

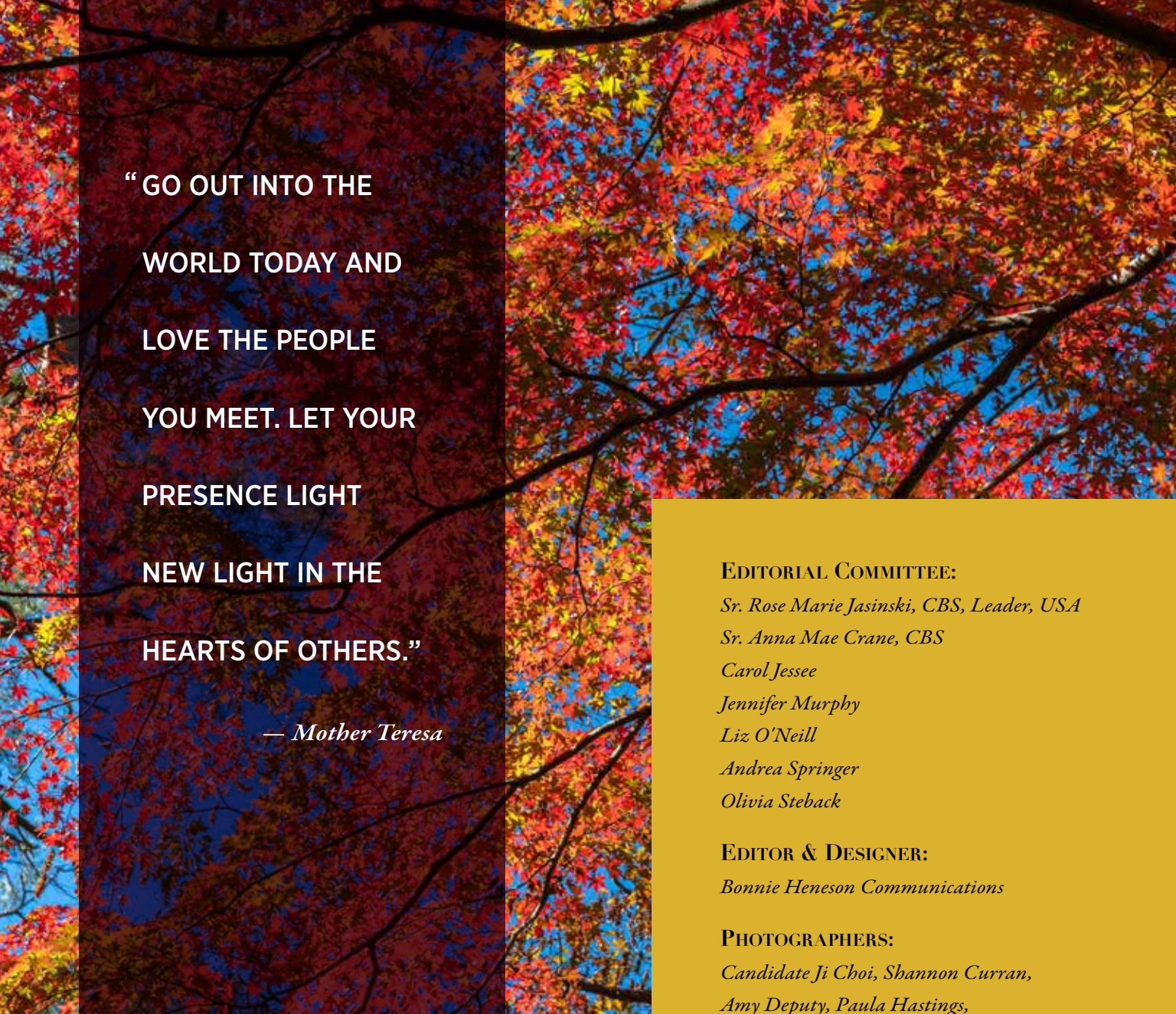
*f*OCUS

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

FALL 2019



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



“GO OUT INTO THE
WORLD TODAY AND
LOVE THE PEOPLE
YOU MEET. LET YOUR
PRESENCE LIGHT
NEW LIGHT IN THE
HEARTS OF OTHERS.”

— *Mother Teresa*

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contents

DEAR FRIENDS

New Congregation Leadership.....	2
Sisters Go Where Needed.....	2
New Vocation Director.....	3
One Year Anniversary of Bon Secours Mercy Health.....	3

FEATURES

The 2019 General Chapter.....	4
Chapter Directives.....	7
Chapter Elections	
Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski.....	8
Sr. Elaine Davia.....	9
Giving Good Help to Those in Need.....	10
Catholic Day of Action.....	14
Statement on the Treatment of Immigrant Children...16	
Sisters at the Southern Border.....	17
Sisters in Peru.....	20
Sisters in Baltimore.....	22
Bon Secours Housing.....	24
Returning Citizens Program.....	25

SISTERS IN MINISTRY

Sr. Pat Dowling, Vocation Coordinator	
for the International Congregation of Sisters of	
Bon Secours.....	26
Sr. Fran Gorsuch, Vocation Director	
for Sisters of Bon Secours, USA.....	27
Srs. Katherine Tierney and Mary Leamy in Ireland.....	28

VOCATION NEWS

2020 Come & Be Weekend.....	30
Thoughts While Brushing My Teeth.....	31

FORMATION NEWS

Sr. Nathalie Lundolo Makes Her First Vows.....	32
--	----

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Events.....	34
First Young Adult Retreat in London.....	34

ASSOCIATE NEWS

Associates Respond to the Needs of Others.....	38
New Identity Statement.....	39

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Ministry Volunteers Gain Insights into Injustices.....	41
Meet Our New Ministry Volunteers.....	44

LIVING OUR MISSION

Dr. Sam Ross.....	46
Nohemy Caicedo.....	46
Tad Butler.....	47

HEALTH SYSTEM NEWS

Stronger as One: First Anniversary	
of Bon Secours Mercy Health.....	48

RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

Upcoming Winter Retreats and Special Events.....	51
Meet Our New Staff.....	52
Dining Rooms Receive a Facelift.....	52

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Sisters' Work with Immigrants Has Deep Roots.....	54
---	----

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Marriottsville Staff and Families Enjoy Summer Fun.....	56
Archbishop William Lori Hosts Reception.....	57
Welcome Sr. Kathleen Moroney.....	57
New Position for Rhonda Hooker.....	57
Welcome New Employees.....	57

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. Mary Rita Nangle.....	58
---------------------------	----

MINISTRY GRANTS

Ministry Grants Awarded to Four Projects.....	60
---	----



DEAR *friends*

It is hard to believe ten years have gone by since I was elected to lead the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. It has been an honor and privilege to guide an extraordinary group of sisters who have given their lives to help others. I could not have done this ministry without the help and support of so many of these sisters and our congregation, the leadership office staff and God's guidance every day. There have been so many wonderful experiences and memories that I will take with me and cherish.

You will be hearing more about my reflections on this special opportunity to serve, and how it has impacted my life, in a future issue of *Focus*. Today, however, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations and good wishes to Sr. Elaine Davia, the newly elected area leader of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. We give her our support and blessings as she embarks on this new journey. I am honored and humbled to have been elected congregation leader and to follow in the footsteps of Sr. Pat Eck. I look forward to assuming this new role as the internationality of our congregation continues to thrive and grow. On the following pages, I invite you to read about our 2019 General Chapter and the congregation's new leadership and Direction Statement. Finally, I congratulate Sr. Nathalie Lundolo, who professed her first vows in October.

Please enjoy the stories in this issue that take our sisters to the southern border, the streets of West Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Peru. This issue has a theme that is especially meaningful to all our sisters. Since the congregation was founded in 1824, the Sisters of Bon Secours go where there is a need and respond to injustices in order to make this a more humane world, whether through individually ministering to the poor, sick or dying, or advocating for systemic change in Washington, D.C. Being "Good Help to Those in Need®" is integral to who we are and how we live our lives. Doing what is right is the only option for us, and often, being on the side of justice is not the popular thing to do. But, as Sisters of Bon Secours, that is who we are.

We are especially grateful to our Bon Secours Associates, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Retreat and Conference Center and Bon Secours Mercy Health staff who join us in this calling. We also acknowledge the important work of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee of the congregation for all of their advocacy work to make our world a better place. Going forward, look for a regular feature in *Focus* from the JPIC Committee.



There have been exciting changes over the past few months in our Vocation Ministry. I am tremendously grateful to Sr. Pat Dowling, who has spent nearly 20 years as the vocation director for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, and we all wish her well as she assumes the responsibilities of the international congregation vocation coordinator. I am also very pleased that Sr. Fran Gorsuch said 'yes' and accepted the vocation director position for the United States. I know Sr. Fran will bring great enthusiasm, energy and new creativity to building upon the existing strong foundation of our Vocation Ministry.

In this issue you will also read about all that has been accomplished since Bon Secours Health System's merger with Mercy Health one year ago, and in July there was another milestone when Bon Secours Health System in Ireland merged with Bon Secours Mercy Health.

It is with a sad heart that we mourn the passing of Sr. Mary Rita Nangle in August. She ministered around the world, and since 1990, she was a familiar face in West Baltimore, serving as patient advocate and then patient visitor at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore. She will be truly missed. We mark with sadness the passing of our

Peruvian Sister Janet Cordova, who died in a minibus accident on a trip between Huacho and Lima visiting with our Bon Secours novices in Peru. We also mourn the death of longtime Associate Dot Burkhart.

I want to welcome our new ministry volunteers and note that this is the 20th anniversary of our very successful Volunteer Ministry program.

With the holiday season soon approaching, I want to wish each of you and your families a very happy and blessed holiday.

Sincerely,



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

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

2019 General Chapter *of the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours*



AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS BEGAN THEIR GENERAL CHAPTER. SISTERS FROM FRANCE, PERU, IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN JOINED THE SISTERS IN THE USA IN MARRIOTTSVILLE, MARYLAND. THE THEME OF THE CHAPTER WAS **“WELCOMING THE FUTURE WITH AUDACIOUS HOPE.”**

The General Chapter was two weeks of prayer, community, conversation, reflection and planning for the direction of our congregation for the next five years. It’s a special time in the life of the congregation, in which the sisters call upon the Holy Spirit to be with us as we review and discern together our life and future, including electing new congregation leadership.

*Newly elected Congregation Team (l to r):
Srs. Rosa Elena Gomez Navarro from Peru,
Elaine Davia from the United States,
Rose Marie Jasinski, Congregation Leader
and Eileen O'Connor from Ireland.*



Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski was elected Congregation Leader and Sr. Elaine Davia was elected Country Leader for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, and a member of the Congregation Team. Also serving on the Congregation Team are Sr. Eileen O'Connor from Ireland and Sr. Rosa Elena Gomez Navarro from Peru.

MISSION FOCUS STATEMENT

WE, WOMEN OF HEALING, COMMIT OURSELVES TO DEFEND AND CARE FOR ALL OF CREATION; TO CRY OUT WITH OTHERS AGAINST INJUSTICE AND ALL THAT DIMINISHES LIFE ON EARTH...

