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

# FOLLOWING IN THE WANDERING SPIRIT OF GOD

## *Doing God's will across the Atlantic*

***"Every day I wake up and ask God what the next step in my journey will be."***



Those are the words of Sr. Marie Pauline Guillemette, as she prepares to go to Northampton, England, to help start an international Daughters of the Holy Spirit novitiate. Along with one DHS sister

from Nigeria and one from Cameroon, Sr. Marie Pauline says she wants to form an international community that would welcome new novices into religious life.

"My hope is that we live in an international community, united together in a house of charity," she said. "My hope is for a place of prayer, community and service."

It all started back in 1962, shortly after the Leominster, Massachusetts native entered DHS religious life in Putnam, at just 18-years old.

"One of my superiors said 'We'll send you to Africa, with cannibals, diseases, heat and all kinds of deprivations,'" Sr. Marie Pauline said. "I didn't want to go."

It took four years, but her first mission was as a first-grade teacher in Moosup, Connecticut, a bit short of the Dark Continent. It was the start of decades as a primary school teacher at schools in Moosup, Fairfield, Waterbury, Hartford and northern California. That led to nine years in rural Alabama, running after-school programs for African-American



California



Alabama

children. She was one of only two white people.



Alabama

"They were very poor and isolated," Sr. Marie Pauline said. "One day we took the children to the beach, because they had never seen the ocean. This was 1988 to 1997 when I was there. We arrived and some of the white people there said that the beach was only for white people. We stayed anyway. So there was racism sometimes like you would have expected from earlier times. I called it 'Little Africa,' because they were all African-Americans and they lived in small villages, grouped together based on who they were related to, like in Africa. It prepared me for what came next."

What came next was a fifteen-year stint as a teacher and librarian on a mission in the

western African nation of Burkina Faso. Along the way, she learned four native languages.

"The people there were poor, but very welcoming," she said. "I taught CCD; I sang in the French choir; I started the school library. Before then the children didn't have enough books to study with."

It wasn't all fun. She caught all the major local diseases. Ironically, however, she was back home on vacation in Putnam in 2005 when she got malaria. By the time the local doctors figured it out, she had nearly died. However, she bounced back and stayed in Burkina Faso for another seven years, finally returning to Putnam in 2012. That same year, she had another scare, when a tumor was discovered near the carotid artery in her throat. It was removed and she recovered.

Turning 79 in February, Sr. Marie Pauline started planning for her new assignment in England last April. At an age when most people would be content to look back on a life well lived, she is set straight toward the future.



"This is the next step on my journey with God," she said.

*Interview text by John Ryan*



Photo collage from Mission in the western African nation of Burkina Faso.



Waterbury, CT



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## THE DHS FAMILY HONORS FOUNDER

On an absolutely gorgeous late summer day in September nearly 60 women gathered at the DHS Center in Putnam to honor and remember the memory of the man/priest who was instrumental in the foundation of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit in 1706.

Dom Jean Leuduger was a native of Brittany, France. After his ordination to the priesthood at age 25, he dedicated himself to working with the people of the upper regions of Brittany as parish priest and home missionary. He was a man of deep prayer with a special devotion to the Holy Spirit and to Mary. He worked hand in hand with the foundresses of the Congregation and remained near the Sisters as guide and counselor from 1706 through 1714. He shared his dedication to the poor and to the education of children with his beloved Sisters. He dreamed of one day crossing the ocean and bringing his profound love of God to many on the other side.

Leuduger died on January 17, 1722, leaving the rich legacy of his Daughters to the world.

The gathering on September 10th featured a meet and greet among the members of the three Branches of the Congregation and a good number of former DHS. The participants shared a time of prayer and there was even a quiz on the life of Dom Jean and the history of the Congregation. Of course, an indoor cookout with a multitude of home-made desserts, offered a delightful and delicious lunch for one and all.

Excited voices rose in pitch, cameras rolled and captured shots that



would freeze this moment in time. The afternoon fled much too quickly and gradually hugs (Covid not allowed on the premises that day), made parting ways bittersweet as promises of prayer and of staying in touch echoed from the assembly room out into the parking lot as the day came to a close.

Gratitude to the Provincial Team for imagining and planning this event and sincere thanks as well to all who came together in one heart and one Spirit. In the words of our closing prayer "Let us pray that we remain open to the challenging calls of the present time, attentive to this world, to the Church, and faithful to the origins of our Congregation". Happy Anniversary, Dom Jean, and to each of us as well.

