



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

REALITY

Winter 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL

MISSION ACCOMPLICE

Noteworthy & Visionary

SUPER JOB!

Congrats!



Our Choicest Blessings

**Well Done,
Good And
Faithful
Servants.**

We Are Proud Of You.

**You Did
Great!**

*Bonne
"Job"*

THANK YOU! MERCI! ¡GRACIAS!

As your 6 year mandate as Provincial Team comes to an end, we thank you for your gift of self and wish you the best always. May the Spirit of all good gifts overshadow your every step and continue to lead you in new ways of service to your God and to others.

Left To Right: Sr. Jacquie Robillard, Sr. Gertrude Lanouette, Sr. Marian St. Marie

We Wish You Godspeed

Kudos!

**All The Best
To Each One.**

Gentle and Challenging

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Notes from Our Donors

It is always a joy for us to hear from you, our benefactors. We are truly happy to share some of your notes with all our readers today. We also encourage all our followers to get in touch with us via snail mail, phone or email. Thanks for thinking of us and sharing your thoughts and sentiments.

As a graduate of Putnam Catholic Academy
Joan Brzuch Gainer of Salem, NC writes:
"I thank you all for everything you taught me.
God bless you, Sisters!"

God Bless and Keep You Always

Thank you's and God blesses were also received from **Shirley LaMothe, Charlie and Bea Hopkins, Sylvia Gebo, Robert and Cecile Roberge, and Marie Rose and Roger Chicoine** who all express their sincere thanks to the Sisters for their past and present services and prayers.

From Alamo, CA **Anne Dargis Wright** states "I will always appreciate all of the nuns who worked at St. Cecilia's in Leominster, MA while I was a student from 1956 - 1964. Thank you."

Lynda and Peter Petrides from Plainfield, CT say: "We hope that all is well with you and that the blessings of the Holy Spirit are upon you. All the best to you all. You are an inspiration to us all! Thank you and God bless!"

Robert Wildes comments from New London, CT: "Dear Sisters, thank you all for the prayers you offered for me and my intentions last year."

These words come from **Diane Clifford** who resides in North Carolina. "I have many good memories of the 8-9 years that I spent with the Daughters. I am always glad to receive your Newsletter since it helps me to keep track of the Sisters I know and love. I am glad all is going well with the new residences for the Sisters."

Anne and Bob Prensner penned these words to the Sisters: "We think of you all and remember Sisters from the 1950's whom we knew in Chicopee and Putnam....you have all left a mark on my heart and models for me to measure my life against."



Congratulations and Thanks

The General Council of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit has just announced that Sister Gertrude Lanouette has been reappointed to a new 3 year term as Provincial Leader for the USA Province. Congratulations, Sister, and sincere thanks for accepting this significant position. May the Spirit of New Life illuminate your term of office. More details in the summer edition of REALITY.

HELLO From Our *California Associates*



A Hearty Welcome to Our Newest Members

On Sunday, December 15th, LORRAINE GALLUP of Willimantic, CT pronounced her first vows as a member of the Secular Branch of the Congregation in a festively decorated chapel at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham.

An enthusiastic and joyous crowd of family, friends and religious filled the chapel to capacity as Lorraine's long-time friend, Bishop LoVerde, and her current pastor, Most Reverend Laurence LaPointe, officiated.

The simple yet meaningful ceremony was a reminder to all that the Spirit calls and that we, in our own ways, respond. The readings and the songs underlined the work of the Spirit and of our collaboration in that work on an on-going basis.

Lorraine professed her vows in the presence of Sally Tolles, General Moderator of the Secular Branch and Claire Héroux, the Regional Moderator in the USA.

The enthusiasm of the last song: "Companions on the Journey" was surpassed only by the multitude of congratulations, welcomes and warm embraces that followed the commitment.



On Sunday, January 12th Sisters, Associate Branch leadership teams and aspiring Associates gathered at the DHS Center in Putnam for the second in a series of formation/preparation sessions.

Welcoming hugs, greetings and coffee + were followed by opening prayer and an informative journey back into the history of the Congregation. A clearly marked historical places map of Brittany helped grasp the significance and importance of the evolution of the Daughters from 1706 through the present. Dr. Diane Summa, Associate, led the pilgrimage through the centuries.

Sister Blanche Cadotte followed the historical setting by explaining the charism of the Congregation and how it is the force behind every thing the Sisters, Consecrated Seculars and Associates do. More formation sessions are planned for the immediate future leading the candidates up to the time of their initial covenant ceremony.

For more information about both of these groups, please see our web site or give us a call.



Getting Acquainted with our Neighbors

Our new DHS Administrative Offices share an entrance and parking area with two other service groups: the Probate Court and 1st American Home Loans.

