

# Heeding God's call sends two Holy Names Sisters to Peru and Thailand

## Sister returns to ministry in South America

The poor and illiterate people of Peru need resources," explained Sister Brigid Baumann (M. Brigid Louise) of her new ministry in the poverty-ridden outskirts of Lima, Peru. And she defines her role as a resource, helping to bring hope for a better life. Music, which has been an important part of her own life, will be one of her teaching tools.

Sister began her work in Latin America in 1987 as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Nicaragua, followed by three years at the Holy Names Sisters mission in La Curva, Peru. "When we started we incorporated song, art, dance, science, story time, and religion into the curriculum," she said. "Music, a language in itself, can motivate, inspire, and express deep realities. And for me it served a dual purpose; as a connection with the people there and as one of the ways I learned their language. After I returned to Portland in 1991, our Holy Names mission there was closed so I began my work with the Hispanic people in Oregon."

When the Mission Sector of the Holy Names Congregation decided to open a new Peruvian mission, Sister Brigid applied for assignment there. "We are situated near a huge metropolitan area, where poverty and illiteracy are rampant," she said. "I reflect on the true meaning of poverty as I visit and learn more about the people here. It is not just economic, it affects one's whole being."

"The blest spirit of God calls us beyond the boundaries of our community. These are women with their ears to the heart of God, who recognize His presence among us."

—Father Richard Berg, CSC  
Homily, Mass of Blessing for Sister Brigid and Sister Rosalie

Sister has a strong sense of justice, focusing her skills on ways to improve the lot of both children and adults, especially the underprivileged. Her career has spanned more than four decades as a classroom teacher, librarian, media specialist, and coordinator for adult literacy programs

On Sister's return to Oregon in 1991, she incorporated her teaching skills with her newly acquired Spanish language ability to serve as a VISTA worker coordinating tutors for Hispanics in the Adult Literacy program in Western Washington County. Her literacy work continued for eight more years in the Hillsboro/Forest Grove area, where she developed family literacy programs and served as Coordinator for Volunteer Tutoring/Literacy programs with Portland Community College and Oregon Literacy, Inc. said Soroptimist member Pam Wilkinson. "Our club was one of the founders of Soroptimists Against a Violent Environment (SAVE) and Sister was a hands-on worker with our projects. She helped to develop shelters for women and took a



Photo above: Sister Brigid Baumann, encompassed by Peruvian children, finds music a universal language.



Photo right: The bicycle is the principal mode of transportation for Sister Rosalie Anderson in Thailand.

## Sister's ministry journey leads to Southeast Asia

Sister Rosalie Anderson's (M. Rose Laureen) journey to her present assignment with the Peace Corp in Thailand began when she attended the 2002 international conference of the Sisters of the Holy Names. "In our talks, focusing on us as 'Global Women,' we explored the question of being stuck in our comfort zone," she said. "I have to say, that thought 'zapped' me. I said 'Okay, God, what do you want of me. I'll do anything you ask.'"

Sister's concern for poor people, "the down and outs," led her to investigate opportunities with the Peace Corps and she applied for a position. "I had given my gifts as a teacher here. But I was not at peace. I believed that third-world education could use persons with my experience," she said. She was accepted and scheduled for a post in Eastern Europe for June 2003. All that remained was for her to pass a physical. To her surprise, that exam revealed advanced diabetes. "I hadn't felt well, but I didn't realize how seriously my health was failing," she explained. Her assignment was postponed and Sister began an intensive program of medical care and diet adjustment. "I owe my life to that decision," Sister said. "I knew I had less energy but had no idea of the cause."

In January of this year, Sister was posted to Thailand as Teacher Collaborator and Community Facilitator. The Peace Corps charges her with "pioneering the progressive plan of Peace Corps and the Royal Thai Government to affect change in the area of student-centered learning and English language teaching, as well as to be a part of important community development initiatives."

Sister is mentoring both Thai and U.S. teachers, developing educational materials, facilitating programs, and helping to create meaningful linkages within the school and between the school and community. "That component is easier for me than most," she explained, "I am so very fortunate to have years of wonderful Holy Names teaching experience under my belt."

## From the leadership



Sister Lynda Thompson

### The Holy Names Sisters Foundation

A Bottom Line to Believe in

In this issue of *NETWORK NEWS* we announce our newly restructured **Holy Names Sisters Foundation**. This donation vehicle, with its flexibility, will ensure the permanence, vitality and growth of our SNJM mission and ministries far into the future. **The Foundation** presently supports many diverse ministries which foster the full development of the human person and, just as importantly, enables and enriches the lives and well-being of our senior and infirm Sisters.

For the logo of the Foundation we have chosen to use our SNJM Congregational Seal. We have done so deliberately and we wish you, as our friends and partners, to understand the reasons for this choice, since they touch on the importance the **Foundation** holds for us.