# A FITTING DECEMBER 8TH GATHERING

Needless to say, Sr. Gertrude and her Team spent a good deal of time preparing this celebratory affair, tending to catering, mass celebration, invitations, decorations, etc. It was, after all, Foundation Day and the feast of Mary, patroness of the Congregation.

The gathering began at 10:45 and everyone came ready to share a day of prayer and of festivities. The liturgy was offered by Rev. Ed Dempsey, a long time friend of the Sisters. His homily presented the questions and mysteries surrounding this feast and recognized the Sisters' particular devotion to Mary. Vows and Covenants were renewed by religious, consecrated seculars and associates as part of the mass celebration.

Thanks to a generous donation by one of our friends and alumnae, a catered dinner, featuring roast pork and all the seasonal side followed. Dessert was a unique treat in so far as all the pies were made by the Sisters and offered a wide variety to suit everyone's palate and taste buds.

This get together was another occasion to celebrate the multifaceted members of the province in all their diversities recognizing the work of the Spirit in calling women and men in different ways to bring glory to our God and to be Christ to so many.

There was no doubt that each person in attendance entered into the spirit of the moment at every phase of this gathering. It was difficult to leave this awesome place of joy and peace, and it was obvious that the words of the recessional song were reflected in everyone's heart as we returned to our daily routines: "My soul proclaims the greatness of God and rejoices in God, my Savior".



## MISSIONED TO SERVICE IN GREAT BRITAIN

As one may guess quite correctly from the cover page of this newsletter, one of the outstanding activities of our province this past year was our coming together to officially "mission" Sister Marie Pauline and to call upon our faithful God to bless her as she accepts to wander across the proverbial pond to start a new and daring life project.

This special ceremony took place in November at the Province Office Center. It combined a specially prepared liturgy and a creative missioning ceremony attended by a large delegation of Sisters, Consecrated Seculars and Associates. At the conclusion of the mass all in attendance lined up with raised arms and hands that reached across the two lines to form a symbolic bridge that Marie Pauline crossed while receiving blessings from one and all.

The "crossing" was followed by a delightful pot luck dinner that incorporated the sharing of many stories from the past, plans for the future and advice, solicited and unsolicited, as to how to best cope and deal with an unknown future.

The photos should assist in visualizing the "bridge" and in entering into the attitude of

availability that characterizes our beloved missionary and "citizen" of our international and intercultural community.



*Marie Pauline's departure is set for Wednesday, February 15th. Our hopes and our prayers go with her.*





## HELEN KELLER VISITS DHS CENTER

On Sunday, October 2, Helen Keller came to life through the efforts of the multitasking Sheryl Faye, at the Holy Spirit Administrative Office Center in Putnam, CT.

Faye, who also presents the lives and achievements of other famous women, walked and talked the good sized crowd through the life of Helen Keller who, with the help of her able mentor Annie Sullivan, overcame her blindness, deafness and inability to speak to go on to live a productive and happy life.

Using simple props, appropriate costumes, a clearly narrated text and her acting talent, the presenter brought Helen to life and made the audience feel and believe that Keller was truly present in the room inspiring and touching the hearts of all in attendance.

The program was offered by the DHS East Coast Associates as a fund-raising activity to support their annual programs and charitable donations.

For more information about the DHS Associates please contact Pat Krodel, coordinator, at [pepkrodel@yahoo.com](mailto:pepkrodel@yahoo.com) or co-director Muriel Bingham at [murielbingham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:murielbingham@sbcglobal.net)

The East Coast Associates also co-ordinated a Christmas Giving Tree program to collect goods for the less fortunate in conjunction with local parishes.



## 2022 CLASS REUNIONS

Somehow or another autumn only begins for the DHS after the annual class reunions of Annhurst College and Putnam Catholic Academy.

The Annhurst Alumni held their gathering on the campus of The Woodstock Academy that previously housed the hallowed halls of Annhurst. Over 100 alums attended this year's reunion and enjoyed sharing time, memories and planning for the future. Mary LaChance coordinated this annual event once again and invites all alumni who have not yet attended the affairs to contact her for info about the 2023 reunion. As part of the business meeting the group voted to offer the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, their former professors, a donation of \$1000.00.

For information about next year's reunion on September 16, you may contact Mary at (508) 943-4148.

