

ASBS NEWSLETTER

Visioning the Future

by ASBS Director Carole Blank

As we celebrate the 18th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Katharine Drexel, we give thanks to God for the gift that she has been to so many people. She touched the lives of many during her lifetime, and continues to intercede and touch the lives of all who seek her assistance today.

Now that St. Katharine's body resides in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, in the heart of Philadelphia, a greater number of people will have the opportunity to visit and pray at her crypt. They will learn of the selfless spirit of St. Katharine Drexel and her commitment to serve the Native and African American people, addressing the deeply rooted social injustices across this nation.

It is important that the charism and ministry entrusted to St. Katharine Drexel, by God, continues into the future. Issues of social injustice still exist. The ASBS have played an important role in evangelizing and assisting the SBS in continuing the work of St. Katharine Drexel.

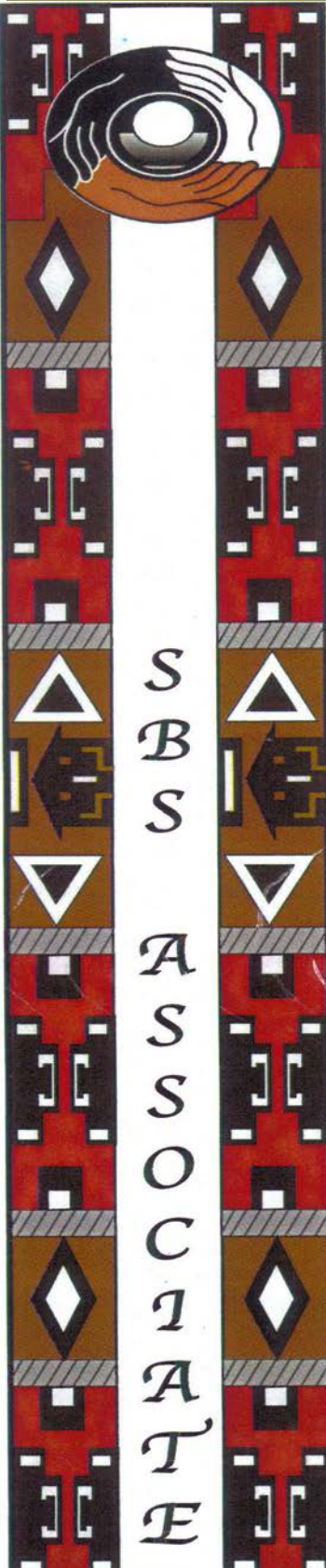
ASBS Leadership and members of the SBS, who have experience with the ASBS, came together on two occasions for retreat. The purpose of the retreats was visioning for the future of the ASBS to ensure sustainability. The responses to the survey that was sent to each ASBS Faith Community last November were used as a springboard for our discussions. We looked at what you perceived to be your strengths and challenges, growth, or the lack of growth at each location. In addition, we reviewed your suggestions, as well as ways that ASBS National Leadership can be of support to local ASBS Faith Communities. Maura Robinson from Evansville, IN facilitated our discussions. Maura is a professional consultant, who facilitates workshops and seminars and who has worked with ASBS in Evansville.

We noted from the surveys that in addition to each associate's individual ministry, that several ASBS Faith Communities have selected community projects such as helping the homeless, assisting at food banks and volunteering at soup kitchens. One ASBS Faith Community sends school supplies to one of the Native American Schools each year. In some locations, the ASBS have initiated Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in their parishes. All of you are to be commended for your commitment to these ministries.

ASBS Leadership will be contacting new local coordinators to offer support and to review updates in the ASBS Guidelines. We ask that you discard old copies of the ASBS Guidelines and refer only to the revised issue dated 2018. A complimentary copy was sent to each coordinator at the beginning of this year. *(Cont. on page 2.)*



Louise, the 'first' Associate with St. Katharine.



Visioning the Future by ASBS Director Carole Blank (Cont. from Page 1.)

We have invited two guest speakers from the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) to attend our 2019 ASBS Pilgrimage. Jean Connolly, NACAR Board President will share the results of the National CARA Study regarding religious and their associates across the nation. She will provide the big picture of what Association looks like across the nation. Sr. Judith Gomila, MSC, who has served on the NACAR Board of Directors, and has led retreats for the Associate Directors, will facilitate a workshop for us that will assist each location in planning for sustainability.

We hope to see you at the ASBS Pilgrimage in Biloxi.

CALL OUT TO ASBS!

CAROLE AND THE BILOXI ASBS HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO PLAN A CONFERENCE WHICH IS CRITICAL TO OUR FUTURE. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR KNOWLEDGEABLE SPEAKERS; SHARE YOUR IDEAS; AND MEET IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES - PRAYING, LEARNING, LAUGHING AND LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT!

