

# The Marianite

Winter 2022

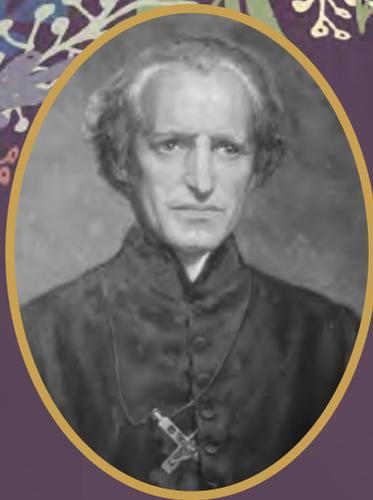
A publication from  
The Marianites of Holy Cross



## *Decade of Days-2022*

**January 20 – January 29**

*An opportunity to reflect on  
the values we hold TODAY  
that become part of creating the future!*



During this Decade of Days we ask that you consider spending some time each day with these values which are core to who we are. We invite you to reflect with a friend or in local community to share your reflections and your hopes.

*May these days deepen our desire to  
incarnate the love and compassion of Jesus!*

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### On the Cover

Decade of Days  
We remember  
Blessed Basil Moreau  
and Mother Mary  
of the Seven Dolors  
who passed on to us  
those core values.

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

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Dear Friends,

God's peace and grace for a year filled with HOPE! May 2022 offer us the opportunity to grow in a deeper understanding of our call to TRUST in God's infinite love for each of us. There are many times when we have planned a gathering, wanted to travel and suddenly it must be postponed. In these days, we have learned that there are simple ways to make the future alive with hope.

*"For I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

**Jeremiah 29:11**

There are long nights when I find myself repeating this verse that it might become part of the fiber of my being. Certitude and planning are principles that I have valued for years. Reflecting on the past years I am attempting to gracefully ride the tide of change, aware that TENTATIVE has become a way of life.

What is our guide as we move into the future?

### MAKE TIME FOR PRAYER

Intimacy with the ONE who has blessed us into today is critical!

### ENGAGE IN CONTEMPLATIVE DIALOGUE

Contemplative dialogue fosters an exchange that allows for differences to be expressed, honored, and held with reverence.

Speak the truth, listen with an open spirit knowing that together we are being led!

### DO NOT LET FEAR OVERWHELM THE FUTURE

Hope is a necessary if we are to be a prophetic presence in our world.

### TRUST THAT GOD IS IN CHARGE

We are earthen vessels that God uses to create a connectedness with all that is, has been and will be.

Be open to the God of surprise,

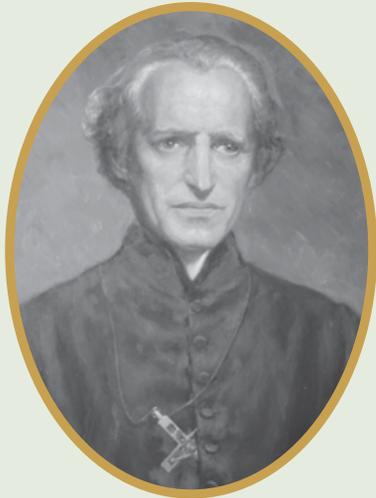
Sr. Ann Lacour, MSC

Congregational Leader

## HALLMARKS

We extend our love and prayerful good wishes to two very faithful collaborators in the vineyard. LUCILLE TAYLOR has been at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home for 50 years and has been promoted to a variety of positions along the way. VIRGINIA RANDAZZO has given 22 years to our Congregational Finance Office and interfaced with almost all Marianites along the way. THANKS and BLESSINGS, Y'ALL!





## DECADE OF DAYS – 2022

# January 20 thru January 29

The impulse of the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped! In 2022, as we celebrate the Decade of Days, (remembering the anniversaries of death of Blessed Basil Moreau and Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors), we focus our attention on the core values of the Marianites of Holy Cross and situate each within Sacred Scripture, our Constitutions, and pertinent Church writings. The Decade of Days devotions were initiated by Sr. Mary David Hecker, MSC and have been a part of our Marianite prayer cache for more than 25 years. Although each year's specific themes recall facets of our Congregational history, we do not gaze backward with nostalgia but rather are impelled to move forward.

