

*f*OCUS

a publication of the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

FALL 2022



Sisters of
Bon Secours, USA

contents

“THE FUTURE IS, MOST OF ALL,
IN THE HANDS OF THOSE
PEOPLE WHO RECOGNIZE
THE OTHER AS A ‘YOU’
AND THEMSELVES AS PART
OF AN ‘US.’ WE ALL NEED
EACH OTHER.”

— POPE FRANCIS

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DEAR *friends*

Engaging WITH THE



Next Generation

This issue of *Focus* is about the next generation who is helping to carry forth the sisters' legacy and charism of healing, compassion and liberation. Throughout our history, we have always known how important it is to reach out to young people whether through our nursing schools, vocation efforts or our support of programs such as Sisters Academy of Baltimore. In recent years, we have formalized two ministries directly aimed at the next generation, our volunteer ministry program in Baltimore and Richmond and our young adult program, which has recently expanded internationally under the leadership of Nicholas Stein. Please enjoy the personal stories in this issue about how the sisters' mission has impacted the lives of these young people.

In the spring, the sisters held the midterm assembly, and one of the most important decisions that came out of the assembly was the Sisters of Bon Secours' approval of the USA Laudato Si' goals. Many of our sisters came from other countries, gathering in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It was wonderful seeing each other face-to-face again. The midterm assembly gave us an opportunity to hear reports from all our committees and share our progress on our 2019 Chapter goals.

Srs. Mary Shimo, Fran Gorsuch, Rose Marie Jasinski and I also had the privilege of attending the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in St. Louis, Missouri. There were a variety of speakers presenting an underlying theme of planning for the future.

A highlight for me this past summer was going on an International Heritage Retreat in Paris with Srs. Pat Dowling and Ji Kyung Choi as well as our sisters from other countries. It always fills me with awe to be at the Motherhouse and tour the places in France where our Congregation began. While we were there, we also met Srs. Mireille and Patience, two transfer sisters from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Perpetua Madu from Nigeria, a pre-candidate who was spending time at our Motherhouse. Following the retreat, I stayed in Paris for the Congregation Team meeting.

People have been wondering who received the Josephine Potel Award this past year. The answer is all our employees are award winners. It was decided that every employee deserved the award this year, as they coped so beautifully and generously with all the disruptions

to our lives caused by COVID-19. To our staff, I say a heartfelt thank you for working with us to get through these difficult times. You are all winners in the eyes of the sisters. Look for the next individual Josephine Potel Award winner to be announced in January 2023.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate our two jubilarians, Sr. Dorothy Brogan on her 70th jubilee and Sr. Mary Shimo on her 60th jubilee. I know you will enjoy reading their stories and learning how much they have both contributed to our Congregation over the years. I also want to welcome our new ministry volunteers who have begun their year of service. We are happy to have them as a part of our Bon Secours family.

In addition to the formation of an international young adults program, I am excited to announce that under the leadership of Amy Kulesa, an international associates committee has also been created, and you will hear more about that in our next issue of *Focus*.

With life slowly returning to normal, I am pleased that we have been able to fill several positions that have remained vacant over the past few years, and I want to warmly

welcome our new employees to Bon Secours. We have also had the pleasure of promoting several employees to new positions, and I congratulate all of you who have received well-deserved promotions.

And finally, as we head into the holiday season, I want to wish each of you and your families a very blessed Christmas and happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



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

SR. ELAINE DAVIA

Area Leader, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

Touching the Hearts OF THE Next Generation

The Sisters of Bon Secours are devoted to bringing Christ's healing message to the world. In the face of a changing society with many challenges, we strive to cut through the noise and touch the hearts and minds of the next generation. Through our ministries, we are helping young people deepen their relationship with God and grow in their faith. It is a blessing to accompany the next generation as they make our charisms their own, keeping them fresh and relevant in today's world. Together with our Bon Secours family, we are creating vibrant faith-based communities who will carry on our mission today and tomorrow.

Building a Community of Faith

“The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope.”

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

◀ *Corinne and Domenic with daughter Zelig on vacation in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.*

The young adult years are a time of rapid change and transition. It can be lonely for young adults trying to grow in faith. The Bon Secours Young Adults ministry offers a space where young adults are seen and supported.

Corinne and Domenic Puzio are a young married couple who recently welcomed a baby girl, named Zelig. “Early in our dating life, I invited Domenic to a Bon Secours Young Adults retreat,” says Corinne. “It’s a close-knit group, and I knew he would be welcomed. We do deep dives into the charisms of the Sisters of Bon Secours, and we also have a lot of fun together.”

To prepare for his first retreat, Domenic was given a generic packing list that said to bring a bathing suit. Domenic is a software engineer, so perhaps due to his meticulous nature and to everyone’s amusement, he packed a swimsuit, even though it was January and

30 degrees outside. His mishap inspired a group polar plunge in the outdoor pool and great memories warming up around the fireplace afterward.

Domenic says, “Holiness doesn’t just happen to you — you really must pursue it — and there is great value in doing it in community. It has been helpful to have people around us who are in similar stages of life, striving for the same thing and doing it with great joy.”

Corinne is a campus minister at the University of Virginia, and she runs and attends a lot of retreats. “The Bon Secours Young Adult retreats are different. We are not coddled, yet I feel cared for in a very personal way. The people who participate have a deep faith life and are very intentional in their desire to build community. These are relationships we will sacrifice for and drive hours for just to spend time together.”

HANNAH BENNET LOST TWO CHILDHOOD FRIENDS TO CANCER. SHE REMEMBERS THE NURSES WHO TOOK CARE OF HER FRIENDS,

“They made sure fun was had amidst all of the suffering. They made comfort a priority and cared for my friends with love.”

Those bittersweet memories ultimately influenced Hannah’s decision to pursue a career in nursing. She says, “Becoming a nurse to live out the legacy of those compassionate individuals has always been a dream of mine.”



Living Out the Legacy of Compassion

A devout Catholic, Hannah says Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing in Richmond, Virginia, was an obvious choice because “it aligned almost identically with my values.

The Bon Secours mission, to serve with compassion and provide good help to those in need, inspired me to learn more about their program and eventually join as a student.”

For the past two years, Hannah has worked as a patient care technician for Bon Secours St. Mary’s Hospital on the acute care/general surgery floor. Her employment status qualifies her to receive tuition assistance for the nursing program and gives her the opportunity to gain experience in the field.

Hannah also received two scholarships this year: the Sisters of Bon Secours Nursing Award and the Lettie Pate Whitehead Award. The application process gave Hannah a chance to reflect on her reasons for wanting to serve in the role of a nurse. She found it further solidified her passion for nursing.