The use of a seal to authenticate and establish credibility in the exchanges between people goes far back into ancient history. When visibly imprinted, the seal carried in some way the essential values and enduring commitment of the user, a promise and proof of integrity and trust. We might recall the Great Seal of the United States, which, especially in difficult times, reminds us of the nation's foundational values. A proud eagle holds to its breast a shield; in the background of the seal appear the words "In Pluribus Unum", "Out of Many, One". The Great Seal calls us to remember the foundation the United States was built upon and the responsibility that lies with us today.

Just as powerfully, the Seal of the Sisters of the Holy Names proclaims to all who see it who the Sisters are and to whom we commit our lives. It alludes to the command God gave in the poetic words of the *Song of Songs*. "Put me as a seal upon your heart and a seal upon your arm." (8:6) In artistic form the Seal depicts our historic foundation, the coming together of three women who sought God above all things, who found in Jesus and Mary the strength to bring the "glory" of God's healing and transforming Word to many parts of the world. The elements of the Seal were chosen by Mother Marie Rose Durocher herself. "Azure, with a Latin cross gold, planted in a rock *au naturel* and ornamented with a growing lily bearing three full-blown blossoms... On two ribbons placed one above, one below, the shield is inscribed with the device *JESUS ET MARIE, MA FORCE ET MA GLOIRE*." This seal is an external sign, but, I believe, it marks also, in some interior way, the heart of each SNJM, drawing her into the mission of the Congregation. The Seal binds us together. It reminds us of who we are and calls us to fidelity.

And so we have chosen to "seal" our newly structured **Foundation** with this image. By doing so we guarantee that, tomorrow as yesterday, we will stand with those most in need of the compassion of God, especially those marginalized by society, the poor, the women and children. We ask that you would continue to stand with us.

Your support and generosity will be blessed by the One who began this work and is eminently trustworthy. As we work together, turning faith into action as we have since our arrival in the Oregon Territory in 1859, new visions will come to life for God's people. For God has been with us. God still is. This is our "bottom line" ... a bottom-line to believe in.

Lynda Thompson, SNJM  
Province Leadership Team



# The Holy Names Sisters Foundation

Turning Faith into Action  
since 1859

## Sisters' Leadership Team Announces Restructuring of Sisters' Foundation

We are pleased to announce with this *Network News* our new charitable identity: **The Holy Names Sisters Foundation**.

Since 1999 our campus at Marylhurst has undergone enormous physical transformation. We have completed the landmark renovation of our Provincial House, the construction of four new buildings to house Sister and lay residents of Mary's Woods and the renewal of the Historic Laundry Building. We have received the City of Lake Oswego's approval of our design for the Holy Names Heritage Center (Archives.) Each of these projects represents a new expression of our SNJM mission, expanding our ministry outreach.

To reflect this growth and to simplify for our donors the process of partnering with the Sisters, we have decided to expand our **Foundation**, established in 1999, as **the vehicle to receive and manage all donor contributions to the Sisters of the Holy Names (Oregon Province.)** Its purpose remains the same, to generate opportunity for others to share in the work of the Sisters of the Holy Names, according to the donor's interests, in an understandable and convenient way.

Donors will retain the right to direct their gifts within the **Foundation**. Gifts and bequests may continue to be unrestricted to address *the greatest need* or they may be restricted within the following targeted funds:

- ❖ Retirement and Care of Elderly and Infirm Sisters
- ❖ Holy Names Sisters Ministry
- ❖ Holy Names Heritage Center (Archives)
- ❖ Mary's Woods Resident Fund

Please note that the Sisters' official identification of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), as well as the names of the Sisters' supported ministries, such as Mary's Woods at Marylhurst, are not changing.

Your tremendous generosity and unflinching support has enabled us to serve the people of the Northwest for over 144 years. This integration of funding within the **Holy Names Sisters Foundation** will assure the vitality of the SNJM mission in all its forms into the future, turning shared dreams into reality. We look forward to your partnering with us in these times that call forth the gifts and generosity of all to meet today's compelling needs.

## Network News

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Photo right: Sister Barbara Raymond works with Latina women at Adelante Mujeres in Forest Grove, Oregon. Below: Sister Terese Tsang (right) of the Oregon Province celebrates a joyous moment with Holy Names Sisters from across the United States and Canada.



Below: St. Mary's Academy, 1890



Above: Christie Home, 1940s  
Below: Marylhurst College, 1930s

Board Service: Sisters continue to serve on boards of ministries established by the Sisters of the Holy Names during their 144 years of service in Oregon, including The Christie School, St. Mary's Academy, and Marylhurst University.



Sister Peggy Pillette with clients at Outreach Ministry on Burnside in Northwest Portland.



In Eugene Sister Agnes Bachmeier is a Godsend to high-risk children and their families.



Sister Susan Wells, (center) recently pronounced first vows as a Holy Names Sister, with Sisters Lynda Thompson and Dee Marie Reeder.

### Holy Names Sisters Ministry



## Holy Names Sisters Foundation

Turning Faith Into Action since 1859

### Mary's Woods Resident Fund



Photo above: Original 1910 structure of the Holy Names Provincial House is flanked by Dufresne, one of the apartment wings of Mary's Woods. Photo left: Among the Sisters residing in one of the 21 SNJM independent living apartments are (from left) Sister Mary Floranne McDonald and Sister Peter Mary McInnis with visitor Sister Carole Strawn.



