



SHM Extended Family Newsletter

Eastern American Province

2014- 2015 Events

[Volume 5, Issue 1]

Living the Joy of the Gospel

By Margaret Porzenheim

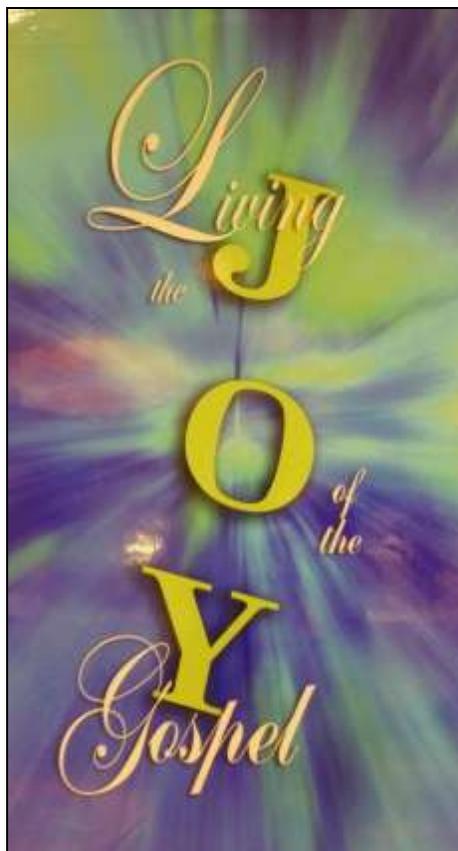
I had the privilege of participating in the RSHM Convocation 2015 July 13 – 17 in Tarrytown, NY. Though I could elaborate on the speakers Lynn Levo, CSJ, Frank Moloney SDB, and author Judith Dupre; describe the welcome and hospitality of the sisters and staff of Marymount Convent; and detail the gracious service and outstanding food at the Marriott Hotel, I prefer to offer a more personal reflection on the Joy of the Gospel and the celebration with women who are energetic, passionate, and fully committed to their call.

The various activities of the Convocation were an invitation to witness women of grace and dignity opening to new ways of living and being, and facing aspects of diminishment that inevitably come with the passage of years – ‘aging is a choice, not just adding years’(Levo). In the face of pending loss, the strength of community and support of leadership sustains hope. Their depth of faith and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit is their unshakeable foundation.

The RSHM nurtured me at Park Terrace for four of the happiest years of my life. They fostered my maturity in religious community. And now, in the second half of

life, they test my response to my baptismal call through their example of authentic living. I am indebted to these women for continuing to nurture and embrace me, inviting and challenging me to live a richer life in God.

Margaret Porzenheim is a member of the Extended Family and a 1961 graduate of Park Terrace.



The SHM-EF embraces all those who desire to share in the spirit and charism of the RSHM and their founder, Jean Gailhac, and foundress, Mere Saint Jean. The RSHM treasure the friendships and associations shared with students, faculties, staffs, families and colleagues over the years. All are invited to participate in the SHM Extended Family, which embraces all who want a deeper understanding of the challenges of the Church today and the RSHM Institute's focus on justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

That all may have LIFE and have it to the full.

SHM Extended Family Lenten Day of Prayer and the New Cosmology

By Bea McMahon, RSHM

Sunday, March 8, the Extended Family Lenten day of prayer was a memorable one. Rev. Senan Taylor presided at the Eucharistic Liturgy and gave, as always, a compelling homily. Reflecting on the cleansing of the temple, he expanded the sense of temple from an ancient building to the present living temple of humanity in the setting of the entire universe. After a delicious lunch and nice opportunity for conversation, we received the enriching gift of a presentation on the New Cosmology by Sr. Catherine Mary Patten. It was, in Catherine's clear and comprehensive style, a wonderful synthesis of what we have been

reading and learning lately about our very old and vast universe. In particular, Catherine addressed the ways in which these new understandings impact our relationship to God. She reviewed some concepts from our early



Participants at the Extended Family Day of Prayer.

religious education – like a top-down model of reality with God

and angels at the top (pure spirit), or a God who never changes. Catherine then drew upon the thinking of Teilhard de Chardin and other theologians to image God in a new way - not 'up there' above us, looking down on a world created long ago, but 'out there' ahead of us, continually creating through evolution, drawing us into a future beyond our imagining. The group present was both appreciative and responsive. Several people were able to add to the excellent resources Catherine suggested for further reflection.