She says, “Receiving a nursing scholarship from the Sisters of Bon Secours has meant the world to me. The sisters’ mission exemplifies the kind of nurse and human I aspire to be, and through this financial support, I can fully focus on my studies and worry less about how to afford the financial commitment of a second degree.

“I am forever indebted to those generous sponsors who chose to support a stranger with a passion to make a difference in the world of nursing.”



Hannah with her parents at graduation from James Madison University.

Grounded in Faith

Bon Secours Associate Kyle Benham strives to be a better active listener and more aware of the needs of others. “It’s easy to get caught up in our daily lives, rushing around and losing focus of those around us,” he says. “Being an associate keeps me grounded in my faith during those challenging times.”

When the world was turned upside down during the pandemic, Kyle and other associates, along with members of different faith-based groups across the ministry, came together over Zoom on a weekly basis to pray and talk. Sr. Fran Gorsuch was a part of Kyle’s prayer group along with two Bon Secours Young Adults. Despite the wide range in age, the conversation flowed. Kyle says,

“I feel blessed to have had these experiences. I am continuously inspired by the sisters to follow their lead and be good help through actions and attitudes that promote healing, compassion and liberation.”

Kyle (left) prays with his family during the pandemic.



Kyle with Sr. Mary Cabrini.

Kyle is a learning technology consultant for the Bon Secours Mercy Health Culture and Learning department in Richmond, Virginia. His journey as an associate began in the summer of 2017 when Robin Ratchford, who was the regional chief information officer for Bon Secours Mercy Health at the time, extended an open invitation to learn more about the ministry. “After a weekend of prayer and discernment, I felt a strong calling to become an associate,” says Kyle. “I immediately felt welcomed and part of a loving, faith-filled community.”

Robin was Kyle’s mentor throughout his formation process. “He carefully guided me and was always available to answer my questions,” says Kyle. “One day he took a painting off the wall in his office and gave it to me.

It was a beautiful watercolor of Ireland’s coastline painted by Sr. Roselle. Robin said he wanted me to have it, as we all play an important role in carrying on the sisters’ legacy. Today, Sr. Roselle’s painting is proudly displayed in my office, and it is an honor to share her artistic work with others while telling the story of Robin’s selfless gesture.”



The Power of Radical Solidarity

The sisters' commitment to justice in radical solidarity spoke to Sarah Ceponis. She felt a calling to make a difference in the world having no idea what a difference the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM) would make in her life.

"I naively thought I was going to help solve poverty," says Sarah about her younger self. She served in the BSVM 2011–12 cohort. "Ironically, a lot of the volunteer year was about stepping away from the idea of 'solving' and more about being present, bearing witness and building relationships." The experience instilled the power of accompaniment, and when she started her own social sector consulting business, after a decade of working at nonprofits, she named it Accompaniment Consulting.

"Being a volunteer taught me how to live out my faith in a way I did not know was possible, focused on equity and justice." She cared for children in the childcare program at the Family Support Center while their parents, predominately young mothers, attended GED classes.

The young mothers faced a lot of challenges and barriers to opportunity compared to what Sarah had experienced up to that point.

"On the surface, it may have seemed we did not have anything in common, but I fell in love with their kids, and that was the starting point for building trust and realizing we had much in common." Sarah remembers having a particularly difficult time connecting with one of the mothers at first, but eventually they became good friends. "BSVM gave me the tools to build relationships and understand the meaning of community."

Sarah fell in love with Baltimore's neighborhoods and neighbors and returned to the city to earn a master's degree in public health. Most significant, she met her husband, August Kunkel, through the volunteer ministry program when she hosted a dinner to welcome the 2014–15 volunteers, and he was in the cohort. They reside in West Baltimore with their two young children, about two miles from where they served with BSVM.

Sarah Ceponis, BSVM 2011-12, with her husband, August Kunkel, BSVM 2014-15, and children Bram and Elodie.



MADISON DIGGS AND NOELIA LEIVA ARE VIVACIOUS, SELF-ASSURED EIGHTH GRADERS WHOSE EYES LIGHT UP WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL.

They attend Sisters Academy of Baltimore, a tuition-free middle school for girls in fifth through eighth grade, founded and supported by the Sisters of Bon Secours along with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Sisters Academy offers a rigorous, faith-based curriculum to students with limited economic means who would not otherwise have access to a private school education. Both young women name math and life skills as their favorite subjects. Madison says, "I have learned how to talk in front of big groups of people and express what I want to say, and I know how to present myself."



MADISON DIGGS

NOELIA LEIVA

Building a Foundation for Future Leaders

She appreciates the small class sizes and diversity at Sisters Academy, "I have been introduced to different kinds of people, cultures and religions, and that has changed me and the way I think about other people." She explains how Sisters Academy cultivates community, "In fifth grade, you are assigned three or four older students to be your big sisters and guide you through your first year. In sixth grade, you become a big sister, and you get new sisters every year. Your line of sisters keeps growing."

Noelia agrees, "We have a very special way of bonding at Sisters Academy that will connect us for the rest of our lives." She shares one of the rituals that makes Sisters Academy special for her, "We have gatherings in the morning for quiet time and prayer to center ourselves

and connect with God and our spirituality." Noelia is excited to be studying religions from around the world and discovering what similarities they share with Christianity. She says, "It has been surprising to learn all the ways people pray and show their love for their religion."

Introverted and shy when she was younger, Sisters Academy has helped Noelia come out of her shell and find her voice. She says, "Everyone is supportive, and they encourage me to pursue the things that are meaningful to me. For example, I am very interested in community service and helping people from my home country."

Sisters Academy is building the foundation for future leaders, one young woman at time.

RACHEL YOUNG ALWAYS KNEW SHE WANTED TO BE IN THE MEDICAL FIELD, AND THERE WAS SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS.

At first, she wanted to be a doctor. Then, she planned to go to a physician’s assistant school, but the pandemic hit, and she ended up moving back home to Richmond, Virginia, and working in a doctor’s office.

Learning by Listening

“I discovered I really liked direct patient care. I enjoyed talking and listening to the patients, working with their families and building that relationship.” One of the doctors Rachel was working with noticed her affinity for patient care and recommended the program at Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing.

Growing up, Rachel had been a serious ballet student. She suffered numerous injuries and had hip surgery while she was in college. “From all my dance training, I knew I had the discipline to get through the program, and I also had the understanding of what it is like to be seeking treatment or undergoing surgery. I bring that personal experience to my work, and it resonates with patients.”