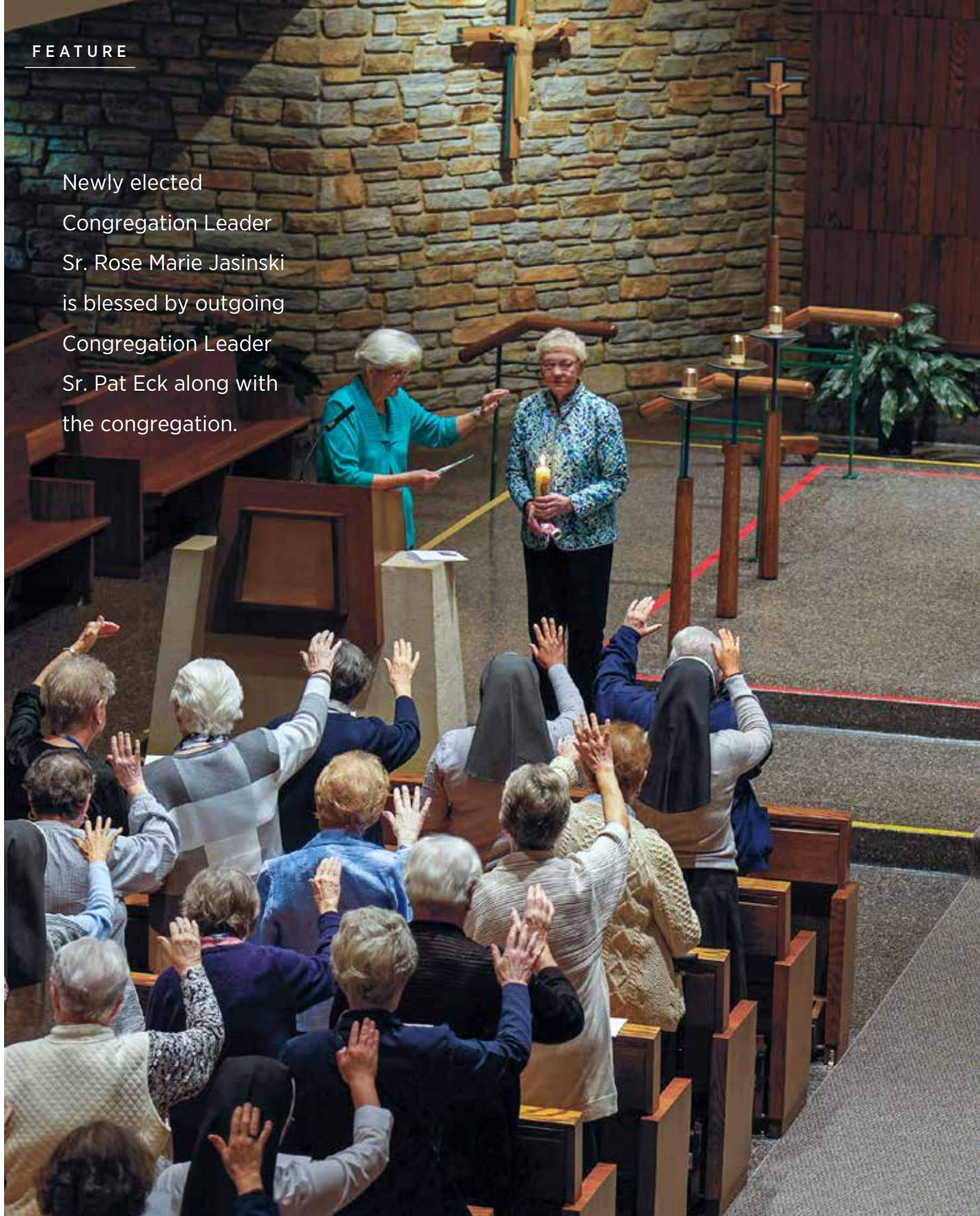


**SISTERS OF BON SECOURS
OF PARIS**

*Honor our past
with gratitude,
Embrace our present
with confidence,
Welcome our future
with hope.*



Newly elected
Congregation Leader
Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski
is blessed by outgoing
Congregation Leader
Sr. Pat Eck along with
the congregation.





Celebrating their Irish heritage (l to r): Associate Maree Lynch, Sr. Bridget O'Sullivan, Young Adult Minister Anne Marie Whelan, Associate Anne Bermingham and Sr. Eileen O'Connor.

2019

CHAPTER DIRECTION STATEMENT

Impelled by the Holy Spirit and renewed by the fire of our original call, we women of audacious hope, nurture each other in our vocation; risk living on the periphery; and as resurrection women respond to what is to come.

IN LIGHT OF THIS WE WILL:

- Boldly address the causes of climate change with others; work to eliminate violence in all forms; and, with knowledge of the causes, alleviate displacement and its ill effects.
- Establish an international community and ministry in the Congo.
- Risk creating an international community and new ministry in Great Britain with the Bon Secours family.
- Commit to a culture of vocation in all of the Bon Secours family.
- Formalize a Bon Secours Young Adult presence in the congregation.
- Preserve the heritage of the Motherhouse in Paris by strengthening the community with an international presence from the Bon Secours family.

We pledge to motivate, support and invite each other to accountability as we individually and communally commit to live out this Chapter Direction Statement flowing from our Mission Focus Statement.



Mother Josephine Potel pays a surprise visit to the Chapter Assembly, led in by (l to r): Srs. Sandra Leon Valladolid and Gumercinda Cordova.

Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski

Elected CONGREGATION LEADER

Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski was elected congregation leader of the international Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours. Sr. Rose Marie, a Baltimore native, just completed 10 years as country leader for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, and served on the Congregation Team.

The Congregation of Bon Secours is comprised of sisters from five countries: the United States, France, Great Britain, Ireland and Peru. The congregation's international offices are on the Marriottsville Campus.

Prior to serving as leader of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, Sr. Rose Marie was senior vice president of sponsorship for Bon Secours Health System, serving local health systems in Kentucky at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital and in South Carolina at St. Francis hospitals. Sr. Rose Marie's professional career has included ministries in nursing in the Bon Secours hospitals and Bon Secours Home Hospice Program in Baltimore, Maryland.

In addition to serving on the Congregation Team, she served in leadership positions with the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, for many years.

Sr. Rose Marie currently serves on the board of directors of Mercy Housing and Bon Secours Mercy Ministries. She also recently served on the national board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.



After graduating from the Bon Secours School of Nursing in 1963, Sr. Rose Marie entered the community in 1965. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University and a master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

"I am honored and privileged to have been elected to lead the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours at this time and will continue to build on the rich tradition of those very strong women who have gone before me while helping the congregation evolve to meet today's needs. It has been such a gift in my life to be part of this community and to have shared in the dramatic shifts and changes over the past 55 years," says Sr. Rose Marie. "I am forever grateful for my time spent on the previous Congregation Team under Sister Pat Eck's leadership. It was inspiring, challenging and filled with many positive, hopeful outcomes that have brought us to today."

Outgoing Congregation Leader Sr. Pat Eck said, "We are so pleased to welcome our new Congregation Team. We are thrilled that Sr. Rose Marie has accepted the leadership of the congregation for these next five years. She brings great experience and creativity to this calling and will lead with care and audacious hope. We are so blessed as we boldly step into the future."

Sr. Elaine Davia

Elected AREA LEADER OF BON SECOURS, USA

Sr. Elaine Davia was elected area leader for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, and will be a member of the Congregation Team. She joined the Sisters of Bon Secours in 1964 and professed her final vows in 1975. Most of Sr. Elaine's ministerial life as a Sister of Bon Secours has been working as a family nurse practitioner. Her focus has been on helping people stay well with a special calling toward being with the economically poor.



Sr. Elaine was a nurse practitioner at several Bon Secours facilities on the east coast, working in rural and urban areas. She served at Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, from 1990-1998 and opened a clinic for the underinsured. Sr. Elaine opened a clinic in 1998 in Arcadia, Florida, caring for migrant farm workers until 2005. Additionally, she ministered briefly in South America and Appalachia.

In recent years, Sr. Elaine was a nurse practitioner at Access Carroll in Westminster, Maryland, and Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore. Among the boards she has served on are Bon Secours Health System, Bon Secours Hampton Roads, Mary Immaculate Hospital

and the National Religious Formation Conference. She currently serves on the board of Bon Secours Mercy Ministries.

Over the past 15 years, Sr. Elaine has been formation director for the Sisters of Bon Secours and has held additional leadership positions through her years with the Sisters of Bon Secours.

She graduated from the Bon Secours School of Nursing, where she earned her registered nurse diploma in 1970. She continued her education, earning certification as a family nurse practitioner from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, a Bachelor of Science in liberal science from Regents College, SUNY in New York and a Master of Science in pastoral counseling from Loyola College in Baltimore.

"I am moved and humbled to be invited into this role and also excited as I look forward to working with the new team and sisters in implementing the new directional statements from our chapter. Thank you to all who have offered prayer and support for me in this time of transition," says Sr. Elaine.





Sr. Elaine Davia and Amy Kulesa participate in Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children at the Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Raising Our Voices to be Good Help to Those in Need

by SR. MARY BETH HAMM, SSJ
*Coordinator, Congregation Justice
Peace and Integrity of Creation*

The history of the Congregation of Bon Secours is a history of being on the move to be “Good Help to Those in Need.” As you read this issue of *Focus*, it is abundantly clear that the sisters cover quite a bit of territory — three continents — and find themselves in ordinary and extraordinary places sharing their charism on behalf of so many. Whether volunteering at the U.S./Mexico border to assist immigrants, traveling to London to foster the spiritual life of young adults or ministering to our neighbors in West Baltimore or remote areas of Peru, the sisters can be found offering healing and wholeness to those who cross their paths.

“WHO WILL SPEAK FOR THE
POOR AND THE BROKEN?
WHO WILL SPEAK FOR THE
PEOPLES OPPRESSED? WHO
WILL SPEAK WITH THEM SO
THEIR VOICE WILL BE HEARD?
WHO WILL SPEAK IF WE DON'T?”

— MARTY HAUGEN
WHO WILL SPEAK IF WE DON'T



Sister in Peru helping mother and family.

Along with the myriad ways the sisters offer direct service to those in need, they also take to heart the words “Who Will Speak If We Don’t” from the familiar liturgical song quoted (*at left*) and engage in works of justice. Using our voices on behalf of people and our planet to change policies and systems that foster suffering and injustice has taken the sisters to the streets of Washington, D.C., the halls of Congress and to corporate boardrooms. ►

Our commitment to end violence in all forms compelled the Bon Secours family to participate in the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C., last year, and since that time, we continue to advocate for gun safety through our partnerships with Faith United Against Gun Violence and Everytown for Gun Safety. Through our membership in the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, we are using our voice to challenge two gun manufacturers, American Outdoor Brands and Sturm, Ruger and Company, to address gun safety and provide leadership in their industry. We asked both companies to report to their shareholders on their activities related to gun safety, including research to produce safer guns and accessories, as well as enhanced monitoring of violent events involving their products with an eye to preempting these risks.

As women of compassion, we have been saddened by the images of immigrant children in detention at the U.S. southern border who are cold, hungry, lonely, scared and without the loving presence of parents to console them in their suffering. These images, as well as the images of the children who have died in U.S. custody, impelled us to participate in the Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., this past July and cry out to Congress to, “Stop the Inhumanity.” On World Refugee Day, also in July, those of us in Marriottsville wrote letters that were delivered to Maryland Representative Elijah Cummings’ office urging Congress to close the “detention camps,” to reunite families that have been separated and to support the GRACE Act* and No Ban Act.**

* The GRACE Act: The Guaranteed Refugee Admissions Ceiling Enhancement Act, H.R. 2146 & S.1088 would set a minimum floor for the annual refugee admissions goal at 95,000 - the historic average - and increase oversight over the administration through mandatory reporting requirements to Congress. The current refugee goal is 30,000.

**No Ban Act: The National Origin-Based Anti-discrimination for Nonimmigrants Act, H.R. 2214 & S.1123 would repeal the executive orders that have halted refugee admissions, banned individuals from a number of Muslim-majority countries and barred individuals from seeking asylum between ports of entry. In addition, it would strengthen the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit religious discrimination and limit overly broad executive authority to issue such bans.



Sisters offer help to children at the U.S. southern border wall.

As women of healing, defending and caring for all creation, we have used our voices along with other shareholders to urge our senators to support the Green New Deal and expressed our opposition to the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ new rule to replace the 2015 Waters of the U.S. Rule that will result in a rollback of Clean Water Act protections for a majority of our nation’s streams and wetlands.

Our congregation documents remind us that, **“As Sisters of Bon Secours, the struggle for a more humane world is not an option; it is an integral part of spreading the gospel, and involvement in social justice issues is an important part of who we are as Sisters of Bon Secours.”**

We take this commitment seriously and invite you, our readers, to join us in creating a future full of hope for our common home, earth, and all her people that God so loves.



Father and son refugees recuperate at a shelter in El Paso, Texas, after crossing the U.S. southern border.

STOP the Inhumanity: END Child Detention

A CONTINGENCY OF BON SECOURS SISTERS, ASSOCIATES, YOUNG ADULTS AND EMPLOYEES COMPRISED THE BON SECOURS FAMILY WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CATHOLIC DAY OF ACTION FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON JULY 18, 2019.

