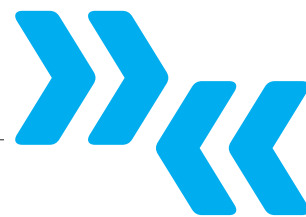


CROSSROADS



FALL 2021



Sr. Maxine Young attends a prayer service at St. Martin dePorres in Toledo, Ohio.
Photo courtesy of The Blade

A LETTER FROM THE TOLEDO TEAM

God's Goodness and Love

Dear Family and Friends,

Autumn! A beautiful season of God's beauty! It is also a season of paradox. A season where we see nature dying and nature seeding. We see how nature scatters seeds in abundance and then new life comes forth in the spring. What a powerful metaphor for our lives! In all the autumnal events of our lives we see how God has walked with us and at the end we experience a newness and a spring time in our lives.

In this issue, you will see how Sr. Betty Jeanne Kramer brings new life to L'Arche in Jacksonville, Florida. God called her to the L'Arche community and she continues to share love and compassion with the L'Arche residents. Sr. Betty Jeanne daily embraces her call to serve and lives the spirit and charism of our foundress, Sister Maria Aloysia Wohlbring. We hope you enjoy reading Sr. Betty Jeanne's calling from God to be one with the beautiful people of L'Arche!

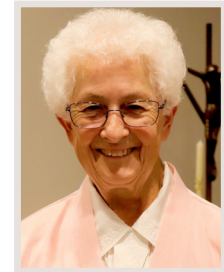
At this time, you will also read about Sisters who have responded to God's call to consecrated life and are celebrating their Jubilees. We ask that you also join us in holding in memory three sisters who are now enjoying the fullness of life with God. Don't miss the additional articles throughout the magazine featuring our regional Sisters, Sr. M. Nancy Vance and Sr. M. Suzette Fisher and the way they bring new life to their ministries.

Thank you for your interest and support throughout these years. Because of you, the sisters can continue to witness God's love at L'Arche and throughout the world. Just as we experience the Autumn season of dying and seeding, may our lives bear the seeds of God's goodness and love.

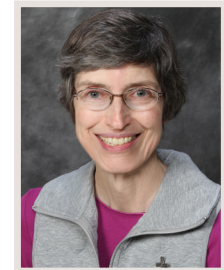
Sincerely,

The Mission Advancement Team
Sisters of Notre Dame, Toledo

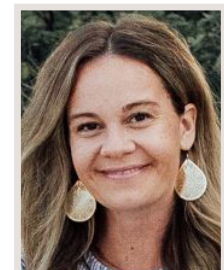
THE TOLEDO TEAM



SR. MARY CAROL GREGORY, SND
Advancement Team Advisor



SR. SALLY MARIE BOHNETT, SND
Donor Relations/Grant Writing



ERICA TYBURSKI
Advancement & Communications
Coordinator

SR. BETTY JEANNE KRAMER

Tangible Love

SR. BETTY JEANNE FOUND A PLACE IN HER HEART TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE MARGINALIZED.

Living in an environment where all share their gifts, feel valued and needed, and effect positive change in the world sounds like a dream. It was a dream

for our foundress Sister Maria Aloysia Wolbring who established a home for needy children whom she taught. It is also the dream of Sister Betty Jeanne Marie Kramer. Our foundress' charism was "a deep experience of God's provident care [which] moved her to a compassionate love for others. . ." (Constitutions). Transmitted to each Sister of Notre Dame, this charism found a place in Sister Betty Jeanne's heart to share God's love with the marginalized by being part of L'Arche Jacksonville.

When a principal at Christ the King School, Toledo, in the 1990s Sister Betty Jeanne, then known as Sister Mary Rita, picked up Henri Nouwen's book *Road to Daybreak*. Sister said the book "struck a chord in my heart" and continued to resound during the next few years when she met two persons with Down Syndrome—a gentleman on the streets of Port Clinton and a three-year-old girl named Lisa, who impacted the lives of staff and students where Sister was principal. Finally in 2005 after talking with Sister Mary Lizette Hoevel who had ministered in L'Arche Cleveland and then visiting the community there, Sister said "I knew in my heart that L'Arche was where I wanted to be."



Sr. Betty Jeanne of L'Arche Jacksonville

Having lived in L'Arche Cleveland for a year, Sister had to leave for health reasons. However, four years later, the charism and dream still strong, she found a home in L'Arche Jacksonville, Florida, where she has shared life since 2010.

