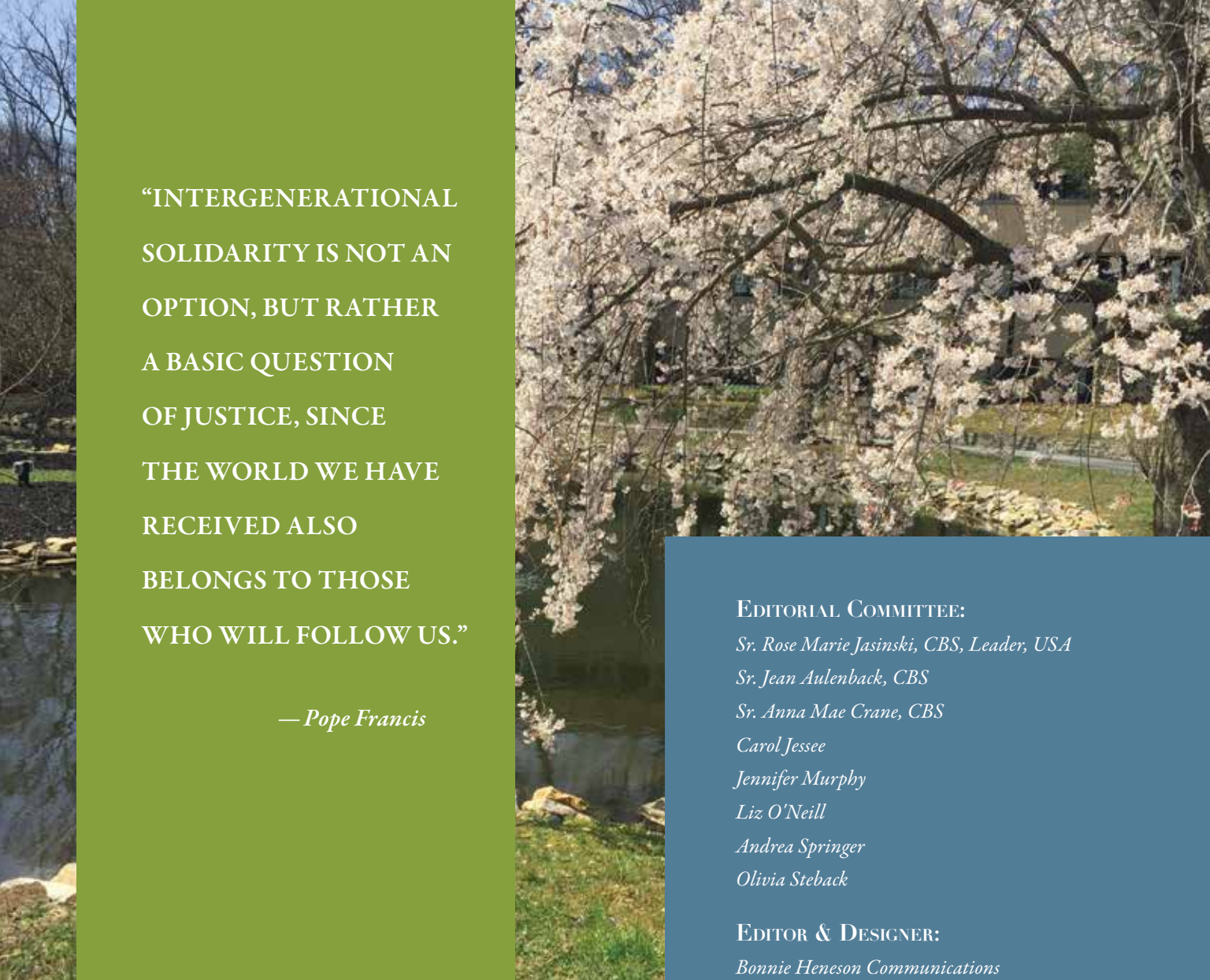


*f*OCUS

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

SPRING 2019





“INTERGENERATIONAL
SOLIDARITY IS NOT AN
OPTION, BUT RATHER
A BASIC QUESTION
OF JUSTICE, SINCE
THE WORLD WE HAVE
RECEIVED ALSO
BELONGS TO THOSE
WHO WILL FOLLOW US.”

— *Pope Francis*

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*THANK YOU Sr. Jean Aulenback for your many
contributions over the years to Focus and for being
a part of the Focus editorial committee.*

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DEAR *friends*

Intergenerational

This issue of Focus shares stories about a very important direction the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA have taken over the last several years, sharing our faith with the next generation and fostering intergenerational awareness on the part of the sisters. Most important is understanding what the younger generation is looking for in religious life today. We have taken many steps at Bon Secours to ensure that the next generation has a chance to meet with and truly get to know our sisters and how they live, work and worship today. Among the topics you will read about in this issue are our Young Adult Ministry, our Volunteer Ministry, our participation in World Youth Day, both in Panama and Washington, D.C., and some of the work and activities our Novices and Candidate are involved in.

There were some wonderful trips over the last few months including our Pilgrimage to Paris with 13 of our coworkers and their guests. We returned refreshed and inspired from this very special experience visiting the Motherhouse and Saint Sulpice Cathedral, where the original 12 sisters took their vows in 1824. We thank Sr. Nancy Glynn, the French sisters and Sr. Caitriona Leonard for the warm welcome they extended to us. I also had the pleasure of attending

Congregation meetings in Ireland and always feel inspired spending time with our sisters around the globe.

A special congratulations goes to Sherry Vieweg, RN, nurse manager on Marian Hall, who was the recipient of our 2019 Josephine Potel Service Award that recognizes an employee who truly lives the mission and charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours in all aspects of his or her life. At our annual Foundation Day employee recognition lunch, Sarah Bopst was also recognized for her 40 years of dedicated service to the Sisters of Bon Secours. Many other employees received their 5, 10, 15 or 20-year service pins.

Congratulations also goes to Sr. Elaine Davia who retired from nursing after 48 years and will be focusing full time on her role as director of Formation. We also hope you enjoy reading about our Music Ministry that I have been a part of since its formation in the 1970s.

I also want to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore. In 1919, the sisters opened the first Bon Secours Hospital in the United States after doing home nursing since arriving in the United States in 1881.



Awareness

Additionally, Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore is in the process of being acquired by LifeBridge Health System, a local health system in Maryland. Bon Secours will, however, continue to have a strong presence in helping rebuild the West Baltimore community through its affordable housing initiative, the Women's Resource Center, job training, family support services, assistance for people coming out of prison, early childhood education and more.

On a sad note, we mourn the untimely death of Terri McNorton, who was the vice president of corporate communications for Bon Secours Health System. We know she will be missed. We also lost a longtime coworker, Bob Hnat, who had a long and courageous battle with cancer. Bob will be missed greatly by his coworkers.

We are so very pleased and excited to have launched our new book that was nine years in the making, ***"Courage and Compassion, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA 1981-2016,"*** written by Molly Pyle, Ph.D. This book, written in the first person, is about the lives of the sisters from 1981-2016 and took a very different approach than our original history, "A Century of Caring 1881-1981," that focused on the establishment of

our ministries. Sr. Mary Shimo has a beautiful article on the archive pages of this issue about the story behind the writing of this wonderful book. ***"Courage and Compassion"*** is available at the Bon Secours bookstore and online through the BonSecours.us website. It is a wonderful read, and I know it will become a very important part of our history.

With spring upon us, I urge each of you to take the time to get outside and enjoy nature and all that God has created. Spring is truly a time of reawakening for all of us.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Rose Marie".

SR. ROSE MARIE JASINSKI

Leader, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

BRIDGING Generational Divides

“You cannot have a vision without the wisdom of the past,” says Dr. Tracey Lamont, who led a session on intergenerational awareness during the Sisters of Bon Secours Fall Assembly. The session generated renewed conversations on how the sisters approach and work with younger generations.

“IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DAYS I EVER SPENT GIVING A TALK. YOU COULD SEE THE SISTERS GETTING EXCITED AS THEY DISCUSSED NEW WAYS TO BRIDGE GENERATIONAL DIVIDES AND SHARE THEIR FAITH.”

— DR. TRACEY LAMONT ►

Dr. Lamont is a professor of religious education from the Loyola Institute for Ministry at Loyola University New Orleans. She has been actively participating in a national dialogue on how to minister to younger generations of Catholics. “When a young person pulls out their phone, it’s a ministry moment. Ask them if everything is all right,” says Dr. Lamont. “Show them that someone in their community cares.” The sisters brainstormed



all of the ways they can engage and foster relationships with young people to help them find God.

“The stories we most often hear about young people paint a dark portrait—they are preoccupied with work, distrustful of institutions, rude and lazy,” says Dr. Lamont. While some of these things may be true, it is important to delve deeper into the experiences of today’s young people. Many are skeptical of institutions, because they see scandals all around them. Leaders at every level have failed them.



◀ *Richmond Opening Liturgy with Sisters of Bon Secours and Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers*

When they go out on their own as young adults to a new parish, one where they did not grow up and do not know anyone, they do not feel they belong, and often they do not go back.

Among faith-practicing young Catholics, there is a resurgence of old practices such as perpetual adoration and the wearing of head coverings. “The appeal of these rituals can be confusing to sisters who find God everywhere,” says Dr. Lamont. In a world where nothing feels sacred or special, young people are attracted to these practices and symbols as a way to reclaim Catholicism and present themselves as faith-practicing individuals.

The transformative love of God is radical and amazing, and sisters can play a major role in conveying this message through their interactions with young people. Offering the experience of a Religious and sharing their own faith journeys are powerful ways for sisters to give young adults examples of people who are living their faith.

“Young people today are craving an authentic life, and the Sisters of Bon Secours are some of the most authentic women I know. They have such an ability to share what the Catholic Church is doing that is good in the world.”

— DR. TRACEY LAMONT

They were told that if they worked hard and got a college education, they would be successful and have good lives, but instead, they are mired in debt and cannot get jobs with financial security or start families or buy homes. For so many young people, their lives are filled with anxiety and distractions they cannot escape.

Some young people feel disillusioned, and they are seeking meaning in their lives, but when they visit their local parish, they do not feel a sense of community. For a long time, the Church has divided people by age — Sunday school for children, youth groups for high school students, campus groups for college students — young Catholics often have little interaction with other Catholics outside of their age group.



(l to r) Candidate Ji Kyung Choi, Zach DeSmit, David Erskine, Corrie Erskine, Caitlin DeLatte and Sr. Alice Talone

Learning ABOUT OTHER Generations

Sr. Alice Talone recently hosted the Bon Secours Young Adults' first-ever Modern Day Salon. A new take on an old concept, the idea of a salon is to join in fellowship over good food and conversation. The salon was held in the home of Lauren DeSmit, Young Adult Program Coordinator. Sr. Alice reflects on the experience:

"Having no idea what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised and had a delightful time.

There was good chemistry from the beginning, and everyone chatted away.

I talked to Lauren's husband Zach about how much he likes cooking. I talked with another young woman about where she grew up and what she is doing now

in her life, and there was a young couple who shared that they are having a baby. I am blessed to have had a great childhood, so I told them a little bit about my life experience.

It was a really social evening, and I enjoyed meeting and being with everyone. I was so impressed with their faith and values. Our Candidate Ji Kyung Choi also attended the salon, and it was nice for the young adults to have the opportunity to get to know us and realize we are human. It was wonderful learning about each other. Today's young adults have not had much experience with women Religious. I am not sure they expected to meet such a lively, outgoing nun."

