



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

REALITY

Winter 2021

Environment
 Response To Needs
 Generosity
 Service
 Missionary
 Grateful
 Service In Love
 Blessed
 Peace
 Equality
 Justice
 Mission
 Sharing
 Pandemic
 Charism
 Eternal Song
 Caring
 One In Our Triune God
 Dance For The Lord
 Mother Earth
 Annhurst College
 Reality
 Serving In Retirement
 Kindness
 Vision
 LOVE
 Daughters Of The Holy Spirit
 PCA
 History
 Putnam
 Against Human Trafficking
 Brittany Sisters
 Disadvantaged
 Self Giving
 Associates
 Covid-19
 Director's Desk
 Donors Notes
 Education Gifts From The Heart
 Alumni Province Administrative Offices
 Outreach
 Joy Together
 Retired Sisters
 Transformation
 Pope Francis
 Mission
 Holy Spirit
 Ecology
 St. Joseph Living Center
 Non-Violence
 Consecrated Seculars
 Vision Into Reality
 Underprivileged
 Compassion
 Thank You
 Beyond Words

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Visit From Missouri

Shirley Lamothe braved leaving her residence in Missouri to come “home” to Connecticut for a short visit. She followed all travel protocols, including quarantine, to assure her safety and that of others. She visited family and friends and with her niece shared lunch time with Dr. Gauthier discussing a million and one topics including the Sisters involvements and, of course, a wellness check.

Shirley attended All Hallows School when she was of elementary school age. She has fond memories of the Sisters and of the warm family atmosphere at that parochial school. In spite of moving to the west coast for many years and now to the middle of the country, Shirley remains faithful to her memories, to her family in northeastern CT and to the Daughters of the Holy Spirit. She stays in touch with us through emails and regular snail mail for gift giving.

This was Shirley's first visit to our new Center, and she was kind enough to pose for a Kodak moment with our Development Director in front of our sign.



OUR BEST BLESSINGS TO YOU

NOTES FROM OUR DONORS

"I appreciate everything the DHS do and have done.... thanks for the great work you did at St. Francis School in Fitchburg, MA."

Michael Rivard
Lunenburg MA

"Your school was a major influence on the life and family of my dear friend."

Carl & Marilyn Faulkner
Williamstown, MA

"Thank you, dear Sisters, for all you do and have done. We are eternally grateful."

Mark & Jeannette Ellis
Summerfield, FL

"Sisters, thank you for being such great teachers at PCA. I hope and pray you are all well through this time of Covid."

Stephen Sikora
Thompson, CT

"I continue to thank you for all you did for me and all you continue to do for others. I thank God each day that you are a part of who I am and pray to be able to pass that on."

Kathleen Dalbec
Preston, CT

"My family was from Putnam; we were 15 children and all attended St. Mary School and/or PCA. Through our aunt, Sr. David de Marie Beausoleil we became well acquainted with the DHS. To this day they hold a special place in my heart. Thank you."

Rose Marie Chicoine
Port Charlotte, FL

"Sisters, perhaps if more people had God in their lives like you do there would be less hatred in the world."

Theresa Zakrjewski
Rocky Hill, CT

"Sisters, you are always in my thoughts and prayers as I am forever grateful for my days at Annhurst College (51-54)."

Janet Paradis McKone,
Bloomfield, CT)

Creatively Helping Others

Sister Lesley Despathy, DHS describes herself as "a nun who makes simple jewelry." She volunteers in the bookstore "Pourings & Passages" in Danielson, CT, a ministry that helps support St. James Elementary School in that town.

A retired teacher and principal, Sister's jewelry making gift was cultivated after she received requests for some specialty items. She not only sells her creations for a minimal amount at the bookstore but also at local craft fairs. All proceeds are donated to St. James School via Pourings and Passages. This year, because of the pandemic, fairs have been limited so she had her only craft sale of the year on Saturday, Oct 3rd at the Pop Up Putnam, CT event. She was one of thirteen vendors spread out throughout the downtown area.

