

2019 LXXXIII 1

MISSION MAGAZINE



EMPOWERING MINDS + CREATING HOPE + BUILDING FAITH + SEEKING JUSTICE

A EUCHARISTIC FOCUSED MISSION

Foundations of Native American Literature Course



St. Katharine Drexel's connection: Xavier University of Louisiana and the Pueblos of New Mexico

Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS, and Students Spend 2 Weeks in New Mexico with the Pueblos



"This XULA/Pueblo experience has united both my passions as two of Mother Katharine's missions met and embraced." - Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS

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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 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 Administrative offices of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament continue to be located in Bensalem, Pa.

President's Message

Jan. 2019

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

Take joy in knowing that we have a God who loves us, and as a loving Father, He always wants what is best for us. As part of "His vine," we are "the branches" called to reach out to others, and show them the same kind of love that Jesus offers freely and unconditionally to each one of us. That call to action takes effort, but as Saint Katharine reminds us in her words, God never leaves us to execute the plan on our own.

"Our own feet must carry us, but He is ever there to help us."

- St. Katharine Drexel

Over the years, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, have trusted in God's providence in our ministry work and in planning for the future. Trust is a big part of that process. Faith in God; belief in the efforts we make are planting bigger seeds for change...whether in impacting one life, a whole community, or future generations.

This issue of *MISSION* shares examples of the fruits of our ministry, as well as stories about those who have partnered with us in making it a better world to live in.

We wish you and your family many blessings, and pray that together, we can continue to change the world for the better.

Sincerely in the Blessed Sacrament,

Dr. Donna Breslin

SBS President



Together we can Build
a better World.

On the Cover...

Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS commented during the trip she and her Xavier University students made to the Pueblos in New Mexico... "This connection was what I had hoped would happen as we continued to experience Pueblo life." Read more about the Literature Class and their travel experiences starting on page 3.

Photos: Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS & her students

Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS

St. Katharine Drexel's connection: Xavier University of Louisiana and the Pueblos of New Mexico

*A collaborative article by Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS
and Cheri Wenger, SBS Communications Manager*



Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS
English Professor, Xavier University
New Orleans, Louisiana

Foundations of Native American Literature begins its study with the Asiatic Migration across the Bering Strait into the Americas 14,500 years ago. The story of this ancient journey will refocus on the 570 tribes in the U.S. today and finally narrow the lens to the Pueblos of the Southwest.

English 3003.01 Special Topics
2 weeks at XULA July 16th to 29th
2 weeks in New Mexico with the Pueblos July 30th – August 8th

Students Spend 2 Weeks in New Mexico with the Pueblos

Foundations of Native American Literature A New Course at Xavier University



Above: A photo of the New Course Flyer

Below: A photo of the Final XULA Poster that was used for a presentation to the Xavier University Alumni Association on the Foundations of Native American Literature Course at the Pueblos in New Mexico. The students whose travel expenses were sponsored by the Alumni Association gave a presentation to them with gratitude for making the experience possible. (It summarized most of the information included within this article).

This past July, Sr./Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS, offered Xavier University of Louisiana students the opportunity to study literature written by Native Americans as a bridge between oral cultures and literate cultures followed by experiencing the Native American Pueblo Culture of New Mexico.

Bridge between Orality and Literacy

Oral cultures preserve and transmit knowledge through rituals, ceremonies, song, chants, drumming, pottery, quilting, art.

Literate cultures communicate and understand the world through the technology of written language.



*"This is education at its best
...something sacred is
happening here."*

- Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS

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St. Katharine Drexel's connection:

Xavier University of Louisiana and the Pueblos of New Mexico

by Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS

Educators have moments when they stand back, observe a class event and reflect, *"This is education at its best."* Then there are even greater moments when one reflects and observes that *"something sacred is happening here."*

My life as an SBS (Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) has converged paths in creating a new course at Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA). FOUNDATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE is a study of literature written by Native Americans as a bridge between oral cultures that preserve and transmit knowledge through rituals, ceremonies, song, chants, drumming, pottery, weaving, and literate cultures who communicate and understand the world through the technology of written language. I spent ten years in the Southwest at St. Catherine Indian School in Santa Fe working, living, and sharing in the Native American's way of life by being immersed in the ceremonies/rituals of the surrounding Pueblos. For the last thirty years, I have been at Xavier University as a *faculty member in the English Department*. I have often said that my soul has taken root with the people and the land of New Mexico; however, my heart is at home at Xavier.

This XULA/Pueblo experience has united both my passions as two of Mother Katharine's missions met and embraced.

Foundations of Native American Literature began in the classroom at XULA with the study of Asiatic Migration across the Bering Strait into the Americas 14,500 years ago. The story of this ancient journey refocused on the Native tribes in the U.S. today and finally narrowed the lens to the Pueblos of the Southwest. Following the classroom study, the students and I traveled to New Mexico to share an experience with the Pueblo people. The travel and accommodations were sponsored by XULA's alumni who were enthusiastic about this experience that connected St. Katharine Drexel – Xavier's foundress, and her first mission (1894) in the Southwest.



XULA students joined Sr. Patrick Marie Dempsy, SBS, who became their Pueblo guide and mentor during their visits to the Jemez and Santa Domingo Pueblos.

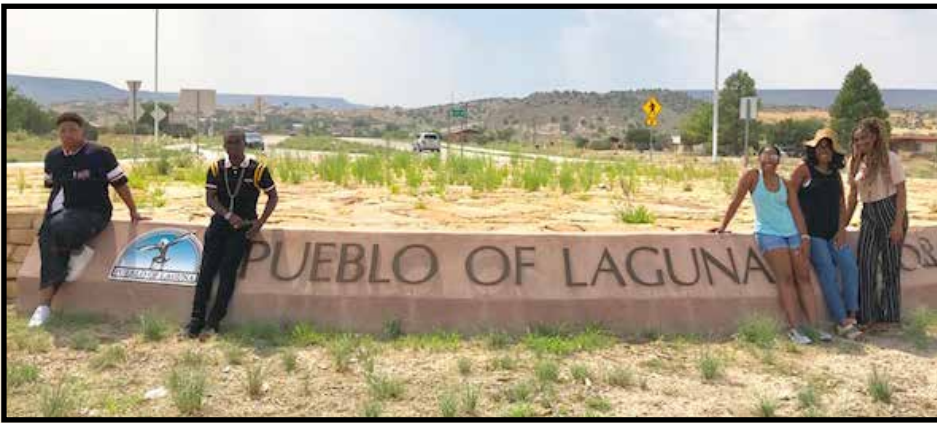
When we arrived in New Mexico, my role shifted from teacher to door opener. Our first visit was at the Laguna Pueblo. The SBS Sisters, both Natives of Laguna were hospitable and loving. The students were greeted by Sr. Consolata Beecher, SBS and Sr. Rosita Shiosee, SBS with welcoming hugs and a snack of fruit and cinnamon rolls. Sr. Consolata shared her stories about her life growing up in Laguna, her SBS experiences in the inner cities, and her life now that she has returned to Laguna. Sister then guided us around the Pueblo. On our return to the convent, Sr. Rosita gave us a tour of the church and told stories full of history and wisdom. Time passed far too quickly, and we concluded our visit with a wonderful lunch resembling a feast, prepared and set up by the Sisters. The conversation and sharing during this meal provided a dramatic and wonderful closing to the day.

