Grey Nun Academy Celebrates 55th Anniversary—Sr. Diane Bardol

Grey Nun Academy hosted a 55th anniversary liturgy and celebration on Tuesday, November 20th. The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart were invited to participate. The school opened in 1963 and has graduated thousands of students educated in the tradition of St. Marguerite d’Youville and the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. Students, faculty, parents, and Sisters of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart gathered together in the chapel to honor the school’s 55 years and express thanks to the Sisters for their loving and unending support. Following the liturgy, we congregated in the McKenna Center and launched into dancing, games, cheers, and happy smiles.

Sisters participating in the anniversary liturgy and pictured here are Sr. Bridget Connor, Sr. Diane Bardol, Sr. Eileen White and Sr. Barbara Schiavoni. Sisters Anne Marie Beirne, Dolores Beatty and Maria Christi Drysdale were also in attendance. Congratulations GNA for carrying on the proud tradition of Grey Nun education.

Celebration of a Dream Realized- Gerard Place Community Center—Sr. Sheila Stone

Gerard Place began as a cooperative effort among 12 congregations of women religious in the Buffalo area. It was a response to the needs of single parents for safe, affordable housing.

Knowing the importance of education and employment in empowering people and communities to rise from poverty, the Gerard Place President, David Zapfel and the Board of Trustees, along with supporting LCWR Buffalo congregations, began to dream six years ago of converting the existing gymnasium, bowling alleys and upstairs classrooms for new use. Partnerships with M&T Bank and Edu-Kids made possible a brand new preschool program for 104 children aged six months to four years of age. Training for certified nursing assistants, home health aids, hospitality and culinary workers are planned in collaboration with various partners. A hot dinner will be served to neighborhood residents in the gym two nights a week; this is in collaboration with Friends of Night People. All programs are open to neighborhood residents and are within walking distance in the Zip code 15 area, named The Promise Neighborhood.

On November 3, 2018 many sisters from LCWR Buffalo congregations gathered with staff, Board of Trustees, Advisory Board and donors to celebrate Eucharist.

It was a true thanksgiving for this new venture and for all of the children and adults who will be encouraged by these opportunities. The Grey Nuns were well represented. Sister Denise and our Leadership Council joined in the celebration with many Buffalo GNSH. Sister Barbara Schiavoni, the GNSH on the original Board of Trustees, carried the candle representing our congregation in the entrance procession. Sister Marita Campbell and Sister Sheila Stone, past and present Board members respectively, participated in the event.

Grey Nuns’ sharing in the sponsorship of this new work reflects the continuation of Marguerite d’Youville’s care for the poor among us in new and creative ways at our time in history. The National Religious Vocation Conference (including our own Maryellen Glackin) invited David Zapfel to speak at their conference this same weekend in Buffalo. They collected $1800 for the project.

More pictures of the day HERE
GNSHappenings...

Plaza Event

The Grey Nuns invited residents of the Plaza Apartments to a Meet and Greet evening so they could meet neighbors and enjoy sharing dessert and stories at the apartment complex where they now live. This was the second gathering. They invited neighbors in when they first moved to the Plaza, and now they wanted everyone to meet the new leadership Sisters who had moved in. Pictured here are Sr Rita Margraff, friend Ruth and Sr Mary Lee Farrell.

November Birthdays:

Happy Birthday to our Sisters who celebrated birthdays this month: Sr. Maureen Quigley, Sr. Patricia Geary, Sr. Karen Marie Voltz, Sr. Joan Marie Daly, Sr. Ann McKee, Sr. Virginia Taylor and Sr. Anne Marie Beirne! Many blessings in the year ahead!

Help Appreciated!

Associate Elizabeth Abrams recently asked for a little help with personal items and packaged foods for the homeless in Frankford/Kensington. She was overwhelmed by the response from her fellow Associates.

Elizabeth goes out in the Frankford area with the Friar Novices who live at St. Joachim parish, on the 4th Sunday of every month. They visit the people living in tents under overpasses and bridges, and assist them in some small way. The needs are always great.

If you would like to learn more about this project and ways to help, please contact us Greynuns@Greynun.org and we will connect you with Elizabeth.

Advent and Christmas Reflections

We will be publishing Advent and Christmas reflections from a few of our Sisters. They will be available on the Friday before the weekend to assist you in your preparation for Sunday Liturgy. We hope you enjoy their insights!

Art at Holy Redeemer Lafayette:  Sr. Ann McKee

An opportunity to offer some sort of art experience at Holy Redeemer Lafayette was presented to Sister Bridget Connor (an avid, and talented artist). On four Fridays in October Sisters Bridget Connor, Diane Bardol and Ann McKee shared a favorite art technique with participants.

On the first Friday about 12 enthusiastic and talented people came to what Sr. Ann McKee describes as Accidental Art. She describes the technique this way, “My art form is for those who cannot draw. I cover the paper with various colors using different brushes and directions. After it dries I look it over for any part that pleases me, colors that blend, images that emerge, depending on how it is held… Sometimes, I take a smaller piece of paper with the center cut out to find the hidden spots, maybe copy it to the computer, find more out of that art piece.”

