From the very beginning, even when money was scarce, the chapels and the halls of Holy Names schools always shone with the finest specimens of art, and each faculty generally boasted one art teacher. Sister artists contributed their work, and today the Community still takes pride in the works of such women as Sister Mary Editha Raffis and her abstract pieces, Sister Loyola Mary Harman’s beautiful calligraphy, Sister Patricia Stebinger (Darnien Mary), Sister Miriam Clare Murphy’s oil paintings, and Sister Mary Noreen O’Leary (M. Noreen Elizabeth)’s mosaics. Nearly every Holy Names institution has a sculpture of Mother Marie-Rose fashioned by Sister Paula Mary Turnbull, and the tradition goes on.

A number of the Sisters have taken classes and quietly forged their own beautiful art pieces, and Sister Marilyn Nunemaker (Jacinta Maria) had an idea. She sent out letters, urging anyone who had a talent to share it with all of the Sisters, and hence was born the Quetzal Gallery, currently in place on the third floor of the Sisters’ section of the Provincial House at Marylhurst.

In this article we have chosen to write a little more at length about some of the artists, but all are deserving of real credit. No limits were set on entries. No judgments on quality or monetary worth. And 14 Sisters submitted pieces from china painting to lineart. Some have been working on their pieces for years; others have only recently begun the process. The majority of the pieces fall into two main categories: painting and photography.

Among the painters are Sister Wanda Marie Jordan, a former teacher and principal, and a longtime member of the faculty at the University of Portland, who has chosen oil for her medium; Sister Mary Julia Steinkamp (M. John Michael), likewise a former elementary school teacher who writes, sculpts, and whittles as well as paints with acrylics; and Sister Marilyn Nunemaker, former teacher on every level, including college, and a master gardener, who uses pastels for her works.

Sister Rosemary Antonich (M. Catherine Margaret), pianist and organist, has added painting in watercolors to her accomplishments, while Sister JoJean Cavalli (Mary Jessica), teacher, counselor and artist has used lineart for years to create her own Christmas cards and entertain children. She has sold some on demand, and has recently moved to using watercolors for her paintings. Another who has two strings to her bow is Sister Mary Burke (James Marie) who for many years has never been without a camera, and her beautiful additions to the Quetzal Gallery testify to her expertise with it. Sister Mary started her Holy Names ministry as a seventh and eighth grade teacher, served as principal of Sacred Heart Academy in Salem and St. Mary’s Academy in Portland, and went to Washington, DC, to work for the NCEA (National Catholic Educational Association), traveling widely, assisting Catholic high schools with development issues, and taking pictures everywhere she went.

After six years in the nation’s capital Sister Mary went to the Diocese of Toledo, again helping the many Catholic schools there (151 in the small diocese) with their mission and work. This section of the United States was new to her and she went about it with her camera, whetting her appetite for further investigation and exploration. On a year’s sabbatical she visited the National Parks of America, including those of Alaska — candy land for photographers.

Sister Mary continued her work as a consultant for Catholic high schools in places as disparate as West Virginia, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. After semi-retirement she broadened her artistic interests to take classes in watercolor and acrylic, but she will still carry her camera for those special moments that brighten her life.

Other photographers included Sister John Maureen Backenstos, former grade and high school teacher and social worker in Central Oregon Cascades region; Sister Diane Holcraft (Miriam Virginia), and Associate Cathlin Beckett, both health consultants in San Tan Valley, Arizona; Sister Rosemarie Kasper (Mary Agneda), teacher and archivist; Sister Carolyn Coleman (Stephanie Marie), teacher and groundskeeper; and Sister Janice Jackson (M. Stephen James), teacher, counselor and spiritual director.

Moving along to another genre, we find some striking mandalas, both painted and with pulled paper. By definition a mandala is a geometric figure representing the universe in Hindu
the Quetzal Announcers of the Lord. Born in mainland China, she came to Hong Kong to study, and served as financial officer of a large high school in that city. Several of her students eventually came to the United States to study at Marylhurst and Fort Wright Colleges, and she came to know the Holy Names Sisters when they shared their experiences with her. In 1997, when the Chinese would take back Hong Kong from the British, she decided she came to know the Holy Names Community. In Portland, Sister Teresa has remained involved with the Chinese community. She teaches at the Chinese Language School, keeps a log on her music by teaching piano and singing lessons, and visits hospitals and nursing homes where she often acts as an interpreter, and leads a Chinese prayer group.