Each evening when we returned to Santa Fe, we met to reflect on the day. The students shared their love for the Sisters. One student summarized the experience at Laguna: *"When we first arrived at Laguna, I was hesitant about entering this new world. After the Sisters greeted us and told us their stories, I felt right at home."* Other students reflected on how Sister Consolata's stories were like the ones that their grandparents told about their ancestors and their

From XULA to The New Mexico Pueblos

“I have often said that my soul has taken root with the people and the land of New Mexico; however, my heart is at home at Xavier.”

- Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS



XULA students at the Pueblo of Laguna — their first stop during their two week stay in New Mexico.

values as a community. Others reflected on Sr. Rosita’s stories that were echoed in those told by their aunts and other family elders. They were mesmerized by Sister’s tales and loved her as a storyteller. The students all agreed that they came in anticipation of meeting a culture unlike one they have experienced and ended up feeling right at home.

This connection was what I had hoped would happen as we continued to experience Pueblo life; however, it was amazing that this feeling of being at home happened on our first day visiting the Sisters at Laguna.

The next major experiences was attending the feasts at **Jemez** and **Santa Domingo Pueblos**. **Sr. Patrick Marie Dempsey, SBS** became our Pueblo guide and mentor. Sister has been in the Southwest at **St. Michaels in Arizona** with the **Navajos** and **St. Catherine’s in Santa Fe** with numerous tribes for over 50 years. She has earned love and respect as a teacher, principal, administrator and most evident as *“their Sister.”*



At the feast, the students observed the ancient and sacred corn dances. The students were amazed at the 500 Pueblo people dancing into the plaza painted in orange-reddish clay as the pumpkin clan. Immediately following the first dance another 500 dancers came

Below: St. Katharine Drexel visiting a reservation.



Clan. They observed what **St. Katharine Drexel** must have experienced at these dances over 125 years ago – watching these Pueblo dancers painted in blue, green, red and orange clay, it seemed as if the earth stood up to dance.

After watching the dances, **Sister Patrick Marie** took us to visit many Pueblo homes to take part in the traditional meals offered to all visitors who came to celebrate with them. Home after home, the students observed the love and welcome that Sister Patrick Marie received as we sat down to a meal. Sister was introduced to other visitors as *“the former principal of their school, St. Catherine’s, or “this is my teacher”* and the best *“this is my Sister.”* These men and women who were great-grandparents spanning the generations to young parents who knew Sister treated her with the same love and



into the plaza painted in blue-green clay, the Turquoise



XULA students pose in front of artwork in the Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

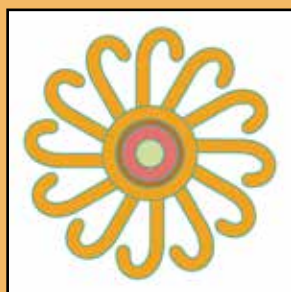
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Foundations of Native American Literature

A New Course at Xavier University taught by Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS

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respect that she gives to them. The Xavier students were greeted as part of their family related through St. Katharine. At each greeting, there were questions and stories about other SBS who had made a difference in their life. After many hours at the feasts, we were exhausted and started home; however, Sister Patrick Marie stayed in the Pueblo village because she had many more families that she had promised to visit. The students were astounded and inspired by Sister's energy, dedication and love for the people of the Pueblos.



That evening as we met to reflect on the day, the students spoke of being deeply touched by the dances and grateful for our guide and mentor. The students agreed that the image of Sr. Patrick Marie watching the dances, standing silently and reverently for a long period of time in the unrelenting sun, she seemed to become part of the ceremony.



As part of their visit to the Pueblos, Dr. Donna Marie Gould, SBS and her students got to witness some of the ritual dances of the Native Americans in New Mexico.

After visiting other Pueblos and a tour of the **Ancestral Pueblo dwellings at Bandelier National Monument**, our closing experience was at the **Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque** owned by the **nineteen Pueblos of New Mexico**. One major exhibit featured the life and legacy of **Bob Chavez, a famous artist from the Pueblo of Cochiti**. He dedicated his life to **St. Catherine's Indian School** as a promise to God after his safe return from the Bataan Death March during WWII. **Sr. Consolata Beecher, SBS**, was instrumental in creating and developing this exhibit. The students were proud to see to see the *founder of their University*, **St. Katharine Drexel**, highlighted in this section of the Center.

In many places in Santa Fe and in Pueblo homes, Saint Katharine's image was displayed. This was a major connection between the Pueblos and the students from Xavier.

As I reflect on this experience, I look around the many tables of the Pueblo people where the students were sharing a meal and engaging in deep conversations, and I know that this was more than an educational experience; this was a celebration of Eucharist.

How proud Mother Mary Katharine must be of all of her Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who followed her and created the pathway from the Pueblos of NM to Xavier University of Louisiana culminating in a celebration of love.

I am sure Mother Katharine is smiling in love at Xavier's alumni and students, and for the generations of Pueblo peoples who still speak her name with respect and honor her passion for justice. Yes indeed, something sacred happened here.

The Students who participated in the summer course shared an on-line photo gallery with one another to remember their experiences at the Pueblos in New Mexico. The following page shows some of their images from a memorable trip and English Literature course.



Madison, TN

Sr. Marianne Poole

Sr. Marianne was invited to assist in helping achieve academic success for the students by **Sr. Sandra Smithson, SSF, a product of SBS education.** Much like **St. Katharine Drexel**, whom Sr. Sandra shares a great love and devotion to, she wished to create a school setting wherein minority students could receive the same type of excellent education like she received from first grade through her college years from the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS).**



When questioned about **how does she gauge the success of the work she does**, Sr. Marianne shared the goal she strives to accomplish with each of her fourth grade students...

GOAL: The students grow in their academic achievement and leave empowered to achieve their potential in their next venture.



When asked, *“How does collaboration and working together with others benefit your ministry?”*, Sr. Marianne responded... *“During this time of limited resources of the SBS, this collaborative effort has enabled me to continue the mission and charism of [her order’s foundress], St. Katharine*

Drexel.” She further credits **Sr. Sandra Smithson, SSF** with making her feel *“continually supported and encouraged in her SBS vocation.”*

Initially, when Sr. Marianne entered the Novitiate in 1961 and later took her final vows in 1964, she didn’t initially think about teaching, however once she became involved with it, she truly *“loves it, which is the reason why [she] is still involved with it.”* Sister hopes to continue her ministry work as long as possible.

There are two School Sisters of St. Francis and an associate living and working with Sr. Marianne. Her school day typically begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m., and Sr. Marianne notes that...

As most schools struggle to have enough money for materials for their students, donations do really impact her ministry work. The teacher that Sister works with posts her needs and suggestions on line. Your direct [donation](#) to **SBS sustainability** on our website helps support the Sisters and aids in the ministry work of the SBS.

“Do each thing as well as you can; Leave the rest to God.”

- St. Katharine Drexel



“Every day is a challenge to help each struggling student achieve one goal, one success.”

- Sr. Marianne Poole, SBS

At a time, when the world is in great need of coming together, this charter school and Sr. Marianne Poole’s ministry set a fine example of how we can accomplish great things when we work together to implement change in the world.

Together we can **Build** *a better* **World.**



Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
and
Associates of the Sisters of
the Blessed Sacrament
Social Justice Committee

*“These little ones
believe in me. It
would be best for the
person who causes one
of them to lose faith
to be thrown into the
sea with a large stone
hung around
his neck.”*

(Mark 9:42 *GOD'S WORD
Translation*)

Help Children to Believe Again!

Challenging All Forms of Racism and Other Deeply Rooted Injustices in Our Society

In this information age we are daily made aware of the shock, the horror and the prevalence of violence against children on our borders and elsewhere. It is not only a time for us to meditate on the words of Jesus, but —

it is also a time to lift our voices and to take action to end it. A time for us to help children believe again.



