing, we will become Eucharistic ministers because we will become a companion. That word literally means 'with bread.' We will do what Jesus did. He ate with sinners.

Q *Do you integrate any of your training from dancing and martial arts into spiritual messages that you share with others?*

A I became a priest and thought, "I'm going to have to give up my dancing and martial arts," but that's far from the truth. God has used these gifts to incorporate into my ministry. If you give God your hobbies, no matter how silly they may be, he can turn them into a miracle, a mission and a meal!

Q *The theme of your retreat is "A Feast for Your Soul: Feeding Our Souls So That We Can Feed Others." How will our guests "digest" this message to be able to minister to others? What practical advice can you give about how to share a message of God's love?*

We can only give when we've received. I sometimes question how people are feeding their souls and minds in a healthy balanced way. Do we watch only Fox or CNN? How often do we meditate in front of the Blessed Sacrament? Do we listen to gossip more than we meditate on the rosary?

Also, what message are we giving people when they find out that we're Catholic? We need to ask ourselves, do they want to receive what I'm giving, or do they turn away in disgust because we're force feeding them?

This will be a feast for the soul if you come hungry. You'll learn the gentle ways that the shepherd feeds his flock even if he has to feed them the bitter herbs of truth. Finally, I'm going to make this weekend an opportunity to feed deep theological truths, but in a bite-sizable way.

THE BON SECOURS RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER WILL BE HOSTING THIS INSPIRING RETREAT MARCH 8-10, 2019.

It will sell out quickly, so register soon! There is a retreat option with overnight accommodations and also a commuter option. To learn more about this retreat, please visit www.RCCBonSecours.com and click on the 'Retreats & Events' tab. You can also register by phone at 410-442-3120.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FR. LEO, his weekly TV show "Savoring our Faith" on EWTN, his podcast "Shoot the Shitake," his movement "Plating Grace" or "The Table Foundation" nonprofit group, please visit his website at www.FatherLeoFeeds.com.

2019

BON SECOURS RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

Upcoming Events:

The Promise of Emmanuel

Guided by Tracey Tiernan-Coiro & Gary Coiro

Saturday, December 8, 9:30am-4pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Saturday, December 8, 7pm

Advent Day of Prayer

Guided by Sr. Bernie Claps, CBS

Monday, December 10, 9:30am-4pm

Christmas Concert: Church of the Resurrection

Friday, December 14, 7:30pm

Advent Centering Prayer Retreat

Guided by Amy Kulesa

Saturday, December 15, 9:30am-4pm

New Year's Eve Retreat

Guided by Linda Mastro

Monday, December 31, 9:30am-4p

Healing Power of Spiritual Experience

Guided by Maureen Conroy, RSM, D.Min.

Saturday, December 1

For a complete listing of our 2019 retreats and events, please visit our website at www.RCCBonSecours.com or call the Welcome Center at 410-442-3120 to request a copy of Bridges magazine with the full schedule.

50th ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS EVENT:

CONCERT, TREE & NATIVITY LIGHTING, CHRISTMAS TREATS!

Sunday, December 2, 4 p.m.

Register at rccbonsecours.com

A full calendar of retreats is planned for 2019, and many early bird discounts are available if you register soon! If you're seeking spiritual healing, please consider taking a quiet day, weekend or week for yourself at our beautiful Retreat & Conference Center.



BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH

Coming Together to Serve As ONE

BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM AND MERCY HEALTH JOIN FORCES

BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM HAS MERGED WITH MERCY HEALTH, CREATING BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH—ONE OF THE LARGEST HEALTH SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTRY.

WITH THE MERGER COMES NEW LEADERSHIP AND A REFINED VISION AND MISSION THAT ENSURES THE MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADVANCED, COMPASSIONATE CARE AROUND THE WORLD.



John M. Starcher, Jr., President and CEO

NEW LEADERSHIP

In July, Bon Secours Mercy Health announced **John M. Starcher, Jr.** as its new president and CEO.

“Our new ministry has an exciting future before it,” says Starcher, the former president and CEO of Mercy Health. “It is positioned to be more successful than Mercy Health and Bon Secours ever could be as separate entities. We will expand our services and programs, provide greater access in our markets to help and serve more people.”

We will be able to do even more for people who are poor, dying or underserved, providing almost two million dollars each day in community benefits as a combined entity. I am truly honored that I'm being entrusted with leading our new, integrated ministry.”