The Putnam Catholic Academy alumni reunion was held at Hank's Restaurant in Brooklyn, CT and welcomed some 35 former students. Certificates of Anniversary celebrations were handed out, raffles and door prizes accented how very special this time was for alumni in attendance. Many stories were shared and photos snapped as everyone relived precious days from the past and looked forward to next year's gathering on September 24th. For more information you may contact Dr. Gauthier at (860) 928-0891 ext. 148.

A few days after both reunions Rita Noll, AC class of 1972, presented a check from her class to the Sisters in recognition of their many contributions to their class during their 4 years at Annhurst. Long live the kind and generous spirit of our graduates! Your faithfulness means the world to us.



## OUR CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATES HONOR THE SISTERS

From West Sacramento, California DHS Associate Maureen Girard sends a photo and writes that the Daughters of the Holy Spirit who staffed Our Lady of Grace School for nearly 50 years received a "brick of honor" recently installed at Our Lady of Grace School.

Participation in this project was initiated and backed by contributions from several Associates in the region.

The Sisters are deeply touched by this gesture that keeps alive the Spirit of newness and creativity that initially brought them to the west coast and allowed them to impact the lives of so many children and their families over the years. Blessings of joy and appreciation upon all who played a part in this special commemoration.



# ♥ We Remember & Give Thanks ♥



## **MARGARET C. BURKE, DHS ASSOCIATE**

**12/15/1940 – 9/27/2022**

DHS Associate Margaret C. Burke entered eternal life on September 27, 2022. Margaret was born in Colchester, Vermont on December 15, 1940. She was the daughter of Theodore and Lillian Cook. Burke was educated in the Colchester area and at St. Louis Convent in Winooski. Soon after graduating high school she accepted employment with a jeweler in Burlington for

whom she worked for many years.

Margaret loved people and animals, and she made it a point to go out of her way to be of service. She was dedicated to her church community, and, having known the Daughters of the Holy Spirit for a prolonged period of time, became a covenanted member of the Associate Branch of the Congregation in 1995.

Margaret was by nature a very generous person and was always ready and willing to help others in whatever way possible. She enjoyed going out to find yard sales and samples of home-baked goods. Margaret also enjoyed engaging in lively discussions and never hesitated to share her very strong opinions on myriads of topics. In many ways Margaret marched to her own drummer while trying to assure the welfare of all those around her. Her love of animals of all kinds was particularly striking. Burke loved nature and her last wish was that her ashes be scattered over pre-designated areas in her beloved Vermont.

***Margaret, we thank you for your years as an Associate and we ask you to watch over us from your new home as you inspire us to learn from your generous and kind spirit.***



## **JAN PATECHINO BOYLE, DHS CONSECRATED SECULAR**

**11/11/1938 – 10/28/2022**

On Friday, October 28, 2022, DHS Consecrated Secular BLANCHE JAN PATECHINO BOYLE breathed her last on earth and entered life eternal a few days short of her 84th birthday.

Jan, as she preferred to be called, was born in Collinsville, CT. She was the third of seven girls

in the family. Jan was proud of her hardworking mother who provided the girls with a stable life until their home burned down. This tragedy forced their mom to scatter the children with some going to the county home, one with an aunt and the two babies went into foster care. Jan said she never realized they were financially poor until she reached high school. In spite of that she knew she wanted a good education. Jan claimed she had been personally called by the Spirit to study mathematics. And so she did, along with mechanical engineering. She loved sharing her knowledge and expertise with students of all ages since she believed she was responding directly to her God's call.

Not long after learning about the Secular Branch of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, Jan joined the group and pronounced her first vows on June 5th 2010.

Jan was indeed a gifted woman who shared her talents in every way possible whenever and wherever she could. She was likeable and radiated the warmth of her God's love through joy and suffering. Jan admitted she maintained her strong faith and that it held her up through thick and through thin. Jan was laid to rest in the family plot in Windsor, Ct.

***Jan, you were many things to many people. Intercede for us now as we strive to continue your legacy. The world is a much better place for your having been by our side.***



## **ANITA PAUL, DHS (Sr. JEANNE BENIGNA)**

**12/31/1930 – 11/23/2022**

In the wee hours of November 23rd, Sister Anita Paul placed her soul in the awaiting hands of her Lord for the last time.

Anita was 92 years of age and entered the world on December 31st, 1930 in Washington, Vermont. She was one of seven children born to Felix and Antoinette Paul.