Fireplace Room in the remodeled Historic Laundry Building



### Retirement and Care of Elderly and Infirm Sisters



Above: Activities at Mary's Woods are always well attended by both Sister and lay residents.

### Holy Names Heritage Center (Archives)



Artist's rendering of the proposed Holy Names Heritage Center (Archives)

# Jubilee celebrations 2004

Jubilee celebrations, to be held at the Convent of the Holy Names, Marylhurst, in May and June of this year, will honor 20 Sisters of the Holy Names in the Oregon Province. Their combined service represents 1,205 cumulative years of ministry.

- **CELEBRATING SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS** are Sisters Marguerite Fall (Mary Euphemie), Mary Claudia Foltz and Mary Phyllis Soreghan.
- **SEVENTY-YEAR CELEBRANTS** are, Sisters Miriam Philip Friedrich, Anne Kearney (M. Xavier Francis) and Marian Dolores Robinson.
- **SIXTY YEARS** will be celebrated by Sisters John Maureen Backenstos, Helen Gates (Clarita Mary), Rosemarie Kasper (Mary Agneda), Lavone Morisky (Mary Felice), Rae Skinner (Elizabeth Maureen), Patricia Stebinger (Damien Mary) and Kathleen Walsh (Ignatius of Mary).
- **GOLDEN JUBILARIANS**, will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their first vows on June 12. They are: Sisters Judy Bertoli (Thea Mary), Donna Hortsch (Leonard Mary), Wanda Marie Jordan, Carolyn Jane Lord (Alma Mary), Rose Mary Michael (Lambert Marie), Rosemary Anne Parker and Margaret Sullivan (Columban Mary).

## Sister Judy Bertoli

Sister Judy Bertoli (Thea Mary) reflects on her path as a Holy Names Sister in terms of a circle or spiral. "I went back and forth from teaching or other positions to responsibilities on the Provincial staff," she said. As a young Sister, she taught for a year and then spent the next ten years as secretary to the Provincial Superior.

In 1967 Sister Judy returned to the classroom full-time as a teacher at Portland's St. Mary's Academy. However, her formal teaching career ended in 1979, and she was assigned as secretary for the Provincial Finance Office. The following year, she was named Vocation Director for the Province and later served as the Novice Director.

From 1986 to 1991 Sister's ministry included work as secretary for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and service in Africa as a member of the Provincial staff for the Sisters of the Holy Names Lesotho Province. Her circle of ministry continued when she returned to Marylhurst as secretary/receptionist for the Provincial Administration, a position she held for several years and which grew to include assisting the retired Sisters through their moves and the transition to Mary's Woods.

It may be said of Sister Judy's career that, within her "back and forth" journey, she created a rainbow of experiences. "My Provincial work and collaborating with Sisters in formation ministry from all the provinces helped me to view our Congregation differently. My St. Mary's years brought much satisfaction and such good memories of my own time there as a student. My vocation work, helping young women in their search, filled me with such hope. The time at Ecumenical Ministries introduced me to wonderful people from many religious traditions. And there is nothing that can compare with my experience in Africa. Being in the center of it all impacted my very being as a Holy Names Sister."

A woman of peace, Sister supports the Women in Black international movement, in remembrance of people who suffer from oppression and violence worldwide. Her presence with other women, standing for one hour in silent vigil in a downtown Portland park each Friday, is a visible expression of her opposition to such acts.



Sister is thoughtful when asked what she sees as her greatest satisfaction as a Holy Names Sister. "Our life demands of us that we live by faith and, with faith we accept challenges. I have always been invited to become something more, and accepting those challenges opened my life to things I never would have expected."

## Sister Donna Hortsch

"My greatest satisfaction is in just BEING a Sister," says Sister Donna Hortsch (Leonard Mary.) "It colors who I am and how I do what I do. I am from The Dalles, Ore. Those beginnings helped make me who I am today."

Sister has been a teacher, pastoral associate, and a nurse's aide working in home health care. "I put my efforts into my work and now I realize, on a very personal level, how the people I met and interacted with, and my work have shaped my life."

For 13 years, Sister taught as an elementary teacher in Oregon schools. In 1972, following two years as a nurse's aide in the

Convent Care Center, she refocused her



50-year Jubilarians: (left to right) Sister Judy Bertoli, Sister Donna Hortsch, Sister Wanda Marie Jordan.

ministry to parish work and pastoral care. Her work as Minister to the Elderly and Pastoral Associate at St. Francis Parish, Portland, had a profound effect on her. "I came out of those experiences a different woman, really became 'myself' there," she said.

In 1988, Sister Donna returned to health care as a Nurse's Aide, doing home care. She had volunteered with the NW Pilot Project, which serves Portland's low-income elderly.

A new chapter began when Sister Donna retired. "I retired so I would have the energy to experience this part of life," she said. And energy is what she needs as she works on archeological projects in Oregon and Washington and expands her knowledge base through travel and as a volunteer for the NW Film Center. She has taken part in

archeological digs and studies of old Forest Service camps that predate World War II and a depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that revealed a 6,000-year-old Indian migration camp stop. She also continues to do some home care.