After waving and greeting one another at a distance for a few months, we decided it was time to invite our neighbors for a pre-holiday luncheon at which we could get better acquainted as "businesses" and as individuals.

The festive lunch was preceded by a tour of our facilities and a brief explanation of our DHS history of 102 years in Putnam.

Returning to work on that afternoon was difficult for one and all, but we did part with the promise that we would do something similar in the not too distant future. After all, we have much to share since we are all in the business of helping others.

Why don't you stop in for a visit and a tour of our office areas the next time you are in the neighborhood of 508 Pomfret Street in Putnam? You and we will be glad you did.



DHS Associates Sponsor Child Christmas Project

A group of our greater Putnam area Associates, in collaboration with the umbrella parish of St. Thérèse de Lisieux, organized and sponsored a Christmas project to assure that children in the area would have a special Christmas.

The project was initiated by Associate Linda Lamoureux who diligently worked with her husband and crew of fellow Associates Deb Raymond, Diane Lavallee, Mary Lynn Catsam, Jean Ryan, Peg Wilson and Pat Krodel to publicize, collect and distribute the plethora of gifts received. The treasures were offered to TEEG, Daily Bread and the local Diaper Bank. The Associates welcomed this opportunity to live the charism and spirit of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit that inspires its members to reach out in practical ways to help others. The committee thanks all who donated items and/or cash for this project. The overwhelming response is indeed indicative of the generosity of the parishioners of St. Stephen, St. Mary of the Visitation, St. Joseph and Most Holy Trinity parishes. Praise God for sharing his love and touching the hearts of givers and recipients alike at this truly awesome time of year.

♥ We Remember and Give Thanks ♥



**Sr. Thérèse Morneau, DHS
(Marie Thérèse Augustin)**

December 6, 1921–
August 13, 2019

On Tuesday, August 13th,
Sr. Thérèse Morneau
quietly returned to her Lord

to claim her everlasting reward for a life of
faithful service to his people.

Born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Marie
Thérèse attended local schools and Putnam
Catholic Academy and fell in love with the
Daughters of the Holy Spirit and with the
prospect of dedicating her professional life to
the classroom.

She entered the Congregation in 1944 and
made her first profession in 1945 at the
Provincial House Chapel in Putnam, CT. Her
teaching skills were obvious, and she was
immediately missioned as a classroom
teacher.

Sister taught in a number of DHS
administered/staffed schools in Connecticut,
Massachusetts and California. She made an
impression on those with whom and for whom
she worked, and to this day, former students
tend to bow their heads whenever her name is
mentioned. She made a major impact on her
students and their parents especially during
her tenure as teacher and principal at St. Mary
School in Putnam.

Sister Morneau also rendered invaluable
service to the community in such capacities as
director of novices, vice-provincial and local
community coordinator.

She was also a gifted musician who willingly
shared her talent with her parish, school,
community and beyond. Theresa livened
many a gathering with her story telling, her
keen sense of humor and her contagious and
inviting smile. Sister will be missed sorely by
all whose lives she touched indelibly.



**Sr. Rose Mary Iannucci,
DHS (Jean Antoine)**

June 6, 1917 –
September 29, 2019

Rose Mary Iannucci made
her debut into this world
in Waterbury, CT, a gift
to the well rooted Italian
family that would give her a love of music and
dancing.

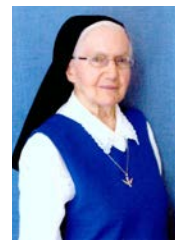
At 21 years of age she entered the
Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy
Spirit, traveled to France and made her first
vows at the Mother House in Brittany in 1940.
She was assigned immediately to Le Legué,
France, but as soon as the United States
declared war on Germany, Rose Mary and
21 other DHS Sisters were arrested and held
at the detention camp in Vittel, France for
two years where they taught classes to the
children also interned at that same camp that
had been originally designed to hold so-called
enemies of the German State in the hopes of
being able to exchange these prisoners for
German nationals who were being held in
camps run by enemy or neutral countries. The
Sisters were released from the detention camp
in 1944 and Sister Rose Mary was the last
survivor of the group of 22.

Once back in the US, the young religious
resumed her classroom teaching holding
positions in elementary schools in Connecticut,
Massachusetts, Vermont and California, where
she also received her certification in Pastoral
Care. While in California Sister became
enthusiastically involved in introducing the
DHS Associate Branch to the West Coast.

Sister Iannucci retired from active ministry
in 1998 and spent some time in community
at St. Clare's in Newport, RI. From there she
moved to the Provincial House in Putnam and
eventually transferred as an original member
of the St. Joseph Community in Windham, CT.

