

The Marianite

Fall 2020

A publication from
The Marianites of Holy Cross



Love never
gives up,
never
loses
faith,
is
always
hopeful,
and
endures all things. 1 Cor. 13:7

The Marianite inside

Message from our Congregational Leader	2
The Cross Is Our Only Hope	3
Get Animated	4
Transparency at OLPS	6
Persons Perceived to Be Different	7
Premeditated Christmas	8
A Loving Remembrance	9
MSC Associates	10
Spread Your Wings	12

On the Cover

Follow the Sisters' good example - WEAR YOUR MASKS, PLEASE!

The Marianite, a publication of the Marianites of Holy Cross, is published quarterly. For additional information please go online: www.marianites.org

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Margaret Barnaba
Shaquana Conway
Sr. Stephania D'Souza
Sr. Gretchen Dysart
Sr. Judy Gomila
Paul Griffin
Megan Jones

a message from our Congregational Leader



Greetings, one and all!

Desired or not, each of us has been and continues to be called to change from what we knew as ordinary. Last month marked the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Pope Francis' talk while visiting the site speaks of PEACE. We share excerpts from his talk as our prayer that PEACE might be realized.

EXCERPT FROM POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS

Peace Memorial (Hiroshima) Sunday, 24 November 2019

"For love of my brethren and friends, I say: Peace upon you!"
(Ps 122:8).

Here, in an incandescent burst of lightning and fire, so many men and women, so many dreams and hopes, disappeared, leaving behind only shadows and silence. In barely an instant, everything was devoured by a black hole of destruction and death. From that abyss of silence, we continue even today to hear the cries of those who are no longer with us.

I felt a duty to come here as a pilgrim of peace, to stand in silent prayer, to recall the innocent victims of such violence, and to bear in my heart the prayers and yearnings of the men and women of our time, especially the young, who long for peace, who work for peace and who sacrifice themselves for peace. I have come to this place of memory and of hope for the future, bringing with me the cry of the poor who are always the most helpless victims of hatred and conflict.

It is my humble desire to be the voice of the voiceless who witness with concern and anguish the growing tensions of our own time: the unacceptable inequalities and injustices that threaten human coexistence, the grave inability to care for our common home, and the constant outbreak of armed conflict, as if these could guarantee a future of peace. "I am convinced that peace is no more than an empty word unless it is founded on truth, built up in justice, animated and perfected by charity, and attained in freedom." (cf. St. John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, 37).

Building peace in truth and justice entails acknowledging that "people frequently differ widely in knowledge, virtue, intelligence and wealth" (ibid. 87), and that this can never justify the attempt to impose our own particular interests upon others. Let us open our hearts to hope, and become instruments of reconciliation and peace. This will always be possible if we are able to protect one another and realize that we are joined by a common destiny. Our world, interconnected not only by globalization but by the very earth we have always shared, demands, today more than ever, that interests exclusive to certain groups or sectors be left to one side, in order to achieve the greatness of those who struggle co-responsibly to ensure a common future.

Come, Lord, Prince of Peace! Make us instruments and reflections of your peace!
"For love of my brethren and friends, I say: Peace upon you!" (Ps 122:8).



Sr. Ann Lacroix, MSC
Congregational Leader

Did you know you can go to the Marianite website (www.marianites.org) to see photos of the 107 Marianites? On the home page, click a region, then click on a photo for the sisters' names



Introduction to this issue:

It is often said that history repeats itself. It seems, too, that so does literature. Thomas Paine wrote in *The American Crises*, "These are the times which try men's souls" and, in *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens penned the famous words, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Our souls have certainly been "tried" during these times. We're experiencing an invisible enemy which ravages our country and the world, a pandemic which claims the lives of millions. These have been the "worst of times."

On the other hand, a very visible enemy has raised its ugly head: racism. It has been there all along but with the unjust, untimely deaths of Black men and women the conscience of America has been awakened. In a strange way, this could prove to be at least one of our "best of times". We must, however, make the necessary changes so that we do become the country of equality for all.

This issue contains articles on these topics for your reflection. We now have a golden opportunity to become a more caring, more responsive people. And, if you need a dose of optimism, remember the words of Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, "Things are always better in the morning." Yes, but we must strive to make them so.

