



Ventures

Turning Faith into Action since 1859

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Ministry changes mark post-Vatican II Holy Names community



Sister Marian Watkins and Sister Francella Mary Griggs prepare containers of flour for distribution in food boxes.

Movies from the immediate post-war era of the late 1940s and 50s showed happy families with stay-at-home Moms who took off their aprons to welcome Daddy home, clean-cut children with impeccable manners, nuns in full habits, and priests in cassocks. Life was full of promise and so was the world.

"The spirit of our welcome is inspired by Marie-Rose's charism of hospitality."

— Sister Helen Petrimoulx

If the 1950s could be called the era of prosperity, growth and expansion, the 1960s could be named the time of change. In society, in the Catholic Church, and in the Holy Names Community change came, in many cases painfully.

The Second Vatican Council mandated changes in the liturgy, in lay participation in church affairs, and suggestions for religious communities.

The Holy Names Community responded slowly, retaining its valued commitment to the poor and the disadvantaged, to education, and to the Church. One big change was the division of the Oregon province and the formation of the Washington province and much later the new U.S.-Ontario province combining the former Oregon, Washington, New York, California and Ontario provinces into one English-speaking group. The creation of the Associate Program brought hundreds of men and women who share the Holy Names charism in a special way.

There were changes in dress, and many Sisters chose to return to their baptismal names. However, perhaps the greatest change led the Community from formal classroom teaching to other forms of ministry to meet the needs in the Church and in the changing world.

Each year the Province Ministry Grants Committee responds to requests for financial help for the many ministries to which the Holy Names Sisters dedicate their lives and talents. They place special emphasis on requests connected to the full development of the human person. Of the 48 grants given, we have chosen a few to show the scope of the ministry fund, and how it fits in with the new ministries started after Vatican II.

The first move in that direction was the releasing of classroom teachers to serve as full-time religious education directors. With this came increased opportunities for theological studies. In addition to running religious education program, the Sisters became spiritual directors, led retreats, taught in seminaries and theological unions, and worked with men and women on commissions promoting spiritual life.

Take, for instance, Sister Shirley Sexton of Oakland, Calif. For years she has arranged for members of inner-city Oakland parishes to go away for two days and nights to make retreats. Many of these are ethnic minority women, but a few couples sometimes join them. They can

leave their homes, have a mini-vacation, receive inspiration.

The Holy Names Sisters at Los Gatos and Santa Cruz, Calif., have provided very low-cost accommodations for these groups. But Sister Shirley and her good friend and helper Sister Liz Davis have found that chartering buses for the retreatants' use requires help, and the Ministry Fund has provided for this.

In the same desire to help others spiritually, a number of Sisters entered CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) programs to become certified chaplains. A number went to work in hospitals, others went to prisons, and to hospice programs. In Portland, Sister Kathleen Hearn (Sister Rosita Mary) who is a certified Catholic chaplain, became a volunteer for Housecall Providers. This group, founded by Holy Names associate Dr. Benneth Husted and others, offers a program that brings medical help to homebound seniors and the disabled, over half of whom live below the poverty level.

Sister Kathleen volunteered to help make hospice care available to those people, working with doctors, nurses and social workers. By the end of the summer, the program was approved by CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Program). During her time in the program, she found helping not only the person who was making the final journey but the entire family to be a truly wonderful way to bring another spiritual dimension to the program. She is also proud of the fact that Housecall Providers make over 10,000 home visits, but also help over 1,000 patients.

In parishes Sisters fulfilled a long desire to work with pastors and the laity to serve the people. As pastoral associates they helped with parish programs, including sacramental preparation, visited the sick and elderly, became religious education directors. They met the needs of the elderly, the poor. In some cases, the Sisters acted as administrators of parishes when there was no full-time pastor present.

This care for the poor and the homeless led the Sisters to form and staff food kitchens, to establish refuges for abused and neglected women and children. Some remained in the parochial school systems, often centering their efforts around inner-city and poorer areas. Some worked in the public school sector, again addressing the needs of the poor and disaffected.