*“Children are the
hands by which
we take hold
of heaven.”*

Henry Ward Beecher,
Reverend & Social Activist

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A Call to Action:

<https://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/>

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/stop-family-separation/>

*“Keep Him with you; find Him in the children.”
- Saint Katharine Drexel*

The Cry of the Children

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Do ye hear the children weeping, O my brothers,
Ere the sorrow comes with years?

They are leaning their young heads against their
mothers,

And that cannot stop their tears.

The young lambs are bleating in the meadows;

The young birds are chirping in the nest;

The young fawns are playing with the shadows;

The young flowers are blowing towards the west

But the young, young children, O my brothers,

They are weeping bitterly!

They are weeping in the playtime of the others

In the country of the free.



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Commentary

BY KAITLIN CURTICE 6.20.2018

Kaitlin Curtice is a Native American Christian writer, speaker and worship leader. She is an author with Paraclete Press and writes at www.kaitlincurtice.com, on the intersection of culture and spirituality.

O God,

When it feels like the world is on fire, we don't always know what to do.

Do we light candles and pray?

Do we scream and yell in the streets?

Do we open our wallets?

Do we prepare guest rooms in our homes?

Do we write letters and make phone calls?

We don't always know what it looks like to make crooked ways straight, to stand up to injustice.

We don't always know what it looks like to call oppressors to account, to bring them into the full awareness of the injustice they hold over others.

But we are begging for mercy, for justice, for all those things you tell us to look for.

We are begging for mercy for children who are cold and tired, for parents who cannot stop aching.

The widowed ones and the orphaned ones are yours, and if they are yours, they are ours, too.

When those children are crying in cages and we cannot get to them,

When those parents are desperate to hold their babies again and we cannot console,

Show us what it means to be the face of love.

Show us what it means to have hands and feet that only work for good.

We acknowledge that we are called to be people who fight for human rights, and it is not a choice.

O God,

Teach us what self-care looks like.

Show us what strength looks like.

Show us what Love looks like.

Because we are a nation that has always oppressed children, deeming them worthless, pieces moved on a chess board to punish and control cultures and peoples.

This is hatred in every sense.

Teach us how to be people who stand against it again and again for the sake of every child and every person who wants a quiet, safe place to lay their heads at night.

Teach us to be brave, we pray,
When we have no idea what it looks like.

Amen.



PHOTO BY: KYLIE WENGER



St. Katharine Guides Sugar Grove Associates

A historical chapter overview from Gary and Kathy Scott, ASBS

In the Spring of 2013, seven dedicated individuals committed to continuing the vigorous spirit of **St. Katharine Drexel**, *whose heart and desire was constantly directed toward the poor, the outcasts, and those unjustly treated.* Mother Katharine's vision, and close union with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament gave her constant and renewed energy to take up the cross in loving mission to Native and African Americans. Since this first group, our ASBS Faith Community has grown to now include fifteen associates.

Our group has had many instances where we believe **St. Katharine Drexel** has intervened in our service life, and we truly believe she is present in the everyday lives of our parishioners.

As an example, while we were searching to find a mission for our first years' service project, *our newest Associate, Kathleen Malone*, told us of her relative that had been among the founding priests at one of the oldest Indian missions in St. Francis, South Dakota. The **American Indian Museum** on the site named in his honor! The original school was dedicated in 1886 through the charity and foresight of our patroness **St. Katharine Drexel**, currently aiding nine (9) Native American Catholic parishes serving the Native American Lakota on the Rosebud Reservation.



Volunteers collecting boxes during this year's project at St. Mary's Mission and School at Red Lake, MN.



2018 Sugar Grove (Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) ASBS Faith Community

Following in the spirit of St. Katharine Drexel whose heart and desire was constantly directed toward the poor, the outcasts, and those unjustly treated.

While attempting to determine our second years' service project, "We received an edition of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament magazine, *Mission*," says **Kathy Scott, ASBS**. "In this issue was an article titled 'Red Lake Nation' describing the history, culture, and difficulties of the Native American Ojibwa at St. Mary's Mission and School on the reservation. It seemed that St. Katharine was giving us a pretty powerful hint, and we all agreed there certainly was great need there."

The third year, **Julie Gilbert**, another newly added Associate, was found to have a relationship with another South Dakota Lakota Sioux Mission in Pine Ridge, and we selected **Our Lady of Lourdes School** there as a recipient. "When Julie described the history, culture, and difficulties of the Mission and School on the reservation, we were certain this is where our efforts that year were needed," says Kathy. Our Associates then decided that we would continue to aid these three Missions each year, sending a majority of items to one on a rotating basis, and sending smaller amounts to each of the others as well.

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.*

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Associates in Action Sugar Grove, Illinois

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Many of you may not know this, but the original historic Church at Red Lake burned to the ground in an overnight fire December 2, 2017, and the congregation has committed to, and begun the rebuilding process. Our Parish responded almost immediately with gifts of vestments, crucibles and other useful mass items.

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. She said that, *“We have a very generous faith community here at SKD, who understand the Charism of St. Katharine Drexel and her Daughters in faith.”*

Our group here at **St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Sugar Grove, Illinois** has many more instances where we believe **St. Katharine Drexel** has interceded in our service and daily life, and we truly believe she is present in the everyday lives of our parishioners as they exhibit her *“joyful spirit.”* Many of you have similar stories, and I have heard a few first hand from Associates at the **Pilgrimage and World Meeting of Families** in Philly. But, I think many of you reading this will agree that it has been a very difficult time for some Associates as they struggle with the reality of the closing of the Motherhouse, movement of many of the Sisters into a retirement facility, and the lack of daily access to **Saint Katharine’s** tomb. Personally, it had left me with a *“void”* of a type I just couldn’t quite name.

Updates from our ASBS

However, prayer has brought me the realization that **St. Katharine** is constantly with us, speaking to Our Lord on our behalf. Soon the tomb of our dear **St. Katharine** will again be available to an even larger Catholic community, as it is now open to the public at the **Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia**.

Within our own **ASBS Faith Community**, several Associates have regular communication with some of the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS)**, many who have recently relocated to **Paul’s Run Retirement Community**. Many of the Sisters are involved in new ministries, and all are a powerhouse of prayer and support for their religious community, **SBS Associates (ASBS)**, **SBS Alumni**, and many friends and benefactors. Perhaps you, too, have a special relationship with one of our dear **SBS**. What a joyous time this is as **St. Katharine Drexel’s** tomb is installed at the Cathedral Basilica for greater access to the public.

Whom will she touch next?
What miracles still await?

Mother Katharine Drexel once said...

**“I wish to be one who
conscientiously takes part in
the unfolding of God’s Plan...”**

I truly believe that this is now her Sainly life’s work, and as Associates, ours as well.

God Bless,

Gary and Kathy Scott, ASBS

Upcoming Event

Save-the-Date:

ASBS Pilgrimage

June 27-30, 2019

Biloxi, MS

Los Angeles Associates Welcome Sr. Mary Roger Thibodeaux

*Sr. Mary Roger Thibodeaux is the
Director of the SBS Center for Evangelization*



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.



