SISTERS HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE

Interfaith Housing Visions (IHV) began as Interfaith Housing Development Corporation (IHDC) in 1987. Sister Rita Margraff was one of the founding members.

Since that time, a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart has served on either the IHDC/IHV Board or Council. Sister Rita joined the Board in 2009 replacing Sister Eileen White. Sister Rita became chair in 2012. In 2015, IHDC engaged Housing Visions of Syracuse to manage the properties and all business dealings of IHDC and at that point the name was changed to Interfaith Housing Visions. Sister Rita Margraff will be the last Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart to serve on the Board.

Thank you, Sister Rita for your outstanding leadership and generous service to Interfaith Housing Development Corporation/Interfaith Housing Visions. Efforts to provide housing opportunities for those in need align beautifully with the vision of St. Marguerite.

Honor for Sister Karen Marie Voltz

Each year parishioners in the Diocese of Buffalo are honored for their dedication and service to our Church, specifically in their parishes.

Sister Karen Marie Voltz was recently selected for this honor. The invitation from the Bishop read: “It is my great pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to receive the Lay Award of St. Joseph the Worker in recognition of your devotion and unselfish labors on behalf of Father Wolf and St. Margaret Church.”

The award was conferred at a concelebrated Mass in St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, March 11th at 12:00 p.m. followed by an hors d’oeuvre reception at Templeton Landing.

Congratulations Sister Karen Marie! We are grateful for your service to the Church in Buffalo!

The beautiful award reads: “Presented to Sister Rita Margraff in Appreciation for your years of service on Interfaith’s Board of Directors.”
GNSHappenings...

Retreat Centers

* St. Mary by-the-Sea, Cape May, NJ: www.stmary@ssjphila.org or call: 609-884-8708 (not able to accommodate people with wheelchairs or walkers)
* St. Raphaela Center, Haverford, PA: www.straphaelacenter.org or call: 610-642-5715 (no elevator, limited first floor rooms)
* Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, Mt. Pocono, PA: www.villaourlady.com or call: 570-839-1027
* The Jesuit Center, Wernersville, PA: www.jesuitcenter.org or call: 610-678-8085

Eco-Spirituality Weekend
The Retreat will take place in Clarks Summit, PA on June 22 to 24. This year’s retreat will be the 20th annual effort to learn, pray, discuss and plan actions on behalf of our environment. The retreat is open to all. For more information, please contact Sheila Stone.

Buffalo
Sr. Barbara Schiavoni with Mary Beth Howard Coates, Holy Angels Academy Class of ‘83 (at right).
Mary Beth is Director of Lifelong Faith Formation for the Diocese of Buffalo. Sr. Barbara is Associate Director. We support parish faith formation leaders to form disciples at all ages and stages of life. Sr. Barbara’s areas of ministry are Adult Faith Formation and RCIA. She enjoys supporting RCIA leaders to welcome new Catholics to the Church and working with parishes to introduce small faith-sharing groups.

Day at D’YOUVILLE
Young at Heart, a day of reflection and prayer presented by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and Friends took place on March 24, at D’Youville College. About 40 people attended this annual event. The day combined opportunities for childlike play and remembering, along with moving talks and discussion. Opportunities for prayer and reflection were scattered throughout the day. Click here to view more photos.

Sisters Support Grey Nun Academy Gala
The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart were pleased to join in the festivities as Grey Nun Academy hosted its annual spring auction on Saturday, March 17th.
With Irish music and dancers providing entertainment and black jack and roulette tables set in the perimeter of the gymnasium, the school was transformed into an Irish casino-themed venue.
The room was filled with friends, families, alumni, and local business supporters. Those present helped to raise funds for the school.
Proceeds of the event will benefit the school’s technology initiative and other important programs. Thank you to all who supported this event and Grey Nun Academy.

Sisters Dawn Gear, Julia Lanigan, Mary Elizabeth Looby and Diane Bardol at the Gala.

Our Ad in the GALA Patron book.
Jubilee marks a significant anniversary in the life of a Sister. This year we will be celebrating 50th, 60th and 70th Jubilees of seven Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. Taken individually, celebrating these milestones in one’s vocation are a time of looking back and being grateful for the journey, the lives touched and the blessings received. As Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart we celebrate together in the spirit of community, because this life is not about the effort of one individual, but the combined efforts of many together. For us, Jubilee is a time to be grateful for each other and all those who have supported us in prayer and community along the way. We rejoice in each other’s accomplishments because we minister as one. No Sister could serve as she does without the love, prayers and support of her Congregation, and no Congregation would exist without the love, prayers and ministry of each Sister. Jubilee time reminds us of this gift of Religious Life, the gift of our Vocation. To celebrate these Sisters we will be sharing their stories on our website, through the blog, in our Jubilarian print publication and on Social Media. We hope you enjoy reading about Sisters Dolores Fitzpatrick, Helen Martin and Mary O’Connell as they celebrate 70 years of religious life; Sisters Bernadette Marie Lalonde and Jean Liston celebrating 60 years; and Sisters Bridget Mary Connor and Nora Friel celebrating 50 years. That’s a combined 430 years of service to the People of God in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Atlanta, Kodiak and many other little corners of creation.

Jubilate Deo!

Thank You Note

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart are grateful for your kind words and expressions of sympathy upon the death of our Sister Patricia Kelly. It is a great comfort to know that our Sisters are remembered with such fondness. A link to Sr. Pat’s obituary and words of remembrance can be found here.

POPE FRANCIS QUOTE

How can it be that it is NOT a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it IS news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion.

Pope Francis. November 2013
April Reflection

Christ, our partner,
you invite us to bear your yoke,
so that sharing in your work,
we may find our real selves
in relationship with you
and with those
we would bring to your friendship.

Myra Birdsall, England

One more Alaska photo...

Sister Ceil Cosgrove was duly impressed
with seeing her first Eagle close-up in
Alaska.

He is quite an impressive bird!

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 April 2018
11: William Montgomery, OH (Sentence Commuted)
19: Walter Moody, AL
25: Erick Davila, TX

Death Penalty Information
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!
Current Death Penalty information is also available HERE

CALENDAR

April
1  Easter Sunday
8-13  GNSH Chapter 2018
17-18 LCWR Region III Meeting
20  Leadership Meeting
28  GNSH Jubilee 2018
30  NRVC Delaware Valley Meeting

FUTURE DATES
May
19-20  Leadership Transition Meetings

June
8  Feast of the Sacred Heart Celebration
9-10  Leadership Transition Meetings
22-24  20th Eco-spirituality Weekend

July 1: Installation of New GNSH Leaders