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry

Celebrating relationships between sisters and ministry volunteers

In 1999, the Sisters of Bon Secours invited young adults to share in their charism and mission. Sr. Nancy Glynn had a vision for a faith-based postgraduate service program, and that vision planted the seeds for the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM) which continues to flourish today.

We celebrate the many intergenerational relationships that Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry has nurtured between the sisters and the ministry volunteers since its inception. Below, 2017-2018 BSVM alumnae Beatriz Cuevas, Ruby Miller and Elizabeth Tittle speak about their time with the sisters:

"Whenever I was around the sisters, it was impossible not to smile — they each embody such a warm and welcoming presence. The most impactful memory I have was when we (the group of volunteers) had the opportunity to lead prayer with those sisters participating in their annual assembly. Singing, praying and reading scripture with the sisters provided spiritual inspiration for me as I continue on my own journey of faith."

— Ruby Miller

"It was an incredible experience to be able to spend time getting to know the sisters and to learn more about life as a sister. Our conversations made me feel heard and their presence made me feel at peace."

— Beatriz Cuevas

"During my time at the Family Support Center, I witnessed time and time again Sr. Jenn going above and beyond, not only for her own families but for all the families receiving services through the center. At the hospital, it is impossible not to feel loved by Sr. Fran because she brings such warmth to those around her. Srs. Elaine and Nathalie shared their experiences and insights about the interconnectedness between service, scripture and social justice during our Thursday morning reflections. In Marriottsville, Srs. Rosie, Bernie and Alice welcomed us with open arms and hearts into the Bon Secours community. These are just a few (of countless) examples that come to mind when thinking about the impact that the sisters had on me and those around them."

— Elizabeth Tittle

IT IS A BLESSING AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN THIS SACRED SPACE TO SEE THE NEW RELATIONSHIPS AND BSVM COMMUNITY GROW IN BALTIMORE AND RICHMOND.



Closing Ceremony with sisters and 2017-18 volunteers

Bon Secours Young Adult Ministry

Celebrating relationships between sisters and young adults

The Bon Secours Young Adult (BSYA) Ministry was formed in 2014 to create a community of young people in their 20s and 30s, single and married, who share a faith centered in their relationship with Christ and are committed to the charism and traditions of the Sisters of Bon Secours. BSYA has grown to include a network in the Mid-Atlantic Region, a series of retreat ministry programs and an expanding circle of faith, service and community.

“WE CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET AND INTERACT WITH SISTERS IN WAYS THAT ALLOW YOUNG ADULTS TO OPEN UP AND SHARE GOOD CONVERSATIONS.”

— NICHOLAS STEIN, BSYA PROGRAM MANAGER

These experiences lay the groundwork for intergenerational relationships that foster a deepening of faith. “We build community where everyone listens to each other, and that is what the Sisters of Bon Secours is all about.”



WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA

The BSYA experienced an exciting start to the year with World Youth Day events spanning the globe. These special events allow young adults the opportunity to participate in pilgrimages and, ultimately, know God better. BSYA Program Manager Nick Stein and Vocations Director Sr. Pat Dowling accompanied a group of young adults from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Harrisburg to the largest World Youth Day event in Panama City.

Among the group's activities, they visited the rainforest and learned about the incredible work Panamanians are doing to protect the environment. "It was perfect for sharing the sisters' voice on caring for our planet," says Nick. The official World Youth Day events included an opening mass followed by morning Catachesis sessions, which Nick, along with Sarah Jarzembowski, one of BSYA's advisory board members, organized for the English speakers in attendance.

Thousands of faithful pilgrimaged to St. John Paul II Field and spent the night outside praying and listening to musical performances. Nick says, "Imagine it as a Catholic Woodstock, except everyone is there to worship." At Mass the next morning, even though there were thousands of people in attendance, everyone was silent when the Pope



Young adults at World Youth Day Panama

knelt for Eucharist adoration. The monstrance that held the Eucharist was a statue of Mary made from melted bullet shells — a statement of nonviolence that also echoes the sisters' voice.

The experience one has on a pilgrimage can be deeply meaningful. Prior to World Youth Day, most young adults have only experienced their local Catholic school or local parish. "It is transformational to realize how many people around the world believe the same as you do," says Nick. An estimated 3 million people attended World Youth Day in Panama. It is an intergenerational event based on its sheer size and the huge cross section of humanity that participates. "Young adults return home with an address book full of friends from around the globe. They are energized and ready to put their faith into action."





Sr. Pat Dowling (middle row r) and Nick Stein (back row r) in the Panamanian rainforest



Sr. Pat Dowling is in the perfect spot to photograph the Pope arriving to the vigil.

ACCOMPANYING YOUNG ADULTS

“World Youth Day in Panama gave witness to a world in need of hope. We saw a Church rich in diversity evidenced by young adult pilgrims coming from across the globe to embrace and celebrate their shared faith together. Their love for ‘Papa Francisco’ was evident by a thunderous roar when he said, ‘You are not the future; you are the now.’ They welcomed his challenge and invitation to go out to all corners of the world as disciples bringing a message of God’s love, hope and justice,” says Sr. Pat.

“I quickly put all concern aside for how 12 young adults would accept me as a companion pilgrim accompanying them. Over the course of 10 days, profound conversations were shared with each of them as well as fun and shared adventures — in a gondola high above the rainforest, in a speed boat on the Panama Canal, hiking miles to stay overnight in a field with 600,000 young people for a vigil with the Pope — complete with music, dancing and the Stations of the Cross.”

“I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything because I now have 12 new young friends.”

— SR. PAT DOWLING

VOCATION DIRECTOR, SISTERS OF BON SECOURS



Nick Stein and Sr. Pat Dowling at the overnight vigil

WORLD YOUTH DAY WASHINGTON, D.C.

In addition to the main World Youth Day event in Panama, there were many local events throughout the country. The biggest World Youth Day event in the United States took place in Washington, D.C. The Sisters of Bon Secours sponsored one of the stages and Srs. Rose Marie Jasinski, Chris Webb and Fran Gorsuch attended along with Candidate Ji Kyung Choi. Young Adult Program Coordinator Lauren DeSmit served on the planning committee and said, “There were people representing all of life’s stages at the event, and there was so much unity happening. It was incredible to see how joyful everyone was.”

Lauren remembers one of the sisters saying they hadn’t talked to many people about becoming a sister. “That’s really OK. It’s important to build trust before you begin deep conversations. It was actually very encouraging to see the sisters engaging in casual conversations and showing that they are normal people,” says Lauren. She explains that young people often put sisters on a pedestal and have a difficult time connecting with them on a personal level. However, when they let their guard down, they discover the ways that they are similar, and then they begin to bond. “Whatever conversations the sisters have, they are spirit-led and perfect,” says Lauren.

BSYA Charism Retreat participants



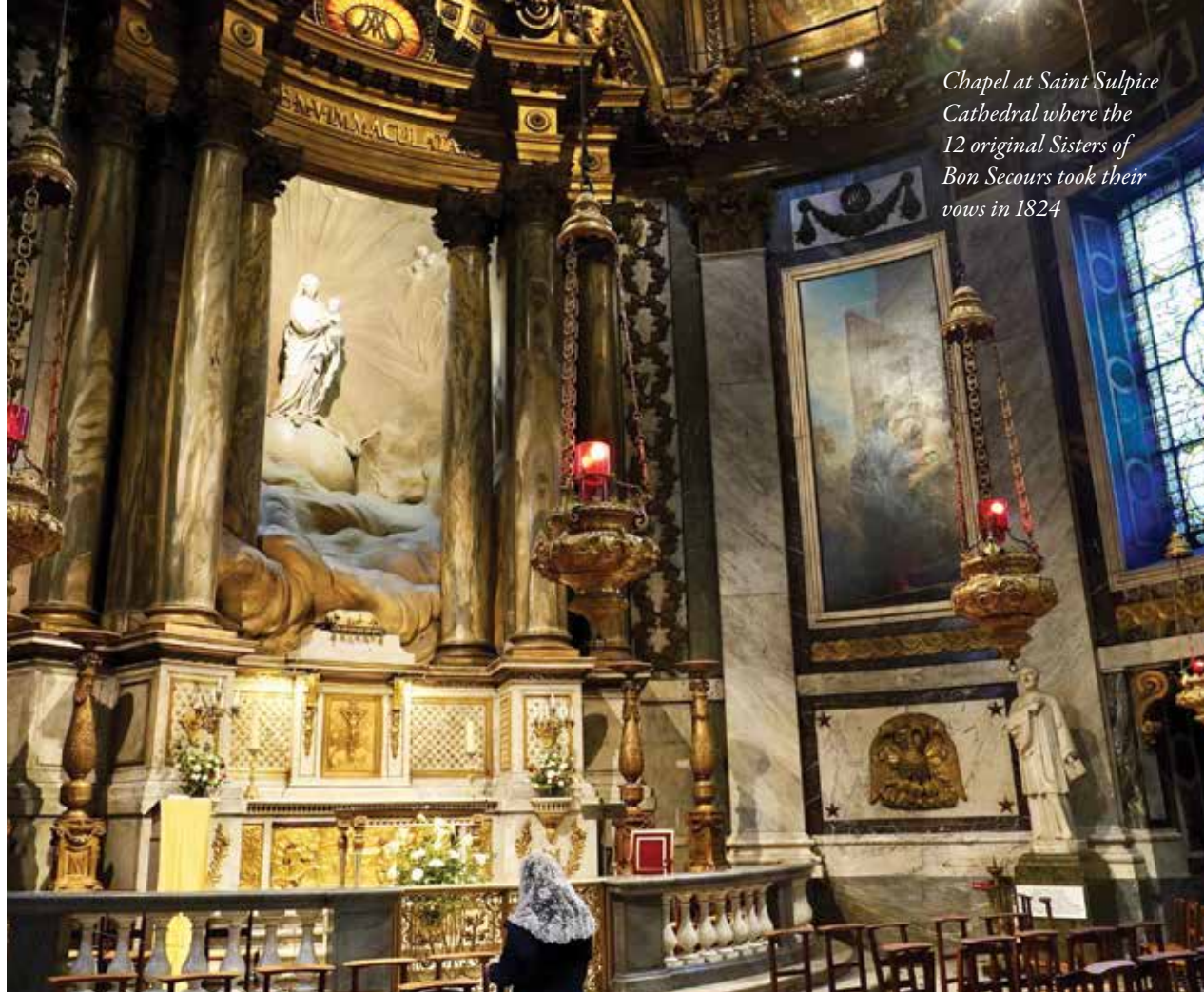
(l to r) Candidate Ji Kyung Choi, Sr. Fran Gorsuch, Sr. Chris Webb and Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski

BSYA CHARISM RETREATS

The Charism retreats share the Good News of Compassion, Healing and Liberation, and they have the highest attendance of all the BSYA retreats. “Young people especially enjoy the down time because they do not get enough in their every day lives,” says Lauren. The sisters are always invited, and occasionally they will give a talk or share history about Bon Secours, but this year Lauren asked the sisters to be participants. The sisters stayed up late and played games just like everyone else, and Lauren noticed a difference in how the young people engaged with them throughout meal times and the down times. “The sisters were genuinely part of the group, and it opened the door for them to accompany better,” says Lauren.

