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**Inside This  
Issue:**

**AHF Celebration  
cont'd 2**

**We Pray for You 3**

**Family Blessing  
Mass & Gratitude  
Luncheon 4-5**

**You Get Things  
Done 6**

**A Gift for You  
From the  
Sisters 7**

**Not to Sound  
Like a Broken  
Record, but.... 8**

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# WINDS OF CHARITY

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## *The Academy of the Holy Family: 150 Years. Impacting Lives. Making a difference!*

**T**hey came from far and near – alumnae of the Academy of the Holy Family (AHF) – to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of their beloved Alma Mater.

Since 1874 the Sisters of Charity, supported by generous friends and benefactors like you, have been preparing young women to impact their world in various walks of life, at home and abroad. The Academy of the Holy Family has done its part to shape the contributions of young women during these decades and these successes need to be celebrated!

The celebration took place on Saturday, September 28.

Members of graduating classes from 1952 to 2023 gathered at their Alma Mater for a wonderful weekend series of events. The exuberance was contagious, as alumnae greeted each other in the halls, joked with their former teachers, and shared stories of their high school days. One alumna from the Class of 1964 came dressed in her high school blazer and brought her yearbook and other memorabilia which she proudly shared.

Boisterous laughter filled the

air as the alumnae reconnected with their schoolmates. Some even came with their families so that their spouses and children could share the joy of this historic anniversary.

After a delicious barbeque lunch, alumnae, current students and the Sisters enjoyed a delightful and informative Jeopardy game of AHF trivia.



*Above: Stephanie, class of '07, with her family in front of "her favorite statue."*

*Below: "Academy Girls" of yesteryear!*



Yearbooks and class photos dating as far back as the 1940's were on display. Current students offered guided tours to show off new developments at the school. The alumnae were delighted to see the many improvements and upgrades that have been made to the school over the years.

*Cont'd p. 2*

## AHF Celebration Cont'd.



They were even more delighted to know that the same high standard of moral and intellectual education they received is still what AHF is all about. The day concluded with a banquet at the Holiday Inn, with great entertainment, including raffles and prizes. One alumna, Anne Marie (Davis) Williams, class of '86, delighted the gathering with a spontaneous rendering of Gospel singing. On Sunday morning, alumnae and their families attended Holy Mass in the Motherhouse Chapel, followed by a delicious brunch prepared by the Sisters.



*Above: Judy, Class of '64, decked out in her AHF blazer and chapel hat.  
Below: Joy, Class of '95, with her daughter, Tricia, current AHF student.*



These 150 years have seen AHF graduates serving in all walks of life, in various professions, impacting society and making a difference. In the elections last November, one of our graduates won an overwhelming victory to serve a 6<sup>th</sup> term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, bringing Christian values into the political arena – just one of our many success stories.

The good news of the impact of our graduates in so many areas is a continual source of encouragement to the Sisters of Charity, who have been administering the school and ministering to our students since 1874.

*(l. to r.) Bev, Laverne, and Dale, Class of '61, hadn't seen each other since graduation!*



It is because of the generous support of friends and benefactors like you that all this is possible. ***Your belief in the mission of the Sisters of Charity has enabled AHF to continue to educate young women from the United States and abroad. We could not do it without you. Thank you. You are a gift and a blessing.***



***Stay connected with us!***



***Like us!  
Share with family and friends!***

## ***We Pray for You!***

**S**everal mornings each week Mother Mary David and I (Mother Marie Julie) gather the reply cards that you, our dear Benefactors, have sent us over the previous week with your needs and intentions. They are on the pew beside us during Holy Mass. After receiving Jesus in Holy Communion we make our thanksgiving. Then we divide the cards and each of us reads to Jesus your prayer intentions. We then exchange the cards so that each of us sees every card and shares in your desires, hopes, concerns, gratitude and love. This dialogue between Jesus and us takes the form of devout prayer to the Heart of the One Who already knows what you have written.

Sometimes, as we read a card, we think, “Jesus, how You must love these prayers. Do You weep over these heartaches of Evelyn? Are You sitting in prison at this moment with Tony, whose dad worries about him? Will Tom’s bitter grief over Millie’s death be soothed by Your compassion this morning? You must be moved by Rose’s request for prayers of gratitude for not being struck by that out-of-control car that missed her by inches.” (*\*Names have been changed.*)

We smile when we read: Please make sure the vet has gentle hands when he examines Kitty, knowing that if it’s important to Kitty’s ‘mom,’ it’s important to Jesus. Then there are the touching cards that ask for the grace to make a sincere confession or for ‘help with my addiction that’s destroying my marriage.’ How pleased Jesus must be with such humble, honest prayer requests.