Now that Rachel is a nursing student, she says, “I learn so much just by listening to my patients. Even small acts of kindness can immediately increase patient care and impact how a patient is feeling. Being accepting and open minded also goes a long way.” Rachel is halfway through her training.

“When I graduate, I will be able to help people and give back to the community that raised me. I am hopeful that one day I will be as knowledgeable as the nurses who are teaching me.”



The Impact of a Year of Service

After college, Jonathan Bettle accepted an internship with Doctors Without Borders in New York City. He knew he wanted to go to nursing school but was not sure where to apply. As the internship was coming to a close, he received an email from the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry announcing an opening within the BSVM 2008–09 cohort. Jonathan immediately applied. In hindsight, he says, “I felt something very clairvoyant about the call to respond.”

Jonathan graduated from the University of Dayton, a Catholic, Marianist university deeply connected to the mission of service. While still a student, he attended a presentation about a year of service and met a representative from the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry. He recalls, “It was the only program offering a health care opportunity that was clinical. I must have signed up for their email list. It turned out to be quite a blessing, because it brought me to Baltimore, where there were many nursing schools and new opportunities, and I was able to live in community, which as a young Christian was very important to me.”

During his BSVM year, Jonathan served as a patient advocate in the Emergency Department at Bon Secours Hospital Baltimore and quickly expanded his responsibilities to provide resources and help any way he could. “Bon Secours does Kingdom work set against a lot of brokenness and extreme poverty,” says Jonathan. “I learned to navigate that environment and be a loving minister of presence and hospitality.”

“There is an inherent worth and dignity in every person that comes across your path. Every patient is worth caring for and deserves your utmost best.”

Jonathan’s BSVM experience forever changed his life. He has been a nurse for more than 10 years, currently serving at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He is a deacon in his Church and raising his family in Baltimore City.



Jonathan with his wife, Courtney, and sons Ellis and Desmond.

Inspired by the Sisters' Mission

WHEN ADRIAN DUCKETT FIRST LEARNED ABOUT BECOMING A BON SECOURS ASSOCIATE, SHE THOUGHT IT INVOLVED MAKING A VOW. SHE AND THE SISTERS STILL LAUGH ABOUT IT.

Adrian is a hospital chaplain in the Spiritual Care Department at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina. "In both joyful times and sad times, I offer spiritual and emotional support to patients, families and staff. It is an extremely rewarding ministry," she says.

As an employee of the ministry, Adrian was aware of the sisters' work before she became an associate. She had worked alongside Srs. Dorothy Brogan and Kathleen Moroney, both chaplains in the health system, and witnessed firsthand the sisters' care of the sick, poor and dying. Adrian also had the opportunity to work with Sr. Rosa Sanchez Chigne from Peru. "Sr. Rosa's personality, along with the cultural differences and the different ways of doing ministry, showed me another dimension of what it means to be a Sister of Bon Secours. It was invigorating to work with her and experience how compassionate she was," says Adrian.

"The sisters' mission inspired me, and I found myself increasingly attracted to their ministry. After much reflection and prayer, I sensed a call to become an associate."



Adrian made her first commitment as an associate in March 2019 and renewed her commitment this year.

During the pandemic, the associates in Greenville met on Zoom and listened to the first season of the podcast "Learning How to See," by Brian McLaren. They engaged in challenging conversations about racism and other topics. "Many of us were able to be vulnerable with one another by sharing our experiences and beliefs in ways I had not seen before," Adrian explains. "I feel a deeper intimacy within the group as a result."

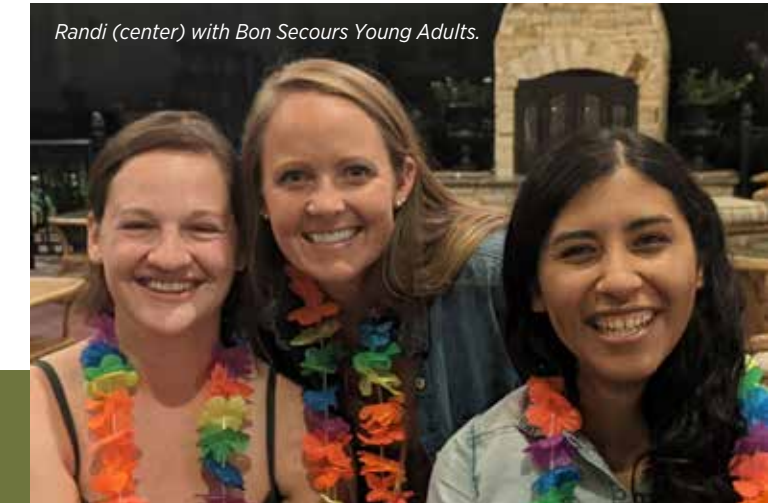
Adrian was asked to serve on the USA Associates Leadership Council, and in that role, she promotes the growth and diversity of the associates, plans the associates' fall retreat and recently participated in drafting the associates' first strategic plan. "I'm grateful for these experiences and very proud of the work that is being done to envision and plan for the future," she says.

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, RANDI BLANTON WAS CALLED TO SERVE AS A CATHOLIC MISSIONARY AND TRAVELED TO PERU, TANZANIA, MEXICO, ECUADOR, KENYA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Open Your Heart

Upon returning stateside, she took a job as an office manager for a private medical practice specializing in relationship-based care. While her work was rewarding, she lived in an isolated community with a small Catholic population. "I was struggling to integrate back into American culture. A lot of pressure is placed on young people to achieve milestones that do not hold a lot of value for me. I had a deep desire for community but worried I would not be accepted."

Randi's dear friend is Lauren DeSmit, the program manager for Bon Secours Young Adults, USA. Lauren encouraged Randi to go on a young adult retreat, but Randi was apprehensive. "My life path has been so non-traditional. I was reluctant and thought I might not fit in." Lauren continued to invite her. "Eventually, the Lord said, 'Let's go!' and I listened."



Randi (center) with Bon Secours Young Adults.

From the beginning, Randi felt incredibly seen. "The Bon Secours Young Adults are super authentic and very much foster the light of Christ. We all come from different walks of life but are able to meet each other where we are and come together in fellowship." The dynamic sense of community encourages Randi in her faith and makes her hopeful for the future of the Church.

Another joy has been getting to know the Sisters of Bon Secours on a personal level. Randi did not have exposure to religious sisters growing up and has been delighted to discover,

"Sisters are real people, and they want to engage with us."

To anyone considering becoming a Bon Secours Young Adult, Randi says, "Trust the Lord, open your heart and give it a try. You will be surrounded by people who love Jesus and genuinely care about who you are as a person."