COWORKERS
EXPERIENCE

History of Bon Secours *on* Paris Pilgrimage



Chapel at Saint Sulpice Cathedral where the 12 original Sisters of Bon Secours took their vows in 1824

In the fall of 2018, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski led 13 Bon Secours coworkers and ten guests on a week-long pilgrimage to the Motherhouse in Paris. The trip was a special opportunity for Bon Secours coworkers from the Leadership Office and Retreat and Conference Center and their guests to learn about and experience the rich heritage of the Sisters of Bon Secours.



Sr. Nancy Glynn and Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski with French sisters

THREE OF THE *Paris Pilgrimage Participants*

COMMENT ON THIS SPECIAL EXPERIENCE:

JENNIFER MURPHY

Our pilgrimage to Paris impacted me in ways I hadn't imagined. Having worked for the Sisters of Bon Secours for nine years, I have become familiar with the sisters' history through many readings and photos. Yet, walking through their history in Paris, it really brought everything to life.

I was in awe of the Motherhouse, stepping in from the street to a beautiful entrance and then an amazing chapel that outshined all the pictures that I had seen through the years. When Sr. Caitriona warmly welcomed us, she spoke of her gratitude for these pilgrims who were carrying on their ministry in the United States. She shared how those founding sisters would be in awe of their vision being carried forward across the globe by so many lay people. This framed the rest of the pilgrimage for me, impacting my understanding of my own work and my small part that lives out this rich history.

— **Jennifer Murphy**, manager of retreat services, Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center

CAROL JESSEE

I am feeling beyond blessed to work with Sr. Rose Marie and all the Sisters of Bon Secours and for the amazing experience of the Paris Pilgrimage. The history of the sisters and visiting the Motherhouse truly told us what the sisters provided to many in need and with very little. It exemplified what the meaning of Bon Secours represents every day of their lives — "Good Help."

— **Carol Jessee**, executive assistant to Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski

LIZ O'NEILL

Our Paris Pilgrimage was, quite simply, the trip of a lifetime. We all got tears in our eyes walking into Saint Sulpice Chapel at the Motherhouse in Paris and standing where the original 12 sisters took their vows. It was as though their history came alive for us. The icing on the cake was getting to meet our sisters in France, who were so kind and welcomed us with open arms.

— **Liz O'Neill**, director of communications, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA



COWORKERS SHARE AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

2019

COME & SEE WEEKENDS

June 28- July 2

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.



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Imagine a Sister's Life

SHERRY VIEWEG **2018**
RECEIVES
JOSEPHINE POTEL
Service Award

(l to r) Sr. Fran Gorsuch, Josephine Potel Award Winner Sherry Vieweg, Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski and Sr. Elaine Davia



THE ANNUAL JOSEPHINE POTEL SERVICE AWARD WAS GIVEN THIS YEAR TO SHERRY VIEWEG, RN, NURSE MANAGER ON MARIAN HALL, AT THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS COWORKER RECOGNITION EVENT HELD ON JANUARY 22 IN MARIOTTSVILLE.

THE JOSEPHINE POTEL
SERVICE AWARD IS GIVEN
TO RECOGNIZE AN EMPLOYEE
WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED
EXCELLENT SERVICE AND
CONSISTENTLY BEEN
“GOOD HELP” TO THOSE
IN NEED.®

The recipient of this award embodies the spirit
of “Compassion, Healing and Liberation” and guides
their home and work life within the scope of the
charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours.

Sherry has been described by her coworkers as
providing emotional healing, words of support
and encouragement and always being there for her
coworkers, sisters and family members. She has a
great sense of humor and uses humor in her everyday
work. Sherry is always thinking of how she can help
others. She shows compassion and is responsible
for positive change in her department, helping
to build department engagement. She is fiscally
responsible and always asking “can I make it”
instead of “buy it.”

Sherry is a member of the Employee Activities
Committee and regularly volunteers to lead events.
She managed Marian Hall during the recent
renovations, coordinating the move to the main
level for the sisters and then back to Marian Hall
when renovations were completed, making sure
the sisters on Marian Hall felt comfortable at all
times during the process. She worked closely with
Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, Marian Hall staff, architects,
maintenance and housekeeping teams, and the
interior designer to ensure the sisters felt that
Marian Hall was even more “like home” after
the renovations.

Outside of work, Sherry looks in on neighbors
to help them through illnesses when family members
are not available. She also fosters three dogs and
several birds, as their owners can no longer care for
them. She participated in a fundraiser for a neighbor
who was in an accident and unable to work and
did so in a way that the children in the family
would not be embarrassed.

**WE CONGRATULATE SHERRY
ON BEING THE 2018 JOSEPHINE
POTEL AWARD RECIPIENT.**

COWORKER *Recognition Awards*

THESE EMPLOYEES WERE ALSO RECOGNIZED AT THE COWORKER RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR THEIR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BON SECOURS.

This day is set aside to celebrate not only the founding of the Congregation of Bon Secours of Paris on January 24, 1824, but also to celebrate the many dedicated coworkers who minister within Bon Secours in so many different ways.

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

SARAH BOPST has worked in many different positions for the Sisters of Bon Secours. She worked in the dining room and then cooked in the kitchen for 30 years. After that, she worked in maintenance and housekeeping for six years. In her most recent position as library coordinator for the Retreat and Conference Center, she has brought a new vitality to the library. Sarah's favorite thing about working for the Sisters of Bon Secours for so many years has been cooking for the sisters and their guests and meeting so many nice people — the sisters, guests and coworkers.



Sarah Bopst (seated), recipient of a 40 Years of Service award, with Rose Kurtz, recipient of a 10 Years of Service award.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

GLORIA HOLLIS, RN, has always worked as a registered nurse for Bon Secours, first at the Bon Secours Nursing Facility in Ellicott City, Maryland, and now on Marian Hall. Her favorite thing about working for Bon Secours is the teamwork and all the love shared in caring for the sisters.

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOHEMY CAICEDO works in food service as a cook and loves coming up with new recipes and incorporating new dishes into her repertoire. We hear she makes the best guacamole around. She loves working at Bon Secours and finds it peaceful and tranquil.

DONNA LAPOINT, RN, works as a registered nurse on Marian Hall. Her favorite things about working at Bon Secours are the lovely people she works with and her love for the sisters.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

DANIEL BABCOCK works in housekeeping for the Retreat and Conference Center and is a participant in many activities throughout the organization. His goal is to deliver an exceptional experience to all who come to the Center. In keeping with Bon Secours' respect for the environment, Daniel has led the charge to dramatically reduce dependence on toxic cleaning chemicals and disposable products, moving to environmentally responsible solutions, benefitting guests and staff alike.

CAROL CAPPELLETTI works at the Retreat and Conference Center. This is her second career, having spent 29 years at Social Security. Carol feels blessed to be a part of Bon Secours' healing hospitality and especially enjoys interacting with all the guests and visitors. Carol also feels it is a special privilege to volunteer for "Care for the Caregiver" days as she has been a caregiver herself.

ROSE KURTZ, the 2017 Josephine Potel Award winner, works at the Retreat and Conference Center as guest services manager and says the best part of her job is meeting and helping the many guests who come to the Center and the friendships she shares with her coworkers. She is also on the board of the Asylsee Women Enterprise.

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

JUSTIS HAYES works in food service, always treats everyone with respect and provides "Good Help" to all our guests and coworkers.

TESSA NEWTON works at the Retreat and Conference Center as marketing manager and sales associate. Her favorite things about working at the Center are her coworkers and getting to meet a variety of people from all walks of life. Because of where her office is located, she has also become the defacto problem solver and direction giver for the Center.

COWORKER

Recognition Awards

IN HER NEW ROLE SR. VICKY SEGURA RAISES MONEY FOR Community Hospice House



“AT THE COMMUNITY HOSPICE HOUSE, OUR GOAL IS TO CHANGE END-OF-LIFE CARE FROM A MEDICAL EXPERIENCE ONLY TO A HUMAN AND FAMILY EXPERIENCE.”

— SR. VICKY SEGURA

After many years working as a physician on the direct patient services side of hospice care in Richmond, Virginia, Sr. Vicky has a new role helping to raise funds to complete the new Community Hospice House in Midlothian, outside of Richmond. Who better to explain to grateful families and other generous donors the importance of hospice to end-of-life care? Community Hospice House has 16 rooms in a beautiful homelike setting and exemplifies a unified vision for hospice care. Its holistic care model includes the services of physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, therapists, pharmacists, bereavement counselors, dieticians and trained and certified volunteers.

Community Hospice House, Sr. Vicky explains, was built by Bon Secours Richmond for the community with more than 2,000 donations from grateful families and members of the community. The \$8 million campaign has raised \$7 million to date. In addition, funds will be raised for a connector between the two, eight-bed wings of the house, making it more efficient for staff to serve the patients. Many of the patients in Hospice House are referred from the Bon Secours Richmond Health System's Home Hospice Service, either when family caregivers need a respite or can no longer care for their loved one at home at the end of life.

Sr. Vicky now ministers full time with the Richmond Health System's Development Office, talking to and connecting with grateful families and members of the community. She gives tours and answers questions about hospice and asks potential donors to consider giving to Community Hospice House and supporting the Sisters of Bon Secours mission of caring for the dying.

Sr. Vicky has played an important role in the hospice movement over the years and is passionate about the role of hospice in end-of-life care. She says, "I am becoming more and more comfortable in this new role of asking people to support this truly worthy cause. My many years working in hospice allow me to answer people's questions and make our donors feel comfortable with giving to Hospice House. The Sisters of Bon Secours were founded back in 1824 to care for the sick and dying, and Community Hospice House is an extension of the sisters' original mission. I am pleased to be a part of this important community effort."



HOSPICE HOUSE DONOR ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO GIVE

Community Hospice House in Midlothian, Virginia

Having served as a board member of health systems, universities and independent schools, E. Carlton Wilton, Jr., (a.k.a. Buddy) believes that philanthropy is a vision for the future, and he knows that philanthropy makes a difference.

Buddy has had two profoundly meaningful hospice experiences, one with his father and one with his good friend, Dianne. When he toured Community Hospice House, he recognized Norma Rowe, RN, as the nurse who cared for Dianne. Buddy is a strong supporter of hospice and palliative medicine and believes it is one of the most underfunded medical specialties. He explains, “Hospice is the final outcome, and the family is truly grateful for the care and support given by hospice staff. No matter who you are — no matter what religion, race, sex or economic circumstance — medical care is required the first six months of life and last six months of life. These are the two times when care by the community is very important. These are the two times when Bon Secours has the opportunity to do its best work.”

When reflecting on the importance of philanthropy, Buddy says, “Breathe in with gratitude; breathe out with generosity.” He observes,

“GIVING IS AS EASY AS BREATHING,
AND WE ALL MUST DO IT.
PHILANTHROPY HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE AMOUNT A PERSON GIVES.”

When Buddy toured Community Hospice House and met Norma and Sr. Vicky Segura, MD, he was impressed that Sr. Vicky was one of the first dedicated hospice physicians in the country and how much her years of service have helped transform end-of-life care in our community. He then decided, in gratitude for the compassionate care given to his friend Dianne, to make a \$20,000 donation in honor of Norma Rowe, RN, to benefit Community Hospice House.

Buddy encourages others to give out of gratitude for hospice care, in honor of a special caregiver and to help Community Hospice House reach its capital campaign goal of \$8 million this year.

BON SECOURS

Music Ministry has a Rich



MUSIC CREATES AN EMOTIONAL CONNECTION TO PRAYER AND MAKES SO MANY RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS THAT MUCH RICHER AND MORE MEANINGFUL, TOUCHING PEOPLE'S SOULS.