Of her travels Sister Donna says, "I've been educated by my pilgrimages, following the routes of St. Paul. It's amazing. When I was a child, Europe was the other side of the world, not a place I'd ever go. My first time in Rome, I cried every day at the thrill of it."

"I think this way of living is what makes me who I am," said Sister. "My study of scripture, my bond to Jesus Christ, and the people I have connected with along the way have opened doors for me that are amazing. And now I really appreciate the history I've come to know, from reading, archeology and my travels."

## Sister Wanda Marie Jordan

"It seems I've been part of the Sisters of the Holy Names all of my life," said Sister Wanda Marie Jordan. "My sister and I were brought to the care of the Sisters at Christie School when I was a very small child and I was there until I was adopted at age nine." Her education under the Sisters of the Holy Names continued through elementary and high school.

In high school a teacher encouraged her to consider entering the Holy Names Community. However, she had received a scholarship to study voice at Marylhurst College and wanted to take advantage of it. But her vocation could not be denied and, six months later, she entered the Holy Names Novitiate.

Sister speaks with enthusiasm about her profession. "I have been very blessed," she said. "Coming from my background, being adopted into a loving family and living my life as a Holy Names Sister, the Lord has been so good to me. I've learned and grown spiritually in my mission as a teacher. And I consider the students, faculties, and parents I've worked with as my greatest gifts. I just truly love teaching."

Sister's teaching and administrative skills have spanned all levels from elementary through higher education. She was a teacher and principal in elementary schools in Oregon and Washington; a high school teacher at Portland's St. Mary's Academy and Interim Principal at Valley Catholic High School in Beaverton. She also served as Dean of Students at Marylhurst College and supervisor of student teachers from Gonzaga University. "I can adjust to any age level, using the same skills," she said.

Sister Wanda is currently supervising student teachers for the University of Portland. "We need good teachers in the world and I work hard to help them be the best they can be, to live up to the trust parents place in them."

If teaching is Sister's first love, music is her joy. The scholarship that she gave up to become a Holy Names Sister was well-deserved. Her vocal talents were recognized early and she has been gracious and generous in sharing them throughout her life. "I love to entertain and it's so much fun when I can do it well," she said.

"My life is not anything spectacular," Sister Wanda explained. "I've been so blessed. My religious community and my work are my greatest rewards. The Holy Names Sisters have been a family to me forever."



## Sister Carolyn Jane Lord

"The Sisters who taught me at Holy Names Academy in Seattle were the first who ever pushed me to excellence," said Sister Carolyn Jane Lord (Alma Mary). "I admired them and thought I'd like to be like them."

For 18 years, Sister Jane taught children in grades three through eight in Oregon schools. She also served as Principal at St. Paul (Ore.) Academy. "I loved teaching the children," she said. "They were a real joy."

In 1974, recognizing the need presented by the growing shortage of priests, Sister's focus turned to parish religious education.

She was one of the first to enter parish ministry and found it to be both challenging and rewarding. She had earned a master's degree in religious education in preparation for her new work. "We acknowledged that the lay people were competent to carry on in our schools and felt parishes were the places where we were needed. This was a different ministry, but it was just right for me," she explained.

Following her first year of parish ministry in St. Helens, Ore., Sister joined the religious education faculty at Marylhurst College. In addition to teaching, her responsibilities included travel around the Portland Archdiocese helping to prepare teachers for religious education programs.

Four years later she moved to Cottage Grove, Ore., to direct the religious education and parish ministry program at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. "I had enjoyed my work at the College very much," she said, "But I found that, even more, I loved my parish work, accompanying adults in their journeys of faith and life."

In 1984, Sister moved to the Provincial House at Marylhurst where, for five years, she served as chaplain for the Holy Names Care Center. She returned to parish ministry in 1989, to direct the planning and organization of liturgy and religious education programs at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Sutherlin and St. John the Apostle Parish in Drain, Ore.

Sister retired officially in 1999, but her service continues within the Holy Names Community as the Co-director of the Sisters of the Holy Names Associate program for the Oregon Province. The program has grown considerably under her leadership. "We offer exciting new forms of 'belonging' and I want the Associates to realize they are a real part of our Congregation," she said.

Sister Jane expresses true satisfaction as a Sister of the Holy Names. "Our emphasis on social work, women, children, the poor, and peace and justice is as strong today as it ever was."

## Sister Rose Mary Michael

Sister Rose Mary Michael (Lambert Marie) traveled a circuitous route that landed her in Oregon. Born in Duluth, Minn., she knew she wanted to enter a religious community and chose the Sisters of the Holy Names because she could be both a religious and a teacher.

At that time, Minnesota was part of the Winnipeg Province of Canada and she was sent as a teacher to Canada, returning later to teach kindergarten through second grades in Duluth. Eventually, the Duluth house was closed and she was sent to Winnipeg to teach typing to high school sophomores. "That was a disaster," she said. "I had never taught either high school or typing."

