

2017 LXXXI 2

MISSION MAGAZINE

EMPOWERING MINDS + CREATING HOPE + BUILDING FAITH + SEEKING JUSTICE

A EUCHARISTIC FOCUSED MISSION



Sr. Mary Ann Stachow, SBS, stands in line at the Vatican with a group of students, part of her Rome studies abroad summer course in Theology, offered through Xavier University in New Orleans.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Sr. Mary Ann Stachow Teaches Summer Theology Course on Rome and the Early Church | Native American Day (Celebrating St. Kateri Tekakwitha) | ASBS in Action | Earth Day at Paul's Run | What's Happening Now | News & Events | Awards & Recognition | Amazon Smile Program | In Loving Memory | Our Sister Spotlight: Sr. Donna Banfield



Sharing the Bread in the Footsteps of a Saint

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The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, founded in 1891 by St. Katharine Drexel, is a congregation dedicated to the interracial apostolate in the USA, Jamaica and Haiti. Today SBS serve in elementary and secondary schools as well as at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. They are also involved in a variety of other services including pastoral and spiritual ministries, social services, counseling, religious education and health care, primarily but not exclusively among Black and Native American peoples. The Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament is in Bensalem, Pa

President's Message

September 2017

Dear Friends of the SBS,
Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament,

Beginning this Spring our transition process shifted from the planning stage into implementation, starting with our Sisters moving out of the Motherhouse and into their new residences at Paul's Run Retirement Community.



As missionaries it was always a custom, whenever a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament received a new assignment, to have a Ritual Missioning Ceremony and send off. Continuing this honored tradition, many ceremonies and hanky-waving send off's were performed between February and May, 2017. The photo albums from these events can be viewed on our SBS Facebook page under photos.

Now, as our *Annual Appeal* begins, we have embraced the imagery of the feather, inspired by the quote below from our foundress, St. Katharine Drexel. The graphic that we have developed speaks to both our current transitional process as well God's plan in all of this.

With much turmoil in the world around us, *perhaps more than ever*, we need to speak for social justice and continue our work to uproot prejudice of any kind.

Some of the ministries highlighted within this issue exemplify our desire to empower minds through education; create hope for the disadvantaged, build faith within our local communities, by proclaiming the Gospel message through our blog, our actions, our dialog and activities; and seek justice by promoting inclusion, raising cultural awareness, and speaking out against injustices. Please join us in prayer as we answer the call to do God's will wherever he carries us.

In love and gratitude,

Sr. Donna Breslin
SBS President

*"I wish to be before You as light as a feather,
so that your breath may carry me where
You will." - St. Katharine Drexel*



On the Cover...

Sr. Mary Ann Stachow waits patiently with a study abroad student and some of her students as they wait in one of the commonly long lines to gain entrance into the Vatican.

Photo courtesy of: Sr. Mary Ann Stachow, SBS



Sr. Mary Ann Stachow Teaches 1st Semester Theology Course in Rome during Summer 2016

Collaborative article by Sr. Mary Ann Stachow, SBS and Cheri Wenger, SBS Communications Manager



Rome and the Early Church: Investigations and Explorations — a study abroad summer course

5 Students participated in the course:

- Brittany Bryant** (Biology, Pre-Med)
- Linda Nguyen** (Mathematics)
- Jendaya Bell** (Political Science)
- Erica Greenwood** (Accounting)
- Areion Phipps** (Biology, Pre-Med)

Sr./Dr. Mary Ann Stachow, SBS
Professor at Xavier University,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Sr. Mary Ann Stachow, SBS accompanied the five enrolled students in her Theology course to Rome, Italy, for a 4 week study-abroad, summer course — the first of a 3 semester directed reading course. This first summer semester was taught partly in the classrooms at the AIFS Rome building and partly “on the road” at sites that made the readings come alive. The focus was on “*Rome and the Early Church*”, and sought to raise students’ awareness of the interaction between Theology and History.

Beginning May 10 - June 7, 2016, the participating students were challenged to investigate the cultural and religious intersection between Rome in antiquity up to the time of Constantine and the various Roman influences that appear in the New Testament writings. The main segments of the course dealt with the period of the Roman republic, the early Empire, the persecutions under Decius and Diocletian, the effect of Constantine’s Edict of Toleration and the results of the division of the Empire into Western and Eastern sections.

This course was carried out in Rome in collaboration with the American Institute



Above: Summer Course Students tour the Roman Colosseum as part of their course studies in Theology.

Below: The students visit Pompeii with their Xavier University professor, Sr. Mary Ann Stachow, SBS, in May 2016.



Above: A gorgeous stained glass window with the Holy Spirit depicted in the center illuminates the altar area in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican in Rome, Italy.



Above, right: Students sit on the ancient steps of the Theater at Ostia to take a break from their touring and lessons.

Right: Sr. Mary Ann’s students pose for a photo while in line for Mass on Pentecost Sunday at the Vatican in Rome.



continued on pg. 4

Theology Course

continued from pg. 3

of Foreign Study, which provided the classroom space, and the assistance of two Italian interns, Sara and Giovanni.