THE CROSS IS OUR ONLY HOPE



Sr. Sue Pablovich, MSC

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15b

How does this Scripture quote apply to the two great feasts of the Family of Holy Cross, September 14, The Triumph of the Cross and September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows? As members of the Family of Holy Cross we are very familiar with the phrase: "The cross, our only hope." (Try googling that phrase. It is marvelous to find so many entreaties from the Family of Holy Cross!) But why? Why is the cross our only hope? On good days, it might be easy to recall why we are able to proclaim the cross as our only hope. But on bad days, as we've been enduring for months now, it might be more difficult to bring to mind the reasons why we want to embrace the cross and claim it as our one hope. Let us look to Jesus for some words to ponder.



What was going through the mind of Jesus as he was beginning his Passion? From the Gospel of John we read, "...so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave." (Jn 14:31) Can you hear the energy and zeal in Jesus' words? This is the cause of our hope and joy – LOVE, eyes wide open, self-sacrificing love. Jesus desires to share with us the deep,

abiding love within the Trinity. It is a love that sets us free from all that binds us, imprisons us, confuses us – all that separates us from the love of Christ. Now, isn't this reason enough for hope?

However, it doesn't end there on the cross.

As Paul tells us, our faith is in vain if Jesus has not risen. "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead." (1Cor 15:17, 19-20) If that isn't enough reason for hope, there is more! We are invited to join with Christ in this mission of telling the world about the love of the Trinity. "And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (2Cor 5:18-19) God invites us into hope for the world.

How are these words of Scripture lived out in our lives? I've had some really tough days wondering if I made the right decision to not report to work in Pastoral Care at Chateau de Notre Dame. What could I do if I weren't present? What one small action could I take in the midst of all this suffering? I thought of our volunteers in Pastoral Care. Many have served for years visiting and bringing the Blessed Sacrament to residents. How can they remain bonded to the residents and to one another? One small way is to send a note of encouragement with a weekly intention to the volunteers asking them to pray for the residents and employees of the nursing home – visualizing all the faces of residents and employees that they can no longer visit. Also, I wondered, how do we let the employees know we are thinking about them and holding them in prayer? Thankfully, one of the workers posts the intention for the week on the time clocks. Is this working? Does anyone feel more bonded? Does it make a difference? I can only HOPE!!

GET ANIMATED DETE ANIMATED ANIMATED

Are you old enough to remember Gumby? He's that legendary, versatile, green character that over time has developed into a stop-motion animated TV star. In his simpler days, children (and a few closet adult fans), would take the flexible little fellow and push, pull and pose him in 101 ways.

In this coronavirus pandemic of great uncertainty, please meet a versatile "front line" nurse with enthusiasm, zeal and remarkable leadership ability. Paul Griffin, BSN, RN, is the Director of Critical Care at West Jefferson Medical Center. Paul grew up on the Westbank, attended Archbishop Shaw High School, and earned a scholarship to Our Lady of Holy Cross College (now UHC). He knew he wanted to work in the medical field – perhaps in anesthesiology – but found himself captivated with the fast growing nursing field. In 2005, Paul graduated with honors and began work at "old" Charity until Lady Katrina blew into town. When there was an opening, he moved to West Jeff and has served there in a number of important roles over the last fourteen years. For example, during his time as House Supervisor, it was imperative for Paul to be aware of all admits, bed capacity, staff scheduling, etc. It was his charge to respond to all "codes" and he became quite adaptable to what was happening in the present moment...and how to thrive in chaos. When asked about his initial reactions in the Critical Care Unit diagnosing coronavirus patients among the arrivals, Paul said, "It was not a big deal when we got our first COVID-19 patient, because we were prepared and waiting."

When it became clear that this virus was dangerously contagious, an extreme amount of resources were required to minister among those who were infected. To follow protocol, specialized nursing equipment (PPE) Personal Protective Equipment like N95 masks, face shields, disposable gowns, etc. had to be discarded between patient visits to prevent cross-contamination. It was difficult to keep PPE stocked since there were shortages due to the pandemic. "In room" visits had to be limited; some monitors remained outside the patient rooms and were

consistently checked by staff.