RSHM Network of Schools Conference at the UN

By Veronica Brand, RSHM/NGO



On June 30th we welcomed 55 participants in the **RSHM Network of Schools Conference** to the United Nations! We began the day with a morning session in the Church Center where Veronica RSHM shared a presentation on **"RSHM Mission and Sustainable development - a call to action through our RSHM NGO Ministry at the UN"**. The group then divided into three for official group tours of the UN. A "brown bag" lunch in the UN Visitors area and concourse preceded participation in one of 3 different side events focusing on the challenges relating to Sustainable Development and the post 2015 Agenda. The afternoon brought discussion in small groups, sharing of ideas and insights and a closing prayer session in the **Inter-faith chapel** at the **Church Center at the UN**. It was a special day in which the representatives from our RSHM-related schools in 10 countries truly celebrated the reality of **"We the Peoples..."** of these United Nations. Special thanks go to Marymount School of New York for presenting the challenge and organizational support for this and to Brigid Driscoll RSHM for acting as a supportive guide.

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary: NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 2013.

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RSHM LIFE Center – Sleepy Hollow Celebrates 20 years of Life and Expansion By Susan Gardella, RSHM

On June 5th, 1995 many of the RSHM took part in the dedication of the RSHM LIFE Center. After the prayer service and blessing by Bishop McCormick the doors officially opened. It's hard to believe 20 years have passed. I often think back on all of the sisters who were present that day, ministered here and volunteered over the years in the various programs as they evolved. Many of them are now gone but their spirit remains here. We are so grateful for your continued support in so many ways over these years.

Parents continue to be drawn to our doors because they have heard all about the LIFE Center from a friend or relative.



They, too, take classes to help become more integrated into the local community. The children in our first classes have now graduated from college, we have teachers, lawyers and Peace Corps volunteers among our alumni and

the thousands of children that have passed through our doors are on track to do great things. The RSHM LIFE Center continues to grow and evolve as needs arise, each year new generations

begin. Programs are winding down for the academic year and we are gearing up for Summer Camp, the Immigration office is busier than ever. Things don't slow down just because it's our anniversary. Recently we celebrated simply with 'Birthday Parties' in some of the programs. Throughout the year we will have other gatherings in celebration of this milestone year, you will hear about them as the year goes on, hopefully you will join us for some of them. For all that has been, THANKS...for all that will be, YES!



SHM EF Advent Day of Prayer, December 14, 2014

By Catherine Bennett, RSHM

On the third Sunday of Advent, Sr. Danielle Baran, CR led us in our day of prayer. She reminded us that Advent is a season of **AWAKENING and WAITING** and that the journey of Advent begins with our opening our hearts. She also spoke of Eucharist indicating that when we receive Holy Communion and say "Amen" that we are called to **be Jesus for others**. Sr. was right in line with Pope Francis when she reminded us to ask ourselves "Do I bring joy to others?" We closed with a lovely Ritual at which we shared cards with a Christmas scene and our names on them. We randomly chose the cards and were asked to pray daily until Christmas day for the person whose name was written on the card. It was an inspirational day with Sr. Danielle and we were grateful for her preparing us for the birth of Christ.



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RSHM Jubilarians Celebrate Faith

On April 18, 2015,
fifteen R.S.H.M. sisters
celebrated the
anniversary of their
religious vows.

75 years

Maire McQuillan
Nancy O'Brien

70 years

Catherine Browne
Irene Cody
Fernanda Moreira

60 years

Lucia Becerra
Mary Louise
Bloomingdale
Cecilia Camargo
Agnes Cloonan
Margaret Ellen
Flannelly
Ellen Marie Keane
Jacqueline Murphy
Rosa Ramirez

50 years

Margaret Hoyne
Mary Lang

RSHM JPIC, 2015 Films



Belle

Sunday, October 4, 2015

This period drama based on fact traces the life of Dido Elizabeth Belle, a biracial girl born in 1761 to a British admiral father and an African mother. Raised by her great-uncle, Dido finds her place in society despite her mixed ethnicity.



Philomena

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Floundering BBC journalist Martin Sixsmith and aging Irishwoman Philomena Lee form an unlikely bond when they pair up to find the son Philomena was forced to give up for adoption 50 years ago.