<b>Being vs. Doing</b>	<b>Luke 10:38-42</b>
<b>Church</b>	<b>Matt. 4:19</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Acts 2:42-47; Col. 3:13-14</b>
<b>Contemplative Prayer</b>	<b>Ps. 1; Matt. 6:6</b>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>Gen. 1: 26-30</b>
<b>Fulfillment</b>	<b>Ecc. 3:1-8</b>
<b>Legacy</b>	<b>Phil. 4:9</b>
<b>Letting Go</b>	<b>2 Cor. 5:7; Jer. 29:11</b>
<b>Vowed Life</b>	<b>Phil.4:4; Psalm 28:7</b>
<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>2 Cor 12:9-10</b>

In faith and hope, we boldly extend the invitation to our Associates, friends, and family, - all the People of God - to reflect with us on the values that we hold dear TODAY and that become a part of our creating the FUTURE. May this Decade of Days deepen our desire to incarnate the LOVE and COMPASSION of Jesus Christ ... in our ever-changing world. Together let us pray, God of yesterday, today, and forever, free us to embrace our emerging future.

*United with Mary standing at the foot of the cross, we Marianites of Holy Cross, are apostolic religious, women of prayer and compassion. Our mission, energized by our life in community, is to incarnate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Called to be a prophetic presence in an ever-changing world, we resolutely stand with those who are excluded.*

MSC MISSION STATEMENT

Please visit [marianites.org](http://marianites.org) and click on the "spirituality" tab for this year's decade of days prayers.

# Building a ‘Culture of Encounter’: The Catholic Teach-in on Mass Incarceration

By Sue Weishar, Ph.D.



Over the past several decades our country has built the largest prison population in the world. The U.S. makes up only four percent of the world’s population, but accounts for 22 percent of the world’s incarcerated population. We lock up a greater proportion of our citizens than repressive regimes like Russia, China, Pakistan, and Cuba. Of all 50 states, Louisiana has the shameful distinction of incarcerating more people per capita than any other.

Arguably, mass incarceration is the greatest social injustice facing Louisiana today, destabilizing families and communities and dooming thousands of men and women who served time to low wages, unemployment, restrictions on political and social rights, and, too often, recidivism. The years of “tough on crime” laws and unjust, harsh, and racially-biased prosecutorial practices that made Louisiana the prison capital of the world have disproportionately impacted Black Louisianans. For example, of the 4,100 Louisianans condemned to die in prison with life sentences, many for rash crimes they committed as troubled-youth, almost three-quarters are Black. (According to the latest census, just 31% of Louisianans are African American).

Pope Francis has often reminded believers that many of the world’s injustices are a result of a “throw-away culture” fueled by fear and indifference. As a way of countering such attitudes towards poor and marginalized people, Francis has frequently called for a “culture of encounter.” He counsels that a culture of encounter is the only culture capable of building a

better, more just, and fraternal world.

At the Jesuit Social Research Institute, a ministry of Loyola University New Orleans and the Jesuit Province of the Southern and Central U.S., we were determined to engage Catholics in the urgent work of ending mass incarceration. Inspired by Francis’s teachings on encounter we developed a program we call the Catholic Teach-In on Mass Incarceration. Two hours in length, a major goal of the Teach-in is to create a “culture of encounter” between members of a Catholic church or school and people too often feared and marginalized—men and women who have served time in our state’s vast carceral system. The heart of a Catholic Teach-In on Mass Incarceration is the “listening circles,” where formerly incarcerated people share their life stories with participants in small groups. After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, JSRI held three Catholic Teach-ins on Mass Incarceration at two Catholic parishes and Loyola University last fall.

A Teach-In begins with a powerful prayer by the late Sr. Diane Ortiz, OSU, asking participants to reflect on how their fear and indifference may have contributed to the scandal of mass incarceration. Next Ms. Rhonda Oliver, the Executive Director of a re-entry program for women, Women Determined, speaks to the entire gathering, explaining how Louisiana’s “three strikes you’re out” laws resulted in her being sentenced to 20 years in prison for the theft of goods valued at less than \$200. After serving as her own attorney and doggedly pursuing her case in federal court, Oliver was finally released after serving 14 years, only to find herself destitute and homeless.