Starcher was named president and CEO of Mercy Health in 2016 after 13 years with the ministry. During his time at Mercy Health, he was CEO of three of four divisions within the ministry and also served as the organization's senior vice president of human resources and assistant general counsel. Starcher's work helped ensure the ministry's faith-based mission and values were at the heart of every decision. He served on the Bon Secours Health System Board in 2017.

Former Bon Secours president and CEO **Rich Statuto** is staying on as a special advisor, primarily focusing on strategic growth and innovation. He will retire in 2019 after a lengthy career in health care that includes serving for 24 years as the CEO of multi-state health systems and 13 years as president and CEO of Bon Secours Health System.

Other newly named Bon Secours Mercy Health leaders include:

- **Michael Bezney**, *Chief Legal Officer*
- **Debbie Bloomfield**, *Chief Financial Officer*
- **David Cannady**, *Chief Strategy Officer*
- **Fr. Joe Cardone**, *Chief Mission Officer*
- **Joe Gage**, *Chief Human Resource Officer*
- **Wael Haidar, M.D.**, *Chief Clinical Officer*
- **Sr. Anne Lutz, C.B.S.**, *Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer*

- **Sandra Mackey**, *Chief Marketing Officer*
- **Andrea Mazzacoli**, *Chief Nursing Officer*
- **Thom Morris**, *Chief Sponsorship and Theology Officer*
- **Mark Nantz**, *Chief Administrative Officer*
- **Jeff Oak**, *Chief Enterprise Risk Officer*
- **Samuel Ross, M.D.**, *Chief Community Health Officer*
- **Brian Smith**, *Chief Operating Officer*

REFINED VISION

Before they merged, both Bon Secours Health System and Mercy Health worked to improve the health of the communities they served as low-cost, high-value providers. Those efforts will continue and strengthen now that the two health care leaders have joined forces.

“AS WE COME TOGETHER IN AN INTEGRATED MODEL, WE'RE TAKING THE BEST OF BON SECOURS AND THE BEST OF MERCY HEALTH AS IT RELATES TO MINISTRY AND MISSION IN OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITIES.”

— JOHN M. STARCHER, JR.

The combined system employs more than 57,000 associates including 2,100 physicians and advance practice clinicians at 43 hospitals and more than 1,000 sites of care. Together, they will work to implement Starcher's vision for the new, seven-state ministry to create an environment where employees want to work, physicians want to practice and patients want to come.

EDNA
“Celina”
IZAGUIRRE,
RMA



Edna “Celina” Izaguirre serves as a registered medical assistant at Bon Secours Mountain View Family Medicine in Greer, South Carolina. She has been with Bon Secours for seven years, and she was recently honored with a 2018 Dedicated Service Award for her drive and dedication to patient care. The practice where she works sees a large number of Spanish-speaking patients and many of them cannot navigate the health system appropriately due to language barriers. Celina speaks Spanish and has helped patients who are experiencing difficulties by calling the pharmacy, accessing the Bon Secours website and assisting with resources for home care and transportation.

I have worked in the medical field for the last 10 years, and the mission of Bon Secours ‘to help others in need’ is what I aspired to when I chose this profession. I come from a very humble family where my parents only speak Spanish. Growing up, I cannot remember my parents ever going to a doctor’s office for a consult, but if my parents were to have a nurse take care of them, I would want one that would go above and beyond to help them, and that’s what I do for the patients that come to us for care.

Ivan

TRACEY

Ivan Tracey has served as a technical support analyst for the Bon Secours Health System for more than 12 years. In addition to supporting the health system office, he has helped resolve technical issues for the sisters and the Retreat and Conference Center.

THE MISSION OF THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS IS LIVED EVERY DAY IN THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF THE BON SECOURS EMPLOYEES. I BEGIN EACH DAY AT WORK AS I WOULD ENTER HOLY GROUND.

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:20)
We come together to serve each other and the community with the love of Jesus Christ. Together, we form a large family that cares for each other, and with the word of God, we go forth into the world and serve and love others.





Angela FIEDLER

Angela Fiedler serves as the rehab manager at Maryview Center for Inpatient Physical Rehabilitation and Maryview Medical Center Med-surg Therapy Services in Portsmouth, Virginia. She was recently honored with a 2018 Dedicated Service Award.

