

The Marianite

Winter 2023

A publication from
The Marianites of Holy Cross

PILGRIM'S PRAYER TO BLESSED BASIL MOREAU

Blessed Basil Moreau, I come before you
to ask your intercession.

You knew that without prayer, your
efforts would be fruitless. Pray that a
spirit of prayer be cultivated within
me that I might always be open to the
promptings of grace.

You were constantly on the lookout
for possibilities to do good. Pray that I
might do what I can for God's greater
glory in the situation in which I find
myself.

You took up valiantly the cross which
Divine Providence laid upon you. Pray
that I might bear with courage the cross of
suffering, and not succumb to temptations
of discouragement and despair.

You practiced detachment and self
denial, abandoning yourself entirely
to God. Pray that I might not be so
attached to the things of earth, that I
neglect the needs of the poor or fail to be
generous in the Lord's service.

You constantly witnessed to integrity and
justice, often at great personal cost. Pray
that my words and deeds might reflect
the virtue of Christ.

You were a loving Father, whose heart
burned with the desire to help your
spiritual sons and daughters. Have a
tender concern for me now, as I come
before you to ask for your aid.

Hear my prayer and my request (...) and
intercede in my favor before God.

**How do I/can I reflect
the virtues of Christ
in my everyday life?**

Pilgrim prayer written by
John DeRiso, CSC

150th Anniversary into Eternal Life

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We remember
our Founder

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a message from our Congregational Leader



Embrace 2023 with a fresh start in Jesus Christ with the words of
2 Corinthians 5:17:

**“Therefore, if we are in Christ,
we are a new creation.
The old has passed away,
behold, the new has come.”**

As we begin this year let me assure you that each one of you is in the prayers of the Marianites. Fr. Moreau encouraged his daughters to pray for all who assisted in the works of carrying on the ministry of spreading the WORD. As you read and reflect on this issue may you find an opportunity to be a messenger of *Good News*.

This year the Family of Holy Cross remembers that 150 years ago our Founder, Basil Moreau, entered heaven. Along with others who have gone before us they form the foundation on which we stand, and call us to witness to a journey that ultimately leads us to eternity.

What might Basil Moreau say to us today?

1860 – Moreau encourages the Congregation to be respectful of
SILENCE – Silence will help us to walk in God's presence.

1862 – I put my confidence, O Virgin, in your aid! Fr. Moreau invites
us to place our trust in Mary.

1863 – Throughout his life – Fr. Moreau **prayed to St. Joseph for
protection.** Let us look to St. Joseph that he might assist us in our
challenges.

1864 – Let us entrust our prayers to our Guardian Angel! Fr. Moreau
invites each of us to fervently talk to our guardian angel.

1865 – Only the Holy Spirit can form us in the likeness of the ONE
who calls! May we respond to the Spirit's working in our lives by
daily acts of kindness.

We begin anew, building on the grace that is given daily, if we CALL on the love of
our God!

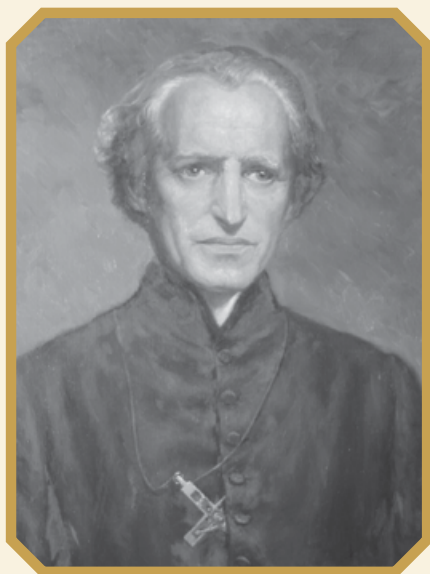
Let us journey in Faith,

Sr. Ann Lacour, MSC
Congregational Leader

SAVE
THE
DATE:

2023 AHA ALL CLASS REUNION
Saturday, November 4, 2023





DECADE OF DAYS

January 20 – January 29

More than 25 years ago, the *Decade of Days* devotion was introduced by Sr. Mary David Hecker, MSC. These ten days offer us an opportunity annually not only to recall the anniversaries of death of our Founder, Blessed Basil Moreau (1873) and Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours (1900), but also the initiative to affirm the values on which our Marianite Congregation was founded in 1841. This year marks 150 years since Blessed Basil went to his eternal reward with a special article (or maybe a cover story), herein, to celebrate that momentous anniversary and the legacy he left us.

Moreau literally handpicked Leocadie Gascoin with the words, "You are for Holy Cross." Following her formation with the Good Shepherd Sisters, she was given the religious name, Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, and Moreau appointed her the first Superior General of the Marianites.

The following is taken from the Introduction to the Revised Edition of the Circular Letters of Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, by Joel Giallanza, CSC: *Mother Mary was a woman of fidelity. She recognized that she had been called to this way of life in Holy Cross. In response to that call, her passion for completing God's will in all things remained unwavering even in the most difficult, or apparently hopeless situations. Fidelity was for her a simple reality. It was to live the*

Constitutions, to live all that God and the community asked of her; it was a graced determination to do what she had promised through her commitment to life in Holy Cross.

To sustain that fidelity, she was a woman of prayer. Beyond the formal times of personal and communal prayer, her life was marked by a prayerfulness that made her sensitive to God's presence and activity. She nurtured her life of prayer with the scriptures, the Constitutions of the congregation, the writings of Father Moreau, and the Imitation of Christ, a work regularly recommended to the women and men of Holy Cross by Moreau. She encouraged the sisters to do the same; she wrote to one, "How much good it does to pray; how God loves to answer prayer" (Personal Letter, 1857).

Mother Mary was also a woman of the church. She understood the important contribution that Holy Cross could make to the life of the church. Though she might have preferred, at times, to take an approach other than that insisted upon by the Vatican Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith; nevertheless, she trusted that God's will would be done through whatever transpired. She was convinced that the Holy Spirit worked through the church for the good of Holy Cross, however mysterious the means may have appeared.

All of Life Events are Pregnant with God-Awaiting Disclosure



by Sr. Sue Pablovich

Perhaps before reading this article, you might want to spend a few minutes reflecting on your experience: How did you experience God during the abduction and recovery of Sister Suellen Tennyson? In times of darkness and times of joy, how did God support you directly and through others?

What grace(s) enables you to find God in daily life? How do you want to continue to move forward in your relationship with God and others? God wants to be with us in every event of our life. Spiritual practices that foster seeing God in everyday life are reflection and faith-sharing.

In October, twenty-five Marianites gathered at the Christian Life Center, St. Joseph Abbey, St. Benedict, LA. During our retreat, it was suggested that one prayer time be devoted to reflecting on one's individual experiences, feelings, awareness and responses during the time of the abduction and recovery of Sister Suellen. It was an invitation to get in touch with the grace that Divine Providence was offering to each one of us.

Some reflection questions included: How did I experience God's invitation during times of suffering, disillusionment and darkness? How did I experience God during times of joy and enlightenment?

In the evening, a time for faith-sharing was offered. We came together and shared thoughts, feelings, our experiences of God's invitations and our responses. We gathered the graces offered by Divine Providence.

Through our sharing it became clear that God speaks uniquely to each individual and each one responds to God differently, in whatever state of being one finds oneself. Being with God in a stance of faithful listening and presence enables one to speak sincerely to God and then to pause and listen as God responds. This continuing dialog and interaction deepens the friendship that God is offering to each one of us. An on-going relationship with the Divine enables us to view our experience in the light of faith, hope and love. Some of what the Sisters shared included the following:

- the realization that we are the Body of Christ

when one member suffers, the whole Body suffers

- deepened compassion for others who are experiencing the loss of a loved one; true empathy
- one member's decision affects all members; (Meeting with and coming to know FBI agents was never anticipated as part of one's ministry!)
- ability to bring feelings of anger, frustration, questioning/doubts, negative responses to light and to the group
- experience of deeper unity when coming together for prayer and support; we need one another (weekly gatherings for prayer and periodic social support)
- the union of prayer with local Church gatherings, prayer groups, the wider faith-community, Family of Holy Cross and international prayer groups was deeply appreciated
- prayer and concern for the people of Yalgo, Burkina Faso and other similar situations
- heightened awareness of the working of Divine Providence in all life's experiences.

*Be open
to new life, new
experiences that
lead to rejoicing in
God's Providence
each day.*

As we celebrate Fr. Moreau's 150th anniversary of entrance into eternal life, let us remember his counsel in the 1858 Circular Letter #8, "...By the very fact there exists among the religious of the same society such a spirit of solidarity that one member cannot undergo harm without all the others suffering likewise. In like manner, if each sister does her work to the best of her ability and within the sphere of her obedience, the community as a whole benefits thereby."

WHAT NEXT?

In moving forward, is there any unfinished business within yourself? Continue to bring this to the Lord and ask for further light, wisdom, peace and patience. Perhaps, writing a letter that you will never send to Suellen will release any feelings of unfreedom that remain for you. Grieving any continued sense of loss may prove helpful. Be open to new life, new experiences that lead to rejoicing in God's Providence each day. Support others and yourself in the ability to let go and move forward by gratitude and joy for the Presence of God in each event of each day.



Remembering OUR FOUNDER

In January of 2023 members of the Congregation of Holy Cross will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Rev. Basil Anthony Moreau's death.

Father Moreau was born in Laigne'-en-Belin, in the Diocese of LeMans, France on February 11, 1799. In 1821 he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of LeMans. He served as a seminary professor while engaging in pastoral work.

Father Moreau felt compelled to revitalize a Church which had been devastated by the French Revolution in which nearly two-thirds of the clergy and religious

had been exiled or killed. He organized a group of Auxiliary Priests to preach, teach and bring the message of Christ to those in towns and villages. In 1835, at the request of Rev. Jacques Dujarie and with the approval of his bishop, he assumed leadership of the Brothers of St. Joseph, a group founded by Fr. Dujarie to work as educators in rural parishes. In 1837 he merged the priests and brothers and gave them the name, Sainte-Croix or Holy Cross, the town which it was based. He completed the Holy Cross family by founding a group of sisters, the Marianites, who would also be involved in education

and evangelization. Mary, under her title of Our Lady of Sorrows, was named patroness for all of Holy Cross.

In 1857 the Holy See declared Moreau's group to be a religious congregation – the Congregation of Holy Cross. The Holy See required that the sisters be separate from the congregation of priests and brothers. The sisters were approved as a separate congregation. Today the women of Holy Cross form three distinct congregations: Sisters of the Holy Cross, Sister of Holy Cross and the Marianites of Holy Cross.

Later, amid crises and controversies within the Congregation, Father Moreau resigned as Superior General. However, he remained active preaching missions until his health failed. The Marianites cared for him until his final days. He died in LeMans on January 20, 1873.

Father Moreau was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on September 15, 2007, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Work continues today on his cause for canonization.

Today, the congregations of priests, brothers and sisters founded by Father Moreau continue his work of evangelization throughout the world. The vision, humility and great faith of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau made it all possible.



msc|associates



Becoming Another Christ

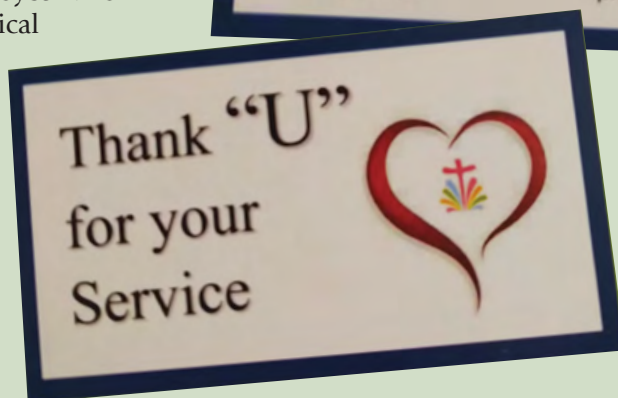
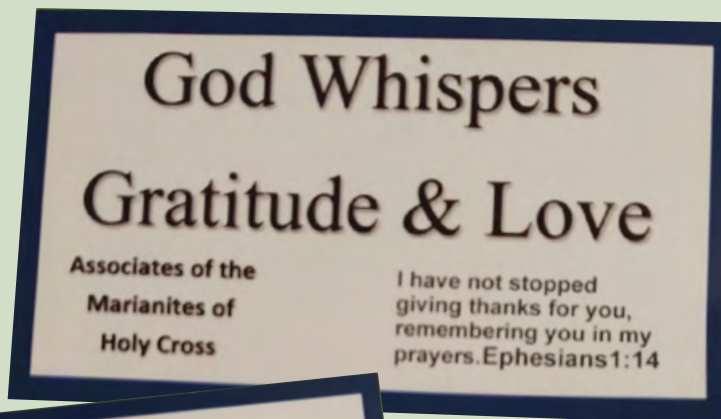
Prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas, Marianite Associates and Sisters had two special activities to bring to life....

The MSC Associate Steering Committee, with the determination to make GRATEFULNESS a year-round habit of a grace-filled life, demonstrated appreciation by distributing business-size cards among their membership with the invitation to "pay it forward": the cashier at the grocery store, the plumber who got the toilet working, the friend who shared her gumbo. The original thought from Associate Joyce Nixon was turned into this simple and practical means of consciousness-raising and spreading happiness by Sr. Marie Noël and Associate Karen Pilgreen.

Pope Francis has said, "Joy springs from a grateful heart... and from remembrance of the amazement which our encounter with Jesus Christ awakens in our hearts." Gratefulness is not another fad but has been the way of saints for centuries.

For Advent, Sr. Renée Daigle had been engaged by the Associate Steering Committee to lead a morning of reflection. Fr. Charles Benoit, OSB (pastor) graciously allowed us the use of St. Benedict Parish Hall. With Marianites, Associates, and parishioners approximately 50 people were attentive as Sr. Renée helped us to understand that all of our language for God is metaphor.

Using insights that she had gleaned from the first Chapter of Fr. Richard Rohr's book, *The Universal Christ*, Sr. Renée enthusiastically reminded participants that the Advent of all of life – being aware, alive, attentive, alert, awake – calls for full-consciousness and a forewarning about the high price of this awareness. The entire universe is both a hiding place and a place of revelation for God.





The mystic Thomas Merton proposed that Advent reminds us that the last things are already present and realized in a hidden manner. The Kingdom of God is in our midst. The mystery can only be known by those who enter into it (contemplation), who find their place in the Mystical Christ, and therefore find the mystery of Christ realized and fulfilled in themselves. Sr. Renée proposed that an incarnational worldview is a profound recognition of the presence of the divine in everything and everyone. (See Catechism of the Catholic Church #1670.) There was a lively discussion when Sr. Renée offered opportunity to ask questions or make comments. She closed with the Tracy Chapman song, *Heaven's Here on Earth*.

Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of our Holy Cross Family, challenged us, "You must become identified with your model, not only becoming a faithful copy, but in some way becoming another Christ, fulfilling that prayer that he addressed to his Father on behalf of his disciples when he asked that they might all be one with him as he is with them." (Sermons, pp. 144-145)

Divine Chocolate from Ghana, a Fair Trade organization supporting the empowerment of local women, was on sale along with religious items for alternative gift giving.



Sr. Renée Daigle, sought to deepen the awareness of the importance of contemplative prayer.



Sr. Joan Comeaux
and
Sr. Elvira Brown
helping at
the Alternative
Giving Tables

Seven Benchmarks of Laudato Si'

Written in 2015, in *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites us to "discover what each of us can do" as we build a better future together. (LS 19) Responding to the call of *Laudato Si'* means embracing new ways of living, as our growing awareness of the connections between all things is translated to concrete action.

These seven goals, from the Vatican Action Platform, provide a framework and guidance on immediate and urgent actions each one of us can take in the care of our common home. *"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to her or his own culture, experience, involvements, and talents."* (LS # 14)

To better understand the document, we offer definitions of a few key words:

Biodiversity refers to all the different kinds of life we find in one area – animals, plants, fungi, and even micro-organisms like bacteria that make up the our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in **ecosystems**, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. In 1987 the UN Commission defined **sustainability** as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." How do we ensure a balance between economic growth, environmental care, and social well-being?

1. **RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH ...** is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Actions could include: adopting renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, like calking windows, turning off lights, reducing water consumption, using power strips to turn off electronics when not in use, utilizing rain water, installing solar panels.
2. **RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR ...** promotes eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include: projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, contributing to local food pantries, volunteering to serve a meal in a shelter for the homeless, watch Pope Francis' inspiring film *The Letter* and take action with suggestions from *The Letter* website: <https://www.theletterfilm.org/>, become aware and lend financial support to organizations like Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Service who assist the vulnerable.
3. **ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS ...** acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include: sustainable produc-

tion and consumption by reducing food waste and meat based meals, considering ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, buying locally produced food, eat from home gardens, consider composting, and prioritizing the concerns of labor and protecting the dignity of workers.

4. **ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES ...** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include: cutting down on single use plastic and paper (bottles, bags, napkins, etc) purchase less non-essentials, take quality time for yourself, reducing waste and recycle, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet), greater use of public transport and car-pooling, consider walking, cycling, waste less and share more, avoid collecting "stuff", purchase Fair Trade when possible.
5. **ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION ...** is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include: fostering *Laudato Si'* themes within the community and follow up with family or parish action, encouraging ecological leadership in schools with and ecological restoration activities, incorporating Catholic Social Teaching into any parish faith formation program, explore the connection between the environment and personal and communal health.
6. **ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY ...** springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to "discover God in all things", both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not disassociated from worldly realities. Actions could include: promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations like SEASON OF CREATION, September 1-October 4, utilizing the materials that the Bishops' Conference has on *Caring for Creation*, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programs, etc.
7. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT ...** offers a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Ac-



tions could include: know your neighbors, promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems, using land sustainably to conserve wild life, protect our coast.

As 2023 unfolds, the Holy Cross International Justice Office continues to publish helpful information to support individual and group efforts to live Laudato Si's call. *Catholic Climate Covenant* has on-line resources. Study books, videos and podcasts. Look for names like Fr. Thomas Berry, CP, Sister Ilia Delio, OSF. Many Archdioceses such as Atlanta and Washington, DC, have published practical guides to assisting the locals with ACTION PLANS. The Archdiocese of New Orleans is expected to publish its proposed plan for individuals, families, parishes, schools and organizations early in the months ahead.

You are a co-creator of our future, and we invite you to use any of the suggested resources as you walk our shared journey to sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology. Our common home needs you to act responsibly NOW so that what God has given us for our use might be protected and valued for all the time to come.



We live in a changing world! ...

Marianites living at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home and Convent in Opelousas, at Chateau de Notre Dame in New Orleans and those living in the New Jersey area have recently come to realize, first hand, the truth of this statement.

A few months ago residents of Our Lady of Prompt Succor learned that the facility would soon become the property of TrustCare and those living at Chateau de Notre Dame were informed that Com-mcare would become the new owners.



Our Lady of Prompt Succor - Opelousas

Since the 1960's through the services of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home and C'est La Vie Apartments, the Marianites have been serving the elderly and those needing all forms of rehabilitation in the Opelousas area. Due to changes in the Marianite congregation and in long term care, the Congregation has come to realize that significant changes were necessary at this time. On November 1, the properties were sold to TrustCare Management, a company which specializes in rehabilitation and nursing care with facilities spanning across Louisiana and Texas.

Marianites will remain an active presence in ministry. They will continue to be residents of the nursing home while those who were residing in the convent area have moved to C'est La Vie, the apartment complex located across the street from the nursing home.

The ten Marianites living at Chateau de Notre Dame recently learned that the facility, currently owned by the Archdiocese of New Orleans, would be sold to Com-mCare Corporation which has owned and operated facilities across Louisiana since 1994. The transfer is scheduled to take place in early 2023.

Archbishop Philip Hannan founded Chateau de Notre Dame in 1977 to fill a void that existed in health care in the region. Notre Dame Health System CEO Deacon Jeff Tully recently issued this statement: "When Archbishop Hannan founded Chateau de Notre Dame, the church was filling a void that existed in health care in the region, a void that no longer exists. Today, we find ourselves facing significant challenges as health care management has become more specialized and costly, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and rising insurance costs."



Chateau de Notre Dame - New Orleans

of Trenton owned and operated that multi-level facility. Recently Marquee Management purchased those properties. (There are two Marianites in independent living.)

Former President John F. Kennedy said it best: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

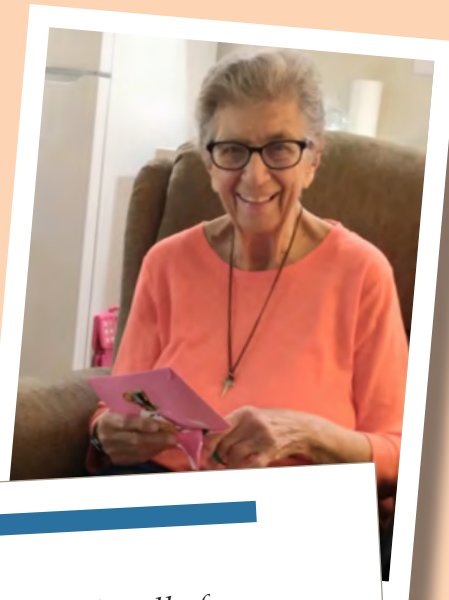
There are six Marianites living in Morris Hall/St. Joseph's and St. Mary's in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Until now the Diocese

Peacefully Patient

When word was received of the safe return of Sr. Suellen Tennyson from captivity, there was much rejoicing. Her family and friends, former students, her Marianite Sisters and the faithful throughout the world rejoiced. Since her return, Suellen has expressed countless times her awe and appreciation for the prayers offered on her behalf.

On November 12, Holy Angels Academy held its annual all-class reunion. A letter of appreciation from Suellen was read to the assembly. We have included it in this issue since we know that countless readers of this publication were praying for her ...



Dear Fellow AHA Graduates,

I am so happy for this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU for all of your prayers for my safety during captivity, for my release and, now, for my continuing return to good health. I continue to be overwhelmed by the thousands who have prayed and continue to pray for me. This is truly an experience of the power of prayer. From the very beginning of my captivity, I begged God to use this for good...for my life...for my Marianite of Holy Cross community...for my family and friends...for our MSC mission in Yalgo, Burkina Faso.

From what I've heard lots of good has happened:

- many from around the world and of different religions joined together in prayer;
- my family kept in close touch with one another;
- concern was expressed for what others were experiencing because of it;
- people from different countries worked together to find me and have me freed;
- Muslims and a Catholic Sister became friends, praying to the same God;
- our MSC mission in Yalgo, the John Paul II Medical Center, continued providing service for the people of the area plus, I'm sure, many more good things that I am not aware of!

As God told me when I would feel sorry for myself, "Suellen, it's not all about you. I am working in the lives of many through these circumstances. Remain peacefully patient during this time. I am with you." So, I pray God has done marvelous things in and through you, also.

As I continue to regain strength and good health, I marvel and give thanks for all God has done and is doing for me...through the loving care of my Marianite Community, my family and friends...through the help and guidance of the FBI and U.S. Embassy personnel ...through the Air Force and local medical personnel. I am so blessed!

Now I am looking forward to being just me again...Sue...not seen as a released captive but as who I am...Sue, a beloved daughter of God. Again, thanks so much for your prayers. And remember, God IS with you!

Love,
Sr. Suellen



Sr. Suellen is pictured with her cousin, Mary Ann Tennyson LeBlanc and Mary Ann's husband, Deacon Ron.

Glance Back and Grow

Simultaneously with Loretta Young's flourishing entrance through a door to start her 1950's television show, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen moved from the night-time radio program, *The Catholic Hour* on NBC (1930–1950) before pursuing television and presenting *Life Is Worth Living* (1952–1957). Even on a black and white TV screen, you could distinguish the black cassock, purplish cummerbund, and flowing cape as the prolific author and first televangelist began this facet of his "outspoken" ministry. He inspired many at that time and currently in reruns on EWTN and books which are still in circulation.

For those who find it difficult to rejoice in a new year and are burdened by spiritual, physical or emotional concerns, comfort may be found in Bishop Sheen's insights on *BROKENNESS*. "Broken things are precious. We eat broken bread because we share in the depth of our Lord and His broken life. Broken flowers give perfume. Broken incense is used in adoration. Sometimes the only way the good Lord can get into some hearts is to break them."

Read Psalm 34:18: "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." When life is going smoothly, THANK and praise God and celebrate. When life is bitter, hard, or painful, THANK and praise God and GROW.

EDITOR'S NOTE:



In the Chinese zodiac, this is the year of the rabbit. In the Chinese culture, the rabbit is known to be the luckiest out of all the twelve animals. It symbolizes mercy, elegance, and beauty. People who are born in the year of the rabbit are calm and peaceful.

Our always "calm and peaceful" editors wish everyone a Happy New Year.

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!

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

I Am the New Year, 2023

I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have-these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to an extravagant and loving God who said, "Behold, I make all things new". (Rev. 21:5)

-Author Unknown

