

focus

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

FALL 2020



Sisters of
Bon Secours, USA

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EDITOR'S NOTE: In light of so many people working remotely, along with the many social distancing guidelines being followed and the financial challenges that COVID-19 has created, we have produced a shorter, digital version of *Focus* this fall. We encourage you to share the electronic version of *Focus* with family and friends with this link www.bonsecours.us/focus. We hope you enjoy this issue.

FOCUS is published bi-annually by the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. For questions or comments regarding this publication or the Sisters of Bon Secours, contact Sisters of Bon Secours, 1525 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104 or 410-442-1333. For additional information about the Sisters of Bon Secours, visit www.bonsecours.us.

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT
OF YOUR PEACE.

WHERE THERE IS HATRED LET ME
SOW LOVE;

WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;

WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;

WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;

WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.



— *Prayer of
Saint Francis
of Assisi*

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Sr. Elaine Davia, Sr. Fran Gorsuch, Liz O'Neill, Ryan Sattler and Sharon Vieweg contributed photos to this issue.

Various photos taken by Liz O'Neill at **Holy Rosary Parish**, the oldest existing African-American Roman Catholic Church in Richmond, Virginia, and home parish of our **Ministry Volunteers** serving in Richmond.

DEAR *friends*



There are so many different experiences that we have all had during these COVID-19 days, and often it is the little surprises that awaken our senses to the good around us. For me, one of these moments was walking down the hallway outside my office the week of Pentecost and suddenly being struck by the beauty in front of me. Our magnificent chapel was all lit up having been dark for weeks. It was an amazing, wondrous instant that touched my heart. I think this experience for me was just a tiny taste of what it was like when on the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit came over the disciples as living flames of light.

This issue of *Focus* shares with you a few of the heroic deeds our Bon Secours family did and some of their life-changing experiences over the past several months. I thank each and every one of you who truly demonstrated the resiliency of our message of Good Help to Those in Need® by pivoting so quickly, embracing new technology and responding to the inequalities in health care in our communities.

The theme of our Spring Assembly held via Zoom was taken from our 2019 Chapter Statement: Resurrection People: Creating What is to Come. Little did we know when we chose this theme that our Assembly would be in the middle of a pandemic. After the first day, we asked ourselves, “What, from this time of being shut inside and in solidarity with the pain and loss of so many people, have we learned

and experienced that we want to carry forward after the virus is gone or managed?” We invite all of you to reflect on this question as well.

The Sisters of Bon Secours have a rich history of standing up to racial inequalities, and our charism of compassion, healing and liberation attests to the fact that all people need to be respected equally. We have always been there for those who are marginalized in our communities and abhor the inequalities and racism so prevalent on our streets today. We believe all lives matter. On the following pages, you will read about some of the actions we have taken in the past as well as today to make this a more humane world.

