



# Sharings

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary USA Province  
Volume 46 No. 3 Fall 2017

Enjoy our stories  
and more ...



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## EDITORS' NOTES

We have journeyed to autumn and here in the northeast are surrounded by fallen leaves, many windy days and soft colors of orange, yellow and copper.

Pope Francis, at the Angelus (Sunday, October 30, 2017), reminded us that "Love gives impetus and fruitfulness to life and to the journey of faith....God, who is Love, has created us to make us participants in His life, to be loved by Him and to love Him and, with Him, to love other people. This is God's "dream..."

We invite you to read how we FMMs have been participants in God's dream. Enjoy!

*Nga Le, fmm & Anne Turbiní, fmm*



Copper Beech, 2010  
Taken by Rosemarie Higgins, fmm

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**NEXT ISSUE: WINTER**

## Our Deceased Sister



Marie-Paule Gobeil, fmm  
(M. Louis Romeo)

Born to Eternal life  
August 23, 2017

## Eulogy

On July 2, 1918 in Quebec, Canada, Marie-Paule Gobeil was born to her parents Marie-Louise Verret and Ernest Gobeil. Marie-Paule was the sixth child of eight children born in her family. Her parents were devoted Catholics and attended Mass regularly and prayed the Rosary as a family during the month of October. It could be said that the seeds of faith took root in her heart at a young age and deepened through the years. Two of her siblings also responded to the call to religious life, her brother Arthur became a Marist brother and was missioned for many years in Zimbabwe. Her sister Mariette also entered the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Canada and for many years was missioned in Australia.

As many of us know in the life of our foundress Mary of the Passion, the example of her family was a strong influence for her throughout her life. In the biography of Helen de Chappotin by Marcel Launay, it was noted "very early on, the children of the house learned that they were born to serve God."

When speaking with Marie-Paule, she would mention how even as a young girl she felt called to be a religious sister. As a young child she had studied with the FMM's and felt at home with them. Her mother died when she was in her early teens and Marie-Paule remained at home. During this time, she helped her father and family members for several years, then in September 1943 she joined the FMM in Quebec, Canada.

In the joy and peace of Marie-Paule, it was evident how the example of others influenced her life. She in turn with a warm smile on her face was a good listener who touched the lives of many people. In this way she gave witness to the richness of our life

as Franciscans. In our Constitutions 1, 5 we read **"... we live our vocation within the Franciscan way. Living the Gospel in the midst of the world and following in the steps of the poor and humble Christ, in simplicity, peace and joy."**

When Marie-Paule arrived to her mission in the United States, her desire was to do God's will. Although Canada and the United States are neighbors, one of the challenges that she faced was that the primary language that was spoken was English, not French. Also the culture and reality was different from other experiences she had in her life. Our life as Franciscan Missionaries of Mary has touched each of us in similar situations, whether here in the states or a mission in another country. We are always invited to experience the other in the richness of their culture, in their reality, in the language(s) they speak.

Yet this never caused Marie-Paule to hesitate, to reach out and help wherever and however it was needed. Marie-Paule was open to listen and be present to the other. This attitude helped to pave the way for her to be at home here in our province, as we know in our Constitutions 1, 6 we read, **"Answering the same call we live with the sisters God gives us; our community is a place of mutual conversion and is built up in faith around Christ, Word and Bread."**

In her own quiet way, Marie-Paule touched the lives of many persons as day by day, she was being drawn closer to the God she loved. In the Spiritual Notes of Mary of the Passion on November 19, 1883, we read **"I saw that nothing in me, pleases God more than to see me united to Mary in her hidden life. No matter what I do, this union with Mary will be the life of everything for me."**

Those who have known Marie-Paule through the years, realize she was a "Jill of all trades," she had been a cook, sacristan, assistant in several communities, local community bursar, driver etc. When she was missioned to St. Francis community in Roslyn, and worked in the hospital, she collaborated in the area of hospitality. This was provided for patients who came from all over the world to receive treatment at the hospital. Having worked at the hospital for several years, Marie-Paule had the opportunity to travel to Korea. This trip helped her to better understand the culture and living situation of some of the children who had been patients at St. Francis.