L'Arche is an international organization with 38 communities worldwide and 18 in the USA, a federation of people with and without intellectual disabilities. All share the same mission and goal. All live in homes where everyone gives and receives help, because mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of journeying through life together.

L'Arche Jacksonville is a community with four family-style homes, the Blanchart Community Center, and an off-site day program called the Rainbow Workshop. In the homes, along with common areas for meals and other activities, each core member and live-in assistant has his or her own bedroom, furnished simply and decorated according to one's tastes.

Those at L'Arche appreciate the diverse cultures and faith practices and work together toward a more human society in which each member is valued. To this end, the four homes gather as a whole at least twice each month. First Thursday has a special theme each year. This year's theme celebrates core members.

Grant that L'Arche be a true home, where everyone m



A picture painted of the resident, Jeffrey

A slide presentation shows the family of origin and the highlights of the person's time since coming to L'Arche. Songs and prayers center around that person. After the sharing there is a meal prepared in each of the three closest homes to be shared with the guests.

The second monthly gathering begins with a simple meal in the Blanchart Center. This evening celebrates the anniversaries of core members, assistants, and staff who have arrived at L'Arche during that month in any year. For "Anniversary Night" all pray, listen to appropriate spiritual readings, and then celebrate each person who has an anniversary. Individuals with an anniversary are seated in a prominent place to enjoy a skit about them. Others have an opportunity to tell them what is most appreciated about them. After everyone has been specially appreciated, everyone is called forth to receive from the community leader a decorated candle in remembrance and thanksgiving. Finally, the entire community sings a song of blessing around those holding their lit candles.

Sister Betty Jeanne primarily shares life with those in Peace House, a very caring place. Let's meet some of the residents. Viva remembers birthdays and other dates, giving her the moniker "human calendar." She prays persistently for the many intentions of those who have asked her prayers but accepts God's different plan.

Katrina, who also lives in Peace House, has a beautiful singing voice with perfect pitch and the ability to quickly memorize lyrics as shown by her large repertoire from the 70s and 80s. With Katrina's gift for whistling, she believes she is "the best whistler" and gladly enjoys competition. Visually impaired, Katrina "sees with her hands" as she prepares meals.

Jack is a pro with 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles. Besides his great help in preparing meals, he is the king of recycling and readies six bins for pickup. Joy, one of the founding members of L'Arche Jacksonville, has a sunny personality and never lets limitations hold her back as she goes out to shop, dine, and visit.

Jeffrey has a big heart. He loves animals and is something of a cat or dog whisperer. He also has an artistic bent; he can look at a picture and draw what he sees. Viva and Jeffrey enjoy Zumba classes.

Robbie and Chip, friends and housemates, go for a daily walk. When Sister stops them to chat, she always notices how Robbie conveys his thoughts through a giant smile but few words. Robbie came to the Rainbow Workshop where Sister enjoyed spending time with him coloring and doing simple puzzles. (Robbie has since died from Alzheimer's.)

Collaborators are attracted to L'Arche Jacksonville's mission to witness a simple lifestyle and mutual respect for differences as they nurture relationships. Collaborators include Father Tom Poth, a spiritual guide since the 1990s and who continues to be with the community whenever there is a death; Sister Rita Baum, a Sister of St. Joseph from St. Augustine who established L'Arche Jacksonville; and Christin Tomy, a young woman from Iowa who spent a year with the Dominican Sisters in Jacksonville and helped at the Rainbow House. Currently there are three sisters from India who are L'Arche assistants. Through the years, the Rainbow Workshop has had many volunteers. There was one artist who for several months came each week and took a photo of a core member. The next week she would come with a portrait of that person, often painted on a background prepared by the subject. Other longtime friends include Simone and Gerard from Montreal, Canada, where Gerard had been the L'Arche community leader. Upon retiring Gerard and Simone came to Jacksonville for a vacation. They lived in Peace House for a few weeks and assisted at the Rainbow Workshop.

may find life. . . Help us to see, to serve, and to love.

Often in December Sister Betty Jeanne finds an assistant willing to dress up as good St. Nicholas to give everyone a candy cane. James from Tennessee donned the suit and took on the saintly role. After his graduation from Catholic University in Washington, James spent a year as an assistant. James was not the only one to assist and then move on. Assistants often spend a year or two after college before starting their careers, leaving L'Arche understaffed. Personnel are stretched, but trust that God will provide the right persons.

The Prayer of L'Arche has been posted in Sister's bedroom throughout the years. It reads in part "Grant that L'Arche be a true home, where everyone may find life. . . Help us to see, to serve, and to love."

