



The Leahy reunion brings family members from all parts of the United States.



St. Mary's graduates from 1865 to 2004: Mary Ann Blackinger, 1865; Elizabeth Eastman, 1932; Betsy Berg, 1965; Tessa Springer, 2004.

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and the Holy Names Sisters, at the urging of Father Leopold Dieleman, Astoria pastor, came to their town. In 1896 they started Holy Names Academy, originally only for young ladies, with both a grade and a high school.

Nearly one hundred students attended the first year, among them a number of Leahy girls. Some of them lived in Olney, 12 miles from the school, and they crossed a river each day on a hand-pulled scow.

Soon the school added grades for boys, and in that first class was a friend of the Leahys, Leopold Robinson, who later joined the Jesuits and was named president of Gonzaga University among other honors. Two of his sisters, Dolores Adelia (known as Sister Jeanne Therese) and Margaret (known now as Sister Marian Dolores) became Holy Names Sisters.

Among the "young ladies" was Michael Leahy's daughter, Catherine Ellen, who joined the Holy Names Community in 1905, became Sister Mary Eleanor, and was later superior of Star of the Sea Convent.

In 1922 a terrible fire destroyed most of downtown Astoria. The Academy was spared,

but a year later it too, went up in flames. The townspeople rallied to the cause, and a new school, Star of the Sea, rose out of the ashes. Among the students were the grandchildren of the three Leahy pioneers. John's son, John Joseph, known as Joe, had six children, the oldest of whom, Evelyn, like her siblings, attended Star of the Sea. She went on to board at Marylhurst College and remains the chronicler of Astoria history and of the Leahy family, proudly pointing out their ties to the Holy Names Community. Both she and her husband, Hal Hankel, a retired Army colonel, taught school and served as principal and superintendent in the Olney district, in consecutive terms.

Another Leahy-Holy Names connections was that with Henrietta Friedrich (now Sister Miriam Philip). Her father, Frank Friedrich, a dentist practicing in Astoria, married Henrietta Germann, sister of Mrs. John Leahy. Their children joined their cousins at Star of the Sea School as well as at many family gatherings.

In 1968 the high school closed, and the grade school continues with a largely lay staff. The alumni continue to meet regularly, bolstered by Leahy relatives and memories of the Holy Names presence, both important in Astoria and Holy Names history.



"Which box is it in?" In the warehouse facility since 1999, archival materials remain inaccessible and in jeopardy from damp and dust. Photo right: Sisters Carole Strawn (l) and Sue Woodruff, co-archivists.



Holy Names Heritage Center rising on Sisters' land at Marylhurst

The Holy Names Sisters Archives, which housed records, historical documents and precious Community keepsakes at the Provincial House, served countless researchers and casual visitors for nearly a century. In 1999, in preparation for the construction of Mary's Woods Retirement Community, Sister Rosemarie Kasper and archive staff painstakingly cataloged and boxed the Archives, sending them off for warehouse storage, to await their new home in the Holy Names Heritage Center.

The Center, the Sisters' latest building project, will once again open these Archives to the public. In addition, the facility will present an innovative educational focus—to conserve and display the historical relationship between Northwest families and the Sisters since their 1859 arrival in Oregon. Families will be invited, under the guidance of Archives staff, to explore their personal family story, to honor it, rooted as it is in Oregon history and their family values, and to celebrate this unique contribution to Oregon's growth and development. Each family contribution, CD, album, or scrapbook, will become an integral part of this new research facility.

Through the **Family History Project** the Sisters will make known how families, the "ordinary and extraordinary," have contributed to the life, culture and society of the Pacific Northwest in varied and unique ways. As Provincial Director Sister Lynda Thompson said in announcing the project in 2004, "Our collective history, yours and ours, is the history of Oregon."

- The Center will offer programs that
- Educate about the mission and work of the Holy Names Sisters in the Northwest
 - Honor the experience of women in Holy Names foundational communities—women of society, women of the Church, women of the arts, women of the home
 - Highlight the cultural and political life of local families and individuals

- Demonstrate how historical memory explains the Pacific Northwest today
- Teach the lessons of history to future decision makers

The Center is a joint effort of the Oregon and Washington Provinces, who share a common foundation and history through 1962. Sisters Carole Strawn and Sue Woodruff are current co-archivists for Oregon; Sister Rosemarie Kasper serves as Archivist Emerita. Sister Mary Elizabeth Dunton directs the Washington Archives.

