

Summer
2019



Vision • You • DHS • Spirit

REALITY

~ Together in the Spirit we transform today's vision
into tomorrow's reality ~

Moving in the Spirit



PROVINCIAL HOUSE 1917



PROVINCIAL HOUSE 1919
PUTNAM CATHOLIC ACADEMY 1919



PROVINCIAL HOUSE 2019



CHAPEL 2019



CHAPEL BEING DECOMMISSIONED
APRIL 2019



NEW LIGHT...NEW HOPE



CHAPEL COMPLETELY
STRIPPED



STATUES ON THE MOVE



MOVING DAY APRIL 15



SR. MICHÈLE & GARY SPIEKER PACKING



SR. GERTRUDE & MOVER



SR. MARIE PAULINE SHREDDING



NEW OWNER'S SIGN

PUTNAM
SCIENCE ACADEMY

Main Entrance →

72 CHURCH STREET



NEW SIGN AT NEW SITE



DAY 1 AT NEW CENTER



FRONT VIEW OF NEW CENTER



REV. ED DEMPSEY
BLESSES NEW CENTER



MR. ALDEN REED DESCENDANT OF
MORSE FAMILY VISITS NEW CENTER

Vision to Reality - We are Blessed!

Office of Development/Advancement Daughters of the Holy Spirit
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Jubilee 2019

Front row left to right: Sisters Lillian Belcher (70), Jeannette Richard (70), Catherine Sottak (70), Clémence Croteau (70), Marie Anita Leger (60)

Second row left to right: Pauline Champagne (65), Blanche Thibault (70), Irene Charpentier (65), Marian St. Marie (60)

Jubilarians missing from photo: Sr. Zena Pereira (60), Marie Alice Mercier, SBDHS (70), Associates Maureen Girard, Barbara Leson, Judith Maggi, Lorry Scheetz, Frances Villanueva (all 25 years)



We Remember and Give Thanks

SR. LILLIAN BELCHER (EDMOND THÉRÈSE), DHS



In the early hours of June 12th, Sister LILLIAN BELCHER responded peacefully to her Lord's last call to her, saying her last FIAT and entering life eternal.

Lillian was born on October 13, 1920 in Pittsfield, MA. She professed her first vows as a Daughter of the Holy Spirit in August of 1949

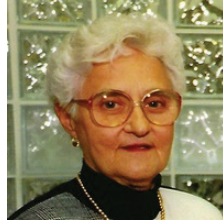
and soon thereafter began her long and successful career as educator at various levels in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and California. Sister was gifted with a gentle and easy to approach personality which attracted young and old alike. She was a good organizer and planner and had a way of putting others first in all her undertaken projects.

After retiring from the classroom, Sister eventually moved to the Provincial House in Putnam in 2003 but remained involved to a large extent with committee groups and planning circles. She was always ready to offer her well-based opinion on topics that related to religious life and the joys of community living and growth.

Sr. Lillian celebrated 70 years of religious life on June 2nd.

Together we sing the Lord's praises for the gift of Sr. Lillian's life. Amen...Alleluia!

IRENE T. (MORIN) REMILLARD, DHS ASSOCIATE



Irene, a native and life long resident of Chicopee, MA, greeted this world on December 26, 1927 and became a perpetual Christmas gift to all whose lives she touched during her 91 years on earth.

An avid student, she succeeded at all levels of education earning a BS from the Elms College and an MS from Boston College. She loved teaching and working in the health field and often said she sensed a great deal of satisfaction in helping others feel better and feel good about themselves.

Irene also operated a construction business with her husband George, and this became another avenue for her to share her gifts with others as they often did pro bono work for individuals and organizations in need.

Having two sisters in religious life in the Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, Irene soon grew to appreciate the work of the Sisters and became involved in many of their activities. In 1998, she made her covenant as an Associate Member of the DHS, a commitment she carried out superbly over the years.

Irene was also active as a hospice volunteer and a grief counselor at the Chicopee Senior Center for some 35 years, again putting her skills and tender compassion to excellent use in her service to hundreds of people. However, most of us remember Irene for her "telephone ministry" through which she faithfully made daily calls to those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or experiencing sorrow or going through a period of ill health. It was a part of her daily routine to sit at her phone corner and make those calls. She always said it was her way of sharing God's love, joy and compassion with others.

Having prepared her gradually over the past year or so, the Lord made his final call to Irene on May 12. Now all of us have a direct line to our dear friend with free minutes and data.

Rest in peace, Irene, as we call upon you to advocate for us.

THÉRÈSE L. (DUVAL) LAGASSÉ, DHS ASSOCIATE



Thérèse was born in Fitchburg, MA on November 22, 1931. She attended local parochial schools where she came to know and to appreciate the teaching ministry of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit. She entered the Congregation and professed her vows at the Motherhouse in St. Brieuc, France in 1946.

Thérèse was a born teacher, and she dedicated most of her life to that profession, always placing her students first and determined to provide them with the best all around education possible. Her teaching skills and competencies brought her to Alabama in the 1960 era of severe racial tension. She weathered this period valiantly as she worked closely with other DHS to bring peace and equality to all their students and families. Believing that change is indeed a part of growth, Thérèse headed north to Canada to continue her mission of sharing the good news as educator and administrator.