In the Spiritual Notes written by Mary of the Passion on August 23, 1883, we read **"I have learned that I am able to increase, not his power to love, but his love which rejoices in loving. The more I**



**empty myself, the more I love Him, the more He will move me. Love is God's being."**

Before I close I want to thank the family members who are with us today, for by your presence, you have blest us with Marie-Paule. I also want to remember the sisters in the Province of Canada who are united with us in prayer. In the name of Marie Paule and all our sisters here at Fruit Hill, as well as those who are cared for by the staff at St. Antoine's we say thank you. Two simple words of gratitude for the attentive way you care for each one of our sisters and assure you of a remembrance in our prayers.

*Noreen Murray, fmm*

## Our Deceased Relatives & Friends

Marie, mother of Sr. Françoise Massy, fmm

Deogracias, brother of Elisa Fernando, fmm

Isadore Agudo, brother of Philomena Agudo, fmm

Mary Go Shen, sister-in-law of Emmanuel Shen, fmm

Bob Hardie, brother-in-law of Pat Barrett, fmm

Tom Fitzhenry, brother-in-law of Noreen Murray, fmm

Bridget Deegan, aunt of Sheila Lehmkuhle, fmm

Jack Cambio, husband of Rose Cambio who worked at FMM Center for many years.

Michael Deady, brother of Tom Deady who works at FMM Center.



## A Journey of Learning

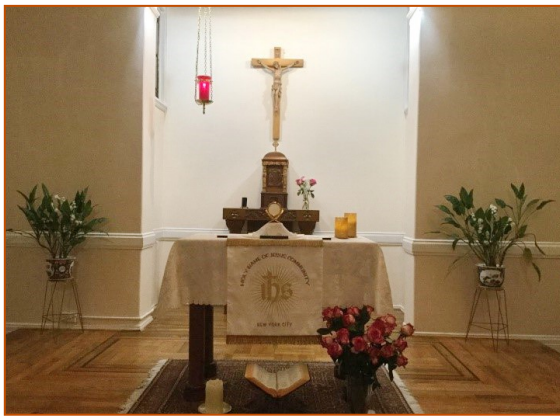
Away from school and books, I had several weeks to be with my dear sisters in the Holy Name of Jesus community. Wow! It really was a good opportunity for me to experience another FMM community of the U.S province. At the same time, I had a chance to discover New York City.

Just open your heart and allow it to be quiet with what happens around you and you will be surprised how God speaks to you.

Carrying a backpack on my shoulders, I explored different areas of New York during my free weekends. My eyes opened wide to see modern buildings standing next to old ones in harmony making this city one of the most architecturally diverse cities in the world. At the same time, it is also a city of diverse cultures, languages, race and activities that invites us to open to variety and newness.

And the most interesting thing that God allowed me to experience during this time were different scenes of Yorkers' life. Besides the wealthy, there were the poor who are working hard every day on the streets to earn money for their food on the table and to provide education for their children. Nearby the tall and luxurious buildings, the homeless lay their heads on their meager belongings. Or, the poorest of the poor sat the whole day under the sun on the sidewalk to bag a coin from the generosity of pedestrians. Behind many young persons who were walking hurriedly with non-stop conversations on their phones, I could see old men and women, very patient, arranging their goods on their carts under the hot summer sun. They were really forgotten in the most economically powerful city of the world. Some of them may have spent their entire lives contributing their talents to develop this city. And now, they were living in tiny, messy apartments, and facing loneliness.

When my tired legs told me it was time to go back to my community I was so thirsty that I felt as if I could drink a river of water. Putting down my backpack in the community room, I decided to greet Jesus who is in our simple chapel on the second floor. It was so touching when I opened the door to a sister sitting in front of the Eucharist exposed. My ears still heard the sound from of ambulances in the street but that sister gave me a wonderful picture of an FMM doing mission. No sound, no



action, no word came out; yet my heart could hear her song of prayer to Jesus. I believe that adoration is the most powerful time for every sister in community to be like Esther before her King.