Randi with retreat participants.

Sr. Nancy Glynn

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION:

Ecological Spirituality *in the Spirit of Laudato Si'* AND THE Bon Secours Charism

“KNOWING THAT YOU LOVE EARTH CHANGES YOU, ACTIVATES YOU TO DEFEND AND PROTECT AND CELEBRATE. BUT WHEN YOU FEEL THAT EARTH LOVES YOU IN RETURN, THAT FEELING TRANSFORMS THE RELATIONSHIP FROM A ONE-WAY STREET INTO A SACRED BOND.”

— Robin Wall Kimmerer,

“Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants”

This quote from Robin Wall Kimmerer aptly expresses the transformation of our relationship with Earth that has been occurring within the Bon Secours family over these past few months. Inspired by Pope Francis’ invitation to embark on a seven-year journey of transformation through participation in the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, we have been engaging in and fostering ecological education and developing an ecological spirituality through the leadership of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation USA Team, which is chaired by Rachel Moccia, a Bon Secours Young Adult, and includes four Bon Secours Young Adults. The JPIC USA Team planned and implemented some very inspiring and fun events for us since the last issue of *Focus*.

What better way to feel Earth loves you than spending time in nature? Almost 40 of us, 20% of whom were

Bon Secours Young Adults, did just that as we participated in a nature scavenger hunt in the spirit of Laudato Si’ in June and tried to find as many of the 100 creatures on our scavenger list as we could. Collectively, these nature lovers uploaded more than 100 pictures of their finds. This opportunity to slow down and appreciate the color, texture, scents and sounds of nature was balm for the soul, and from the feedback from participants, it clearly created within them a sacred bond with Earth. You know this event was appreciated when more than one participant asked if we could do it again next year in autumn. And, in case you were wondering who found the most creatures...it was Sr. Elaine Davia. Congratulations, Sr. Elaine, for your eagle eye and love of creation!

While we were still savoring the beauty and bounty of Earth from the scavenger hunt, we learned in July that 13 of our Chestnut Oak trees on the Marriottsville campus needed to be removed due to disease resulting from



◀ Sr. Mary Beth Hamm (left), Nick Stein (center) and Congregation Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski led a ritual of gratitude for the trees that had to be removed due to disease resulting from climate change.

by SR. MARY BETH HAMM, SSJ
Coordinator: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours

climate change and prolonged warming temperatures in our area. While this news evoked such a sense of sadness, it also prompted us to offer a ritual of gratitude for the lives of these magnificent trees that have graced our property for decades and provided shelter, shade and beauty for so many of God’s creatures. Truly, we were compelled “to defend, protect and celebrate” the gift they had been to us.

With the season of creation upon us, the JPIC USA Team continued to offer opportunities for us to engage in ecological spirituality and ecological education through a virtual book discussion of “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer and a Bon Secours 30-Day Plastic Challenge. If you are hungry for a life-changing book, “Braiding Sweetgrass” is one you want on your bucket list. Thirty participants, including seven young adults, delved into this fantastic book that weaves indigenous wisdom with scientific knowledge and creates within

the reader a sacred bond with and affection for Earth. Mary Beth Keenan, a young adult member of the JPIC USA Team, was among those who planned and facilitated this event.

Another young adult member of the JPIC USA Team, Ruby Miller, helped plan the Bon Secours 30-Day Plastic Challenge. Each week of September, participants received an email challenging them to reduce plastic consumption, especially single-use plastics.

In all these ways, the Sisters of Bon Secours are tapping into the energy of the next generation and benefitting from the skills, passion and generosity of our young adults who so desire “to defend and care for all creation” in the spirit of Bon Secours.

Welcome Bon Secours Pre-Candidates

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

THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS HAVE WELCOMED TWO WOMEN, PERPETUA AND NATALIE, AS PRE-CANDIDATES.

They are beginning the early stages of their formation process. They share their experiences with the sisters and shed a little light on discerning one's vocation and the process of becoming a Sister of Bon Secours. We invite you, the readers, to share their stories with other young women who might be interested in living as a Sister of Bon Secours.

PERPETUA from Nigeria

“I have journeyed with Sr. Fran for the past two years, during which we have been reflecting on living the Christian vocation with a renewed awareness and focusing on a Bon Secours vocation. During my visit to the Motherhouse in Paris, I was blessed to meet with the sisters on the heritage retreat. Their simplicity was so captivating. Despite it being my first time meeting them, they were all kindhearted and helped me feel at home—as if I were already a sister.

The sisters' actions are aligned with their spirituality, which I have been reflecting on with Sr. Fran. They exude joy and maturity and emanate audacious hope in living their vocation. They simply live for Jesus by recognizing Jesus in each person. This profound experience with the sisters has deepened my call to Bon Secours.”



Pre-candidate Perpetua visits the Chapel at the Motherhouse in Paris.



◀ Sr. Fran Gorsuch and pre-candidate Natalie are Baltimore Orioles fans.

COME AND BE RETREAT

April 1-2, 2023

Bon Secours Retreat
& Conference Center

NATALIE from Memphis, Tennessee

“I first learned about the sisters' charism over a year ago when I was researching the Sisters of Bon Secours and their practices. These three words—compassion, healing and liberation—drew me to learn more about them, and I thought I understood what the words meant and how the charism was lived.

Then, at the end of August, I received word that my grandmother was in the hospital. She had been sick for a few months, but it was still a surprise. She had always been a force to reckon with, and I had assumed she would quickly get better, but that was not God's plan. I had only been living with the sisters for a little over a month and was still very new to living in community. I had heard that there is often a period of separation where it is discouraged for pre-candidates to leave the community. Therefore, I was unprepared for the overwhelming wave of support and love that I was greeted with. The sisters' response made the charism very real.

Compassion was given in the way the sisters asked about who my grandmother was and how they listened to my memories of the times I had spent with her. Healing was shown through comforting both me and my family and by offering emotional and physical support. The sisters encouraged me to visit my grandmother. In doing this, they acknowledged the importance of my grandmother in my life and liberated me from any regrets in my final few months with her. Experiencing the sisters' support and living out their charism has helped to further solidify my calling to become a Sister of Bon Secours. I want to be part of a community that offered unwavering support even though they had only known me for a little over a month. They have embraced me and showed me how the charism can be lived.”

COME AND SEE, COME AND BE

We invite you to learn more about the Sisters of Bon Secours. If you are a woman who is single, Catholic and between the ages of 20 and 45, contact Sr. Fran Gorsuch at fran_gorsuch@bshsi.org or call **845-721-0980** for more information or to register for the **COME AND BE RETREAT** on **April 1-2, 2023**.