Sister Kathleen Hearn and Dr. Benneth Husted assist a friend who is experiencing a difficult time.

In Portland Sister Marian Watkins (Sister Robert Marion) has made surplus food a blessing to many people who receive large quantities of flour, bread, canned goods, etc. She and other Sisters volunteer to repackage and redistribute this food to shut-ins, low-income families and others in need of help.

Of special concern to Sister Marian is the Community Transitional School. This school exists to help children who move frequently from home to home, often living in homeless shelters, making it impossible to fit into the regular school system. The school provides stability, educational help and meals.

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Funded by private grants, they appreciate all the help they can get.

Not all the help was local. Some Sisters took their concerns abroad. Missions were formed in Peru, Brazil and Haiti, sponsored by and financed in large part by the Holy Names Community and groups at home. Sisters went to Nicaragua, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Marshall Islands, Israel, teaching and helping to spread the Word. In the United States, the Sisters have served in Mississippi for over 20 years, staffing a clinic, schools, a community center, and numerous after-school activities.

A group of Holy Names Sisters in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, have made refugee support the focus of their ministry. Refugees have many

needs: financial, educational, spiritual. Sister Helen Petrimoulx is the director of the Diocese of London office of refugee claimants. Many of these come to Windsor through Detroit on their way to Canada.

In 2008, the Holy Names Sisters opened Angela Rose House, a transition residence for newly arrived refugees in Windsor, many of whom have escaped from persecution in their homelands, including trafficking of vulnerable women.

"The spirit of our welcome is inspired by Marie-Rose's charism of hospitality."

The arts have not been neglected. Sisters still staff music departments, playing orchestras and singing in choral groups and parish choirs.

Sister artists have their own studios, market their work online as well as in galleries and stores. Amateurs take classes and produce work for their own enjoyment as well as for sale. Knowledge of computers and electronic means of communicating has spread throughout the province.

In addition to the care of human beings, the stewardship of the earth and the environment are of concern to most of the Sisters. In Olympia, Wash., Sister Mimi Maloney works with Earth Care Catholic there,



Photos above: Meeting at the airport, Josephine, center, is at last reunited with her husband and four adult children in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Inset: Sister Helen Petrimoulx.

Photos below: Retreatants from the inner city visit the Sisters' retreat center in Santa Cruz, Calif. Inset: Sister Shirley Sexton.



Sister Mimi Maloney

sponsoring meetings, benefits, workshops, and videos with like-minded groups, including other religious denominations. "Bike and Walk for Climate Change Action" took place under their auspices in central Washington. Of special concern to the Sisters is the issue of water on which the Community has taken a corporate stance, and what we can do for its continued health and preservation.

None of these ministries could prosper without the prayers of the many Sisters and Associates who support and encourage them by daily and continuous prayer. The union of prayer and work makes all this possible and meaningful.

The article above and the Browns story on page 3 were written by Sister Jane Ellen Burns.

150th Anniversary Celebration: thanks and praise

Liturgy celebrates the arrival in the Pacific Northwest of the first 12 Holy Names Sisters from Quebec on October 21, 1859.

When Holy Names Sisters and Associates processed into the University of Portland sports arena for the 150th Anniversary Liturgy of Thanks and Praise, the 1,000 people in the audience gave the group something it hadn't expected: a standing ovation.

"That's not standard operating procedure for a Catholic Mass," the diocesan paper later said, "but it was fitting. During their 150 years in the Pacific Northwest, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary often have surpassed expectations."

The Mass, attended by more than 1,000 people, was celebrating the arrival of 12 young women religious who had journeyed 7,000 miles by land and sea from Quebec, arriving in Portland on October 21, 1859.