In order to continue teaching in Canada,

Sister was faced with the choice of giving up her U.S. citizenship or leaving for a position in the United States. The Provincial of the Oregon Province invited her to relocate to Portland and, in 1970, her life in the Pacific Northwest began.

"Few people know of all my work here," said Sister. "For instance, at one time, I ran a beauty shop for the Sisters on the fourth floor of the Convent." However, her more conventional ministry continued at the elementary school level where she taught religious education in Oregon schools.

In 1972, Sister Rose Mary became a mentor for members of a Korean Catholic community that centered their religious services at the Sisters' Convent Chapel. She taught religious education to the children and cared for the littlest ones during Mass.

Out of that effort grew yet another facet of Sister's work when she agreed to care for the son of a Marylhurst instructor. When word got out, of a nun giving daycare at the Convent, the number soon grew to seven



50-year Jubilarians:  
Above, Sister Carolyn Jane Lord. Right, Sister Rose Mary Michael.



50-year Jubilarians:  
Left, Sister Rosemary Anne Parker. Below, Sister Margaret Sullivan.



children. "It was wonderful," she said. "The Sisters loved the presence of children here. And for the children, it was like having 80 doting grandmothers."

Sister returned to school to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and later earned her Certified Medicine Assistant credentials. She helped open the Mercy Gardens Care Facility at Mt. St. Joseph in Portland, and, in 2001, she joined the staff of the Villa Maria Skilled Care Facility at Mary's Woods. Retiring last year, Sister is now working as sacristan in the Convent Chapel.

"There is so much to be thankful for," she said. "Ours is a hand-in-hand life. We reach out to others and they reach back in different ways. It all goes together."

## Sister Rosemary Anne Parker

Sister Rosemary Anne Parker wanted to be a missionary. Inspired by the Holy Names Sisters who taught her for 12 years in Astoria, Ore., she hoped to go to their mission in Lesotho, Africa. "Instead, I've been teaching teens for 48 years," she explained. The young people she has taught support that decision.

The students of St. Mary's Academy and Central Catholic High School in Portland have been the primary beneficiaries of Sister's expertise in mathematics and the sciences. She taught at St. Mary's for 20 years, five of which she also served as the School's Vice Principal and Athletic Director. Her final 19 years of teaching were at Central Catholic where, in addition to her

classroom schedule, she was the Science Department Head and Activities Director.

Sister Rosemary's success as a teacher was recognized in 2001, when the Oregon Science Teachers Association honored her with the Duane Marshall Special Service Award for her contributions to science education. She has always encouraged students, especially young women, to think about science as an option for their college major. And she has indeed, inspired some of her students' career choices.

"Sister Rosemary is the reason I am a science teacher," said Maureen Connelly Daschel, Science Department Chair at St. Mary's Academy. "She was an inspiring teacher who expected all of her students, no matter their career choice, to be literate in the sciences."

Although the sciences are Sister's field, she is also an athlete with a minor in physical education (PE), and an avid sports fan. As a student she played volleyball,

basketball, softball and tennis. Her college PE program required her to become qualified as a referee in four sports, including field hockey. "I was still in the religious habit then and I successfully acquired a national rating in basketball, volleyball and softball in addition to a local rating as a field hockey referee!" A regular attendee at athletic events at Central Catholic and the University of Portland, Sister can still be seen operating the scoreboard and timer for the Central Catholic girls' volleyball games.

Sister still does some substitute teaching and she is active in parish life, helping with activities at St. Ignatius Parish for senior citizens. "My religious community, the wonderful Sisters I have known and the opportunities I've been given both professionally and spiritually, give me great satisfaction," she said. "However, seeing students achieve their goals is one of the biggest highlights of my life."

## Sister Margaret Sullivan

Sister Margaret Sullivan (Columban Mary) says that when she decided to enter the convent, she "went religious shopping." She was born and raised in a small town in British Columbia, Canada, and had never attended Catholic school. But she knew that she wanted to give her life completely to God.

"I started looking for a religious order in British Columbia, then went to the state of Washington," she said. "I prayed that I wouldn't have to go too far from my home to find the right place for me. When I came to Marylhurst I knew in my heart that this was the right choice. Everyone has a mystery and miracle in their life and this was mine."

Sister never doubted her vocation. She credits this to her mother's example and her father's heritage. "I was a twin, the youngest of 14 children," she said. "My father, a very religious man, died when I was just three-years-old and my mother gets great praises for raising us all, maintaining our close family relationships."

Throughout her ministry, Sister Margaret's focus has been on children in grades three through five. "She is an exceptional teacher, literally one of the finest educators I've ever known," said Sister Jane Hibbard, former principal of Holy Redeemer School

Continued on page 6.

## Sustaining friendship

Sister Margaret Sullivan  
Continued from page 5.



Committee members who helped assure success of the St. Paul event are: (top row, left to right) MariAn Kuch, Maureen Ernst, (bottom row, left to right) Rosella McKay, Agnes Hemshorn.