So, if hand made pins, necklaces, chains, rosary beads, etc., are of interest to you, you may contact Sister Lesley to chat about available items; you may even convince her to tailor make an item just for you. Sr. Lesley may be reached at: lesleydhs@yahoo.com or by calling: 860-412-9386.

Sister views her art as a ministry through which she can assist and share in the work of bringing the Gospel message to life by educating the young. Your purchase will help her to carry out this valuable ministry. Why not contact her today?

At holiday time Sr. Lesley is always actively involved with local food pantries to provide meals for the underserved of the region. Here she is seen delivering a box of Thanksgiving food to St Francis of Assisi Food Pantry in Danielson, CT.



Seeking to Grow Justice

Our DHS Family in the USA is strongly committed to justice at all levels within our society and Church.

We implement this commitment by participating in research, in committee group work, in declaring and supporting corporate stances for or against issues involving justice and non-violence and in promoting awareness of the precarious situation of Mother Earth and the responsibility of every human being to care for and defend her.

Our Province has two main committees to direct these efforts:

Justice and Non-Violence Committee is composed of Sisters and Associates and meets several times per year to discuss and develop plans of action on justice/non-violence issues impacting our society and related to our DHS mission/charism. Among the important issues we support are Fair Trade practices, Immigration Reform and equal rights and opportunities for all. We oppose such issues as the death penalty, human trafficking, and all forms of torture and violence.

Creation Committee is composed of Sisters and Consecrated Seculars and meets at least 4 times per year. Its purpose is to encourage all who believe in the presence of the Spirit in every aspect of creation to accept responsibility for protecting, defending and healing any part of God's creation that is threatened in any way. We strive to offer ways in which human beings can work together for a cleaner environment and potable water for all people on earth. We serve as a resource for our Province and provide the latest information available on such topics as climate change and recycling. We also collaborate with similar interest groups at the national and international levels.

For more information about this topic, please contact Sr. Janet Lewis at dhsprovsec@gmail.com



Annhurst Alumni Remember The Sisters

For teachers, a sure sign that years in the classroom have had a positive effect on students is to see them return to you time after time over the years.

The Annhurst College Alumni Association is the embodiment of such faithful and appreciative students. While the College itself closed its doors in 1980, many graduates stay in contact with the former professors, especially the Daughters of the Holy Spirit. The Association holds an annual reunion during which they renew and strengthen the powerful and creative bonds that have kept students and staff connected and share laughter, tears and surprises as they reminisce.

Because of Covid-19, the annual reunion was cancelled in 2020 and the 2021 gathering has been scheduled for Saturday, September 18th. However, in spite of this disruption of plans, Association members still mailed in their annual contributions to support the group and its activities. They wanted to be sure that the Daughters of the Holy Spirit of the US Province, their 'old' teachers, would receive the Association's annual donation of \$1000.00 to help meet the needs of the Sisters they grew to love and appreciate so dearly while at Annhurst.

So it was that on a gorgeous afternoon in early September, Mary Volin LaChance, President of the AAA, came to the Administrative Offices of the DHS in Putnam to officially present the Alumni check to Sr. Gertrude Lanouette, Provincial Team Leader, and to Dr. Françoise G. Gauthier, Director of Development/Advancement for the USA Province. The masks clearly speak to the times in which we live but the smiling eyes reveal the joy and gratitude experienced by both recipients and donor.

Annhurst College was a treasure for students and teachers alike. Its hallowed halls continue to serve the world of education under a different name but the memories linger and continue to ignite positive gestures of love and gratitude. For that and for the other innumerable ways in which Annhurst has been the catalyst for transformation for 'Andies' and 'Annies', the Sisters are sincerely grateful. You, our dear students, have touched our lives beyond words, and for that, we bless you and thank you from the depths of our hearts.

Long live the Spirit of Annhurst! Long live those who share this Spirit!