The Prayers of the Faithful written by Sister Sue Woodruff for the anniversary Mass recounted that story:

We pray:

"From the small village of Longueuil in Quebec, our Sisters were missioned, sent in God's name, to answer the call of those in need. We built schools, educated young and old. We cared for the sick and accompanied the dying. We made a home for orphans and foster children. We left pieces of our hearts with students, friends, colleagues from Jacksonville to Portland, from Spokane to Seattle, from Chicago to Windsor, from Albany to Key West, from Oakland to Santa Monica, from Juneau to Tutwiler to Lumberton. Today as we gather, we remember you, women, men, children of a thousand places and ages. May each of you be blessed as you have blessed us. In gratitude for you, we pray to our God."

We pray:

Called each day in the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary to collaborate in the Church's mission of education, we, the Sisters of the Holy Names, pray that, together with our Associates and our ministry colleagues, we will continue to work

together for the full development of each person. For this, we pray to our God.

We pray:

In gratitude for the 12 young women who courageously left family, friends, and country to follow faithfully the call of God to live and work among the people of the Pacific Northwest, and in the hope that we today may continue to respond courageously to the call of God in our times and in our lives, we pray to our God.

We pray:

Oh, Beauty, ever ancient, ever new, may we ever find You in the creations of artists and musicians, of poets and dancers. May we recognize You in the insights of scholars and in the rituals of spiritual guides. Open us to a multitude of possibilities, to visions for tomorrow that we might begin to make real today, we pray to our God.

We pray:

With eyes of astronauts we see our earth as one, as one home for all of God's people, for all of God's creation. With eyes of ecologists, our vision is filled with the web of life, an earth community woven together by the Creator. With eyes of Native peoples, we see our earth, our mother, in need of our care. That we may keep these visions before us and act with courage to ensure a home, a loved earth, for the next seven generations, we pray to our God.

We pray:

From the small village of Longueuil in Quebec, our Sisters were missioned, sent in God's name, to answer the call of those in need. We built schools, educated young and old. We cared for the sick and accompanied the dying. We made a home for orphans and foster children. We left pieces of our hearts with students, friends, colleagues from Jacksonville to Portland, from Spokane to Seattle, from



Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland in Oregon celebrates the Mass of Commemoration for the Holy Names Sisters' 150th anniversary in the Pacific Northwest.

Chicago to Windsor, from Albany to Key West, from Oakland to Santa Monica, from Juneau to Tutwiler to Lumberton. Today as we gather, we remember you, women, men, children of a thousand places and ages. May each of you be blessed as you have blessed us. In gratitude for you, we pray to our God.

We pray:

At the sound of a bell, students are called to class, the faithful are called to prayer. This bell, baptized Marie Alphonse Joseph Francois, arrived at St. Mary's Academy from San Francisco, on December 14, 1862. On December 30, the chronicler wrote: "Our bell being at length in its place, the Angelus is rung for the first time." For all who answer the bell's call to prayer, may they find in worship nourishment for their souls and openness to the myriad other ways God calls us to prayer. For all students answering the call to class, may they discover in their education the freedom to develop their own personal gifts and to grow into the unique person they are called to be. For students and for worshipers, we pray to our God.

Sisters works take different Paths: Come together in Community

Six-year-old Sally stood at the iron door of the Brown home and wept as her big sister Eileen and her mother left to take Eileen to Marylhurst and the Holy Names novitiate "I thought I would never see her again," Sally said. Now few adult sisters have as much contact as the Browns.

The family of Jack and Anne Brown lived in Portland and Milwaukie in a home full of faith, laughter and activity. But more than 12 years divided Eileen and Sally. When Eileen transferred to St. Mary's Academy in her junior year, she focused on her piano studies, appearing in recitals and concerts, and taking part in athletics and student government. Also a good student like her sister, Sally just wanted to have fun. And she did. When she was a freshman, a new comic strip became popular, and its main character Charlie Brown had a little sister Sally. Soon St. Mary's had its own Sally Brown, one with a great sense of humor and many friends. At home she joined her brothers in their exploits.

In the Holy Names Community, too, they went their separate ways. After graduating from Marylhurst College, Eileen, then Sister Marian Paula, taught high school in Spokane, Portland, and served as principal of Sacred Heart Academy in Salem for 11 years. During this time, she earned a master's degree in history from the University of Portland, and administration credentials from the University of Oregon. She also attended the University of Houston where she received a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies of the future, using this degree to plan new programs as vice-president of Marylhurst Education Center.