Also a needfulwoman is Sister Elaine Kraft (Marian Bernice). Her contribution to the Quetzal Gallery is a small quilt composed of 12 panels, each of which contains a different classic quilt pattern. Sister Elaine’s history of producing beautiful art in different kinds of craft goes back nearly 40 years, and reflects her interest in unique and important starting. Out as an elementary school teacher, she went on to attend classes in home economics at Oregon State University and earn a MA in Theology from Mount Angel Seminary. Along the way, she became interested in PRH (Personality and Human Relations) — an approach involved in on-going research and offering personal development programs designed for adults. This included study in both France and Spain.

With this background Sister Elaine went to Marylhurst College where she chaired the Department of Pastoral Ministry, and later served as campus minister. At the same time she developed an interest in spinning and weaving, and had the sheep she raised for their fur which she used in her work. For many years she tailored her own other and other fortunate projects to clothing and always found the textile part of home economics more interesting than the food. Now retired, she lives at the Tila- mook Towne House and admires the beauty around her.

This is only the beginning; there are many others who will be featured in the Quetzal Gallery in months to come. Watch that space!

This article and those on pages 2 and 3 were written by Sister Jane Ellen Burns.

Quetzal Gallery: Why the title?
The Quetzal Bird shares several characteristics that match what the gallery represents.

It is the sacred bird of Guatemalan, a guardian of the people. What it does is considered sacred. The Quetzal Bird cannot be killed in a cage or it will die. Artists need freedom, too. The female is just as beautiful as the male. One of its legends tells us that it uses and shares its God-given talents to the best of its ability. It represents Holy Names artists who, like this lovely, exotic tropical bird, bring color, excitement and a surprising uplift of spirit to others through their creativity and imaginative work.

Neglected art. Now, in the twenty-first century it has revived and China painting classes are once more offered, filled and produce some lovely pieces. Sister Jean Gent (M. Constance Jean) became interested in this medium more than 10 years ago, when one of her sisters took classes and encouraged her to do the same. Sister Jean learned in the Holy Names Community follows the pattern of many of the Sisters: teaching elementary classes serving as a principal, but in later years she branched out as director of Maria Rose, her office at Rose Haven a daytime community for women and children experiencing the trauma of abuse, loss of home and other disheartening life challenges.

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits this facility gives to the women it welcomes is a sense of personal worth and dignity. Founders of Sister of the Child of the Aunt, and still attentive to the founding spirit, she hopes to continue. Besides offering respect and support, it also provides an opportunity for hearing and giving a chance to socialize. More immediate needs are also another to: a hot meal, clean clothing and hygiene items, the use of a phone, a place to read, and more. Rose Haven also offers career assistance, life skills and creative art. The women who have medical and educational problems can work with an advocate counselor who helps them find assistance.

Without unnecessary questions, and without judgment, Rose Haven embodies the quietly spirited of the Gospels. Sister Judy helps in the hospitality area: serving food and beverages, and bringing presence and compassionate listening to the guests.

2014 Jubilarians
Two summers ago the group of Holy Names Sisters who entered in 1961 opted to celebrate their golden jubilee from the year they entered rather than from the year of their profession. Consequently, the newspapers were an unappreciated golden jubilee celebration this summer, but in the fall those from the 75th, 70th and 60th groups will be honored.

75-year Jubilarian
Sister Frances Harold (Mary Karen) leads the list of Jubilarians. One of the musical harold sisters, including Sister Jane Mary (M. Angel Goy)，an intimate introduction to another Sister Barbara (Rosita) and Sister Mary (Rosita), Sister Frances celebrates 75 years from the profession of her first vows, with a life full of music, activity and dedication.

A teacher of music for many years, Sister Frances has also worked as director of religious education in several parishes, gone around the Archdiocese to introduce the various parishes to the Retirement Fund for Religious, been anachronistic minister at Emanuel Hospital for many years and still lectors at the daily Masses at Mary’s Woods.

70-year Jubilarians
Seventy-year Jubilarians (from left) Sisters John Mau-reen Backenstos, Frances Harold and Lavone Morisky enjoy the warmth and color of the gardens at Mary’s Woods at Marylhurst.

Five Sisters from Oregon will mark their 70th anniversary of vows. Sister John Mau- reen Backenstos, Coordinator of the McKenzie River in southern Oregon, and ministered to the people in that area for over 20 years. Before that she taught grade and high school, took students on trips to Europe and the Holy Land, wrote poetry and developed an interest in photography. She recently moved to Mary’s Woods.

Sister Helen Gates (Clara Mary) has lived at Mary’s Woods since its foundation, and ministered to the Sisters and the residents from its very beginning in many ways. She often accompanied the singing for religious exercises in the Chapel, drove Sisters to appointments, and helped with the regular household duties. Earlier she taught elementary classes and music in many schools throughout Oregon and Washington.