SBS Center for Evangelization

Father's Day Prayer Breakfast

by Jeanette Williams, ASBS

Associates in Action
Rayne, LA

*“There is a surprise in store for us
when our soul first awakens to
the sight of God.”*

– St. Katharine Drexel

On **June 16, 2018**, the ASBS **Rayne Dears**, along with community members, sponsored a breakfast of eggs, grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, fruit, juice, and milk for local men and those from the surrounding area. The event was held at the **Hope Center, Rayne, LA**. The *guest speaker*, **Rev. Joseph Campion, SSJ**, spoke about forgiveness and the Father's Blessing; a *testimony on suffering and enlightenment* was presented by **Mr. Al**.



There was praying for, and with each other, as well as praising and glorifying God through music and song.

Sisters, Jane & Christine, lead the praise and worship at the Retreat Mass.



Retreat attendees listen intently at the retreat Mass.

Sept. 2018 — The faith family of Boston Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (ASBS) gathered at **St. Katharine Drexel Parish** where ASBS renewed their commitment of the year as they completed a retreat weekend with **Sr. Jane Nesmith, SBS Vice President**, at the **St. Joseph Retreat Center in Milton, Massachusetts**.

Sr. Jane’s presentation focused on the power of prayer in their ministerial outreach. She joined local **Sister Christine Smith, SBS**, in presenting at the retreat.

Nationwide, there are currently 401 faith families of Associates making up the group of ASBS. To learn more about what is involved in becoming an Associate, you can contact the *ASBS Director*, **Carole Blanks** on our [ASBS page](#) under the Partners tab on our website.

Associates in Action **Bensalem, PA**

Bensalem ASBS Annual Visit with the Sisters



Above: Associates Brenda Greene and Anne De Marco coordinate the distribution of the flowers to the Sisters.

Yearly the local Bensalem faith family of the **Associates of the Blessed Sacrament (ASBS)** plan a visitation day with the **SBS** where they bring them vases of flowers and speak with the Sisters who aren’t actively involved in full-time ministry within the community. Since their transition from their Motherhouse facility in Spring of 2017, the ASBS have been visiting the Sisters who are living both independently as well as those who are in Skilled Care at Paul’s Run Retirement community in northeast Philadelphia.

Below: Sr. Amédée Maxwell, SBS, visits with one of the Associates who visited Paul’s Run.



These visits solidify the connections formed by the Associates and the Sisters over many years, and everyone really looks forward to a day of snacks and conversation. It is one way that the area ASBS show their appreciation for the Sisters and their years of service and dedication.

Left: Sr. M. Norbert Moline, SBS, and Sr. Geraldine Mikulec with the vases.



A Testament in Believing that God Leads Us Through Every Challenge if We Trust in Him



Cheri Wenger
SBS Communications Manager

When we think of communications we often think of it as a spoken or written form of conveying a message, but now more than ever, the world is a much more visual-driven one.

Following the announcement of the sale of the properties, I prayed about a way to convey the transitioning process that would be occurring for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Drawing upon my background as an illustrator and graphic designer, I looked into ways that other designers depicted this. I loved the idea of a feather transforming into many birds that would then move to new destinations and new experiences. Fortunately, the Sisters agreed that it would be a great new theme to adopt for our Annual Appeal and in other forms of our communications that year.

Daily, I could see the impact as each Sister at the Motherhouse would try to embrace what would lie ahead for them, trusting in their leadership, and most importantly, God. This was something we shared in common during the process...trusting that God also knew what was to be, and that He would lead everyone through it.

I began the illustration, finding added inspiration from the quote from St. Katharine that we would later feature on the cover of our Annual Appeal brochure.

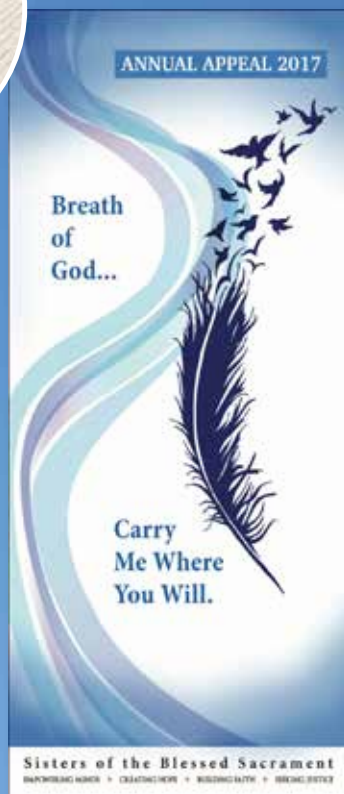


PHOTO BY: CHERI WENGER

Definition of providence

- ~ *divine guidance or care*
- ~ *God conceived as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny*

“I stopped and looked up at the sky in disbelief of what I was seeing. I then felt a peace...a sign that this IS part of His plan...we must continue to trust in Him.”

The morning after I finished the artwork, I took my dog Bella for her usual walk with my cell phone in hand. However, when I looked up and saw a cloud shaped like a feather, I was stunned and took photos in disbelief at what I was seeing. No matter how the cloud moved, it remained in the shape of a feather, *as shown above*. Was it a sign from God? I believe so! Divine Reassurance — a message to continue to trust in Him and His Divine Providence.





Opelousas, LA

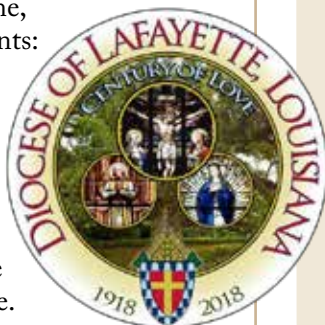
The Diocese of Lafayette Celebrates 100th Anniversary

SBS Attend Centennial Event

A hundred years ago, Catholics in South Louisiana who were formerly part of the **Archdiocese of New Orleans** received a papal bull declaring the creation of the new **Diocese of Lafayette**. 2018 marks the **Centennial Anniversary**, and the Diocese celebrated this milestone with many events to include those who played a crucial part in the history and growth of the Catholic Church within the diocese.

One of the events honoring such instrumental people was a Religious Centennial Gathering for Sisters, Brothers and Priests hosted at **Holy Ghost Parish and Hall** in mid-October, which included a Mass and luncheon. **SBS Vice-President, Sr. Jane Nesmith** attended the event along with **Sr. Jean Marie Craig, SBS**.

For more about the Diocese Centennial, you can view their [web page](#). The theme chosen was “**A Century of Love.**” And within the Centennial logo, *shown below*, there is a 500 yr. old Cathedral oak which has stood the test of time, also two Patron Saints: **Our Blessed Lady of the Immaculate Conception** and **Saint John Vianney**, and **Jesus** on the cross — exemplifying the ultimate sign of love.



New Iberia, LA

SBS Accept Principal's Invitation to Visit St. Edward School for Some of the Planned Centennial Activities



School Founded by St. Katharine Drexel Celebrates Its Centennial

Founded in 1918 by **Saint Katharine Drexel** and named after her brother-in-law, **St. Edward School** marked a milestone of its own...*100 years of providing quality Catholic School education to the residents of New Iberia, Louisiana.*



In honor of their **Centennial**, the small school had a big week of events planned beginning with a Rosary Balloon Launch in honor of the month of the Holy Rosary; Dress Like a Sister Day for the teachers; Family Adoration; and a SKD Canonization Anniversary Mass, to name but a few activities. There was much celebration all week long with children singing and praying. One of the performances can be [viewed here](#), as the kids perform the *Katie Rocks* song...honoring their schools foundress, **St. Katharine Drexel**. You may spot some familiar **SBS** on stage!