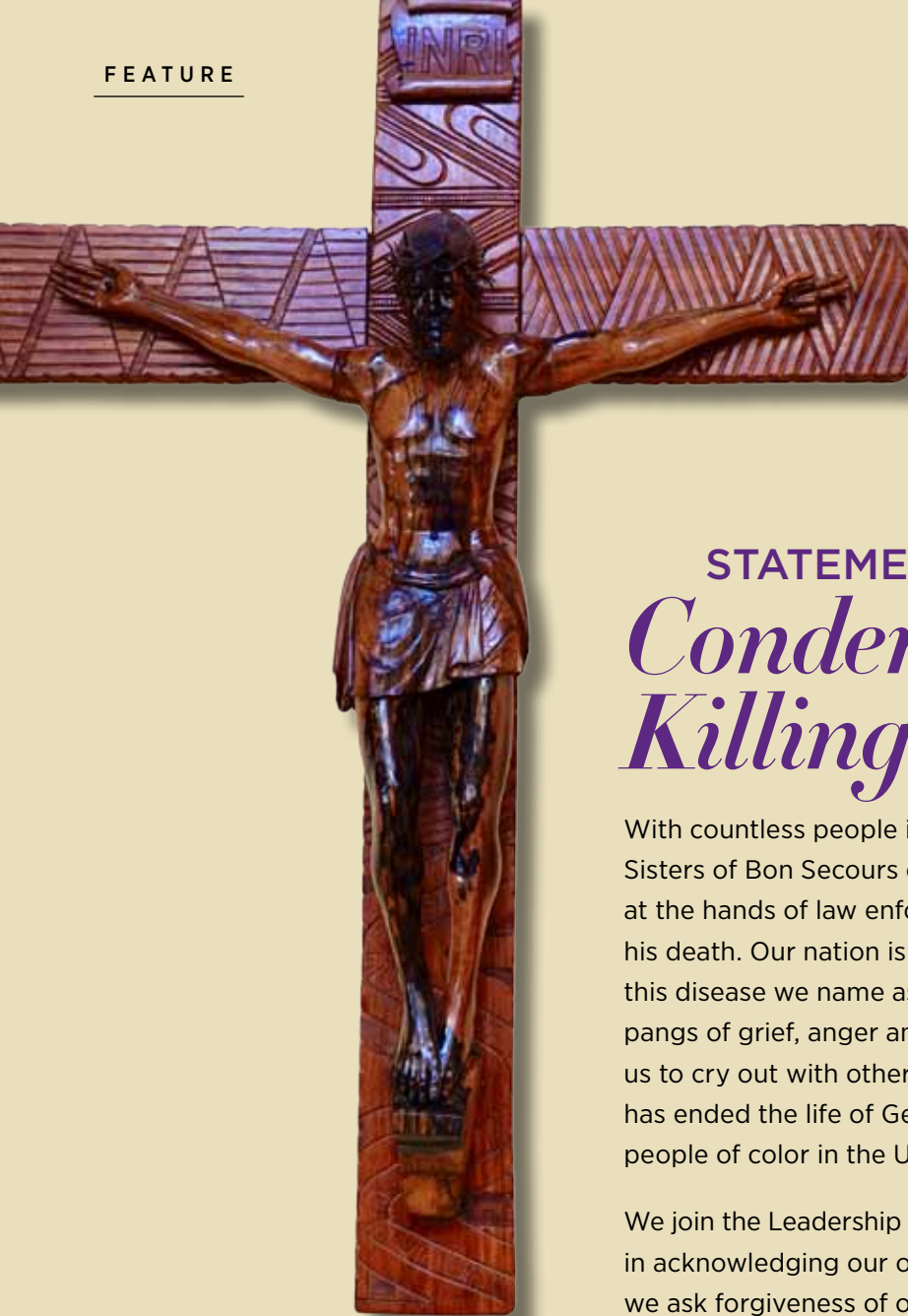
As the holiday season approaches, I wish you and your families healthy, happy and safe holidays.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Elaine Davia".

SR. ELAINE DAVIA
*Area Leader,
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA*



“ WE CANNOT TOLERATE OR TURN A BLIND EYE TO RACISM AND EXCLUSION IN ANY FORM AND YET CLAIM TO DEFEND THE SACREDNESS OF EVERY HUMAN LIFE. ”

— POPE FRANCIS

STATEMENT *Condemning the Killing* OF GEORGE FLOYD

With countless people in our nation and around the world, the Sisters of Bon Secours condemn the killing of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement and the racism that led to his death. Our nation is grievously wounded and divided by this disease we name as our nation’s “original sin.” The painful pangs of grief, anger and frustration that fill our hearts enable us to cry out with others against the injustice of racism that has ended the life of George Floyd and far too many other people of color in the United States of America.

We join the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in acknowledging our own complicity in institutional racism; we ask forgiveness of our sisters and brothers of color; and pray for our nation’s healing. With LCWR we pledge to raise our voices and to act now to end this scourge which has cost us so dearly.

As women of healing, who believe that the struggle for a more humane world is not an option, we re-commit ourselves to bring healing to the disease of racism in our own hearts, in our communities, our country and our world. With audacious hope, we hold fast to the belief that our loving God will give us the grace to listen to our nation’s wounds, to engage this struggle together and do our part to dismantle racism forever.

Click these links below to view:

[The full LCWR Statement](#)



[The Prayer for Racial Justice](#)

[In Memory of the Emanuel 9](#)



Sisters of Bon Secours USA Address Racism & Work toward Racial Justice

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



“AS WOMEN OF HEALING, WHO BELIEVE THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR A MORE HUMANE WORLD IS NOT AN OPTION, WE RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO BRING HEALING TO THE DISEASE OF RACISM IN OUR OWN HEARTS, IN OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR WORLD.”