Sister Betty Jeanne writes, "During these years at L'Arche I have come to appreciate and love the parents and families of those who have brought their children to our L'Arche community. I have come to understand and appreciate the blessings of the challenges of those Sisters of Notre Dame whose ministry is to a family member with disabilities."



Resident Joy with assistant James on St. Nicholas Day.



Jeffrey with Sr. Betty Jeanne.

"I knew in my heart that L'Arche is where I wanted to be."

SR. BETTY JEANNE

Sister Betty Jeanne thanks God for the years she has been a member of the L'Arche community. Now retired, Sister is living her dream by volunteering to just "be" with core members and experience their goodness and beauty. These visits give assistants much-needed breaks, too. Sister's ministry at L'Arche Jacksonville has given her the blessings of living with persons from different countries, including Peru, Germany, Poland, Philippines, India, England and Morocco. In Sister Betty Jeanne, her "deep experience of God's provident care" continues the lived charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. L'Arche is one of the many ways to fulfill our foundress' dream to meet the needs of the times by sharing God's compassionate love. It is a dream of love made tangible.



Residents Katrina and Viva with Sr. Betty Jeanne.

Jubilees

2020

75 | JUBILEE OF JOY



Sr. Ethel Mary Camp



Sr. Mary Patricia Snyder

70 | JUBILEE OF GRACE



*(l-r) Sr. Mary Frances Theresa Dorsey
Sr. Mary Margaret Ann Polta
Sr. Mary Danielle Coressel*



60 | DIAMOND JUBILEE



*(l-r standing)
Sr. Loretta Marie Borgerding
Sr. Mary Jaculin Manders
Sr. Mary Carroll Schemenauer
Sr. Julie Marie Bosch*

*(l-r sitting)
Sr. Barbara Marie Sloan
Sr. Joanne Mary Frania
Sr. Joan Marie Recker
Sr. Mary Charleen Hug*

50 | GOLDEN JUBILEE



*(l-r back row)
Sr. Mary Cheryl Darr
Sr. Mary Delores Gatliff
Sr. Mary Jo Szpila
Sr. Mary Brenda Haynes
(l-r front row)
Sr. Marilyn Ann Angel
Sr. Mary Valerie Schneider
Sr. Mary Joselyn Weeman*

40 | RUBY JUBILEE



Sr. Sally Marie Bohnett

2021

80 | JUBILEE OF PEACE



Sr. Mary Jamesetta Krafty

70 | JUBILEE OF GRACE



*(l-r)
Sr. Mary Georgene Fink
Sr. Mary Ross Burgard
Sr. Mary Rose Bernard Groth*

65 | IRON JUBILEE



*(l-r) Sr. Mary Francel Orosz
Sr. Mary Raymund Johnson*

60 | DIAMOND JUBILEE



*(l-r standing)
Sr. Mary Carol Gregory
Sr. Julia Marie Hutchison
Sr. Carol Mary Bogner
(l-r sitting)
Sr. Mary Lucy Suter
Sr. Margaret Mary Collins*

50 | GOLDEN JUBILEE



Sr. Margaret Mary Faist

40 | JUBILEE OF GRACE



*(l-r)
Sr. Mary Deborah Giles
Sr. Anne Mary Molyet*

*Congratulations to our 2020 & 2021 Jubilarians!
Together, they represent 2,080 years of vowed religious life.*

ETERNAL REST

In Loving Memory

SISTER MARY MARA BENNETT

September 2, 1938 - April 12, 2021

Religious Profession: August 11, 1959



Sister Mary Mara was particularly proud of her Polish heritage. She loved making Polish bread, knew several Polish expressions, and attended the Polish parish school of St.

Hyacinth in Toledo, Ohio. Graduating from Notre Dame Academy in 1956, she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in September.

Earning education degrees, she taught children in Catholic schools of the Toledo Diocese and in Indiana for 46 years, primarily with 6th graders. Twenty-five years were spent in ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Indiana. She was an excellent educator, especially talented in teaching composition and research. Students later in life would thank her for teaching them these useful skills.

After retiring from the classroom, Sister used her pleasant voice and interest in others to assist in the Mission Advancement Office of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Daily she phoned benefactors thanking them for their donations, renewing friendships, and promising to pray for their intentions.

Sister Mary Mara developed a beautiful devotion to our Blessed Mother. The Rosary and the Magnificat were powerful prayers which she recited faithfully. "My whole person lies open to God my Savior."