Sr. Jane Nesmith, SBS and **Sr. Jean Marie Craig, SBS** had the opportunity to speak with the children during an assembly held prior to dismissal on **Dress Like a Nun Day**. Some of the teachers wore habits and attire to show the students what nuns used to wear when they taught there years ago. Sisters Jane and Jean told the kids how long each of them have been Sisters. Sr. Jane thanked the students for their prayers and gifts offered to the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament** over the years. You can [view the video here](#).



Above: The Rosary Balloons were quite a site to behold as they lifted upward into the sky. St. Katharine Drexel often referred to the rosary as a “symbol of love.”



50th Anniversary Joint Conference for Black Religious

**50th Anniv. Conference
New Orleans, LA**

SBS Gather with Fellow Sisters, Clergy and Priests in New Orleans



Above: No, you are not seeing double, it is an amazing pairing of two sets of religious twins attending the NBCCC-NBSC Joint Conference in NOLA. Fathers Chester and Charles Smith, SVD are pictured with Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS and Sr. Patty Ralph, SSJ...giving new meaning to doubly blessed.

Seven of the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament** traveled to New Orleans this past July as active members of the **NBSC, National Black Sisters Conference**, a group consisting of more than 150 Black Catholic women religious and associates in the U.S. Collectively, they seek to give a strong voice in support of dignity and rights of women of color by fostering mentoring opportunities and support systems for Black women in religious formation. They also strive to educate the African American family and to confront the sin of racism that still continues in society. Some of our own **SBS** are among those founding members: **Sr. Nathalee Bryant, Sr. Roland Lagarde and Sr. Beulah Martin**, *featured below.*



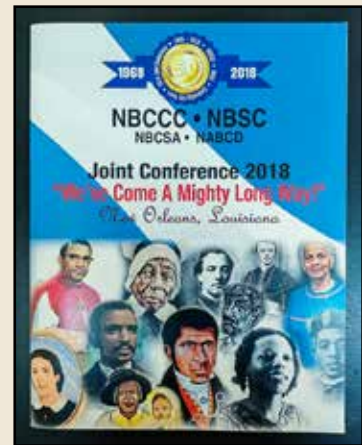
Left: Sisters Nathalee, Roland and Beulah receiving plaques at the Catholic Center at AUC during a Conference Mass.

Right: The Program for the 50th Anniversary Joint Conference featured the logo, shown above, the slogan, and photos of some of the influential Black Catholics who helped to shape the U.S. Church.



“We’ve Come a Mighty Long Way!”

When the first, now historic, conference of Sisters was held in 1968 at **Carlow College**, the over 150 attendees were comprised of religious from 79 different national and international congregations.



The **NBCCC, National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus** was formed 50 years ago to improve the lives of Black Catholics by giving a voice to the African American community, celebrating their giftedness, transforming those minds clouded in racism, and encouraging others to share their gifts for the betterment of the universal Catholic Church.

continued on page 19

Formed during the civil rights movement, the NBCCC membership includes Black Catholic ordained clergy (priests and permanent deacons), religious brothers and seminarians. It later became a catalyst for other like organizations. **The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus** provides leadership training and mentoring for seminarians, deacons and religious brothers during their formation process. It is a fraternity for the Black Catholic Clergy and Religious which serves to support the spiritual, theological, educational and ministerial growth of its members.



SBS in attendance at Conference:

- Sr. Nathalee Bryant, SBS
- Sr. Stephanie Henry, SBS
- Sr. Roland Lagarde, SBS
- Sr. Beulah M. Martin, SBS
- Sr. Amédée Maxwell, SBS
- Sr. Jane Nesmith, SBS
- Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS



PHOTOS BY: SR. LYNN MARIE RALPH, SBS

The joint 50th Anniversary Conference combined the NBCCC membership with the NBSC membership for a common celebration honoring the contributions of all the participants. This collective group enhances the Catholic Faith with their combined gifts of service in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all communities. ***Congratulations!***

Belle Voir Manor at Pen Ryn Estate

The Annual 2018 GALA and SKD National Justice Award

Together we can Build a better World.

On Sun., **Sept. 23, 2018**, supporters and friends of the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament** attended the annual **GALA Event** held at the **Belle Voir Manor at Pen Ryn Estate** on the Delaware. This year's event, in Bensalem, PA, included a cocktail hour, buffet dinner, the presentation of the **National Justice Award** to **Sr. Patricia Daly, OP**, prize drawings, raffles, a live auction, lots of conversation and dancing...and plenty of fun!

To view more of the images from our event, click on the links provided on the top of the back page of this magazine issue. You can also add images you would like to share from the event on our Shutterfly Share Site.



SKD 2018 National Justice Award Recipient Sr. Patricia Daly, OP



Sr. Donna Breslin, President of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, poses for a picture with the SKD 2018 Justice Award recipient, Sr. Patricia Daly, OP. To read more about Sr. Patricia and what made her this year's selection, click this link to view the [Special Features page of our website](#).



Special Thanks

to our GALA Committee, our Sponsors, and Donors who helped to make this another wonderful event.





Sisters Participate in Community Events & Help Out in Many Ways

An update from Sr. Carole Eden, SBS

Some New SBS Ministries & Outreach

- On Saturday, April 7, Sr. Carole Eden, SBS, Sr. Kathleen Kajer, SBS and Sr. Marjorie Everett, SBS participated in the Hooray for Hollywood Show, a singing performance entertaining the residents of Paul's Run. The trio of Sisters used their talents to bring cheer to the many in attendance.
- This Spring, Paul's Run hosted a Fashion Show with clothing provided by TJMaxx. The event was initially started by a resident a couple years ago and continued on May 31st despite her death earlier in the year. Many of our SBS Sisters modeled attire: Sr. Anne Kelly, Sr. Carole Eden, Sr. Joan Burns, Sr. Pat Downs, Sr. Mary Norbert Moline, and Sr. Joanne Bauer. Sr. Marjorie Everett was one of the emcees for the event.
- On Friday, August 17, some of the SBS prepared breakfast and lunch for the children attending Camp Noah in Reading. These were children that were displaced after the flooding that occurred in Puerto Rico.
- During the summer months, the Sisters were helping with several Vacation Bible Schools. The G-Force Bible School had to be postponed. It has tentatively been rescheduled to happen on Columbus Day in October. Keep an eye out for photos and details of this event in our next issue!
- Sr. Mary Roger Thibodeaux, SBS, Director of the SBS Center For Evangelization, coordinates with SBS Communications Manager, Cheri Wenger, on developing and distributing information via the SBS website and social media to promote evangelization and provide some downloadable resources for others to use in evangelization efforts.

In The Works...

Some of the SBS are speaking with Maternity BVM about the possibility of assisting with their RCIA program. We will provide an update on this in our next online newsletter!



Did You Know?

The SBS & The Influenza Epidemic in 1918

The excerpt is from the article, "Saint Peter Claver Church and School, Philadelphia, PA: A Collaborative Effort," American Catholic Studies, vol. 128:1 (2017) written by Stephanie Morris, Ph.D.

During the Influenza epidemic of 1918, when schools were closed, St. Peter Claver School was made an Emergency branch of Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital. Ten Sisters provided nursing at the Municipal Hospital and three at the Douglass Emergency hospital.³³ Mother Katharine noted that eighteen SBS were nursing in Philadelphia. "Some nurse in Municipal Hosp., some at St. P. Claver's adjunct of Douglass Hosp., some have rows of 60 houses of poor."³⁴ They welcomed all comers: Asian, European, American, and Black. This was not a decision made casually. According to the vows pronounced by each Sister at that time, they promised to "be the Mother and Servant of the Negro and Indian Races . . . nor shall I undertake any work which may tend to the neglect or abandonment of the Indian and Colored Races." In an earlier letter to Most Reverend Patrick J. Ryan, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Mother Katharine elaborated on this: "'Indian and Colored' are to be our chief care: that our work must be for them; but this does not exclude our helping the white race in cases of necessity."³⁵ As misery knew no color, neither did the instructions from the Archbishop and from Mother Katharine. Louise Drexel Morrell gave the Sisters \$500 to use for the afflicted. While Mother Katharine was in Santa Fe, the General Council offered to wash the Bristol Emergency Hospital clothing for three days (in the Motherhouse's Laundry), "if it was sterilized."