SEND YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS IN NOW!

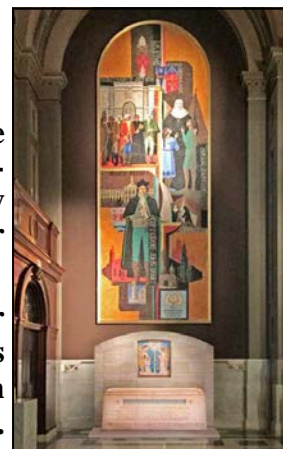
ST. KATHARINE'S TOMB WILL MOVE TO PHILLY CATHEDRAL *EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLE BY LOU BALDWIN*

The remains of St. Katharine Drexel, the founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, will be transferred from the motherhouse, in the coming weeks to the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have once again given the faithful of the archdiocese a tremendous gift," said Father G. Dennis Gill, the rector of the cathedral, where he hosted a news conference July 24. "With the new opportunity to honor St. Katharine at the cathedral, even more people will be exposed to her extraordinary life and example."

"St. Katharine's message is as relevant today as it was 125 years ago," said Sister Donna Breslin, the president of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, at the news conference. "She was a contemporary saint and we continue to pray to her for an end to racism and deeply rooted prejudices." The new location for St. Katharine's tomb will be on the left rear of the cathedral, next to the Drexel altar, which was given to the cathedral in the late 19th century by St. Katharine and her sisters to honor Francis Drexel and Emma Bouvier Drexel.

The tomb itself will look virtually the same as it looked at St. Elizabeth Convent. The focus will be the stone sarcophagus that has contained St. Katharine's coffin since her entombment. Above it will be the same image from the shrine that depicts three angels in adoration before a monstrance, a symbol of the Eucharist, because of St. Katharine's great devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. While the new tomb for St. Katharine will be available for veneration and prayer by the faithful shortly after it is installed, a formal Mass of dedication will be celebrated Nov. 18 by Archbishop Charles Chaput.



http://catholicphilly.com/2018/07/news/local-news/st-katharine-drexels-tomb-will-move-to-phila-cathedral/?utm_source=CatholicPhilly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=52e069ab43-Newsletter_vol_7_no_2+07-27-18_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e0d5b43f94-52e069ab43-96043317

UPDATE FROM SUGAR GROVE FAITH COMMUNITY BY ASBS GARY AND KATHY SCOTT



The Sugar Grove Associates, along with Aurora Central Catholic High School, recently completed our fifth annual service project, providing over 1,100 pounds of notebooks, binders, paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, office supplies, art supplies, and \$500.00 in monetary support to St. Mary's School and Mission, one of the oldest Indian missions in Minnesota, founded in 1888 with the assistance of our dear Patroness, St. Katharine.

Janet Backus, 2018 ASBS Project Chair related that "St. Mary's list of needs had all the usual items, but Principal Michael Hougan requested board games suitable for Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade, and the Reading Specialist sent a list of specific books that would be useful also. Our parishioners responded and we received board games, Legos, wooden blocks and we GOT BOOKS!!!!

Tom and Mae Ernst, joined our newest Associate Barb Rauscher and her husband Jack in delivering the items personally to St. Mary's Mission and School in two packed to the ceiling vans. Barb has relatives in the area of the Mission, and knew just how to get there.



"We have a very generous faith community here at St. Katharine Drexel Church who understand the Charism of St. Katharine Drexel and her daughters in faith." Barb Rauscher, ASBS

LOS ANGELES ASSOCIATES WELCOME SR. MARY ROGER THIBODEAUX

Los Angeles Associates and friends spent two inspirational days with Sr. Mary Roger Thibodeaux. During our retreat, we reflected on the many ways that God has provided for us during our lives... the abundant gifts and blessings He has bestowed upon us. We shared situations when it was clearly evident that God was in control and assisted us during challenging circumstances in our lives. Sr. Mary Roger impressed upon us the importance of our role as Christians to reach out to others letting them know that we care about them, and that they are important and loved by God. Sister said that it is our thoughtfulness that elevates us into the Christ life. We can touch a life in a special way just by little acts of charity



like holding the door for someone, offering to help them with something, and speaking a kind word that will brighten their day. Sister said to always remember to speak, smile and share.



The second day, Carol James, ASBS hosted a gathering and luncheon at her home. ASBS and friends of Sr. Mary Roger enjoyed time to relax, visit and share memorable stories. We are grateful to Sr. Mary Roger for a grace-filled weekend.