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Sr. Dorothy Brogan

BORN IN IRELAND, SR. DOROTHY BROGAN ENTERED THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS IN 1952 AND PROFESSED HER FINAL VOWS IN 1960. Her early ministries with the Sisters of Bon Secours were as a licensed practical nurse in Pennsylvania at Our Lady of Help Christians and Villa St. Joseph as well as at Bon Secours Hospital in Methuen, Massachusetts. A graduate of the Camillus Mercy School of Practical Nursing, she also took graduate courses at Holy Cross Hospital Health Care Ministry and the Institute of Music and Imagery.

From 1976–80, Sr. Dorothy was the vocation director for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. In 1981, she became a pastoral associate in Richmond, Virginia, and served on both the Congregation’s Provincial General Assembly Planning Committee and the task force for the Ministry of Spirituality. She was the local coordinator for the sisters in Richmond and on the board of directors of St. Mary’s Health Corporation and St. John’s Hospital. In 1989, Sr. Dorothy took a sabbatical year at Gonzaga University’s School of Leadership Studies in Spokane, Washington.

In 1992, Sr. Dorothy began preparing for the Sisters of Bon Secours’ mission in Riobamba, Ecuador, where she ministered to those who were poor in the barrio. After returning from Ecuador, she participated in a Spanish parish ministry in Miami before launching a new ministry in the Hospice of Charlotte in Port Charlotte, Florida.



In 2000, Sr. Dorothy became hospice chaplain at Bon Secours St. Francis Health System in Greenville, South Carolina, and subsequently, chaplain of the palliative care team, working with hospice and palliative care patients. She also made home care visits to people who lived alone, were in the end stages of their life or needed to make end-of-life decisions. Today, Sr. Dorothy has cut back on her hours but continues to minister to outpatients at the St. Francis Cancer Center. She is also very involved with the Associate community in Greenville.

Sr. Dorothy likes taking advantage of the many educational opportunities on the internet and keeping up to date on world and local events as well as the intercultural activities in her community. She enjoys the outdoors, a good book, listening to music and visiting with family and friends. Working less hours also gives her more time for prayer and reflection.

(continued on page 20)



Sr. Mary Shimo

SR. MARY SHIMO ENTERED THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS IN 1962 AND PROFESSED HER FINAL VOWS IN 1971. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing science from the University of Maryland and her Master of Arts in religion and medical care from George Washington University. She has also taken many courses in theology and clinical pastoral education.

Sr. Mary speaks of the wonderful opportunities she has had as a Sister of Bon Secours, both in terms of the education she has received and the experiences she has had. “No one could have anticipated all the things I have done from nursing, to being a chaplain for 20 years, to running a hospital gift shop and managing the hospital’s volunteer program. It has been a journey of surprises with so many places and directions I never would have thought to go in,” she says.

For many years, Sr. Mary was the manager of the volunteer student programs at Bon Secours Baltimore Health System. This involved overseeing the volunteer program and the affiliations with area schools as part of the hospital’s student clinical internship program. Working in a hospital, she also had the opportunity to continue to use her chaplaincy skills in many ways.

She started her nursing career at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore on the orthopedic unit, where she ministered



for five years. Following her nursing career, Sr. Mary became a chaplain and, in 1977, became a pastoral associate at St. Mary’s Hospital in Richmond. In 1983, she returned to Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore as director of pastoral care. From 1990–2000, she served as director of pastoral care at Carroll Hospital Center in Maryland, returning to Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore in 2000 as volunteer coordinator.

An active member of the Congregation, Sr. Mary has chaired the Sisters of Bon Secours Jubilee Celebration, been on the vocation team, chaired the Provincial General Assembly Committee, and served several terms on the Sisters of Bon Secours’ USA Leadership Team. She served as president of the Washington Village Community Medical Center board in Baltimore from 1983–1992.

(continued on page 20)



Sr. Dorothy Brogan

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“My journey in religious life has opened many doors of opportunity and challenges through which I have grown personally, spiritually and professionally,” says Sr. Dorothy, who has also been a member of the Sisters of Bon Secours vocation team and served as president of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System Foundation and on the local health system’s ethics committee. “I received a wonderful

gift to be able to follow in the footsteps of all the Sisters of Bon Secours who came before me. My ministry working with the sick and dying directly reflects the mission and charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours, and I see God’s work very much alive in the faith and courage of the sick. I also am blessed to have my community of sisters, who have taken the journey with me throughout all these many years.”



Sr. Mary Shimo

(continued from page 19)

Sr. Mary is known as the “keeper of the archives” and has built and maintained a wonderful history of the Congregation that is housed in the Sisters of Bon Secours’ home at Marriottsville. She also served on the Bon Secours Baltimore Health System board and the national Bon Secours Health System board of directors.

From 2009–2019, Sr. Mary Shimo was secretary to the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris and traveled with the Congregation Leadership Team to meetings in Peru, France and Ireland to take minutes. “This was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many Sisters of Bon Secours and experience other cultures,” she says.

Sr. Mary left hospital work in 2013. She continues to oversee the archives of the Sisters of Bon Secours and serves on the USA Leadership Team. Additionally, she serves on the Bon Secours Baltimore Foundation board, the West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation board and the Bon Secours Richmond Market board. Sr. Mary is also employed by various religious congregations to be secretary for their assemblies and general chapters, traveling to New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Iowa.

You also might find Sr. Mary at an Orioles’ game or cheering for the Ravens during their seasons. Her annual Super Bowl parties have become a tradition with her Bon Secours sisters.

WALKING IN THE HEART OF FAITH: *A Bon Secours Pilgrimage to the* HOLY LAND

FEBRUARY 6-17, 2023

A Christian pilgrimage is so much more than visiting holy destinations. You will journey into the foundations of Christianity, while immersed in the history and culture of the Holy Land.

A few spots remain on the Bon Secours pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Bible will come to life as you walk in the footsteps of Jesus and experience firsthand

the places He was born, spent His youth and called His apostles. There will be opportunities to celebrate Mass at several sacred sites and sail on the Sea of Galilee. A Pilgrimage is unique to each person. With time for prayer, reflection and conversation, a pilgrimage is a chance to deepen your spirituality and reconnect with yourself and your faith.

Hosted by the Sisters of Bon Secours and the Bon Secours Associates, the pilgrimage is organized by Educational Opportunities Tours, a tour company with more than 45 years of experience serving the Christian community and providing Christian travel programs. The pilgrimage begins in Tel Aviv with visits to Nazareth, Cana, Galilee, Masada, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.