**For further information or to
RSVP contact 212-987-3575.**

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the Sacred Heart of Mary Eastern
American Province Justice, Peace
and Integrity of Creation
Committee**

Boy Scout to honor RSHM with Eagle Scout Project

The St. Anne's Church Bulletin
in Garden City, NY posted the
article below. Please see how
you can help the Life Scout
reach his recreational and
spiritual goal for his
community.

Hello, my name is Michael McGoldrick. I am a parishioner at St. Anne's Church, Garden City and an alumnus of St. Anne's School. I am 16 years old and a Life Scout in Boy Scout Troop 134. I will be a junior at St. Mary's High School in Manhasset, in September. I am currently working on my Eagle Scout Project. My Eagle Scout Service Project will be creating a memorial to the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary sisters who have taught, cared for and loved the tens of thousands of students of St. Anne's School in Garden City for the past 56 years. I am currently working with Msgr. Thomas Harold, Mrs. Engrassia, Sr. Judy Golden and Mr. Jon Schwieger. They have granted me access to a stained glass window that was recovered from the Chapel of the former convent of St. Anne's. I will be creating a Memorial to the Sisters in the vestibule between the Church and the Grammar school of St. Anne's. I am asking for donations for this worthwhile project. Checks can be made out to St. Anne's Church and sent to the parish office at 35 Dartmouth Street, Garden City, NY 11530. Please note on the checks that this donation is for the Stained Glass Memorial. Thank you for your help with this worthwhile endeavor.

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JOINS US FOR FUTURE EVENTS WITH THE EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS

SHM EF Fall Retreat at Cormaria: October 30 – November 1, 2015

SHM EF Gailhac Celebration Day at the United Nations: November 16, 2015

Marymount Founder's Day – Butler Commons, Rose Hill: December 5, 2015

SHM EF Advent Day of Prayer: December 13, 2015

SHM EF Lenten Day of Prayer: March 13, 2016

SHM EF Spring Retreat: March 18 - 20, 2016

For more information on these events, go to <http://www.alumni.fordham.edu/calendar/list.aspx>
(Link can be accessed by anyone. No passwords needed.)

The Awesomeness of our RSHM Volunteer Program

By Ursula Mahoney

The program for the Marymount Convent Volunteers started about four years ago with members of the Extended Family visiting sisters who live on the third floor of the Convent. They come at a time convenient for themselves and the convent schedule and spend time with an individual sister or with the group gathered in the lounge. It is a time of sharing and caring and all feel better about the time spent together.

Liz Herguth gives one example of



how a volunteer views her experience: "Almost two years ago I was introduced to Sister Rosemary Siebert, who resides on the third floor of Marymount Convent. I try to visit her every Friday afternoon for about an hour. I sit next to the bed and we have a conversation for about an hour. Occasionally Sister is tired and dozing when I arrive, and though unable to respond I think she can hear and appreciate my visit. I tell her everyday things I have done during the week, including visits with my

grandchildren, what I am cooking for dinner, my vacation plans. I talk about my fifteen year old black cat. During the summer I describe the flowers blooming in my garden. I look forward to seeing Sister smile and I know she looks forward to our visits. Last week when I was getting ready to leave, I told her I would see her the next Friday. I hoped it was okay with her and she responded that yes, she would love to see me. That made my whole day!"

If anyone would like to volunteer, she may be in touch with Susannah Bourbeau at 914 703 6412 or by email at sbourbeau@rshmeap.org.



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Special Award to Phyllis Zagano

By Irene Kelly, RSHM

Congratulations to SHM Extended Family member Phyllis Zagano, who was inducted into the Fordham University Military and NYC Army Reserve Officer Corps Hall of Fame for her distinguished civilian career as an internationally acclaimed Catholic scholar. Phyllis was graduated from Marymount College in 1969 and later earned her Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, in addition to three master's degrees. She has taught at Fordham and Boston Universities, and is currently Senior Research Associate-In-Residence and Adjunct Professor of Religion at Hofstra University.

After attending Officer Candidate School Phyllis began a distinguished 31 year Navy active and reserve career in numerous public affairs assignments in the United States and Europe. She retired in August 2007 with the rank of Commander.

