



Ventures

Turning Faith into Action since 1859

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SNJM loved places: Salem is one

People with prophetic vision often change the world, leaving behind a string of great accomplishments. Mother Theresa of Jesus, the third Superior General of the Holy Names Sisters, was such a person. She looked ahead, took risks, feared little. Perhaps it is easier for us these days to admire her zeal than it always was for the Sisters under her command. Enthusiastically she imagined bringing culture and education to the Far West, and French Canadian bishops found a willing ear in their plans for the parishes they shepherded. It was not always so easy for the Sisters she sent.

After a visit down the Willamette Valley she returned praising the charms of what she had seen in Salem, admiring the large and quiet streets, and the beautiful oak trees. Although she was informed of a prejudice against Catholics there, Mother Teresa of Jesus believed that a school, "a fine school," would be a means to overcome that.

On August 16, 1863, she met with the Sisters, 12 of them, who were at St. Mary's in Portland, spoke appreciatively of the recent foundation at St. Paul, and announced that three Sisters would go the next day to Salem to start a school there. It was a surprise to them but they left the next morning for the two-day journey by ship and stagecoach, according to the Sisters' chronicles of the mission "without money, provisions, books or furniture." Fortunately, the Sisters at St. Paul could provide assistance.

Salem, although the capital of the newly founded state, was still a small, somewhat rough place, a frontier town, and had few schools, although the institution, which would later become Willamette University, founded by Methodist missionaries was in operation. Mother Theresa had negotiated the sale of two buildings in the heart of the city from the Freemasons for \$1300.

The Sisters came to this place on August 18; by the 29th of the month they were taking reservations for the school. As would remain the case for most of their time there, they felt the need for money, de-

After a visit down the Willamette Valley, Mother Theresa of Jesus returned praising the charms of what she had seen in Salem, admiring the large and quiet streets, and the beautiful oak trees.

pending on the generosity of friends. The first they received came from the students at St. Mary's Academy in Portland—a gift of \$16. On the opening day of school in early September they had 80 students, and by the end of the year they listed 132 students, two of them Catholics.

As the school grew, students came from as far as Roseburg, including some from both Eugene and Corvallis, for the present state school system had not yet been founded. Because the boarders' sleeping quarters took over the Sisters' rooms, the Sisters slept in their classrooms, and sometimes in the chapel. Although the resident students observed a rather rigid schedule, including much silence, the strict enclosure of the Sisters' quarters was invaded on the Grand Holiday. On that day, from sun up to sunset, the students had free access to every part of the Sisters' quarters something unheard of in later years. The school prospered, and in 1896 boys were admitted. In the parish of St. Vincent de Paul, in Northeast Salem a new school was founded in



Photos above and left: Gerry Lewin

Top photo: Sister Marilyn Schroeder, long-time faculty member at St. Joseph's distributes communion, as Eucharistic minister, at the students' weekly Mass. Photo above: Sister Mary Ann Martinmaas, who over the years has come to know generations of St. Joseph students, interacts with two of them. Photo right: Alicia Dunn, 1875 graduate of SHA, later became Mother Mary Flavia (cf. p.2)

1925, and later in 1941 Sacred Heart Academy (SHA) became a high school solely, and St. Joseph's parish started a grade school. Both St. Joseph's and St. Vincent's are flourishing today and teaching students from pre-school through the 6th grade.

From the very beginning of the Holy Names involvement in Salem, their young women entered the Holy Names novitiate. The first postulant in the Pacific Northwest, Jane Kelly (Sister Rose de Lima), was a graduate of SHA's first class, and presently 19 alumnae of Sacred Heart Academy are living and ministering in Oregon and Washington. Among them are two who live in Salem and teach at St. Joseph's elementary school: Sisters Mary Ann Martinmaas (Colette Marie) and Marilyn Schroeder (Maria Benedict).

Between them they have amassed many years of service in Salem. Sister Marilyn has totaled 23 years. In the 5th and 6th grades she now follows a modified schedule of working with small groups—not tutoring, but working in an atmosphere that allows those who are accelerated to move on and those who are slower to catch up. She knows

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SNJM loved places ...