BENSALEM HIGHLIGHTS BY DR. RENEE ROBINSON, ASBS

The Bensalem ASBS Faith Community held a February prayer service led by Ernest and Madeline Tynes. They focused on a reflection on the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, an advocate for emancipation to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights. In line with national and international efforts to increase awareness, improve advocacy and action to ameliorate this apparent form of slavery, our the prayer service focused on an end to human trafficking,

A high point in our March activities included our celebration of the life and work of St. Katherine Drexel. With the larger community from across the Archdioceses of Philadelphia and beyond, Mass to celebrate the feast day of St. Katherine Drexel and to thank God for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Martin DePorres Catholic Church in north Philly a service area to the vast majority of poor and disenfranchised Philadelphians, serviced by St. Katherine and the SBS. Most Rev. Fernand Cheri, Aux. Bishop of New Orleans was our special guest celebrant and homilist. Bishop Cheri's message of grace in sacrifice spoke to our collective work on behalf of social justice, human rights, unity and community.



Bishop Cheri fellowships with , ASBS following Mass , reinforcing his message to carry on the work of St. Katharine Drexel. (l-r - Van Robinson, Bishop Cheri, Brenda Greene and Renee Robinson)

Our Bensalem ASBS Community has been graciously offered an opportunity to continue our regular meeting cycle in Bensalem, PA. The Fatima Catholic Outreach Center offers a range of social services in the local community. An additional benefit of this Center is the beautiful chapel on the Center grounds, open for reflection, and only steps away from our meeting space. The May Marian Celebration, to honor Our Blessed Mother, through prayer and song, was held in this beautiful sacred space.

The June Praise and Worship service, held in the Outreach chapel, set the tone for our work during the final business meeting before the summer hiatus. In summary, new member recruitment is a central concern at the local and national level. Prayerfully, we may benefit from the recommendations coming from ASBS National Office and their consultants.

A July news conference out of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced plans to move St. Katherine Drexel from the Bensalem Motherhouse grounds to the newly constructed tomb in the Cathedral Basilica Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, PA. We in the Bensalem community are excited about the Archdiocese commitment to new program development that will promote the life, work, and witness of St. Katherine Drexel, a contemporary saint with family ties in the Philadelphia area. Plans for school-based curriculum, online and TV documentaries have been explored. Additional information, as well as future program details, will be available through a website hosted by the Cathedral (<http://cathedralphila.org/skd>).

On August 6, 2018, we visited the Sisters at Paul's Run.



MACON AND ATLANTA ACTIVITIES *BY ASBS BRENDA MANSON, ATLANTA COORDINATOR AND ASBS CATHERINE JUDD, MACON COORDINATOR*

On March 3, 2018, St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in Macon, GA was the setting for a spirit-filled celebration on the feast day of St. Katharine Drexel with a joint annual retreat of the Atlanta, ASBS Faith Community and the Macon, ASBS Faith Community. The inspiring retreat was lead by Father John Coughlin, OFM with the theme: "Living the Eucharistic Spirituality of St. Katharine Drexel." The day began with Mass and our commitments followed by teaching and reflections on the life of St. Katharine Drexel. A presentation of a history of the Eucharist in the Church was very informative and enjoyable, followed by lunch, and fellowship. The retreat ended with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction. Our phenomenal retreat leader definitely provided us with a day of "Living the Eucharistic Spirituality of St. Katharine Drexel."



ASBS Brenda Manson and ASBS Catherine Judd.



Just one week later, many of the Atlanta ASBS attended a Jazz Brunch fundraiser, in Atlanta, held to benefit the Xavier University of Louisiana Scholarship Fund. A teenage band provided great music and the meal was delicious. Dr. C. Reynold Verret, president of the University, delivered an informative address which made one wish they could attend Xavier as students themselves, or at least contribute to sponsoring a hope-filled young student!

NEW IBERIA ASBS, THE DREXEL SOCIETY AND ST. EDWARD SCHOOL CELEBRATE ST. KATHARINE'S FEAST DAY

The New Iberia ASBS, the Drexel Society and the St. Edward School children celebrated St. Katharine's feastday with a Mass led by the school children. After the Mass several ASBS went into the classrooms to perform the St. Katharine's pantomime with the children.



St. Edward student acts as the master of ceremonies at the Mass and the music minister prepares to lead us in song.



New Iberia ASBS with Father Thomas Vu (center second row) and Katelyn Chataignier (center first row) dressed as St. Katharine.

NEW ORLEANS NEWS BY ASBS VERONICA FARVE



The New Orleans Chapter of the Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament held a Lenten Retreat on February 17, 2018. We were honored to have the Vice-President of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Sr. Jane Nesmith (*center with blue jacket*) lead the retreat and provide us spiritual guidance, including also meaningful materials to help us have a fulfilling Lenten season. ASBS Stella Reese and ASBS Eugenia Adams were the retreat coordinators. The retreat was a wonderful time for repentance, reflection, re-

birth and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. Following the retreat, Mass was held in St. Katharine Drexel Chapel on the Xavier University campus.