Back in the 1970s, Srs. Pat Eck, Rose Marie Jasinski, Pat Dowling and Alice Talone formed an informal music ensemble and started providing the musical accompaniment at events for the sisters. Sr. Rose Marie and Sr. Pat Eck would even perform at some of Sr. Pat's family's gatherings in Richmond. As time went by, the group grew and performed regularly at Jubilee Masses and other celebratory Masses and events of the sisters or the

Bon Secours Health System. They played, for example, at events throughout the Sisters of Bon Secours' 175th anniversary year, including at the Basilica in Baltimore where the 175th Anniversary Mass was celebrated. These musicians also provide the music at Sisters of Bon Secours' funerals, offering an added dimension to the ceremony celebrating these beloved lives.

History

The ensemble has grown over the years with additional sisters as well as friends of the sisters joining the group. The ensemble today includes Sr. Pat Eck and Candidate Ji Kyung Choi on guitar; Sr. Elaine Davia on French horn; Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, Sr. Alice Talone and Sr. Pat Dowling as vocalists; Roberta Navecky on oboe; Mark Tamulonis on an electric wind instrument; and Dana Goode, a world-class musician, on violin.

Mark Tamulonis, a friend of the Sisters of Bon Secours, started playing the flute with the group in 1993 when his wife Joeann Karibo, who worked for the Bon Secours Health System, mentioned that the Sisters of Bon Secours were looking for musicians to play with them for their Spring Assembly and Jubilee that May. “Now after almost 26 years, I look back and think about what a wonderful experience it has been on so many levels. I can describe playing with the sisters in one word—fun! We have enjoyed not only making music together but also just being together,” says Mark.

One story Mark tells goes back to when he first started playing with the sisters. During the Jubilee Mass, the ritual would change somewhat, and the violinist and Mark followed the sisters on when to stand and sit. When the sisters stood up at one point, so did Mark. The sisters, though, were standing to renew their vows. “And there I was, standing along with them, much to the amusement of everyone there. Since that time, for every Jubilee Mass, ‘someone’ would leave a copy of the sisters’ vows on my music stand,” recalls Mark.

In addition to playing flute for many years with the sisters, Mark has also written several musical arrangements for them,

adjusting for the group’s instrumentation. “What I consider an opportunity of a lifetime was being asked to compose a piece for the dedication of the Labyrinth that was being constructed on the grounds in Marriottsville. It took me seven months to complete, and I was so proud when *A Dedication in Three Movements: Compassion, Healing and Liberation*, the title based on the Sisters of Bon Secours’ charism, was played at the dedication of the Labyrinth and later recorded on a CD and sold in what was then called the Bon Secours Spiritual Center’s bookstore and distributed throughout the health system,” recalls Mark.

In recent years, Mark has played an electronic wind instrument in the ensemble that can duplicate the sounds of many acoustic wind instruments such as a flute, oboe, clarinet and French horn.

“TODAY, WE LEAD THE COMMUNITY IN SONG ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR AND HAVE PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE EACH EVENT. WE VERY MUCH ENJOY DOING MUSIC TOGETHER AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ONE ANOTHER. MUSIC IS TRULY A VERY SPECIAL WAY FOR US TO EXPRESS OURSELVES AND OUR SPIRITUALITY; IT CAN BECOME FOR US A PRAYER THAT BRINGS US EVEN CLOSER TO A SENSE OF GOD’S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES.”

— SR. ROSE MARIE JASINSKI

SR. EILEEN O'CONNER

Shares Her Journey



(l to r) Sr. Eileen O'Conner celebrates her graduation with Sr. Kathleen Moroney and Sr. Chris Webb. All three completed their clinical pastoral education at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina.

IN 2015, I WAS DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES AT THE BON SECOURS HOSPITAL GLASNEV IN DUBLIN. THIS WAS A POST I HAD HELD FOR NEARLY 13 YEARS WHEN I BEGAN TO CONSIDER A CHANGE IN MINISTRY.

While I loved the work I was doing and the staff I was responsible for, it also brought with it many responsibilities and a work-life balance that was difficult to maintain. So, I began to plan ahead and decided to leave my post in July 2017. My decision was met with a lot of regret and sadness by the hospital community and particularly the nursing staff. I chose to pursue Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in the USA to train as a health care chaplain. I applied to the CPE Program at Bon Secours St. Francis in Charleston, South Carolina and was accepted for the one-year residency program that began on August 21, 2017.

I then began the process of obtaining a student visa so I could study in the USA. Eventually, I received the visa, which made my decision very real. I then had a month to prepare and spend time with my family. I finally set off on August 8 on the next part of my journey and adventure as a Sister of Bon Secours, traveling directly to Charleston.

I was very glad to have Sr. Chris Webb welcome me as I arrived and help me adjust during those first days. When I look back now, I wonder how I survived those first weeks as I adjusted to so much newness, new people, new culture and a new work experience. But adjust I did, and as each day passed, I became more settled and confident.

Many people think the greatest challenge would be to drive on the other side of the road, but that was not really a problem for me. The greatest challenge was learning to drive the automatic car. Google Maps became my best

friend as I learned to navigate around Charleston, and I remember the joy I felt the first day I was able to drive to the store without depending on Google Maps.

CPE is a journey of self-discovery and developing skills to bring healing and compassionate care to people at vulnerable times in their lives, times of sickness, at the end of life, times of crisis, and moments and times of loss and grief. I connected with people as they experienced many of these moments throughout the year. As I developed my skills of presence and listening, I loved the ministry of connecting with people.

This was my first time living in a multicultural and multi-faith environment, which expanded my knowledge and experience. Charleston is a very historical city, and I found the most poignant place to visit was the Old Slave Market, which gives the history of slavery in Charleston and South Carolina. I was surprised that 50 years after Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights for all people remains such an ongoing issue in the USA. I met some amazing people who continue to confront racial issues and struggle for equality and justice for all people. I found how the value of respect for the other person is still such a need in our world today.

As the year progressed, I began to wonder about my next steps when I completed the residency program, and I found that I was drawn to go to Peru to learn Spanish. I have had a desire to be able to communicate with our sisters in Peru, especially when we meet at various Congregational meetings and thought this would be a good opportunity for me. I was scheduled to go to Peru in December 2018 for the in-person International Sponsorship Committee meetings, so I planned to go several weeks early. I left for Peru on Oct. 18 and was welcomed by the sisters in Trujillo. Sr. Rosa Gomez had

identified a teacher in the city, so each day, Monday to Friday, I went to her house for four hours of Spanish lessons. I certainly got a foundation in Spanish, and the sisters helped me with my conversation and pronunciation. I was very glad to live with the sisters in Peru and experience their culture and ministries, serving people in need in so many ways. In October 2018, I also started on my Bachelor of Arts degree in theology via distance learning. I completed my first semester and commenced the second one on March 2.

“THERE ARE MANY WORDS I CAN
USE TO DESCRIBE MY EXPERIENCES:
AMAZING, ABILITY TO ADAPT,
DISCOVERY OF INNER STRENGTHS,
TRANSFORMING, MAKING NEW
FRIENDS, IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE,
RESPECT FOR THE OTHER PERSON,
THE HUMAN COMMUNITY, WE
ARE ALL ONE AND DIVERSITY.”

— SR. EILEEN O'CONNER

Recently, I returned to the Bon Secours Hospital Cork, where I had previously worked 25 years ago as a nurse, and started my new ministry as a health care chaplain. It has been a journey back in time but also a new beginning for me in this special ministry. The message from St. Matthew 25:36, “I was sick and you visited me,” continues to inspire me as I look forward to being available and a pastoral presence to the patients and staff. As a health care chaplain, I feel privileged to accompany people at vulnerable times in their lives and provide pastoral care in a healing and compassionate environment.



At the Heart OF THE BON SECOURS

(l to r) Rebecca Blank, Claire Kimilu and Sr. Fran Gorsuch

by OLIVIA STEBACK

Program Manager, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry

IT IS THROUGH THE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS' RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD, EACH OTHER AND THOSE THEY SERVE THAT THEY COME TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THEMSELVES AND OF THE MYSTERY OF LOVE THAT SURROUNDS THEM.

In the following piece, we highlight one of the influential relationships that the ministry volunteers form during the year: their relationship with their site supervisor.

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM) site supervisors are an integral part of the volunteers' experience. They mentor, guide and accompany the volunteers closely

in their ministry placement sites. The site supervisors' commitment to each volunteer helps to foster the growth and transformation that takes place during the service year. During the past two service years, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry has been blessed with Sr. Fran Gorsuch's presence as a site supervisor.

Sr. Fran works in Trauma Informed Care at the Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore. She and Rebecca Blank, ambulatory services director in Behavioral Health, supervise the ministry volunteers in the Behavioral Health Department. This role has enabled Sr. Fran to walk closely with all of the ministry volunteers and to form a special bond with the two volunteers that she has directly supervised: Claire Kimilu and Paula Hastings. Claire, Paula and Sr. Fran give voice to the loving relationship they have formed and share ways in which God has worked and continues to work through Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry.

CLAIRE KIMILU

BSVM 2017-2018

“Have you met Sr. Fran?”

“You’ll love her.”

“Don’t be surprised, she really likes giving hugs and kisses.”

Before I even met Sr. Fran, I knew that I was blessed to call her one of my site supervisors. It sounded comical when I first heard alumni and staff talk about her infamous hugs and kisses during orientation. But what I would learn as I got to know her was that this is the essence of Sr. Fran: love. She embodies love throughout all she does and radiates this love toward all she encounters.



Sr. Fran Gorsuch and Claire Kimilu

Volunteer Ministry *is Relationships*

As my year with Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry continued and my relationship with Sr. Fran deepened, I began to see her compassion in her interactions with patients and hospital staff and in the way she viewed those most vulnerable, whether in Baltimore or beyond our borders. About halfway through my year of service, Sr. Fran invited me to visit the hospital’s Inpatient Mental Health Unit. Unfortunately, upon our arrival, we were met by a situation in which the security team was trying to calm down an emotionally distressed patient. Without hesitation, Sr. Fran approached an officer and asked if she could talk to the patient—a young woman perhaps no older than 18 years. The woman appeared rattled and fearful of the prescribed medication intended to help soothe her. Where most people would attempt to run in the opposite direction or simply let security handle the

situation, I watched as Sr. Fran peacefully escorted the patient to one of the side rooms, sat beside her, comforted her and *listened*. I saw Sr. Fran sharing in a stranger’s suffering as if it was her own, opening herself up without any judgement. That day, I saw unconditional love.

Sr. Fran is someone who sees the value in all human beings regardless of where they come from or their social status. She is someone who recognizes that the suffering of marginalized groups is the suffering of society as a whole, someone who in all things acts purely out of love. I often say that I found love in Southwest Baltimore. Well, Sr. Fran is an embodiment of that love. And in that love, I found God in SOWEBO (Southwest Baltimore).

PAULA HASTINGS

BSVM 2018-2019

Sr. Fran is one of the most inspiring women I have ever met. I remember hearing stories about her at the beginning of the year and being so excited that I would get to know her over the course of my service. Stories like, “When she gets a cold, the whole hospital gets a cold since she hugs everybody,” and, “She takes an hour to get anywhere because she has to hug and say hi to everyone along the way.” What an incredible woman I would get to work with! Then I learned that it would be even more intimate than just working with her: we would be sharing an office.

