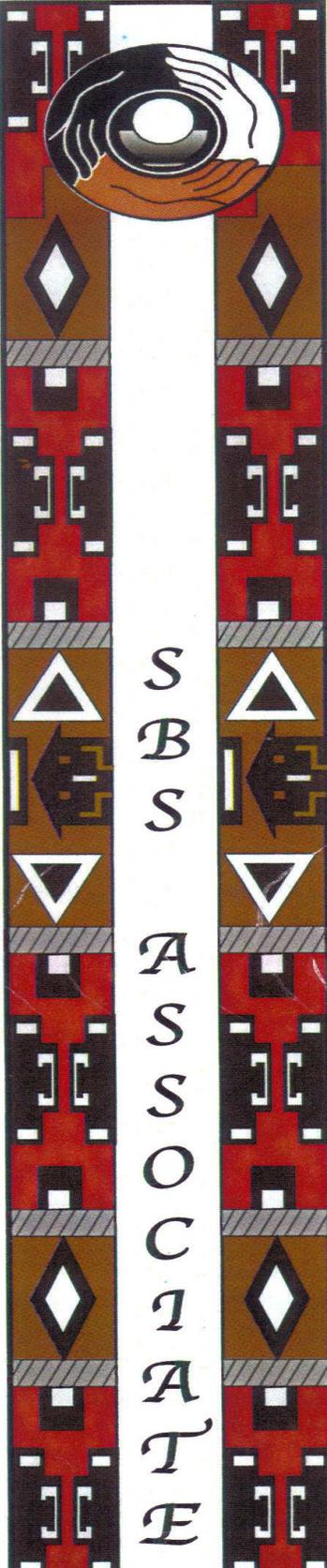


ASBS NEWSLETTER

MOTHER'S DAY REFLECTIONS



Today, May 13, is the 100th Anniversary Our Lady of Fatima; tomorrow, May 14, is Mother's Day; and "on a May morning in 1889, one of Philadelphia's most beautiful debutantes left her fortune behind—and set out to change the world of Black and Native Americans."¹ That, of course, is our Mother Katharine. As we sing our traditional May song, "Tis the month of our Mother," maybe we should sing "Tis the month of our Mothers."

Today, our Holy Father declared two little shepherd saints, Francisco and Jacinto Martos. In his homily at the canonization, the Holy Father says,

...In the Gospel we hear Jesus say to his disciple, "Here is your mother" (John 19:27). We have a Mother! "So beautiful a Lady," as the seers at Fatima said to one another as they returned home on that blessed day of 13 May a hundred years ago. That evening, Jacinta could not restrain herself and told the secret to her mother: "Today I saw Our Lady."...Dear Pilgrims, we have a Mother, we have a Mother! Clinging to her like children, we live in the hope that rests on Jesus."

Dear Associates, we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Blessed Mother's appearance at Fatima each month until October, the date of her final apparition. It seems to me that this would be a perfect time to renew our prayers to "live in the hope that rests on Jesus" as Our Holy Father asks.

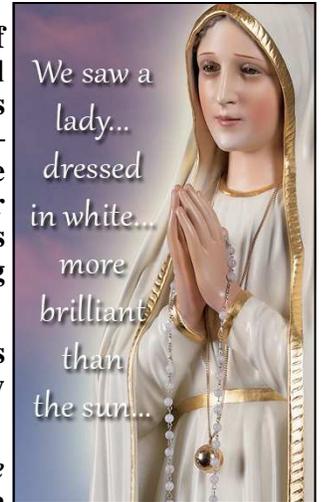
Our Blessed Mother has seen the many sins of violence and hatred which still plague our world and yet she brings messages of hope; our mothers saw our faults and failures, yet they never gave up hoping that we would be kind and loving children; and our Mother Katharine saw the injustice and oppression of Black and Native Americans, yet she never gave up hope for their futures—futures filled with faith, justice, education and opportunity.

When our hope wavers during these trying times let us remember our mothers and live in the hope that rests on Jesus. Our Blessed Mother did after the crucifixion, I am sure our mothers did during trying times of loss or disappointment, and our Mother Katharine did as she accepted the loss of her health and turned to 20 years of adoration of Jesus. The Angel of Peace taught the little shepherds this prayer which they repeated over and over:

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You.

Will this be your prayer?

God bless you. Carol Gaignard



¹Lou Baldwin

Note: When St. John Paul II was shot three times at point blank range and survived, he credited our Mother Mary with deflecting the bullet that should have been fatal. That bullet is now in the crown of the "official" statue of our Lady of Fatima in Fatima. One of the books written by St. John Paul is titled, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope."

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM ASBS DIRECTOR CAROLE BLANKS

Dear SBS Associates,

Thank you for your response to our invitation to provide monetary donations and gift cards to assist the SBS in purchasing televisions, and other furnishings, needed for their new apartments at Paul's Run Retirement Community. The sisters have expressed their appreciation for your kindness and gifts received over the past two months.