Suddenly, the face of each sister appeared before me. I really admire them who offer their lives in the FMM family to spread the love of God to every person they meet. Each member in the Holy Name of Jesus convent still tries to hear the cry of the poor by serving immigrants, welcoming guests, visiting the lonely, especially the elderly; and listening to and directing those who need spiritual guidance. In this community, I was also enriched in my FMM life by having conversations with guests from different states or from different countries. Even though I had not lived with sisters in this community before, I still felt at home because of their hospitality. At the same time, I had a chance to listen to their stories that have allowed me to be with them in prayer wherever I go.

Words cannot express the whole experience that I lived during my temporary service this summer. I only say that whenever I open my heart to observe God's action, I will receive His message that will transform me.

*Minh Huong, fmm*  
Summer 2017



## Finding God in All Things: The Ignatian Spiritual Project

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> we at Fruit Hill had the privilege of a visit and talk by Colette Cook and Bill Waters who are local volunteer organizers of this Spiritual Project. Inspired by The Jesuit or Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, it is put into the contemporary language of the 12-step recovery movement.

The retreats are part of a network given in a number of cities across the US and Canada and involving volunteers to choose the retreatants, organize, drive and help wherever they can.



Bill and Colette explained that this ISP project offers men and women who are homeless, and in recovery from addiction, the chance to change their lives. The retreats give them hope and a spiritual base. Bill explained how ISP began and how it can build community moving towards transformation for those experiencing homelessness.

The men and women come to Bethany Renewal Center at Fruit Hill; Bill with the men, one weekend; Colette with the women, another weekend. The retreatants do a lot of sharing about their lives with the listening support of their staff and the other retreatants. They are genuinely happy to be in a safe, homey atmosphere and can relax. There is also inner healing prayer with some sessions where they can freely speak of and receive healing for hurts of the past that have affected their lives. When they leave, they are happier and much more at peace. Colette also said that when she told them the sisters were praying for them during the weekend they were here, they were very touched and grateful.

We are happy that this is happening at Bethany and thank God for the graces given to the participants and to us FMM who can be a part of this through hospitality and prayer.

*Joyce Gardella, fmm*



## FRANCISCAN CHILDREN'S Brighton, MA

Those of us, "Oldies," remember the joy we felt on the opening of "**Kennedy Memorial Hospital and Rehabilitation Center**" (KMH) in 1949 and the visit of Mother St. Agnes. Over the years we watched it grow, administered and staffed by FMM. In the 1980s the official title was changed to "**Franciscan Children's Hospital**," and then to "**Franciscan Hospital for Children**." The 1990s saw the first lay CEO. Recently the official name, of what has now truly become a complex medical center, was changed to, simply, "**FRANCISCAN CHILDREN'S**" as it now provides a variety of medical, mental health and educational services.

Countless FMM have given compassionately, generously and professionally over the years. My first visit to KMH was in 1950 when Mother Jarlath and I went to Boston to get passports & inoculations before going to Rome. In the 1970s, as provincial, I served on the Board. In the 1990s, as a provincial councilor, I served on the Corporation until 1997 when I joined the staff as Vice-President for Mission Effectiveness, succeeding Millie Morrissey who was the first to hold that position which was created when the first lay CEO replaced Sr. Mary Ann Loughlin. In 1997 there were just 2 FMM working in FCH: Sr. Doris McShane as a chaplain and Mary Rose Nguyen as a teacher in the Kennedy Day School. Since my resignation in 2005, I have served on the Board of Directors. Lois Ann Pereira, Kim Loan Nguyen, and Gloria Carpinello (presently) have assured the FMM presence as the Mission Effectiveness Officers.

On September 26, the Board of Directors was kind enough to formally thank me for my years of service at Franciscan Children's. The chairperson of the Board, Dr. James Mandel, presented me with two framed pictures which had been taken at this year's fund raiser, a letter from Cardinal O'Malley, and a proclamation by the Mayor of Boston. In thanking him and all the Board, I could only acknowledge what a privilege it was to be associated with so many dedicated staff and board directors; that I had received much more than anything I might have given; that gifts or talents we have been blessed with, must be used as best one can; and that I am happy that the FMM continued presence on the Board is being assured by Sisters Aline Giroux, Anne Turbini, and Lois Ann Pereira.