Paul speaks proudly of his mentally prepared, dedicated and courageous staff. He refers to them as champions. He says, "We provided special training but everyone stepped up to the tasks at hand and we worked as a team. At the height of COVID-19, all three CCU rooms (36) were at capacity, plus we handled an overflow of another six beds. Repetition and structure became especially important in this time of crisis. Nurses, unit clerks, patient care techniques, social workers, all staff continues to work together to get the job done. The daily news", he says, "makes us aware that there



Paul Griffin, BSN, RN is the Director of Critical Care, West Jefferson Medical Center

"We provided special training but everyone stepped up to the tasks at hand and we worked as a team...."



PPE at its best! A moment of levity in an otherwise traumatic setting.

is more uncertainty as to what we'll be doing in the next months and even years. Uncertainty is one of the most difficult human experiences - not having control over what might happen to us. A plan – but a flexible plan - allows us to adapt and respond to real-time changes in these unprecedented times in our homes, at work, or here at West Jeff. The coronavirus is real and more potent than the typical flu.” He adds, “If you have any of the signs like the high temperature, cough, etc. seek medical help immediately. We’ve been told expect a fall influx.” Paul ended by saying, “Please let your readers know that all prayers are appreciated; in the end, I fall back on my faith.”

A three- day Zoom course from UHC for staff enrichment was taking place during this visit. Selflessness, however, cannot be taught; rather it is something that is “caught” or inspired by peers and those in leadership. Paul Griffin, like Gumby (OK, use your imagination, it’s an analogy), is a tireless character, a flexible and versatile professional in ministry who has been pushed and pulled by the demands of COVID-19. Through it all this nurse, administrator and animator of others maintains a sense of humor, a selfless dedication to his profession and a deep, lasting faith.



Staff monitors some equipment outside of patients’ rooms.

COPING WITH CRISIS DURING COVID-19

University of Holy Cross and WLAE are collaborating on a series of 30-minute TV specials entitled “Coping During the COVID-19 Crisis.”

The show is hosted by veteran New Orleans journalist, Jan Gross, and University of Holy Cross Counselor, Dr. Roy Salgado. The special series offers viewers coping tips for a variety of mental health issues confronting people during the ongoing crisis. It features interviews with various UHC experts across a wide breadth of issues. Fridays at 8 p.m.



GUILD CARDS NOW AVAILABLE

Donation for Christmas Novena cards and annual sympathy cards is \$5.00

www.marianites.org



Michael Purser, Brandie Perry, and Leanna Givs, RN, DON



TRANSPARENCY AT PROMPT SUCCOR NURSING FACILITY

When transparency is part of workplace culture, it comes along with trust, communication, and greater levels of staff engagement and family/resident appreciation. Workplace culture is the summation of how people within an organization interact with each other and work together to accomplish THE mission.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility and the C'est la Vie Apartments (Opelousas, LA) are a ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross. For this fall issue, an interview was arranged with Michael Purser, Administrator, with particular interest around the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also invited his Assistant Administrator, Brandie Perry, to be part of the discussion.

Sr Judy Gomila (SJG): *Mike and Brandie, can you offer our readers an overview of the proactive measures you've implemented here to minimize the spread of the virus?*

Mike (MP): We had already established an isolation unit 2-3 weeks before our first positive case. As testing became more readily available, and positive cases were identified in our community, we anticipated that our residents and staff would be affected. Furthermore, we set a team of nursing staff to work exclusively on the COVID-19 isolation unit on St. Joseph Hall. It is still functioning today.

Brandie (BP): With the added emphasis on the importance of disinfecting and cleaning to prevent the spread of the virus, in April we hired a Service Master franchise.

SJG: *How do you balance all the COVID-19 related concerns while continuing the regular nursing care for which OLPS is noted?*

BP: Teamwork. Our Infection Prevention and Control Program Committee meets on a regular basis to review updated regulations and regulatory guidance. The Committee is led by Amanda Wheeler, RN, Infection Preventionist. This Committee implements policies, procedures and protocols to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.

SJG: *What about the on-going testing of residents and staff?*

MP: We are pleased to say, we initiated weekly test-

ing for residents and staff, approximately five weeks before it was a requirement. There is a screening station at the main entrance for all staff members entering our facility and there is a screening protocol for all residents for symptoms of COVID-19. This continues to be done at least three times per day.