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the students well and has taught some of the same families over the years. After school she works in her garden, keeps the yard of her little house stocked with plants as well as trees, and serves the church as a eucharistic minister. She celebrates 50 years as a professed Holy Names Sister this year.

While Sister Marilyn is a native Oregonian, Sister Mary Ann left South Dakota with her family as a child, and she, six of her seven brothers and all of her ten sisters attended St. Joseph's. She entered as a third grader, and loved all of her teachers. After she followed these loved teachers into the Holy Names order, she taught in Portland at The Madeleine for six years and the rest of her career as a teacher was spent in Salem: nine years at St. Vincent's and 23 at St. Joseph's, where she taught at almost every grade level and served as vice-principal for many years. Presently she is the 6th grade teacher.

Sister Mary Ann gardens, cooks, reads, and loves sports, coming from a family who always had enough members for a couple of teams. She loves Salem; her mother and many of her siblings live there; she loves her students and she thanks God for the blessing that being in Salem is to her.

Stephen Lynch, principal of St. Joseph's, values the contribution of Sisters Marilyn and Mary Ann. "They bring a sign of continuity—a connection with the long past the Holy Names Sisters have had on that spot for nearly 150 years." The fact that both Sisters are from Salem, and went themselves to Salem schools, have relatives in the city and sometimes in the schools, adds to this sense of continuity. Their years of experience have a steadying influence on both the students and the faculty. "They have seen it all, and they remain calm."

It is important to him to have the students get to know religious, and he finds these two women to be wonderful examples. "They are so accessible to all of us; teaching is not merely a career, but a true ministry for life."

Holy Names Sister graduates of Salem schools, even in retirement, represent a wide diversity of ministries, including that most important of ministries, praying for the world, family and friends. To list all of them would take several issues of **Ventures**, but a look at the works of one may give a sense of the range of their activities.

Sister Janice Jackson (M. Stephen James)

Photo right: The Sisters' Chapel in the historic Sacred Heart Academy building near the State Capitol in Salem. Photo below: Students in 1944 assemble for a photo on the front steps of Sacred Heart. SHA Archival photos, courtesy of Holy Names Heritage Center.



Sister Janice Jackson then (1951 SHA graduation) and now.



graduated from Sacred heart Academy in 1951 where she was a Sodality officer (at that time the highest office for a girl in the student body), sang in the double quartet, and made many lasting friends. In July of that year she entered the Holy Names novitiate and after making vows became a well-loved upper grade teacher and principal, including time at St. Joseph's grade school.

In 1973 she moved into a new and unusual ministry. Aware of the fact that young people on leaving prison often fell back into trouble, she founded a non-profit agency called Sponsors Inc. Sponsors' work included sending community volunteers to the Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) to meet inmates who were soon to be released from prison. These volunteers would "sponsor" an inmate on release, helping

him/her to find shelter, employment, and social contacts. Sister Janice left Sponsors in 1985, but this beautiful gesture of social justice, based on the principle that people can and do change when someone cares to help them, lives on today in a much bigger and organized way.

But this was not the end of Sister Janice's call to reach people's hearts and change their lives. Currently she has opened her home and directs the Open Hearth Spirituality Center for women in Eu-

gene. There women find a place to meet, pray and have their lives enriched in many ways.

Many other Sacred Heart alumni, both women and men, have enriched their communities. There are doctors, priests, dentists, lawyers, farmers, politicians, and police officers, at least one judge, one Marion County sheriff, numbers of teachers, parish workers, and college professors. Wonderful fathers and mothers. Many have made the ministry of prayer paramount in their lives.

Many things have changed since the first three lonesome Sisters arrived in Salem, but the same spirit lives on in homes, parishes, and the hearts of grateful friends.