As all of us in the province continue to pray for the children, staff, and Board Directors at Franciscan's, we can thank God for "All that has been!"

One story will give you an idea of the caliber of many of the directors: As I began in 1997, I contacted many of the Board to get to know them. I asked Bob Needham, a new Director at the time [later to become chair of the Board] what he considered to be the mission of the institution. He told me he was a Methodist, and then a story to illustrate his answer which was, "When I see the children and the way the staff relates to, and serves them, I think of the unconditional LOVE OF GOD!"

*Elizabeth Ann Conyers, fmm*



(Since sending this article, Elizabeth wrote: "What a surprise I got today: a Fed Ex box from the Cardinal's office containing a silver Damiano Cross, made in Italy!")





## The Last Shall Be First

Have you ever, on an impulse, committed yourself to something then later had second thoughts? That was my situation when early in September, Dan O'Reilly a parishioner who heads the local Lion's Club, invited me to participate in the annual walk for Cancer.

"Sure," I said, "I've done the 5K when I was in El Paso, So I'll join the walkers here." Later, reflecting on what I had agreed to, I had serious misgivings. I did that when I was 83 and now I'm five years older! So this little argument went back and forth in my head - "You made a commitment, so stick to it!" ... "But three miles is too far to walk" ... "You can always sit down, if you need to", etc, etc.

As the time drew closer I contacted my nieces, nephews and friends who had supported me in the past and they generously promised the same support now and my community offered to pay the registration fee. So then I began to prepare myself mentally, reflecting on Jesus who walked to Mount Calvary, the many refugees who walk miles and miles to safety, and those who do the 26 mile marathons.

On the day of the walk, September 23rd, the sun rose in the east a fiery red foreboding another day in the upper 80's. I donned the official tee shirt, a garish green color with a big lion on the front and headed to our starting point. After some preliminary instructions, the signal was given and the runners sprinted ahead. We others began the walk in high spirits. My companion was Patti, one of our active, middle aged parishioners. We walked briskly enjoying a light breeze. "Heads up stomach in and chest out." (It reminded me of walking with Maureen Conway in the streets upper Manhattan). Before we knew it we were actually coming toward the finish line with bystanders cheering us on.

The crowd waited until nearly everyone was back and then Dan started announcing the winners. First the men, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place as each received a medal on a pink ribbon. Then the female winners, followed by the children under twelve years, then those older and the men in their 20's, followed by the women, and this was repeated with each decade right up to those in their 70's. Then Dan announced, "Sister Bea won first place because she is the only one who ran in her category!" With mixed feelings, I duly marched up to have the 1st place medal on the pink ribbon hung around my neck. In addition, I was given a beautiful bouquet of pink roses as one of the Cancer survivors.



Arriving home, I explained to the sisters how I had won by "default." As I placed the lovely bouquet in the chapel, I thanked Our Lord that I could do my little part toward Cancer research. What had seemed so hard had turned out amazingly easy. But then, nothing is impossible with God!

*Beatrice Costaglio, fmm*



## "Laudato Si" – A Call for Our Time?

Pope Francis released a vibrant message in 2015: "Sister Mother Earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her." (Laudato Si, 2)

In our parish, Dorothy Calvany, a parishioner and I were questioned by another remark by Pope Francis, affirming clearly that "we lack an awareness of our common origin, our mutual belonging and of the future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life" (LS 202).



Reflecting upon that strong statement, we came to this point: that our time in history is offering us an invitation to a spiritual paradigm shift in order for us to live more fully our call to be human and happy in God's world of creation. We do think that to grow spiritually, together in this, our

time, we need to be grounded in scientific discoveries and theological exploration that brings us into the mysteries of the Divine in a new and expanded way.

In order to move forward, we decided to take advantage of the phenomenal collaboration between Brian Swimme, evolutionary philosopher and scientist and Mary Evelyn Tucker, historian of religions, who create a new story of the universe with the movie "Journey of the Universe."