Following Ms. Oliver’s powerful testimony, the



moderator then provides an overview of the policies and attitudes that led to a five-fold increase in the number of incarcerated Americans in the last 40 years. Next Catholic Social Teaching (CST) values and principles to guide an understanding of criminal justice issues are discussed, starting with the foundational principle of CST, the dignity and sanctity of the human person. Because every human being is a child of God, made in God's image and likeness, we all possess a sacred dignity. We did nothing to earn this sacred dignity and there is nothing we can do to lose it. The other CST principles for addressing mass incarceration include our obligation to uphold the common good, the Gospel imperatives for forgiveness and hope, and the need to protect the integrity of families—the basic unit of society.

About an hour into the Teach-in participants arrive at what makes the Catholic Teach-in on Mass Incarceration so unique and powerful: small listening circles where formerly incarcerated guest speakers share their life journeys with the six to seven parishioners or students seated at the guest speaker's table. In one group at the Teach-in at Corpus Christi-Epiphany

Church in October a guest speaker explained that she "foolishly" fell into selling drugs after her husband died and she needed to support her children. At the Teach-in at St.

Francis of Assisi church later that month, another guest speaker told parishioners that on his 18th birthday he was sentenced to life in prison for a crime he did not commit and for which he was eventually exonerated, after serving 27 years. As participants huddle closely together in their groups to better hear the guest speaker seated at their table bravely speak her truth, I often feel there is something sacred taking place: vulnerability giving way to trust; giving and receiving; mutuality and presence.

Following the listening circles participants are asked to review a list of "Ideas for Action" and consider how, as an individual or together with other parishioners or students, they can work to end mass incarceration. The Teach-in ends with everyone singing Amazing Grace and then completing evaluations.



As participants huddle closely together in their groups to better hear the guest speaker seated at their table bravely speak her truth, I often feel there is something sacred taking place: vulnerability giving way to trust; giving and receiving: mutuality and presence.

From Teach-in evaluations we have learned how important the face-to-face encounters are for participants: "It was super eye-opening and has really inspired me to take action against hyper-

incarceration." "I never met a formerly incarcerated person before to hear their stories. This reminds me of the humanity of the people society locks away." "I didn't know that things like that happened."

Gregory Boyle, S.J., writes in *Tattoos on the Heart* that a new, palpable sense of solidarity among equals, a beloved community, is always the fruit of true compassion. Evaluation responses from the formerly incarcerated guest speakers reflect the compassion and solidarity they experienced: "The entire experience was uplifting and very 'Catholic!'" "It was a great opportunity to share the experiences some ex-offenders have to deal with." "I didn't know how much people cared."

Please contact me at [sweishar@loyno.edu](mailto:sweishar@loyno.edu) if you are interested in holding a Catholic Teach-in on Mass Incarceration at your school or parish.

# In Memoriam

*We loved them in life; we revere them in their passing*

## SR. ANNE EBERSOLD

1927 – December 23, 2021



Born in New York City, Sr. Anne was the second youngest of eight children. Her childhood dream to become a nurse was fulfilled when she received a BS degree in nursing in 1949. Introduced to the Marianites at French Hospital she entered the Congregation in 1955 and made final vows in 1960.

She served as a nurse at hospitals in New York City, Lac Megantic, Canada, Mont Laurier, Canada and as a charge nurse at Mater Dei Nursing Home in Newfield, New Jersey. Sr. Anne served as Novice Mistress from 1974 – 1976. She then returned to Mater Dei. She served as Administrator of Mater Dei from 1992 until her retirement in 2010. Born to bring God's love to the sick, Sr. Anne then ministered as a pastoral care associate at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton, New Jersey. A woman of great faith, she touched the lives of many through her compassionate concern and prayers.

## SR. GRETCHEN DYSART

1947 – September 6, 2021



Sr. Gretchen was born during a hurricane in New Orleans, Louisiana! She entered the Marianites after graduation from Holy Angels Academy. A woman of many talents, a quick wit and a loving heart, she served as a high school teacher before obtaining a

Masters Degree in Communications from Notre Dame University. She then served as Producer at the Office of TV and Radio for the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana. For the next twelve years she served as Vice President/Producer for Journey Communications, an award-winning production company in Alexandria, Virginia.