Hazelnuts To Racism

On Saturday October 10th, 19 Daughters of the Holy Spirit were able to come together for a meeting of the SAGE group. This year's gathering focused on two topics that are most forcefully part of our present US experience: the Covid-19 pandemic and racism.

In the morning, Sr. Linda Babineau focused the prayer around Julian of Norwich, a 13th century mystic who lived in England during the plague, the 100 Years War, 3 rivals claiming to be pope and a peasant revolt. Despite that, Julian's insight into God was that all shall be well.

"And in this [the Lord] showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed to me, and it was as round as a ball... In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it. But what did I see in it? God is the Creator and the protector and the lover." This context led us to share how the pandemic has affected us, personally and communally.

In the afternoon, Sr. Bonnie Morrow turned our attention towards the racism that is embedded in our culture and in the reality of white privilege. Together we viewed a 15 minute clip of a much longer award winning PBS documentary entitled "The Long Shadow". The film sets out to explore the continuing racial divisions in the US and our reality that the politics of slavery did not end with the Civil War but continue through their insidious ties to racism today. We were invited to reflect on and share some of our responses to the film and other hand-outs.

Saturday's discussion only began to scratch some surfaces and touched some feelings, but we all received new insights and new learnings and hopefully a challenge and resolve to do more.

Your reactions/comments/reflections may be shared by emailing Sr. Janet Lewis: dhsprovsec@gmail.com



♥ We Remember and Give Thanks ♥



MARIAN ST. MARIE, DHS, (Thérèse Marian) October 11, 1939 – October 19, 2020

Sr. MARIAN ST. MARIE, DHS, 81, unexpectedly entered eternal life on Monday October 19, 2020 in Putnam, CT. Born in Hartford, CT, she was the daughter of Leonide and Gertrude Marion St. Marie. She graduated from Putnam Catholic Academy in 1957 and entered the congregation that same summer and made her religious profession on July 2, 1959 at the Holy Spirit Provincial House in Putnam. The newly professed earned her B.A. in education and theology from Diocesan Sisters College and her M.A. in History and Political Science from St. Joseph University in West Hartford, CT.

A lifelong educator, she began her teaching career in elementary schools in CT, VT and MA. She realized her life calling as a history teacher as she guided her Putnam Catholic Academy students through the exciting and unexpected events of the eons in her social studies classes in grades 9-12. Sister continued her career at South Catholic High School in Hartford, CT until it closed and then she settled at Mercy High School in Middletown, CT for 22 years.

In her work/ministry with young adults through the years Marian's objective was to make her students aware of the positive aspects of cultures other than their own and of the injustices that have been perpetuated throughout history into our times.

In 2014 she left her beloved teaching ministry after 52 years when called to serve as a member of the Administrative Team for the US Province of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit.

Sr. Marian also ministered as Advisor for the East Coast DHS Associates.

Sister's mandate as a Team Member ended on June 30th of this year, and she was enthusiastically looking forward to discovering where the Spirit would lead her at this time. We indeed know not the day nor the hour that the Spirit of Surprise will call.

Marian, we will remember you and praise our God for the gift you were to us.



SR. CONSTANCE PERRON, DHS (ROGER DU DIVIN COEUR) July 14, 1930 – December 17, 2020

Sr. Constance (Connie) Perron, DHS, 90, entered life eternal on Thursday December 17, 2020 at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham, CT.

Born Constance Mary Perron on July 14, 1930 in Spencer, MA, Connie was the daughter of Ludovic and Mary Alice (Letendre) Perron. She entered the congregation in 1949 and made her religious profession on August 23, 1950 at the Motherhouse in St. Brieuc, France. Sr. Connie obtained her B.A. from Diocesan Sisters College and her M.S. in Education from Fordham University.