As Mary Evelyn Tucker put it: *"it is not just a beautiful story, sure it is, but it is a story which grounds us in a sense of our purpose because it raises the question like all the religions of the world do in their creation's stories: Where do we come from? Why are we here? Where do we belong?"*

Consequently, Dorothy and I prepared five sessions aimed at getting a sense of the evolutionary process of creation, generating thinking in our common origin, our role as Christians, coming to celebrate together our Creator and the gifts of diversity within community, mindful and grateful for our communion with the whole.

Nine women followed faithfully these monthly meetings held in our FMM convent in Manhattan. Our time together was about watching a sequence of the movie, a group sharing and prayer.

Some of the participants left us their thoughts:

*"I appreciated that I have the opportunity to do this reflection from the whole universe, the outer space; it broadens our perspective; it was like a mini-retreat."*

*"It was self-centering, focusing on my relationship with the world, others and God."*

*"I joined the group as it was oriented spirituality. After studying Laudato Si and joining some of the "action" and "information" oriented activities and lectures, I very much liked finding a place where a spiritual reflection could take place. The space, format and frequency you offer offers the opportunity to reflect, think, word out and listen and share on what is happening in terms of evolution of the world, in a trusted circle. I find it very useful."*

At the very end of our last meeting, the group wishes to continue to nourish our spiritual life. So, we will create a new way to continue our journey in order to live more fully in our world with care and compassion.

*Odile Coirier, fmm*



## Franciscan Missionaries of Mary 125 Years of Presence in Canada



Sister Pauline Gilmore and I traveled to Canada to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> foundation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. We were happy to be with our sisters as stories and memories were shared of the various ways Canada and the US province have collaborated over the years.

We recall how at the beginning of the US province, sisters from Canada were missioned to our province. We met several sisters from Canada who had been missioned in the states for many years and afterwards returned home to Canada. There were also other Canadian sisters who had been on mission with sisters from the states in other countries around the world who shared their stories with us. A blessing received from those who have gone before us, responding generously to the call of universal mission.

The sisters came from all over Canada to join in this important moment in the life of the Institute. On the evening of September 8, 2017 in Montreal, we joined them in a prayer of thanksgiving and adoration, as together we recalled "Prayer, which itself is evangelizing, stimulates and strengthens our missionary thrust." (Const. Capt. 2, 12).



The very prayer was a enriching moment as it was an intercultural experience, as sisters from Africa, Continent of the Americas, Asia, and Madagascar in prayer and song expressed the mystery of God's love.



As we know the Canadian province has for many years been working with the Associates and they also shared a reflection on how their life, faith and ministry has grown with the fmm spirituality.

Sister Liliane, provincial also invited sisters who were being missioned to different communities to come forth and receive a lighted candle as a symbol of their sending. As Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, we continue our journey with Mary and the Magnificat was expressed in song and a very prayerful liturgical dance done by Sister Arlene.

The evening prayer once again brought us, as sisters together in thanksgiving for the gift of our vocation, our communities and mission. On Saturday with fmm's gathered in Church we were able to once again experience the wonder and richness of our intercultural communities. There are over 19 nationalities in the Canadian province at this time and many were dressed in the native attire.

Let us continue together on our journey towards transformation, blest to have the support of our sisters throughout the world.

*Noreen Murray, fmm*  
*Pauline Gilmore, fmm*



Banner for Mass with Sr. Mercedes Nunez



Arch-bishop Christiane Lepine of Montral, presided at the Eucharist and many priests concelebrated. The presence of family, friends, religious men and women filled the church and came together in this wonderful celebration. After Mass, there was a festive meal together, where once again the talent of fmm sisters and associates filled the hall with music, dance and storytelling.



By now I am sure you can tell that both Pauline and I were grateful for this time spent with our sisters in Canada. We certainly carried each one in the province with us as we joined in the celebration of thanksgiving.



## HUMAN LIFE GUILD DAY PROVIDENCE, RI

On Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> there was Annual Life Guild Day in the Providence Diocese. This is the first day of the Forty Days for Life Campaign to encourage people to join in prayer for and to make others aware of life issues.