Approximately fifty sisters moved to Paul's Run. Reports are that they have settled in, and are enjoying their new home, which offers many activities. They are also making many new friends. Mass is now available to them seven days a week and they have established community life and prayer time together. Paul's Run is about twenty minutes from the Motherhouse.

Some of you have asked how you can contact the sisters at Paul's Run. We will send contact information to you when it is available.

God bless you,

Carole Blanks

NEW ORLEANS NOTES BY ASBS STELLA REESE

Help for Haiti

The ASBS in New Orleans have been very busy. In the fall, the group decided to make a donation to assist the people in Haiti after the flooding. One of the local priests, who is from Haiti, was provided the donations to assist his parish. He reported that food and clothing stations were set up to assist those in need.

Presentation during Retreat

ASBS in New Orleans celebrated with the SBS at Xavier University of Louisiana on their Founding Day in February by presenting them with a bronze portrait of St. Katharine Drexel during their Retreat Mass. *Photo taken by ASBS Veronica Farve.*

St. Katharine Feast Day Mass

SBS at Xavier University of Louisiana (seated) and ASBS in New Orleans (standing) attending the St. Katharine Drexel feast day Mass, March 3, 2017 in the St. Katharine Drexel Chapel on campus. *Photo taken by alumni Randall Schexnayder.*



REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING SR. MAUREEN HURLEY, SBS

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Two New Orleans ASBS, Una Millet and Angela Patterson, sent in their personal memories of Sr. Maureen. Many of us have such sweet, precious memories of Sr. Maureen and many other Sisters. Obviously we cannot put them all in the newsletter, but I thought these two stories could serve as examples of the many, many outstanding SBS who have gone home. The Sisters touched our lives in so many ways that are sometimes hard to explain and they leave such a legacy of living the gospel on a personal level. Let us not fail to let our children and grandchildren know the legacy, the stories, the accomplishments, the education, the gifts, and the blessings associated with these remarkable sisters who gave the total gift of self to Our Lord.

"It began in 1951 at Xavier Prep, and has lasted for 66 years plus. My teacher, my sister, my friend. Sirach 6:14-17 seems a true description of our friendship over the years. Even though we were in different parts of the U.S. for many years, we stayed in touch and upon her return to New Orleans in 1966 we were happy to be in the same city once again! By this time I had married and was the mother of four. My husband was also her student at Xavier Prep and Sr. Maureen shared with us first communions, graduations, weddings and was truly part of our family. We were blessed to have her present at our 50th wedding anniversary celebrations in 2005. Sr. Maureen was truly a friend and is greatly missed. Farewell, dear one. I hope to be worthy of being reunited with you in eternity. Sr. Maureen, pray for me."
Una Millet

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; she who finds one finds a treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price; no sum can balance her worth.

A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy; such as she who fears God finds.

For she who fears God behaves accordingly; and her friend will be like herself.

Sirach 6:14-17

"My first recollections of Sr. Maureen were during the time of my catechetical instruction while in the period of formation in becoming an Associate of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. I have many fond, lasting memories of the passionate concern Sr. Maureen regularly demonstrated for all the people around her – her fellow SBS, other ASBS, her Xavier biology students and everyone in her life. Sister promoted and loved the yearly spiritual and social events that were an integral part of the ASBS holistic spiritual development. At these times she would visit every table, laughing and talking to everyone and, in her special way, share her humor, great spirit and concern for everyone in attendance. Sister clearly loved and cherished the word of God and the Blessed Sacrament and their powerful impact on her daily life. There wasn't anyone, it seemed, toward whom Sister didn't turn the Christ-like light of her genuine interest, concern and deep care. I was always remarkably impressed and somewhat surprised at how much energy Sister radiated as she moved busily about, taking care of the needs of others and sacrificing herself in the process. If there was ever anyone who embodied Jesus being active in the person of another, I would have to say that person was Sr. Maureen. I will always remember her influence and I thank God for the privilege of having known and loved her." Angela Patterson

GONE HOME TO THEIR LORD

ASBS Clara Watson * ASBS Catherine Rossi * ASBS Luis Toca
Sr. Helene Slavin, SBS * Sr. Michelle Callanan, SBS * Sr. Michaleen Lavin, SBS
* Sr. Maureen Hurley, SBS * Sr. Katheryn Gates, SBS

BENSALEM CELEBRATES

BY ASBS RENEE ROBINSON

St. Katharine Drexel Feast Day Celebration

Sunday, March 5, 2017 St. Elizabeth's Chapel was filled to capacity. The Feast Day Celebration began with Mass in St. Elizabeth's Chapel. Bishop Edward Deliman, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bensalem, PA officiated. The choir from St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Chester PA, enlivened the Spirit, to complement our celebration of the Eucharist. Brenda Greene, ASBS and Joyce Hadley, ASBS served as liturgical readers.