Sharing an office with Sr. Fran has been an incredibly enlightening, educational and entertaining experience.

I get to see bits of her everyday kindness and compassion to so many different people. She leaves sweet voicemails and ends every email with “much love.” I also enjoy hearing the stories of all the shenanigans and silly situations she somehow gets into and the genuine human connections she always gets out of them. I learn every day from her empathy, acceptance and true love for every single person she comes into contact with. She is an amazing example of Christ’s love.

Every other week we are asked to reflect upon the question, “Where do we see Christ in service?” I see Christ every time I interact with Sr. Fran and when I see her interact with others. Her extreme compassion



Paula Hastings and Sr. Fran Gorsuch

brings so much healing to people’s hearts and liberates their joy. Walking around the hospital with her, you hear choruses of, “Hey sister!” and, “What’s up Sr. Fran?” I’ve experienced that the mere mention of her name can bring a smile to people’s faces, and that is such an incredibly rare gift.

Sr. Fran has touched so many people’s lives, and I am so blessed that she is a part of my life this year.

SR. FRAN GORSUCH
SITE SUPERVISOR

“ I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM CLAIRE, PAULA AND ALL OF THE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS WITH WHOM I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF KNOWING. THEY ARE OPEN TO NEW EXPERIENCES AND STRONGLY COMMITTED TO LIVING OUT THEIR CALLING TO PARTICIPATE IN BON SECOURS VOLUNTEER MINISTRY. ”

I am continually impressed by the ways in which the ministry volunteers are willing to step outside of their comfort zones, eager to interact with patients and clients. They respectfully share in the stories and lives of all those they meet on the fifth floor.

Their capacity to delight in the world around them and to bring youthful energy to each project and interaction that they participate in is inspiring. One example of this is the gift of creativity that both Claire and Paula have shared with us. They have each led efforts to decorate the fifth-floor waiting room. It is touching to see them engage clients, gently inviting them to join in the process.

Their ministry of presence to the clients, both children and adults alike, overflows to myself and other staff members. I see in them a deep sensitivity and kindness. I would say that these gifts of sensitivity and kindness are also embodied by their community members. The sisters' charism flows through all of the ministry volunteers as they share in our mission to bring Christ's Compassion, Healing and Liberation to the world.

When I think of the ministry volunteers, the first word that comes to my mind is “compassion.” They bring empathy, not pity, to their work as they gradually move into the lives of those they serve and walk with people in their pain. They have ministered to me as well. I was personally a recipient of their compassion when my brother had a stroke. I felt free to share my struggles with them and found them to be caring and non-intrusive listeners.

I know that Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry staff guide the volunteers as they grow in their community life. Sometimes groups of people live together like candies in a box, living side by side but not interacting with each other in a deeper way. Ministry volunteers are challenged to share life in a different way, living like a family. Their care for one another is beautiful and speaks to the lived value of the program — to guide the volunteers in developing a perspective that moves from focusing on *me* to *we*.

I have always loved the ministry volunteers. When I lived in New Jersey, I missed seeing them on a regular basis. Now that I am back in Baltimore, I am so grateful to get to know them on a deeper level.

Relationships

2019

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THESE UPCOMING
WEEKENDS
AND REGISTER ON
OUR WEBSITE:
bonsecoursyoungadults.org

June 21-23, 2019
Catholic Imagination
Middlesex, England

August 2-4, 2019
Charism Retreat
Amherst, Virginia

January 18-20, 2020
Charism Retreat
Amherst, Virginia

July 31-August 2, 2020
Charism Retreat
Amherst, Virginia

For upcoming information,
follow us on Instagram
and Facebook:

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



*Sr. Pat Dowling (l) and Nick Stein (under the Maryland flag) with young adults
at World Youth Day in Panama.*

“I have been involved with the Bon Secours Young Adult Ministry for multiple years, primarily through retreats, and have greatly appreciated the renewal those weekends provide. The themed retreats have influenced my faith as I learn more about the Bon Secours charism and the spiritual journey of the sisters and other participants. Each retreat seems to have the perfect balance of quiet time with the Lord, large group talks, small group reflection, and praise and worship. The community has also served as an introduction to incredible friends and fosters a true sense of fellowship. I know when I spend a weekend with BSYA I will come home feeling mentally, physically and spiritually refreshed.”

– Patrick Good, Bon Secours Young Adult



by NICHOLAS STEIN

Program Manager, Bon Secours Young Adult Ministry

SO WHY EXACTLY DID I GO TO WORLD YOUTH DAY IN PANAMA? WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO BON SECOURS YOUNG ADULTS OR TO THE BROADER BON SECOURS FAMILY?

It's an important question to answer. And the answer, I believe, lies with the word "pilgrimage." World Youth Day, an experience directed at young adults from college age and into their 20s, is at its core a pilgrimage. It's not a vacation or a holiday. It's not a package of adventure travel or even an immersion experience. It's a journey to a holy place — and the holy place that we journey to is a gathering of young people called together to celebrate their faith.



Nick Stein (l) and Sr. Pat Dowling (r) with friends from Great Britain at World Youth Day in Panama

Every two-to-three years the Pope calls for an international gathering, but World Youth Day happens every year and should be celebrated locally every year. Every year it is still a journey, a pilgrimage, to a place made holy because we gather together. It is both the journey to, and the gathering with, that is important. And it is what happens during the gathering — encounter, prayer, and learning — that makes it different.

Over the past year, young people took center stage in the conversations happening in the Church. It was an incredible year and a terrible year all at the same time. Through it all — and again all through the pilgrimage in Panama — the need for healthy, holy, accompaniment of young people on their journeys of faith and life rang loudly. And as unworthy as I felt to do so, that is why I went — to walk with people on their journey, on their pilgrimage of faith.

At Bon Secours that is always our mission — to walk with young people on their path of faith. And World Youth Day (whether in Panama, Washington, D.C., or in your neighborhood parish) is that mission of accompaniment. For we learned together, we ate together, we prayed together, we explored questions deep and trivial, we suffered with each other through physical fatigue and spiritual fatigue, we laughed, and we cried together. And each day we encountered Christ in each other, in the people we met from around the world and around the city and in the sacraments we celebrated.

The pilgrimage continues for each of us. The question is, how will we continue to walk with each other?

ASSOCIATES *Growing in Staff & Intergenerational*

W E L C O M E

Brenda A. Nelson, Regional Program Coordinator

In February 2019, the Bon Secours Associate family welcomed Dr. Brenda A. Nelson to its staff as regional program coordinator of our groups in South Carolina and Florida. Brenda will support in diverse ways our existing groups in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Greenville, South Carolina, and start a new group in Charleston. She will serve from her home base in the Charleston area, central to all three areas to which she will be travelling.

A native of Charleston, Brenda earned a Bachelor of Arts in speech communication from Morgan State University in Baltimore, a Master of Social Work from Clark-Atlanta University and a Doctor of Education from Nova Southeastern University. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Ministry Leadership program at Columbia International University.

Brenda most recently served as the director for the Mother Emanuel AME Church's Empowerment Center, an initiative to provide an array of programs and related services for the Emanuel nine families, survivors and the Mother Emanuel Congregation. From 2007-2015, she was employed as the director of community outreach for the Charleston County School District, and she served in a variety of capacities that included coordinator for the Office of Student Placement and coordinator of Prevention and Intervention Services for the district's Safe Schools/Healthy Students federal grant. She has worked in the fields of education and social services for more than 30 years.

In addition to her work in public education, Brenda has had active involvement in ministry and has provided leadership to and for children, youth and outreach ministries to include directing children's church and leading ministries that responded to the diverse needs of women in recovery from alcohol and other drugs. Brenda is currently serving in ministry at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, and she is an ordained Itinerant Deacon of the AME Church.

In April 2012, Brenda was presented with the Humanitarian Award at the Summerville Councilman's Ball for her leadership in the establishment of a faith-based holistic ministry for women in recovery from alcohol and drugs and their children. She was also presented with the Mrs. Septima P. Clark Award by the Charleston Chapter of the NAACP. Additionally, she has received the Moja Arts Civic Community Service Award and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Finer Womanhood Award for the area of Community Involvement. We welcome Brenda to our staff and Associate family and are grateful that she adds her gifts to the ongoing expression of the charism of Bon Secours.



*Regional Program
Coordinator
Brenda A. Nelson*

by AMY KULESA

Director, Bon Secours Associates

Presence

INTERGENERATIONAL PRESENCE

As this issue features the theme of Intergenerational Ministry and Outreach, we want to announce the formation of a new planning group focused on inviting people 50 and younger to meet and generate ideas for expanding our intergenerational presence among the Associates.

Our current median age is in the mid-60s, with strength both from long-standing older Associates along with a recent group of newer Associates. We have a growing cohort of Associates from Generation X, who are in their 40s and 50s, and just one or two in the Millennial age range. While it is true that, in general, people entering their “sage-ing” years more commonly have the time and space to explore more deeply and intentionally a sense of deeper spiritual connectedness, the Associates seek to issue an appealing invitation to all ages to come together on this spiritual journey.

In response to this call to outreach, Richmond Associate Kyle Benham has drafted an initial strategic plan to begin reaching out to Associates of the Millennial generation. In it, he shared his thoughts on intergenerational outreach, which will assist the planning group in moving forward with concrete goals and objectives in reaching out to younger people interested in the Associate faith community



(l to r) Richmond Associates Robin Ratchford and Kyle Benham

and commitment. He quotes from research titled “Designing Worship Spaces with Millennials in Mind,” by Barna Group,

“The number one word Millennials used to describe their ideal environment for worship is ‘community,’ followed closely by ‘sanctuary.’”

The Associate relationship to the Sisters of Bon Secours provides a meaningful sanctuary of community for those who gather around the mission and charism, to grow in faith, spiritual focus and purpose, and expression of Compassion, Healing and Liberation together. We strive to be an intergenerational community of persons, older ones sharing their wisdom as they mentor younger ones, and those of a younger generation bringing fresh ideas and energy to grow the Associate movement.

Using technology creatively and providing resources that inspire and feed the spirit will enhance our ability to invite people of all ages to consider and explore the Bon Secours Associate commitment. The charism of Bon Secours and the far-reaching mission emphasis is one that can resonate with people at different stages of life. The desire for community-building is especially felt by younger people today as they seek ways they can grow in faith in relationship with other seekers.

SEEING Christ *in Each Other*



“THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS
WILL DRAW FROM MARY’S
HEART A MOTHER’S DEVOTION,
SENSITIVITY AND DELICACY AND
UNDER HER INSPIRATIONS THEY
WILL WALK THROUGH THE
WORLD POURING OIL AND BALM
ON ALL KINDS OF SUFFERINGS.”

— THE HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION
OF BON SECOURS OF PARIS

◀ *Candidate Ji Kyung Choi with
Sr. Mary Regina Flatley*

The intergenerational relationships within our Congregation allow us to see and welcome Christ in each other. We receive many gifts when we celebrate our diverse unity. As our novices listen with open hearts to our elder sisters’ life experiences and memories of the history of Bon Secours, they connect with our community and experience powerful examples of how to live a life dedicated to God.

OUR WOMEN IN FORMATION REFLECT ON THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SISTERS ON MARIAN HALL

“I try to have lunch on Marian Hall as often as possible. Sometimes, I just go around the room and have conversations with individual sisters about what is happening in the community and in their lives. It is always good to hear their experiences. I also share my experiences and keep them updated how I am doing in the community and in my ministries. When I share any struggles I have, they listen to me and strengthen me with encouragement and prayers. They are such great supporters. I feel very blessed and delighted as I get to know them more and more. I feel that I grow in holiness when I interact with them.