This public prayer concluded with pictures of deceased immigrant children laying on the frigid floor of the rotunda in the Russell Senate Office Building. Instead of finding safe haven in the United States as those seeking asylum have done for centuries, these children were subjected to cold, inhumane treatment that resulted in their deaths.

Prior to being arrested, five protesters lay on their backs to form a human cross on the floor of the rotunda. Additional protestors formed a circle around them. Everyone prayed aloud, sang and recited the names of the deceased children, as they surrendered peacefully to the arresting officers and had their hands zip-tied behind their backs. These acts of civil disobedience were designed to relay a simple and clear message to Congress and the President of the United States: stop the inhumanity; end child detention.



by JENIFER KIRIN
Special Collections Archivist

While the Bon Secours family did not participate in the civil disobedience, we supported the protest and used our voices and displayed printed materials that reinforced the Statement on the Treatment of Immigrant Children (*see page 16*) at the U.S. southern border issued by the Sisters of Bon Secours. We were there, both inside and outside of the Russell Senate Office Building, to illustrate the commitment expressed in the statement “to embody Jesus’ clarion call to ‘welcome the stranger.’”

We cried out against inhumane treatment as prompted by the speakers at the event. We sang. We heard the words of mistreated children read by volunteers. We chanted. We listened as supportive letters from seven Bishops were read aloud. We prayed aloud. We spoke as one: STOP THE INHUMANITY.

In front of the Capitol Police and the news media, we stood calmly with our Sisters of Bon Secours banner visible. Like those who were arrested, we held up pictures of the children from Guatemala and El Salvador who died prematurely because the individuals hired by the U.S. government to process them subjected them to conditions that were not suitable for human beings. We also carried signs that read: stop the inhumanity; end child detention.

The Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children was the first of three phases of activity demanding a cessation to child detention. The Sisters of Bon Secours will continue to support the next phases of action.

Members of the Bon Secours family participate in the Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children in Washington, D.C.



Treatment of Immigrant Children

AT THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN BORDER

The Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, are deeply grieved by the images of immigrant children detained in cages, separated from family members, and living in unsanitary, unhealthy conditions that have outraged our nation in recent weeks.

As women of compassion, we open our hearts to these children who are cold, hungry, lonely, scared and without the loving presence of parents to console them in their suffering. Today the Bon Secours family—sisters, associates, employees and young adults—join hundreds of other Catholic organizations in the Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children in Washington, D.C., to say, “Stop the Inhumanity.” We will not cease to raise our voice in condemnation of the “concentration camps” and the horrific conditions under which these migrant children suffer at our southern border.

With Pope Francis, we believe, “Migrants are persons. They are the symbol of all those rejected by today’s globalized society. The weakest and most vulnerable must be helped.”

To our migrant brothers and sisters and especially to the children, we reiterate our promise to accompany you on your journey, not only through our prayers for your safety and security, but also through our continued advocacy for just and humane migration policies. We commit ourselves to embody Jesus’ clarion call to “welcome the stranger” so that your arduous journey to the United States will truly be a journey of hope and welcome.

Sr. Elaine Davia walks along the wall at the U.S. southern border.



Srs. Elaine Davia and Nathalie Lundolo give comfort to children at the border wall.

“IF WE FOCUS ON THE MEANING OF BON SECOURS ‘GOOD HELP,’ IT IS WHAT WE WANT TO LEAVE IN THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE FLED TO ESCAPE VIOLENCE AND POVERTY.”

— SR. ROSA CRISTINA SANCHEZ CHIGNE

SISTERS HELP

at the Southern Border

A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IS HAPPENING AT THE UNITED STATES’ SOUTHERN BORDER WITH MEXICO.

An unprecedented number of people are fleeing the violence and poverty of their homelands and flooding the small border communities in Texas. This spring, there was a huge spike in migration — especially of families with children — and the nonprofit organizations that provide much needed housing and services were stretched to capacity.

It takes tremendous stamina to work on the frontlines of the southern border. Volunteers were exhausted and needed relief. Annunciation House, a Catholic organization that operates a network of hospitality shelters and services in El Paso, Texas, sent a plea for help. The Sisters of Bon Secours, along with hundreds of other religious communities, answered the call. In the following weeks, two groups of sisters worked at a shelter for refugees in El Paso, Texas. Srs. Rosa Cristina Sanchez Chigne and Gabriela Ruiz Espinoza went in April, and Srs. Elaine Davia, Nathalie Lundolo and Jennifer Doyle went in July. ▶

The sisters worked nonstop, and they did everything from housekeeping to providing emotional support. They cleaned toilets, mopped floors, made sandwiches, changed bed linens and washed loads of laundry because almost everyone arrived in dirty clothes.

“After a hot meal, the first thing each new group of people wanted was a shower and clean clothes,” says Sr. Rosa. “Every person had a story to tell about their journey. I felt very fortunate that Spanish is my native language because I was able to communicate directly.”

Sr. Elaine describes her experience at the border as, “very intense and moving.” As a licensed nurse practitioner, she treated people with medical issues and consulted volunteer physicians for more seniors conditions. She treated many people for wounds on their feet due to the extreme journeys they had taken on foot. Most of her patients were parents with young children. She also registered people as they entered the shelter and says, “I never saw any of the gangsters or terrorists that political leaders say are coming across the border. I only met people desperately fleeing



Sr. Jennifer Doyle enjoys holding an immigrant child while he plays with her crucifix.

their own countries and trying to escape the poverty caused by powers beyond their control.”

People came to the shelter after receiving approval from the U.S. government and being released from detention. The sisters cared for them during the 24-48 hours they needed to recuperate and make travel plans to connect with family or friends in the United States. They needed rides to the bus station and airport, and Sr. Jenn was often the person who drove them. She says, “I cannot imagine having such a long and difficult journey, travelling thousands of miles, and still being able to smile.”

Sr. Jenn also made packets of bedding and hygiene

Flip Flops MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“There was a large room at the shelter filled with donated clothes, undergarments and racks of shoes,” says Liz O’Neill. “People were sorting through things, and a man said, ‘All I need is a pair of flip flops.’ After everything he had been through, that was such a simple request.” Liz and Sr. Jennifer Doyle went to Walmart, filled their car with flip flops in every size and color and brought them back to the shelter.

Small shopping bags were also needed—to hold the flip flops and a change of clothes along with snacks, paperwork, maps, bus and airline tickets and all the items someone might carry as they traveled across the United States to connect with friends or family.

With Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski’s support, Liz organized a flip flop and reusable shopping bag drive at the Marriottsville campus. The response was overwhelming. Hundreds of flip flops and reusable shopping bags were donated to the main shelter in El Paso.

supplies and cared for the children at the shelter. She reorganized a closet into a dedicated baby pantry, and like everyone else, she helped with the never-ending task of doing the laundry. She says, “The days were definitely long, and every night we worked much later than expected.” However, she looked forward to each new day and the opportunities it presented to help someone in need.

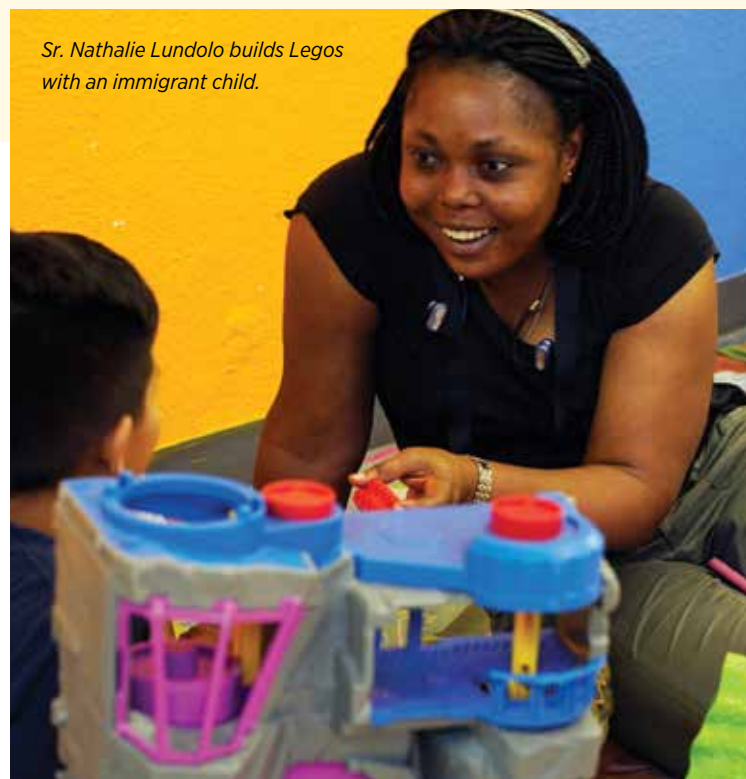
Sr. Nathalie recalled whole days spent doing laundry and preparing packets of clothes and shoe donations for new arrivals. She often worked in a room filled with donations. She folded and organized clothing and helped people find clothes for themselves and their families. She also spent time caring for the children at the shelter and was especially moved by an art exhibit she later saw at the University of Texas titled “Uncaged Art” created by children who had been held in detention.

Liz O’Neill, director of communications for the Sisters of Bon Secours, was granted special permission to join the second group of sisters in El Paso and document their work at the border. With a background in photojournalism working for humanitarian relief organizations, Liz has experience working with immigrants and refugees. Her photographs featured with this story capture a small slice of life at the border and beautifully illustrate the sisters’ compassion.

“After their long and harrowing journey, the people arriving at the shelter were so happy to see the sisters,” says Liz. “There was an immediate and obvious connection between them.” She describes Sr. Elaine’s interactions with complete strangers, as she gave them medical attention, “I could feel the caring; it was palpable. People of all ages felt comfortable with the sisters.”

Liz fondly remembers Sr. Jenn holding a toddler and the huge smile on her face and the curious look on his as he inspected her crucifix. She describes Sr. Nathalie sitting on the floor of the playroom and building Legos with children, many still with numbers written on their hands, a remnant of their stay in detention. After so much trauma, the children were calm and relaxed.

“It was obvious these people felt really loved by the sisters,” says Liz. “From a photographer’s standpoint, I sometimes had to stop and get a hold on my emotions. I witnessed the sisters in action, living out their charism as they cared for these people, and it was unforgettable.”



Sr. Nathalie Lundolo builds Legos with an immigrant child.



Sister in Peru distributes fresh fruit to school children.

Sisters in Peru *Bring Hope*

GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS BRING THE MESSAGE OF HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF PERU, WHERE 50% OF THE POPULATION LIVES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL. THE SISTERS ARE MOVED BY THE WORDS OF MOTHER ANGELIQUE GEAY.

“WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR THE POOR? MY GREATEST DISTRESS IS THE SUFFERING OF THE POOR.”

— MOTHER ANGELIQUE GEAY, FOUNDER, CBS

The Peruvian sisters live very simply, often in the most impoverished areas, caring for the people they serve through ministries in health care, education and evangelization.

“These ministries address and support the needs of the most vulnerable and defenseless, especially women, children and young people,” says Area Leader of Peru Sr. Rosalinda Pajuelo Ureña.

The sisters support a vast range of programs to help alleviate the suffering that is so prevalent in the regions where they serve. They offer a scholarship program to help guide and educate young people, so they can be agents of transformation in their communities. They have established a nutrition program in order to combat childhood anemia, and they provide student dining rooms — places where children from rural areas, who walk three to four hours a day to get to school, can have a place to eat before their journey home. The sisters have also opened a shelter for children at risk and are currently in the process of establishing a shelter for battered women, where they will provide a transitional home for women along with spiritual accompaniment, psychological and legal support.

Many communities in Peru do not have access to safe drinking water. Together with Bon Secours Associates, the sisters provide water filters to families and teach local women how to use the water filters, so they will be able to train more women in the future.

Sister in Peru gives vitamins to a young child.



Sister in Peru distributes medicine and first aid kits.

After catastrophic flooding in 2017 from an El Niño event, Bon Secours Health System was one of the first international organizations to respond, sending more than 3,500 pounds of medicine. The Sisters of Bon Secours in Peru brought mobile clinics to the hardest hit regions and treated as many as 200 people a day for wounds, infections and waterborne illnesses. The sisters’ health ministry continues to supply medicine and first aid kits.