I began my career with Bon Secours in 1995 as a contract staff licensed physical therapist assistant. Over my 23 years at Bon Secours, I worked in multiple settings including home health, skilled nursing and acute care. My leadership role began in 2007 as the clinical coordinator leading the acute therapy services team. In 2017, I took on a new adventure as manager of the Acute Rehab Unit, managing both therapy and nursing services on that unit as well as continued leadership of the med-surg team with the assistance of a new clinical coordinator.

The greatest impact that the mission of Bon Secours has had in my life is seeing and feeling the dedication of this holy mission to support the growth of God's people. I have always felt empowered by the mission to provide for my patients, and as a manager, for my staff. Personally, the mission has been lived out in my life through leaders in other departments as well as my direct leadership. The fruits of this labor have allowed me to carry on this mission to others. Our teams work together to provide needed resources and care to our patients and to each other as clinicians. It is truly heartwarming to see my fellow team members living daily the mission that the sisters put forth so long ago.

I remember when I had a house fire and lost everything. It was a stressful and scary time, but then notes and emails came from people from all over the Bon Secours Health System, and so many people gave me money and food. They lifted me up from the ashes, and I felt the hand of God and the voice of angels say, "Don't worry we will carry you and protect you." I knew from that day on that I had a new family in Christ, and it was Bon Secours.

I am always touched by the love and compassion the sisters and my coworkers have for each other and for the patients in the local health systems. The values and mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours are the true rock and foundation of our family and health system. Each of the sisters holds a place in my heart. They are like angels sent from heaven to be examples to us all. I am truly blessed to be among them and to call them my family and friends.

CONGREGATION

NEWS

SISTERS RETURN TO MARIAN HALL

Sisters have returned to the newly renovated Marian Hall and are enjoying their new home. They can now go down the hall for a haircut since a small beauty parlor has been added. Sisters are also enjoying getting together in the newly renovated gathering hall and appreciate their new bedrooms.



Newly renovated gathering hall at Marian Hall.

◀ THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS

celebrated National Nonprofit Day in a big way this year by sharing a special message in Times Square in New York City.



CONNECT WITH US ON OUR
NEW SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:



▲ NEW SIGNAGE

Have you noticed the beautiful new signage on the Marriottsville Campus?



Gina Lazarski
Special Collections Archivist

WELCOME

New faces

There are new faces in Marriottsville, and we welcome the following new employees to the Bon Secours' family.



Heather Schaefer
Food Service Director
with Nohemy Caicedo



Lauren DeSmit

Program Coordinator,
Bon Secours Young Adults



Magda Morales

Guest Services Coordinator,
Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center



Our food service staff with Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski. Pictured (l to r): Jul Morpurgo Monk, Marian Hall chef; Melissa Frye, cook; Justis Hayes; Michelle Arnett, cook; Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski; Iman Hawkins; and Giovanni Faudale, executive chef.
Not pictured: Angela Clifton, William Green, Henok Tamrat and Brian Tornell, chef.



The first Provincial Chapter wearing traditional habits.

Looking Back

by GINA LAZARSKI
Special Collection Archivist

After World War II there were numerous cultural changes throughout the world in the roles of women, civil rights and social responsibilities. In response to these changes, Pope John XXIII directed the Church to open the windows and let in some “fresh air.” He convened the Second Vatican Council, or Vatican II, in 1962, and it was reconvened in 1963 by Pope Paul VI after his predecessor’s death. Vatican II produced 16 documents, three of which directly related to

Religious life.¹ With these changes, men and women Religious were caught between traditional and progressive schools of thought.

The Congregation of Bon Secours was at the forefront of these changes and began to take on the new guidelines. In 1959, the Congregation created the United States Province and increased focus on higher education and spiritual advancement for the sisters. The habit worn by the sisters was also modified in 1960 in response to a papal recommendation for women Religious to modify their dress.

With Vatican II, the Congregation began “aggiornamento” meaning a spirit of renewal and change. During aggiornamento, the Congregation revised its Constitution after accepting the input



◀ *Sr. Urban Auer wearing a modified habit.*



Sr. Rita Thomas wearing a modified habit.

from discussions among the sisters. Religious life changed from a structured, dependent form to a freer, more independent form. Sisters were able to revert back to their baptismal names and establish new ministries. Many sisters went on to pursue higher education. For some sisters, however, there was a feeling of uncertainty about their vocation, while others felt that more change was needed, and several sisters, many in formation, left the Congregation during this time.