Following Mass a bountiful buffet was enjoyed by all. Throughout the day many of our Bensalem Associates, were greeters, escorting guests and visitors across campus venues.

The SKD gift shop was open throughout the day, providing opportunities to purchase a range of deeply discounted items. All ASBS are encouraged to contact the gift shop to purchase books, cards, religious articles for evangelizing projects, as well as gifts for family and friends.

National Justice Award 2017



*Sr. Donna Breslin, SBS
President presents award to
Anne Hoppenot*

A highlight of this year's Feast Day Celebration was the presentation of the National Justice Award. The 2017 National Justice Award Winner is Anne Hoppenot. Sr. Donna Breslin introduced Anne Hoppenot saying, "...Love does not ask how, it just DOES...Anne has done and continues to do; seeing a need and answering it."

Since its 2006 inception, recipients of this annual St. Katharine Drexel National Justice Award are said to reach beyond their immediate surroundings to challenge deeply rooted injustice in the world today. Candidate selection criteria for the Award include: life infused with deep religious and moral values; supportive of cultural and social equality among all people; concern for the poor; willingness to do whatever possible to bring about a better world of peace and justice for all; and an appreciation of the variety and values in racial and cultural heritages guide committee members' selection.

Anne Hoppenot, a teacher at the Stuart County Day School of the Sacred Heart; co-founder of KONEKTE Princeton-Haiti, an organization that promotes community empowerment through education by building schools and training teachers in Haiti. Anne takes groups of adult and student volunteers to Haiti each summer to work on educational projects that seek to enrich the lives of these communities.

Sisters of Blessed Sacrament Move

The closing of the Motherhouse has presented a variety of stresses and strains for the Sisters, many of whom are elderly and or infirmed. The transition to their new home, Paul's Run Retirement Community in Philadelphia, is nearly complete. Let us continue to pray for the Sisters as they begin to live out their mission in very different surroundings. St. Katharine, please pray for us and our nation.

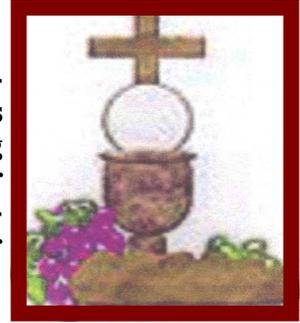


ATLANTA AND MACON RETREAT

BY ASBS CATHARINE JUDD

Atlanta ASBS community hosts Macon ASBS

Joining together with our dear Macon ASBS friends, the Atlanta ASBS community hosted our third annual combined retreat at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Atlanta on March 11, 2017. Father Roy A. Lee celebrated the opening Mass with a stirring message of hope and prayerfulness for social justice in our hurting world today. With his exuberant style, he set the stage for a meaningful retreat directed by our own Theresa Johnson, ASBS, and religion teacher at St. Pius X High School here in Atlanta.



Our retreat theme, Eucharist: Food for the Journey, unfolded with St. Katharine Drexel's spirituality, "Ours is the Spirit of the Eucharist, the Total Gift of Self". As bread



is changed into Jesus Christ, so I must be changed into Jesus Christ so that He will live in me. I must be all His as He is mine. Jesus has given us and continues to give us the Total Gift of Self through His Sacrifice on the Cross which is one with the Sacrifice of the Mass, His Presence in the Eucharist. Theresa Johnson further developed the message with the two great commandments to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might ... and to love your neighbor as yourself. Our day concluded with happy fellowship and handouts for our spiritual journey.

In the Blessed Sacrament

Jesus is present just as He is in Heaven. St. Katharine

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ASBS NEWSLETTER

**703 TERRELL COURT
NEW IBERIA LA 70563**

TOTAL GIFT OF SELF

**[NEXT ARTICLES DUE
OCTOBER 15]**

NEW IBERIA REMEMBERS ST. KATHARINE

New Iberia ASBS celebrated Katharine Drexel's Feast Day with several activities. The Associates turned out with the Drexel Society at St. Edward Church for Vigil Mass on March 4 to honor St. Katharine. The Church was decorated with a poster prepared by the Associates depicting the life of St. Katharine. Similar posters were placed in five other Catholic Churches in New Iberia. On March 10, St. Edward School had a Mass in honor of St. Katharine during which the Associates and Drexel Society again turned out. The children participated in songs and activities about St. Katharine. Information about St. Katharine was placed in the bulletins of the six Churches. The bulletin announcement also invited members of all churches to join us in venerating the relic of St. Katharine followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during a Holy Hour on March 12. During the Holy Hour we said the Rosary using the "Mysteries of the Rosary and St. Katharine Drexel," compiled by Sr. Jane Nesmith, SBS and Stephanie Morris and illustrated by Ethan Malveaux.



*Guest venerates relics of
St. Katharine*