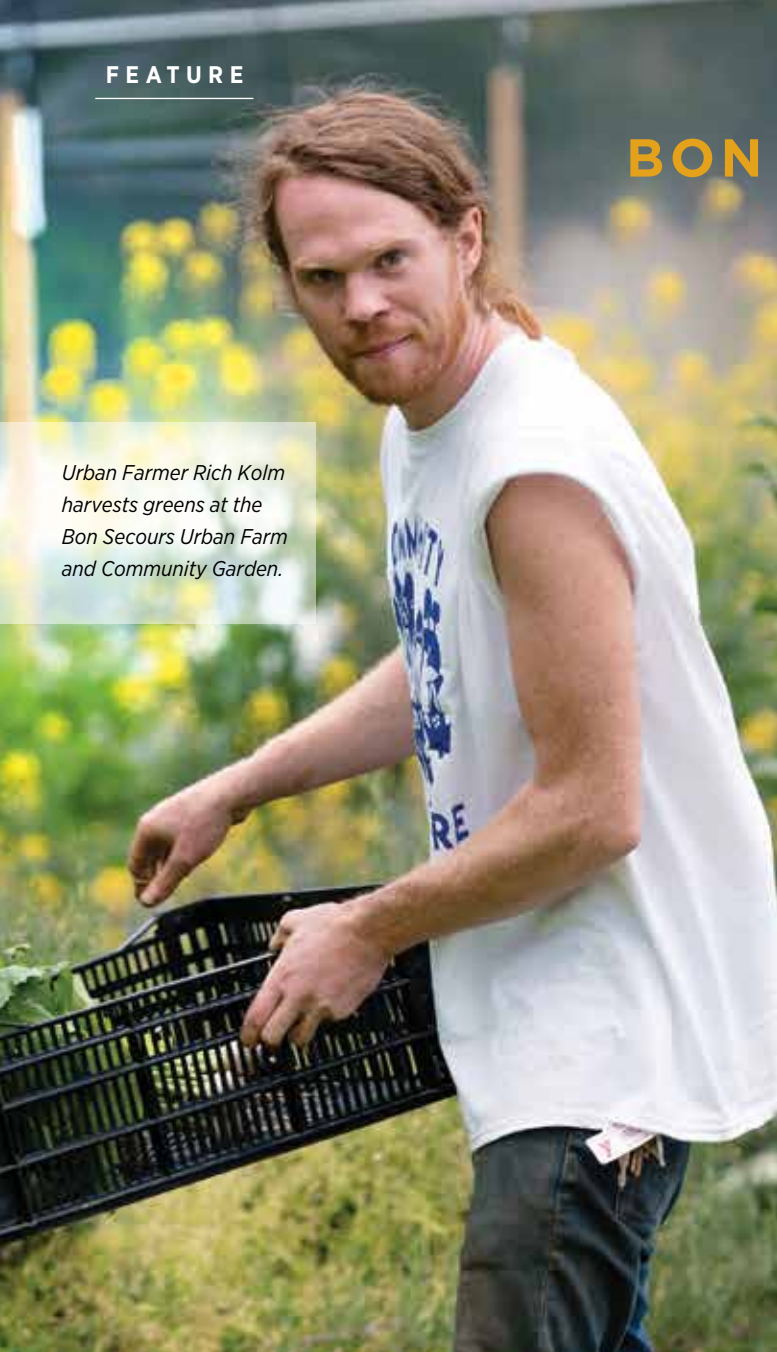
In addition to caring for physical needs, the Sisters of Bon Secours provide spiritual support and help people find comfort and peace by sharing the love of Jesus.

Sr. Rosalinda says, “We are truly blessed by our good God for allowing us to live our charism of compassion, healing and liberation in such a fragmented world.”

BON SECOURS

Community
SISTERS IN BALTIMORE

Urban Farmer Rich Kolm harvests greens at the Bon Secours Urban Farm and Community Garden.



STEEPED IN THE TRADITION OF NURSING PATIENTS AT HOME, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS RECOGNIZED THAT IMPROVING A PATIENT'S HEALTH INVOLVED CARING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD.

“It’s a great metaphor for community health,” says Julie Mercer, president of Bon Secours Baltimore Foundation. “You cannot just take care of one person. You have to look at what the community needs.”

The sisters partnered with the West Baltimore community on a grassroots level providing services outside of hospital walls that addressed social determinants of health. For example, in the founding days, they opened the city’s first day care for children, and they kept a cow and vegetable garden on the convent grounds and supplied local residents with fresh milk and produce. “The sisters forged a model of health care decades before the term ‘population health’ existed,” says Julie.

This multifaceted approach to well-being led to the opening of Bon Secours Community Works in 1991, a one-stop organization offering multiple



◀ *Mobile market delivers fresh produce from Bon Secours’ urban farm and the Maryland Food Bank to communities in West Baltimore.*

Works

A volunteer from Celebrate US Workforce Training guides a child on how to plant seeds.



The Bon Secours Community Works and Future Baltimore teams pose with Baltimore Police Sgt. Arthur Page Jr. Pictured (l to r): Colin Smith, Maha Sampath, Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, Sgt. Page Jr., Tona Craviotto and Yolanda Jiggetts.

services to improve overall health. “We keep the community at the heart of everything,” says Maha Sampath, executive director of community health for Bon Secours Mercy Health, “Our strength is that we provide a range of services all under one roof.”

These services and programs include workforce development, youth employment, tutoring in reading and math, GED preparation, financial education and counseling, public benefits enrollment, eviction prevention assistance, Early Head Start child development and parenting classes, a women’s day shelter, affordable housing, and much like days of past, an urban farm that provides fresh produce and supports a mobile market.

The Sisters of Bon Secours have a remarkable history in Baltimore, and through Bon Secours Community Works, they continue to play a significant role in the health and well-being of its residents.



Pictured (l to r): Sr. Mary Shimo, Shakira Foster of Bon Secours Clean & Green Landscaping and Sr. Anne Lutz celebrate the launch of the Future Baltimore Mobile Market and Community Supported Agricultural program.

BON SECOURS HOUSING *Revitalizes West Baltimore*

West Baltimore has endured many challenges that were exacerbated by a rapid acceleration of vacancies and abandoned properties. As businesses and institutions moved out, the Sisters of Bon Secours made a commitment to stay. “The sisters have been embedded in the neighborhood for more than 100 years. The needs of the community are not an abstract concept to them,” says George Kleb, executive director of housing and community development for Bon Secours Mercy Health.

In the 1990s, George and Sr. Nancy Glynn participated in extensive community outreach. Sr. Nancy says, “We established a partnership of concerned organizations and community members and sought funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

and multiple resources to rehabilitate abandoned properties.” These efforts launched comprehensive revitalization that continues today through Bon Secours Housing, a community and economic development program of Bon Secours Community Works.

Bon Secours Housing developed and maintains 802 affordable units for low- and moderate-income seniors, families and people with disabilities and recently celebrated a groundbreaking for the Future Baltimore Community Resource Center, a renovation of a former library building that has been abandoned for 20 years. It will house a gym, a community meeting room, an indoor basketball court, a computer lab, a commercial kitchen and offices to assist residents and their needs.

Pictured (l to r): Srs. Rose Marie Jasinski, Fran Gorsuch, Alice Talone, Pat Dowling, Mary Shimo and Anne Lutz at the groundbreaking for the Future Baltimore Community Resource Center.





Pictured (l to r): Anees Rahim and Sr. Mary Shimo with Returning Citizens graduate and Community Works staff.

“JESUS, ST. PAUL AND PETER ALL SPENT TIME IN PRISON, AND LOOK WHAT THEY ACHIEVED WITH THEIR LIVES.”

— SR. MARY SHIMO

RETURNING CITIZENS PROGRAM

Life After Prison

A disproportionately large percentage of people released from prison return to the West Baltimore community served by Bon Secours Community Works. Quite often, these individuals have little social or financial support. Faced with the stigma of a criminal record, they struggle to find employment and housing. Adjusting to life outside of prison becomes an insurmountable challenge.

Bon Secours Community Works gives hope to people who have been incarcerated through the Returning Citizens program, a 12-week course that addresses the challenges of reintegration and teaches life skills and coping mechanisms in a positive, collaborative environment.

“This program provides men and women being released from prison a real opportunity to succeed,” says Sr. Mary Shimo who has been involved with the program since its inception in Baltimore. “In my ministry, I have worked with inmates and learned about their many difficulties. This program is very practical in its approach and deals with the many pitfalls returning citizens confront.”

“Participants are taught how to strengthen their support networks and rebuild relationships with family and significant others. It helps them realize they have to change their lives — hold a job, make new friends and find new places to be,” says Anees Rahim, outreach coordinator and curriculum facilitator for the Returning Citizens program. “The program provides job training and work-skill certificates along with motivational coaching to help make those changes possible.” Graduates receive comprehensive follow-up services through Community Works’ Career Development Program.

Returning Citizens partners with the Maryland State Bar Association to expunge participants’ criminal records and significantly improve their employment opportunities.

“There is so much joy when a person learns they can finally pass a background check and get a job,” says Sr. Mary. The Returning Citizens program serves a population that has long been neglected. It liberates them from a prison mindset and provides a bridge to societal life.

Sr. Pat Dowling

Vocation Coordinator

CONGREGATION OF BON SECOURS



Sr. Pat Dowling has been named vocation coordinator for the international Congregation of Bon Secours. In this role, she will coordinate vocation efforts for the congregation worldwide and work closely with the congregation's vocation directors and promoters in the United States, Ireland, Great Britain, France and Peru.

"I am so excited that Sr. Pat Dowling has accepted this role. We have identified vocation as a primary work of the congregation and could not have a better prepared and experienced person to lead this new initiative," says Congregation Leader Sr. Pat Eck.

Sr. Pat Dowling entered the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, in 1977 and professed her final vows in 1988. She has held positions in health care administration in many Bon Secours facilities and spent several years on a mission with the Sisters of Bon Secours in Riobamba, Ecuador. In 1997, she became director of the Bon Secours Women's Resource Center in West Baltimore,

and in 2000, she became director of vocation for the Sisters of Bon Secours, a role she has held for the past 18 years.

"Lots of memories are playing in my mind as I go through the files, papers and memorabilia of the last 18 years. It is hard to believe it has been that long. The numerous women I have accompanied in discerning their call and the hundreds I have talked with, corresponded with or attempted to contact are very much present in this space. I am blessed beyond imagining with the privilege of helping individuals to discover their deepest desires and call from God. The vocation ministry is truly humbling and one that I will always cherish," says Sr. Pat.

"As I assume this new role, I am excited by the opportunity the Sisters of Bon Secours have to reach out to women around the globe who are considering religious life. We are responding to inquiries from women in Africa, South America and Europe as well as from countries where we are not located. It is a unique position for most congregations. However, our congregation leadership is committed to exploring beyond our geographic boundaries. It fits who we are today as a global congregation that shares resources across countries."

Sr. Pat has been a member of the board of directors of Bon Secours Health System, Bon Secours Ministries and Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation, where she served as president of the board. In the congregation, she has served as secretary/treasurer of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA, Leadership Team, chaired the international vocation committee and the ministry grants committee, served on the international investment committee and many congregation task forces. She has also been a part of the National Vocation Conference.

Sr. Pat earned a bachelor's degree in hotel, restaurant and travel administration from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and a master's degree in health service administration from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Sr. Fran Gorsuch

Vocation Director

SISTERS OF BON SECOURS, USA

Sr. Fran Gorsuch has been named vocation director for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. She follows longtime Vocation Director Sr. Pat Dowling, who held the position for the past 18 years and who has assumed the position of vocation coordinator for the international Congregation of Bon Secours.

“ I KNOW SR. FRAN WILL BRING GREAT ENTHUSIASM, ENERGY AND NEW CREATIVITY TO BUILDING UPON THE EXISTING STRONG FOUNDATION OF OUR VOCATION MINISTRY. ”

— SR. ROSE MARIE JASKINSKI
LEADER, SISTERS OF BON SECOURS, USA

In 2002, Sr. Fran transferred from the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart to the Sisters of Bon Secours, where she has ministered since 2000. Sr. Fran joined the Mission Helpers in 1963 and took her final vows in 1971. Over the past 56 years, she has ministered in North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia, Delaware, New York and Maryland.