Within the Marianite community she served as a General Administration Councilor and as First Assistant of the Marianite Leadership Team. She brought her wisdom, tender heart and wit to the Marianites residing at Our Lady of Wisdom Nursing Home from 2008 to 2019.

She was greatly influenced by the need for care of the earth and became a passionate "save the earth" crusader as she strongly endorsed Laudato Si, Pope Francis' encyclical on the care of our common home. Let us honor her by taking up her cause to preserve Mother Earth and to appreciate and preserve the beauties of our world.

## SR. NAOMA DUHE'

1931 – October 30, 2021



Sr. Naoma was born April 1, 1931 in Paulina, Louisiana. She entered the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in 1948 and pronounced perpetual vows on August 9, 1956. Her first years in ministry were spent in education in Church Point, White Castle, Lockport, New Orleans, Destrehan and Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

She also served in congregational administration as Treasurer and as Superior General from 1974-1980.

After much soul-searching and spiritual discernment, she felt called to transfer to the Marianites of Holy Cross. She pronounced vows as a Marianite on August 18, 1991. She then served at St. Rita School teaching mathematics and religion. After Hurricane Katrina, she ministered to the Marianites at St. Joseph Convent in New Orleans. She served as cook and, being raised in a rural area, she would often add the flavors of her garden to the dishes she prepared. On trips "home" she would hunt and fish with family and friends. No turtle was safe if it crossed her path! Her turtle soup was a delicacy she loved to prepare and share.

Due to declining health, Sr. Naoma moved to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home on January 21, 2016. She died peacefully on October 30, 2021. May her simple living, her love of the gifts of God's creation, and her direct and honest insights be an inspiration for us.

## SR. MARIE THERESE FOURGERAY

1928 – August 23, 2021



Sr. Marie Therese was born August 8, 1928 at Bazouges-du-Desert. She was the eldest of four children. Upon the death of her father at the age of 29, Marie Therese moved in with her grandmother, a woman of great faith. She attributed her vocation to the prayers of her grandmother.

In 1945, at 17 years of age, Marie Therese entered the Marianite Congregation. In October of 1945 she received her religious name, Sr. Marie Philippe. In 1950 she began working in the laundry room of the Avenue Bollee Clinic and later in the Preventorium of Precigne. In 1960, she taught at Mary Immaculate School in Laval. She enjoyed a reputation as a responsible leader in the school and in the Sisters' local community.

In 1979 she began work in the finance office of

Notre Dame de Gazonfier. In 2002, she joined the sisters in the Les Tilleuls house and became treasurer for the retired sisters. She also volunteered with the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Due to the aging process and memory loss, Sr. Marie Therese joined the Solitude community. She was, as always, a deeply prayerful, loving person. She died in the hospital of LeMans on August 23, 2021.

## SR. PAULETTE GROSJEAN

1924 – May 7, 2021



Sister Paulette Grosjean was born in La Suze, France on January 25, 1924. She had a twin sister, Annette, an older sister and a brother. On September 14, 1942, Paulette entered the postulancy of the Marianites. On June 14, 1943, she received the habit and the religious name, Sister Marie of St. Ménelé. From 1944 to 1948, she completed her nursing studies at the LeMans Hospital. On September 10, 1947, Paulette professed perpetual vows.

In 1949, in Cap Haitian, Haiti Paulette worked as a missionary nurse. In 1951, she returned to France to the Saint Mary Clinic in Paramé; in 1954 she ministered in Our Lady of Vire Clinic. In 1959, her long missionary life began at the Jalchatra leper colony in East Pakistan. In 1972, Paulette did a six-month internship in Ethiopia and the following June, she became a missionary in Bangladesh.

In 1988, she returned to France for vacation and a time of renewal. After this time, she was a nurse in Kulaura until 1998. It was then that she began a well-deserved retirement in France, in the community of the Solitude. After 38 years of dedication, Sr. Paulette left her heart in Bangladesh where she loved her ministry to the Bengali people.

Paulette was a woman of great faith, a woman of prayer, of compassion. In a hospital in Jalchatra in 1987, she helped to care for 96 lepers. She was the last Marianite to minister at the leper colony. For her last ten years she lived in a specialized center for individuals with memory loss. Sr. Paulette died on May 7, 2021 in the early morning.

