



# Ventures

Turning Faith into Action since 1859

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[www.sistersoftheholynames.org/oregon/](http://www.sistersoftheholynames.org/oregon/)

## Women's life and work; mirror of parish spirit



It was the biggest bargain in the United States—probably in the whole world. In 1999 the Sisters of the Holy Names paid the Redemptorist Fathers one dollar for the Holy Redeemer Convent in North Portland—a place which is still the center of Holy Names charism—a place with deep roots in the neighborhood and the parish. When they made this tremendous gift, the Redemptorist Fathers asked that the Holy Names continue to be a presence in the parish.

When the convent was renovated in 1950, it had rooms for 14 Sisters—tiny rooms with closets to accommodate one habit, a bathrobe and a nightgown. The Sisters' books and classroom materials were kept at the school or in the Community Room, spiritual reading stayed in the Chapel. Now the Sisters who live there have room for clothes, art supplies, books of all kinds, computers and other electronic devices.

But the spirit that filled the convent from the beginning still permeates the building. With room to spare, Holy Redeemer Convent is seldom without guests, and they range from Sisters of other communities to lay people in need of a

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space for a night. A Sister of St. Mary's of Oregon who teaches at the school has become a member of the household, and Sister Rosemary Antonich (M. Catherine Margaret), who lived in the convent for 33 years now spends two days a week at the convent and at school. For several months recently, a Sister of another community with family in the neighborhood made the convent her base while in the city caring for a sick relative.

In 1908, when the three Holy Names Sisters first came to Holy Redeemer, there were 170 Sisters in the Oregon Province widely spread through all of Oregon and Washington. In September of that year Holy Redeemer School welcomed 57 pupils. From the beginning, music played a big part in the curriculum.

And it still does. Sister Helen Sandoz (M. Julie Anne), who has been at Holy Redeemer for the last 28 years, has spent all of her 55 years as a professed Holy



Photos: Steve Hambuchen

**The Holy Names Sisters at Holy Redeemer Convent. From left: Sisters Helen Moore, Margaret Sullivan, Mollie Reavis, Helen Sandoz. Top photo: The Sisters in the convent chapel.**

Names Sister teaching music, playing music, and encouraging others to play music. Currently she regularly plays for services at neighboring St. Charles Church as well as at Holy Redeemer. For every big celebration in the Marylhurst Convent chapel, Sister Helen is there with her violin. She has a small—in every way—string group at Holy Redeemer; the students are in the third to eighth grades. She plays in the Marylhurst University Orchestra and in the Wannabes, an SNJM community group of violinists and cellists who perform at community gatherings.

Sister Helen traveled to Japan to learn more about the Suzuki method of teaching very young students, and she not only uses her skills in this method to instruct small children to play the

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violin, but she serves as an accompanist at Marylhurst University for Suzuki students there.

Another artist at the Holy Redeemer Convent is Sister Helen Moore (M. Gertrude Anne). Like Sister Helen Sandoz, this Helen is also a native of The Dalles, Oregon, and has served many years as an elementary teacher around Washington and Oregon. She celebrated her diamond (60 years) jubilee as a professed Sister three years ago. She always had an interest in art and loved to sketch, but it was not until after retirement she had the time to study and to give full attention to her creative works. Her charming cards, depicting the Sisters of a former day, and places dear to the Holy Names Community, are much in demand. She sells them at church bazaars, and in shops, and the money she earns goes to support SNJM charitable causes. Her cards may be purchased from the Sisters' Web site: [www.sistersoftheholynames.org/oregon](http://www.sistersoftheholynames.org/oregon)

Holy Redeemer Convent has a large, beautifully kept yard—Sister Helen Moore is in charge of this and of the workers who come to help. She is an excellent listener, and makes this her ministry. She often rides the city bus, and there she finds another outlet for her caring ear, and while she's listening she's praying for those she meets.

The upkeep of a large house takes time and energy, and Sister Margaret Sullivan (Columban Mary) gives both to the convent building. Sister Margaret taught in elementary schools throughout Oregon, including many years at Holy Redeemer, and retired three years ago. In her case, as is that of most of the Sisters, retirement simply means moving on to unpaid, but necessary jobs. Overseeing maintenance and repair, doing the grocery shopping, is only part of her schedule. Sister Margaret tutors at Holy Redeemer, where she was a classroom teacher for many years even replacing occasionally. She also spends one day each week at Mary's Woods, where she visits and cares for her good friend there.

One volunteer job she particularly enjoys

takes her each week to the McDonald Center in Portland with Sister Kathleen Stupfel (Theresa Maureen). There they visit single people who live in hotels which cater to low-income clients, and recommend them to the administrators of McDonald House. She loves the people, visits and prays with them, and she is another very good listener.