The day began with a beautifully sung mass at Sts. Rose and Clement Church in West Warwick celebrated by Bishop Tobin, and concelebrated by eight other diocesan priests. At the end of the mass, Bishop Tobin gave awards to five people who work in various life-related ministries in the diocese. Among the recipients this year was Sr. Joyce Gardella who received an award for her participation as a member of the Rachel Vineyard Retreat Team for a number of years. Many at Fruit Hill are somewhat familiar with the Rachel Vineyard Retreats held at Bethany for the healing of post-abortive women and men. These retreats are a powerful tool to help people know and feel the healing and forgiving love of God as well as give their aborted children to over to God.



After mass there was brunch downstairs and a conference of four speakers who spoke about the different life-related issues as a talk on how to speak with today's youth about pro-life issues and the importance of family in the over-all picture of human life.



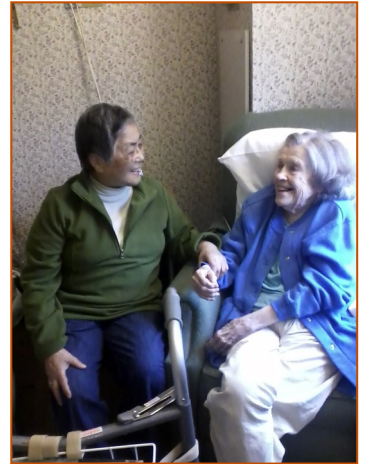
### North Smithfield, RI

Everything in around us is beautiful with the changing leaves and bright sunshine. During these past few months we welcomed Mary Theresa Plante and Jeanne Mera to rehab and saw Marie Paule home to heaven. Mary Theresa Plante has since joined us as a resident at St. Antoine and Philomena has moved to the Special Care Unit. They are both adjusting well in their new lives and ministries.

On the vocation front, I had an opportunity to attend a Women's conference in Providence, an NRVC meeting in Albany, and a vocation gathering at Assumption College in Worcester with Paulina Park, fmm. This event was attended by about 45 people,

including vocation ministers, speakers, discerners and representatives from the college itself. It was also live-streamed on Facebook. We later found out that 774 people had clicked in to watch all or some of the event in that format! Surely a sign of our times...

We thank you for your continued prayers for us and our sisters in community at St. Antoine. They are always grateful for the many of you who visit regularly and those who took the opportunity of EPC to stop by. Have a most blessed and safe fall as our seasons turn towards winter.



*Sheila Lehmkuhle,  
fmm*



### 97th Street, NY

We are the International House of Hospitality in New York City AND the United States Province. Mostly Sisters world wide who stay with us for a few weeks, months, year...while they do an Internship at the United Nations. Armed with this knowledge, they return to their countries.

Not all of the visitors and guests are nuns. This past week we had the delightful honor and experience to host the daughter of Margaret Mead. Mary Catherine Bateson is also a cultural anthropologist, Professor, Writer and a simple, humble and delightful personality. Right from the start you become friends. She signed and gifted us with two of her books, *With A Daughter's Eye*, a memoir of her mother and father Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, and *Composing a Further Life, the Age of Active Wisdom*. Worthy of mention, she enjoyed her stay so much, she can't wait to return again.

Mary Petrosky's book, *A Spiritual Legacy*, will not be published for Santa this year, but will come for Easter. The Risen Christ will see to that. I got a sneak preview and wouldn't be surprised if it became a Best Seller and/or Classic.

*Maureen Conway, fmm*



## Enlarged Provincial Council Fruit Hill, October 12017

Everyone assembling in Lourdes Hall for the EPC greeted each other as a long-lost sister. We began the day with prayer that included the beautiful song by Marty Haugen, "On the Journey to Emmaus" and a reading from Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Sister Noreen welcomed all of us and expressed the thought that we are continuing our "journey for the world in our world." She expressed the thought that with Mary as our guide she should readily speak and live her words "Yes, Lord, I will follow you (from birth, through death to rebirth)."