## SR. MARY JULES LANDRY

1929 – December 16, 2021



Sr. Mary Jules Landry (Bernice Cecile Landry) died peacefully at Trinity Trace Care Center in Covington, Louisiana. Sr. Jules entered the Marianite Congregation in 1947 at the age of 18 from her family home in Franklin, Louisiana.

She professed first vows in 1949 and perpetual vows in 1952. In her early years, she served as an elementary teacher in schools in Louisiana at Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Francis de Sales, St. Margaret, St. Agnes, St. Julian Eymard, Academy of the Immaculate Conception and St. John.

During her later years Sr. Jules assisted her family in caring for her elderly mother as well as the Marianite congregation in community service wherever her skills were needed. She was very generous with her time, volunteering to chauffeur the sisters to appointments when they were no longer able to drive themselves.

When Sr. Jules began to need assistance with her own health care, she became a resident of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility in Opelousas, Louisiana and then Our Lady of Wisdom in New Orleans. She died on December 16 at Trinity Trace Center in Covington, Louisiana. She was buried in the Marianite Mausoleum in New Orleans.

## SR. MARTHE LINDSAY

1913 – January 11, 2021



Sr. Marthe Lindsay was born in Belfast, Ireland on April 10, 1913. At a chance meeting with Sr. Monique, a Marianite of Holy Cross, she felt a strong attraction to the religious life. On November 21, 1937 she entered the novitiate in Precigne, France. Her first

ministry was to assist in the kitchen and dining room of the Preventorium.

Because she was a British citizen, from 1940 to 1942 she was held in detention during World War II at Besancon and at Vittel. This painful experience remained with her for the rest of her life. Upon her return to the Precigne community she resumed her kitchen responsibilities and assumed care of the elderly in a retirement home in Mansigre.

From 1951 to 1973, Sr. Marthe ministered in Tourneville, Precigne, Beaumont of the Sarthe and the Solitude. For the next ten years she served as cook for the Bishop of LeMans. She was then transferred to the Provincial House when she welcomed visitors and prepared meals. After her retirement, she often expressed her gratitude for the kindnesses shown to her. On January 11, 2021 she died at 107 years of age.

**SR. MARY MURRAY***1929 – September 3, 2021*

She was born in Dunmanway, County Cork, Ireland. Sr. Mary Murray, previously known as Sr. Mary Celsus, entered the Marianites on November 1, 1947. She received a degree in Education from Our Lady of Holy Cross College.

She was also certified as a Catholic Chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

During her long and varied career, she served with love and devotion as a teacher and as a hospital chaplain. She was an elementary school teacher at schools staffed by the Marianites throughout Louisiana and as a hospital chaplain at Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana and at University Medical Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. She was also a member of the parish staff in four locations where she joyfully and generously assisted in all aspects of parish life.

Sr. Mary moved to Opelousas in 2006 and served as a member of the pastoral care team at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home. A woman of a quiet demeanor and a great wit, she was often seen enjoying a hot cup of tea as she sat quietly in the garden at Prompt Succor.

She died on September 3, 2021. Her funeral service was held September 7. She was buried in St. Landry Cemetery in Opelousas.

**SR. ANNE MARIE NIQUET***1923 – January 29, 2021*

Anne Marie Niquet was born November 22, 1923 in Mégrit on the Brittany coast of France. She was the seventh of eight children. She went to work at the Marianite Clinic in LeMans in hopes of becoming a nursing aid.

She requested entrance to the Marianite Congregation and began her postulancy in 1942. She received the habit and the religious name Sr. Mary John the Evangelist. She pronounced perpetual vows on August 10, 1947.

As a young sister, she worked at the Clinic on Avenue Bollée while attending nursing school. In 1958, Anne Marie was missioned to Mont-Laurier, Canada as a surgical nurse at Our Lady of Holy Cross Hospital.

She eventually was asked to become a member of the administration of the hospital. Upon her return to France in 1973, she served as a nurse in the Holy Cross Clinic and as an administrator from 1977 to 1998.