The youngest of the Holy Redeemer Sisters (the only non-jubilarian), Sister Mollie Reavis (Susan Mary) teaches study skills and mathematics at St. Mary's Academy where she has ministered for many years, and where she served on the administrative team for several of them. She accompanies students there as they perform their duties on service days, taking them to Head Start programs, to soup

kitchens, to shelters for women and children, making them aware of their problems, and what needs to be done for them.

In recent years, Sister Mollie has developed

a new interest. The father of a Muslim student at St. Mary's piqued her interest in Islam, and she has studied two summers at Georgetown University with Muslim scholars, and has become a voice in the Portland community for Christian-Muslim relations. This fall she was part of the adult education series at All Saints Catholic Church speaking on this topic.

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Photo left: Sister Helen Moore in her art studio at the convent. Photo below: Sister Mollie finds the computer a ready aid for her many projects.

Photos: Steve Hambuchen



Photo above: Sister Margaret Sullivan spends reflective moments in her room. Photo left: Sister Helen Sandoz practices the violin in the quiet of the convent chapel.

## In Memory

### Sister Marian Dolores Robinson



Sister Marian Dolores (Margaret Robinson) died at the Marie-Rose Center at Mary's Woods on October 11, 2007, at the age of 91. She was vowed member of the Sisters of the Holy Names for 73 years. The Mass of Christian Burial was

held on October 19, 2007, in the Provincial House Chapel.

In a religious community composed mainly of Sisters from Irish and German backgrounds, Sister Marian Dolores was proud of her Scandinavian heritage. Margaret attended Star of the Sea elementary and high school in Astoria, Oregon. At 16, after graduating from high school, she entered the novitiate of the Holy Names Sisters, joining an older sister, Dolores (Sister Jeanne Therese). Their oldest brother, Leo, became a Jesuit priest, later serving as Provincial of the Oregon Jesuits.

Sister Marian Dolores' teaching career spanned 61 years. After earning a B.A. from Marylhurst College, she taught at schools in Portland, Salem and Spokane. A fine scholar, she went to Chicago's Loyola University where she earned a master's degree and a doctorate in psychology. She taught psychology at Holy Names College,

Spokane, and Holy Names College, Oakland, and Assumption University, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, where she was Dean of Students. She spent many years at Marylhurst College, and was president there in 1973-74. The last 11 years of her teaching career were at the University of Portland.

A certified clinical psychologist, she continued seeing clients until just months before her death. Highly respected in her field, Sister won two Fulbright Awards for post-doctoral work, spending a year at the University of Louvain in Belgium. She received many awards, spoke at many meetings, authored two books and numerous articles, and attended and spoke at several international forums, including some in France, Russia, Belgium and Switzerland.

### Sister Helen Ann Coyle

Sister Helen Ann (Patricia Coyle) age 91, died at the Marie-Rose Center at Mary's Woods on January 21. She was a vowed member of the Sisters of the Holy Names for 71 years. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on January 29 in the Provincial House Chapel.



The much loved youngest daughter of Hugh A. and Anna Wehr Coyle, Patricia was born in Portland on February 10, 1916, and attended St. Mary's Academy both in grade school and high school, and from which she

graduated in 1934. That same year she joined her two older sisters by entering the Holy Names novitiate at Marylhurst. She was close to Sister Patricia Maria who was 14 years older than she was, but Sister Helen Ann and Sister Marietta, both music teachers, spent many years working together and became part of a special team.

She obtained two bachelor's degrees in music, taught violin, piano, music theory, and directed choral groups and choirs in Seattle, Portland, Medford, and St. Paul in Oregon, and Seattle and Spokane in Washington, including 14 years at Fort Wright College in Spokane. She made several trips to Europe to visit the birthplaces and centers of the composers she admired and appreciated. After she retired and moved back to the Portland area, she remained a vocal coach, helping readers and lectors to project their voices and speak well.

An avid reader, Sister Helen Ann, could, and did, talk on many subjects, among them of her deep faith and love of God, which she nourished with study. In her final days at Mary's Woods, she met and influenced many with her knowledge and caring spirit.

Sister Helen Ann is survived by her nieces and nephews 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 reflections given during the Mass of the Resurrection, contact Anita Lindsay at 503.534.3929.

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Sister Mollie also serves as co-president of ICMU (Institute for Christian-Muslim Understanding), which fosters understanding to help eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudice about both religions. She has helped the Sisters as well as students and lay people to join in this important mission.