We were notified that Sr. Elizabeth of Portugal had died in England. Many sisters remembered her and stories abounded. Jackie knew her as "mistress of novices" and Emily as "sub-mistress." Mary P. reminded everyone how humorous she was. All in unison expressed that she rest in peace.

Four tables were set up in the hall and all eighteen of us were able to be comfortable in sharing our community's responses to participating in Sensing. Each sister shared how their community was able to join not only other communities but also lay people as they delved into the subject. All the lay people who shared with us were able to express their thoughts about sensing levels.

Marie said that El Paso has a group of women who are called "Friends of the FMM" and that they enriched the discussions. The group zeroed in on the homeless and listened to their stories. Bea expressed that to put generative listening into practice they listened to the people in their neighborhood who were concerned, not so much of spirituality, as jobs, global warming and the future. Loan shared about her neighborhood that consisted of many people of different faiths such as Jewish and Muslim. She said that she was amazed that in West Roxbury there are 7 mosques that service 1,000 worshipers. Listening to the Jewish and Muslim neighbors the sisters were made aware that they fear traveling and the women know that people are suspicious of them because of their traditional clothing. Mary P. shared that her community keeps in touch with the parish and those who stay with the sisters in NY. "The world comes to



us and we learn so much from them", she admitted.

Lois said her group knows each other and the lay people better now because of generative listening. We were reminded what our priest at mass had said that there are not such things as short cuts in God's plans so we should not expect them. Jackie said that they relate to the staff, the people in the hospital and those they have contact with each day including the parish women's guild. To understand immigrants, they have reached out to them by listening to their stories. In Las Cruces there is much dialogue with parishioners and people who live near the churches we minister. Each day we practice generative listening with the homeless, those in jail and the lonely.

Noreen informed us that Mary P. has written a book entitled "The Journey Never Ends". She shared with us the book will entail "How to Prepare a Spiritual Will." The book will be out in April and in truth it piqued our imagination.

The days ended appropriately on Mission Sunday. Our liturgy in our chapel brought us to gratefulness not only for our Mother Mary of the Passion but all the wonderful sisters God has given us.

*Nancy Cabral, fmm*





Thank you,  
Rosemarie,

for all you  
have done  
to bring the  
world into  
our communities.



“Confidence in the seed of God’s Kingdom and in the mystery of Easter should also shape the way we communicate. This confidence enables us to carry out our work- in all the different ways that communication takes place nowadays- with the conviction that it is possible to recognize the good news present in every story and in the face of each person.”

*Pope Francis  
World Communication Day 2017*

Since 1974, Sister Rosemarie Higgins had been responsible for the Communications Office in the US province. Rosemarie undertook this ministry with her tireless dedication and energy that knew no limits. With the sisters who collaborated with her in this ministry, she was able to share the news, not only to the fmm sisters here in our province but to our fmm sisters throughout the world as well as family and friends, wherever they may be.

Truly as Blessed Mary of the Passion said: “The world is my home” and Rosemarie was able to be at home wherever Sharings could be read and shared. She was enthusiastic to try different ways of sharing the good news, encouraging the sisters to share their stories, and before you knew it the

Profile of each sister was completed. As time slowly hurried by, she would be updating the profiles as much as possible so each one could catch a glimpse of the richness of the life of every fmm.

Like a tree planted in good soil that takes root, which enable it to grow and bear new life, Rosemarie was attentive to the care of all of creation and in so many ways she continued to nurture each one. She initiated the Tree Project which enables families and loved ones to have a tree planted, not only ensuring the remembrance of loved ones but recognizing as Pope Francis said, we all have a responsibility to “Care for our Home.” (Laudato Si).

Yes, through the years Rosemarie has shared her talents and gifts through her service in our Communications office for over forty years. Thank you Rosemarie for all you have done to bring the world into our communities. You have helped us to understand, to listen not only with our ears but also with our eyes and heart.

*Noreen Murray, fmm*



From Blessed Mary of the Passion ...

My resolution is:  
to be love and mercy without limit,  
for God is without limit...

He Speaks to Me..147