Many in Attendance to Honor St. Katharine Drexel at her Feast Day Mass Celebrated at the Basilica Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul



Above: A framed portrait of St. Katharine Drexel, kneeling in prayer, was placed on an easel on the altar surrounded by candles and flowers.



Left: Attendees, including The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, fill the pews for a Saturday Evening Mass on St. Katharine Drexel's Feast Day, to honor their beloved saint.

The Church Choir Enhanced the Celebration of the Mass with Their Beautiful Vocal Talents



Above: Multiple Priests assisted Pastor Gill with the celebration of the Mass. The choir made the occasion a joyous one for those in attendance!

March 3, 2018 was a regular, scheduled mass at the **Basilica Cathedral Saints Peter and Paul** in downtown Philadelphia, however for *the religious order of the Sisters she founded, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS), the ASBS (Associates of the SBS), and St. Katharine Drexel's* devotees, the mass was a special way to recognize the accomplishments of this great woman who worked tirelessly throughout her lifetime as *"an apostle for social justice."*

Pastor and Rector of the Cathedral, Rev. Gerald Dennis Gill, spoke about St. Katharine's missionary spirit in his welcome address. **President of the SBS, Sr. Donna Breslin** challenged attendees to live by the saint's example to speak up for justice & human rights, and to continue her mission to assist the marginalized amongst them.



Above: Rev. Gill addresses the congregation during the Mass of St. Katharine's Feast Day.

Left: Sr. Donna Breslin, President of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, welcomes attendees at the Mass and gives an inspiring introduction.

To view our entire facebook photo album from this Mass, click [this link](#).

SKD Feast Day Mass at St. Martin de Porres Parish



Above: Liturgical dancers, altar boys and the proclamation of the Gospel — at the Feast Day Mass for St. Katharine Drexel.



Above: Everyone was wearing a smile after the Mass as they joined Most Reverend Fernand Cheri, Bishop of New Orleans for a photo.

On **Sunday, Mar. 4, 2018**, the Mass during the 3rd Sunday of Lent was a special celebration with Special Guest Celebrant and Homilist, **Most Rev. Fernand Cheri, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans**. **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament** and local parishioners gathered to honor **St. Katharine Drexel's Feast Day (Mar. 3)** with a Mass.

The Holy Spirit was truly present in all aspects of the celebration. The choir was outstanding and the children made it even more special through their participation.

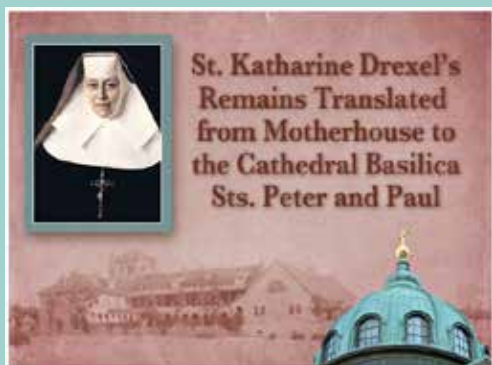
When **Sr. Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS**, was asked about the parish where she practices her ministry, she stated, *"Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church in the 'Kingdom of North Philadelphia,' continues to be a blessing to so many who need a blessing. God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!!! Let the church say AMEN!!!"*

Near Right: Joyce Hadley, Sr. Mary Hottenrath, SBS, and Sr. M. Norbert Moline, SBS, were just some of the ASBS and SBS in attendance.

Far Right: The entrance procession at St. Martin de Porres Parish, included incense, a guest celebrant and a joyful congregation at the Feast Day Mass for St. Katharine Drexel in March.



The Process of Moving the Sacred Remains of St. Katharine Drexel Begins



St. Katharine Drexel's sacred remains translated to Cathedral, August 2018. A [link](#) for updates was released.



Rev. G. Dennis Gill at August Press Conference speaks to reporter and unveils the plans for the new shrine of St. Katharine Drexel at the Cathedral.

July 24, 2018, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced the beginning of a period of prayer — preparing for the arrival of **St. Katharine Drexel's** holy relics later in the year, and the start of preparations underway for St. Katharine's body to be transferred to the Cathedral Basilica. The initial projected date for visitors to be able to visit her tomb again was sometime in September, however, things took a bit longer to accomplish than initially thought.

At a press conference held on **Aug. 17, 2018**, **Rev. G. Dennis Gill**, *pastor and rector of the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul*, was joined by **Sr. Donna Breslin**, *President of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*, to formally announce that St. Katharine's sacred remains had been translated from the congregation's Motherhouse property in Bensalem, PA to the Cathedral. You can [view Channel 3's coverage of the press conference here](#).

Rev. Gill noted, *"The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have once again given the faithful of the Archdiocese a tremendous gift,"* and continued to state, *"With the new opportunity to honor Saint Katharine at the Cathedral, even more people will be exposed to her extraordinary life and example. It is our fervent hope that others will be inspired and continue her important work among Native Americans and African Americans."*

Sr. Donna told the reporters present, *"Saint Katharine's message is as relevant today as it was 125 years ago. She is a contemporary saint and we continue to pray to her, for an end to racism and other deeply rooted injustices."*

A generous grant from the Connelly Foundation underwrote the tomb translation and construction, and it will also provide the implementation of new communications and an education program about the Saint.



Artist Conceptualization of Finished Tomb

Visiting the tomb of St. Katharine Drexel

Oct. 30, 2018, the tomb of St. Katharine was officially presented to the public along with an announcement that it would be available for veneration and prayer by the faithful now that it was installed. Further enhancements will continue beyond the Mass of dedication on **November 18, 2018** officiated by Philadelphia **Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap.** A formal invitation to the public can be found on our website at [this link](#). (mini preview below)

Mini preview of Archbishop Chaput's invitation to the public to attend the Mass of Celebration



Other plans also provided for through the Connelly Foundation grant, include several new programs to promote the life, work and witness of St. Katharine Drexel, as well as a new website and online documentary.

www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com

“With the new opportunity to honor Saint Katharine at the Cathedral, even more people will be exposed to her extraordinary life and example.”

- Rev. G. Dennis Gill, Pastor and Rector, Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul



Brenda Greene, ASBS, and Sr. Beulah Martin, SBS, pray in front of the newly located tomb of St. Katharine Drexel at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul prior to the Mass. The new location in center city will allow many more visitors who come to Philadelphia to visit her tomb and learn about this local saint and her congregation of Sisters.

Two days prior, on **Nov. 16, 2018**, other **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament** who were not physically able to attend the dedication Mass, were transported to the Cathedral Basilica for a private visitation of the tomb of **St. Katharine Drexel**, *their foundress*.

Large Attendance at the Dedication Mass



Many people packed the Cathedral Basilica for the solemn Mass of Celebration to dedicate the new location of the saint's tomb.