A standing-room-only crowd spent happy hours visiting at the St. Paul Sustaining Friendship event held in St. Paul, Ore., on Oct. 26, 2003. The day began with a commemorative Mass, celebrated by Father Charles Borho, at St. Paul Catholic Church and culminated with a hearty brunch at the neighboring Community Hall.

Twenty-three Holy Names Sisters gathered with friends and former students to honor their shared heritage and enduring friendship. "The luncheon was a beautiful time of sharing old friendships with

a people close to God and close to the earth," said Sister Mary Julia Steinkamp (M. John Michael). "I am so glad I was able to be there."

Rosella McKay, who served on the planning committee, was delighted by the number of people who returned to St. Paul to spend the day with the Sisters. "One of the women who came had been away from St. Paul for over 50 years," she said.

The Colemans were among the family groups represented. Several members of their family joined former St. Paul Academy teacher Sister Mary Bertoli (Mary Zita) for a reunion. Sister Mary's niece, Liz Galluzzo, is married to John Coleman. "I had an absolutely delightful day visiting with former students, their families and now my own family," said Sister.

MariAn Kirsch Kuch, a graduate of St. Paul Academy and Sacred Heart Academy in Salem, worked closely with the event planners. "The Sisters of the Holy Names were a huge part of our community," she said. "I think that 75 percent of us were taught by them. This reunion was a wonderful way to renew old friendships. It meant the world to those who attended."



Above: Sister Eileen McNamee (Una Mary), who entered from St. Paul, is introduced by Sister Jane Hibbard.

Below: Three generations represent McKay family at St. Paul lunch event (left to right) Sylvia Sisto, Rosella McKay, Mary McKay Henderson, Kathy Fromherz and Joan Spada.



where Sister Margaret taught for nearly 20 years. "The quality of her relationships with both students and their parents is incredible. She has high expectations and teaches in a style that encourages each student to be successful, to reach his or her greatest potential no matter the project."

Sister Margaret says that the discipline of religious life is perfect for her. "I love my Community. And the Sisters are my best friends." Among her friends, Sister is known as a great cook and for her beautiful sense of art. "She did a magnificent job assisting

with the installation of the Holy Names art and artifacts in our historic and newly renovated Laundry Building," said Sister Jane.

Sister Margaret has never questioned her decision. She loves children and is happiest in the classroom. "We are free to choose other ministries if we wish but I always wanted to stay in the schools. I've been retired for over a year now and I hope to go back to the school as a tutor. I'd also like to work with the homeless."

## Did you know...

that the Holy Names Sisters of the Oregon Province have had a site on the World Wide Web for more than ten years? If your answer is "no," you are not alone. Recognizing that our informational site no longer addresses our needs and the needs of our audiences, we are in the process of designing a new Web site that is attractive, engaging, interactive, relevant to our culture and representative of our entire Congregation.

**Beginning May 23**, the day we commemorate the beatification of our foundress, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, you will be able to type in the address [www.sistersoftheholynames.org](http://www.sistersoftheholynames.org) to reach all of the Sisters of the Holy Names Web sites WORLDWIDE.

The Holy Names Sisters have always responded to the needs of society. Knowing that the Web is the most cost effective means of reaching the greatest number of people, our new Web site offers updated features which include the ability to:

- reconnect with a favorite Sister
- ask a Sister or a Novice a question for which you have always wanted an answer
- inquire about becoming a vowed Sister, Associate or volunteer in our ministries
- make a gift online (For your protection, our Web site uses a secure Web server.)

Partnering with the Sisters has never been easier. While surfing online this summer, "hang ten" at [www.sistersoftheholynames.org](http://www.sistersoftheholynames.org) and travel the SNJM world.



## Editor retires

Ann LaRiviere, Editor of the Sisters of the Holy Names *Network News* since 1995 is retiring effective April 1. Ann served as Director of Development for the Sisters of the Holy Names Oregon Province from 1993 through 1999. At her retirement from that position she retained responsibility for the *Network News* publication.

"The Sisters of the Holy Names have been a major presence in my life," she said. "They've been my teachers and my mentors. They taught my daughters at St. Mary's Academy, and I was active as a member of the St. Mary's Board of Regents and as the School's Director of Development. My tenure with the Oregon Province afforded the opportunity for a closer relationship with all the Sisters. I am grateful for their love, their prayers, and their friendship."

Ann continues her connection with the Sisters as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names Associate Program.



Ann LaRiviere

## Cyber opportunity

**Are you an avid email user?** If you're like many of us, you prefer to communicate through cyberspace rather than traditional mail. If so, we invite you to interact with us through a quarterly email newsletter. With our new Web capabilities you'll be able to connect with us in a variety of exciting new ways.

You can be among the first to take advantage of this new opportunity by including your email address in the space provided on the response envelope included with this newsletter, or you may email your request to [shuber@snjmor.org](mailto:shuber@snjmor.org).

Be assured that your name and information will not be shared in any way with any other organization.

# In Memoriam



Sister Helen Hempe

## Sister Helen Hempe

Sister Helen Hempe (Miriam Magdala) died August 29, 2003, at age 92.