After reading the cards we move into the Candle Shrine and we light the candles—either in front of Our Mother of Perpetual Help or the Sacred Heart of Jesus -- depending on which cards have been sent. Then we read aloud before Mary and Jesus the prayer on the cards. Those are sacred moments for us. We can almost see Our Lady and Our Lord looking lovingly on these flames.

It doesn’t matter whether an offering is sent with the prayer intentions. Sometimes we receive an apology for not including money with the prayer intentions. While we are very grateful for your offerings, please know that no apology is necessary. It’s our privilege to pray for you to our Heavenly Mother and our Beloved Lord as we light your candles. Our Sisters pass the Shrine many times during the day on their way to Chapel. The brightly shining candles are a reminder to all of us to continue our prayers for your intentions as we go about our day.



***For Sister Monica Mary it is a privilege to pray for your needs she receives online—some even from outside the U.S.***



***Mother Marie Julie (l.), Mother Mary David and all the Sisters of Charity pray daily for your needs and intentions.***

Your online requests are received by Sister Monica Mary. Sister says each morning she reads those requests as soon as possible, and brings them to prayer, so as not to forget. She shares the requests with us and we join her in praying for them. ***You are in our hearts, dear Friends. We are family. We love you.***



# *Family Blessing Mass...*

*You will be enriched in every way...*



*You have  
changed  
the world  
because  
you have  
changed  
our lives.*





# *...and Gratitude Luncheon 2024*

*...because of your generosity. (2 Cor. 9:11)*

*Thank  
you  
for  
sharing  
in  
our  
mission.*



## You Get Things Done. Thank You!

**R**ecently we asked you to assist us in the renovation of Hanlon Hall, the dining room of the Academy of the Holy Family. Generations of students and the Sisters who teach them have gathered here for meals since 1874. As it had not been updated in decades, it was sorely in need of repairs and renovations. After many discussions, much planning – and many setbacks! - the work was finally begun last June and completed only days before the beginning of the present school year!



*(l. to r.) Angel, Tricia, Jeanie and all our students thank you for making possible the beautiful renovation of Hanlon Hall.*

The Sisters of Charity are deeply grateful to the many people who came together to make this renovation possible: the generous family who provided a matching grant, your faithful response to that grant, the architect and builders who donated much of their services to keep the cost down. **You have made Hanlon Hall into a warm, welcoming**

**place for the next generation of Academy students. And for that, the Sisters of Charity are deeply grateful.**

Here is a glimpse of some of the work that was done:

- ♦ The walls were gutted, the infrastructure was repaired and the many pipes that were always an eyesoar in the ceiling were recessed into the walls where possible.
- ♦ The walls were insulated with both blown-in and roll fiberglass insulation
- ♦ The electrical system was rewired in the entire room. Approximately a half mile of wire was installed!
- ♦ Old radiators were removed and replaced with a new H/VAC system.
- ♦ The walls were finished with new sheetrock; new decorative woodwork was installed
- ♦ A new soundproof wall was constructed between the pantry/dishwashing area and the dining room.
- ♦ A new ceiling with recessed lighting was installed in both Hanlon Hall and the adjoining pantry.
- ♦ A new tile floor was installed
- ♦ The walls and the woodwork were painted.



*(l. to r.) Liya, Milka and Fatima enjoy “hanging out” in their newly renovated Hanlon Hall.*

At the blessing of the renovated dining room, the builders were present. One of our students approached them and said: “Thank you for making our dining room so beautiful!” **And thanks to you, our faithful donors!**



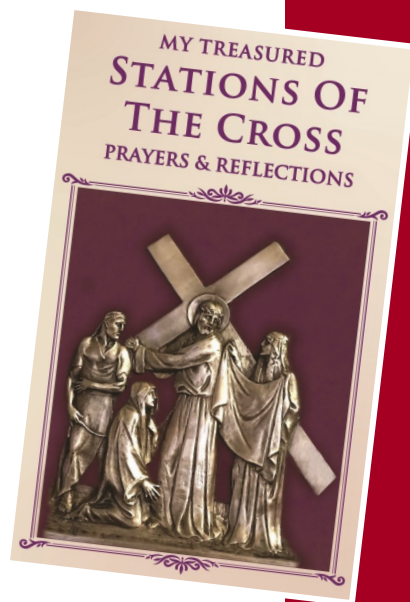
## A Gift for You From the Sisters.