From 1981 to 2000, Sr. Fran served in vocation, formation and congregational leadership in her community, as well as working in Baltimore with parents in Head Start and as a pastoral associate in St. Jerome’s parish. In 2000, she moved to Suffern, New York, to minister at Bon Secours Good Samaritan Hospital, where she was vice president for mission and then director of community initiatives. She returned to Baltimore in 2015 and has been serving



at Bon Secours Hospital as the coordinator of trauma-informed care. She also works closely with the young adults of the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry serving in West Baltimore.

When commenting on her new position Sr. Fran says, “What could possibly be more life giving than sharing what I love with others? This for me is the heart of our Vocation Ministry— helping other women listen to God’s invitation as it resonates with their own deepest desires. I hope to help others realize that life in community and ministry as a Sister of Bon Secours can be tremendously fulfilling and exciting. We have a future full of hope, and I am privileged to be part of it.”

Sr. Fran is currently a member of the Bon Secours Mercy Health board of directors, the Ethics Committee of Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore and the International Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee of the congregation. Additionally, she represents the Sisters of Bon Secours on the UNANIMA International board of directors. Sr. Fran has also been a part of the Vocation VIII team of the Sisters of Bon Secours and their vocation and formation committee.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore and a master’s degree in divinity from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Srs. Katherine Tierney & Mary Leamy



SRS. KATHERINE TIERNEY AND MARY LEAMY ARE MEMBERS OF THE BON SECOURS INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COMMITTEE IN IRELAND. THE MAIN MINISTRIES OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION AND CARE OF CREATION AND NONVIOLENCE. ACTIVITIES THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED IN INCLUDE:

Ecological Conversion and Care of Creation

Ecological conversion is based very much on Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* on care of our common home. The sisters in Ireland educate other sisters and groups on the message of the encyclical and provide practical suggestions on what they can do to care for creation.

Some of the things our sisters in Ireland do and encourage others to do are:

- Grow one's own vegetables and buy locally grown food
- Manage waste responsibly
- Recycle plastics, papers and tins
- Reduce use of plastics such as plastic bottles and wrappings
- Composte waste food and other compostable material such as garden produce
- Upcycle suitable waste materials into new products
- Use clean energy sources such as solar panels
- Divest from fossil fuels
- Reduce carbon footprint by using public transportation, walking or cycling when possible
- Change from diesel to petrol in cars and aim to move to electric or hybrid cars long term



Sr. Margaret Mary waters the vegetable garden she and Sr. Michelle planted as part of their efforts to grow their own vegetables to help combat the effects of climate change.

Both Srs. Katherine and Mary are members of a justice group in a local parish that participates in care of the earth projects. The parish has become a member of Eco-Congregation Ireland which promotes care of the earth through education. The justice group is also involved in homelessness and how the homeless can be helped.

Our sisters in Ireland also support projects in Africa such as The Great Green Wall of Africa. Initiated in 2007, thirteen countries are working together to plant a "wall" of drought resistant trees from East to West Africa, under the southern edge of the Sahara desert. The project aims to grow an 8,000-kilometer belt of trees, 15 kilometers wide, across the entire continent of Africa. The hope is to reverse the desertification of land south of the Sahara.

Ministry in IRELAND

Priests from the sisters' parish are members of the Society of Missionaries of Africa and work in many African countries coordinating the support given to these projects.

Nonviolence

Srs. Katherine and Mary are involved with several groups combating violence in Ireland including Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE) and Mercy Efforts for Child Protection against trafficking. The latter group collaborates with the hospitality sector in Ireland to raise awareness and empower hotel staff to aid in prevention. Hotel staff are the most likely to encounter victims, as traffickers seek to take advantage of the

privacy and anonymity of hotels. When hotel staff recognize possible signs of abuse, they are in a position to alert authorities who can deal with the situation.

Recently our sisters in Ireland have become involved with Cork Against Human Trafficking (CAHT), a Cork city group working against sexual violence by making people aware of trafficking through seminars, workshops and talks. The Bon Secours staff are very supportive and regularly help through fundraising.

Pax Christi International helps to keep the sisters up to date on nonviolence issues. The Bon Secours Congregation gives financial support to Pax Christi International, RENATE and other groups working against violence.



*Pictured (l to r):
Srs. Katherine Tierney
and Mary Leamy
(front row)
demonstrated in
Cork against human
trafficking with
their colleagues
(back row).*

APRIL 3-5
2020
COME & BE
WEEKEND



Sr. Fran Gorsuch giving communion.

COME & BE with us on Palm Sunday weekend, April 3-5, 2020. This retreat is open to single Catholic women ages 20-39. It is an opportunity to step aside and enter the holiest week of the year along with the Sisters of Bon Secours. Learn about our life in community, our prayer and our ministries. We will each bring an open heart and give God a chance to open us even further. There will be time for quiet, prayer, meals and sharing, and of course sleep. Our grounds invite reflection and awe at the wonder-filled gifts of God's creation.

For more information, contact Sr. Fran Gorsuch at 410-442-3171 or email us at CBSeVocations@bshsi.org. Also, check our website for dates and times of our chat room discussions.

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



@FranTheNun
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Imagine a Sister's Life



Thoughts

by SR. FRAN GORSUCH
Vocation Director
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

WHILE BRUSHING MY TEETH...

Several months ago I was asked an unexpected question: Would I be willing to serve as vocation director for the Sisters of Bon Secours in the United States?

To my surprise, my heart responded “yes,” although I was not yet ready to say the word aloud. I prayed, talked with some friends who know me well and discerned that I would say yes, but the embers in my heart were not yet quite aflame with the idea. I had served in this ministry many years ago and know how much has changed since then, and yet believe that God’s voice still prompts, nudges, cajoles and invites women and men to a vowed life of community and ministry. Then, something happened that ignited the embers into a flame...

I was brushing my teeth one morning shortly after when, from the deepest recesses of my heart and soul, a small still voice said, “Nathalie, Jenn and Ji deserve to have women invited to journey with them.” Their faces then flashed before my mind’s eye. I was overwhelmed with love and care for them. Nathalie, Jenn and Ji are three wonder-filled women who are currently in the early stages of their life as Sisters of Bon Secours, and my graced ministry is to help other women discern if they are being called to life with us as well.

After dancing down the stairs to my car, I drove to the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center to go to my office. On the way into the building, I picked out a prayer stone at the reception desk (which I seldom do) and on it was written, “rebirth.” Talk about being hit over the head by the soft wind of the Holy Spirit. I got the message, and I am thankful every day for this grace. Now the real work of continuing to listen to the spirit within myself, my community and the women with whom I walk begins. I ask for your prayers that together we will see clearly the needs of our world for the gifts of healing, compassion and liberation so that together we might respond with alacrity of spirit.



SR. NATHALIE



SR. JENN



CANDIDATE JI

Sr. Nathalie

Journey to Making Her First Vows

SR. NATHALIE LUNDOLO
PROFESSED HER FIRST VOWS
THIS FALL. HERE SHE SHARES HER
THOUGHTS LEADING UP TO THIS
VERY SPECIAL MOMENT:

Before I joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours, I did one year of my vocation discernment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my home country, followed by two years of candidacy in France. By God's grace, I was accepted into the novitiate for two years of religious canonical formation in the USA.

During these years of formation, with the friendship and accompaniment of the Sisters and Bon Secours family, I have experienced how to live a community life and deepened my knowledge of the charism and the history of the congregation and of the evangelical counsels. In addition, I have been accompanied spiritually by good priests.



FIRST
VOWS

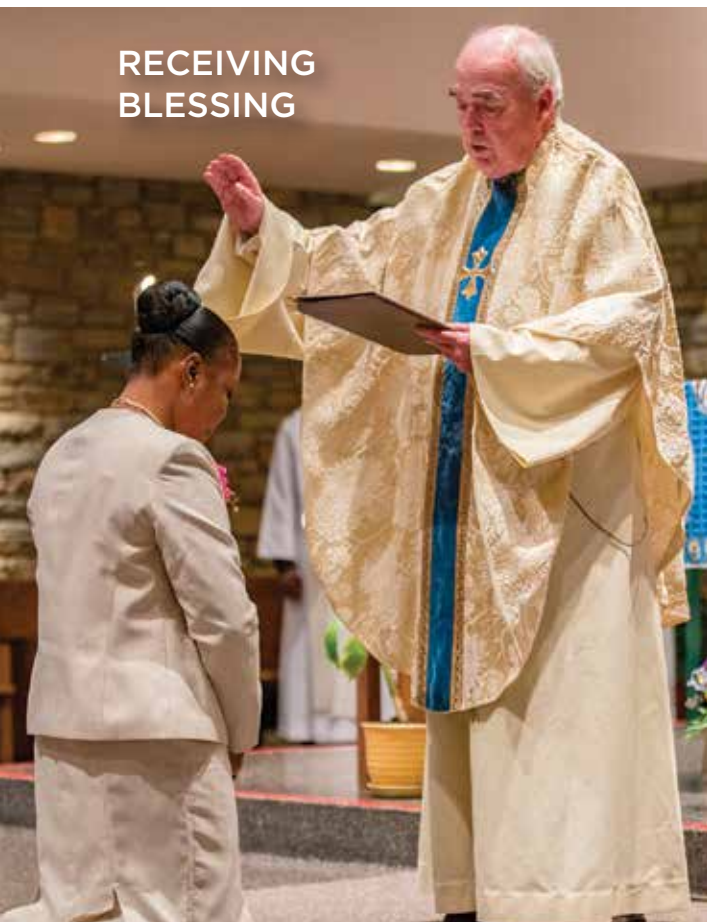
Pictured below (l to r): Srs. Pat Eck, Nathalie Lundolo and Rose Marie Jasinski.



I have closely experienced Bon Secours' mission in our various communities by working as a volunteer with our elderly sisters and those who are sick. I have benefited a great deal from formation in different sessions and training on religious life, which helped and encouraged me in my vocation discernment and confirmed my call. I am convinced that the Lord is calling me to continue and to go one step further in my vocation journey.

To do so, I have willingly expressed to the congregation leaders my firm desire to give myself to God for the service of the church and of the poor. After I prayed and discerned, I requested admission to first profession of the vows. This consecration is deeply rooted, first in

RECEIVING BLESSING



my baptism, and is expressed more fully in my response to God's calling by the profession of religious vows. By this call, I engage myself in a radical way of following Christ, in a life conformed to his own. This consecration is also a gift of God that leads me to prefer nothing else than the Love of Christ, a living testimony of God in the world, as a sign of his Kingdom already present in our midst.

Finally, for me, the first profession means that I pledge to live according to the evangelical counsels of consecrated chastity, poverty and obedience in a community of faith. My life is a permanent response to the call of the Lord. It calls me to accept the gift of God, to follow his Son more closely in the service of the church, as our constitutions express it.

CELEBRATING



As a new member of the congregation, I will live this consecration with my sisters in community life; and together with them, I am sent into the world, always available like mother Mary of "Good Help," confident in the power of the Holy Spirit to participate in building the Kingdom of heaven, so help me, God.



Sisters in Peru Make Perpetual Vows

SRS. AMABILIA AND YOVANA
from Peru made their Perpetual Vows — vows for life — last spring. Nearly all the sisters in Peru, along with Srs. Pat Eck and Elaine Davia from the United States, attended the ceremony. After the vow ceremony, there was a celebration in the convent at Trujillo.

2020

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THESE UPCOMING

EVENTS

AND REGISTER ON
OUR WEBSITE:

bonsecoursyoungadults.org

Liberation Weekend

Amherst, Virginia

January 17-19, 2020

Lenten Silent Retreat

Marriottsville, Maryland

February 29, 2020

Compassion Weekend

Amherst, Virginia

July 31-August 2, 2020

For upcoming information,
follow us on Instagram
and Facebook:

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



Sisters with young adults at the retreat in London.

As they fanned out across the gardens, they took pictures using their smartphones of flowers, trees, clouds, insects, birds, fields, and of course, each other, to answer the question that had been posed to them in a reflection by one of the peer leaders a few minutes earlier: “How does your Catholic imagination find God in nature?” As the participants gathered together again after 20 minutes or so, they shared their pictures around a circle under the afternoon sun. They laughed and giggled and stood in awe of creation and the meaning they found there.

Retreat in London



by NICHOLAS STEIN
Program Manager, Bon Secours Young Adults

In Pinner, a small suburb northwest of London, lies SPEC, a retreat center for young people owned by the Catholic Diocese of Westminster. SPEC hosted the first Bon Secours Young adults retreat in Great Britain this past June. This retreat also happened to be the first peer-led retreat for young adults in London in recent times.