SJG: *There have been a number of articles recently on the dreadful loneliness of elders due to isolation. Have you been able to take any creative steps to address that concern?*

MP: Absolutely. We had new wireless access points installed throughout the facility, providing an enhanced guest wireless experience for our residents. Our activities and pastoral care staff implemented resident- focused activities in small groups to ensure they are engaged and enjoy an enhanced level of social interaction. Individual room visits are also done by these dedicated staff members.

BP: To offer some degree of visual connection, we have been encouraging window visits. We are blessed with large windows and ground level access. To keep the window visits safe, we require masks and do not allow the residents to open the windows. They are quite successful.

SJG: *Certainly these have been challenging times for our employees. Have you implemented any incentives for them?*

MP: Several incentives are in place: Incentive pay rates have been in effect across all departments. Double pay for those working the COVID-19 unit and time and one half for most other front-line staff. Free meals are provided to staff as of March 13, 2020. We are grateful to our dietary staff for their hard work. The on-going, additional meals are paid for by the facility.

BP: Sister, are you aware of some of the incentives our staff has received from your Marianite Leadership Team and sister seamstresses? In addition to cases of hand sanitizer, washable face masks and gowns, gloves, and other items to protect staff and residents, the Congregation donated \$25.00 gift cards to every employee. Over the last months, we also have a daily drawing for \$25.00 in cash.

SJG: *Very enlightening but we're surrounded by*

uncertainty. What's next do you think?

BP: There is much unknown and we seek to be flexible. We do look forward when outside visitation is allowed by the Louisiana Department of Health. Areas outside of the facility have been established to accommodate this. These areas will be designed with resident and family privacy in mind, and ensure social distancing is maintained."

SJG: *Eight thousand households receive the Marianite magazine. Any words of wisdom to share with our readers in light of your experiences with the highly contagious virus?*

BP: You've heard it before... Wear a face mask that covers your mouth and nose and fits your face. Stay at least six feet apart from others. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your face - including when you put on or take off your mask. Check your temperature often...IT WORKS.

MP: COVID-19 is a real threat. Younger age groups are now testing positive at a much higher rate. It may be the result of an increase in testing for this age group, or the fact that unnecessary risks are being taken. Regardless of the reason, this is a trend that needs to be reversed. The virus attacks real people, our family, friends and neighbors. Please take it seriously. We encourage you to stay current with the latest information, avoid old information and opinions that suggest this is a hoax.

SJG: *Brandie and Mike, thank you for speaking with us today and for the leadership you provide here at OLPS. You make Marianites everywhere proud with your proactive and compassionate efforts. Clearly, no pun intended, you have inaugurated a culture of transparency." Sisters JoAnn DeLoach, Stephania DeSouza, M.Kay Kinberger, Cynthia Knowles, Charlotte LeBoeuf are in ministry at OLPS.*

Persons Perceived to Be Different

Sr. Judy Gomila, MSC

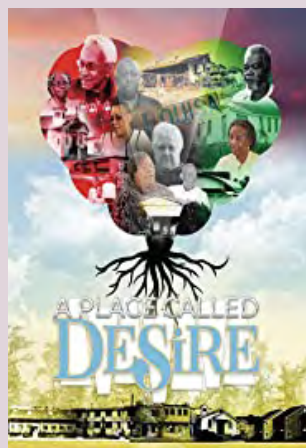
In the mid-1970's, I was in ministry at St. Philip the Apostle parish in the Desire Project neighborhood of New Orleans. The pastor at the time was Fr. Ignatius Roppolo, a faith-filled innovator and educator. Our predominately Black parishioners lived among 20,000 people in the one square mile known simply as Desire. One of the staff trainings Father Roppolo had arranged for the Parish Leaders came from Portland, Oregon. That's all I have in my tattered and torn notes that I've never been able to trash.

The heading on the page reads, "Ways to make a person perceived as different lose effectiveness". Then I had scribbled, "perceived as different because of race, religion, disability, language, sexual orientation, education, age, etc." Here's the running list:

GENERALIZING – Viewing the mistakes of one person with perceived differences as indicative of others; assuming that one person or a small group can speak for an entire group.

STAYING ONE UP – Assuming a person is in a particular position because she/he is perceived to be different and not because they are qualified; making allowances for mistakes because you didn't expect much to begin with.