— SISTERS OF BON SECOURS USA
STATEMENT ON RACISM

We invite you to read and reflect on two recent issues of the monthly JPIC newsletter that address racism:

- **Racial Justice**, July 2020
- **Slavery and Its Consequences**, August 2020

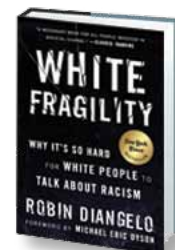
“Racism is America’s original sin. It is a virus every bit as deadly as COVID-19 that has infected our nation since its inception and unless and until we address it, people of color will continue to die, and our nation will never heal. Whether it is the institutional racism which privileges some at the expense of others or the daily acts of hate and discrimination, racism diminishes us all. It denies that most profound truth, that all of us are created in God’s image, and each of us is entitled to dignity and respect.”

— LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS’
STATEMENT ON THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

These words from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious’ Statement on the Killing of George Floyd and the Sisters of Bon Secours USA Statement on racism challenge all of us in the Bon Secours family to address the sin of racism.

To that end, the **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) USA Team** has adopted racism and racial justice as one of our critical concerns and priorities. The team is in the process of developing a menu of resources that will assist us as we engage in addressing this difficult but necessary issue and will be making these resources available to all of us.

Among those resources is the book *White Fragility* by Robin DeAngelo that the sisters are using for their monthly book club discussion. This amazingly powerful book has the capacity to truly help us, especially those of us who are white, to engage in the difficult and courageous conversations that are necessary in order to disrupt racism where and when we encounter it.



With audacious hope, we hold fast to the belief that our loving God will give us the grace to listen to our nation’s wounds, to engage this struggle together and do our part to dismantle racism forever.

Combating Racism:

PAST & PRESENT



SR. RITA THOMAS ▲

was the first CEO of St. Mary's Hospital. She received the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities Humanitarian Award and the business community of Hampton Roads' Outstanding Professional Woman award for furthering equity in health care. She also served as the 2014 Eastern Virginia Medical School Brock Scholar for Leadership and Social Justice.



Sr. Theophane Klingelhofer with a patient in West Baltimore.

“In the past, our efforts to combat racism focused mostly on the effects of racism... This continues, but today we are also working with others to understand the roots of racism within society and within our own hearts.”

— SR. NANCY GLYNN

The Sisters of Bon Secours have joined with the LCWR to examine the causes of injustice and do the critical work of understanding complicity. Members of the Congregation attended the [Justice Conference of Women Religious](#) and focused on identifying racism operating in society and religious congregations. In response to the nation's recent race crises, the Congregation Team facilitated conversations on racial justice and reflected on how to address racism as a religious community. The sisters' Fall Assembly featured a presentation and workshop led by Theodora Balis, M.D., titled “White Privilege: Fish Don't Know They Swim in Water,” that continued the Congregation's education on how to recognize the insidious presumptions of white privilege.

“We are doing the difficult internal work that's needed to grow a deeper understanding and ownership of our implicit bias and aspects of our behavior that are complicit with racism,” says Sr. Elaine. “These are the first steps to bridging racial divides and changing oppressive systems.”

In 1967, St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, opened without any fanfare as one of the regions first integrated hospitals. Designed as a segregated facility with separate waiting rooms and bathrooms, Richmond's Bishop gave the Sisters of Bon Secours autonomy over the hospital. “In the midst of highly publicized struggles for civil rights, the sisters quietly did what was right,” states Sr. Elaine Davia, area leader, Sisters of Bon Secours USA.

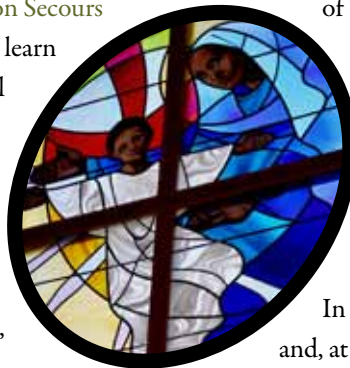
In West Baltimore where residents contend with the remnants of exclusionary zoning and redlining policies that laid the foundation for racial segregation, the Bon Secours family responds to community concerns and addresses the social issues that stem from racism: poverty, violence, housing, education, human trafficking and environmental degradation.



Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski (l) and Sr. Fran Gorsuch (third from left) with Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry Volunteers.

Ministry Volunteers Deepen Their Understanding of Racism

Ministry Volunteers in the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM) learn about issues of racial and social injustice as a part of their service year experience. They participate in a formation program that intertwines service with working for God’s justice, applying what they observe in service to broad justice issues and community dynamics, all within a context of spiritual growth.



“Our approach to thinking through inequality and structural injustice, and racism in particular, is to frame it around relationships. We work on developing community first and establishing a level of trust where we can have these conversations.”

— EMILY THRUSH, Site Leader

Volunteers are immersed in inner city communities where they live, work and pray. Volunteer Recruiter Paula Hastings began her time with BSVM as a volunteer. She has fond memories of attending a historically Black church during her service year, St. Bernadine Roman Catholic Church

of Baltimore: “We were welcomed with open arms, and I was very much served in that faith setting.” She says the experience of being a volunteer made her aware of the bubble she lived in and pushed her to step outside of her comfort zone. “I became aware of the intense minutia of racism in everyday interactions.”

In their year of service, Ministry Volunteers observe and, at times, experience the broken relationships caused by racism and structural injustice. As their understanding deepens, they begin to question their own assumptions and biases. “Volunteers are encouraged to think about whole relationships, and we ground that in Scripture and Catholic social teachings and the charism of the sisters,” says Emily. Volunteers are asked to look at their own relationships and how they contribute to the bigger picture. Emily further explains, “We delve into the structures that need to be repaired and the impacts these broken structures have on people and all of creation. We work to make it as comprehensive and holistic as possible, and we work all year to get to a place where we have a broader and more nuanced view.”

Black Lives Matter: A Celebration of Resilience
 Ministry Volunteers participated in a vigil for Black lives.

Using Our Voices

Bon Secours Young Adults with sisters in Washington, D.C., at a pre-pandemic advocacy event in 2019.



Bon Secours Young Adults hosted a series of advocacy training sessions online that explored how to navigate the world of advocacy through a faith lens. You too can learn how to be a politically active Catholic. The training sessions were recorded and are now available to watch on YouTube:



Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

TRAINING #1

Fostering Civic Engagement and Anti-Racism

TRAINING #2

How to Be Catholic and Politically Active

TRAINING #3

Being a Diverse and Inclusive Church

TRAINING #4

Discerning Your Voice and the Power of Story

SISTERS OF BON SECOURS “Go On”

Four colorful felt banners displaying calls to be “Good Help” in service of the Church, the sick and the poor were brought out of the archives for the Fall Assembly at the Marriottsville campus. The sisters fondly refer to them as the “Go On” banners, because each one features the words “Go On” in large cursive letters.

One of the banners reads: “Mere Geay’s Sisters of Bon Secours go on in the service of the Church. She needs you now as in the beginning, to reflect the truth, the beauty, the divinity of her teaching and to heal the hatred, ignorance [and] prejudice.” This message remains as relevant today as it did when the banners were made in the 1960s.

The “Go On” banners originated during a revolutionary period of upheaval and enormous change for both the Catholic Church and the nation. Vatican II was

transforming the Catholic religion and its relationship to the modern world, and in the USA, there was extreme civil unrest—a public outcry against the Vietnam War, the tragic political assassinations of JFK, MLK, RFK and Malcom X, police violence against demonstrators, race riots and a burgeoning civil rights movement comprised of people from all walks of life coming together to protest and demand an end to the unfair treatment of Black people.

The “Go On” banners are a testament to the sisters’ commitment during a time of great turmoil. As we face new challenges today and see people around the world come together to protest racism and the brutal killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many other Black people, as we suffer collectively from the trauma of COVID-19 and recognize its overwhelming impact on Black and minority communities, we continually ask, **“What is God calling us to do?”** The “Go On” banners are a symbol of hope and a daily reminder of the continuous need for the Bon Secours’ healing, compassion and liberation in our world today.