Classes were held mostly on weekdays from 9 a.m. until noon except for the days when an off-site tour was planned. Trips included a visit on May 13, to the Great Synagogue of Rome whose Jewish community dates back to the second century BC. In preparation for this visit, students read selections from the book of 1 Maccabees, paying particular attention to Chapter 8 which describes the alliance made by Judas Maccabeus with the Roman Republic. The following day, they visited Assisi where St. Francis is buried. Several afternoons the group toured Roman ruins near their school such as the Pantheon, the Piazza Navona, the Largo Argentina which had the remains of several temples as well as the building in which Julius Caesar was assassinated. While touring, the students were expected to keep detailed notes on the assigned readings and electronic journal entries following the site visits included within the program. The notes and journal entries would later be utilized in the planning and preparation for the students' required presentation at the 2017 Festival of Scholars at Xavier University in New Orleans.

The group also enjoyed a daytime visit to the Roman Forum, and then a few days later, came back to the Imperial Forum of Augustus for a night sound and light show that gave them a sense of what those buildings would have looked like in the time of Augustus.



Above: An overhead view of the ancient ruins of the Roman Forum in Rome, Italy.



Tired, yet enthusiastic, they attended a Wednesday audience with Pope Francis, after which they traveled all the way to the top of St. Peter's dome for a wonderful panoramic view of the city of Rome.

Left: The five study abroad students pose for a photo while visiting Assisi.



Right: A crowd gathers in Vatican Square for the appearance of Pope Francis from the window of his Papal apartment.



Right: A quick glimpse of Pope Francis as he passes by

On May 18, a full day trip to Pompeii was made. Prior to going the students read and discussed Pliny the Younger's eye witness account of the AD 79 Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. The next day the group took the train to Ostia Antica, the ancient port of Rome, and had a guided tour of the site with a very knowledgeable guide who pointed out many interesting aspects of Roman life and business. In connection with that visit, **Sr. Mary Ann** and her students read and discussed Revelation 18 which mentions the various products bought and sold in Rome.

The tours brought to life the lessons they had studied during the Summer course.



Left: A Visit to the Aqueducts

Below: Students enjoy the train ride to Ostia Antica.

Below: Sr. Mary Ann Stachow, SBS, and Brittany Bryant wait patiently inside of St. Peter's Basilica for Pentecost Sunday Mass celebrated by Pope Francis to begin.



Earth Day Planting Activity at Paul's Run

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Assist Children of Paul's Run Employees with Making the Property Greener

Many who know the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament** are aware of their charism for Social Justice, however, the **SBS** are also proponents of being environmentally responsible — *to be good stewards of our planet.*

On Thursday, April 27, 2017, the Sisters (*some who live at Paul's Run along with some non-residents*) participated in the **Bring Your Child to Work Day & Earth Day Celebration at Paul's Run** from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Some of the events included meals, a tour of the facility, yoga time, face painting, crafts, movie time, a visitor from the Wildlife Center and gardening time. Sisters Laura, Lorraine, Norbert, and Margaret coordinated with the staff to assist with this wonderful activity that allowed the children of Paul's Run employees to make the planet and the facility a little greener. The children also learned about the plants and gained some new gardening tips. It was a hands-on experience that has blossomed into some wonderful results in just a few months. (*See progress photo below*).



Left: Sr. M. Norbert Moline, SBS, with seeds in hand, assists in growing a vegetable garden at Paul's Run. She is pictured with one of the employees, Carmen Hernandez, during the Bring Your Child to Work/Earth Day event held at the facility.

Below Left: In just 4 months, many of the plants have begun to flourish from the rainy summer weather. Look at the towering sunflowers!



Top Right: Sr. Laura Cavannaugh, SBS, shares her vast knowledge of plants and her love of gardening with the willing little helpers. All were eager to learn and assist with the planting tasks.

Below, Right: Sr. M. Norbert Moline, SBS, and Sr. Lorraine Marie Stein, SBS, are joined by Janell, who helped them with watering the new plants.



Above: Sr. Margaret Sullivan, SBS, gives directions to a child on where to plant.

Photos are courtesy of Sr. Laura Cavannaugh, SBS.





Building On Cultural Awareness

Seeking Social Justice Through Inclusion and Unity within the Community

Native American Day

Celebrating Native American Saint - St. Kateri Tekakwitha at the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel

As the morning sun shone through the trees on the lawn adjacent to the Mission Center at the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel, community members joined some of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and members of the Southeastern Cherokee Indians as Chief Buffy Red Feather Brown gave the blessing of the directions to begin Native American Day.

People Lined Up to Experience the Smudging Ritual — A Custom of Native American Cultures Using a Cleansing Smoke Bath to Purify the Mind, Body, Aura and Energy Surrounding A Person.



Above: SBS employee Denise Kirk listens to instructions and participates in the Smudging Ritual of cleansing.

For centuries many indigenous cultures have used the cleansing smoke bath as a form of purifying ceremonial/ritual space as well as personal space and belongings of unwanted energy/spirits. A combination of sage, cedar and sweet grass are the traditional herbs bundled tightly to create the Smudge-Stick, which is lit to create the smoke.