SHA alumnae presently Holy Names Sisters:

- Sister Agnes Bachmeier (Maria Anthony)
- Sister Carolyn Coleman (Stephanie Marie)
- Sister Marilyn Gooley (M. Jean Barbara)
- Sister Janice Jackson (M. Stephen James)
- Sister Mary Anne Jungblut (Geraldine Mary)
- Sister Constance Lovick (Constanza Marion)
- Sister Mary Ann Martinmaas (Colette Marie)
- Sister Lavone Morisky (Mary Felice)
- Sister Lois Morisky (M. Eleanor Barbara)
- Sister Vivian Ripp (Marilynn Louise)
- Sister Marilyn Schroeder (Maria Benedict)
- Sister Virginia Schroeder (Urban Mary)
- Sister Mary Julia Steinkamp (M. John Michael)
- Sister Carole Strawn (Mary Kenan)
- Sister Lynda Thompson (Susanne Maureen)
- Sister Marian Watkins (Robert Marion)
- Sister Anna Weisner (M. Cecile Rose)
- Sister Sue Woodruff (Mary Roxanne)



In the 1960s, Sacred Heart moved from its downtown Salem location to its new facilities off Northeast Lancaster Drive. Photo above: Sacred Heart campus, 1981. Photo left: Softball game, 1982.



A note about a famous SHA alum



Mother Mary Flavia Dunn

Many people only know the name **Flavia** because of the beautiful hall on the Marylhurst University campus bearing that name. But Mother Mary Flavia, the former Alicia Dunn, Sacred Heart class of 1875, was both the Provincial Superior for nine years and Directress of Studies in charge of the educational direction of the Holy Names schools in the Pacific Northwest for more than two decades. She was in many ways responsible for turning Holy Names Sisters into trained, informed educators. She saw that the Sisters got educated, went on for higher degrees and kept up with their subject matter.

Her own teaching career did not always go smoothly. As a young Sister she was sent to work with a pastor who did not want her to teach the Holy Names prescribed curriculum, but rather to teach one of his own devising. When she demurred, he retaliated by burning her precious books of English literature, mythology and poetry.

During the Oregon School Bill controversy in the 1920s, she led the Sisters' opposition to the situation that ultimately the U.S. Supreme Court settled.

She supported the construction of Marylhurst College in 1930, and is known fondly as the Mother of that institution.

2011 Golden Jubilarians

People from the major cities of the I-Five corridor are rejoicing this summer as they celebrate with the Golden Jubilarians coming from Portland, Salem, Eugene, and Medford. These four Sisters have a number of things in common: they are dedicated Sisters of the Holy Names, they all entered right after graduating from high school in 1959, attended Marylhurst College (now University) and started their professional careers as teachers. Their paths have diverged widely over the years, but now their love and appreciation for the Community they entered 50 years ago.



Sister Mollie Reavis

Sister Mollie Reavis (Susan Mary) came to know the Holy Names Sisters from a very young age because three generations of her family were their students in Seattle, Spokane, Portland and Medford. As a student in Medford Catholic schools she and her sister Susan came to know and admire them, too. After graduating from St. Mary's High School, she entered the novitiate and made her vows in 1961.

Sister Mollie graduated from Marylhurst College with a B.A. in mathematics, and taught at St. Francis (now Marist) High School in Eugene, Sacred Heart in Salem, St. Mary's High School in Medford, and for many years at St. Mary's Academy in Portland, where she also served as principal. Along the way she earned two master's degrees at the University of Oregon and the University of San Francisco. She also spent two summers at Princeton University as a Woodrow Wilson Scholar.

While attending the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago during a sabbatical year, Sister Mollie became interested in Christian-Muslim relationships. Since 2003 she has been a member of the Institute for Christian-Muslim Understanding and a co-chair of the group. After retiring from the classroom she lives in Holy Redeemer parish at the convent where she continues to engage in interfaith dialogue.

Sister Joan Saalfeld

Sister Joan (Matthew Marie) and her brother Bernard grew up in Eugene and attended St. Mary's grade school and St. Francis High School. After graduation she made her way to the novitiate at Marylhurst, made vows, and went on to receive a degree in history from Marylhurst College, and an M.A. in literature from Portland State University. She taught at Star of the Sea School in Astoria, St.



Mary's Academy in Portland, and for a year directed the Humanities department at Marylhurst College. Always a fine and interested writer, she went on to the University of Denver where she received a doctorate in literature and fiction writing. For 27 years she taught English at the University of Portland.

Then in 2003 came a major change. Sister Joan was selected to be on the three-person Leadership Team of the then Oregon Province of the Sisters of the Holy Names. In 2005 she was selected to be on the seven-person Leadership Team of the newly formed U.S.-Ontario Province. She finished her five-year term in 2010 and has been enjoying a sabbatical before beginning the position of Vice President for Mission Integration at Marylhurst University in fall of 2011.