JOIN THE BON SECOURS PILGRIMAGE

For details on the itinerary, cost* and how to register, visit: bit.ly/BonSecoursHolyLand2023. You may also contact Amy Kulesa at Amy_Kulesa@bshsi.org or Linda Mastro at Linda@livingpilgrimage.com for more information.

**Please note, prices may increase closer to the date of travel.*

Welcome 2022-2023 Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers



Commissioning Ceremony

Sisters of Bon Secours bless the 2022-2023 community of Ministry Volunteers at the B SVM commissioning ceremony.

NEW 2022-2023 VOLUNTEERS



JULIANNE ESTEVES
Graduate of the College of the Holy Cross
Hometown: Riverdale, New York
Placement: Richmond Community Hospital, Emergency Department



AXELL-GIOVANNI KOMLAN
Graduate of the University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Laveen, Arizona
Placement: Richmond Community Hospital, Spiritual Care Ministry



ANNA QUAST
Graduate of the University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Torrance, California
Placement: Bon Secours Hospice and Palliative Care



ARMEL MIGNONDJE
Graduate of the University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska
Placement: Richmond Community Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit



Closing Ceremony

Sisters of Bon Secours celebrate the 2021-2022 community of Ministry Volunteers at the B SVM closing liturgy.



◀ Sisters from the United States, Ireland, Great Britain and the Democratic Republic of the Congo joined sisters from France for a heritage retreat in Paris.

Reflections on the Heritage Retreat

Sr. Elaine Davia:

Our sisters spent reflective time visiting the foundation places of the Congregation of Bon Secours. We visited Bécordel where Mother Josephine Potel, the Congregation's first Superior General, came from and La Harazée where Mere Angélique Geay, the Congregation's second Superior General, was from. Each of these trips were all-day journeys by bus across beautiful fields and small towns. I wondered what motivated Josephine and Angélique to leave their homes and travel all the way to Paris by horseback or carriage? Was it the needs they saw in Paris?

There are so many things we don't know about our early founders. However, what I

do know is that the experience of walking in their footsteps helped to bring me closer to them and feel their presence in a special way.

While their challenges were different from the ones we face today, our charism of healing, compassion and liberation is needed just as much today as when Josephine and her 11 companions founded the Congregation.

I thank all the French sisters, Sr. Elvia and Sr. Noelia for their hospitality and would like to give special thanks to the planning committee and the staff members who did such a good job preparing for the heritage retreat.

Sr. Ji Kyung Choi:

Climbing the original steps of the Motherhouse helped me imagine how our sisters had climbed them to go to their ministry sites, go back to their beds, go to the dining room and go about their daily lives. Imagining their daily lives made me reflect on living in the love of God.

The Jardin du Luxembourg, which was about a ten-minute walk from the Motherhouse, was a huge blessing. Our sisters from long ago must have also walked and enjoyed the gardens that were created by Queen Marie de Medici in 1621. I imagine it was a place where our sisters took breaks, got refreshed, meditated and prayed as I did.

I enjoyed the garden almost every day and meditated that God's creation is such a precious gift, which he made himself and where his heart must be. We are also a part of this gift as well as being given the power to preserve the gift of other creations. The garden also connected me to our mission of justice and peace and our efforts to live out Laudato Si'.

I feel my compassion for God's gifts has deepened by recognizing his love embedded in all his creations.

(continued on page 26)

International Heritage Retreat Held in Paris

A WEEKLONG INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE RETREAT WAS HELD IN JULY AT THE MOTHERHOUSE IN PARIS. AREA LEADER SR. ELAINE DAVIA AND SRS. JI KYUNG CHOI AND PAT DOWLING CAME FROM THE UNITED STATES AND JOINED THREE SISTERS FROM FRANCE ALONG WITH TWO TRANSFER SISTERS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND FIVE SISTERS FROM IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN.



The sisters enjoyed visiting the Jardin du Luxembourg.

Sr. Ji Reflects on the Heritage Retreat

(continued from previous page)

The heritage retreat was a great opportunity to meet our new sisters and get to know sisters from other countries a little better. I met the French sisters who live in the Motherhouse and was moved by the simplicity in which they live. It was also wonderful to spend time with the sisters from Ireland.

I was very happy to meet Srs. Mireille and Patience, our transfer sisters from the DRC, and Perpetua, our discerner from Nigeria. It was also good seeing Sr. Nathalie again. She moved from the USA to Paris several years ago, and we enjoyed spending time together and catching up.



Sisters Open a Women's Shelter in Peru

Sisters in Peru celebrated the opening of Hogar Belén with a special Mass and blessing. The long-awaited shelter welcomes women who are seeking safe haven from physical or emotional violence.

Sr. Teresa Benites Montero, who is responsible for the administration and coordination of Hogar Belén, says, "We thank God for allowing us to start this new ministry."

The English translation of Hogar Belén is Bethlehem Home. True to its namesake, Hogar Belén brings hope and promise to women and children who are victims of violence. Hogar Belén houses up to ten women and four children on a monthly basis, providing food, spiritual support and psychological, social and legal help. The sisters partner with other aid organizations for additional assistance.

There is a high rate of violence against women in Peru and few shelters where women can get help. The sisters established Hogar Belén in response to the 2019 Chapter call to commit to working to eliminate violence in all its forms. It was a long process, but finally on June 28, 2022, the sisters obtained an operating license from the Peruvian government with support from the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru. The sisters secured an agreement with the municipal government in Trujillo to provide funding for a social worker, a psychologist and two security guards.

◀ *Women who pass through the doors of Hogar Belén receive spiritual support and shelter.*

Sisters in Ireland Support Catholic Café Connecting Young Adults

Brew 132 is a Catholic café serving up evangelism and faith alongside coffee and cake in Cork, Ireland. In an ever-increasing secular world, the coffee shop brings young practicing Catholics together to connect and build community. It gives young people who might never think of going into a church a place to learn about religion and grow in faith. The Sisters of Bon Secours in Ireland and Great Britain are one of many religious orders and organizations who have been supporting Brew 132's mission since its inception in 2019.

Located on a busy street between the city center and University College Cork, the café is a regular hangout for passing students, hosting game nights and book clubs. Students volunteer their time to

work in the café, have coffee with guests and chat about their faith. They connect with their peers and support one another in cultivating a deeper relationship to God, while developing valuable job skills in the process.