Right: A Statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha stands in front of a banner bearing her image, set up in the back of St. Elizabeth's Chapel at the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel to honor this Native American Saint during Native American Day festivities on July 15, 2017.



Left: Chief Buffy Red Feather Brown gives the traditional blessing of directions to kick off the celebrations and activities of Native American Day.

Below: Sr. M. Norbert Moline, SBS, takes part in the Smudging Ritual.



Typically, a small cauldron or bowl is held below to catch the burning ashes, while a feather is used to disperse the cleansing smoke. Participants are encouraged to clear their minds, breathe in slowly as they wave the smoke over their body to purify the mind/body/aura of any negative energy/spirits that might exist.

The outdoor circle of ceremonies included the traditional blessings,



Above: Members of the Southeastern Cherokees provide a musical rendition of the Our Father.

“Have a cordial respect for others in heart and mind; if there is any prejudice in the mind we must uproot it, or it will pull us down.”

– St. Katharine Drexel



Above: People of the community were united together as they held hands to participate in one of the songs.

of adult volunteers. Many of the children were busily occupied for an hour or more making the craft. Legend has it that dreamcatchers would be hung to swing freely over beds where the air was filled with both bad and good dreams. It is believed the spider web would allow good dreams to pass through and float down the feather to sleeping children, yet would trap the bad dreams in the web where in the morning light they would disappear.



Above: Two brothers proudly show off their dreamcatchers.



Above: Native American Sr. M. Rosita Shiosee, SBS, reads a prayer to the circle of attendees during the opening ceremony of Native American Day.

smudging ritual, prayers read by one of the Native American Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Sr. Rosita Shiosee, and music and dance provided by the Southeastern Cherokee members, *pictured above.*

Event attendees then had their choice of activities: to visit the Shrine of St. Katharine, to enjoy a hotdog bagged lunch for a small donation, or to see a powerpoint presentation on the life of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha inside the Mission Center building. Also available for the children, was the opportunity to make dreamcatchers with the assistance

continued on pg. 8



Left: Images/depictions of St. Kateri Tekakwitha often include a cross made of branches since she often would make handmade crosses from twigs and hang them throughout the woods in which she traveled.

Below: Attendees were able to view a small slide show presentation in the 2nd floor auditorium of the Mission Center building, followed by a Q&A session to help learn more about St. Kateri's life. This was one of the indoor activities held at the Shrine.



Above: Regardless of race, age, or religious beliefs, people lined up to participate in the ceremony in hopes to find peace and healing.

Below: A steady stream of people waited patiently in line for an hour or more to have the blessing from the Sisters.



A member of the Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Joyce Hadley, was on hand to show the powerpoint presentation on St. Kateri Tekakwitha and answer any questions people might have about the saint and what they viewed.

A Healing Ceremony in St. Elizabeth's Chapel with Three SBS Native American Sisters



Above: Left to Right: Sr. M. Rosita Shiosee, Sr. Jeanette Kinlicheeny and Sr. M. Consolata Beecher performed the Ritual Healing Ceremony in St. Elizabeth Chapel.

Click [here](#) to view entire online album of images.



Right: A blind man was escorted by a companion to St. Elizabeth's Chapel. He sat and waited until the line lessened so that he could receive a blessing from one of the Native American Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament during the healing ceremony held at the end of the day.



Above: Statue of St. Katharine Drexel outside of Gift Shop area of Shrine.

The healing ceremony performed by Sr. M. Rosita Shiosee, Sr. Jeanette Kinlicheeny and Sr. M. Consolata Beecher, all Native American Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, brought a close to the Native American Day festivities which also celebrated the life of Native American, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Sugar Grove Associates Collect School Supplies and Donations for St. Francis Mission School



Sandra McNeely, V.P., St. Francis Indian Mission (center) receives a check for \$215 from Gary Scott, ASBS, and is joined by St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church Pastor, Fr. Robert Jones, along with Kathleen Malone and Kathy Scott of the ASBS (Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament).

The Sugar Grove Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (ASBS) collected much needed school supplies for St. Francis Mission School, one of the oldest Indian missions in South Dakota that was assisted by St. Katharine Drexel in the late 1800s.



Between May 20 - 28, 975 lbs. of school supplies were collected at the Aurora Central Catholic high school, St. Peter's Elementary School, and participating parishes. Financial donations totaling \$215 were presented to Sandra McNeely, Vice President, St. Francis Indian Mission.

These supplies were blessed by Fr. Robert Jones and packaged to be sent to the school which serves the impoverished Native American Lakota on the Rosebud Reservation — one of the poorest areas of the state where 1 in 5 people live below poverty level.



Fr. Robert Jones blesses the school supplies.

Local Associates Bring Flowers and Good Cheer to the SBS at Paul's Run Retirement Community in N.E. Philadelphia



On Sunday afternoon, August 6, 2017, the local ASBS met in a conference room to discuss the plan for visiting with the Sisters who are residents of Paul's Run. Lovely vases of colorful flowers covered the table and were distributed to the SBS during their visits. Hugs, smiles and joyfulness filled the halls.