SELF-PROTECTION – Not giving honest feedback to a person who is considered to be different; making the point, "I'm not prejudiced, my upbringing was different." Seeking credit for being "liberal".



GHETTO-IZING – Hiring or utilizing people with perceived differences for ancillary jobs, with little or no power. Assuming that people who are different work best with their own kind.

BACKING UP THE MAJORITY – Supporting insensitive behavior toward persons who are considered different; tolerating racism, sexism, ageism, homophobic remarks and jokes at others' expense.

EXPECTING TO BE TAUGHT – Assuming that others will keep me on my toes about language or actions that may be offensive; not taking responsibility for myself and learning how I may be hurting others.

I'd like to believe these guidelines have helped to mold and shape the loving, respectful, inclusive missionary disciple I am becoming. The culture of the Black Community and that of Native American Peoples has enriched my life immeasurably. Time spent in the Archdiocesan Mission Office has broadened my experience for crossing borders to appreciate other ways of living. And I am still learning.

Reflection: When or where have I been involved in activities that thwart persons perceived as different? What might I do to change my attitudes? Watch for the nationally acclaimed, documentary film, "A Place Called Desire" by Leonard Smith, III. It will give you a different perspective into a community threatened with preconceived judgments that many have faced in their community. **The film trailer can be viewed at APlaceCalledDesire.com.**

Premeditated Christmas

Sr. Gretchen Dysart, MSC



Premeditated is a word often followed by “murder.” But not in this case!

Premeditated comes from a combination of two Latin words: pre, meaning “before,” and meditat, meaning “to ponder. If you ponder or think about something before

you act, that makes it premeditated.” To continue the definition, “Something premeditated . . . has a purpose behind it. In other words, it’s no accident.” **english.*

whatmeaningis.com/dictionary/meaning-of-premeditate

Fr. Joseph Nassal, a Catholic priest, titled a book he wrote *Premeditated Mercy*. I’m sure that’s where I came up with the title “Premeditated Christmas”. If the Hallmark Channel can declare “Christmas in July,” we Christians can handle a few thoughts on Christmas during September. Perhaps we could then plan better and add deeper purpose to the season when it arrives.

When I think of the word Christmas, the birth of Jesus comes to mind first. When I think of the phrase Christmas-season, the first words that come to mind are chaotic, out-of-control consumerism and exhaustion. Why is that? Some stores and shopping malls start peddling Christmas-season before the faces are carved on the pumpkins of October. The Coronavirus pandemic will not make this rush any easier and for so many it’s made expendable income scarce to non-existent. Even in “normal” times, Christmas shopping builds into a whirlwind of, “what can I possibly give to so-and-so who has everything.” We sometimes end up emotionally bankrupt with a case of chronic overspending that stalks us through the New Year.

Christmas-season craziness can be tamed so that you don’t have to be worn to a frazzle by Christmas Eve. How do you want to make Christmas more meaningful this year? One, two, three: start premeditating.

What religious practice would you like to do--or give--to make Christmas more meaningful? Perhaps plan to attend an Advent retreat day or an Advent weekend of prayer either in person or online or give one as a gift. Check out local retreat centers. Emmaus Productions offers series of talks online by favorite Christian speakers and authors like Sr. Joyce Rupp.

How about lowering expectations? I’ve heard many people say that their families have decided to give gifts only to the children and not

to all the adults. That slashes the amount of time, money and brain drain for shopping. Several families I know have decided that instead of giving to the adults, each family group put in whatever they can afford and give gifts to shelters for the homeless or battered spouses or the lonely in nursing homes. Some church parishes have “giving trees:” take a paper ornament with the name and age and wish of a child from the parish giving tree and provide a gift for a young one who may not be in the he/she-has-everything category.

Does the Christmas meal have to be extravagant? Perhaps invitees can prepare a dish so the host and hostess do not have so many food concerns whenever family and friends gather. Lots of adult children may never have been tutored in the making of a favorite dish. Here’s a chance to pass on a legacy!

What about “green” ideas? Give the gift of membership and a magazine (printed or online) to someone, for example, the magazine *Green American*. Make a donation to an environmental organization in the name of a loved one. For example, the *Catholic Climate Covenant*. Give seed packets for a planting session in the spring.