Keeping *Our Sisters* on Marian Hall Safe

We are blessed to have the nursing staff on Marian Hall caring for our retired sisters. In addition to closing the floor to the public and keeping it impeccably clean, they have taken on extra shifts to minimize the sisters' exposure to outside people.

"Our nurses take it so seriously," says Director of Nursing Sharon "Sherry" Vieweg. "They are not going into stores or eating out. They are doing everything that has to be done to protect the sisters."

Sherry took the initiative to close down Marian Hall even before the governor implemented shutdowns, and she wrote a COVID-19 protocol that was adopted by the Retreat and Conference Center's COVID-19 taskforce led by Sr. Elaine Davia. Acquiring personal protective equipment was difficult at the beginning. Sherry reached out to her contacts and secured a donation of N95 masks from Carroll Community College. Thanks to [Retreat and Conference Center Bookstore](#) Associate Linda Culp, the sisters and staff also received colorful handcrafted cloth masks.



Sr. Mary Regina with nursing staff Terry Unglesbee (l) and Donna Parsons (r).

"My staff is stretched thin and exhausted, yet the camaraderie is unbelievable. We pulled together and are in a very safe bubbled environment. I always knew I had a great staff, and this proves it."

— SHERRY VIEWEG

"CODE HAPPY" Recovery Celebration



When a COVID-19 patient recovers and is discharged from [Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center](#), the patients' care team and anyone involved in their treatment is invited to line the halls for a "Code Happy" celebration. [Click here](#) to read about a patient's emotional journey to recovery.

◀ *Care team celebrates the recovery of a COVID-19 patient.*

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

On June 1, 2020, the sisters joined with the [LCWR](#) to participate in a National Day of Mourning and Lament to mark the death of 100,000 people in the United States from COVID-19. With the flag at half mast, the sisters held a prayer service followed by Sr. Elaine Davia playing taps on her French horn.

Sharing Our Experiences During COVID-19

by AMY S. KULESA, Director, Bon Secours Associates

Our Bon Secours Associates find themselves in a variety of circumstances during the months of COVID-19. Our experiences as a global community are certainly a patchwork quilt of resilience, heartbreak, anxiety, generosity, faith and courage. We are thankful for those in our midst who selflessly put themselves in the path of illness to care for the vulnerable and equally thankful for those who followed guidelines to shelter in place in order to protect themselves and others. We have all done our part, whether large or small, and this unifies us in the midst of this great crisis.

Here we offer excerpts of a reflection by Brenda Nelson, regional program coordinator for the Associate Ministry:

As I reflect on this season of pandemics — COVID-19 and 21st century racism, the words that resonate for me and have been descriptive of this time are the following: pause, prayer, productivity, passionate pursuit, purpose and pain...

While this season of pandemics has brought for so many deep suffering and loss, God has also provided the environment and opportunities for us to experience the prosperity of our souls, our spirit and our relationship with God and others.

To read Brenda's full reflection and those of our other associates, visit our website at www.bonsecours.us/associates.



BON SECOURS ASSOCIATE JO ANN BEHOUNEK, R.N., DETAILS HER EXPERIENCES AS AN EMERGENCY ROOM NURSE WORKING ON THE FRONTLINES IN [HEALTHY-HEADLINES](#).

NEW ELEVATOR at Marriottsville

We are pleased to announce the addition of a second elevator to our leadership headquarters at the Marriottsville campus. Now we have peace of mind that we can safely separate and transport our more vulnerable guests, staff and sisters to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and we have a back-up plan when our original elevator needs repairs. There is a fascinating story behind how this elevator came to be built, and we look forward to sharing it with you in our spring issue of *Focus*.



Sisters Care for the Sick

IN PERU

It is estimated that 80% of the population in the poorest regions of Peru have contracted COVID-19. All 10 of the Sisters of Bon Secours communities are located in these vulnerable areas, and as the sisters respond to the overwhelming need, they are being exposed to the coronavirus, and some of them have also fallen ill.

“These new times are full of affliction and anguish. As sisters of ‘Good Help,’ Jesus has directed us to respond,” says Sr. Rosa Elena Gómez Navarro.



Sisters provide handwashing stations.

In addition to continuing the many ongoing projects to help the poorest populations, the sisters are constructing handwashing stations, delivering educational materials on the virus, running emergency soup kitchens and working with Peru’s Ministry of Health to channel medical equipment. They are providing food, personal protective equipment and medicine to remote communities.