**M**arch 5th marks the beginning of Lent - Ash Wednesday. **Coming very soon to your mailbox is a gift to you from the Sisters of Charity** to help you live this very important season in a profound and meaningful way. **Watch for it!**

Our gift to you is a booklet of prayers and meditations—MY TREASURED STATIONS OF THE CROSS PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS—to help you remember in love the suffering and death of Jesus, leading to His glorious Resurrection. By focusing your heart and mind on the love with which Jesus gave His life for you, you are invited to deepen your love for Him.

*The prayers and meditations found in this booklet were prepared especially for you by the Sisters of Charity. In it, we also share with you images of the beautiful Stations of the Cross located in our Motherhouse Chapel.* As you pray these meditations, gaze intently upon the images. Try to experience the intensity of each Station, and let Jesus teach you how to carry your own crosses. In these meditations you will encounter Jesus in the light of your own trials, sadness and suffering.

When you pray the Stations of the Cross this Lent, especially on Fridays in loving remembrance of the suffering and death of Jesus, know that the Sisters of Charity will also be praying this powerful prayer and we invite you to journey with us on the road to the Resurrection.



### From Sister Faustina

**T**echnology is always changing and can be quite confusing. That is why we are regularly providing updates to make our digital platforms more user-friendly and informative.



Over the next few months both our website: [www.sistersofcharity.com](http://www.sistersofcharity.com) and our Facebook page: @scmc.baltic, will be undergoing some of these changes.

Keep an eye out for an updated Gift Shop, new ministry pages, Amazon Wish Lists, and opportunities to share with others the good news of the mission of your Sisters of Charity—YOUR mission!

Thank you for being part of our family. Know that you are in our prayers. Don't forget that you can share your intentions with us and "light" a candle online for those in need at: <https://sistersofcharity.com/votive-candles/>

## Not to Sound Like a Broken Record but....



*Margaret Cuccinello,  
Director of Planned Giving*

I tend to repeat myself. My niece, Angelina, often tells me that I sound like a broken record because I usually end up telling the same story at least twice when I visit her. I'm okay with it. As I grow older, it has become very important to me that I pass on our family history, traditions and values to the younger members of my family. It's in this spirit of repetition that I write to you about the importance of estate planning.

Estate planning is so important that it deserves multiple reminders. That's why I often repeat myself when speaking with our benefactors. Did you participate in National Estate Planning Awareness Week in October? If not, don't worry. I have you covered. Conversations about the future don't have to

be overwhelming. That's one reason why the Sisters of Charity have partnered with FreeWill.

FreeWill is an online tool that guides you through the process of creating your will or trust. It's easy to use, accessible online, and can be completed in 20 minutes. You can use this resource on its own, or use it to document your wishes before finalizing your plans with an attorney. Visit our website at [www.sistersofcharity.com/plannedgiving](http://www.sistersofcharity.com/plannedgiving), click on the link and begin the process.

To get the most out of planning your estate, here are a few helpful questions:

- ♦ **Guardianship:** Who should care for my children and other loved ones? Do they share my Catholic Christian values?
- ♦ **Financial Management:** Have I thoughtfully stewarded my assets to bless my loved ones and the charitable organizations I have been supporting?
- ♦ **Spiritual Journey:** Have I revisited my plan after a major milestone (e.g. marriage, death of a family member, birth of a child, critical illness, etc.)?
- ♦ **Legacy:** How can I build a legacy of charity and service with organizations with which I have established relationships?

Most people think of estate planning in terms of material possessions, but it is so much more than that. Estate planning isn't only about leaving what you earned; it's also about what you learned over the course of your life. It's your story. And it can be recorded and repeated for future generations.

You are a very loyal friend to the Sisters. You support us with your gifts and prayers. You give to make a difference in the lives of others by helping the Sisters of Charity serve God's people with deep compassion. We are very blessed to have your partnership in our mission. When you feel prepared to put your faith into action, I invite you to include the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church in your estate planning.

Thank you for allowing me to sound like a broken record. I hope my repetition offers you an opportunity to reflect on your estate plans and on what matters the most to you – what you want to share with those you love and how you want to be remembered. May you be guided by faith and hope in this New Year and always.