Nov. 18, 2018, the Cathedral Basilica was filled to capacity with **St. Katharine Drexel** devotees who attended the Mass of Celebration with the formal dedication of her tomb. The Mass included a procession of school representatives from local Catholic high schools, a performance by the **Xavier University Choir of New Orleans**, signing for the hearing impaired, and readings in English & Spanish, to note just a few of the highlights from the beautiful Mass. [Click here](#) to view the video of the Mass.



The Driving Forces in Two Catholic Schools' Championship Seasons

Carl Adams

St. Michael Indian School, Athletic Director & Head Girls Basketball Coach; 1A North Region President

To what do you attribute this year's championship performance?

This year's performance can be attributed to the hard work and effort put in by every player and coach. Coming off of a state title the previous year, we were the team to beat. The girls and I had a mission to remain humble and hungry. We wanted another successful year and were willing to put in the work to achieve it.

How did THIS team, over any others, work together to achieve success?

Every team at **St. Michael Indian School** has an advantage over any opponent. These student athletes work hard all season long participating in several different sports together outside of basketball. The bond these girls have is unbreakable. As a coach, all you can ask from your team is trust. These girls instilled their trust in me and fortunately enough I was able to not let them down.



The 2018 State Champions with their Coaches

What strategies as a coach did you use to encourage teamwork & success?

God and Faith are the foundation of everything our students do at St. Michael Indian School. That is also how I coach. We win together, and we lose together. We are one in Christ.

What does it take to be a #1 team?

Consistency. Practice was considered hard, and competition days were like off days for the girls. The effort, determination, competitiveness has to be present each and every day. Have faith with one another, protect the sisterhood they have, and

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Don McGhee, Jr.

St. Katharine Drexel Prep High, Dean of Students/
Cross Country & Track and Field Head Coach

To what do you attribute this year's championship performance?

I attribute our success to our belief in God. We begin all of our practices with prayer. We often refer to Psalm 46:1-3. "God is our refuge and strength." "Therefore will not we fear." Our student-led prayers are especially important before athletes perform. We ask for personal strength and an increased athletic performance.

How did THIS team, over any others, work together to achieve success?

Although track and field is largely an individual sport, I try to promote the concept of sisterhood and team. That's one of the reasons our relay teams performed so well in District, Region, and State Competitions. Although several of our track and field athletes performed well individually, running in the relays is the one thing the girls truly perform well as a team.

What strategies as a coach did you use to encourage teamwork & success?

I encouraged the track and field athletes to always uplift one another. Even if a mistake was made, they should still look for the positives in their actions. I also implore the young ladies to trust their conditioning and training. In addition, strive to improve each week.

What does it take to be a #1 team?

To be a #1 team, it takes a lot of unselfishness. With track and field being an individual sport, I've experienced that some athletes may have the tendency to be only concerned with themselves and

continued on page 27



An Interview with the The Coaches

(Carl Adams interview continued)

fight as one — like family. Sacrifice is another attribute, learning to be a team and playing as a team. We are one body in Christ.

How much does parental and fan support play into achieving success?

Parents attend as many games as they can. I am the athletic director of the school and they help a lot to make my duties easier, especially during basketball season, which is nice, because now I can give more to the girls' basketball program. My wife and I are expecting our first child, and we already have parents telling us they can babysit or help with the child during basketball season. Being a part of **St. Michael Indian School** you have sense of family with Parents, Staff, and the community.

“All that we might have been we still may become.”

- St. Katharine Drexel

(Don McGhee, Jr. interview continued)

their performances. However, I find that when teammates care for one another and value their teammates' attributes, our chances for success are inevitable.

How much does parental and fan support play into achieving success?

Parental support is ultimately imperative. It's the parents who ensure their children make it to practice during Christmas breaks; sacrifice to pick them up later than normal dismissal; and often work for the benefit of the athletes and coaches. Some parents contribute mightily. They purchase water and sports drinks; buy food; and even cheer on every kid as if that athlete is their own. In addition, the track and field athletes tend to perform better when their parents are there. Having parents participate is greatly appreciated.

Photo of the 4x200 meter Winning Relay Team on bottom of pg. 26 (L to R): junior Ka'Islah Banks, sophomore Tamara Guy, junior Alia Armstrong, and junior Cydni Samuel.

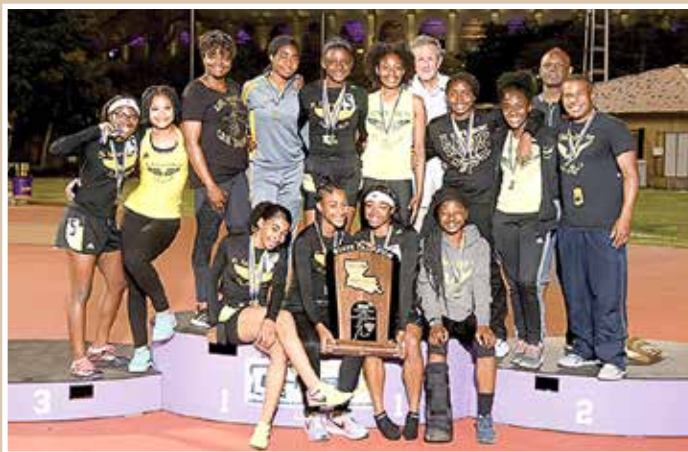
St. Michael Indian School High School Basketball Wins Second Straight State 1A Girls Title



Nothing but big smiles for the Championship Team and the Cheerleading Squad that cheered them on to a victorious season.

SMIS Coach Carl Adams tells each player that “student” is before “athlete” on purpose, and school is always the priority. You are learning important things on the court, but are learning even more important things in that classroom everyday...Sounds like WINNING advice for any athlete!

2018 Class 2A State Track & Field Champs ~ SKD Prep High



Left to right- freshman Emmia Johnson, freshman Tamara Guy, assistant coach Alicia Armstrong, sophomore Amaya Kyle, junior Cydni Samuel, junior Khloe Colar, (behind) assistant coach Douglas Haas, freshman Alexia Barnes, junior Laila Howard (behind) Athletic Director Terry Wilson, Head Coach Don McGhee, Jr. left to right-front row sitting- junior Ka'Islah Banks, freshman Kaili Johnson, junior Alia Armstrong, junior Sanaa Morris

Coach Don McGhee, Jr. believes learning different skills can lead to success, and he encourages his athletes to learn how to perform in more than one event.



Sr. Maureen Patricia Ryan, SBS

Jan. 12, 1917 ~ Mar. 18, 2018

Thy Will be Done

Mary, the daughter of Margaret McNamara and Thomas Ryan was baptized at the family parish four days following her birth in County Tipperary, Ireland.

In 1935, following a trip to promote vocations by Mother Mercedes and Sr. Brendan, Mary chose to join them and travel across the ocean to become a missionary. This was something many young Catholic women of Ireland also chose to do at that time.

Mary arrived in Cornwell Heights on September 9, 1935, and she finished out three years of her basic academic work prior to starting her training as a postulant. In 1941, now called Sr. Maureen Patricia, she pronounced her first vows.

Sister Maureen Patricia had a quiet manner and quick smile which endeared her to the many students she taught over her long lifetime. This included assignments in Georgia, Texas, New York and Arizona. She also served as a school Principal in the states of Ohio, California and Missouri throughout her ministry.

Beginning in 1986, Sister assumed the leadership position of Director of the Imani Center at St. Ignatius Parish in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania until she returned to the Motherhouse in 2003.