Sr. Anne Marie attended numerous general and provincial chapters, as well as serving a term as Assistant Provincial of the French sisters. From 2001 to 2005, she ministered to the elderly sisters in the infirmary. Upon her retirement she remained faithful to prayer and community living and enjoyed preparing the oratory chapel as sacristan for daily liturgy. Family members and friends visited her from time to time at the Solitude. These visits brought her great joy and pleasure. She died on January 29, 2021.

**SR. HERMINE RICHARD***1925 – January 21, 2021*

Sister Hermine Richard was born June 30, 1925 in Mégrit on the Côte d'Armor, the third of nine children.

At the age of 12, in 1937, Hermine participated in a parish mission which deepened her faith and led her to becoming a religious. She worked until

the age of twenty-one caring for the sick in their homes and with the Marianite sisters. She decided to enter the Congregation in which her aunt, Mother Odile was a member. Hermine received her religious habit and name, Sr. Marie Rosalie, when she professed her first vows April 14, 1948. She professed perpetual vows April 14, 1915. During this time she ministered as a nursing aid in the Marianite Clinic on Avenue Bollée in LeMans.

In 1953, she left France for Canada to continue nursing in the maternity ward of Our Lady of Holy Cross Hospital in Mont-Laurier. When she returned to LeMans in 1966, Hermine also returned to the Marianite Clinic near the Solitude. Her patients and the staff often spoke of Sr. Hermine as a strong woman who was not afraid of pain and a person of good humor.

In 1997, Hermine began her well-earned years of retirement at the Solitude. She continued to live as active a community life as possible, interested in current events and all of life around her. God called her to her heavenly home on January 1, 2021.

# How to Survive/Thrive in 2022

By Pat Black Gootee



Pat is an RN and Marianite Associate who takes personal spirituality to heart. She loves spending quality time with her grandchildren.

We've made it thus far as we mourn and honor our loved ones gone from our midst. As a nurse I see suffering up close (and I only work in the COVID vaccine clinic!). I have met nurses coming off the night shift in ICU's who are past the breaking point. Some are leaving nursing; others are changing to less stressful areas.

What is God saying to us in these stressful times? Primarily what his Son came to tell us: that He is one with us [At-one-ment]; that we are never alone and never were. That in spite of our poor choices and wrong turns, He never abandons us; that he has a soft spot for the broken in body, mind or spirit; that he does most of the work and expects only that we show up and do what we can; and that there is always goodness, i.e., the harvest.

In 1972 I heard a sermon by a young Franciscan, Richard Rohr, OFM that changed my life. He talked about the Gospel passage of the farmer scattering seeds. There were no straight rows like

today and the farmer threw the seeds out on the soil even if some landed on the path. Those seeds fed the birds. Somehow there was always a harvest. I had always heard in sermons, "be good soil" and would think how impossible that was. After that homily in 1972, I understood that God did the work and produced "good fruits" and used my hands and heart for only a small part of the work.

Prayer is integral to "our small part". Didn't St Paul tell the Thessalonians to "pray unceasingly"? Mary prayed unceasingly since childhood, as she was dedicated to God by her aging parents. The angel Gabriel found her at prayer as a teenager!! Later in her difficult life she prayed unceasingly with a broken heart.

The Anglican Catholic writer, Madeleine L'Engle was asked to interview a seminarian prior to ordination. She asked him, "Do you pray?" He answered, "Well, no, I don't have time". She answered, "There is no place in your day where you cannot pray". Words may not be necessary, except "Thank you", "You have my heart", or "Help!!!!!"

Most of us aren't called to be contemplatives, but Theresa of Avila had some advice to her nuns which may help us: "It is always good to base your prayer on prayers coming from the mouth of the Lord", the prayer that Jesus prayed and taught his followers. It reads: *Father, may Your Name be held holy, May Your*

*Kingdom come and Your will be done. Give us today what we need. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Do not put us to the test, but deliver us from the evil one.*

Jesus did not sin, but His message of love and forgiveness offended the Jewish hierarchy. My favorite prayer said when I have no idea how to solve a problem or choose my next step is from the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton (1915-1968): *A Book of Hours:*

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end nor do I really know myself and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you, and I hope I have that desire in all I do. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me alone to face my perils alone."