Anne-Marie Whelan, evangelization and vocations officer for the Sisters of Bon Secours in Ireland and Great Britain, spends a great deal of her time with the young volunteers at Brew 132. She has seen many young adults graduate and go on to new jobs and ministries.

"The support they receive from the sisters is very much appreciated, and we hope this initiative will continue to grow with the support and prayers of our Congregation."

— ANNE-MARIE WHELAN



Young adults regularly volunteer to work at the café and share their faith with guests.

CONGREGATION

AROUND THE

NEWS



The Sisters of Bon Secours attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in August.

Pictured (l to r): Congregation Leader Sr. Rose Marie Jasinski, with USA Leadership Team: Sr. Mary Shimo, Area Leader Sr. Elaine Davia and Sr. Fran Gorsuch.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

LATECIA BRAMWELL who was promoted from accounting manager to finance director upon earning her CPA designation.



◀ **TESSA NEWTON** who has been promoted to program manager of fundraising for the Sisters of Bon Secours, USA. She previously served as the sales and marketing manager for the Bon Secours Retreat and Conferences Center, where she worked for more than nine years.





SR. CHRIS WEBB


recently moved from Norfolk, Virginia, where she ministered for many years in hospitals and assisted

living facilities, to Richmond, where she is living with Natalie, a Sisters of Bon Secours pre-candidate. Sr. Chris will also be volunteering at St Mary's Hospital.

CONNECT WITH US ON ALL OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS:

 Instagram.com/SistersofBonSecoursUSA

 Facebook.com/BonSecoursVocations

 @SrsBonSecours

Intern Finds Her Next Opportunity in Health Care

HEAVEN POUGH WASN'T SURE ABOUT A CAREER IN NURSING—UNTIL SHE SPENT TIME GETTING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE. SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE INSPIRING MINDS SUMMER CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND WORKED AS A CLERICAL ASSISTANT INTERN IN THE PREOPERATIVE AREA OF MERCY HEALTH—ST. JOSEPH WARREN HOSPITAL.



Heaven Pough on graduation day.

Inspiring Minds is a national program that exposes children and young adults from underserved communities to a variety of jobs, companies and colleges. The program fosters personal development through after-school, summer and career development programs.

“I was able to assist in clerical work such as helping with charting or making sure consent forms were uploaded to patients’ charts prior to surgery,” Heaven explains.

She says Mercy Health allowed her to see there is more to nursing than just hanging IVs. “I realized that within health care, I can do anything. On the flip side, I feel I made an impact on Mercy Health by showing inclusion and diversity within the program and proving that young people, especially those from programs such as Inspiring Minds, are able to do these jobs.” Heaven now plans to move to Columbus, Ohio, to work in the registered nurse residency program at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

“SINCE STARTING IN 2018, THE INSPIRING MINDS SUMMER CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN 90 PAID INTERNSHIPS TO LOCAL GRADUATES WITH LOCAL COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS MERCY HEALTH.”

— JESSICA WINTERS
Inspiring Minds Program Administrator

In addition to partnering with Mercy Health for internship opportunities, Inspiring Minds has achieved the goal of 100% of its students graduating from high school and continuing their education at college, in trade school or with the armed forces.

Mercy Health is proud to partner with Inspiring Minds and improve the health and overall well-being of our communities by supporting young people.

BON SECOURS *Young Adults* HEAR *the CALL*



Lauren DeSmit (front row, third from left) recently helped the Catholic Diocese of San Diego plan a retreat for young adults.

CONGRATULATIONS TO **NICHOLAS STEIN** AND **LAUREN DESMIT** ON THEIR NEW ROLES WITHIN BON SECOURS YOUNG ADULTS, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2022. NICK IS NOW THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR, REPORTING TO CONGREGATION LEADER SR. ROSE MARIE JASINSKI, AND LAUREN IS NOW THE PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE USA, REPORTING TO AREA LEADER SR. ELAINE DAVIA.



NICHOLAS STEIN

International Director,
Bon Secours Young Adults



LAUREN DESMIT

Program Manager, USA,
Bon Secours Young Adults

One of the 2019 Bon Secours Chapter Calls was to “Formalize a Bon Secours Young Adult presence in the Congregation.” Over the past couple of years, Nick has been studying and developing the concept of an international young adult presence and program. He formed a task force of young adults and Sisters of Bon Secours who met regularly to examine the need and establish a plan. They sent a proposal to the Congregation Team and larger Congregation for review, and it was approved as presented.

Nick’s new role will be to continue to expand the young adult ministry globally, guiding and leading the young adult ministry leaders located in all the areas where the Congregation is present. He will also be forming a new international governance committee—the Bon Secours Young Adult Ministry Committee.

Lauren will continue the ongoing work to expand expand Bon Secours Young Adults in the USA. She is collaborating with ministry partners to provide and enhance opportunities for young adults in the Church. She is also focusing on relational ministry and internal programming for the Bon Secours Young Adults’ nationwide network. Lauren looks forward to fostering the growth of partnerships and programming within the ministry while maintaining its core foundation as a faith community that cares for the whole person, is a safe place to explore faith and is welcoming to all life stages.



Lauren (center) enjoys the retreat with young adults from California.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Winter Retreat
Dates to be determined.

Spring Retreat: Compassion
May 5-6, 2023

World Youth Day Pilgrimage
July 29–August 7, 2023

Fall Retreat: Healing
October 6-8, 2023



For more information on Bon Secours Young Adults, follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @bonsecoursyoungadults.



Upcoming Overnight Retreats

Winter Directed Retreat

Guided by Spiritual Directors:

Joy Aker, Sr. Bernadette Claps, Sr. Ann Belmonte and Fr. Michael Schleupner

3-night or 6-night options

Friday, January 13 – Monday, January 16 or Friday, January 13 – Thursday, January 19

Making All Things New

Guided by Paul Gallagher

Friday, January 20 – Monday, January 23

Prayer & Creativity:

Practices for a Holy Lent

Guided by Dr. Kathy Staudt

Friday, March 3 – Sunday, March 5

Bless It All

Guided by Peggy Patenaude

Friday, March 24 – Sunday, March 26

SoulCollage® Going Deeper— Transformation and Creativity

Guided by Roberta Rook

Friday, March 31 – Sunday, April 2

Triduum Retreat—Living Deeply the Paschal Mystery: Graced Vulnerability, Courageous Waiting, Empowered Loving

Guided by Fr. Phil Cover and Sr. Eileen Quinn

Thursday, April 6 – Sunday, April 9

Ignatian Spirituality

Guided by Paul Gallagher

Friday, April 14 – Sunday, April 16

Spiritual Practices for Healing Mind, Body & Soul

Guided by Anne Kertz Kernion, Owner/Artist of Cards by Anne

Friday, April 28 – Sunday, April 30

“Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda”—Managing Regrets and Disappointments with Grace, Forgiveness and Empathy and What a Healthy Body-Mind-Spirit Interconnection Can Do for Us...at Any Age

Guided by Dr. Patricia Fosarelli

Overnight options for both programs

Tuesday, May 9 – Wednesday, May 10

Working in Solidarity: Anti-Racism Retreat for Faith Communities weekend retreat and The Life & Legacy of Howard Thurman: African American Mystic, Teacher and Prophet day retreat

Guided by Rev. Joan Crawford

Friday, May 12 – Monday, May 15

Please visit www.RCCBonSecours.com for details as well as other day retreat options not listed here. Register online or by calling 410-442-3120.