May she rest in peace.

SISTER MARY MAURUS LABADIE

March 4, 1923 - April 24, 2021

Religious Profession: August 10, 1943



Consuello Labadie was one of five children of Mark and Cecilia Labadie. She attended St. Joseph School in Maumee and graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Toledo. Entering

the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1941 she received the name of Sister Mary Maurus.

Having attended Mary Manse College, Sister began her 65-year career in teaching children in the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. Her expertise in helping children with learning differences led her to Mary Immaculate School in Toledo during her last 22 years in the classroom.

Sister embraced life with keen interest in the arts. She taught herself how to play musical instruments especially the violin and accordion. She basked in the brilliance of the great composers and perhaps imagined playing her violin in concert. Her life, like a musical score, was ready to receive divine notes.

When she needed skilled care in 2011, she became a resident of Rosary Care Center operated by the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, Ohio. She became one with the Franciscan spirit and enjoyed living with the sisters and residents.

May she enjoy the music and glory of heaven. Alleluia!

SISTER REBECCA MARIE RAINY, NOVICE

June 4, 1992 - June 14, 2021

Entrance into the Novitiate: March 30, 2020



Sister Rebecca Marie was the fourth of seven children born to Canisius Leongai and Thecla Wanbisa in Wewak, East Sepik, Papua New Guinea.

Sister Rebecca first came to know the Sisters of Notre Dame in 2015 when she participated in a "Come and See" program in which she heard the history and spirituality of the Sisters of Notre Dame. This touched and inspired her and led to her entrance in 2017. Sister became a novice and traveled to the Philippines where she began her novitiate formation. In her second year as a novice, Sister became ill. It was deemed necessary she return to Papua New Guinea. Both parents were present at the time of her death.

Her postulant director, Sister Mary Saina Varkey, wrote: "She (Sr Rebecca) is an accepted leader in the group. She understands things and is very reflective. She draws a lot of strength from her prayer life. She has a great desire to be a sister."

Regarding her formation, Sister Rebecca wrote: "All of the conferences and instructions all really changed my prayer life and helped me grow deeper in my faith in following Jesus' call for me in Notre Dame in serving his people."

Rest in peace, dear Sister Rebecca Marie.

By living in the presence of God in the spirit of faith we trust that one day we will be led to the fullness of joy when we shall see God face to face."

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME, ARTICLE 52

Care for God's creation through Photography

Photographed By: Sr. Marie Christine Cervi



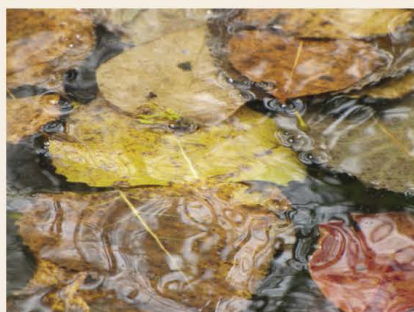
Sunflower and bud
Menominee County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula



Lavender-tipped Dahlia
Toledo Botanical Gardens



Eastern Screech Owl feigning sleep, sneaking
a tiny peek at admirer
Maumee Bay State Park



Fall leaves in shallow rippling water
Independence Dam State Park, Defiance, OH



Multicolored maple leaf amid dry sepia
foliage with tiny green growth
Independence Dam State Park, Defiance, OH

"With the lens, I love to capture
images from a unique perspective
or focus on tiny details that can
often be dismissed without
intentional awareness."

-Sr. Marie Christine Cervi

LIAL RENEWAL CENTER

A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF
THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

5908 DAVIS RD., WHITEHOUSE, OHIO

Upcoming Events

November 21, 2021

1:00- 4:30

Make your Own Greeting Cards

by Sister Rosemary Hug, SND

Come and learn how to create your own greeting cards.
You do not need to have previous experience. Just come
and enjoy being with other people who are creative.
Supplies will be provided — you can make as many cards
as you wish.

Come and reflect:

How does Advent touch you and your spiritual life?

Each week would include a scripture
reflection, a look at a
December Saint,
common Advent
traditions, and small
group sharing.



November 28, 2021 | Waiting in Hope
December 5, 2021 | Letting in the Light
December 12, 2021 | Anticipating Joy
December 19, 2021 | Living in the Presence
*Each session will be 2:00-4:00p

*A sacred
space to
seek, renew
and gather*

For more information and to
register for an event,
please visit

www.lialrenewalcenter.org

419-877-0482

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