In 1972, it was decided that each Province (France, Ireland, Great Britain, Peru and the United States) be allowed to elect its own government. In the United States, the Congregation modified its formation process adding an additional period of discernment before a woman entered the Order. The extra time enabled women to interact with the sisters and participate in the Order's missions before making a decision to go into Religious life. Postulants

were now called candidates, and the candidate period was lengthened to between six months and two years. The novitiate period was kept at two years, but novices were encouraged to participate within the community whereas before they were kept separate from professed sisters. The profession and reception ceremonies were also simplified and changed to a celebration of community.

Even with the discord and upheaval with Vatican II, the USA Congregation of Bon Secours was able to come together despite differences in age, background and education to form a religious community engaging in multiple ministries throughout the East Coast.²

¹ *Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life (Perfectae Caritatis), Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes).*

² Summarized from Chapter 17, *The Sisters of Bon Secours 1881-1981: A Century of Caring.*

I N M E M O R I A M

Sr. Rita Thomas, *CBS*

1921-2018

Sr. Rita Dolores Thomas, CBS, died on September 14 at the age of 97. “Sr. Rita’s life was marked by such rich leadership and true expressions of justice; she was an inspiration for all of us and encouraged the leadership potential in many of us. Her spunk and zest for life was infectious and she will be missed by the entire Congregation,” says Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, Leader, USA.

Sr. Rita was born in Baltimore and joined the Sisters of Bon Secours in 1943. She attended the Bon Secours School of Nursing and graduated as a registered nurse. In addition, Sr. Rita attended Mercy College in Detroit, Michigan, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing, and Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where she earned her Master of Science in nursing. During her career, she held many staff and supervisory positions in both acute and long-term care settings.

In 1966, Sr. Rita moved to Richmond, Virginia, to help plan the opening of St. Mary’s Hospital and served as its first director of nursing services. In 1967, she was named CEO, becoming the first female CEO of a hospital in Richmond.

In 1973, Sr. Rita became Provincial of the Sisters of Bon Secours in the United States. During her six years as Provincial, she provided structure and standardization to the Province’s day-to-day operations. Sr. Rita also sowed the seeds for Bon Secours Health System by creating the national position of health care coordinator to establish communication and consistency among the hospitals. She later served as chairperson of the Bon Secours Health System from 1994 -1996.



Following her term as Provincial, Sr. Rita moved to Florida, where she earned her nursing home administrator license and worked at Villa Maria Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

In 1983, she moved to Hampton Roads to assist in the transition of Maryview Hospital from the Diocese of Richmond to Bon Secours Health System and guided community initiatives, helping Maryview Hospital grow into a regional health care center. Subsequently, she served for many years as president of the Bon Secours Hampton Roads board.

Sr. Rita's work extended beyond the borders of the United States. In 2006, she visited Peru to assist the Peruvian Sisters of Bon Secours with the recent programs they had started in their health clinic and the expansion of their surgical capabilities.

She received The Catholic Health Association's Lifetime Achievement award in 2010. The award recognized Sr. Rita's leadership in health care, her commitment to human dignity, her defense of the poor and vulnerable and her actions on behalf of the common good, justice and stewardship. Among Sr. Rita's many other awards were the Distinguished Leadership Award for Central and Tidewater Virginia from the American College of Healthcare Executives. She was also named an Outstanding Professional of Hampton Roads.

Sr. Rita continued her ministry through volunteerism and board membership within the Portsmouth, Virginia, region before she retired to Marriottsville, Maryland.

She is survived by her sisters, Rose Schneider and Catherine Monseur, many nieces and nephews, faithful friends and the Sisters of Bon Secours.

“ I ALWAYS HAD THE CHALLENGE OF BALANCING CHARITY CARE WITH FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, BUT NEVER LOST SIGHT OF THE MISSION OF THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS. ”

— SR. RITA THOMAS, CBS

Sisters of Bon Secours

Statement on the Death Penalty

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS IN SUPPORT OF POPE FRANCIS' REVISION OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE DEATH PENALTY.

As Sisters of Bon Secours who have long advocated for an end to the death penalty in the United States, we applaud Pope Francis' recent pronouncement that *"the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide."*

Thirty years ago, the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, first promulgated a corporate statement, *"strongly opposing the death penalty because of our moral and ethical beliefs,"* and we pledged to work toward its elimination in the United States. While the state of Maryland abolished the death penalty in 2013, at this time in our nation's history, there are over 2,800 people on death row in 31 states where the death penalty remains permissible. Eighteen executions are scheduled in the remaining months of this year.