Above: The Bensalem Chapter of the SBS gathered at Paul's Run to visit with the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who live at or are being cared for by the staff of Paul's Run Retirement Community.



Left: A gathering in the hallway as groups of Associates and Sisters meet up and stop to chat. To view more photos click [here](#).



Paul's Run



Sr. Lynn Marie's Creative Talents Welcome the SBS' Visitors at Paul's Run

Right: A green, gold and purple color scheme fit the Mardi Gras theme for the door wreath that Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS, crafted for Sr. M. Norbert Moline.

Sr. Lynn's craftiness has been put to use for the Sisters at many events in which she has worked on favors, gift baskets and centerpieces.

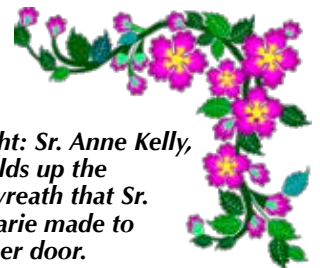


"Be altogether intent in serving God with the talents He has given you and then in the way He wishes."

- St. Katharine Drexel

Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS used her talents for new ministry...helping her fellow Sisters adjust to life in new surroundings. She called upon her crafty talents and decided to make her fellow Sisters beautiful wreaths for their new accommodations.

As you can tell by the smiles, all of the Sisters were delighted to receive these wonderfully crafted wreaths from their fellow Sister.



Top Right: Sr. Anne Kelly, SBS, holds up the lovely wreath that Sr. Lynn Marie made to adorn her door.

Middle Right: Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS, presents this pretty pink and purple toned wreath to her fellow Sister, Sr. M. Joan of Arc DiBernardo, SBS.

Left: Sr. Carole Eden, SBS proudly shows off her blue, white and yellow butterfly wreath.

Ministry Report

continued from back cover

Savannah, GA

Almost two decades ago, the **St. Joseph's/Candler African-American Health Information and Resource Center (AAHIRC)** became the vision of CEO Paul Hinchey as part of the larger Health System's mission service to the Black Community and general public within Chatham County.



The Center's mission is "rooted in God's love, we treat illness and promote wellness for all people."



Left: Located on the grounds of the Georgia Infirmary, which historically was established "for the relief and protection of afflicted and aged Africans," the Center continues a tradition of providing assistance to the African American community of Savannah, GA.

Sr. Donna Banfield, SBS,

has become a vital member of the center, assisting with **Children's Services** such as storytelling hour, professional puppet shows, 4-H Community Club and the summer sessions of the Healthy Kids Cooking Camps. Together, with the Center's Director, Ella Williamson, Sr. Donna helps impact the lives of both children and families through the services and resources that are provided. She has worked as the Youth Health Program Coordinator at the Center since joining them in 2015. Prior to that, Sister Donna served as a Catholic School Principal.

"As a Catholic School educator for over 30 years, it is always a joy to see the "light bulb" shine when a child grasps a new concept!"

- Sr. Donna Banfield, SBS

Right: Ms. Ella Williamson – Director of the Center since its beginning 18 years ago. The Center also provides a Living Smart Fitness Club, job training, computer assistance, blood pressure screenings, health seminars and expos, a health literacy program as well as community healthcare/social services referrals.



Sr. Donna's Ministry work featured in online edition of Savannah Morning News.

Child chefs craft culinary creations at cooking camp

Sessions started 8 years ago to teach kids how to make healthier snacks

BY HILL HODGSON hill.hodgson@savannahnews.com



Savannah, Ga. (SBS) — A group of 17 young chefs are getting a hands-on introduction to the culinary world this week at the Healthy Kids Cooking Camp.

The camp is set for the St. Joseph's/Candler African-American Health Center and aims to teach kids from the ages of 8 to 11 how to prepare healthy, nutritious meals. The camp is held at the center's Living Smart Fitness Club.

WANT TO JOIN?



The Healthy Kids Cooking Camp will hold the fourth session of the summer program on Wednesday, July 22, at the St. Joseph's/Candler African-American Health Information and Resource Center at 1014 Avenue B.

REGISTRATION: The camp will run from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

SPOTS AVAILABLE: There are only 10 spots available, but interested parents can call 912-427-1111.

CALL: For more information, call 912-427-1111.

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The article and the author's name, Sr. Donna Banfield, the youth health program coordinator, and the camp is a way to introduce kids to a wider world of food and food preparation information.

The camp is open to all children, but space is limited. The camp is open to all children, but space is limited. The camp is open to all children, but space is limited.

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A Plan To End Childhood Obesity within the Community

With obesity affecting 1 in 3 kids in Chatham county, Sr. Donna and Center Director, Ella Williamson, developed a program eight years ago to combat the problem — The Healthy Kids Cooking Camp. With four summer sessions offered, the camp helps teach kids how to cook healthy food and snacks, read and understand nutrition labels, set tables and display proper etiquette. Most importantly, the hands-on camp experience helps kids to not pre-judge foods on appearance alone, or as Sr. Donna likes to say, "Don't yuck my yum."