Sister worked in the field of education as teacher and principal in Moosup, Fairfield, Hartford and Bridgeport, CT. In 1964 she was appointed Director of Postulants for 3 years then returned to education until 1977 when she enrolled in the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at Fatima Hospital in Providence, RI. She then ministered as a chaplain or director of pastoral care in hospitals or nursing homes until 1983. At that time, she was named Director of Formation until 1988 when she became a Councilor on the Provincial Team then elected as a Councilor on the General Council for 3 years. Upon her return to the US, she resumed her pastoral ministry until she retired at the Holy Spirit Health Care Center in 2013. She joined the community at St. Joseph Living Center in 2016.

Sister Connie was always eager to share her talents with others. She had confidence in her God-given abilities and tried to instill that sense of trust in those around her. She had a captivating smile and a certain gleam in her eye that caught and held one's attention. Connie was clever and knew how to use these gifts to the max for everyone's good and the honor of her God.

Thank you, Connie, for your gift of self. All we ask is that you remember us to the Lord you loved and served so well.



BEATRICE THEROUX, SBDHS (THERESA EMILE) October 21, 1933 – January 13, 2021

It was in the late afternoon of Wednesday, January 13 that Beatrice Theroux transitioned into eternal life after many years of defying the challenges of ill health.

Beatrice graced the lives of Emile and Exilda (Frechette) Theroux from the day of her birth in Danielson, CT. The young Beatrice loved people and studies. She attended Catholic elementary school in Wauregan and moved up the road to Putnam for her high school years at the former Putnam Catholic Academy where she got to know the Daughters of the Holy Spirit up close and personal. Upon her graduation from high school Bea entered the Congregation of the DHS and professed her first vows on August 18, 1953. Thus began her professional career as educator, a career that took her to classrooms in Connecticut, California and Massachusetts. Her under grad and graduate degrees from Diocesan Sisters College and Boston College made her a prime candidate for both teaching and administrative positions.

After serving as Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Norwich, CT, Beatrice responded to the needs of the Province and ministered as assistant to the Provincial and then was appointed Provincial Leader from 1983-89. She then moved into the position of Auditor/Assessor for the Norwich Diocesan Tribunal and remained in that role until her retirement in 2011.

In retirement Bea was able to free float and maintain connections with former students, with family members in need, with old friends and former colleagues. She also had more time to dedicate to the Secular Branch of the DHS to which she had transitioned. Circumstances and her rapidly declining health led Beatrice to move to St. Joseph Living Center in Windham, CT where the Daughters have a community in residence. While there she quickly got to know many residents, their families and, of course, staff. One of Beatrice's favorite things, short of going to the casino, was to entertain on her organ and watch the joy of music on the faces of her audience.

Beatrice will be remembered for her gentle manner and soft tones that accompanied her attractive and friend winning smile, for her kind words and gestures and her openness and quick response to the needs of others. For Beatrice, life was all about relationships and people.

Beatrice, continue to smile upon us as you sing and dance in your God's everlasting presence.

♥ We Remember and Give Thanks ♥



THÉRÈSE COTÉ, DHS ASSOCIATE October 2, 1927 – July 17, 2020

THÉRÈSE CÉCILE COTÉ, Associate member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit US Province since 1998, entered eternal life on July 17, 2020.

She was born in Pittsfield, MA on October 2, 1927 and lived her entire life in her home town in the family homestead.

Thérèse was highly educated with earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in nursing and human technology. She was employed by the General Electric Company for 38 years and retired as Nursing Supervisor.

One of the greatest joys of her life was caring for her brother who had Downs Syndrome. Her techniques and winning ways brought sunshine into his life and energy all around. Ms. Coté had simple yet cultivated tastes especially when it came to ice cream. She was the expert, knew every possible flavor and was willing to taste test the frozen wonder at any time and any place. She also loved music and participated in barbershop competitions with her siblings and friend. Thérèse dedicated her life to helping those in need and offered her services to the Red Cross Disaster Team lending her expertise in mental health to individuals and families traumatized by unexpected negative events. It was this desire to reach out to others that attracted her to the DHS Associate Branch, and she pronounced her Covenant to reinforce her efforts to live the DHS charism more deeply.