The Catholic Imagination Retreat for Young Adults came about as part of the congregation's efforts to expand the reach

of Bon Secours across Great Britain. It was initiated by the Bon Secours International Vocation Committee, of which Bon Secours Young Adults leaders Nick Stein (USA) and Anne-Marie Whelan (Ireland/Great Britain) are members, and was coordinated by a peer-leadership team made up of young adults in the London area in partnership with the Diocese of Westminster Office of Youth Ministry. Eric and Alli Clayton, two Bon Secours Young Adult Ministry leaders from the USA, also served on the peer-leadership team as well as in a mentorship capacity.

Over the course of many months of planning, the team learned the ins and outs of retreat preparation, created workshops, prayed together and invited interested young adults to join them. Going into the weekend, however, no one could have imagined the beauty the Holy Spirit had in store for everyone involved. There was no way to escape noticing the exquisite international and intercultural flavor of the retreat. The entire retreat was conducted in both English and Spanish, as there were young adult and sister participants from England, Ireland, USA, France, Peru, Philippines, Argentina, Holland, Hungary and Spain. From the campfire on Saturday night, with the sing-along into the wee hours of the morning, to the mealtime conversations, the sharing of cultures, beliefs and stories was constant and invigorating. The sense of community and the new friendships were instantaneous. ▶

Nicholas Stein (l) taking a selfie at the retreat.





Sr. Pat Dowling (r) chats with young adults at the retreat.

Retreat Participants Finding God in Nature

ON THE GROUNDS OF SPEC, A RETREAT CENTER LOCATED IN A SUBURB NORTHWEST OF LONDON.



“WHENEVER YOU ARE ENTHUSED ABOUT LIFE IN COMMON, YOU ARE CAPABLE OF GREAT SACRIFICES FOR OTHERS AND FOR THE COMMUNITY.”

— POPE FRANCIS
CHRISTIS VIVIT
LETTER TO YOUNG PEOPLE
MARCH 25, 2019



Young adults attending the retreat participate in Feast of Corpus Christi processions.

**MORE EVENTS AND
COMMUNITY BUILDING
ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED**
for London in the coming year, so
keep up to date with the latest news
at www.bonsecoursyoungadults.org.

Additionally, Providence scheduled the retreat for the Feast of Corpus Christi — a major ecumenical feast day throughout London. So, while still recovering from a late night of singing, the group woke up early on Sunday to participate in Corpus Christi processions throughout the city. Putting into action the call to live out their Catholic imagination and to be “Good Help” in motion, representatives of the group visited and prayed in 11 different churches in the London area and took part in four different processions. The grace of those processions and the love of God in the hearts of the participants is still at work today.

Responding to the Needs of Others

Bon Secours **ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY**

by AMY KULESA
Director, Bon Secours Associates

RECENTLY THE LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THE BON SECOURS ASSOCIATES MET FOR EXTENDED PLANNING MEETINGS IN MARRIOTTSVILLE. AS PART OF THESE SESSIONS, THE TEAM DRAFTED A NEW IDENTITY STATEMENT FOR THE ASSOCIATES, ONE WHICH CAPTURES THE MISSION AND PRESENCE OF THE ASSOCIATES IN THE LIFE OF THE BON SECOURS FAMILY.

OUR NEW IDENTITY STATEMENT:

The Bon Secours Associates are a faith-based community dedicated to sharing and extending the mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours to bring God's healing, compassion and liberation to people in need and all creation.

Being an associate provides opportunity for the deepening of one's spirituality and gathering with others in prayer, thus being empowered to be "Good Help" to those we encounter in our daily living.

In each issue of *Focus*, I highlight various activities and outreaches of the associates in their local communities. With eight groups in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States, and of course, worldwide, associates have a presence in many different communities, workplaces and arenas of service.

From the beginning of my time as the director of associates, I have been continually impressed and inspired by the breadth of care and compassion offered by our many Bon Secours Associates. Each differs according to their age, life circumstances, locale and personal vocation and mission, but our shared charism means that the outreach is inspired by the same spirit and energized by the same mission. Our dear friend and Maryland Associate Dorothy Burkhardt, who died this summer, persevered in a spirit of service up to several days before she died, attending the sisters' Spring Assembly and serving others by her joyful presence.

Going above and beyond really defines the spirit by which our Bon Secours Associates heed the call to respond to the needs of others. In areas stressed by economic pressures, such as West Baltimore, patients seeking assistance for medical care or housing and food often present multiple challenges for caregivers. Just navigating through the labyrinth of social services

in order to receive benefits and care can overwhelm a person, and so helping hands can minister like an angel. West Baltimore associate candidate Christine Boone tells this story to illustrate the challenges our associates face:

"I asked a patient if she needed help, and she said yes and began to describe multiple issues, the main one being she was about to be evicted and was going to be homeless. I asked her age and income to see if she qualified for any of our housing. She was 67 and had an income of \$750 per month. Benet House or Hollins Terrace could take her, but they both had waiting lists. Earlier that day, I had visited the East Side Family Shelter in Rosedale. They had space, and she would be safe and get three meals a day there, until we could secure her housing, but she did not have a Maryland State ID, which is required to stay in the shelter. I knew that seniors can receive a free ID if they have a birth certificate and social security card. It was a miracle she had both in her possession at that moment. Now she had to get to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

However, she was hungry and hadn't eaten all day and Pastoral Care was out of meal tickets, so I treated her to lunch and gave her bus fare. She arrived at the MVA and was informed the ID ▶

would have to be mailed to her, but she was not going to have a mailing address for much longer. I got on the phone with the MVA and learned that the ID could be mailed to the hospital, with her permission.

I immediately wrote a permission letter and attempted to scan it to the MVA. We had technological issues, and the letter would not align and scan. Finally, I went to Associate Carolyn Greene for help, and we got it to the MVA. (She said it was the easiest thing she had done all day!) Shortly after, I saw this patient in the hospital lobby. She was so happy; she pulled out her new ID to show me.”

These types of encounters characterize the multiple levels of need facing those in our communities and the extra effort exerted by caregivers to respond to these pressing needs.

Some of our associates are in the workforce, and others are retired or work within their homes, serving family members and friends. The simple service of picking up elderly or ill associates to bring them to associate gatherings is a way Maryland Associate Jesse Collins shows his response to the needs of the aging in our associate community. In Darby, Pennsylvania, Associate Anne Marie Birney and her husband volunteer with Aid for Friends. They deliver meals and visit with people, who are often lonely elderly in need of emotional as well as nutritional aid. Anne Marie and fellow Darby Associate Joanne Jones make the meals all year round. And it is a Darby associate group project once a year to prepare 456 meals in one day, enough for a one-week supply for 65 needy individuals (or for one person for a year and

three months). Thousands of people throughout the diocese are served by this simple project.

Other associates are active in their local areas, advocating for peace and justice issues by going to meetings, attending rallies, etc. that align with the sisters’ peace and justice statements. The latest one is Bon Secours’ sponsorship and participation in the Catholic demonstration against the current U.S. immigration policy at the U.S./Mexico border of separating families and incarcerating children.

Compassion goes beyond just the human sphere. Another Darby Associate, Peg Dillon, volunteers once a week in a no-kill cat shelter, giving her time and money. This work expresses the care for all God’s creation emphasized by Bon Secours’ mission focus.

Darby Associate Pat McGrath says, “What is more difficult to capture on paper are the many ways an associate may be ‘Good Help’ to others in need, by visiting the sick or imprisoned, or helping out a family in need of babysitting services, financial aid, a listening ear and so much more. Being Bon Secours’ ‘Good Help’ for many of us is simply responding to a need in the moment as a way of life that provides compassion or justice or liberation then and there, here and now. We call it ‘living the charism.’”

Pat’s words say it all. The diverse expressions of caring the Bon Secours Associates share generously with those in their communities multiply the ways in which the Bon Secours charism and mission are touching and healing lives.

Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers



Gain Insights into Injustices in Our Communities

by OLIVIA STEBACK
Program Manager
Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry

“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE
IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE
EVERYWHERE. WE ARE
CAUGHT IN AN INESCAPABLE
NETWORK OF MUTUALITY,
TIED IN A SINGLE GARMENT
OF DESTINY. WHATEVER
AFFECTS ONE DIRECTLY,
AFFECTS ALL INDIRECTLY.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM) carefully follows the example and charism of the sisters. We are inspired, like so many others, by the commitment the sisters have made to fighting injustice in all forms, particularly focusing on suffering within healthcare. From the very beginning, the sisters cared for the person as a whole. They entered peoples' lives in an intimate way and learned about all of the factors that affect a person's well-being, pieces of life that extend much farther beyond medication, doctor's visits and tests. The sisters continue to minister in this holistic way, and they lead the health system in doing the same.

As our ministry volunteers have the unique privilege of living in the same neighborhood in which they serve, they also observe and, at times, experience some of the suffering that their neighbors face each day. This gives them insight ▶

into how injustice affects the lives of so many in West Baltimore and East Richmond and how these injustices also affect one's health. Some cause and effects, if brought to light, are easily spotted. For example, lack of access to affordable healthy foods makes eating in a healthful way extremely difficult. Other factors are not so apparent: the sounds of late night gun shots disturb sleep and cause anxiety in the middle of night. During their time with BSVM, the volunteers learn that health is integrally connected to all aspects of life, and when any one aspect of life is off balance, health may decline.

This past July, BSVM staff reflected with six of our alumni about their experience with the social determinants of health (the social factors that impact health). Alicia Manteiga (BSVM '08-'09), Nicole Campion (BSVM '13-'14), Narda Salinas (BSVM '17-'18), Claire Kimilu (BSVM '17-'18), Meghan Krueger (BSVM '14-'15) and Celina Santiago (BSVM '16-'17) all shared insights that they learned from their time serving with BSVM.

Alicia Manteiga works with a student at Sisters Academy.



Narda Salinas converses with Bon Secours Hospital colleague.

One of the first topics that arose was the importance of the support of a community. As we spoke, Nicole was reminded that healing comes in many forms. Through her time as a ministry volunteer, she learned that compassionately accompanying a person is a form a healing. “I am reminded of how nice and how good accompaniment is. It can be healing for you and those you are serving. I did not expect to learn that from my time with BSVM,” said Nicole.

Narda also commented, “I now work as an emergency department scribe. I have more compassion, and I take time to accompany and be with people even if I cannot help them clinically, seeing them as a person. We practiced that all year. The ministry does a good job of giving volunteers skills to delve deeper into interactions with others.”

Meghan noted that through her work at Healthcare for the Homeless, she has also come to better understand the importance of trust built through community. She said, “Building trust in community—that support system—is so important. We have a foot clinic, and it is a low threshold entry point; I see that the community aspect is what brings patients in and what keeps them coming back.”

As our conversation with alumni continued, their deep compassion and love for the neighborhood they served during their time with BSVM began to surface. They remarked on how seeing the struggles of people in



Baltimore affected them personally and professionally.

Alicia shared, “The sisters have invested in structures that have a positive impact on the community and provide supplemental healthcare. While serving at the Sisters Academy of Baltimore, I helped my students think about their own health needs. This experience laid the foundation for

my desire to pursue public health. After my year with BSVM, I knew I didn’t want to study clinical health.” Celina added, “You don’t understand the difficulties people experience until you interact with them face to face and come to understand that they have been living with such struggles their entire lives. After I saw this, I became more committed to working for justice. It took my BSVM community a while to warm up to the understanding that it was okay to find what we were experiencing difficult. We were seeing such big issues in people’s lives, issues with no visible solutions. It was good to acknowledge that it’s okay to find it difficult and to understand that things are not always as they should be.”

As our conversation came to a close, we asked the alumni to share with us how their experience in community helped them to better understand healthcare and prepare them for their future vocations. Claire gave one of the final examples, “As someone interested in global health, I have learned that you cannot go it alone in this field. You work with people who may share the same interests but with whom you may not agree. The constant dialogue with my community members in BSVM helped prepare me for future professional collaboration. We had a very inquisitive group. We had conversations where people

would probe and question. We learned not to take things personally—on a more emotional level, we saw a lot of despair. Knowing you are not alone helps. Leaning on someone takes courage, and I might not have the courage to reach out to others for help today if I had not experienced life in my BSVM community.”