To read the online article featured above, visit:

<http://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/savannahmorningnews/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=SMN%2F2017%2F07%2F11&entity=Ar00112&sk=E848ACAC&mode=text>



A Beautiful, Candlelit Easter Vigil at St. Elizabeth Chapel



The beauty of St. Elizabeth's Chapel shined during a candlelit Easter Vigil Mass where worshipers passed the light to one another, symbolic of passing on the light of the Risen Christ. The candles were used at various times throughout the Saturday evening Mass.



On Saturday, April 15, 2017, Catholic worshipers gathered in a procession into **St. Elizabeth Chapel** for a final Easter Vigil Mass for both visitors of the Shrine and the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament**. The historic chapel, built as part of the Motherhouse property by **St. Katharine Drexel** in the late 1800's, will no longer be open once the **National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel** closes at the end of the year. For many of those in attendance, they were cherishing the opportunity to experience the beautiful candlelit service in this Chapel as the occasions to worship are limited in number as the year passes.

Click [here](#) to view a full online album of images.



Storytelling at Spring Gathering of the SBS



Wearing clothing representative of the Native American and African American cultures, Sr. Marjorie Everett and Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph shared stories submitted by fellow Sisters about their experiences — some were quite entertaining! Sr. Stephanie Henry also shared some tales of the SBS.



In April 2017, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament gathered for their Spring Conference and some Visioning meetings. It was one of the final large group gatherings of the SBS at St. Michael chapel. Many who had already made their transition to their new residence at Paul's Run were delighted to see the familiar faces of their fellow Sisters. The sharing of ministry experiences made for a joyous celebration during a time of transition which often brings sadness and uncertainty. It revalidated for most of the SBS their call to *"Abide in the Vine."*



The Storytelling Ritual reflected back on some of the experiences at the Motherhouse as well as some of the Sisters' tales from their ministries elsewhere.





Sr. Beulah Martin, SBS
2017 Harriet Tubman Award

“Moses to Her People”

Right: Sr. Beulah Martin, SBS, listens as she is presented with the Harriet Tubman Award during the awards banquet held in July 2017.



At an award banquet held on July, 2017, during the National Black Sisters’ Conference, fellow Sister Stephanie Henry, SBS, introduced Sr. Beulah Martin, SBS, as the Harriet Tubman Award recipient for 2017. Sr. Beulah was being recognized for responding to the call to be a “Moses to Her People.”

Right: Sr. Stephanie Henry, SBS; Sr. Roland LaGarde, SBS; Award Recipient, Sr. Beulah Martin, SBS, and Sr. Nathalee Bryant, SBS, gather for a photo after the awards ceremony.



On Sunday, April 30, 2017 the League of Sacred Heart of Jesus held its 77th Annual Communion Mass at Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Philadelphia, PA with celebrant Fr. Paul S. Quinter, Pastor. Brunch immediately followed at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #5.



Sr. Patricia Downs, SBS



Sr. Donna Breslin, SBS

2017 Sacred Heart League of Philadelphia Police, Firefighters and Peace Officers Association St. Katharine Drexel Award

Representative Martina White was the guest speaker. She and City Councilman Al Taubenger presented citations to the seven awardees being recognized for exemplifying their Catholic faith and its values. The St. Katharine Drexel Award was given to Sr. Pat Downs and Sr. Donna Breslin, along with the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Left: SBS President, Sr. Donna Breslin, (seated center) accompanied Sr. Pat Downs, SBS, (seated left), to the ceremony to accept the award on behalf of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.



Photo courtesy of the Northeast Times



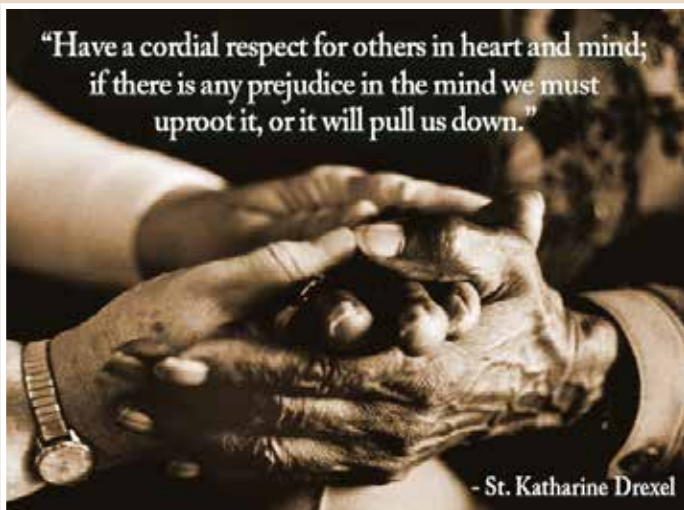
Sr. Christine Smith, SBS
2017 Robert L. Ruffin Award

On Saturday, November 18, 2017 at Annual gathering of Black Catholics of the Archdiocese of Boston Sister Christine Smith, SBS, will be receiving the Robert L. Ruffin Award along with Sr. Joyce McMullen, SND.