Thérèses thoroughly enjoyed helping out in her parishes where she served as parish council president, member of St. Ann's Guild and of the Rosary Society. She had many gifts and was always thrilled to share them at all levels. Her smile, her words of encouragement and her hands-on assistance are missed already by all who knew her and interacted with her throughout these many years.

Thank you Thérèse, for sharing the song of your life with us. You live on in our hearts and spirit.



EVELYN L. MCCAUGHEY, DHS ASSOCIATE August 9, 1929 – August 1, 2020

Long time teacher, dedicated wife and mother and valuable member of her civic and church communities, Evelyn entered life eternal on August 1st 2020 in Merced, California where she was well known and appreciated by so many, especially her former students.

Evelyn taught elementary grades in Merced at the Hoover & Sheehy City Schools and also at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School. She loved her students and was passionate about her teaching and assuring the academic and overall advancement of one and all. Mrs. McCaughey had a strong sense of justice and fairness and was proud and happy to serve as corresponding secretary for the Merced NAACP. She also served on the school Integration Task Force.

Evelyn was drawn to the Daughters of the Holy Spirit by their mission and charism that seek to bring equality to all and to reach out to those in particular need. She pronounced her Covenant as an Associate member in 2001 in Merced and was actively involved until her last long illness.

Evelyn is survived by her husband of 66 years, Joseph, and her three daughters.

Thank you for your loving service, Evelyn. Rest now in your Just God's peace and love as you continue to accompany and inspire us.



LUCY MATARESE, DHS ASSOCIATE August 19, 1924 – November 21, 2020

Lucy Matarese, Associate member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit since 1995, succumbed to serious illness and entered life eternal on November 21, 2020.

Lucy was a native of Providence, Rhode Island, attended area schools, obtained a degree in the medical field and spent the longest part of her professional career at Women and Infants Hospital in Providence.

Lucy was known for her gentle personality who knew what she wanted and when she wanted it especially if it was for the good of others. She had a sharp wit and deeply appreciated any and all efforts made on her behalf. Lucy's work was her life and she ministered to those she met with compassion and special attention to their needs. Lucy often mentioned that the lifestyle of the DHS had inspired her to be present to others and attentive always to specialized needs. She was indeed a compassionate woman filled with a zest for life and energy for her service in the health field.

Rest in peace, Lucy. Guide us with your compassion and generosity.



Mr. Davis Comes to Dinner

Sr. Michael Henry Moulin, DHS, retired teacher, principal, musician, etc., etc., etc., is always looking for new ways of reaching out to others in meaningful gestures. Her latest adventure involves preparing dinner once a week for Mr. Davis, her former school custodian.

For many years Sister was Principal at Our Lady of Grace School in West Sacramento California. Mr. Davis was the school custodian during that time, and his wife would often come to lend him a helping hand so Sr. Michael got to know her as well. Sr. Michael and Mr. Davis retired from OLG the same year.

A few years later Mr. Davis' wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. When Sister realized how serious the condition was, she offered to go to the Davis' to take care of the wife one day per week. The care included cooking dinner for the couple. When Mrs. Davis' health required she go to a nursing facility, Sister used to visit regularly. While there she would visit other patients as well. After the death of Mrs. Davis, Sister stopped her regular nursing home visits, and one gentleman, whose wife Sr. Michael visited until she died, commented that they never saw her any more. This was the trigger to Sr. Michael's new adventure: she would invite the two gentlemen in their 90's to dinner once a week. She did this until Mr. Virga went to his eternal reward. But the saga does not end there. Sr. Michael, as she so aptly states, "did not have the heart" to stop cooking for Mr. Davis and so the weekly tradition continues and every Wednesday Mr. Davis can be seen coming to Sister's door knowing full well the door will be open and his favorite home cooked meal waiting for him at his designated place. Sister is taking no chances that her guest just might well be 'an angel of the Lord'.