As BSVM continues to work for justice within the communities in which we serve, we have grown our ministry placement sites in both Baltimore and Richmond. New sites this year include: the Behavioral Health Unit at Richmond Community Hospital, Bon Secours Housing in Baltimore, Sisters Academy of Baltimore and a second placement in the Bon Secours Family Support Center in Baltimore.



Nicole Campion conducts patient screening.

We are grateful to the BSVM alumni who took the time to share their personal experiences of practicing God’s justice. It is particularly through BSVM alumni that we can see God working within this volunteer ministry to change the lives of the volunteers and all those connected with the ministry.

Welcome



Gianna Baker

John Carroll University
Hometown: Salem, OH
Teaching Assistant:
Sisters Academy of Baltimore



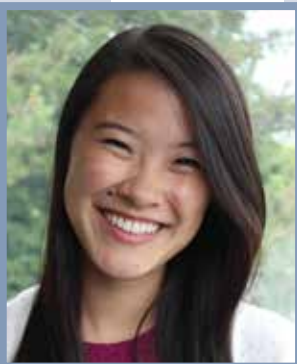
Nancy E. Figuero

College of the Holy Cross
Hometown: Boston, MA
Program Assistant:
Sarah Garland Jones Center
Bon Secours Richmond



Mark Conforti

Villanova University
Hometown: North Haledon, NJ
Patient Liaison:
Patient Advocacy
Richmond Community Hospital



Elizabeth Chen

University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Fort Collins, CO
Child Care Aide:
Family Support Center
Bon Secours Community Works



Josh Gillen

University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Lincoln, RI
Patient Liaison:
Emergency Department
Richmond Community Hospital

New 2019-2020 Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers



Abigail McDonough

Kalamazoo College

Hometown: Ann Arbor, MI

Housing Assistant:

Bon Secours Baltimore Housing
and Community Development



Jenna Vrable

Creighton University

Hometown: Papillion, NE

Program Assistant:

Care-A-Van

Bon Secours Richmond Volunteers



Olivia Nguyen

St. Joseph's University

Hometown: Downingtown, PA

Spiritual Care Partner:

Richmond Community Hospital



Madison Neumaier

Loyola Marymount University

Hometown: Dillon, CO

Patient Liaison:

Behavioral Health

Richmond Community Hospital



Delaney Weiland

University of Notre Dame

Hometown: Lake Forest, IL

Child Care Aide:

Family Support Center

Bon Secours Community Works

DR.
Sam
ROSS



Samuel Ross, M.D., M.S., is the president of Bon Secours Baltimore Health System and chief community health officer of Bon Secours Mercy Health. His service at Bon Secours Baltimore Health System began 13 years ago in 2006.

A family medicine physician, Dr. Ross has managed Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore and is also responsible for a vast network of community outreach divisions that focus on housing, education, job skills, behavioral health, substance abuse and rehabilitation in West Baltimore. He is a tireless and passionate advocate for improving health disparities and access to care in the communities Bon Secours Mercy Health serves.

From the moment I was contacted by the recruiter in 2006, I felt that I was being called to the ministry work of the Sisters of Bon Secours in West Baltimore. Each day is a fulfilling opportunity to live out the sisters' charism and answer the call to be a servant leader. I have truly been blessed to be a blessing to those in need.

Nohemy
CAICEDO

Nohemy Caicedo has been a chef for the Retreat and Conference Center for 17 years. Originally from Colombia, South America, Nohemy spent her first 13 years in the United States working as a cashier in corporate cafeterias. Her passion for food and cooking always led her to help in the kitchen wherever she was employed, and, eventually, she became a chef.

Nohemy regularly works the breakfast and lunch shifts at the Center, and she sometimes works the dinner



A portrait of Tad Butler, a man with short, light-colored hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting with large windows.

Tad

BUTLER

Tad Butler is the visual media manager of Bon Secours Mercy Health. Based at the Bond Hill campus in Cincinnati, Ohio, he has served the ministry for more than 20 years, capturing imagery in photography and videography.

In my travels across the ministry, I have been blessed to meet a lot of wonderful people who work for our system, as well as patients and families who depend upon us for their health care needs. I also work with our leaders to fulfill their media needs. The work I create tells our story, internally and externally, through social media and advertising.

Having been raised Southern Baptist, I was never exposed to Catholic beliefs, teachings or history as a child and young adult. As I have learned about the sisters, I have been so impressed by their drive and heart-felt love in serving God and wanting to help humanity. Their congregations' histories show how they endangered their own safety and health, leaving everything behind in their homelands, and traveled to the unknown. Once they reached North America, they provided the same comforting presence to people in need as they had in Europe.

While creating videos about the history of the Sisters of Bon Secours, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and the Sisters of Mercy, I realized that all the congregations share the same wonderful purpose, as they follow in Christ's footsteps, modeling compassion, caring, mercy and humility. I am so glad to be a part of such a rich history through working for this ministry. I hope everyone is touched by watching the Stories of Grace video series about the history of our sisters.

shift as well. She has been known to stay overnight during inclement weather to ensure meals are served regardless of weather.

The Center has become my home, and I cook for the sisters and our guests as if they are my family. I often use recipes that were passed down from my mother. A few years ago, I lost my mother and several family members in a very short time span. The sisters were so kind and caring, and everyone at the Center checked in on me to pray for me and make sure I was okay. They treated me like family.

When I began working at the Center, I only had a green card. The sisters were so supportive, and they helped me become a United States citizen. Some of them even helped me study for the citizenship test, and when I became a citizen, the Health System Office at Mariottsville had a surprise party for me.

The sisters inspire me to serve in my community and help others in need. Throughout the year, I collect clothing and food for orphanages. Most recently, I participated in a fundraiser to provide papooses to displaced mothers and their babies. I am blessed to work at a place where I can do what I love and give joy through my cooking and find peace when it's needed.

STRONGER AS ONE:

IN SEPTEMBER 2019, BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH RECOGNIZED THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF TWO HERITAGE-RICH ORGANIZATIONS COMING TOGETHER.

“In one short impactful year, we have succeeded in aligning Bon Secours Health System and Mercy Health into a unified ministry,” said John Starcher, president and CEO, Bon Secours Mercy Health. “We have established the foundation of a common culture and have begun embracing a vision of spirituality that reinforces our ties to our Catholic heritage and identity and to one another. Additionally, as reflected by our recent merger with Bon Secours Health System, Ireland, the largest private health care provider in Ireland, we will continue to embrace opportunities to grow our ministry in service to more people and communities. We will maintain our commitment to improving quality, expanding access to our services, positively affecting the health and wellness of our communities and their residents and influencing legislative and regulatory thinking around health delivery policy.”

“Early on, we discovered our ‘common’ ground that informed our mission statement in the stories of our three communities of sisters: Sisters of Bon Secours, Sisters of the Humility of Mary and Sisters of Mercy. Over 1,600 leaders participated in Stories of Grace this year to hear these stories. Together, the legacy of these women guides us to be people of true ‘Good Help’ by embracing a humble posture in order to live lives of mercy,” said Thom Morris, chief sponsorship and theology officer.

Through a strategy of growth, innovation and operational excellence, Bon Secours Mercy Health is furthering its ability to bring compassionate, high-quality and cost-effective health services to more patients and communities in a highly dynamic health care industry.

ONE Year ONE Culture



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR INCLUDE:

- A new organizational structure and accountability processes to support operational and clinical efficiency were introduced systemwide.
- Approval of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan and harmonization of Key Performance Indicators has resulted in a more empowered ministry. Financial and quality performance in hospitals and facilities has improved. Patient experience is also trending upward.
- The new Core Culture Behaviors are being introduced to guide associates' work and stay focused on the Mission. A new ministry-wide Code of Conduct was created to guide associates to always do the right thing.
- Realizing its strengths, the health system made decisions to better support the needs of local communities. This included transitioning Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore to LifeBridge Health in order to strengthen a local provider and enhance Bon Secours Mercy Health's ability to provide affordable housing and workforce development programs to residents of West Baltimore.
- The health system expanded to become an international ministry in July 2019 when Bon Secours Mercy Health merged with the Bon Secours Health System in Ireland.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST YEAR

The Numbers Tell the Story:

- One of the five largest Catholic health systems in the U.S.
- The largest private provider in Ireland
- Over 1,000 sites of care in the U.S. and Ireland
- 48 hospitals
- More than \$8 billion in net operating revenue
- Nearly \$2 million a day in community benefits
- 2,100 physicians in the U.S.
- 450 consultants in Ireland
- 60,000 total associates

ONE Ministry

Joe is off of opioid pain meds and feeling great thanks to support programs offered at Bon Secours Mercy Health.

There are so many wonderful community stories that demonstrate one mission in action as the health system extends the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of communities and bringing good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved.



- Joe is off opioid pain meds and feeling great due to the team of experts who helped him with the physical symptoms and emotional aspects of managing his pain.
- Bon Secours Mercy Health is partnering with community leaders and residents to address a very specific need in one local neighborhood—lack of healthy food access. The team believes increasing the availability, affordability and diversity of healthy food can transform the health and wellness of a community.
- Andres and his family came to the United States with few resources, and one of the first places they felt welcome was at the Care-A-Van, where he and his brothers received their school physicals and vaccines. He credits Bon Secours' Care-A-Van for the path he wants to take as a social-change agent.

“We are a ministry of God’s people, serving God’s people. Reflecting on our first year together, I am grateful and privileged to serve with the dedicated associates of our ministry who are reaching outside of the walls of our facilities. We are listening to the needs of residents in our communities to improve their health and well-being,” said Sr. Anne Lutz, chief sponsorship and mission officer.

“OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY IS NOTABLE BECAUSE OF THE MINISTRY’S POSITIVE EMBRACE OF CHANGE AND OUR EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE AMAZING GROWTH OCCURRING ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION. THE CULTURES OF THE TWO LEGACY MINISTRIES HAVE COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR COMBINED MISSION.”

— DAVID CANNADY
CHIEF STRATEGY MANAGER

Upcoming Overnight Winter Retreats & Special Events



Gift of the Magi Weekend

Guided by Gordon Creamer

December 6-8, 2019

Making All Things New

Guided by Paul Gallagher, D.Min.

January 10-12, 2020

Winter Directed Retreat

Guided by Sr. Bernadette Claps, CBS,

Jackie Antkowiak and

Joanne Cahoon, D.Min.

(3-night and 6-night options)

January 17-20 or

January 17-23, 2020

Workshop: Recognizing Human Trafficking

Guided by HopeWorks of

Howard County

January 23, 2020

Turn the Page Weekend

Guided by Dr. Johnny Parker

January 31-February 2, 2020

Enter the Chaos: Engage the Differences to Make a Difference

Guided by The Institute for

Communal Contemplation and

Dialogue: Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM;

Margaret Galiardi, OP, and

Dr. Vernice Solimar

February 13-16, 2020

Discovering the Holy in All:

A Lenten Experience

Guided by Kathy Anderson

and Susan Boruff

February 28 - March 1, 2020

For a complete listing of our 2019-2020 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.

MEET OUR

New Staff

Myrna Adams

began as a guest services agent in June. She says, “I am so blessed to work at such a beautiful place.” She retired from the Rouse Company where she worked as a senior paralegal for 16 years. She lives close to



Marriottsville, in nearby Waverly Woods, and used to visit the center regularly for quiet time, so she was very excited to become a part of the Bon Secours family. Myrna says, “Thank you to everyone for such a warm welcome. I look forward to working with, but more importantly, getting to know each and every one of the wonderful family members of Bon Secours.”

CHESAPEAKE AND PATAPSCO DINING ROOMS RECEIVE A FACELIFT

The dining rooms and hospitality area on the first floor of the Retreat and Conference Center were renovated this summer, and they look amazing. The maintenance team did a great job, working diligently to replace the flooring and install new food stations in a timely fashion around the center’s busy schedule. The new stations are modernized, allowing more space for guests and keeping the food warmer. The beautiful new flooring responds more safely to Maryland’s fluctuating seasonal temperatures and provides a smoother, consistent surface for additional safety. The maintenance team was assisted by Sales Manager Rainey Taylor, who selected the color scheme, flooring, cabinets and countertops. **Come visit the center soon to see and enjoy the newly updated spaces.**



Newly renovated dining room.