Sister Sally (then Sister Ann Margery) moved up and down the I-5 corridor teaching upper grades in parish schools in Medford, Eugene, and Portland, and serving as principal of Portland's Holy Family School for 13 years. Among her degrees are a bachelor's from Marylhurst College, a master's of religious education from the University of San Francisco, and another master's from Lewis and Clark College in counseling.

After leaving the field of formal education, Sister Eileen moved to Alaska where she became the chancellor of the diocese of Fairbanks, one of the first women to serve in that position. This ministry was cut short when she became the provincial director of the Oregon province. In that capacity she was instrumental in the planning and progress of what came to be Mary's Woods at Marylhurst. She also was elected to serve on the National Board of the LCWR (Leadership Council of Women Religious). Since that time she has taught classes at Marylhurst University, and now volunteers to help abused and neglected children in the CASA (Court Appointed Social Advocates) program.

Photo right: Sisters Sally Brown and Eileen Brown. Photo below: Sister Sally in her novitiate year.



Photo above: Sister Marian Paula (Eileen Brown). Photo left: The Brown siblings. First row: Gene, Bruce, Eileen. Second row: Sally, Jack, Anne, their mother, and Dick.

Sister Sally has joined the Oregon City School District, and serves as a counselor at John McLoughlin elementary school in that district. She comes home with great tales about the little ones who meet her in the hall.

Sister Sally is known as a behind-the-scenes woman. She has served on all kinds of committees, including the Associate board, the provincial team discernment committee, and GASC (General Assembly Steering Committee) and many others. In her counseling work she brings the values she cherishes as a Holy Name Sister, and her great sense of humor. In the Community, she is valued for her wise

(and often witty) advice and listening ear. She relaxes by watching sports, especially football and tennis

All the Browns cherish their Irish heritage. Grandma Farley came from County Sligo, and four years ago almost the entire family spent a month in Ireland, visiting churches, graveyards and pubs, and making friends with the people

Here they vacation together, enjoy the holidays together, and of course, meet at Community functions. Together the Brown sisters have given and are still giving with their own special talents.

In Memory

Sister Margaret Mary Kingsley

(Richard Mary), age 81, died at the Marie-Rose Center at Marylhurst on January 5, 2010. She was a vowed member of the Sisters of the Holy Names for 60 years. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on January 12, 2010.



Sister Margaret Mary Kingsley

The ninth and last child of David and Anne Rutto Kingsley, she was born several months after her father's death in an accident. Her mother died when she was 10, and for several years she lived at Christie School.

Four of her brothers served in World War II, and one brother, David, died heroically in Rumania in 1944. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and Kingsley Air Base near Klamath Falls is named in his honor.

She entered the Holy Names novitiate in January 1947, and for 30 years she taught upper grades at O'Hara in Eugene; St. Paul in St. Paul; Star of the Sea, Astoria; St. Joseph

in Salem; St. Francis of Assisi in Bend; St. Francis, The Madeleine, St. Thomas More in Portland; and served as principal of Christie School at Marylhurst. She also worked in ministry at St. Mary's parish in Eugene. She loved teaching and is remembered fondly by her students.

In 1989 she went to the Republic of South Africa, where her mission ministry and renewal was cut short by a very serious pedestrian accident. After returning to the United States, she devoted herself to community service at the Convent of the Holy Names at Marylhurst.

Sister Margaret Mary is survived by her sister, Mrs. Joseph Rolison, nieces and nephews and the members of her religious community.



Sister Mary Floranne McDonald

Sister Mary Floranne McDonald

age 91, died at the Marie-Rose Center at Marylhurst on January 27, 2010. She was a vowed member of the Sisters of the Holy Names for nearly 70 years. Mass of Christian Burial was held on February 4.

Sister Mary Floranne's roots lay in

central Oregon, where she was born, the oldest of the four children of Alex and Elizabeth Hamilton McDonald.