“Our prayer gives us strength to continue trusting with faith and hope in God during these difficult times. We feel that today, more than ever, our charism calls us to continue accompanying our people.”

— SR. ROSA ELENA GÓMEZ NAVARRO

To learn more, visit www.bonsecours.org/peru.



Michelle Vaughan, BSN, R.N., installs recording devices into Be There Bears.

Connecting Patients with Their Families

Michelle Vaughan, BSN, R.N., an ICU nurse at Bon Secours St. Mary’s Hospital, is always looking for ways to brighten her patients’ days. At the beginning of the pandemic, she and her co-workers were heartbroken that patients who were either intubated or sedated could not be with their families.

“I felt there had to be a way that we could do better.” — MICHELLE VAUGHAN, BSN, R.N.

With support from her manager and clinical care lead, Michelle developed a project called Be There Bears. The patient’s family records a message over the phone into a recording device which is then installed into a Be There Bear, a stuffed toy bear, and delivered to the patient in ICU. Nurses then play the recording for patients any time they are in their room.

“After calling several families and hearing the messages they left for their loved ones, it brought me to tears. Taking it one step further, getting to put the bears in the arms of the patients, I was overcome with pride and happiness to know that my patients might be able to feel their families’ presence,” says Michelle. “It’s so important, not only for our patients to feel the love and support of their families, but for us as nurses to feel connected to our patients and their families as well.”

[Click here](#) for more about Michelle and Be There Bears.



Ministry Volunteer Nancy Figueroa thanks health care heroes.

Ministry Volunteers Serve During COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic interrupted Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry’s 2019-2020 service year, and many of the Ministry Volunteers’ service opportunities changed abruptly. The volunteers in Richmond continued to be “Good Help” by participating in a rally honoring frontline workers at Richmond Community Hospital during World Health Worker Week in May of 2020.

With so many unknowns, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry has worked hard to adapt and change our ministry in ways that meet the needs of our current volunteers and those with whom they serve. To ensure everyone’s safety, B SVM created new service opportunities for the volunteers that align with CDC guidelines. After much preparation, we were pleased to welcome seven new Ministry Volunteers. We invite you to meet them and learn more about our ministry by visiting our website at www.bonsecours.us/volunteers.

Follow us on Instagram and Twitter.

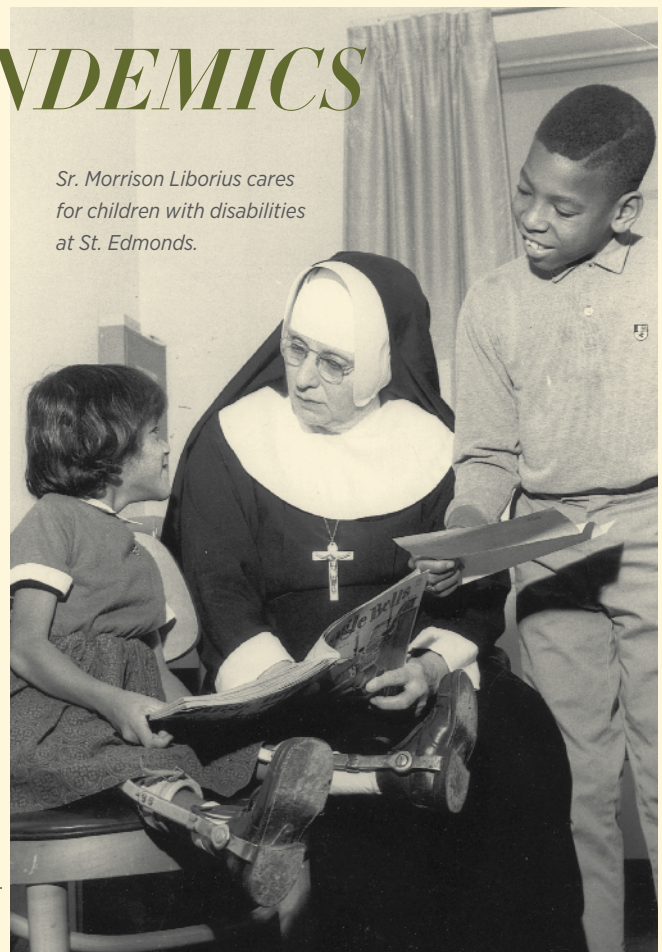


History of Past *PANDEMICS* & *EPIDEMICS*

THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS IN PURSUIT OF THEIR CHARISM TO BRING GOD’S COMPASSION, HEALING AND LIBERATION TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