Give the gift of time. Make jam or jelly. Roast pecans. Make lemon curd. Bake cookies that freeze well. Get children involved. This is a good time to model that simple gifts can be just as satisfying as extravagant, expensive ones.

Give yourself the gift of calmness. If you feel yourself becoming overly tense, slow down, sit in your favorite chair and play relaxing music for 15 minutes if that’s possible. Pray to our Gracious God to receive the true meaning of Christmas. (Note: you may have to repeat this more than once!)

Make memories. Is there a keepsake or memento you own that you would like to pass along to someone special? Give it as a gift with a note telling of its significance and why you want to share it. Another idea: invite two or three people to watch a streaming movie or event after Christmas—along with popcorn and simple snacks. Make it an event! Or simply invite someone to visit a sculpture garden with you. Or . . . the list is endless and many events are free. Spending time with someone deepens relationships. Perhaps the best gift is the non-tangible growth of closeness.

These few ideas are offered as springboards; dive into your own pool of ideas or brainstorm with others.

So what are we waiting for? Premeditate Christmas! How many days do we have before the main event? Count gently.

A Loving Remembrance

By Sr. Clarita Bourque, MSC

I have a confession to make: I grew up an only child with a loving mother and father and a doting aunt. I know there is a common assumption that “only children” are lonely but before you begin to feel sorry for me, let me tell you something about my early life. I grew up in Algiers, a lovely town across the river from New Orleans where we had the advantages of a small town within a large city. There were forty children on my block so I was never lonely. (Among them were Sr. Vivian Coulon, her sister and three brothers). There were Germans, Cajuns, Italians, Irish and Slavic families. And get this - on one corner there was a bakery and on another - a movie theatre! Who could ask for anything more!

For as long as I can remember, our family employed the services of a Black woman. Her name was Eliza Davis. She had worked for my grandmother (cooking and cleaning, etc.) and after my grandmother’s death she remained with our family. She was a lovely woman. She was married to Horace, a very quiet man who was a Pullman porter for the railroad. They had no children. They lived “backatown.”

I noticed, however, even as a small child, that we laughed and joked with her as we would a family member, but at mealtime she remained in the kitchen while we ate in the dining room! I remember asking why that was, and my family looked a little embarrassed and mumbled something about her being a servant and a Black woman.

On another occasion, while I was conversing with Liza she said something to me (I don’t remember what) but I imitated her speech. My mother was a very

gentle woman. (She and my Aunt Rita were always very “lady-like”. Sr. Gayle Williams always referred to them, and rightly so, as the “China Dolls”!) My kind, lady-like mother, however, was so incensed at my ridiculing Liza that she smacked me across the mouth. I think my brain rattled! I never did it again - to Liza or anyone else!

I remember, too, at my grandmother’s funeral, as we left the church in the limousine which would take us to the cemetery, I saw Liza walking down the street on her way to the cemetery. I remember feeling very bad as it was a very long walk, it was hot; she was no longer a young woman and she’d known my grandmother longer than any of us! She should have been riding in that limousine. It seemed so unfair, and, of course, it was. But, when I asked about it I was told that “Black people don’t ride in cars with white people”. (I was eight years old at the time.) There were many other things, now that I think about it: she had to ride in the back of the bus, she couldn’t shop on Canal Street, she had to sit in the balcony in theatres and, the most disgraceful of all, in the back pews in “White” churches!

Another vivid memory I hold dear is the Sunday afternoon when my parents brought Liza to visit me at Holy Angels when I was a novice. My mother told me that Liza wanted to come “just to make sure” that I was okay. (I guess I was the closest thing she had to a grandchild!) Liza died not long after our visit.

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many others have brought these memories flooding back. There are so many Eliza Davises



Sr. Clarita and Liza Davis

in our world. Good people who were never accepted in mainstream society because of the color of their skin, or the way they talked, or because of the religion they practiced. It is so unfair. I wanted so much to take part in the recent demonstrations. However, at my age, I couldn’t have marched that far or stood that long. And with the coronavirus still on the loose, once again my age was a deterrent. I was so impressed with the marchers, especially the young White men and women who were there.