She left her hometown of Ashwood in the seventh grade to attend St. Mary's Academy in The Dalles, where she became a Catholic in her junior year in high school. She entered the novitiate in 1938.

Sister Mary Floranne taught upper grades at St. Francis in Bend, St. Ignatius, St. Francis and the Cathedral schools in Portland. She served as principal at the Cathedral school, and as superior and principal at St. Mary's in The Dalles. Later she served as superior and principal at Cottage Grove and superior at the Convent of the Holy Names, where she also was a member of the provincial administration team. Later she served for 10 years as secretary for the provincial administration. During her final years her deep faith and trust in God's will left her peaceful and joyous. She never lost her sense of humor nor her interest in the world.

Sister is survived by her brothers Tom and Ronald and their wives, 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.



Sister Joan Saalfeld, provincial director of the U.S.-Ontario province (center), accepts a plaque from the Leadership Team from the Holy Names Congregational administration, Montreal, Canada, in celebration of the 150 years of ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Names in the Pacific Northwest. The gift is offered by team members, Sister Jocelyne Latreille (left) and Sister Margaret Kennedy (right). The inscription cites the courage of the 12 Foundresses, gives thanks for the Sisters of the present and looks to “the fruits of the efforts of those yet to come.”

Ventures: A Publication of the Sisters of the Holy Names

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In this issue: The Unfolding Story ... for 2010 and beyond

WINTER 2010

Learn about new seeds for Mission... planted next door, in our neighborhoods and across the world... nourished by Ministry Grants and SNJM vision

Meet the Brown Sister-sisters, Eileen and Sally... with a touch of that Irish “green”... faith and humor, charm and grace. Pacific Northwest women who have blazed unfamiliar trails

Enjoy a reprise of the 150th Anniversary Celebration... ritual, symbols, poetry, invocations... “It is right to give thanks and praise.”

In this VENTURES, we glimpse the Spirit beginning to write the next chapter in our Holy Names Book of life and commitment... a tale to inspire and challenge... Read on with us!

Remembering our friend and benefactor: Maybelle Clark Macdonald



Maybelle Clark Macdonald

Gracious, generous, gentle, prayerful, Maybelle Clark Macdonald was a woman of great faith and abiding love — for her children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, for her hundreds of

friends, for anyone in need of a quiet hand and heart.

Born in 1916 near the swirling waters of the Willamette, ‘Middy’ grew up alert to the natural world as the daughter

and granddaughter of timbermen Wilson and Orange Clark.

When she was a child, her family bought half of the Willamette Valley Lumber Company, later known as Willamette Industries. Middy learned not only respect for the land but for its inhabitants of every sort. Her dad early on took her around logging camps to help out families, and she later became one of the founders of Meals on Heels, a forerunner of Loaves & Fishes’ Meals on Wheels.

After attending Ainsworth Elementary and Miss Catlin’s School in Portland, Middy went on to Mills College and the Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute in Paris, France — where she honed her impeccable sense of style, color, and design. Returning to Portland, she was a regular contributor to “Mary Cullen’s Cottage,” a column in the *Oregon Journal*.

Along with her husband, the late Fred Macdonald, she created the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund with a direct and worthy mission: “To relieve the misfortune and promote the well being of mankind.” Now Oregon’s fifth-

largest foundation, the Fund continues to help Oregonians daily - much as Middy began to do, hand-in-hand with her dad, so many years ago.

Maybelle had been closely involved with virtually every major ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Names in Oregon. As an example: in 1963, she and her sister, the late Elizabeth Clark Pease, intervened when the 1907 Christie School building was condemned for residential living. Maybelle and Elizabeth provided the assistance needed to build new residential cottages for the children.

There are dozens of such stories; but suffice it to say that Maybelle’s attentiveness, especially to woman and children, her quiet passion and gracious leadership, and her often unsung but startling generosity, have bettered and calmed the lives of thousands in the Pacific Northwest.

That is a remarkable thing to say; and we say it with delight and gratitude for one of the great women of Oregon.