Sister Marilyn Schroeder



After graduating from Sacred Heart Academy in 1959, Sister Marilyn Schroeder (Maria Benedict) entered the Holy Names novitiate, made profession of vows and went on to become an elementary school teacher, a career track she follows to this day. She has taught at St.

Monica's in Coos Bay, in Cottage Grove, in Bend at St. Francis, where she served as principal, in Portland at The Madeleine, Assumption, and Holy Redeemer, at St. John XXIII in Milwaukie and finally in Salem at St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's.

She, too, along the way earned a master's degree at Portland State University, and studied at Syracuse University in New York.

Like many Sisters she loves to garden, to read, to hike and she volunteers at Liberty House, a facility for neglected and abused girls. She meets often with her family, brother Don and sisters Louise, a Holy Names associate, and Sister Virginia, a professed Holy Names Sister, who are all enthusiastic Oregonians.

NOTE: Articles for this issue of Ventures written by Sister Jane Ellen Burns.



Sister Diana Hollcraft

Sister Diana Hollcraft (Miriam Virginia) called Portland her home for many years, as it was there where she attended Assumption and Holy Redeemer grade schools and St. Mary's Academy. From the time

she was in the third grade she knew she wanted to be a Sister, because the caring, fun-loving Sisters in her school inspired her. Her own family, including Tom, Richard, Mary and her parents loved beauty, particularly that of music, and after she made first vows as a Sister she taught music education in Portland, Medford, and Salem in grades K through 8. After some time it became clear that not every school could afford a music teacher. Sister Diana and two other music educators joined to form a team to train classroom teachers to teach their own music. It was a bittersweet experience.

She spent three years at Homes for Growth in Winnipeg, Manitoba. During this time she prepared herself for a new ministry. On returning to Oregon she established Anthony Marie Rose House in Portland, and for ten years she assisted others to achieve health in body, mind and spirit. As an outgrowth of this she started a ministry as a health consultant with "The Global Art of Wellness" in the United States and Canada, while living in California and Arizona.

Besides using her beautiful singing voice, Sister Diana expresses her love of art in photography and watercolor painting in her home in Arizona.

In Memory



Sister Clare MacIsaac

Sister Clare MacIsaac (Leo Marion) died on March 26, 2011, at the Marie-Rose Center at Mary's Woods at Marylhurst at age 81. She was a vowed Sister of the Holy Names for 61 years. The Mass of Christian burial was held on March 31, 2011.

Clare was the second daughter of John and Margaret MacIsaac. She grew up in Everett, Washington, in a strong, close-knit family with two sisters and four brothers.

Clare came to Holy Names Academy in Seattle as a boarder, and although she missed her family very much, she delighted in the high academic standards she met there. After graduation in 1947, she entered the Holy Names Novitiate at Marylhurst, received the name Sister Leo Marion, and made final profession of vows in 1953. Along the way she received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Marylhurst College, and taught for several years at Holy Names Academy in Spokane.

An outstanding scholar, Sister Clare received a master's degree from Notre Dame in Indiana, and a doctorate from the University of Oregon, both degrees in mathematics.

After brief periods of teaching at St. Francis (now Marist) High School in Eugene, and at St. Mary's High School in Medford, she moved to Marylhurst College where she remained for over 40 years as a dedicated teacher of mathematics, making a name for herself as an understanding and compassionate educator.

Although mathematics was her major field of interest, it was not her only one. She loved literature and languages and took advantage of many of the courses the College/University had to offer. At times she studied Japanese, Mandarin and Russian as well as the more usual Romance languages. She loved books, puzzles, long walks, and above all, her family and their Scottish background. The death of her younger sister, Sister Colleen MacIsaac (M. Janet Therese) in 1997 left a large hole in her life.

She is survived by her brothers Joe, John Leo, Bill and Don, and the members of her religious community.

Remembrances may be made to the Holy Names Sisters Foundation, P.O. Box 411, Marylhurst, OR 97036. For memorial cards, obituaries or copies of the reflections given during the Mass of the Resurrection, contact Anita Lindsay, 503.534.3929.