Rose Mary's love of music stayed with her
throughout her 102 years. She jumped at any
chance to join in on any musical festivities.
She was particularly happy when someone
invited her to dance. When she could not
dance, the energetic 100 year old retiree
seemed bound and determined to break all
standing records for long distance walking
within the confines of any house in which she
resided.

Your departure has left a void in our lives, dear
friend, and we pray that you continue to dance
with God's finest musicians as you reap your
eternal reward.



**Sr. Marie Ruth Page, DHS
(Edouard de la Croix)**

April 3, 1916 –
December 28, 2019

It was in the spring of 1916
that Marie Ruth graced the
household of Edouard and
Amanda Page, transforming
their world and ours forever.

From her earliest years the vivacious young
girl wanted to be a teacher. Her favorite game
with friends was to play school where she
would be the teacher. From the get go it was
clear she had the gift. Her young playmates
did not budge, talk out of turn nor dare not
pay attention. Marie Ruth admired her own
classroom teachers and was determined to
“be just like them” when she grew up.

Motivated, as she said in an interview for
her 100th birthday, by this strong desire, she
saw religious life as the answer to her quest.
She entered the Congregation in 1934, made
profession in St. Briec, France in 1937 and
was missioned to the classroom for a career
that would last over 50 years. She taught
in elementary schools in Connecticut and
Massachusetts with 30 of those years at St.
Cecilia's School in Leominster, MA.

While Marie Ruth taught at various levels, she
always claimed that she had a soft spot for
the junior high since that afforded her a better
opportunity to prepare her students directly for
the ‘real life’ of high school. One of her former
students, the Reverend Donald Lauzier, OMI,
said that “she was kind and sort of laid back
and I never saw her frustrated. She loved to
sing and was very efficient.” Another student,
the Reverend Robert Gariepy said that “Sister
was very compassionate and concerned about
students with learning disabilities and she
always encouraged us to affirm them.” Paul
Gamche who ended up dedicating his life as
teacher and administrator recalls that he
owes his career to Sr. Marie Ruth and that
he continued for years to consult her about
education situations that needed resolving.

Sister loved her students, her Sisters in
Congregation, her family members, and cats.
She also appreciated a good doughnut every
now and then along with dark chocolate.

Marie Ruth never lost interest in what was
going on in the world and, in spite of failing
eyesight and hearing, the 103.75 year old
retained her keen mind and wit until her Chief
Administrator called her to take her place in
his eternal classroom.

US Province Convenes Chapter

Strategic planning for the future is part and parcel of every viable group or entity.

It was in that spirit that the US Province of the DHS convened a 4 day session where delegated members participated in such activities.

One of the main purposes of this extended meeting was to prepare for the Congregation's General Chapter that will take place in April/May of this year. This General Chapter will evaluate the functioning of the Congregation as a whole over the last six years, elect congregational leadership and set orientations for the next six years. The Provincial Chapter also considered the selection of leadership for the Putnam Province for the next three years.

For the delegates and all other Sisters who participated at various levels, this was a time of prayer, reflection, serious deliberation and, of course, of enjoying one another's company and insights.



The Sisters ask that you keep the General Chapter and the US delegates Sisters Gertrude Lanouette, Michèle Bisailon, Jeannine Légère, Janet Lewis and Yvette Rainville as well as the Secular Branch representative María Ximena Olivares-Fredes and Associate representative Mary-Lynne Catsam in prayer from April 14-May 5.

Do you recognize any of the delegates/participants in the photo? If so, why not send them a word or two of encouragement and thanks?

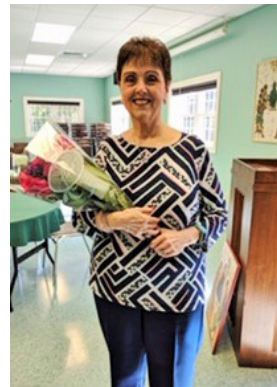
Sisters at St. Joe's Host Gatherings

In addition to participating in a wide range of activities at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham, the DHS Sisters in residence have also been occupied in hosting some province wide activities/gatherings, primarily the August visit of Sr. Anne-Marie Foucher, Superior General of the Congregation who resides in Brittany, France and the December 8 celebration of the 313th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation.

Both events were joy-filled and fulfilling days at all levels. Sisters came from throughout the Province to celebrate specially prepared liturgies, to exchange hugs, warm greetings and to share life events and delightful and nutritious meals.

Both gatherings required much preparation and thought to make them truly unique and meaningful for all Sisters, Consecrated Seculars, Associates and guests.