Families are invited to inquire! Contact the Holy Names Sisters Foundation at 503.675.2465 or acarr@snjmor.org

Ground blessing for this multipurpose facility is planned for Sunday, September 18.

In Memory



S. Olivette Ginete

Sister Olivette Ginete (Helene Rose) was born in rural Jacksonville, Ore., the oldest of eight. Rooted in a French-Canadian faith, she entered the

Congregation at age 19, and taught business and mathematics classes in SNJM high schools for nearly 30 years. She enjoyed creative writing and used her skills as bookkeeper at the Provincial House and as editor of the Oregon Province Newslet-

ter. Although quiet and somewhat shy, Sister was very interested in the larger world issues of justice, equality and peace and supported local social justice concerns. She kept a special bond with her missionary nurse sister, Sister Virginia Ginete visiting her in Lesotho, Africa. A beautiful, complex and talented woman, she is remembered for her generosity of heart, anticipating a need before it was expressed. Sister Olivette died on Easter Friday, April 1, 2005 at age 91. She would have celebrated 70 years of religious profession this summer. Alleluia, Sister Olivette!

Sister Eileen McNamee (Una Mary) joined her two sisters, Sister Robert Francis and Sister Agnes Eileen (Eileen's twin), when she entered the Holy Names novitiate in 1947.

Born in Custer, S.Dak., the third oldest of 12, Eileen moved as a young girl with her family to St. Paul, Ore. She earned her teaching certificate and became an accomplished educator before her entry. Sister taught at every level: primary children in Portland, Bend, Salem and Coos Bay, teens at Central Catholic High School, and shut-ins as a volunteer tutor in Lake Oswego.

Coming from a close knit and fun-loving family, she and her sister took each other names at profession and revealed in being "the twins." They dressed alike, and together planted a



S. Eileen McNamee

Jubilee 2005: So much to celebrate!

The Sisters of the Holy Names proudly announce their 2005 Golden Jubilarians: women of achievement, who have pioneered new trails and touched thousands across the Northwest and Alaska since their entry in 1953. They continue to look to the future with the confidence of faith. As one remarked, "I wouldn't be surprised if the best is yet to come. It has been a pattern so far." In May and June, the Jubilarians joined their 11 Sisters from Washington Province for celebrations in Seattle, Spokane and Portland. Refer to www.sistersoftheholynames.org/oregon for their personal stories.

Maxine Currin, SNJM



With her MBA from Notre Dame, Maxine oversaw management of the Marylhurst Provincial House, then moved to the private sector at Kah-nee-ta Resort, the Newport and Eugene Hilton Hotels. Maxine's ministry to guests and staff alike always included a

gracious smile, attentive ear and encouraging word. She currently lives in Newport, Ore.

Joan Dixon, SNJM

A doctoral degree in educational leadership climaxed Joan's academic career, and began her long tenure as directing teacher/administrator in Gonzaga University's graduate School of Education. Her expertise as master teacher, principal, counselor, School Superintendent as well as her generous spirit and ready wit make her a sought after consultant. She has a special interest in serving the First Nation students in Canadian programs.



Joan Hansen, SNJM



Pianist, music educator, principal of Saint Mary's Academy, counselor, province leader, parish minister... Joan finds the challenge of new possibilities irresistible, it seems.

She has risen to the challenge of constantly changing needs, bringing a wealth of personal and professional gifts. Joan holds a BA and MM in Music and an

bountiful rose garden. Surely Eileen missed her sister who preceded her in death in 1999. What a heavenly reunion there must have been with Eileen's death at age 92 on April 29! Her funeral liturgy overflowed with the spirit of the McNamee family, with pride and joy in their loved sister and aunt. We remember her with affection and gratitude.

Sister M. Catherine Ann (Alice Struntz) attended St. Stephen School, Portland, and then St. Mary's. She entered the novitiate during the Roaring 20s—she already had her own car—and earned her degree from Holy Names College, Spokane. She happily taught primary grade students for the next 67 years. Fortunately she had an Oregon Life teaching certificate! Her special gift was

MA in Counseling/Psychology. Currently she is Administrative Assistant for Mary's Woods Retirement Community at Marylhurst.

Mary Kay Lampert, SNJM



Armed with a MA in English, Mary Kay's knack for creativity and drama sparked English, literature, Shakespeare and film classes in a variety of schools, including St. Mary's, Jesuit, Regis, Central Catholic and Marylhurst College.