At 19 years of age she entered the Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit and pronounced her first vows at the Motherhouse of the DHS in Brittany, France in 1950.

After her initial formation, Sister returned to the USA and attended Diocesan Sisters' College on the campus of the former Annhurst College where she earned her BA degree in education. Anita would continue her studies at St. Michael's College in Winooski, VT and came away with an MA in religious education.

Sr. Jeanne spent several years in the elementary classroom in Catholic Parochial schools in Chicopee and Fitchburg, MA. In 1967 she was named Directress of Novices in St. Hubert, Canada where she remained until 1973. At that time she returned to the USA and ministered as principal in Tupper Lake, NY and Waterbury CT. These administrative posts served as a springboard for Sister's work with migrants in Maryland and Virginia whom she served for 13 years.

Sr Anita's gifts as administrator were equally recognized by Province leadership and she was appointed to serve as Provincial Councillor, Directress of Ongoing Education Programs for the US Province, and Coordinator of the Provincial House Community and of the DHS Health Care Center in Putnam. It was from here that Anita moved to the Retirement Home, The Card Home, in Willimantic, CT. Last spring Sister opted to transfer to St. Joseph Living Center in Windham where she joined the already established DHS Community.

Sr Anita is interred at St. Mary Cemetery in Putnam, CT in the section reserved for the DHS.

***We remember you fondly, Sr, Anita, and sing God's praises for the gift you were to all of us.***



**CLÉMENCE THÉRÈSE CROTEAU, DHS  
(SR. MARIE CLÉMENT)**

**8/3/1927 – 2/1/2023**

On August 3rd, 1927 the world was blessed with a baby girl to be named Clémence Thérèse, the 16th of 17 children born to Clément and Malvina (LeClerc) Croteau.

Clémence was raised in Fitchburg, MA and attended local Catholic Schools. As a young

child she developed a strong devotion to Mary, our intercessor with the Holy Trinity. She maintained this devotion throughout her life and among her last words was a Hail Mary in her beloved French language.

She entered the Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit in 1945 and professed her first vows in 1949. Soon thereafter the young religious traveled to Chicopee, MA where she served the parish as sacristan. The following year Clémence began a long career as dietician and worked in communities and schools in Wauregan, Bridgeport and Uncasville, CT. She also served at Annhurst College in Woodstock, CT, traveled to Burlington, VT and then back to the Provincial House in Putnam, CT. Twenty six years later Clémence decided it was time for a career change so she accepted a position as a Nursing Assistant at Fairview Nursing Home in Leominster, MA. She remained in that field until 1993 when she obtained her certificate as CNA. At that time she moved into private practice and served those in need in their own homes. Six years later Sister retired and moved back to the Provincial House in 2000 where she accepted to transport Sisters in residence to doctor and other appointments as well as to varied outings and activities. One of her favorite activities was to ride the float at Christmas time in Putnam's well-known and well attended Dazzle Light Parade. She loved to sing and this was a super opportunity to offer her lovely voice to assure that the real reason for the season was remembered by all.

Sister Clémence joined the DHS Community at St Joseph Living Center in 2018. While there she participated in as many activities as possible especially bingo and bowling. She was an avid knitter and loved to knit toques for friends, family and to share with those in need. She took great pride in showing her little masterpieces to one and all who were interested. She also enjoyed to paint using the latest versions of books available. Her choice of bright colors was a reflection of the light within our gifted sister. Clémence liked to celebrate life and special occasions and enjoyed outings to restaurants and treats of pizza, fudge, ice cream and Canadian peppermints that she eagerly shared with everyone who came to visit and with all her sisters in community. Sister had a unique gift for cake decorating and it was obvious that she carefully perused all birthday or special occasion cakes that came her way carefully pointing out all the hard work and time such a production involved.

Clémence was known for her big heart, and in the end, her Lord called her home via that very large heart. She entered eternal life peacefully and readily very early on the morning of February 1st.

Sister rests at peace at St. Mary Cemetery in Putnam.

***Clémence, we thank you for the many ways in which you shared your life and gifts with all of us. We trust your spirit remains among us and that you will continue to smile upon us as we remember you fondly and joyfully. Merci, ma soeur, tu resteras toujours dans nos coeurs.***



## NEWS FROM OUR SECULAR BRANCH MEMBERS

The last quarter of the year was a busy one for our Secular Branch members from the United States and Chile.