I keep wishing my gentle, China-doll mother was still around to “rattle the brains” of those people who preach division and hatred! Instead, I promise to pray and do whatever else I can to bring about change in our country so that we will treat all people with dignity and respect; that we will invite people of color to dine with us at the dinner table and at the table of equality; that we’ll offer others with “funny accents” and other religious beliefs a “ride” in our cars and an opportunity to attain their goals on life’s journey. After all, aren’t we all headed for the same place on this journey? I can’t wait to see beautiful, humble Liza again to tell her how sorry I am for the way that she was treated. I’ll also tell her that, although we still have a long way to go, “ALLELUIA, things are a changin”!

msc|associates



Margaret and Patrick Barnaba

Pat and Margaret Barnaba met on Christmas Eve, 1969 and were married in 1971. They are the proud parents of two children, Peggy Barnaba Jones and Jonathan Barnaba. They delight in seven bright and beautiful grandchildren. For ten years they have belonged to the Marianite Associates. They agreed that their "free-lance" participation in the Advent and Lenten retreats is what attracted them to Holy Cross spirituality and the Associate relationship. Both Margaret and Pat have personal longstanding devotion to our Blessed Mother, particularly under her title, Our Lady of Fatima.

Our Lady ended her initial message in May, 1917 with the direction, "Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." Margaret and Pat continue to take the message seriously. In addition to their daily devotion, their family meets monthly while the Salve Regina rosary group meets weekly in their home. Margaret pointed out, "Each year we have Mass in January to celebrate our anniversary. In 2021 when we gather around our home altar, we will celebrate 20 years of praying the rosary together."

Margaret's outreach is as plentiful as beads strung together on a rosary. In the 1980's she began volunteering as a manicurist at the Senior Village Nursing Home. With a nudge from the Blessed Virgin,



Margaret and Pat are Marianite Associates, volunteers and rosary devotees.

Margaret began meeting with residents at the Legion of Mary meetings. Soon she was a Eucharistic Minister and led the weekly rosary and the Way of the Cross. The importance of prayer was balanced with fun times of Picture Bingo and Pokeno.

Margaret later moved to Our Lady of Prompt Succor as a Eucharistic Minister. When Pat retired in 2004, he joined her at OLPS. They are altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers and delight in the time spent after Mass having coffee with residents.

Mutual admiration among the Barnabas and the Marianites is obvious. Sr. Charlotte LeBoeuf, of the Pastoral Department states, "What strikes me about the couple is their witness to marriage as a sacrament. Christ present! They are devoted to each other and to the Church as active MSC associates."

When asked about their local church parish, Pat responded, "We attend three parishes, St. Leo the Great, St. Catherine and our St. Jules Mission Chapel. Our previous pastor, Fr. Ken Domingue was with us for almost ten years. Since 2018 Fr. Darren Eldridge has been our pastor. Both are holy men of God and life-giving shepherds of our faith communities in Leonville and Prairie Laurent."

The "Cross our only hope" is not a foreign concept to this couple. From the earliest days of their marriage, Margaret and Pat have experienced the death/resurrection of Paschal Mystery and can relate to Mary's role in the Mysteries of the Rosary and in the Seven Dolors.

With a Golden Anniversary of marriage before them, this MSC Associate couple is the epitome of the motto of Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC, "The family that prayers together stays together."

Note: Family Theatre Productions plans to release a film: PRAY in October, 2020 on the life of Father Peyton. It documents the inspiring true story of a poor Irish immigrant who set sail for America in 1928 with dreams of becoming a millionaire but, as a priest, ends up travelling the globe championing devotion to the rosary.



The Fatima statue in the Barnaba home.

New Position:

Jim Durbin has worked with the Marianites as their auditor for over ten years and in 2019 began transitioning from auditor to CFO with the help of Sr. Chris Perrier. He currently works for Carr, Riggs and Ingram. He is a second-career accountant having spent nearly ten years in the restaurant business prior to heading back to college in January of 2002. Jim is married to Pamela Durbin who comes from near Chicago. Both love watching baseball, traveling and fine dining. They have three dogs, Twitch, Mitzi and Louis; and two birds, Chuck and Cecil. Jim loves to sing and is very active at his current church parish, Mary Queen of Peace where he cantors, sings in the choir and lectors. Jim truly enjoys working with the Sisters and looks forward to assisting them into the future.



Dedication:

September 2020, Virginia Randazzo celebrates 21 years of bringing her skills to the Marianites in their Finance Office. This Chalmation and long-time MSC Associate is the person you speak to when ordering Guild Cards and Expectant Madonna statues.