Today her outreach efforts and lively personality support seniors at St. Ignatius Parish, Portland, and residents at Our House, serving those with AIDS.

Peggy Pillette, SNJM

Little did Peggy know that her years in high school education and a library science degree would prepare her for 14 years in Fairbanks, Alaska, as religious education direction and resource coordinator. Today her ministry is direct service to the very poor in Portland at Outreach Ministry in Burnside. Peggy's compassion and understanding of how people grow offers a step up to those who find themselves on the bottom rung of society.



In the spirit of Marie-Rose

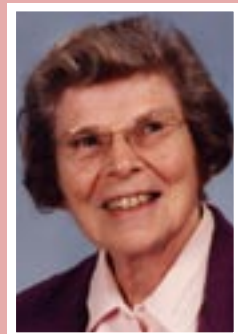
On May 16, Marylhurst University presented Sister Peggy Codd (Jeanne Rose) the Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher Award. Sister Peggy served as Dean of Students Resident Director and Alumni Director; a total of over 35 years of commitment to University.

With a M.A. in Education and a specialty in counseling, she influenced countless women with her leadership, guidance and friendship. An ardent golfer, she taught golf at Marylhurst and was featured in *Sports Illustrated* as "Portland's Golfing Nun."

Her compassion extended to volunteer service at St. Vincent Hospital Guild and at Loaves & Fishes NW Service Center. Her welcoming smile brightened her home Cathedral parish as she assisted with parish events. With gentle dignity and humor, as educator, advocate and leader, Sister Peggy's life radiates the spirit of Marie-Rose, both loved for their grace, integrity and courage.



Sister Peggy Codd



S. Catherine Ann

working with struggling students, day after day, year after year, each of whom thought he or she was her favorite. It was a "joy" to her to see self-confidence blossom. Sister loved music, finding ways to attend monthly evening concerts in Portland. For her music was "food for the soul," along with her daily Mass and prayer in presence of the Blessed Sacrament. She is remembered for her serenity, the twinkle in her eye, a lovely smile.

She died Jan. 17 at the age of 94. We miss her gentle presence among us.

From the Leadership

Dear Friends,

From the time of our first foundations here in Oregon in the second half of the nineteenth century, Sisters of the Holy Names have served the people of the Pacific Northwest in groundbreaking ministry projects. In each house and school that we founded, careful handwritten records of important events in that foundation and ministry were kept. Each year these chronicles were sent to the Provincial House and housed in our Archives, along with significant artifacts collected from the various missions.

When the Sisters moved out of the Provincial House to make way for Mary's Woods, these Archives had to be moved to a warehouse until we could build a proper home for them.

We want our Archives to be available to all, as they offer a collective memory of the Pacific Northwest in exciting and formative times. We also wish to invite the families with whom our lives have been entwined, and without whom we could not have carried out our ministries, to join us by allowing us to keep their family histories with ours.

A fund designated for this priority was established several years ago, with regular contributions from the Sisters. Additional funds are being sought through grant proposals and conversations with interested donors.

This July here at Marylhurst, we will break ground for our Holy Names Heritage Center, a building that will house our common history, share our common story, and honor our bonds with the families who partnered in all our ministries in the Pacific Northwest.

We ask your support for this important project. The story of putting faith into action since 1859 has much to teach in a world of doubt and fear.

Please help us lay a strong foundation for our Heritage Center, one that matches the faith that is our heritage.

In Jesus and Mary,
Sister Joan Saalfeld
Province Director

St. Mary's Academy recognizes Sister

Sister Margaret Graziano is no stranger to moments of recognition, but Academy Awards night, May 1, brought her home to the school where her gifts for a life of remarkable service and dedication were nurtured.

Recipient of the **Outstanding Service to Community: Sister Shawn Marie Barry Award**,

Sister Margaret was honored for her lifetime work. In addition to teaching elementary music and art for 40 years, she continues to provide art therapy for prisoners. She has served as prison chaplain and volunteer coordinator for Lane County Adult Corrections Center.

She has traveled internationally to meet with experts in the field of corrections and rehabilitation, offering her wisdom and the insight of hours of respectful and supportive presence to inmates.

A petite dynamo, she is, in the words of this award, a "St. Mary's alumna of extraordinary accomplishment."