The sisters on Marian Hall are the living history of Bon Secours, so it is really important to keep in touch with them. I honor and respect their lifetime devotion and dedication to God. They inspire me with what it is about living as a sister of Bon Secours. They welcome me so openly and give me a strong feeling of belonging in the community.”

— JI KYUNG CHOI, CANDIDATE



Sr. Jennifer Doyle with Sr. Mary Cabrini Bonnett

“The sisters who live on Marian Hall have been a constant support for me since I entered the Congregation. Living in Marriottsville has provided me a unique opportunity to visit and spend time with the sisters on an almost daily basis. I have come to realize that community isn’t about individuals being likeminded or the same age, but rather community is built upon a desire to be with one another, to share about yourself and a willingness to reciprocate.

Shortly after entering the novitiate in January, I was given an assignment through the Intercommunity Novitiate Program in Cincinnati to do a presentation about Mary, the mother of Jesus, in our Congregation. With the help of Sr. Mary Cabrini Bonnett, who shared stories with me about our Congregation’s foundation and a wealth of information about Mary; Sr. Anne Maureen Dougherty, who shared prayers and other documents that were given to the sisters before I entered the Congregation, as well as sharing the process of each sister writing her own Magnificat prayer; and Sr. Mary Regina Flatley, who helped me by reviewing my project and letting me practice my presentation with her, I was able to express the dedication our Congregation has to Mary.

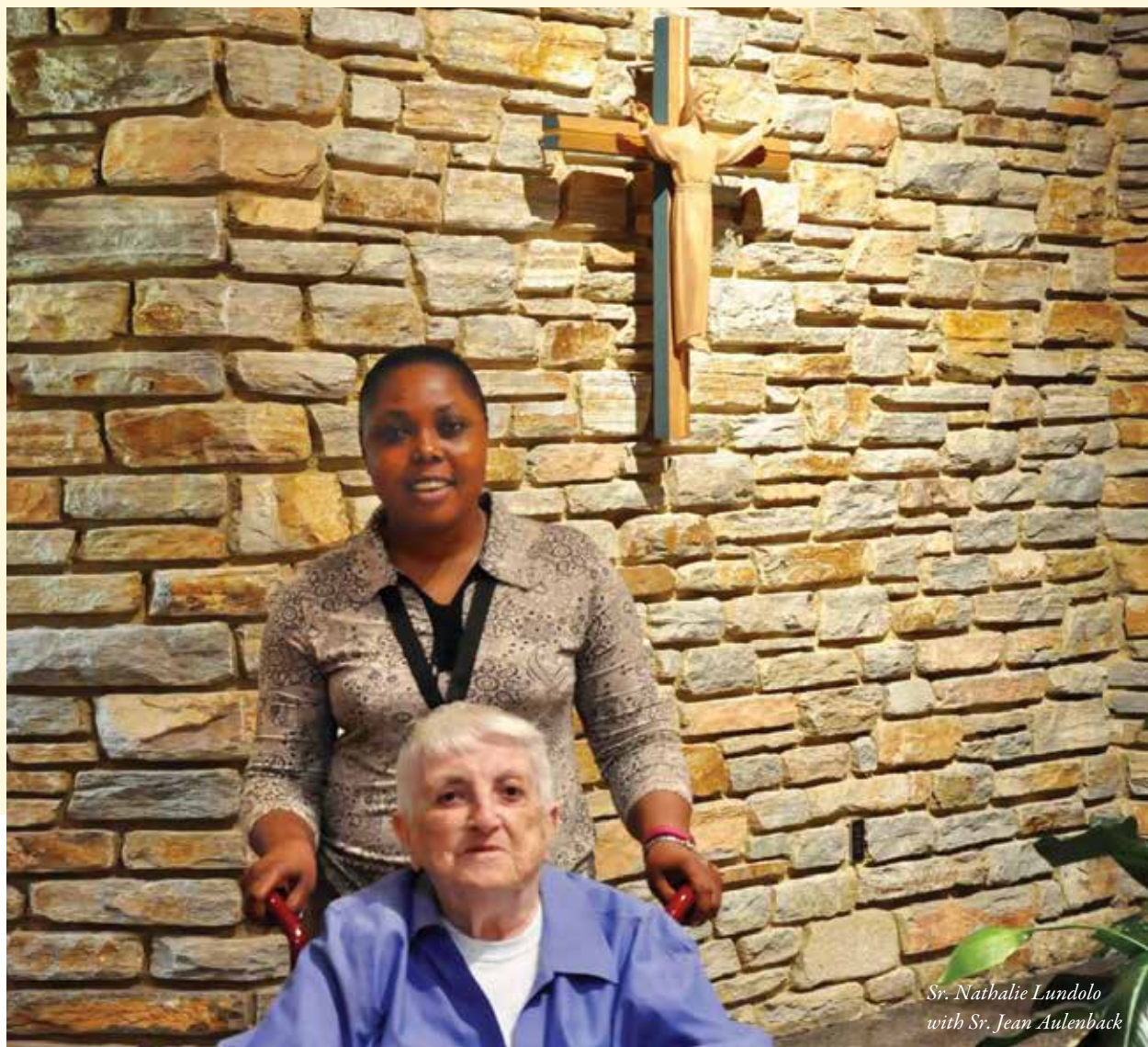
I am so grateful for the sisters who took the time to share with me, helping me to understand community in a new way.”

“We are all different, yet we are all able to work together because the Holy Spirit has brought us together for this mission.”

— SR. JENNIFER DOYLE, NOVICE

Sr. Jennifer Doyle with Sr. Anne Maureen Doherty





“The sisters on Marian Hall embody the joy of a life given to the service of others. I have a learning relationship with them and have had special experiences with each of them in their own way. In Africa, we say that elders are living libraries young people have to visit in order to learn the values of life. I go to Marian Hall to listen to the sisters and benefit from their spiritual wealth and especially to be inspired by their consecrated lives. They teach me the values of Bon Secours and how to love and forgive. They are the guarantors of our heritage and our charism.”

“I am learning how to be a nurse and gladly help our sisters on Marian Hall because it is a way to thank them for everything they have done in the Congregation. I show them my love and affection as they did for the poor when they had strength. My presence is the fruit of their pastoral care and assures the continuity of our Congregation.”

— SR. NATHALIE LUNDOLO, NOVICE

Upcoming Summer Overnight Retreats:

Holding the World

Silent Weekend Retreat

Presented by Author Paula D'Arcy

Friday, June 14 – Sunday, June 16

Silent, Directed Retreat

Spiritual Direction with Ginny Novak

or Sr. Pamela Jablon

Friday, June 21 – Monday, June 24

In the Company of Women Prophets

Presented by Sr. Mary Ellen O'Dea, OP

Sunday, June 23 – Saturday, June 29

6-night Vacation Retreat

Self-directed Private Retreat

Sunday, June 30 – Saturday, July 6

Silent, Directed Retreat

Spiritual Direction with Joy Aker,

Sr. Ann Belmonte, Sr. Bernadette Claps,

Fr. Phil Cover

Sunday, July 14 – Saturday, July 20

Living Our Retirement

Presented by Fr. Michael Schleupner

Friday, July 19 – Sunday, July 21

Is Life Two Halves or Four Quarters?

Silent Retreat

Presented by Fr. Nicholas Amato

Sunday, July 28 – Saturday, August 3

Jesus Meets Buddah Meets Muhammad

Presented by Gordon Creamer

Friday, August 2 – Sunday, August 4

Silent, Directed Retreat

Spiritual Direction with Jackie Antkowiak,

Sr. Pamela Jablon, Fr. Michael Schleupner,

Rev. Stephen Wade

Sunday, August 4 – Saturday, August 10

Celebrate You!

Women's Wellness Retreat

Feature Presentation by Carol deLaski

Early Arrival Option: **Thursday, August 22**

Weekend Option: **Friday, August 23**

Retreat Concludes: **Sunday, August 25**

4-night Vacation Retreat

Self-directed Private Retreat

Friday, August 30 – Tuesday, September 3

NEXT SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING GROUP TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER!

Our next Introduction to the Practice of Spiritual Direction will begin this November. This is the third group of students within our program, and it will be held Sunday, November 3 – Friday, November 8. Our first week-long course is an introduction and overview of spiritual direction in the Christian tradition. It is intended to enhance the student's understanding of the spiritual life, with attention given to developing the basic skills necessary for this ministry. Two additional week-long courses will follow to complete the year-long program, one in April 2020 and the final session in October 2020. Commuter options are also available for those who live locally. If you have ever considered the ministry of spiritual direction, you may want to learn more. You can read about this program on our website at www.RCCBonSecours.com or by requesting a brochure and information from Jennifer Murphy, manager of retreat services, at Jennifer_Murphy@RCCBonSecours.com. Space is limited, so please contact us soon.

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 be mailed to you.

What our retreat guests are saying...



"IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL
TIME WITH GOD AND
HIS BELIEVERS."

"THE OPPORTUNITY TO
GATHER WITH OTHERS,
TO EXPLORE THEIR
FAITH IN PERSONAL AND
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
IS A PRECIOUS GIFT."





“THIS IS MY SAFE PLACE. YOU PROVIDE COMFORT AND SUPPORT SO WE CAN ENJOY THE AMAZING DIRECTION, KNOWLEDGE AND THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD!”



“THE QUIETNESS AND PEACEFULNESS RESONATED WITH ME. I NEVER FELT RUSHED AND TIME FLEW BY.”

Project SEARCH

by ALLISON EATOUGH

FINDING A JOB CAN BE CHALLENGING FOR YOUNG ADULTS—ESPECIALLY YOUNG ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

To help them develop tailored job skills, connect with mentors and eventually gain employment, Bon Secours Mercy Health has partnered with Project SEARCH — a program that finds competitive, integrated employment in the community for young adults with intellectual disabilities.

Among the Bon Secours Mercy Health hospitals participating: Lorain Hospital in Lorain, Ohio; Maryview Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia; Memorial Regional Medical Center in Mechanicsville, Virginia; St. Francis Medical Center in Chesterfield, Virginia; Springfield Regional Medical Center in Springfield, Ohio; St. Francis Downtown in Greenville, South Carolina; and St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia.



Project SEARCH participants, known as “interns,” spend a full school year at each hospital. After developing a business plan, interns begin a series of three 10-week internships in departments ranging from environmental services and nutritional services to transport, lab and sterile processing. “In addition to learning marketable, transferable skills, interns also build communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills, which are important to their overall development,” says Jeana Baucant, Project SEARCH coordinator for Clark County, Ohio, and Springfield Regional Medical Center. The medical center launched its program in 2011.



“One of our interns is a pharmacy clerk, who checks in and stocks medicine,” Baucant says. “His meticulous counting skills and perceptive ability save the pharmacy time and even help prevent mistakes. As a result, the pharmacy can be more productive, and the intern gains hands-on experience and confidence.”

“IT’S INCREDIBLE WHEN YOU
DON’T HAVE A CEILING HOW
HIGH THESE INTERNS WILL GO.”

— JEANA BAUCANT
PROJECT SEARCH COORDINATOR

“That confidence boost, how that nine months changes those kids, it’s just phenomenal,” adds Alex Garvey, senior vice president, mission at Bon Secours St. Francis Health System. “They are not the same people, and they’ve changed for the better.”