Most folks returned on the second Friday which was a day to paint whatever they wanted to.

Sister Bridget taught the third Friday in October using both paint and a granular item—salt—to see the effects.

Sister Diane did the fourth Friday. Her technique involved using Crayola crayons to begin the drawing, then painting the rest—the waxed areas come up beautifully.

The next round of classes will be held closer to Easter.

Marguerite’s Pantry

Thanks to the efforts of the American Brotherhood Motorcycle Club under the direction of Our Lady of Fatima graduate John Cartier, 213 families were fed and 180 turkeys were distributed at Marguerite’s Pantry for Thanksgiving. Due to the generous support of several faithful donors from local parishes we were also able to distribute fresh produce along with the usual staples. St. Marguerite continues to work her miracles to those in need!
The Leaves

Rocking gently, her hands cradled the steaming mug of fragrant coffee. Savoring the hazelnut cream aroma and flavor, she gazed pensively at the bare oak branches as they traced a feathery pattern against the bright, cloudless sky. A few brown leaves clung here and there as though afraid to let go. Afraid of the unknown into which they would float; afraid to leave the security and safety of the tree that birthed them. Or, she wondered, was it the tree that held the leaves tightly? Was the tree afraid to be stripped of these fragile remainders of nourishment and protection…unwilling to be stripped bare?

Listening to the music drifting from a CD player, she reflected that she was like the leaves…afraid of letting go. Like the tree, she was afraid of the painful stripping of the idols and false gods that she clung to…though they contained no nourishment. She feared to once more face the freedom and love of the God who beckoned gently.

The brown leaves fluttered in the light breeze refusing to be torn away from the grip that held them. A yellow-breasted oriole settled briefly in the oak before once more darting off on an urgent errand. A squirrel, tail tucked over its back and head, settled down for a snooze in the crook between branch and trunk. A pair of doves paused high in the branches as a flock of Canada geese winged noisily in precise formation.

Sighing, she sat in the old rocker; arms polished by years of use, and wondered who she was in her innermost self. What did she have to show for sixty plus years of life on this earth? What were her accomplishments? What would remain if those accomplishments were stripped from her? As she watched, three leaves silently fluttered past, freed at last from the restraining hold of the tree. She suddenly realized as each left the sheltering protection of the tree, a place was left behind for the new leaves of spring to break through…..

…..Now, in the evening, the tree stands etched against a darkening sky. The noisy cacophony of geese shatters the stillness as they settle for the night. In spite of her fears, she feels a deep peace grow within, at the center of her being.

Josephine Patti, GNSH

Our Earth Committee

Our Grey Nun charism opens us to engage in all of the environmental issues addressed in Pope Francis’ Laudato Si. We are compelled to care for our common home.

So, at this critical time in global efforts to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate warming, our Grey Nun Earth Committee has renewed its intention to facilitate a culture of eco-spirituality for our sisters, associates and friends.

The committee has enlarged its membership and set goals for the year ahead. In 2019, we will use Part I and Part II of the Earth Charter as our focus, encompassing “Respect and care for the community of life” and “Ecological Integrity.”

Our challenge is to re-awaken and support our Earth Charter Stance through prayer opportunities, advocacy and direct action on behalf of our common home. Please pray for the success of our efforts.

The statement at right is one such effort...

Earth Charter Quote

The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of the Earth’s vitality, diversity and beauty is a sacred trust.
Pray for an end to the death penalty,
for those scheduled for execution,
for the victims of these crimes and
all whose lives have been impacted by violence.

Scheduled Executions for December 2018
4: Joseph Garcia, TX
6: David Earl Miller, TN
11: Alvin Braziel, TX
13: Jose Jimenez, FL

National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty
“All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to
fight not only for the abolition of the death penalty, whether
legal or illegal, and in all its forms, but also in order to improve
prison conditions, with respect for the human dignity of the
people deprived of their freedom” - Pope Francis
#Pledge4Mercy

Catholic Mobilizing Network wants YOU to take action and
ask for clemency for those scheduled to die by the death
penalty. They have recently updated their website with more
opportunities for advocacy. Be sure to take a look!

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NewsNotes is published monthly, on the last Wednesday.

CALENDAR
December
3-4 Leadership Meeting
5-6-7 Retreat at Magnificat with Jane Selinske
10 Leadership Meeting
14 Staff Appreciation
15 Funeral Mass for Sister Roseanne Walker
24-25 Congregational Offices Closed
25 Merry Christmas!

FUTURE DATES
January
1 Blessings for a Happy New Year!
9 Leadership Meeting
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

NOTICE:
Photographs taken during an event will be for
the use of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and
may be published in the newsletter, annual
report, or posted on our website, social media, or other
communications media. If you do not wish for your
photograph to be used, please remove yourself from group
photographs, or notify the photographer. Thank you!