S. Margaret Graziano



Mt. Angel Seminary honored Sister Jane Ellen Burns, with its Lumen Gentium (Light for the People) Award on April 26. In her early career Sister taught English and journalism at SNJM secondary schools and Marylhurst College. The call to wider horizons and new cultures, however, led her to carry the heritage of the English language and literature abroad, first to a college in Hong Kong, then to Immaculate Heart College, Kagoshima, Japan. The Holy Names Sisters founded this school in 1933, leaving regretfully when hostilities broke out. With intelligent humor, a love of the written word and an engaging manner, she brought a unique feminine presence to Seminary in 1988. She served as a writing instructor, then moved into media relations as editor and advisor. The Lumen Gentium Award honors her service to far-reaching and diverse communities, always with her customary wit and style, respect for the individual and zest for life. Sister's light has shone far and brightly! Photo above: Sister Jane Ellen with Abbot Nathan Zodrow, OSB, (I) and Father Rick Paperini, President Rector, Mt. Angel Seminary.

Ventures: A Publication of the Sisters of the Holy Names

Ventures is a publication of the Sisters of the Holy Names (SNJM), printed tri-annually for the use of the Sisters, their partners in ministry and their various publics. It aims to support the vitality of the SNJM mission, education in the faith in all its forms, into the future.

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Ventures

Turning Faith into Action since 1859

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In this issue: HOLY NAMES HERITAGE

SUMMER 2005

SUMMER ... kids free at last! ... leisure time, play time, family time. Sunnier days that invite gatherings ... weddings ... picnics garage clean out! Fuchsias ... fireworks on the Fourth ... freeways that lead to Grandma or to cousins across the state.

SUMMER ... a season of connecting over the miles, over the years.

SUMMER ... the season of FAMILY: moments to explore **who we were** ... the "tall tales" and true ... **who we are** ... the values that color our lives, motivate our days, shape our story ... our pride, our legacy, our heritage.

This Summer *VENTURES* we dedicate to **Heritage**.

Calendar of Events

June 24-29:

SNJM Justice and Peace Network Meeting, Marylhurst, Oregon

August 5-7:

Oregon Province Summer Meeting Days

September 12:

Feast of the Holy Name of Mary

September 18:

Ground blessing - Holy Names Heritage Center, Marylhurst, Oregon

October 8:

EUGENE SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIP. 5:30 p.m. Mass with dinner immediately following at St. Mary's Parish Center. Please call Debbie Johnston at 503.675.2466, if you would like to attend.

October 21:

Founders' Day. On October 21, 1859, the first twelve Sisters of the Holy Names arrive in Portland from Quebec, Canada, and found St. Mary's Academy.

A glimpse of the past through one family tree: Astoria

The Astoria Chronicles, written by the Holy Names Sisters of that era, give a glimpse into the life, adventures and accomplishments of one Astoria family.

Sept. 14, 1896.

Opening of Astoria School welcomes young ladies. Misses Adele Sovey, Madge Sovey, Jennie Curtis, Elizabeth Kopp, Anna Kopp, Gertrude Kearney, Hilda Brunold, Annie Hansen, Maude Stone, Kinnie Crosby, Mamie Shannahan, Nellie Shannahan, Josephine Gardino, Margaret Taylor, Edith Burnstedt, Lucile Colton, Agnes O'Neil, and **Marian Leahy**

June 15, 1899.

We deviated somewhat from our usual custom this year and held our closing exercises at Fisher's Opera House and also in charging an admission of fifty cents. We are well satisfied with the financial results. The net proceeds are \$117.25 ... the Gold medal renewed in the Preparatory department was awarded to **Miss Marian Leahy**...

Oct. 12, 1905.

Miss Elsie Leahy, a resident student of the Academy for a number of years, leaves to-day for the novitiate in Portland. Best wishes and prayers for perseverance go with this first religious vocation for our community in Astoria.

May 15, 1909.

Examinations are held in Irish History. **Miss Eulalia Leahy's** paper is found to be the most complete and is forwarded to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Portland. We hope she may be among the prize winners.

June 10, 1909.

We receive news that our contestant in the Irish History examination has been awarded a prize of five dollars.

August 1, 1929.

The appointment of **Sister Mary Eleanor (Catherine Leahy)** as Superior of Star of the Sea School means that she returns to scenes of childhood days. When a girl, Sister Superior attended school for a number of years at the old convent located at Sixteenth and Franklin Streets. Many among those who welcome the new Superior are friends of years gone by who joyfully welcome the opportunity of renewing friendship.