CELEBRATION TO HONOR VENERABLE ELISABETH BRUYÈRE

By: Sister Mary Elizabeth Looby

Bienvenue! Welcome! ...and a kiss on each cheek, was the warm greeting for Srs. Julia Lanigan and Mary Elizabeth Looby as they arrived at the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa Motherhouse to celebrate the naming of Elisabeth Bruyère as Venerable, a step in the process to becoming canonized a Saint.

The place was abuzz with activity which did not dim the hospitable niceties of our hostesses, Srs. Louise and André. To our delight, both spoke English as they toured us through the building showing us the newly renovated Oratory that houses Elisabeth’s remains at one end and a shrine to St. Marguerite d’Youville at the opposite end. We peeked into the chapel being readied for the next day and were shown where we would be seated during the liturgy and where we would be having dinner and breakfast.

We had dinner with Frère Luigi Guarneri, FSC, the Postulator for Elisabeth’s cause in Rome. He is quite animated and filled with desire to see Elisabeth’s cause for canonization advanced! Also in attendance was the General Council of the Ottawa Greys, their Vice-Postulator, Sr. Huguette Bordeleau, s.c.o. and Sr. Adlaidia, the Provincial from Malawi.

The next morning, after breakfast we had time to look around and take some pictures. Soon, the invited guests began arriving. There were about five bishops, several monsignors and priests, friends of the sisters, over 300 guests! The ceremony, held in the Motherhouse chapel, was televised via closed circuit TV to the rooms of their sisters who were infirm, allowing them to also participate in this joyous occasion.

General Leadership from Montreal and Pembroke were there with us. We had wonderful seats right up front. The Leadership from St. Hyacinth and Quebec were unable to attend due to prior commitments. Sr. Rochelle and her Council were most welcoming and extremely touched that we were able to attend the Celebration on such short notice!
GNSH Happenings...

GNSH Associates

The Philadelphia area Associates gathered to reflect and pray on Saturday, May 12. The retreat took place at SPARK! In the Ember Room. About 15 Associates and 6 Sisters were in attendance. The impetus was a desire to share a day in prayer and dialogue around questions such as “Why be a Grey Nun Associate?” and “What does being an Associate look and feel like in 2018?” Sisters were invited to share in the day to enrich the dialogue by sharing what the Associates mean to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. The day included a film from Montreal on the life of St. Marguerite. It reignited the fire of everyone’s love for St. Marguerite and provided much thought for fruitful dialogue for the rest of the day and beyond. They look forward to continuing to grow as daughters of Marguerite finding new ways to pass on her charism so that it can live on through them and others. Read more about the day here.

Employee Recognition Luncheon

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart thanked and celebrated their administrative staff on May 17. The Employee Appreciation Luncheon, also recognized three employees, Pat Cohen, Eileen Dickerson and Evelina McGuigan who have provided a total of 46 years of dedicated service to the congregation. Staff and Sisters alike thoroughly enjoyed this time to be together sharing a meal and lively conversation on a pleasant spring afternoon (employees were also given the afternoon off as an additional token of appreciation!) View photos here.

Magnificat Celebration honors the Blessed Mother

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart residing in the Magnificat Community with the Sisters of the Redeemer, gathered on May 23rd to honor the Blessed Mother. Sister St. Catherine Curley was chosen to crown our Lady. Redeemer Sisters and Associates, and Sister Cathy Bleiler GNSH along with Chris Domzalski, Maureen Goodall and Jane Selinske, were also in attendance. The ceremony included hymns to Mary, a presentation of white roses and a sharing of Mary’s meaning in their lives. More photos here.

Buffalo

Sisters in Buffalo gathered for a belated Earth Day celebration on May 5th. A Mexican-themed lunch at Sacred Heart Center was preceded by an Earth Day prayer.

A celebration for the Feast of the Sacred Heart will be held on June 8. Liturgy will be in Sacred Heart Chapel at D’Youville College, Buffalo. Dinner to follow in Madonna Lounge. Thanks to Sister Dolores O’Dowd for coordinating the event. Free will offerings for the Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern will be collected. Friends, Grey Nun Associates and Sisters are invited to attend.

Special Thank You

After the hurricanes hit Puerto Rico, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart learned that Annie Torres, on the staff at Magnificat, had family living there who were impacted by the storms. Wanting to help in some way, the Congregation gave a donation to be used for Annie’s relatives. On Friday, May 18, GNSH Leadership and the residents of Magnificat were treated to a traditional Puerto Rican lunch of chicken, rice and corn lovingly prepared by Annie. She is pictured here showing everyone all that she was able to purchase and send to her family. We are honored by her gratitude and glad to be of assistance in this time of need. View Photos of the luncheon.
As promised, here are photos of the wonderful 2018 Jubilee Celebration held on April 28. We honored 7 women who have given 430 years of dedicated service to the People of God in Alaska, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. God Bless you, Sisters!

Click here to view more photos

Jubilee Thank You Notes

I am grateful to leadership, to all who planned and worked and attended this wonderful day! Jubilee was a memorable experience from which I received many graces. I look forward to the next ten years.

Fondly, Sr. Bernadette Lalonde

Dear Sisters and Associates,
Thank you all so much for your many remembrances of my 70th Jubilee. Your beautiful cards, Masses, donations to our less fortunate brothers and sisters and organizations that care for their needs were all very much appreciated. The presence of so many of you at the celebration made the day very special. Thank you, too, to all who worked so hard to make this celebration so memorable. May God bless each and every one.

Gratefully, Sister Dolores

Dear Sisters, Staff and Associates,

“I shall never forget the friends from whom I have received so many kindnesses.”

These words of St. Marguerite describe our beautiful Jubilee Celebration. I felt so blessed to have you join in this special event. I appreciate the extra time, energy and planning involved in our Liturgy and Celebration. May God Bless You! Thank you, too, for your generous donations to our Grey Nun Community, various groups of Needy Children and Adults, as well as, your personal remembrances.

Sincerely, Sister Helen Martin, GNSH
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.

Open our hearts to share his life
with all of your people.

Continue to bless us with his love
as we minister
in the spirit of St. Marguerite.

We ask this
through Jesus Christ, your Son,
and through the power of your Spirit.
Amen

Scheduled Executions for June 2018
21: Clifton Williams, TX
27: Danny Bible, 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!

Dear Sisters, Associates and Colleagues,
I am grateful for all of your expressions of sympathy and
support at the death of my brother, Henry Lalonde who
died on April 18.
Sincerely, Sr. Bernadette Lalonde