In order to care for her aging and ailing parents, Thérèse left community to go live with them and minister to their many needs. Throughout this time, she continued to teach at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, CT. Her gifts were publicly recognized by the University of Connecticut Alumni Association when they presented her their coveted Excellence in Teaching Award in 1993.

In 1985 Thérèse married Roger Lagasse, continued teaching and caring for her parents and enjoying free time with him in the great outdoors as well as traveling and biking.

Thérèse finally retired from teaching in 1997, but the educator in her was always ready to lend a helping hand in the parish and to other groups in need of a mentor. She remained in close contact with the DHS over the years, and in 2007, pronounced her covenant as an Associate member, a title she was proud to bear and a role she fulfilled to a tee.

Thérèse went home to her Lord on May 3, 2019, and most likely continues to walk through the hallways of heaven looking to mentor someone or to lend a helping hand.

Rest in peace and joy, Thérèse, and bless us from your eternal home where, like all excellent teachers, your name will shine among the stars forever.

A PENTECOST GIFT



Sisters Paulette Gariepy and Marie Pauline Guillemette share a moment of pride and gratitude for their home Parish of St. Cecilia in Leominster, MA as they appreciate a check for \$1634.00 offered to the Daughters of the Holy Spirit for their many years of faithful ministry in the parish. The parish has a special collection on Pentecost each year, the feast day of the Congregation, for this purpose. Heartfelt thanks to each and every parishioner for this tangible expression of gratitude to the Sisters.

TIMELY REMINDERS

▶ **PUTNAM CATHOLIC ACADEMY REUNION** will be held on Sunday, September 8th. RSVP by August 15th to DHS Development Office or call 860-928-0891 ext. 148 for more details.

▶ **ANNHURST COLLEGE REUNION** will be on Saturday, September 21st. For more details contact Mary LaChance at 508-568-7121.

▶ **DHS MASS CARD PROGRAM** is alive and well. Our monthly masses are now celebrated at St Joseph Living Center in Windham where there is a DHS community in residence. See our website for order forms and/or call our Development Office at 860-928-0891 ext. 148 or email us at devofdhs@yahoo.com.

▶ **MAILING ADDRESS** for the Development Office is PO Box 497 Putnam, CT 06260. Please discard or do not use any envelopes you may have addressed to 72 Church Street. Such use may result in non-deliveries or delayed service.

Other Spring Highlights

INFO DAY

Our new building was fully inaugurated on May 5th when the majority of Sisters in the Province gathered here for the first time for the annual Information Day. What a joy it was for one and all to experience up close and personally the accommodating facilities while sharing liturgy and the latest news in the Province and Congregation.



A K OF C/SCOUT BBQ

Thanks to the kindness of Mr. John Ryan, Cargill Council of the Knights of Columbus and Scout Troop 21 of Putnam, Sisters in the local area enjoyed their first chicken barbecue of the season on May 18th. The expertly cooked chicken and all the trimmings created the perfect scenario for sharing friendship and assisting to send the young scout troop to camp this summer. Kudos and thanks to all who made this community moment possible and best blessings on the Knights and their sponsored scout troop.

OPEN HOUSE AT NEW CENTER

After months of planning and execution, the DHS Administrative Office Center welcomed the public to tour the facilities and to join in its blessing ceremony. About 100 friends, acquaintances, business associates and family members wandered in and out of the one-floor facility for part of the afternoon of June 22nd. A large contingency gathered in the meeting room to participate in the official blessing led by Rev. Edward Dempsey and a committee of DHS Family members. Homemade delights and beverages enhanced the family atmosphere and uniqueness of this once in a lifetime moment.



From our Director's Desk



My dear friends,

As you might have guessed, most of us are still reeling from all the comings and goings and doings and undos in the Putnam area of our Province for the last few months. It has indeed been, to misquote Shakespeare, the best of times, the worst of times and a time of hope. Genuine transformation for the good always is challenging, to say the least.

We have survived to tell the proverbial tale, and as our heads bob up every now and then from under the scattered piles of paper, etc., our innermost selves utter a sigh of relief in words of praise to our God for guiding and accompanying us on this curious segment of our journey.

Your letters of support and encouragement, your kind and generous ongoing prayers and monetary and in kind donations have been part and parcel of our strength at this historical moment in our 102 years in the Putnam area. Thank you from the deepest recesses of our spirits for your care, concern and love.

Among other things, your efforts have enabled us to provide a therapeutic bathtub for our Sisters at St. Joseph Living Center and the remake of a bathroom at the Sisters' residence in Willimantic to convert to a walk-in-shower. The safety of our Sisters is always a prime concern, and we are most grateful for your role in assuring that security.

We have reached the halfway mark of our Annual Drive, and your gifts have brought us slightly over a quarter of the way to our set goal. We are confident that you will continue to respond to our quest of \$80,000 by December 31st, 2019.

As always, I look forward to your emails, phone calls and other communications with you. Note that we have reverted to our long time phone number: 860-928-0891 ext. 148. Your input is very important to our success, so do stay in touch or come aboard for the first time. Come ride with us with the Spirit into the future as we continue to work together to transform today's vision into tomorrow's reality for the good of all and the greater glory of our God.

In the grateful Spirit of Creative Life and Promise,

Françoise G. Gauthier, PhD
Director Development/Advancement
DHS USA



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