In June Ms. Phyllis Viens was appointed Regional Moderator for the two countries. In late August she traveled to Brittany, France to participate in a session of the International Council of the Branch where representatives from France, Chile and USA gathered, as they do every six years, to evaluate the previous six years and to plan for the future. They spent hours discussing such topics as communication in the age of technology, recruiting techniques and programs, the effect of Covid 19 on their membership and effectiveness, and, of course, the future.

Throughout December Viens worked at a distance with the Chilean delegation to prepare the renewal of vows for two members, Laura Lara and Laura Oyanadel, in South America. She also was in communication with the US member, Lorraine Gallup, who was also about to renew her vowed commitment with the group and the congregation.

Both ceremonies highlighted the Christmas season and brought much joy to families and friends and offered inspiration and hope for the future of the Secular Branch.

More information about the Branch may be obtained by contacting Phyllis Viens at [phyllisviens@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllisviens@yahoo.com) You may also visit our web site and check out the actual profile drop down.



# OUR DONORS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

It is always exciting to hear from our donors. Here is a random sampling of some of their messages. We trust you will be touched by their words and expressions as much as we have been.

## From Cape Coral, Florida Kathy writes:

"I am glad I can help. I have always considered that PCA helped give me the foundation for my successes in life. I have been very fortunate, and believe it is good to share".

## These words come from Naugatuck, CT from the pen of Donna P. Lawler:

"Thank you for everything. Please take care of yourselves and keep my grand babies in your prayer. Be well always."

**Kathleen Dalbec shares** that she never knew the total value of all that was instilled in her through the Sisters starting at elementary school level and reminds the Sisters that she carries them in her prayer and daily life.

## Lynda and Peter share these warm thoughts:

"Sisters, we hope all is well with you. We continue to appreciate your kind prayers and support. All the best to you along with many blessings".

**Kathy from Jewett City** tells the Sisters that she continues each day to remember and to thank them for having been such a big part of her faith. It is what keeps her going on the tough days. She thanks the Sisters for what they did then and for what they continue to do now.

## Esther Daigneault writes:

"I think of you often, Sisters and truly hope you are staying well in spite of Covid, etc. It is good to see you are involved in many activities. I really do enjoy reading the REALITY Newsletter and look forward to receiving it each time. The stories are very interesting and the photos bring them to life for me. Thank you."



## A FAITHFUL CHRISTMAS VISIT

Lee Bugbee worked at the Provincial House in Putnam up until its closing in 2019. His gardening and landscaping skills earned him the admiration of residents and visitors alike. Every year at Christmas time Lee would bring flowers to the sisters in residence at the PH.

Lee has remained in touch with the Sisters and each year at Christmas time he still prepares individual bud vases with a seasonal motif for each of the sisters in Putnam and Windham.

2022 was no different. Lee and one of his friends dropped in at the Administrative Center to deliver his Christmas gift flowers. Lee's faithfulness is another reminder that little things mean a great deal in cultivating and maintaining relationships that offer opportunities for growth in love and cherished memories. Thank you, Lee and thank you to all who have stayed in touch with us over time.

## From our Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

At this time of year we stand in the shadow of the Reverend Martin Luther King Junior's famous and perennially motivating "I have a dream" speech.

Yes, we all have dreams, we all must dream, we all need to believe in dreams, the visualization of what life could/should be like when we dare to come together to achieve positive goals.

The motto and logo of our DHS Development/Advancement program "together in the Spirit we transform today's vision into tomorrow's reality" clearly speaks of dreams coming true, dreams that will create a solid and better future for our Sisters and those whose lives they touch.

We are awed once again by your super response to our annual initiative for 2022. Your love, care, consideration and sacrifice yielded \$122,874 to assist us in continuing to provide for the needs and care of our sisters in retirement and for those still involved in some way in active ministries. We are deeply touched by your generous response and by the concern you continue to display towards the Sisters, many of whom were your teachers, your confidantes and your friends. Thank you for being there for us in unprecedented insecure times for the entire world. We promise to hold all of you in prayer on a daily basis that you may be strengthened by the same Spirit who initially brought you into our lives.

Words are not sufficient to express the sentiments in our hearts. We are most grateful as we place our trust in you once again and invite you to grow with us and to encourage family and friends to reach out, to dream and to move together transforming vision into REALITY for the Sisters and for those whose paths we cross throughout our life journey.

Gratefully in that same Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. G. Gauthier".

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



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