CONGRATULATIONS



◀ **JEN MURPHY** on her promotion to manager of marketing and events. She is now handling the marketing for the Retreat and Conference Center in addition to her former responsibilities as manager of the sponsored retreats and events.



TARA MULDER on her promotion to sales manager. She previously served as the guest services coordinator.

Retreat & Conference Center STAFF NEWS

BEST WISHES



◀ **RAINEY TAYLOR**, sales manager, on her semi-retirement. She will be working at the center part time beginning in January 2023.



WELCOME

JENNIFER WATTS, sales associate. ▶

Our Mission



When Jim and Joanna had the opportunity to observe the periodic Congregation of Bon Secours international assemblies, their growing awareness of the Bon Secours mission was greatly heightened.

◀ Jim and Joanna recently experienced the Bon Secours “good help” themselves when they both came down with COVID-19 shortly after returning from an overseas vacation. Being isolated and unable to leave the house when there was very little food in the pantry was a problem. No sooner had they notified Sr. Elaine Davia that they

would be unable to help at the Chapel for a while, than a knock came at the door of their house and Kevin Cassidy delivered a large array of delicious meals. It was an extraordinary demonstration of Christian kindness which saved the day for them.

“**Having the opportunity to come to the peaceful surroundings of the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center and receive the Eucharist on a daily basis has deepened our faith. Observing the sisters going about their duties with grace and humor has deepened our appreciation for the role that women are playing in today’s Church, and it has heightened our interest in the current synodal activities that Pope Francis has initiated. It has also raised our consciousness of how much help is needed to alleviate the suffering of many people, both locally and around the world. We consider it a great blessing to be able to help and be a part of the Bon Secours family.**”

Jim Devine, retired electronics engineer from the National Security Agency, and his wife Joanna, a retired research scientist from the National Institutes of Health, relocated from Tucson, Arizona, to Marriottsville in 2016. They were delighted to discover that the Bon Secours Chapel was only a few minutes from their home. After attending daily Mass for only a few weeks, they were approached by the sacristan, who was moving from the area, and asked if they would like to train as sacristans, lectors and Eucharistic ministers. Jim and Joanna have been volunteering in that capacity at Bon Secours ever since. Jim has always felt as if the Holy Spirit had tapped them for the job.

The charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours became evident almost immediately after they assumed their duties. The kindness, mercy and genuine feelings of love shown forth in every interaction with the sisters, and their range of efforts, not only locally but internationally, was very impressive.

A History of Working with the Next Generation

THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY, THE SISTERS OF BON SECOURS HAVE REACHED OUT AND WORKED WITH THE NEXT GENERATION IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.



▲ Sr. Theophane playing with children at the June 1981 Spring Fair of Bon Secours Hospital Baltimore.

Photo courtesy of: Jerome F. Esterson/Jerome Studios & CBS Archives USA



▲ The Sisters of Bon Secours with women from the Baltimore Guild in 1941.

Sisters pictured here: (1) Sr. Mary Pauline Hilles (*left*) with an unidentified sister; (2) Sr. Germanus Streett; (3) Sr. Mary Francis Walsh, Guild moderator; (4) Sr. Mary Charlotte Brennan; (5) Sr. Mary Florence Kraft; and (6) Future Sr. Rita Thomas.



▲ Sr. Anne Lutz working with two candy strippers at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, in the late 1960s or '70s.

\$65,000

IN MINISTRY GRANTS AWARDED

BON SECOURS COMMUNITY WORKS — \$15,000

Too many West Baltimore households experience devastating income losses, family instability, and low financial literacy resulting in late rent payments and evictions. Bon Secours Community Works' Financial and Employment Services team offers an eviction prevention assistance program to help households avoid eviction. A majority of this grant will fund the salary and benefits of the program manager for the Financial and Employment Services department.

CRISTO REY RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL — \$15,000

Cristo Rey Richmond High School was established exclusively for students from limited-income families who come from historically marginalized populations that have never had consistent or long-term access to basic health care. This grant will fund the addition of a full-time school nurse to address the health equity issues of these students, ensuring they have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

MINISTRY TRAINING SOURCE — \$5,000

In the 2016 study "Passing on the Baton," a trend emerged of ministry leaders having a growing web of responsibilities with a significantly decreased network of support. Ministry Training Source is conducting focus groups to better understand the current realities of ministering to youth and young adults. This grant will fund between 30-50 focus groups, and the findings will help identify ways to support, train and prepare the next generation of leaders serving in this critical ministry for the Church.

WELLNESS CENTER EXPANSION — \$15,000

This grant will fund the addition of a second floor to a wellness center in the San Juan de Lurigancho district, a region of Lima, Peru, with extensive urban poverty. The additional 1,550 square feet of space will provide dedicated clinic rooms for medical and dental services as well as veterinary services and allow the center to serve more people. The second floor will house a small learning lab with computers for educational sessions, including personal finance and entrepreneurship education for women, and space to offer discounted health and wellness services for residents in need, especially single mothers and their children.

JASMINE ROAD — \$15,000

Jasmine Road is a two-year residential program for adult women survivors of human trafficking in Greenville, South Carolina. This grant will fund salaries to support the expansion of Jasmine Road's residential program. All programming is trauma informed and supports each resident's individual growth, health and ability to be sustainable upon graduation. This includes basic needs, physical and mental health care, addiction recovery support and services, financial literacy, spiritual care, family reunification and more.

"THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HEARTS AND IN YOUR HANDS. GOD IS ENTRUSTING TO YOU THE TASK, AT ONCE DIFFICULT AND UPLIFTING, OF WORKING WITH HIM IN THE BUILDING OF THE CIVILIZATION OF LOVE."

— ST. JOHN PAUL II

fOCUS

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