These Sisters, as well as Sisters Mary Anne Jungblut (Geraldine Mary) and Carol Higgins who teach at the school and Roswitha Frawley who serves on the school board, are proud to be a part of this parish. Holy Redeemer, besides being a vital and involved community center, has fostered many vocations to the priestly and religious life. Twenty-nine Holy Names Sisters called the parish "home," including a number who have been called to heaven. Among those still living are Sisters Frances Harold (Mary Karen), Frances Irene Leehan, Patricia Baxter (Mary Emmetria), Veronica Ann Baxter, Joan Dixon (Lawrence Damian), Eleanor Kratz (Christa Mary), Lucinda Peightal (Helen Patrice), Donna Van Laeken (Mary Sebastian), Marilyn Nunemaker (Maria Jacinta), Kathleen Kircher (Stephen Mark), Diane Hollcraft (Miriam Virginia), Patricia Pfenning (Mary Arlene), Mary Breiling (Maria John), Maureen Oliver (Sean Patrick), and Linda Patrick.

In 2000, regrettably, the Redemptorist priests chose to leave the city. Fortunately, the Holy Cross Fathers at nearby University of Portland have come to be a part of the Holy Redeemer family, working with the Sisters in the same spirit as characterized the collaboration of the Holy Names Sisters and Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers in past. This results in a fortunate situation for the parish, the community, and for the Church.

*The article above and articles on pages 2 and 3 were written by Sister Jane Ellen Burns.*

## Fiesta! We celebrate commitment



On December 8, 2007, a sunny afternoon in San Bernardino, California, Sister Susan Wells pronounced final vows and slipped on her profession ring. In doing so she joined thousands of other Holy Names women who have vowed their lives to God and the service of God's people, beginning with the first foundresses who also made their commitment on December 8 ... in 1844 in snowy Quebec!

Sister Susan is Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Hope Parish and the bilingual liturgy



**Photo above: Father Pepe Reyes blesses Sister Susan Wells during the vow profession ceremony. Photo left: Sister Susan places flowers before Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

sparkled with color, music and the fiesta spirit of this heavily Hispanic community.

In her homily, Sister Susan reflected on this unbroken line of faithful women, from generation to generation. "This vow ring ... was worn for 56 years by a Sister who died almost one year ago. Sister Mary Faith Clarke was truly a Gospel Woman ...

"By receiving her ring today, my YES means that the Holy Names Sisters will continue to bring God's love to those most in need. My YES today, means Sister Faith's legacy of hope for the future of our Congregation lives on in me."

Susan entered the community in 2000 with a background in law enforcement. She earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and served in several ministry settings, including a neighborhood outreach program for immigrant farm workers and Native Americans in Yakima, Washington.

More than 100 Holy Names Sisters and Associates joined hundreds of parishioners for this day of joyful witness—to the unrelenting and irresistible call of God.

## Baxter Sister-sisters: 120 years of talent galore

After dinner, one did the dishes and the other played the piano. It didn't always seem like a fair distribution of labor, but Dolores (later Sister Veronica Ann) knew that time for practice was important to Pat (later Sister Mary Emmetria and then Sister Patricia), so cheerfully (most of the time) took on the kitchen chores. Sister Veronica Ann does not have to do the dishes every night, but Sister Patricia still plays the piano and teaches others to do it.

The Baxter sisters grew up in Holy Redeemer Parish with a younger brother (did he have to do the dishes?). Both young women graduated from St. Mary's Academy and both served as student body president in their senior year. Before entering the Holy Names novitiate, Pat worked at the Portland shipyards as a "Rosie the Riveter," and attended Marylhurst College for a year.

Dolores entered right out of high school.

Their paths in the community continued to diverge. Sister Veronica Ann taught elementary school, seventh and eighth grades, in Portland, Spokane, Astoria and St. Helens where she served as principal. From there she went to Christie School and became director, a job she loved and still remembers fondly today as her best working experience. "They were such wonderful children."

Sister Patricia also worked in elementary school as a music teacher, practicing and composing. Her first mission brought her to St. James Cathedral School in Seattle, and face to face with a giant organ with four manuals and many buttons, and the necessity of playing for great celebrations involving the hierarchy and many priests. At that time she found in a little pamphlet a saying that has helped her to this day, "God says 'leave yourself entirely in my hands, and I will do it all.'" This has taken her through both good



**Photo above: Sisters Veronica Ann and Patricia Baxter. Photo right: The Baxter family.**



and bad times, up to her present ministry at Marylhurst University.

It was a long road. She taught music in Seattle and Richland, in Washington, and several schools in Portland, including 12 years at her home parish of Holy Redeemer. She earned a master's degree in music education from Holy Names College in Oakland. She would cross professional paths with her sister at Marylhurst in 1980.

In the summer of 1974 Marylhurst College closed its doors as a women's college. Sister Veronica Ann had finished a master's degree in counseling and guidance from Seattle University, served on the Oregon Provincial team and was still director of Christie School when the province administration asked her to take on the leadership of the College in transition.

With no blueprint for direction, and very little money, but with great faith, she assumed the innovator's role, and in her ten-year term brought Marylhurst in a new direction—lifelong learning. Accompanied by Sister Patricia, Sister Veronica Ann visited ministers of education in the Scandinavian countries to learn about this new emphasis on the older learners and the culture surrounding them.