OUR LADY OF SEVEN DOLORS



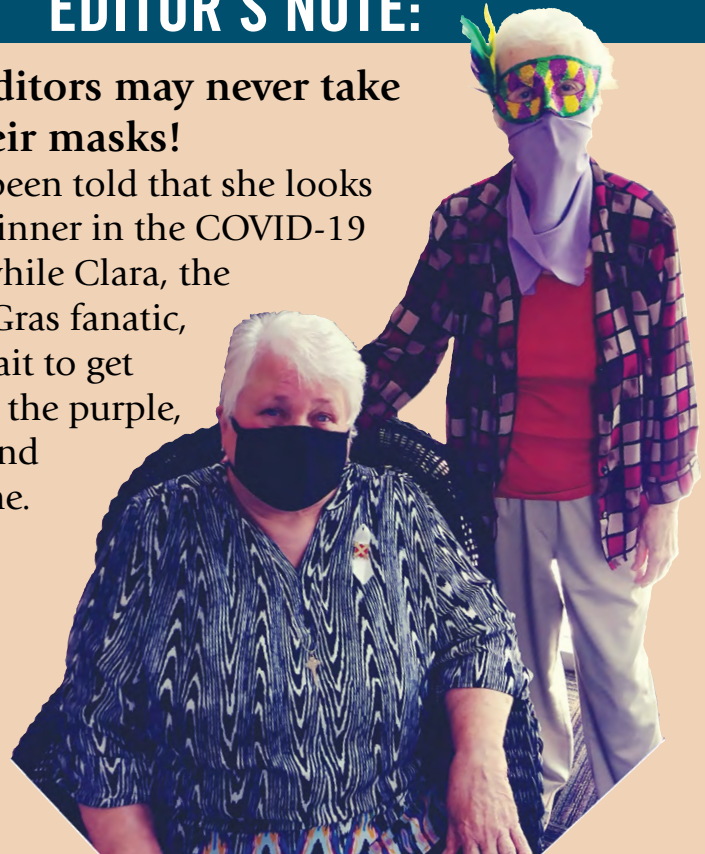
SEPTEMBER 15

Mary, you knew all the pains of a loving, compassionate parent, pray for us.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our editors may never take off their masks!

Judy's been told that she looks a lot thinner in the COVID-19 mask while Clara, the Mardi Gras fanatic, can't wait to get back to the purple, green and gold one.



Stay in touch at www.marianites.org

Order Guild cards. • Keep up with Marianite activities. • See where Mass is said for you.

Like us on Facebook!

Marianites of Holy Cross

21388 Smith Road
Covington, LA 70435

NON-PROFIT ORG
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1074
New Orleans, LA

Is this person no longer at this address? If so, please email us at data4msc@gmail.com.

Spread Your Wings, People



**CHALLENGE TO:
ALL OUR READERS**

October 2 is the Feast of the Holy Angels. We are INVITING YOU, wherever you went to school, to join with graduates of Holy Angels (AHA) that week to spread your wings in the ANGEL PROJECT. In collaboration with Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New Orleans, we became aware of the dire need for disposable diapers from infant size through adult, for both males and females. Drop-off sites on the East Bank and Northshore are listed here.

Between the feasts of St. Michael the Archangel (Tuesday, September 29) and the Holy Angels (Friday, October 2), we challenge you as individuals, families, or as graduation classes to bring diapers of all sizes to one of the two sites during the designated timeframes.

Of course, if you choose to make a financial donation instead of shopping or if distance is a factor, checks can be made out to the Marianites and mailed to the Congregational Center or use the enclosed envelope. The Marianite Sisters have pledged to match every dollar received.

MARIANITES OF HOLY CROSS *Angel Project*

21388 Smith Road • Covington, LA 70435

"May we remain united in Spirit and in truth."

-John 4:24

DIAPER DROP-OFF SITES:

Pregnancy & Adoption Services

921 Aris Avenue - Suite B

Metairie, LA 70002

Tues. - Thurs. (9/29-10/1)

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Northshore Pastoral Center

4469 Hwy. 190 E. Service Road

Covington, LA 70433

Tues.- Fri. (9/29-10/2)

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.