A Walk for Warmth

Daughters of the Holy Spirit from the Putnam and Willimantic areas participated in the annual "walk for warmth" event on a frigidly cold late November Saturday.



The initiative, sponsored by the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry, is purposed to raise funds to assist local underserved populations in providing heat and other utilities for their homes. Each year the group has served more than 100 households with dignity and respect as a result of this event.



As a preamble to the walk itself, participants were invited to share in a time of prayer as they gathered (masks on and socially distanced) in Jillson Square. Father Joe Ficara worked with a committee to present a prayer service that would recognize the gifts we have and build hope for the future.

Wearing their new blessings the brave walkers set off to fulfill their pledges for their generous sponsors. Sr. Michèle Bisailon was among the walkers but could barely be identified because of the layers of clothing that bundled her up against the brutal winds. In the meantime Sisters Gertrude Lanouette, Lorraine Duval, Jacqueline Robillaard and Jeannine Légère fulfilled their walks in Putnam.

For the Daughters of the Holy Spirit their participation in this fundraiser gave them the opportunity to live their mission of service to others in a concrete way as they shared in this "simple human gesture" (DHS MISSION STATEMENT) to bring the tender love of God to many.

December 8th Celebration

The very cold, black ice covered roads morning quickly gave way to sun and melting and allowed 21 Daughters of the Holy Spirit to find their way to Putnam to celebrate the Foundation Day of the Congregation and the feast of the Immaculate Conception.



The celebratory mass was offered by the Rev. Edward Dempsey and featured the traditional renewal of vows by the Sisters. Thanks to ZOOM several Sisters on the East Coast and three from California attended the service along with us.

Before the mass, a surprise ZOOM call from France from the General Council of the Congregation gave one and all the chance to greet one another and to share the joy of this significant day. The General Team even sang a beautiful Magnificat for us. What an unexpected visit!



Catered meals to go (Covid-19 imposed) were provided for all as was a treat of home made cookies by Sr. Lesley.

At St. Joseph Living Center the Daughters and Consecrated Seculars also had a mass followed by pizza and ice cream bars to sweeten their day. Sr. Michele, their coordinator, also prepared and shared copies of a feast day prayer service they could pray with the roommates.

The Associates in California joined the Sisters on ZOOM for a prayer service that included the renewal of vows and covenants. All of this indeed proves there is life beyond Covid. Praise God and all who organized this special day for our DHS Family.

From Our Director's Desk...

Dear Friends,

Words never seem sufficient to express our gratitude to all of you for responding so generously to our annual initiative for our beloved Daughters of the Holy Spirit in the United States. But this year your donations of \$120,410.02 have surpassed our expectations because of the tremendous impact of the pandemic. We are touched by your love and your caring. We are deeply moved by your kindness and your generosity as we offer our simple, genuine and resounding **THANK YOU.**

As Development Director I always welcome the opportunity to be the link between you and the Sisters, to bring their needs before you and to gather your responses and gifts. I truly appreciate the informative and nostalgic notes you attach as well as the phone calls providing or requesting information about yourselves or the Sisters. I do hope more of you will get in touch with me, especially via email that is so convenient for a quick turn around.

Our faith reminds us that the Spirit is with us at all times and that it is this same Spirit which strengthens the bonds that already bind us together and the belief that continues to inspire us to live love and to share love in all we do and say. Our oneness in our God weaves us into makers of justice and peace in our everyday lives as we grow closer to one another, to our Creator God and to all of creation.

Thank you again for being there for us. We look forward to your ongoing alliance and partnership as we begin our 2021 development initiative that will assist our Sisters to live their mission fully be they in retirement, in community, in nursing care or still involved in some kind of outreach work. YOUR presence to us is invaluable, and we call the Spirit's blessings upon you and yours as YOU stay by us during these most challenging times and into the future.

In the Spirit of Profound Appreciation,

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



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