The Ceremony is part of the James Augustine Healy Award Dinner which will be held at Lombardo's in Randolph, MA. Sr. Christine is being recognized for her 15 years of ministry among the Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston.



Bishop James Augustine Healy



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*Note: If you go to smile.amazon.com for the first time, you will have to locate The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament on Bristol Pike in Bensalem in the directory to designate us as your charity of choice.

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“The whole Eucharistic Spirit is a spirit of charity between the members of Christ.”

- St. Katharine Drexel



Professor Emeritus

The title of Professor Emeritus recognizes meritorious service to Xavier University of Louisiana by an individual retiring from the University. It is awarded in recognition of the professor's record of teaching, research and service while fulltime at Xavier.

Eligibility:

- Earned rank of professor
- At least 25 years in higher education, with at least 15 years at Xavier University of Louisiana
- Tenured at the time of retirement

Privileges:

- ID card, with full faculty library rights and privileges
- Xavier email and network privileges
- Full faculty privileges to attend campus cultural and athletic events.
- *If available*, shared office space, mailing privileges, laboratory space, and library carrels when used for professional purposes

- Eligibility for research and other grants with the approval and cooperation of the appropriate department
- Participation in campus seminars, colloquia, lectures and other scholarly pursuits
- Preference in part-time teaching opportunities, if requested and available
- Permanent parking decals
- Permanent transfer of University computer at time of retirement to faculty member for home use

Procedures:

Nominations for emeritus status emanate from the department chairperson when a tenured, full professor indicates he/she plans to retire. The nomination is submitted to the appropriate dean, who approves the nomination and forwards it to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for action. The title will be conferred by the President at the last Academic Assembly of the academic year.



Sr. Grace Mary Flickinger, SBS
Professor Emeritus
Xavier University

Sr. Grace Mary Flickinger Named Professor Emerita of Biology by XULA for Half Century of Service

Sr. Grace Mary Flickinger, SBS, has been a member of Xavier University of Louisiana's biology department since 1968, but has held many other responsibilities... Coordinator of Advising; Academic Counselor for Athletics; Gulf Coast Athletic Conference President (two terms); Vice President; and Faculty Athletics Representative, as well as serving on its eligibility and executive committees. She chaired the NAIA's Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives, was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1998, and in 2007, named the recipient of the NAIA's Wally Schwartz Award for her work as Faculty Athletics Representative.

Dr. Anne Mc Call, Vice-President and Provost of Xavier, notes, "As a faculty member, advisor and mentor, Sister Grace Mary has been integral to the development of Xavier's nationally recognized Pre-Medical School program. [She] set the highest standards of achievement for her students, and the result is a tradition of success that will serve us far into the future."

Sr. Grace Mary Flickinger, SBS, has retired to Paul's Run Retirement Community in Philadelphia, PA, but will return to the Xavier campus in October where she will be honored at Xavier's Founder's Day Convocation. Congratulations on earning this level of distinction among your colleagues at Xavier University.



Above: Sr. Grace Mary Flickinger, SBS, poses by the wreath on her door, handmade by Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS, with a New Orleans Saints color scheme.



Sr. Marie Michelle Callanan, SBS

Oct. 3, 1928 ~ Feb. 19, 2017

I Live in the Presence of God

Baptised Lillian Mary, Sr. Marie Michelle Callanan was the sixth of seven children born to John J. & Elizabeth Callanan. Sr. Michelle spent her elementary years in

Waterbury, Connecticut and later moved to New York where she attended St. John's High School. Following graduation in 1947, she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in August. It was through her uncle, Fr. Charles Dooley of Holy Ghost Preparatory School, that she first came to know about the SBS.

She was received as a novice on July 16, 1948, taking the religious name of Sr. Marie Saint Michel. After professing her First Vows in July 1950, Sr. Marie taught the young children in New Orleans at Corpus Christi, St. Peter Claver and Epiphany. In 1961, Sister earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Xavier University. She was later assigned to St. Vincent's in Nashville, TN before returning to the Motherhouse to teach at Holy Providence in 1967. Following that, she headed to the Gulf South in 1969 where she served as convent director and school principal at Sacred Heart in Lake Charles, LA. From 1975 through 1983 Sister ministered at St. Ignatius School in West Philadelphia as both director and principal. In 1978, she received her Masters in Education from St. Scholastica College in Duluth, MN. Like other Sisters who were permitted to shorten their religious name, she now became known as Sr. Michelle. In 1984, Sister returned to Louisiana as principal at St. Edward's School in New Iberia.

In 2004, she returned to the Motherhouse community where she gave presentations to visitors of the shrine and served on the motherhouse team of directors. In 2008, Sr. Michelle became a resident at St. Michael Hall. Following a visit from her grandnephew Mark, who bid her farewell on behalf of her family, Sr. Michelle peacefully completed her journey towards eternal life on February 19, 2017.