Sister Rosamari Kasper (Mary Agneda) lives in Portland where she gardens (specializ- ing in lavender and lavender products), and pursues her Native American culture. In spite of having to use a wheelchair for much of the journey, she traveled to Rome last year for the canonization of the first Native American saint recognized. She is a member of several of elementary and art classes, she long served as archivist for the former Oregon province.

Sister Lavone Morisky (Mary Felice) is part of the Apostles who group. At Mary’s Woods, after an automobile accident left her with a damaged heart. Her long years of service to the Holy Names Community comprised the teaching of elementary classes and serving as principal and superior, the latter job including several years at the Provincial House at Marylhurst. In semi-retirement she took a job at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center. Her final mission involved performing as the first singing in the Carmel of Mary. Sister Kathleen Walsh (Sister Ignatius of Mary) goes out from her Tilton Towne Kasper.
60-year Jubilarians

Representing the Diamond Jubilarians, those celebrating 60 years of profession is Sister Judy Bertoli (Thea Mary), now living in Forest Grove, Oregon. Her ministry as a Holy Names Sister included teaching high school, working as a provincial secretary, branch out to a position at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and serving as both Vocation and Novice director in the former Oregon province. Twice she spent time in London, assisting the provincial government there, particularly with electronic and English language services. See more about her work elsewhere in this issue.

Sister Donna Hortsch (Leonard Mary) came to the Holy Names Sisters from her home in The Dalles, a place that gave her a love for the Columbia and Gorge and archeology which she has fostered over the years. She taught in elementary schools, served as an assistant principal and as a home health care provider as a Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) for Providence St. Vincent’s Medical Center. She has traveled extensively, especially to Scriptural sites in Turkey, the Holy Land and Europe. In retirement, she has shared her love for Scripture with several adult groups, the latest at Mary’s Woods where she now resides.

Sister Rosemary Michael (Lambert Mary) although born to a German settlement in northern Minnesota (first girl in a family of 12), entered the Holy Names Community in the Canadian province of Manitoba, and made her novitate at the Motherhouse in Montreal. Teaching in Minnesota, it came time for Sister Rose Mary to decide whether to remain in Canada or to join a United States province, and she chose Oregon. Since she has been here she has taught elementary religious programs, been instrumental in the formation of the Korean Catholic community in Portland, earned a CAN (Certified Nursing Assistant) and a CMA (Certified Medical Assistant), worked in various medical facilities, and took care of small children at the Marylhurst Convent. Since coming to Mary’s Woods she has served as sacristan for several years. In addition to her other talents, she is an excellent cook and baker.

Sister Rosemary Anne Parker taught high school science and math for nearly 50 years, mainly at Mary’s Academy and Central Catholic High School in Portland. She served as chair of the science department in both schools, and received awards for teaching excellence, but she also served as Vice-principal and Athletic Director, coached and refereed in four sports: basketball, volleyball, softball and hockey. She lives in St. Ignatius parish in Portland, and for many years worked with the senior community there, sponsoring both spiritual and social activities.

The sixty-year Jubilarians include (from left) Sisters Rose Mary Michael, Donna Hortsch and Jacqueline Quinn.

In Memory

Sister Kathleen St. Martin

Sister Kathleen St. Martin, age 92, died at the Marie-Rose Center at Mary’s Woods on March 18, 2014. She was a vowed Sister for 70 years. Kathleen, better known as Kate, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on August 26, 1921. As a child she was sent to boarding school at St. Mary’s of the Valley in Beaverton where she came to know and love the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon. She entered their Community, and made first profession of vows in 1943.

Her first ministry lay in the teaching of music, but she soon switched to elementary education, working in parochial schools around western Oregon, including a period of time as superior and principal of St. Michael’s school in Grand Ronde.

All her life she had been interested in becoming a nurse, and she eventually earned an RN. She had a great desire to care for the homeless and poor of downtown Portland, and she found herself double shifting — working at the DePaul Detox Center following her work at Maryville Nursing Home in Beaverton.

In 1975, after a two-year probationary period, Sister Kate transferred her vows to the Holy Names Sisters and started her full-time mission to the men and women of Portland’s Skid Road.

There were no strangers in Kate’s life: she recognized God in everyone, including the sick, the poor, the profane, the dirty, the uncoverable. She saw beauty and worth where few others did. She nursed these people as long as she was able, and in her last few years working in downtown Portland she sat with the dying, particularly AIDS patients, comforting them and their friends.

Sister Kate is survived by her sisters, Peggy and Bernie, nieces and nephews and the members of her religious community.

Sister Margaret Graziano

Sister Graziano (Vincent Mary), age 97, died at the Marie-Rose Center at Mary’s Woods on May 11, 2014. She was a vowed Sister of the Holy Names for 77 years.