In 1916, the sisters cared for children affected by the polio epidemic at St. Edmonds in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was the first Catholic home of its kind in America. The sisters also bravely responded to the devastating influenza pandemic of 1918, confident in God’s grace to assist them. The *Baltimore Sun* featured excerpts from the Sisters of Bon Secours book *A Century of Caring* documenting their experiences. Many sisters sacrificed their own lives to bring Christ’s healing presence to those who were sick and dying.

Sr. Morrison Liborius cares for children with disabilities at St. Edmonds.



Life as a Novice During the Pandemic

In January, Sr. Ji Kyung Choi entered the Novitiate and became an official member of our Congregation. During this special time in her formation, she is taking a step back from the hustle and bustle of daily life and spending more time at home deepening her relationship with God. The limitations on public life that most people are observing due to the pandemic are not very different from how Sr. Ji is living her life as a novice.

Sr. Ji leads a weekly prayer and reflections group for the sisters on Marian Hall. “It is intended to help them keep up with their spiritual life, but it lifts me up every time,” she confesses. They read spiritual writings together and enjoy engaging conversations. “I love being with them and sharing their spirit and wisdom.”



Pictured (l to r): Sr. Bernadette Claps and Sr. Nancy Glynn enjoy a prayer and reflections group led by Sr. Ji Kyung Choi.

During these unusual times, when nothing is happening as expected, Sr. Ji says, **“God is working on me, and I feel His love the whole time; the pandemic has not changed that. God is pouring down all the grace I need.”**

VOCATION NEWS

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

Choose Who and How You Want to Be

EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS CONNECTED: THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, RACISM, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ALL ITS ATTENDANT CONSEQUENCES, AND RIGHT TO LIFE. WHERE YOU CHOOSE TO PUT YOUR ENERGY AND YOUR VOICE, YOUR FEET AND YOUR VOTE, AFFECT ALL OF LIFE.

The other day while at a Black Lives Matter rally, I gave my handmade poster to a man from the North Avenue neighborhood in Baltimore City. Then I thought, “What can I do to show that I want to make a difference to passersby in their cars?” They couldn’t possibly read my button “Racism Hurts Everybody,” but “Aha!” they could see my hands. So, with my right hand I made the sign language “I love you symbol,” and with my left hand I made the peace sign. Giving away my sign freed me to be my sign! A small gesture, but a response to the circumstances.

In the days and weeks ahead, I invite you to continue to consciously choose who and how you want to be. Ask God to give you the grace to unlock and really listen to your dreams. Whatever you do, don’t be normal. Choose to be different. Choose to chart the path to peace, and maybe, just

maybe, explore a path to becoming a part of the Bon Secours Family — as a Bon Secours Sister, a Bon Secours Young Adult, a Bon Secours Associate or a Bon Secours Volunteer. I promise you won’t regret journeying with us in some large or small way.

Visit our websites: www.bonsecoursvocations.org and www.lifeasasisister.org. For more information, contact Sr. Fran Gorsuch at 410-442-3171 or email her at CBSVocations@bshsi.org.



Upcoming Retreats & Special Events:

Open to God's In-Breaking: An Advent Weekend of Contemplative Prayer

with Amy Kulesa

December 4-6, 2020

Making All Things New *with Paul Gallagher*

January 8-10, 2021

Winter Directed Retreat

6-Night *with Sr. Bernadette Claps*

January 15-21, 2021

3-Night *with Jackie Antkowiak or Joanne Cahoon*

January 15-18, 2021

The Magnificat in Modern Times:

Art & Stories *with Bro. Mickey McGrath*

February 12-14, 2021

The Way of the Franciscans:

A Lenten Journey *with Fr. Daniel Horan*

March 5-7, 2021

SoulCollage *with Roberta Rook*

April 9-11, 2021

To see the full schedule of retreats and events, visit our website at www.rccbonscours.com/events/ or call us at 410-442-3120 to request a copy of *Bridges* magazine, with the complete schedule, to be mailed to you.