Photo: Steve Hambuchen

"You learn something new every day." A correction to the article in the Winter 2011 Ventures about the historic candlesticks in the Chapel of the Holy Names at Marylhurst—the wrong candlesticks were pictured. The photo to the left highlights the beautiful detail from one of the actual candlesticks described in the last issue.



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE WORK OF OUR RETIRED SISTERS

We are grateful for the generous response we've received from our request to support our retired Sisters in unpaid ministry.

After only three weeks, we have received \$10,465, which is 35% of our goal of \$30,000. We are deeply appreciative of the 82 donors who have given thus far and offer thanks, in advance, to those of you who will give in the coming days!



Photo: Steve Hambuchen

Ventures: A Publication of the Sisters of the Holy Names

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Every issue of *Ventures* requires a certain amount of research, a great deal of which centers around the Holy Names Chronicles, archival photos and books. We owe a great deal to Sister Carole Strawn and Sister Lynda Thompson, who serve as technical advisor/graphic designer and editor, respectively. We honor them in this issue as Salem's own: graduates of St. Joseph's grade school, and Sacred Heart Academy. In addition to their contributions to *Ventures*, Carole works in Marketing and University Communications at Marylhurst University, and Lynda serves as director of mission integration at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center.

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Ventures

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A publication of the Sisters of the Holy Names

**In this issue: "Salem... political heart of the State of Oregon
 ...home to many beloved SNJM ministries since 1963... retelling our "capital" experience!"**

SPRING 2011

Travel down the scenic Willamette... through the "French Prairie" (St. Paul)... to the fertile farms and busy politics of Salem... where the Oregon Trail ended and a century and a half of SNJM presence began... continuing until this day

Meet our 2011 Jubilee Women... leaders all... in educational venues... as creative artists.... working for justice and social transformation... we celebrate their 50 years of excellence and spirit!

Unravel the candlestick clues... historical puzzle and relics of SNJM heritage.

In this VENTURES: Like the Douglas Fir, the Holy Names Community has put down deep roots in Oregon soil ...with pioneering courage and trust in God' unflinching promise... for a future full of hope in this "Land of the Golden West."

From the Sacred Heart Chronicles

On AUGUST 6, 1863, Mother Theresa of Jesus, General Superior, ... visited the city of Salem. (She) spoke very favorably of Salem. On Sunday, AUGUST 16, (she) named the Foundresses of the Mission of Salem. Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart was named Superior and Sisters Mary of Calvary and Mary Florence her companions.

AUGUST 29, 1863. FIRST WEEK IN OUR HOUSE— It has certainly not been a quiet week. On one side the noise of carpenters' hammers, on the other a crowd of curious spectators. The day was not sufficiently long to answer the demands of parents who came to place their children at school, and the night was not long enough to do all the work, as cleaning, papering the house, making mattresses, and other articles necessary.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1863. ENTRY OF PUPILS— We have received over 80 day pupils. We were far from expecting such a grand opening. ... We thank God, Who has

already blessed our efforts; and we hope to do good for those young girls...

SEPTEMBER 14, 1863. VISIT OF OUR DEAR MOTHER THERESA. Mother Theresa passes through the classes. In Sister Mary of Calvary's class she finds a large number of intelligent-looking young ladies; in Sister Mary Florence's, an equally large class of middle-sized, sprightly children. Mother (is) favorably impressed with prospects of the school. It shall be known as the Academy of the Sacred Heart.

MAY 1, 1864. OUR MOTHER'S MOUTH— Bright smiling May greets us for the first time in this missionary field of Oregon's fair capital. We hail it as of old with hope and joy, as we know that during this month our Blessed Mother in heaven, showers down her graces upon all who address her Divine Son through her. ... Among the 132 pupils whom we have under our supervision, only two are Catholics. One, Jane Kelly, a young girl of 16 years, the other, Maria D'Arcy, a mere child of 6.



Sacred Heart Academy, 1934

JULY 5, 1864. CLOSING EXERCISES. The closing exercises of this first scholastic year, consisted of a public exhibition and distribution of premiums. The room in the convent being too small as an auditorium to accommodate the friends of the Academy, the exercises took place in a large tent constructed in the yard for the purpose.