Margaret was the oldest daughter of Agostino and Madeleine Rinella Graziano, Italian immigrants. She attended public elementary schools, but she graduated from St. Mary’s Academy in Portland after her father promised the Sisters’ fresh produce from his vegetable stand every day, to pay for her tuition. Her plans to enter the Holy Names Community met with strong parental disapproval, and she waited for a year after high school before she came to Marylhurst. Two determined women, Margaret and her mother, were at odds over this entry, but eventually her mother became very proud of her daughter, the Sister.

And rightly so, Sister Margaret was a woman of many talents, which she generously shared throughout her long career as teacher and mentor. She taught in Holy Names schools in Washington and Oregon, including five years as superior and principal at St. Francis of Assisi in Spokane. Along with her classroom teaching she reached out to other groups; she also taught preschool and troubled teens, served as assistant director of Young Musicians and Artists summer camp and in every instance encouraged her students to develop their artistic talents.

In her final and very special ministry — that of working with the inmates of the Lane County jail, she used all the many talents developed over the years: music, art, counseling, and with them a beautiful spiritual dimension to bring a sense of worth and dignity to these people. As she worked with them to expand their interests, she needed materials and she was not afraid to solicit help from any available friends, the government, family and her religious community. Preparation for this work included many sessions with workshops, including one in South Africa.

Her more than 35 years of selfless jail ministry earned her many awards and honors. The Archdiocese of Portland in St. Mary’s Academy, Lane County, local and national associations connected with correctional institutions all recognized not only for her work, but for the presence and the joy she brought to all those she encountered. Among other honors they bestowed on her, Lane County made her an honorary deputy sheriff. A newspaper account on her retirement says it all: “Her work was a huge mental, emotional and spiritual contribution to the inmates in this community.”

After a fall at age 95, it became necessary for her to move to Marylhurst. Although confined to a wheelchair, she was not confined to her room, and took part in such activities as “Writers in the Woods,” a Spelling Bee, and spiritual exercises. She endeared herself to everyone.

Sister Margaret is survived by her brother Joseph, many nieces and nephews, her religious community and countless friends.

Remembrances may be made to Sisters of the Holy Names, Oregon Partners in Mission, 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 or alindsay@snunym.org.
In this issue: The Quetzal Bird Gallery ... celebrating SNJM creativity

Visit this unique Gallery... named for that lovely, exotic tropical bird symbolizing the artistic spirit... free flying, delightful, offering fleeting glimpses of unexpected beauty. Meet SNJM artists bringing color, excitement and surprising uplift to others through their imaginative creations.

Honor Jubilarians who bridge Vatican I and Vatican II... reinventing and honing their skills to respond with eagerness to God’s call in times of incredible change.

Remember Sisters Kate and Margaret... impassioned advocates for those on the margins.

In this VENTURES... we celebrate Sister artists of everyday life... who offer us glimpses of what brought them joy and fulfillment... encouraging us to do the same.

A glimpse of the past...

Mother Marie-Agnes Dufresne (d. 1881) was one of the three original foundresses of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

“The Artist - It was said of Sister Marie-Agnes that she handled scissors and paint brushes skillfully. It was not surprising than that for some 25 years she was put in charge of teaching students to paint and to create works of art. “Sister Marie-Agnes taught sewing and drawing and initiated students to artistic accomplishments. “Sister Marie-Agnes used her artistic talents her whole life long as a teacher but especially as a sacristan. Besides her regular duties, she made priestly vestments and religious ornaments: banners, flags, streamers, wax flowers, etc.” Excerpts from Mélodie Dufresne – Mother Marie-Agnes, SNJM.

Sister Mary of Mercy Rainault (d. 1898) was one of the original twelve Holy Names Sisters to come to the Pacific Northwest arriving in Portland on October 21, 1859.

“In her life as a Sister, almost all of her years were spent in sacristy work and in the art studio. She was quite a prolific painter. Portraits of Mother Mary Rose, Bishop Junger, and Father Prefontaine were presented to Holy Names Academy in Seattle. A painting of Mount Rainier was sold once for $49.50 to pay for a carpet for the sanctuary at Sacred Heart in Seattle. A tapestry painting exhibited at the Salem Fair in 1897 won first prize and a premium of $4. “... Elaborate paintings were done on the doors of the mortuary vault at St. Paul” (Catholic Cemetery). Excerpt from Centenary Readings.

Sister Mary Rosina Reis (1882-1977) was head of the art department at St. Mary's Academy in Portland from 1922 to 1965. In the photo above, Sister Mary Rosina is pictured in her studio at St. Mary's with a variety of her artwork.

Several of Sister Mary Rosina’s paintings are presently on display throughout the Provincial House at Marylhurst and Mary's Woods.