There is no doubt that these are the kinds of moments that strengthen bonds and stimulate vision for the future. God is good, and we are grateful that our Sisters in retirement so gracefully hosted these fun and spirit-filled gatherings for all of us. May the God of Joy and connecting moments continue to open our hearts to sharing all we are and all we have that love may be radiated to all who cross our daily paths.



GOOD USE OF OUR NEW CENTER

From its very foundation over three hundred years ago the Daughters of the Holy Spirit have always sought to be involved in world and local issues in which they might make a positive difference and/or create widespread awareness and interest.

Our new administrative center has a large conference room that is accessible to all our visitors. The consensus has been to use this ideal space as much as possible for the Sisters' meetings and to accommodate outside groups that are affiliated in some way to the DHS. Two such gatherings were held in the fall: Dee Carnahan addressed a large group to share the horrifying experiences she suffered while working at the Pentagon on 9/11. This program was sponsored by our DHS Associates. In October the Interfaith Council of Putnam convened a large crowd for their annual celebration of prayer for peace. The event featured a variety of speakers, prayers, sharing and the erection of a peace pole that stands to this day as a witness to the peace that we must strive to live and to foster day by day. Sr. Bonnie Morrow coordinated this effort along with the Interfaith Council.

We can all look forward to more meaningful presentations in the future and hope that YOU can be a part of them as well as we continue to put our center to good use.



An International Visit

The Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit is international, that is, there are Sisters and DHS missions in various parts of the world. One of the highlights for members is to have the opportunity to visit or to serve in a country/continent other than their own at some point during their active ministry years.

Thus it was that Sr. Monica Anyi from Nigeria came to spend some sabbatical time in the United States. Monica arrived in Putnam in November and left in early January to return home. This was indeed a perfect time of year to get the full flavor of changing seasons and special holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year.

During her exit interview on the eve of her departure Sister shared how precious these two months had been for her, how she grew to appreciate the Sisters who all welcomed her as a true sister and who made her feel at home wherever she went. Monica claims she came hoping to spend time with the Sisters in community in real day to day settings. As she visited various houses where the sisters reside, she was struck by their honesty, their directness and openness and by their willingness to share. Sister states that "I had the privilege to share in the process of discernment for new province leadership. I was surprised and happy to see the process...the involvement of all sisters, their full participation, the vision for the future that they shared and expressed so naturally."

Monica said she would willingly stay longer were that possible. But, alas, she will follow through on her plans to return home and will eagerly look for opportunities, such as province assemblies, to share her experiences in America with her Nigerian Sisters.

Sister Monica wants to leave with these parting words: "Thank you with all my heart to the American DHS for their warm welcome and for making me feel at home and at ease among them."



From Our Director's Desk...

Dearest Friends,

It is always a joy and a challenge of sorts to prepare the REALITY Newsletter for publication.

We want to be sure that we provide updated and interesting material and photos to everyone's satisfaction while at the same time afford a clear glimpse into the positive effect of YOUR generosity to the Sisters. However, it becomes obvious that these two elements are reciprocal – the daily life of our Sisters reflects how YOUR kindness plays a huge role in their involvement in so many projects, activities and life enhancing moments. Indeed, YOUR

on-going love and care for the Sisters who were an integral part of your life at one time or another, is the key to attaining the transformation so necessary to assure that our Sisters NIR (needs in retirement) are met and to allow also for some fun and/or unexpected surprises such as the purchase and installation of a therapeutic tub, making baths and showers accessible and safe, furnishing Sisters' rooms with much needed rocker/recliners and providing phone, internet and better communication services at our new Center.

Precious to us are the many notes and cards you send for various occasions, the phone calls, the visits while you are in the area, your attendance at school reunions and your contributions to our Annual Funding Initiatives. Again for 2019 your combined efforts yielded \$90,269.63 for our annual endeavor dedicated entirely to meeting the daily needs of the Sisters and to enhancing their life in retirement and/or non-remunerated service.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK YOU AGAIN!

We begin a new year and a new annual drive. The Sisters are not getting any younger nor are their needs diminishing. Actually, as we all know from personal experience, the opposite is quite true. Minimal amounts of Social Security benefits cannot even come close to meeting any individual's needs. But you already know that. You are already on board to assist us. However, in the Spirit of trust and continuing gratitude, we invite you once again to choose to be a part of transforming the vision of the Sisters into concrete REALITY as we work together towards our annual goal of \$80,000.

Our gratitude to you cannot ever be expressed in words. We feel your love, we sense the concern you have for our Sisters and we are confident that YOU will remain a part of our lives for a long time to come.

Please accept the promise of the Sisters to keep you and your closest intentions before the Lord on a daily basis. After all, it is through Him and with Him that we have come to be united in faith and in love.

In the Spirit of Grateful Love and Expectation,

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



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