Sr. Maureen Hurley, SBS

Jan. 24, 1922 ~ Mar. 28, 2017

Thanks be to God and to Mary and Joseph

Uncertain of whether or not Sr. Maureen Hurley's parents, Charles and Nora, met in Ireland, we do know that each was pleased to have met someone in Massachusetts from their

home base of County Mayo. This and other things in common eventually lead to their marriage in Boston. Catherine Rita, or Rita as she was called, was the fourth of five children, three girls and two boys born to the Hurleys. She was baptized in 1922 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and attended Francis Parkman elementary school. After graduation from Jamaica Plain High School in 1939, Rita enrolled in Boston's Emmanuel College and received her degree in 1943. Post graduation she worked in a U.S. government lab.

It wasn't until 1945 that Rita responded to her call to the religious life as a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of her first year she received the religious name of Sr. Maureen Perpetua. Five years later she took her final vows and began her first mission at St. Francis de Sales in Virginia. Two years later she traveled southward to Xavier Prep in New Orleans, and four years after that up to the Tekakwitha House in Washington, D.C., where she completed her Master's of Science in 1955 followed by her Ph.D. in 1959.

Sister spent time teaching novices and junior professed in Blessed Sacrament College at the Motherhouse from 1958 - 1966, then she taught at Xavier University for many years where the Biology Dept. flourished with her presence and her work. She was not extremely focused on "book learning" like many professors, and became a beloved faculty due to the competence and high standards she set for her students...many of whom went on to become doctors.

In 2010, she joined her older sister Mary Hurley (formerly Sr. Adele) at the Motherhouse until Adele's passing in 2012. Five years later, on March 28, 2017, Sr. Maureen took her own final journey towards eternal life.



Sr. Kathryn Gates, SBS

Nov. 7, 1932 ~ Apr. 7, 2017

Ecce Ancilla Domini

Bertha Kathryn was the third daughter of eight children born in Hamburg, New York to William and Margaret Gates, both natives of New York.

Bertha graduated from Mount Mercy Academy in

Buffalo in 1950 and entered into the SBS novitiate that summer after learning about the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament through a priest at her high school retreat. She was received as a novice in July 1951 and became known as Sr. Francis Xavier. In 1953 she professed her First Vows and began her busy life on the missions taking college courses, teaching elementary school music, and directing parish choirs in Harlem, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Santa Fe between 1953 - 1975. Sister professed her Perpetual Vows in August 1958 and earned her bachelor's in Music Education from Catholic University in 1966 followed by a Masters in Music Education from Temple University in 1974.

Sr. Kathryn returned to her baptismal middle name in 1977 when she lived and worked with the Oblate Sisters of Providence at their academy for high school students in Baltimore, MD. She taught English, served as school newspaper adviser and staged highly successful musical productions each spring — a career high note for her. Later, she taught drama and English at Xavier Prep in New Orleans, and then vocal and instrumental music at St. Michaels in Arizona.

Sr. returned to St. Michael Hall in 2011 where she played the organ for Mass and the piano for the Sisters. During her time at the motherhouse in 1976 she prepared a listing of persons buried in the church cemetery of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Bensalem (*one of whom was an African American veteran of the Civil War, Leroy Allen*), which drew interest from an amateur historian. This later led to funding to renovate and restore the historic AME church, thanks to Sr. Kathryn's research.

Sisters prayed at her bedside as Sr. Kathryn peacefully entered eternal life on April 7, 2017.



Sr. Helene Slavin, SBS

Feb. 27, 1923 ~ Apr. 12, 2017

Jesus only You

The marriage of John M. Slavin and Helen Nash of Massachusetts lead to the birth of two daughters: Rose Mary and Helen Margaret. Helen was baptized at St. Patrick Church in Watervilet, NY and attended St. Peter Elementary and

Catholic Central High School, both located in Troy, New York.

Receiving an early call to religious life in high school, Helen entered the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in February following graduation and was received in Aug. 1942 into the Novitiate taking the name Sr. M. John Gabriel. She was missioned two years later to St. Vincent de Paul School in Nashville after pronouncing her First Vows. Sister made her Perpetual Vows in 1950.

For the next two decades, she taught first grade in Lake Charles, New Orleans, New York City, Biloxi, Port Arthur and in Marty, South Dakota. During these transitory years, Sr. John Gabriel also pursued her studies and graduated from Villanova College. While working on her Master's Degree from the University of South Dakota, Sister worked at St. Paul School as a teacher, then principal, working alongside the Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. From 1971 through 1988 she had a variety of mission assignments such as teacher, school counselor, assistant director at St. Michael Hall and religion coordinator. It was in the 80's that she reverted to her baptismal name and chose to use Helene (*a derivative of Helen*) as her religious name.

With growing congregational needs, Sr. Helene took courses to earn a certificate of nursing aide to the aging and put those skills to work in 1990 as director in St. Michael Hall. She followed that up with a parish ministry assignment in Louisiana until she returned to St. Michael's as a resident in 2002, where she was fondly nicknamed "*speedy*" for her getaway skills.

Sr. Helene moved to Paul's Run in February 2017, and that April she entered into her final journey and peaceful passing.