Born near Baker City, Ore., Sister received her elementary and high school education in Sandy, Ore., schools. She attended Marylhurst Normal School where she received her teaching credentials and began a teaching career at Eagle Creek, Ore. Two years later, she entered the Novitiate at Marylhurst and professed her vows in 1934.

For 16 years, Sister Helen was a seventh and eighth grade teacher and administrator in schools in Oregon and Washington. In 1949 she was named as Supervisor of Schools for the Portland Archdiocese, a position she held for three years. Sister's sense of justice was evident in the mutuality of relationships, which she maintained with faculty, students, parents and others.

Perhaps Sister's greatest contribution was made at The Christie School where, under her leadership, the traditional boarding school for orphans was gradually changed into a residential treatment facility. Through this ministry, Sister pioneered an uncharted road in Oregon for care of school age children with special needs.

Sister Helen's desire to update her social work skills kindled her interest in the development of Portland's NW Pilot Project, an agency addressing the needs of the elderly poor in Northwest Portland. She became an active volunteer, visiting the elderly who lived in the low-income apartments. Her innate sense of reverence for persons of any age or rank made her a welcome visitor; and her outrage at injustices made her a great senior advocate.

After her time at the Northwest Pilot Project, Sister Helen lived several years in The Dalles, Ore., where she ministered to the elderly. She retired to the Convent of the Holy Names at Marylhurst in 1993.

All who knew her remember Sister Helen as a woman of commitment and vision, an effective and dedicated team player and community builder.

She had an unusual ability to embrace diversity, to live with paradoxes, and, with a pioneer spirit, she addressed every situation in her present ministry, whatever it might be. And, through her creativity and vision, vigor and hard work, Sister left each place changed for the better.

## Sister Virginia Shipman

Sister Virginia Shipman (M. Margaret Irene) died Dec. 20, 2003, at age 90. She attended St. Mary's Grade and High Schools in Eugene, Ore., and entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of the Holy Names in 1930 at age 16.

Sister Virginia received her music degree from Marylhurst College and began her lifelong career teaching piano, organ, harp and recorder. For 55 years she taught music at Catholic Schools in Oregon and Washington.

Retiring from an active teaching role, Sister accepted a position as music coordinator in Albany, NY. She returned to the Convent at Marylhurst in 1988 but, at age 80, her outreach to others drew her into music ministry once again when she traveled to Jonestown, Miss., to a mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names among the rural black community. There she taught piano lessons to the children of the area and worked with women in the senior center who were interested in crafts. It seemed that she had finally retired in 1994 when she returned to Marylhurst to live. But again, she saw a need that she could address and she commuted regularly to Forest Grove, Ore., to teach piano to young Latinas.

Always open to new adventures and knowledge, Sister Virginia turned to the computer as a new "instrument." As her skills increased she spent countless hours writing and corresponding with people all over the world. Out of her writings came *Weavings*, in which she chronicled the events of her life punctuated with anecdotes that painted a picture of a happy family life blended with her life as a religious.

Sister's many talents make an interesting story, but her very spirit is the real tale. She loved people and collected friends wherever she went. Although she was frustrated by a hearing loss, she struck up



Sister Virginia Shipman

conversations readily. And, she was always a willing, non-judgmental listener. "Sister Virginia had a tremendous impact on my life," said Sally Stone. "When I met her I was on my spiritual journey back to the Catholic Church. I had more questions than answers and I came to her loaded with books and post-it-notes full of questions. I truly believe that God used her to bring me back to the faith. Nothing was a coincidence!"

## Sister Sidney Thomison

Sister Sidney Thomison (Rebecca Mary) died at Marylhurst, Ore., on Dec. 22, 2003, at age 87. She was born in Hood River, Ore., where she received her elementary and high school education. After two years as a student at Marylhurst College, she entered the novitiate of the Holy Names and made profession in 1938.

Sister received her B.A. in Education from Holy Names College, Spokane, Wash., and her M.A. in Psychology from Seattle University. For 23 years, she taught in Catholic elementary schools in Oregon and Washington. From 1961-67 she taught Psychology at Marylhurst College. Following a year of Catechetical Theology at Manhattan College in New York, she directed religious education programs in Portland and Salem for seven years.

Sister Sidney was a member of the Urban Housing Committee and worked with Community Action Programs and Oregon Fair Share. Her programs reflected her interest in civil rights and urban problems.

Sister found her heart's desire when she began her work at St. Andrew Parish in Northeast Portland. As Director of Community Services, she worked tirelessly assisting countless families. She tried to empower people to take control of their own lives and counseled them to understand and appreciate their own dignity, to know they were loved and were lovable.

Her open, accepting response to a woman's desperate need exemplifies the impact Sister had on those she served. The woman tells of her desperation and thoughts of suicide because she had no food to feed her children, nor electricity, hot water or heat to keep them warm. Bundling her children into a shopping cart she wandered aimlessly, not knowing where to turn. At the corner where St. Andrew's stands she knocked on the side door. Sister Sidney answered and asked, "How can I help you?" Sister fed them, arranged for food to be delivered to their house, and heat and utilities to be restored. The woman was unprepared to hear Sister say, "Do you know Jesus loves you?" On reflection she knew the answer was "Yes."