St. Katharine Drexel's Feastday was also celebrated with a Mass in the Chapel at Xavier University. The celebrant was Father Sydney Speaks, 1994 XU Graduate and priest at St. Joan of Arc parish (*center*). The President of Xavier University, Dr. C. Reynold Verret was also in attendance (*far left*) along with SBS and ASBS.



Left to right: Mrs. Gayle Benson; Dr. Reynold Verret, Xavier President; Dr. Norman Francis, Xavier President Emeritus; Judge Ivan Lemelle, Board of Trustees; and Ms. Gia Soublet, Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

Xavier University of Louisiana received a \$1.5 million gift from the Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation. The gift both named the Sanctuary of the University's St. Katharine Drexel Chapel the Gayle and Tom Benson Sanctuary and established the Gayle and Tom Benson Scholarship Fund. The Sanctuary was officially named during a special public ceremony Thursday, Sept. 06.

The funds will provide operational and maintenance for the campus Chapel, which was opened in 2012. The Chapel serves as a central location where Xavier community members of all faiths celebrate and remember Mother Katharine's deep love of God and belief that through evangelization and education Xavier would train students to become servant leaders in the world.

The scholarship fund will provide yearly scholarship awards to New Orleans area students up to \$5,000 per semester, for a maximum of eight semesters per student. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their academic standing and documented financial need. "Through their generosity, the Bensons are establishing a partnership with Xavier, the only historically Black and Catholic University in America, that allows us to continue our noble mission to help create a just and humane society."

Xavier University and its institute for Black Catholic Studies will establish a resource center which will house relevant educational and scholarly work focusing on the lives of five African-American candidates for sainthood (Venerable Pierre Toussaint; Venerable Henriette Delille, SFF; Mother Mary Elizabeth Lang, OSP; Father Augustine Tolton; and Julia Greeley) and also St. Katharine Drexel and St. Kateri Tekakwitha. (For more details see www.xula.edu.)

BELLE GLADE ASBS IN MINISTRY *BY SR. ANNE MEEHAN*



Marie Jean Augustin, ASBS, helps in our parish food pantry.



Sonia Guillaume, ASBS, liturgical leader.



During Friday Health Class. Martine Dominique, ASBS, has blood pressure check by Sister Anne.



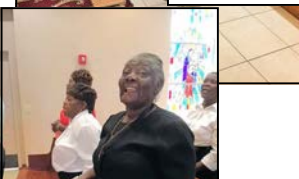
Marie Ste .Therese, ASBS, does adult coloring during Friday health class .



Gerard Tesume, ASBS, lights candles before Mass, takes a big part on our parish's food pantry and collections at Mass.



Marie Jean Augustin, ASBS, singing in the choir at Sunday Mass .



Martine Dominique, ASBS, singing in the choir at Sunday Mass.



Gloria VanBrocklin ,ASBS, teaches literacy in Glade's Community Organization.



Delicia Pierre sips coffee during Friday health class .

*Jesus loves offerings made to Him with gladness.
St. Katharine Drexel*

NEWS BRIEFS



Dr. Rosalind Pijaux Hale, ASBS and Sister Gilda Bell, SBS, set up a table onto honor St. Katherine at her feast day Mass on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Resurrection Catholic Church in Montgomery, AL.

The following SBS celebrated their Jubilees on June 23, 2018:

70th JUBILEE

Sr. M. Ann Elizabeth Lamsback, SBS

60th JUBILEE

Sr. Nathalee Bryant, SBS

Sr. Jeannette Kinlicheeny, SBS

Sr. M. Roland Lagarde, SBS

Sr. M. Catherine Joseph Bennett, SBS, went home to the Lord on June 20, 2018. She would have celebrated her 70th Jubilee on June 23, 2018.

We thank God for all of you and your lives of love and service.



**ASBS
NEWSLETTER**

**703 TERRELL COURT
NEW IBERIA LA 70563**

TOTAL GIFT OF SELF

**ARTICLES FOR NEXT
ISSUE DUE JANUARY 15**

GONE HOME TO OUR LORD

Sr. Maureen Patricia Ryan, SBS

Sr. Carolyn Hodos, SBS

Sr. Catherine Joseph Bennett, SBS

Sr. Theresa Miscenick, SBS

Alberta Malveaux, ASBS

Dianna Guidry, ASBS

Theresa Pickney, ASBS

Diann Derouen, ASBS

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS.