



WINDS OF CHARITY

A publication of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2012

Sisters of Charity
of Our Lady
Mother of the Church

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The Legacy of Catholic Education handed on...

Generation After Generation

...and you make it happen!

By the time you receive this newsletter, nationally celebrated Catholic Schools Week will be well underway. It seems a good time to let you know how important you are to the ministry of education of the Sisters of Charity. When you support our mission, without a doubt you enable us to continue to hand on the legacy of Catholic education for generations to come.

Faith, academics, and service, three hallmarks of Catholic education, provide the theme for this year's celebration. In supporting the Sisters of Charity you support these very elements in the lives of so many of our graduates.

Meet Stephanie (Desrosiers) Gallow, wife and mother of 6, all of whom are presently, or will soon be, students at Sacred Heart School in Taftville, Connecticut. **When Sacred Heart opened its doors in 1888 the Sisters of Charity were there. We are still there in 2012**, educating young people, generation after generation.

Stephanie's children are the fourth generation of her family to attend Sacred Heart. She herself attended this school and then went on to our girls' high school, which we began in 1874. Stephanie recalls that her academic formation at these two schools has made a difference in her life. It confirmed in her a legacy of faith and values she now passes on to her children.

She says: "I have been blessed throughout my life by a wonderful extension of my family—the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church. The older I got during my time with the Sisters the more I appreciated their witness to the message of the Gospel and their dedication to serving God by serving others.

The Sisters taught me to be strong and confident in my faith, not to be afraid to stand up

for what I believe.

Leading by example is the best way to witness to our faith, and I was given the tools to be able to do just that. I was taught to live out the Gospel message and to serve God by serving others. I have certainly felt the hand of God through these remarkable women, and I am forever grateful to them for allowing me to be a part of their family."

Stephanie is just one of many of our graduates who are now making their mark on the world by their deep faith, their excellence in academics and their commitment to service.

Continued on p. 3 Legacy



Stephanie's Dad: Richard Desrosiers, '57; her children: Emelie-gr.4, Julianna-gr.1, Anthony-gr. 3; & Stephanie, '85

At Home At St. Elizabeth's

There are those who believe that a person's worth is determined by productivity. If you are a productive person, you are an asset to society. If not, well, you know the argument. Here at St. Elizabeth Nursing Home we know better.



We have a house full of people who cannot dress or feed themselves. Many of them cannot speak. Most of them are unable to walk or even get out of bed without assistance. None of them can produce anything that would win a prize or generate any revenue. But they are priceless.

Some are prayerful. Others have become a prayer. Still others never saw the inside of a church. But somewhere between dawn and dusk each day they manage to work themselves into the hearts of their caregivers and draw out the best in each of us.

These are men and women who sometimes drive us to our knees with their unabashed gratitude, who set us laughing with a single glance, who permit us to cry with them, and who bring the radiance of holy ground into our everyday lives.



The Sisters who minister in this small nursing home in Janesville, Wisconsin, spend their days finding creative ways to make all the moments of each day meaningful for these beautiful, "unproductive" people because we have come to love them deeply.

With limited financial reserves, we hold rummage sales and spaghetti suppers so we can take our residents to the County Fair. There they can run their gnarled fingers through the silky mane of a pony and enjoy some frozen lemonade on a steamy July afternoon. We pray for a miracle so we can buy a new stove, trade in crank beds to help purchase electric ones, buy new software so the nurses can more accurately update the physicians on changes in behavior or increased blood glucose readings.

Most of all, we begin each day at the meeting of the Leadership Team of twelve dedicated men and women with prayerful reflection on the sacred trust we have received.

That trust is to protect and care for your mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers. These beautiful people who share our lives deserve our care.

You join us in caring for them when you support our mission. Deep within these souls is the seed of loveliness that this tired, old world longs for. Asking for little, they teach us how to make a difference. Possessing nothing, they show us the way to a meaningful life. Don't forget them. Don't forget us. We won't forget you. We will bring you to prayer, asking the Lord to be present to you in ways that you could never imagine.