Project SEARCH interns say they appreciate how the internships encourage independence and responsibility.

“I like Project SEARCH because the job coaches are pushing me to do my job independently, and they’re also pushing me to do better by being accountable for the mistakes I’ve made,” says Ke’Andre Davis, an intern at Lorain Hospital. “Another reason I like Project SEARCH is because I want to grow up preparing for the real world, and I’d like to get a job in nutrition services at Mercy Health Hospital.”

Ross Jeffeaux, a 2018 Project SEARCH graduate, completed his first internship in the emergency department at St. Francis Downtown. “I love it because I love to meet new people there, and I have learned so many valuable skills in the ER,” he says.

Parents say they are also thankful for the program. “When you have a child that has a disability, you worry, you wonder,” says Scott Jeffeaux, Ross’ father. “So when he was afforded this opportunity, it meant the world.”

The majority of Bon Secours Mercy Health interns go on to find competitive employment after graduating from Project SEARCH.

“Based on national data, typically 25 percent or less become hired into the host business,” says Jennifer McDonough, project director, associate director of training, and Virginia Project SEARCH statewide coordinator at Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center. But that percentage is higher at Bon Secours Mercy Health facilities. “Since 2009, Bon Secours Mercy Health has hired 56 percent of its 102 Virginia Project SEARCH interns after graduation,” says McDonough. “Nearly 90 percent of all Virginia graduates found employment in the community.”

The same is true at Springfield Regional. In 2018, four of Springfield’s eight Project SEARCH participants received jobs at the medical center. Others went on to successfully find employment elsewhere. And at St. Francis Downtown, all seven of the 2018 interns received full-time job offers at the hospital.

While the numbers are impressive, Project SEARCH is about more than just job training and employment, leaders say. Throughout their rotations, interns develop deep connections with their colleagues and mentors. “True friendships are made in these departments,” Baucant says. “They are just absorbed into these departments, and then there’s some sadness when they go on to a new rotation.”

Sharon Wilson, manager of clinical education at Lorain Hospital, agrees. “When we have graduation, we have staff members who take a vacation day to be there because they feel like they’re part of their success,” Wilson says.

“THE GROWTH THE HOSPITAL
EMPLOYEES SEE WITH
OUR INTERNS IS INCREDIBLE.”

— SHARON WILSON
MANAGER, CLINICAL EDUCATION



Jeremiah, a Project SEARCH intern, gains hands-on experience in the pharmacy.

At the 2018 graduation ceremony for Project SEARCH’s St. Francis Downtown interns, Craig McCoy, CEO of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, encouraged other businesses to join the effort. “Please come join us,” McCoy says. “The need is great. And we’ll gladly offer any advice or help we can. Creating job opportunities is the biggest key.”

Bon Secours Mercy Health’s ongoing coaching, mentoring and flexible work arrangements, as well as its continued commitment to serving the underserved, ensure Project SEARCH will be a success for years to come.





Noah, a Project SEARCH intern, learns to drive a Bobcat.

Project SEARCH

For more information, visit: www.projectsearch.us



Project SEARCH graduation



BON SECOURS MINISTRIES BECOMES BON SECOURS MERCY MINISTRIES BY PAPAL DECREE

(l to r) John Starcher, Sr. Carol Anne Smith, HM, Thom Morris, Sr. Elaine Davia, CBS, Colleen Scanlon, Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS, Fr. Elias Ayuban, CMF, Sr. Patricia Eck, CBS, Sr. Doris Gottemoeller, RSM, and Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM

In 2006, the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA were pleased to announce that they received approval by the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for the formation of Bon Secours Ministries (BSM) as the public juridic person and sponsor of Bon Secours Health System. As part of their planning for the future, the sisters chose to invite lay leaders to share the sponsorship role of the Bon Secours Health System. This new and innovative sponsorship model was designed to ensure the continuance of the Sisters of Bon Secours' Catholic health ministry into the future in a manner consistent with the charism, mission and values of Bon Secours.

This new sponsorship model provided a Church-approved structure for the future while maintaining the mission of the health system to give "Good Help to Those in Need."

Bon Secours Ministries has provided a sponsorship structure that has kept the health system rooted in its rich history and religious tradition. BSM focused on the current needs of the health system as a Catholic ministry in the midst of a changing and complex health care environment, while providing a prophetic and challenging call to create together a future of healing and hope. In the 2006 Vatican Decree establishing Bon Secours Ministries, it speaks of carrying "forward the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in the Church." To that end, one of the major priorities of the Sisters of Bon Secours and Bon Secours Ministries has been to prepare the next generation of Catholic health care leaders.

With the recent creation of Bon Secours Mercy Health System, a new Papal Decree was issued on December 14, 2018, by the Vatican that integrated the sponsor of Mercy Health (Partners in Catholic Health Ministries, a public juridic person) into Bon Secours Ministries with headquarters in Marriottsville, Maryland. The restructured juridic person will be known as Bon Secours Mercy Ministries with the Sisters of Bon Secours, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas as the participating entities.

Sisters Release **NEW BOOK**

THE WRITING OF **Courage and Compassion, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA 1981-2016**

by SR. MARY SHIMO

“Sisters of Bon Secours in the United States 1881-1981, A Century of Caring” was published in 1982 as we marked the 100th year of our sisters serving in the United States. That was our first historical publication and has been very valuable to us and our ministries.

In August 2009, it was noted that another book would be beneficial to continue our history. So, in 2010, there was an earnest effort to locate an author. Martin Gordon, Ph.D., of the history department of University College, University of Maryland, was chosen and began his research. He was greatly assisted by Mary Herbert, the special collections archivist at the time and Sr. Mary Shimo, the community’s archivist. ►

Archivist Sr. Mary Shimo is proud to display new history of Sisters of Bon Secours.

During our assemblies, Dr. Gordon interviewed sisters about their time in ministry as well as their personal lives. Research continued. It was a shock when Dr. Gordon became ill and died in 2013, resulting in a pause in the process.

In 2014, Molly Pyle, Ph.D., was referred to us for consideration as an author. Following a series of interviews, we formally contracted with Dr. Pyle to complete the research and to write the history, drawing on Dr. Gordon's work. A book review committee was composed of U.S. Country Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, former Congregation Leader Sr. Nancy Glynn, Mary Herbert and Sr. Mary Shimo. Our primary audience for the book were those who ministered with us and our families, the Bon Secours Health System board of directors, senior staff and all others who continue our ministry. Dr. Pyle's experience and skills in writing oral histories, told from the perspective of the subjects themselves using an engaging narrative style, were the main reasons for the committee's decision to commission Dr. Pyle as author.

The new book was to take a different approach from "A Century of Caring 1881-1981," focusing on our ministries and their establishment. The new history was to tell of our lives as sisters, the changes we had made in our religious life, the new formation process, our living arrangements and how we encountered new ministries. Consistent with this aim, Dr. Pyle proposed that she write the narrative in the first person, and the book committee agreed.



(l to r) Sr. Chris Webb and Candidate Ji Kyung Choi are enjoying reading the stories about the lives of the sisters from 1981-2016.

The book committee held many, many conference calls. Dr. Pyle completed her research and writing from spring 2014 to summer 2016. She interviewed every living sister as well as several associates and ministry participants. She submitted her final manuscript in July 2016. During the review period, Dr. Pyle revised her text several times based on readers' comments. In 2017, the book committee formally accepted a final version.

(l to r) Sr. Elaine Davia and Sr. Pat Dowling enjoy looking through "Courage and Compassion" at book launch event. ▶



We then prepared the book for publication: selecting photos to be placed within the book; a listing of all the Sisters who had lived during the time period as well as those interviewed; and adding our statements as appendices. After all of this work, the title for the book was the hardest to agree upon. Many variations of a title were considered. One of our coworkers suggested the book's current title — rewording an initial title proposed by Dr. Pyle in a formulation that resonated with the committee. This act of love of Bon Secours took nine years to complete.

The committee was committed to self-publishing, choosing Ann Hughes of Otter Bay Publishers based in Baltimore. We have been very pleased with our relationship with Ann Hughes and her staff. We unveiled the book at our November 2018 Assembly with the sisters receiving the first copies. I hope you will enjoy learning of the ways our lives have changed so much for the good, for ourselves and for God's people.



Special cupcakes celebrate the launch of “Courage and Compassion, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA 1981-2016.”

A FEW RECENT REVIEWS:

I am lovin’ the book. Woke up at 3 a.m. and read more pages. You are all marvelous servants of our Lord’s charism. I so admire the work you have done and are doing and feel privileged to be even a small part of it.

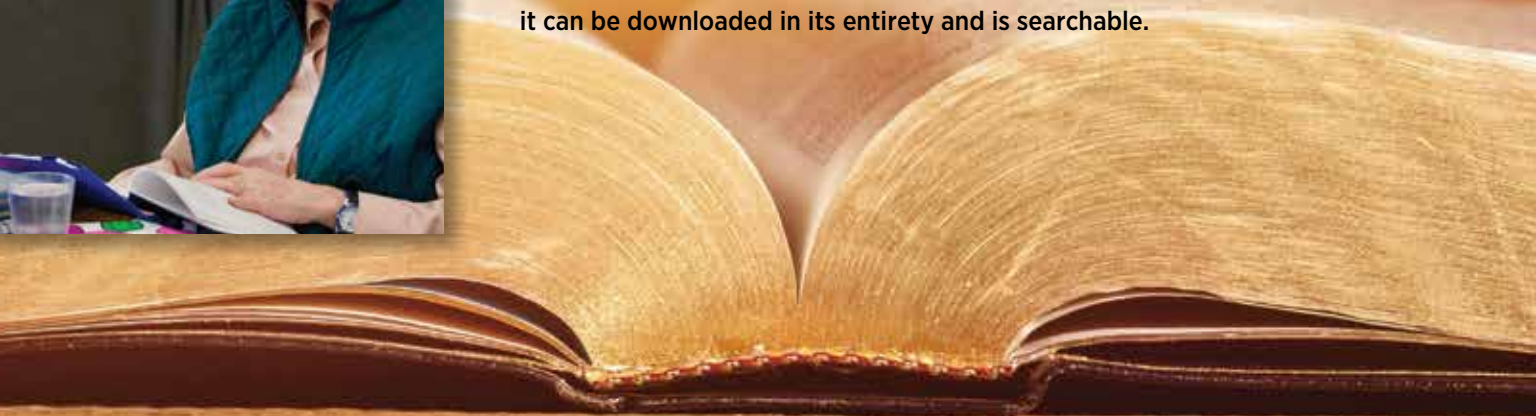
— Lynn Woodman, former Bon Secours employee

I started reading the new book last night and love it. I really like how personal it is and learned so much about individual sisters as well as the Congregation.

— Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, current Bon Secours employee



“COURAGE AND COMPASSION, SISTERS OF BON SECOURS, USA 1981-2016” is available through the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center Book Store for \$22 by calling the book store at 410-442-3121 or contacting Carol Jessee at 410-442-1333 or Carol_Jessee@bshsi.org. The book is also available on our website at BonSecours.us, where it can be downloaded in its entirety and is searchable.



Felicia LAWRENCE



Felicia Lawrence is a recent Dedicated Service Award recipient and has been with Bon Secours Mercy Health “for 15 wonderful years.” She began her career as the customer service supervisor in Central Accounts Payable and is currently the supervisor for the Travel and Expense Program.