Sister Maureen Patricia's lighthearted spirit was greatly enjoyed by the aides and nursing staff who cared for her over the years. She glowed on the day of her 100th birthday celebration, surrounded by her fellow SBS, politicians, the media and three special visitors from Ireland — her nephews, Noel, Kevin & Ted Roberts. They brought photos from her family in Ireland to share with her, and helped Sister to read her cards.

As her health declined, her 101st birthday was a much quieter celebration. During the late evening of March 18th, Sr. Maureen Patricia quietly answered the call of her spouse to come Home. As Father Babowitz lead the prayers at her burial, the sunshine was reminiscent of the brightness of Sister's happiness in heaven.



Sr. Carolyn Hodos, SBS

Apr. 23, 1938 ~ Mar. 19, 2018

Amen, Alleluia!

Carolyn was one of three children born to Joseph Hodos and Josephine Masauskas of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She had a brother, Jim, and a sister, Linda. Carolyn was baptized three weeks after her birth

and attended elementary school at St. Catherine's followed by St. Anne's. She spent her first two years of high school at St. Francis Academy and in 1954 she came to the motherhouse where she completed the final years of her high school education.

Upon becoming a novice, she received the religious name of Sr. Marie Josette, and pronounced her first vows on March 9, 1957. She remained on the motherhouse grounds to take additional courses before starting her first mission in Sept. 1959 at St. Mark the Evangelist in the Harlem area of New York City where she taught first grade. While there, she was recognized for implementing the *Workshop Way* method with her students and parents.

Sister Carolyn professed her final vows in 1963, then taught the next five years at St. Ignatius in Philadelphia. Sister went on to teach and tutor at other schools in Philadelphia, New York, and Alabama. She also earned a Bachelors degree in 1971 from Villanova University.

In the late nineties, Sr. Carolyn contributed to the community life of the Sisters and to the educational development of the children in the northeastern United States. In 2001, her tutoring was a source of encouragement to both the children and their parents of Our Lady of Fatima School in Birmingham, AL.

Eight years later she returned to the motherhouse as a resident of St. Michael Hall. Sister transitioned to Paul's Run in April 2017 along with other Sisters, however, shortly after the move she was placed on hospice care. On the feast of her patron saint and that of her parents, Sr. Carolyn peacefully slipped away to join her Lord who had won her heart so long ago.



**Sr. M. Catherine
Joseph Bennett, SBS**

Apr. 2, 1927 ~ Jun. 20, 2018

Deo Gratias

When interviewed in Mission Magazine in 2004, Sr. M. Catherine Joseph Bennett credited her own faith to the “*deep faith her parents, [Catherine Gallagher from Donegal and Michael Bennett from Armagh],*

brought from Ireland.” The two married in Philadelphia and raised ten children, among which were three sets of twins. Rosemary, *her birth name*, and her twin sister, Jane, were the last set, 6th and 7th in birth order.

Rosemary received her elementary education at Holy Name School and her latter years at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. She was a member of the band and a flutist for four years; something she greatly enjoyed doing. During this time she met some of the SBS and often attended Holy Hour at the Shrine of the True Cross. However, it was during a presentation to her class by the SBS that she heard about the missionary work with Blacks and Native Americans, and in her words became “enraptured.” Rosemary shared that she wanted “to join the SBS immediately,” but those plans had to wait two more years for her to finish her schooling. Despite her extreme enthusiasm, she followed her mother’s advice to experience the work world where she worked as a stenographer on weekdays. On the weekends she attended USO dances.

On January 6, 1948, Rosemary answered the call to the religious life that she had long been attracted to by entering the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1950, she pronounced her vows and received her black veil.

Sister Mary Catherine Joseph earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Education in 1959. She taught for many years until later in her ministry work, she called upon her secretarial skills to work in the Vocations Office.

In early 2017, Sr. Catherine Joseph moved to Paul’s Run and cheerfully enjoyed her daily activities. Early on June 20, 2018, Sister’s health took a significant change, and she sadly and unexpectedly met her Savior.



**Sr. Therese
Misencik, SBS**

Jan. 4, 1929 ~ Jun. 30, 2018

God Alone

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1929, Sr. Therese Misencik grew up in the nearby suburb of Lakewood where her father, Joseph Misencik was born. Her mother, Lucy Zvolencak, a native of Cleveland, married her

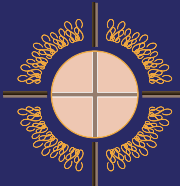
father in 1923, and raised a family of five girls and one boy. Sister was baptized at the the family’s parish of Saints Cyril & Methodius, and completed her elementary schooling there. She graduated from St. Theresa’s Academy in 1947.

Therese’s desire for ministry among African Americans led to her entrance into the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament that September. The following summer, she was received as a novice and took the religious name of Sr. Martin Anthony. She professed her first vows in July 1950 and her perpetual vows in the summer of 1955, receiving the ring with her motto: *God Alone*.

Sisters early ministry years were spent in education teaching mostly in the N.E. region. She earned her Bachelors Degree of Science in Education in 1957 from Villanova University. In 1968, she taught in her home town at St. Adalbert’s in Cleveland, before heading to Chicago to be the principal at St. Elizabeth’s in 1969.

In 1972, she was missioned out west to teach at St. Catherine Indian School in Santa Fe, NM. While teaching at St. Bridget of Erini in St. Louis, MO in 1975, she also earned her Master’s Degree in Education from St. John College in Cleveland.

Sister had a love of reading that she shared with others. She loved to tell her students, “*readers are leaders.*” Before returning to the motherhouse, she also worked as a librarian, after earning a degree in library science from Villanova in 1988. While at the motherhouse she collected books for needy students, assisted with prison ministry, organized raffles to raise money for medical procedures for children in developing countries, worked in the convent library, guild office and in archives. Her presence is missed by the many who knew and loved her, most especially her family.



A EUCHARISTIC FOCUSED MISSION

GALA Highlights...

Our Sister *Spotlight on*

Sr. Marianne Poole, SBS



*Smithson-Craighead Academy
Madison, Tennessee (near Nashville)*

4th Grade Teaching Assistant

Sr. Marianne Poole, SBS, a native of Philadelphia, is in her 6th year of ministry at the **Smithson-Craighead Academy**, the premier charter school established in the Nashville Metro School area by **Sr. Sandra Smithson, SSF**, (a previous *St. Katharine Drexel National Justice award recipient*) and her sister, **Mary Craighead**.

“The impact of these students, who through this unique Christian setting, and who achieve new success and affirmation, is greatly needed in this community.” -Sr. Marianne Poole, SBS

The school day begins early at 7:30 a.m. for Sister in the 4th grade classroom where she works with a student population of primarily African American and Hispanic American low-performing students. There are at total of 215 children in grades K-4th. The dedicated staff at the Tennessee charter school is a group of lay people committed to the mission of **Project Reflect** — the 501C umbrella for the school. **Project Reflect** was initially founded in 1992 to serve children living in poverty and to help transform urban America through education and education reform. You can click the link, above, for additional information.

Above Left: *Sister Mary, a School Sister of St. Francis, Mrs. Lekita Stevenson, Sr. Marianne Poole, SBS, and Mr. Larry Clopping— some of the dedicated staff members at the Smithson-Craighead Academy charter school in Tennessee.*

Above Right: *Sr. Marianne assists one of the students to achieve success in working on one of her class assignments.*

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Did You Know?

The Canonization of St. Katharine Drexel in Rome was Sr. Marianne's favorite trip...
“It felt like old home week meeting folks from just about every mission I was involved with.” It was fun & inspiring; her sister and brother-in-law accompanied her. She stated that it was a thrilling SBS time for her.



Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

FOUNDED BY SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

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