In Memoriam



Sister M. Maria Crane, SMC

January 28, 1928—July 22, 2011
47 years Religious Consecration

Sister M. Annunciata Stabell, SMC

March 30, 1921—July 31, 2011
71 years Religious Consecration

Sister M. John Baptist Donovan, SMC

June 8, 1951—October 26, 2011
32 years Religious Consecration

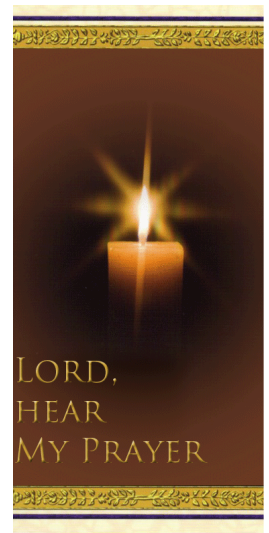
Sister M. Gertrude Rioux, SMC

June 23, 1942—November 8, 2011
50 years Religious Consecration

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!

Lord, Hear My Prayer

In December we invited you to send us your prayer requests so we could join you in praying for them in a Novena of Masses celebrated in our Motherhouse Chapel during the Christmas season. That Novena was celebrated January 1-9, when we placed your intentions on the Altar. More than that, at the conclusion of the Novena the prayer request cards were distributed among the Sisters so that we would continue to pray for you. In addition to the personal prayers of each Sister, Holy Mass is offered on the First Saturday of the Month for your intentions.



Ash Wednesday—February 22

Through the holy discipline of Lent, may the Lord open the eyes of your mind and strengthen your heart so that you will know the great hope to which you have been called, the abundant riches that await you, and His mighty power working in you, enabling you to be His presence in the world.

From page 1 **Legacy**

Jeff, a graduate of St. Mary-St. Joseph School in Willimantic, Connecticut, is presently studying for the priesthood. John, a graduate of Assumption School in Manchester, Connecticut, serves as a doctor and an instructor of doctors in the United States Army. Bill, a graduate of Sacred Heart School in Taftville, is a former superintendent of Public Schools in Norwich, Connecticut. His assistant, Marianne, graduated from St. Joseph School in Norwich. Maureen, a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Family in Baltic, Connecticut, serves as a State Representative in New Hampshire.

The list continues, as **the Sisters have been educating young people for the past one hundred twenty-seven years.** We

were there when the schools opened in 1874, 1878, 1888, and 1950. And we are still present in these schools in 2012.

The education of youth is at the very heart of our mission, one that, with the help of God, we will continue for generations to come.

It is because of your collaboration with us, and others like you, that we are able to hand on the legacy of Catholic education, generation after generation, and for that... we thank you!



What's New?

Sister Regina, SCMC, a Fourth Grader teacher at Sacred Heart School in Taftville, Connecticut has written her second children's book—*The 4th Grade Miracle*. This fun and colorful picture book illustrates Sister's exciting experience with her fourth grade students as they marvel at the sight of a "miracle."

The book tells the majestic testimony of a fourth grade class who hatched eggs as a school activity. Watching the process of the eggs become chicks, enabled Sister and her students to appreciate the mystery of life even more.

What many people would consider an ordinary academic project became a life-changing moment for the students.

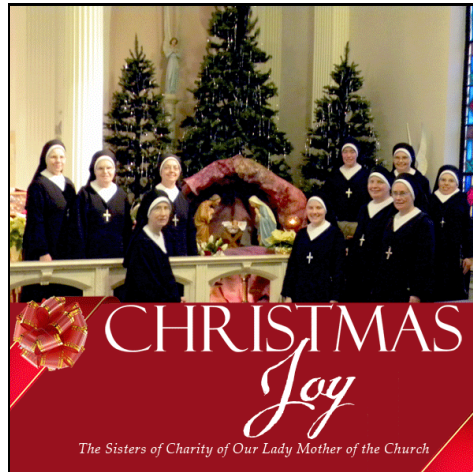
Copies can be obtained by calling the Motherhouse.



Sr. Regina reading her book to some of her students.

“Allow God to use you without consulting you.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



The SCMC Schola produced their second CD which was very well received. Even though the Christmas season is past, you can still get a copy by calling the Motherhouse: 860-822-8241. The Sisters also had the privilege last April of appearing on EWTN's *Life on the Rock*.

Please remember the Sisters of Charity in your estate planning.

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For more information, contact the Development Office



New!

Look for us on Facebook as:
The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church

Winds of Charity is published by the Development Office of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church.

The purpose is to communicate to family and friends the works and needs of the SCMC community.
Co-Directors: Mother Mary David Riquier, SCMC & Mother Mary Jude Lazarus, SCMC