WELCOME BACK



Our guests visit the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center to seek peace and healing hospitality. We are dedicated to delivering a safe environment, so we can be a source of

calm and peace for everyone who visits. To ensure we are doing everything possible to deliver maximum safety against the potential for COVID-19, we are working tirelessly to implement additional safety measures and are consistently following guidelines from the CDC, state and country leaders and the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

“What has not changed is our caring for the individual,” says Director of Operations Kevin Cassidy. “To a person, we still strive to deliver an exceptional experience to all who enter. Now, we do it behind a mask, but it is the same compassion and caring that has always been a staple of this ministry.”

NEW BLOG: RETREAT WITH US AT HOME

Check out our [new blog here](#) and retreat with us at home. We encourage you to comment, share with friends or simply take a moment during your day to pray with us.

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

April 25-30, 2021

Spiritual Direction Institute, Week 1,

with Kathleen Brown and Sr. Bernadette Claps

Enhance your understanding of spiritual life and spiritual direction in the Christian tradition. This introductory course examines the core principles of effective spiritual direction and is the first of a three-part program series designed to develop your skills as a spiritual director.

Click applicable button for further details and to register:

Overnight

Commuter Option



Sr. Bernadette Claps (l) offering spiritual direction.

Congratulations

TO ELIZABETH EFFIM, a certified nursing assistant on Marian Hall, who became a United States citizen in June.



Sisters attend Leadership Conference of Women Religious

virtually while enjoying dinner together (l to r): Srs. Mary Shimo, Fran Gorsuch, Rose Marie Jasinski and Elaine Davia.

SEE VIDEO OF SR. ELAINE DAVIA



playing taps on Memorial Day as part of "Taps Across America: The National Moment of Remembrance," an annual event to remember U.S. military veterans who died in service.



Sr. Vicky Segura honored by the

Richmond Times-Dispatch "Strong Voices" program recognizing women whose vision, impact and commitment have served Richmond, Virginia.



Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski (r) received the "You Make the Difference" award from Happy Helpers for the Homeless, an organization where she and Sr. Fran Gorsuch (l) volunteer.



SISTERS OF BON SECOURS CONNECT AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH ZOOM AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY.

The Spring Assembly "Resurrection People: Creating What is to Come" was held virtually in May. Congregation Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski has also been leading a series of meetings with sisters from around the world assisted by interpreters.



SR. PAT DOWLING (l) & SR. NANCY GLYNN (r) DELIVER BAGS OF FOOD

The bags of food were packaged by Bon Secours Community Works in Baltimore.

\$45,000

IN MINISTRY GRANTS AWARDED

MAKE A MIRACLE COVID-19 FOOD AND KITCHEN PROJECT IN PERU

\$15,000

This funding will provide support to people in the San Juan Lurigancho district of Lima, Peru, who are in desperate need of food supplies. The situation in this region is particularly difficult due to the spread of COVID-19 and the overcrowded population in the mountainous regions. It is imperative for people to go to the marketplace for food, exacerbating human contact in the common area, thus increasing the spread of COVID-19. It is estimated that over 80% of the population may be infected. **Make a Miracle** hopes to provide three more kitchen food services to address this growing need in the midst of the pandemic.

BALTIMORE FOUNDATION YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

\$15,000

This funding will directly impact programs aimed at improving the lives of residents in Baltimore.

The Youth Employment Entrepreneurship Program addresses a critical issue related to young people striving to find their place in the world and discovering how their gifts will engage the needs of their community. This program will enroll over 30 young people to help them acquire the skills and knowledge needed to develop their talents and adapt to a changing environment.

NEXT STEPS TODAY REHABILITATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

\$15,000

This funding will provide better housing and the materials needed to educate and support men through the sobriety and recovery process.

The Next Steps Today Rehabilitation Recovery Program takes a multifaceted approach to recovery that emphasizes a spiritual foundation as the key to sustaining efforts in remaining sober. It supports and provides funding to men in recovery to help them attain rehabilitation and deepen their desire to become whole human beings.



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