"I will never forget that day," she explained, "because I call it the day I met the angel of Hope, Sister Sidney."

Sister's diminutive size and charming smile succeeded only partially in concealing her feisty spirit and fierce, compassionate concern for the poor. In her countless visits to them she brought more than material help. She brought them love, renewed hope and a deeper sense of their own dignity.



Sister Sidney Thomison

## In Memoriam

*Memorial contributions may be made to the Holy Names Ministry or Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 411, Marylhurst, Oregon 97036.*

## Calling All Alums

Our records need updating. On the inside flap of our newly designed response envelope (sample below) we have created space for you to record your alum information. We are grateful for your help!

Name (his) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elem Alum School \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 HS Alum School \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name (her) \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elem Alum School \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 HS Alum School \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marylhurst College / U \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Sister Brigid Baumann  
Continued from page 1.

lead role as Chair of our Public Relations Advocacy Committee, gaining community support and fostering education against domestic violence issues."

Sister will work with the Soroptimist group in Peru as well as Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages International (TESOL) to establish a pro-literacy program in the area she serves. "I want to create a program that will continue, not be dependant on one person," she said. "I brought Spanish books and literacy materials with me. The Soroptimists sent school supplies and I am counting on the generosity of persons from the United States who want to connect with people who are impoverished. I see my work as a conduit to help make that happen."

Asked if she fears for her safety in Peru, Sister answers, "I'm not fearful. The Sendero Luminosa (Shining Light) terrorists are less of a

threat in that area then before. But desperation and poverty, that is the threat these people face."



Photo above: Holy Names Sister Ana Maria Vilca Mamani conducts a musical session as Sister Brigid Baumann accompanies on the guitar. Photo left: This wooden structure serves as Sister Rosalie Anderson's living and dining room.



Sister Rosalie Anderson  
Continued from page 1.

Her introductory assignment, at Wat Ta Pa, in the province of Ratchaburi, is unlike anything she had ever experienced. Evidence of poverty is everywhere. Schools are often small, unfurnished classrooms with glassless windows, lacking even the simplest of supplies like paper or crayons. However, she takes the sweltering heat, challenging living conditions, insects, lack of basic teaching equipment, and 45-minute-long bicycle rides to school in stride.

Sister's biggest challenge is the Thai language. With lots of personal attention and time for conversation and practice, she is making slow but definite gains. "I learn a bit more every day but if I live to be 100, I don't think I will ever be able to learn and pronounce all the children's names!"

Given her credentials, one would not question Sister's ability to serve both her nation and the Thais. A teacher for 34 years, her skills have been recognized and honored repeatedly. In 1999, she was named the Most Outstanding Elementary Teacher in the United States in the subject of Oregon History and Western Immigration. She was one of only 30 teachers, drawn from an international pool, to study Leadership in Revolutionary America. She also studied the Japanese Education System in Japan under a Fulbright Grant and was one of 250 teachers nationwide selected to attend a three-week NASA camp.

"Everyone needs a Sister Rosalie in his or her life," says Gaynell Drexler, wife of NBA star, Clyde Drexler. Gaynell speaks from her family's close personal relationship with Sister in saying, "I hated to see her leave but she has a wealth of experience that will benefit the Thais. She has so many gifts to give. Her greatest strengths are her deep commitment to and concern for others, and her flexibility, open-mindedness, and love of people, accepting them as they are and working with them to help them improve their own lives."

The Peace Corps recruiter said of Sister Rosalie, "We rarely get someone with this kind of experience and education." Gaynell Drexler agrees. "The Peace Corps really got a winner in Rosie," she shared. "I would love to be a fly on the wall of her classroom and observe her at work in Thailand."

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## Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

### Oregon Province Mission Statement

Sisters of the Holy Names, religious women consecrated to God, work to promote full development of the human person and hope for a better world through education. They have a special concern for poor and disadvantaged people; they are committed to be responsible stewards of the earth's finite resources.

## Portland Sustaining Friendship Event

### Sunday, June 27, 2004

The Provincial House  
and the Historic Laundry Building  
on the Marylhurst Campus  
is the site for the Sisters of the Holy Names' next  
Sustaining Friendship event

**11am – Mass, Provincial House Chapel**  
**Brunch immediately following, Laundry Building**

This event marks the second "get-together" in Portland, and the ninth within the state, that the Sisters have hosted to recapture the warm connections they have shared with so many people for nearly 145 years.

If the Sisters of the Holy Names have a special place in your life, you won't want to miss this special day. Invitations will be mailed in May and space is limited. If you do not receive an invitation and wish to attend the event, please contact Sherryl Huber at 503.675.2466 or email [shuber@snjmor.org](mailto:shuber@snjmor.org).



The Lownsdale House served as the site for the first school established in the Pacific Northwest by the Sisters of the Holy Names. Arriving in Portland October 21, 1859, the Sisters opened St. Mary's Academy two weeks later on November 6 with six students.