**Happy New Year and pray unceasingly!**



# msc|associates



## Wait and See

by: Sr. Judith Gomila, MSC, *Director of Associates*

Fr. Mark Thibodeaux, SJ, illuminated the age old theme of "Advent Waiting" in two brief reflections filled with images, metaphors, and allegories. Sponsored by the MSC Associate Steering Committee, the original gathering was held at Notre Dame Seminary; the next week the video was shown at Holy Family Parish, Port Allen. In one presentation Father skillfully explored the physical emotions in Joyful Anticipation and in the second, Fr. Mark offered a plot twist in Making

Space when he delved into the prayer poem, *Covenant*, by Sr. Margaret Halaska, OSF. True, Advent is about our waiting, but have we ever considered how God continually waits for us? "I can wait, says God, I like what I see."

If this brief teaser makes you curious, please go to Marianites of Holy Cross YouTube Channel ([https://youtu.be/LOdZcbVb\\_j0](https://youtu.be/LOdZcbVb_j0)); the faith-filled themes are SOUL FOOD for any time of year.





# Jubilee Belles

You did not choose me, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit that will last. (John 15:16)

*Thank you, Sisters, for your almost 600 years of dedicated witness as Marianites of Holy Cross.*

— 2020 —

Sr. Janet Bodin  
(USA)  
Sr. Julien Petitgas  
(France)  
Sr. Elaine Thompson  
(USA)

—2021 —

Sr. Austin Babin  
(USA)  
Sr. Margaret Rose Cano  
(USA)  
Sr. Alicia McGuire  
(France)  
Sr. Elizabeth Marie Gremillion  
(USA)  
Sr. M. Dominique Tourteau  
(France)

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our editors were very excited when they read in our daily newspaper that we will have Mardi Gras in 2022! In fact, they're already thinking about what they'll wear to the parades. Isn't that Muses shoe a beauty!



**THROW ME  
SOMETHIN'  
MISTER/MISS...**



Stay in touch at [www.marianites.org](http://www.marianites.org)

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# Marianites of Holy Cross

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## Happy Birthday, NETWORK *How time flies...*

In December 1971, a group of Catholic sisters voted to create a nationwide “network” of women religious who would engage in political activism at the federal level for social justice outreach. The forty-seven sisters from across the U.S. were meeting in Washington DC at a time when the church was undergoing dramatic changes in response to Vatican II reforms and calls to create “Justice in the World.”

“The Network” (now called NETWORK) officially opened its doors in April 1972. Sisters Carol Coston, Pat Siemen and Maureen Kelleher were the founders. The first NETWORK newsletter outlined the early lobbying priorities: international poverty, congressional reform, minimum wage, child care, consumer protection, the environment, farmworker rights, healthcare, opposition to the Vietnam War, prison reform, tax fairness, welfare reform, and women’s rights. This agenda evolved over the years as new issues such as immigration reform and federal budget priorities rose on Capitol Hill.

To train new justice activists, NETWORK sponsored legislative seminars that attracted hundreds of participants from across the nation. Early presenters included Adlai Stevenson, Geraldine Ferraro, Henri Nouwen, Ted Kennedy, Shirley Chisholm and many other notables. Marianites attended many of these summer sessions. Sr. Clarita Bourque was a member of the DC staff from 1980 – 1982.



In January 2001, President Clinton presented the Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation’s second highest civilian honor to Sr. Carol Coston. He noted that “she helped to create NETWORK which has mobilized thousands to fight for social justice”.

In the summer of 2012, NETWORK’S Executive Director, Sr. Simone Campbell and a group of Sisters toured parts of the country to rally support for specific issues being considered by Congress. “Nuns on the Bus” was so successful that it became an annual event until 2018. In 2014, the bus stopped at Holy Angels where the Marianites hosted a “packed house” in the auditorium above the former cafeteria.

NETWORK has advocated on Capitol Hill for fifty years. Today the organization has expanded to include thousands of women and men from all walks of life. They are united by a belief in the Gospel call for justice and peace-making as exemplified in the Catholic Social Teaching tradition.

Information on NETWORK can be obtained by contacting the organization at 820 First Street NE, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20002 or at [info@networklobby.org](mailto:info@networklobby.org).