Sr. M. Michaelleen Lavin, SBS

Sept. 15, 1921 ~
Apr. 24, 2017

Jesus Only You

Given the birth name Bridget, Sr. Michaelleen was the youngest of three boys and two girls born to parents Michael and Bridget Lavin, both from Ireland in County Mayo.

She was baptized in the Church of the Holy Family in Kiltimagh just three days after her birth, and attended local Catholic Schools for her education.

Following a visit to her high school by two Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Bridget quickly knew that it was her calling to leave everything and follow Christ. In August 1939, just prior to the start of World War II, she bade farewell to Ireland, along with 11 other girls, who sailed to America for the sake of the Gospel. Bridget completed her secondary education at Blessed Sacrament High School on the Motherhouse grounds. On Aug. 24, 1943 she was received as a Novice and given her religious name of Sr. Mary Michaelleen. Sister went on to profess her first vows in July 1945 and traveled to her first mission at St. Elizabeth's in Chicago where she taught third grade. In 1946, she then became a naturalized citizen of the U.S.

Sister earned a teaching certificate in the State of Louisiana that certified her to teach all elementary grades, to be an elementary school principal and to supervise student teachers. From 1945 -1964 she taught various grades at various locations: New Orleans, Philadelphia, Harlem, Beaumont, New Iberia and Port Arthur. Sister served as school principal in Port Arthur and in St. Martinville. She then traveled westward to become the third grade teacher and director at the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona.

In February 2017, Sr. Michaelleen was one of the first group of Sisters to move from St. Michael Hall Infirmary to Paul's Run where she resided in the skilled care division. Sister Michaelleen peacefully completed her journey of following Christ on April 24, 2017.



Sr. M. Anne Benedicta Hockeborn, SBS

Apr. 12, 1919 ~
Jul. 10, 2017

Thou in me and I in Thee

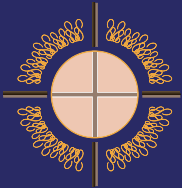
Emma Neumann of Austria married Frank Hockeborn of the U.S. in Walkerville, Ontario, Canada in 1912. The newlyweds settled on Grand Rapids, Michigan as the place to raise their

family. Elizabeth Anne was the first of five children. She was baptized locally at St. Mary Church, but attended elementary and high school in Rockford.

Elizabeth Anne entered the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1947 and took the name of Sr. M. Anne Benedicta at her reception the following year. She pronounced her vows in 1950 and was missioned to Port Arthur, TX, and next to New Orleans, LA before making her final vows in 1955. Her next missions lead her to Montgomery, AL and then to St. Mark's in New York, NY.

Sr. Anne Benedicta received her Bachelor's of Science degree from Villanova in 1960. Her mission assignments lead her to multiple schools and mission sites, several times returning to Xavier University and the Motherhouse. Her fine-tuned office skills were much desired. She served for three years as bookkeeper at St. Michael Indian School followed by a sabbatical in Idaho from 1991-1992. She then took her secretarial skills to St. Michael Hall in 1992, where she resided and worked for seven years until transitioning to providing Gift Shop support services. As her diminishing health limited her movements, she often participated in Bingo and other activities, and enjoyed music — where she would confidently give full voice in singing familiar tunes — which was in contrast to her usual silence.

In 2017, Sister moved into the Health Care section of Paul's Run Retirement Community, and in June smiled during an outdoor picnic celebrating Flag Day with some of her fellow Sisters and residents. A few weeks later, surrounded by Sisters who prayed at her bedside, Sr. Anne Benedicta quietly went to her heavenly home on July 10, 2017.



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Our Sister *Spotlight* on

Sr. Donna Banfield, SBS

In 2015, **Sr. Donna Banfield, SBS**, began working with Center Director Ella Williamson on establishing valuable programs and resources as the **Youth Health Program Coordinator** at the **St. Joseph's/Candler African-American Health Information and Resource Center (AAHIRC)** in Savannah, Georgia.

AAHIRC's primary initiative is to address health matters and concerns of primarily the African American community within Chatham County. Established over a decade ago, the Center conducts health screenings and sponsors events that educate and provide valuable resources for the general public who are restricted by unfortunate circumstances. The center also focuses on promoting healthy lifestyles, enhancing healthcare services and reducing the incidences of health conditions prone to affect many African-Americans. Strategically located in a highly impoverished area, the Center seeks to be a haven of hope for those plagued by persistent poverty.

Above, Left: Sr. Donna Banfield stands in front of the St. Joseph's/Candler African American Health Information and Resource Center in Savannah, GA, where she works as the Youth Health Program Coordinator.

Above, Right: Director Ella Williamson is pictured with CEO and visionary, Paul Hinchey, at the Center's 10 yr. Anniversary celebration.

Inset Photo: The "surfing center" is where folks who do not have internet access at home can complete tasks as varied as completing job applications, filing for government services, to applying for funds from FEMA following a natural disaster.



continued inside on pg. 11

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Did You Know?

Sr. Donna Banfield was born and raised in the home of the Miss America Pageant! (Atlantic City, NJ)



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