Phyllis's civilian work focuses on the role of women in the church. A former Fulbright Fellow to the Republic of Ireland, she received the 2002 College Theology Society Book Award for her book: *Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church*. In 2004 she received The Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice from The Paulist Center, Boston,

and in 2012 she received the Catherine of Siena Distinguished Layperson of the Year Award from Voice of the Faithful in Boston. Her column "Just Catholic" appears twice a month online in the [National Catholic Reporter](http://www.nationalcatholicreporter.com) and in other publications around the world.

Dr. Zagano is the author or editor of eighteen books and hundreds of articles and reviews, especially on women deacons, many variously translated into Czech, French Indonesian, Italian, and Spanish.

Kudos to Phyllis!



Picture courtesy of St. Phoebe Center for the History of the Orthodox Diaconess at <http://orthodoxdeaconess.org/>

Extended Family Core Group Liaison Term Ends

For six years, Sr. Margaret Ellen was the liaison between the RSHM Provincial Council and the EF Core Committee.

Marking the completion of her term, as well as her 60 year Jubilee, the Core group celebrated with a party and presented her with an award composed of pictures from her Park Terrace yearbook, courtesy of Betty Flynn.



Picture by Ursula Mahoney

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SHM EF Lenten Retreat at Cormaria – Palm Sunday Weekend 2015

By Peggy Landry, RSHM

Once again, the EF Lenten Retreat at Cormaria was a very wonderful one. Our theme this year was: "The Joy of the Gospel: the Journey of Women Continues." Some of the highlights of the weekend were the opening session when Sr. Ann gave a beautiful and profound presentation on Mary's journey as the Mother of Christ and also self introductions of each one to the group including something about her personal journey. This had a tremendous impact and led to more comfortable sharing throughout the weekend. The opportunities to experience Meditation and Lectio Divina with Sr. Catherine Bennett and T'ai Chai with Srs. Agnes Fleming and Francis Kay as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Andy Blake were also significant components of the weekend. The panel presentations by three of the retreatants on remarkable women from Scripture and our contemporary world were very

well received. The presenters were: Betty Flynn – Lydia, Marion McGarry – Hildegard of Bingen and Elaine Armas – Dorothy Day. (Serendipitously, a woman was present who knew Dorothy Day personally and shared her reflections about her). The closing ritual prepared and led Dotsie Beck was very inspirational and appropriate for the beginning of Holy Week. And, as always, the retreatants appreciated the beauty of Cormaria and the extraordinary kindness and graciousness of Sr. Ann and the Cormaria staff. The retreatants left well prepared to begin Holy Week and look with enthusiasm to the joy of Easter.

By Beanie McDonald

Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter are times when most folks come together to celebrate and be in each other's company, ideally. And then for me and my sister, there is Palm Sunday weekend. Not traditional for most but for a few lucky ones who attend Extended Family retreat at Cormaria, Sag Harbor, it is a time



**Betty Flynn, Gert Murphy,
Fr. Andy Burke, Dellie Byrne**

eagerly anticipated. In fact, my sister and I usually have a little countdown going a few weeks before. And we are never disappointed. Our theme this year was: "The Joy of the Gospel: the Journey of Women Continues." As we shared our personal journeys we came to know each other in a more intimate and holy way. Listening was the key as we journeyed in the presence of our God. We are profoundly grateful to Sr. Ann and the EF committee.

To be on the journey with these intelligent and compassionate women is a gift which we consider priceless. When we arrived that weekend we were the smiling and familiar faces. When we left we felt blessed for the serenity we experienced during a perfect Palm Sunday retreat. Lucky us!

Eastern American Province Extended Family Core Committee

Co-Chairs: Mary Heyser, RSHM (mheyser@rshmeap.org) and Clare Horn (horn.clare@gmail.com)

Members: Catherine Bennett, RSHM; Janelle Bristol; Jamie Burke Clark; Annette Cunningham; Betty Flynn; Patricia Healy; Angelica Hinojosa; Francis of Assisi Kay, RSHM; Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM; Ursula Mahoney; Marion McGarry; Linda Onorato; Dotsie Ryan-Beck

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SHM-Extended Family is a publication sent via email. It provides a review of local events in the Eastern American Province. To include others in receiving this email, update your contact information, and/or receive event information, please send an email to SHMEF@rshmeap.org.

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