When she left Marylhurst she finished the work on her doctorate in adult education at the University of Southern California, and went on to Warner Pacific College in Portland where she was asked to start an adult education program. Her last position before retirement was as director of development at Holy Redeemer School.

Because of her pioneering work in lifelong learning, Sister Veronica Ann, who celebrates her 60-year Jubilee this year, has received many honors: Distinguished alumna award from Seattle University; Woman of the Year for 1979 by Portland's Chamber of Commerce; one of Oregon's 100 most Powerful Women; the Mother Flavia Dunn Award from Marylhurst University.

Sister Patricia felt the need for Marylhurst College to have a place where music, art, storytelling, dance and other creative arts could center around the Church's celebrations. After she earned a master's degree from Notre Dame in liturgy, she founded LARC (Liturgical Arts Resource Center) and filled this need for the Church.

Suffering from macular degeneration in both eyes, Sister Patricia still teaches children piano, using the Suzuki method, "And really loves it!!"

The practical one and the dreamer—both have accomplished great things for the Church and the community, and love each other dearly, delighting in one another's accomplishments.

Photos: Steve Hamhuchen



**SISTER MARGARET GRAZIANO HONORED.**  
 Archbishop John Vlazny bestowed the papal honor, the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (For the Church and the Pope) Cross on Sister Margaret Graziano (Vincent Mary) during a Vespers Service, January 13, 2008, at St. Mary's Cathedral. Portland.

This public award recognizes her untiring dedication to those incarcerated at the Lane County Adult Correction Facility in Eugene, Oregon, and her years of pastoral outreach in prison ministry.

In honoring her, "the Church recognizes the contributions of her Community throughout the history of the archdiocese."

## *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: RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT ... FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION WINTER 2008**

Celebrate the Women of Holy Redeemer who for 100 years have made their North Portland home a vibrant center of faith... learning... and warm hospitality.

Meet the Baxter Sister-sisters... uniquely gifted individuals... rising to every challenge.

Learn what our newest Holy Names final professed Sister believes about the future.

In this VENTURES we witness the blessings of authentic religious life – a gift that keeps on giving to those who live it, while overflowing into a world in need.

#### **MARCH 8, 2008**

**Introduction to Oral History**, 10-11:30am; Holy Names Heritage Center Workshop. \$15. Reservations can be made by calling 503.607.0595.

#### **APRIL 5, 2008**

**House Histories**, 10-11:30am; Holy Names Heritage Center Workshop. Have you ever wondered about your home's past? Learn how to research former occupants, the architectural style of your house, etc. \$15. Reservations can be made by calling 503.607.0595.

#### **MAY 31, 2008**

**ST. IGNATIUS (Portland) SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIP – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP.** Invitations will be sent in April. Call Debbie O'Leary at 503.675.7113 if you would like an invitation.

#### **JUNE 14, 2008**

50-Year Jubilee Celebration, 2 pm; Chapel of the Holy Names, Provincial House, Marylhurst.

#### **A glimpse of the past...**

**From St. Ignatius (Portland), *Chronicles***

**9/8/1909. OPENING OF SCHOOL.** Today we welcome the boys and girls of St. Ignatius Parish and are pleased with the fine enrollment not withstanding the fact that our school counts but one year of growth.

**10/27/1909. FORMAL OCCUPANCY OF ST. IGNATIUS.** Sister Angelica of Mary, Provincial Economist, comes personally to initiate us in our little Convent home... The distance from the city is beyond the usual limit hence some of the furniture is late in arriving, the good Jesuits do all in their power to make up for the inconvenience and to ensure our being as comfortable as possible.

**12/22/1909. CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.** The pupils of St. Ignatius School gave a Christmas program... The older girls appeared in a play called "The Angel of Yuletide." The minims figured nicely in a Holly Song and Drill while the entire school, boys and girls sang the Grand

Chorus, "Echoes of Angels." The great feature of the evening however were Santa Claus' visit, the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree, and the distributing of good things to old and young alike. All retired in the Christmas Spirit of good will.

**2/13/1910. A PLEASANT SURPRISE.** Notwithstanding one of the stormiest days ever endured in the city of Portland the ladies of the Altar Society came in a body to give us what they termed a "Fruit Shower"... They were laden with jars of different fruits, pickles, and put-up vegetables as much as to conveniently fill a side or our unpretentious larder. Imagine our total surprise amidst the whole souled enjoyment of the ladies. Their hats and cloaks were dripping from the storm, we were trying to unhat and dismantle them, while the jars were coming from their hiding places, and being put upon the tables, all in one mighty pleasantness of surprising and surprised. After a short visit we took the ladies through our little home and this pleased them greatly for on leaving they all expressed themselves as ready and glad to come again.