Linda Culp

is the new Retreat and Conference Center bookstore lead.

After a successful career with Maryland Public Television and an international marketing company, she spent the last four years working from her

home art studio where she painted commissioned pieces in watercolor, acrylic and oil. The center is excited to have a staff member with her artistic background on board.

Linda says, "I am excited to be part of Bon Secours and working for the sisters' mission. I appreciate the opportunity to work in the bookstore and look forward to welcoming all visitors and guests."



Clean and bright modern facilities.

Enjoying lunch in the newly renovated dining room.



Sisters' Work with Immigrants has Deep Roots

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS SHAPED THEIR PRACTICES ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE TIMES.



IN THE 1985 PUBLICATION, A THEOLOGY FOR BON SECOURS, THE SISTERS DECLARED NEW “EXPRESSIONS” FOR THEIR HEALING MINISTRY BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCES:

“Our healing ministry is not just to specific physical or psychological ills, but to the whole person of those we care for; and not just to isolated individuals, but to the families and other communities and to society with the structures and institutions which help or hinder human health.”

The Sisters of Bon Secours’ current work to end the detention of immigrant children is supported by the 1987 Justice Statement for Bon Secours which includes a fundamental premise that, *“Every person is entitled to have basic human needs met in a manner consistent with human dignity.”*

Working with or on behalf of migrant peoples is not new for the Sisters of Bon Secours. For example, over twenty years ago, the Camp Health Aide Program enabled sisters and associates to prepare individuals from migrant families to be leaders for prevention, health and safety in their communities. It was administered by Sr. Elaine Davia along with staff from the University of Southern Florida and held at a clinic sponsored by Bon Secours St. Joseph’s Hospital in Florida.

In the 2016 publication “The Sisters and The Associates Who Have Impacted Our Lives: Stories,” Associate Sharyn Barlik, who worked with Sr. Elaine in Florida said, “Sr. Elaine had a real heart for the migrant



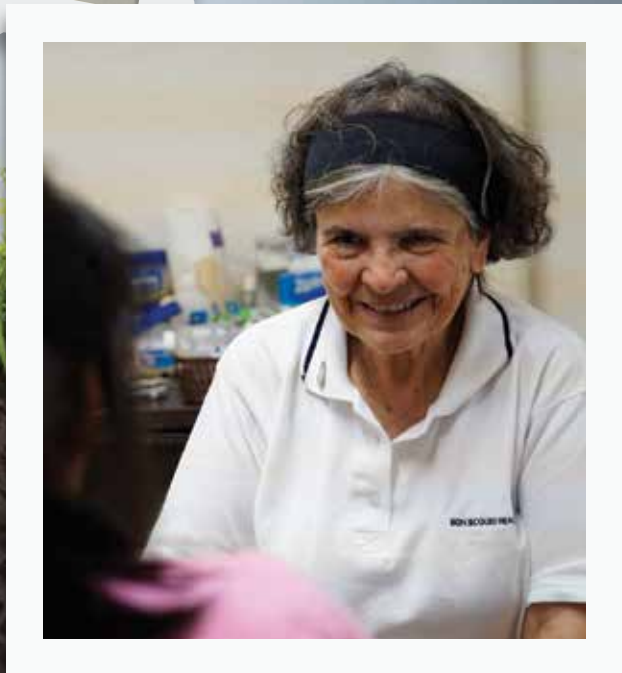
Far left photo: Sr. Elaine Davia (highlighted) with graduates of the Camp Health Aide Program.

◀ Sr. Elaine Davia (r) with co-teacher Ansley Mora from the University of Southern Florida.

CIRCA 1980s

workers, and she set upon the task for several years of setting up a rural clinic to serve the needs of this Hispanic population. Periodically, we would travel to Arcadia, some twenty miles from the hospital, to help Sr. Elaine Davia with whatever tasks she needed to be done. Sometimes it was education with patients and sometimes with staff. At times it was assisting Sr. Elaine as she ministered to every need of these patients.”

The Sisters of Bon Secours have a rich history of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable among us. The sisters continue this tradition today, working to allieviate the suffering of migrants along the southern border in Texas and ministering to people around the world.



Sr. Elaine Davia helping an immigrant at the southern border.

2019

CONGREGATION

NEWS



STAFF FROM THE MARRIOTTSVILLE CAMPUS, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES,



enjoyed a trip this summer to a Frederick Keys baseball game and a Family Fun Day held on the Marriottsville campus.

Pictured here are sisters, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry alumni, staff, family and friends enjoying Family Fun Day.





Pictured (l to r): Srs. Jennifer Doyle, Mary Shimo, Anne Lutz and Elaine Davia, Archbishop William Lori and Srs. Fran Gorsuch, Pat Eck, Rose Marie Jasinski and Alice Talone.

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI
HOSTED A RECEPTION IN HIS
RESIDENCE IN HONOR OF
BON SECOURS BALTIMORE'S
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.



Welcome
SR. KATHLEEN MORONEY
who recently moved to Marian Hall.

A WARM
WELCOME
TO
*New
Employees*



Jennifer Kirin
Special Collections Archivist




**BEST WISHES TO
RHONDA HOOKER,**


formerly with the Vocation Ministry for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. Her role has expanded, and she is now working with the congregation's Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee with Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, and the international congregation's Vocation Committee with Sr. Pat Dowling.




Paula Hastings
Bon Secours Volunteer
Ministry Recruiter
Paula was a volunteer last year, and we are pleased to have her continue working with us in this ministry.

CONNECT WITH US ON ALL OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS:

 [Instagram.com/
SistersofBonSecoursUSA](https://www.instagram.com/SistersofBonSecoursUSA)

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

 [@SrsBonSecours](https://twitter.com/SrsBonSecours)

I N M E M O R I A M

Sr. Mary Rita Nangle

1936-2019



On her 50th jubilee anniversary in 2005, Sr. Mary Rita Nangle said of her life, “God is a God of surprises, who has gifted me with graces and blessings that have enriched my life beyond my imagination. I never could have dreamed as a girl of 18 that I would be ministering to the sick and those in need not only in the United States, but in France, Africa and Ecuador.”

Sr. Mary Rita died on Aug. 13 at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore from cancer. Born Norrien Kathleen Nangle in 1936 in Massachusetts, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours in 1955 and professed her final vows in 1964. She received her registered nurse’s degree from the Bon Secours School of Nursing in Baltimore in 1960 and went on for additional training to be a registered X-ray technician.

Sr. Mary Rita started her nursing career in Baltimore and went on to serve in Wildwood, New Jersey; Grosse Point, Michigan; Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where she was nursing supervisor and acting director

at St. Edmond’s Home for Crippled Children; Darby, Pennsylvania, where she was assistant director of nursing at St. Francis Country House; Methuen, Massachusetts; and Marriottsville, Maryland, where she was coordinator for Marian Hall. She returned to minister in Baltimore in 1990 as a patient advocate at Bon Secours Hospital and lived within walking distance of the West Baltimore hospital. She retired in 2011 and then volunteered as a patient visitor at the hospital until several weeks before her death.

Sr. Mary Rita was well loved by the employees at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore and was well known by the surrounding West Baltimore community. She was a constant presence of support, hope and goodness to all who saw her. She faithfully attended Mass in the hospital chapel and was a model of strength and compassion to the sick, elderly and disabled. She will be missed by so many, but her spirit will continue to walk the halls and the neighborhood as people remember her.

In addition to her patient care positions in the United States, she spent several years out of the country. Sr. Mary Rita went to Orleans, France, in the mid-1960s to prepare to go to a mission in Lere Chad, Africa. There, she cared for children who came from miles around to receive treatment at the government hospital. In the mid-1990s, Sr. Mary Rita felt called to Riobamba, Ecuador, where she spent a little more than a year as part of the Sisters of Bon Secours mission in the Riobamba Diocese.

Active throughout her years in the congregation and its health care facilities, she was a member of the board of trustees of Bon Secours Hospital, Bon Secours Hollins and Benet Senior Housing in Baltimore and Bon Secours Hospital in Methuen. She also served on many congregation and hospital committees.

“The Sisters of Bon Secours have been blessed by Sr. Mary Rita’s generous and compassionate spirit for over 60 years; those gifts and her presence will be greatly missed,” said Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, leader of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA.

In addition to the Sisters of Bon Secours and her community, she is survived by her brother-in-law Raymond Morse, sister-in-law Ellen Nangle and many nieces and nephews.

Donations can be made in Sr. Mary Rita Nangle’s name to The Sister Theophane Fund. This Fund carries out Bon Secours’ mission in West Baltimore by caring for employees and neighbors who are in dire need of emergency financial assistance. Contributions can be sent to Bon Secours Baltimore Health System Foundation at 2000 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21223.

I N M E M O R I A M

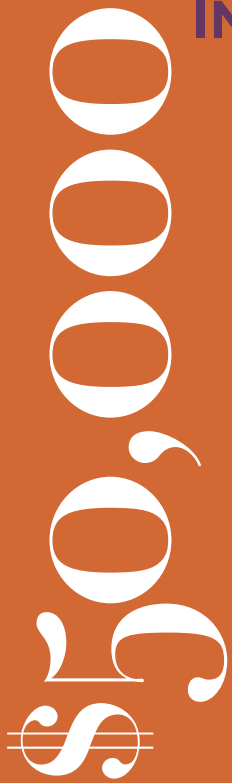
The Sisters of Bon Secours also note the passing of



Sr. Janette Cordova in Peru



Associate Dot Burkhart



IN MINISTRY GRANTS AWARDED

BALTIMORE UNITY PROPERTIES \$15,000

Bon Secours Unity Properties has partnered with the West Baltimore community surrounding Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital for input on revitalizing its vacant lots. There had been a playground on the site of two vacant lots next to Bon Secours Community Works, but the City removed it, and there are no other public playgrounds within a half mile of this site. Bon Secours Unity Properties has acquired one of the lots and is in the process of purchasing the other one. This funding will go towards building a new playground and creating a community space based on community input.

NEXT STEPS TODAY \$15,000

Next Steps Today empowers men to shatter the chains of addiction through tools, training and housing, so they can build a new foundation and strengthen their relationship in Christ. Funding will provide the necessary tools for the program such as journals, pens, Bibles, training videos, printed materials and workbooks along with housing scholarships, opportunities for special events, transportation and the ability to provide specialized mentors to address specific needs.

BON SECOURS HAMPTON ROADS HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE \$10,000

The Bon Secours Hampton Roads Healthy Community Initiative develops long-term, collaborative relationships with communities to improve quality of life and health. This funding will be used to maintain a community garden in East Ocean View in Norfolk, Virginia, and to revitalize a community garden at Province Place of Maryview, an assisted living facility in Portsmouth, Virginia. Supporting community gardens in these neighborhoods helps to decrease food insecurity, provides food donations and improves community relations. Community gardens also offer a space for gardening, socializing and enjoying the outdoors.

UNANIMA INTERNATIONAL \$10,000

UNANIMA International advocates on behalf of women and children, particularly those living in poverty, and immigrants and refugees. Funding will support an international research project on family homelessness and trauma with the potential to provide detailed and informative outcomes at the regional and international level. This research could play an important role in documenting the trauma of families who experience homelessness, and it is hoped that these outcomes will contribute to a paradigm shift in how the problems of poverty and homelessness are perceived and promote a dialogue where homelessness is finally viewed as a human rights issue.

“ WE ARE THE HEART AND MIND OF EARTH
WE ARE HER EYES AND VOICES
WE ARE PROTECTORS OF HER LIFE
SHE CALLS US TO THESE CHOICES

SHE WHISPERS IN THE FORESTS
SHE CRIES ACROSS THE RIVERS
DON'T LOOK AWAY FROM BLACKENED SKYLINES
DON'T LOOK AWAY FROM HOMELESS FACES
DON'T LOOK AWAY FROM LIVES ENDANGERED
DON'T LOOK AWAY FROM VIOLENT PLACES

WE CANNOT SEPARATE THE TWO
THEY ARE ONE IN THE SAME
THE SUFFERING OF HUMANKIND
OUR FALL FROM NATURE IS OUR PAIN ”

— LOS CALDONÉS BY MARGIE ADAM

focus

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA



Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

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