I was born and raised in Falmouth, Jamaica, and came to the United States when I was 14 to seek the “American Dream.” Working for the Sisters of Bon Secours has been a big part of fulfilling that dream. I am able to be my best self while building my faith and helping others. The sisters deep-rooted history is full of human dignity and integrity. I am blessed to work for an organization that values employees and also treasures their diversity. Since 2004, I have been given various roles and opportunities. In my current role, I have negotiated rates with our vendors to save money for the organization. I pride myself on being a good steward of the health system’s resources.

The mission of the sisters and their spirit of compassion inspires me every day to work towards making sure that the needs of our communities are being met. I feel that working for the sisters allows me to help them fulfill their mission, vision and values. In support of their mission, I have collaborated on many fundraising activities and events. Over the last 10 years, the Central Accounts Payable Department has raised over \$40,000 for our community. Giving back to our community has enriched my life.

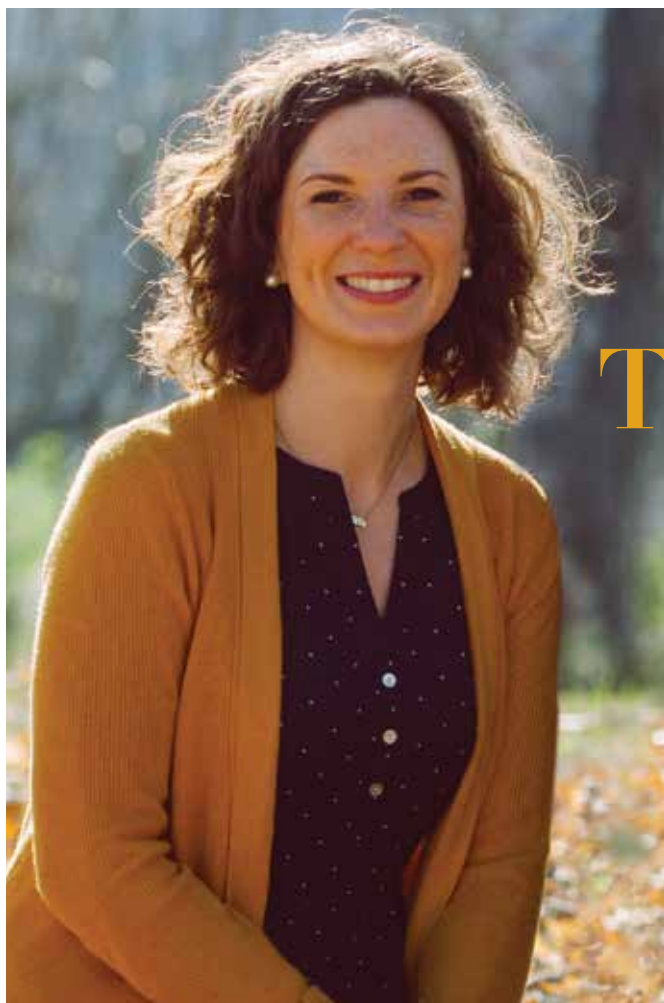
Shahin

MOINI

Shahin Moini has been working in Housekeeping at the Retreat and Conference Center for a little over a year. Prior to Bon Secours, she held a housekeeping position for a school in Baltimore City.

I like my work at Bon Secours, and I love working for the sisters. They make me feel very comfortable, and everyone is very nice. My bosses and my coworkers are very good to me. My coworkers submitted my name to Sr. Rose Marie to go on the Pilgrimage to Paris. I could not believe that something like that would ever happen to me. It was the best thing that has ever happened in my life.





Tessa

NEWTON

Tessa Newton will soon celebrate six years as the marketing manager/sales associate for the Retreat and Conference Center. Prior to Bon Secours, her past experience includes administrative and support roles within the health care industry. She feels incredibly fortunate to have been given the opportunity at Bon Secours and has learned so much about marketing, advertising and sales. While serving in this position, she has earned a master's degree in communications. Tessa enjoys putting her new skills to good use and appreciates the opportunities she has to be creative, try new things and meet interesting people at Bon Secours.

Working for the sisters' mission, which is so deeply rooted in compassion, has changed me and the way I live in a profound way. Each person that walks through the doors of the Center is here for a reason; the obvious one — perhaps they are here for a business meeting — and one they may be unaware of — a spiritual need, a moment of quiet or simply being in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We are given the privilege of serving them, many times providing the space, the quiet and the tranquility they so deeply need.

Giving compassion, no questions asked, is a very special gift to give someone. I think of this with every interaction I have. I can never know what is happening in someone's world and leading with grace will always be beneficial — for both the recipient and for me.

CONGREGATION

NEWS

BEST WISHES TO SR. ELAINE DAVIA

who retired after a 48-year career in nursing. Most of this time has been spent working as a family nurse practitioner with a focus on chronic illness and prevention. She also had a special calling toward being with and caring for those who were poor and without health insurance. This calling saw Sr. Elaine on a mobile health unit in rural and inner-city areas, ministering to people in Appalachia and caring for migrant farm workers in Florida, where she opened the Clínica de Ayuda. She also served in South Africa for several months. Prior to her retirement, she was a nurse practitioner at Access Carroll in Westminster, Maryland, and St. Francis Outreach Center at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore.

Additionally, over the years, Sr. Elaine was a nurse practitioner at Bon Secours facilities in Methuen, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Port Charlotte, Florida; and Richmond and Portsmouth, Virginia, where, while working for Bon Secours Maryview Hospital, she started the Elm Avenue Center for Health.



“ I DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM NURSING AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF MY GROWING INVOLVEMENT WITH THE BON SECOURS INTERNATIONAL FORMATION PROGRAM. I AM ALSO PLEASED TO SHARE THAT WE PRESENTLY HAVE THREE WOMEN IN THREE DIFFERENT PHASES OF FORMATION IN THE UNITED STATES. I WILL SAY THAT THE HARDEST PART ABOUT RETIRING FROM NURSING WAS SAYING GOODBYE TO THE STAFF AND MY PATIENTS, SOME OF WHOM I’VE BEEN FOLLOWING FOR 12 YEARS.”

— SR. ELAINE DAVIA



SR. ROSE MARIE JASINSKI

In November, shortly after the merger of Bon Secours Health System and Mercy Health, Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski was asked to participate in a Lunch and Learn for employees at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio, to celebrate its founding on November 12. St. Vincent's invited a sister from each of the three Congregations that are a part of the merger: a Sister of Mercy, a Sister of Bon Secours and a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, the medical center's original founding Congregation. Each sister shared the founding story of their Congregation, its current ministries and the impact of the merger on our health care ministry as well as how we each see the merger living out or complementing our Charism.

A WARM WELCOME

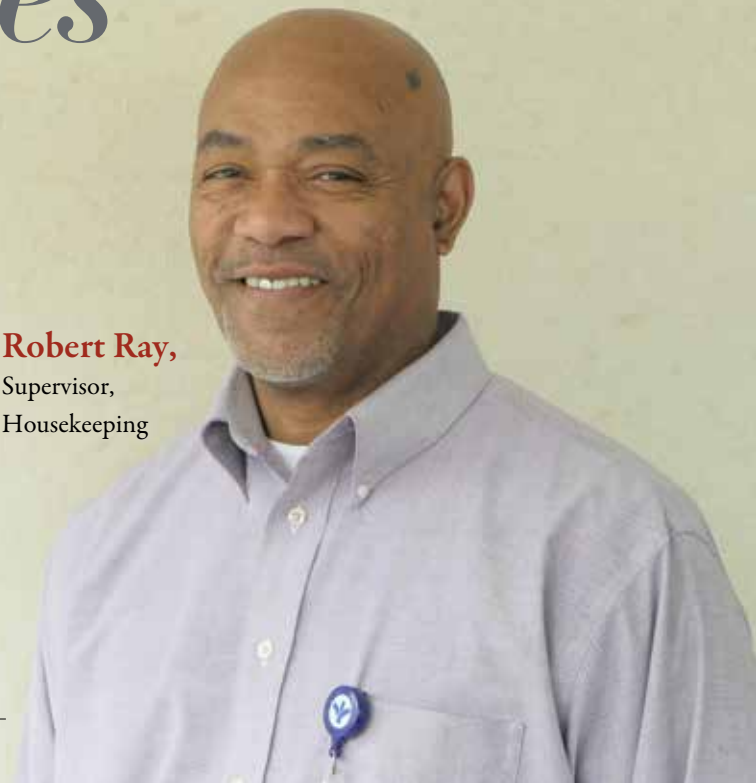
New Employees

Jackie Gardner,
Guest Services,
Retreat and
Conference Center



Emily Thrush, Site Leader, Baltimore Bon Secours
Volunteer Ministry

Robert Ray,
Supervisor,
Housekeeping



\$67,304

IN MINISTRY GRANTS AWARDED

ST. MARY'S HEALTH WAGON

\$10,000

The mission of the St. Mary's Health Wagon is to provide compassionate, quality health care through mobile health units to the medically underserved people in Central Appalachia. The Health Wagon values inclusiveness, community outreach, collaboration, spirituality and empowerment. St. Mary's Health Wagon will use the funds to support salary and fringe benefits for a family nurse practitioner to work at the Health Wagon and at health outreach events and focus on treating chronic illnesses. The Health Wagon relies solely on funds from grants, foundations and donations and does not bill Medicaid, Medicare or commercial payers.

SWITCH

\$20,000

Switch is a Christian Ministry in Upstate South Carolina designed to collaborate with multiple organizations to address the crisis of human trafficking in this region. Switch will use the funds to pay for staff positions to collaborate particularly within the field of educating young people and alerting public and professional caregivers on how to identify signs of young people being trafficked and exploited.

SHEPHERD HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM ON POVERTY

\$17,304

Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty will use the funds to support six of its 12 students in the following internship roles: summer camp intern at Alternative Directions, Inc.; domestic violence legal advocate at House of Ruth, Maryland; undergraduate legal intern at the Maryland Office of the Public Defender; special needs child care intern at PACT (Helping Children with Special Needs); mural artist apprenticeship at Jubilee Arts; community development intern at Intersection of Change; community program assistant at Asylee Women Enterprise; assistant Asylee advocate at Asylee Women Enterprise and environmental literacy counselor intern at Parks & People Foundation. Each student will have completed a poverty studies course and attended an opening preparatory conference in Arlington, Virginia. Interns live together as a cohort so they can share and reflect upon their experiences.

VIRGINIANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY

\$20,000

Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (VADP) will use the funds to educate the public about the death penalty in Virginia, with the long-term objective of ending capital punishment in the state. For the past three years, VADP has worked with partners in the mental health community to exempt people with severe mental illness from the death penalty. The project supports a field director to educate religious, civic and business leaders in key legislative districts across Virginia. VADP works closely with the Virginia Catholic Conference and ACLU of Virginia. In 2020, VADP will shift its public education efforts toward building support for outright repeal of the death penalty and plans to demonstrate widespread support for abolition across the political spectrum throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“O GOD, YOU HAVE BEEN
OUR REFUGE THROUGH
ALL GENERATIONS. YOU
HAVE BEEN OUR HOPE.”

— PSALM 90

PHOTOGRAPHY:

*Jennifer Murphy, Liz O'Neill and Steven Spartana
contributed photos to this issue.*

*Scenic photos of our grounds in Marriottsville,
courtesy of Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center.*

*f*OCUS

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