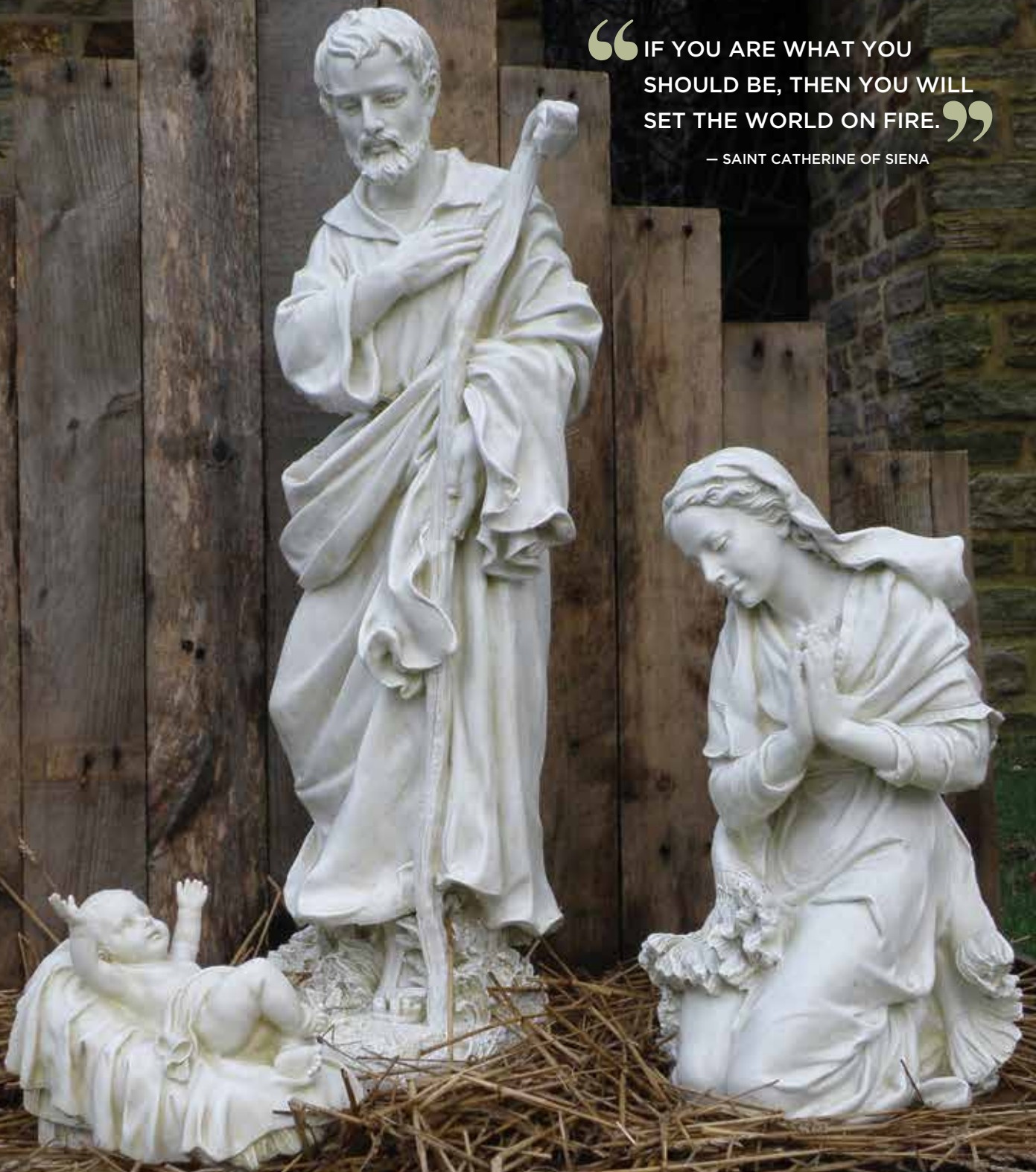
As women of healing, we grieve for and hold in our prayers both the victims of violent crimes as well as those on death row who committed them. We stand in solidarity with the United States

Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Death Penalty, and people of good will throughout our country who advocate for restorative justice that recognizes the dignity of every human life and the elimination of the death penalty in every place on this planet that God so loves.



“IF YOU ARE WHAT YOU
SHOULD BE, THEN YOU WILL
SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.”

— SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA



fOCUS

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA



1525 Marriottsville Road
Marriottsville, Maryland 21104
(410) 442-1333
www.bonsecours.org/us

