NEW LEADERSHIP INSTALLED AT CELEBRATION

The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart installed their new Leadership on Sunday the First of July. The Presider and homilist was a friend of the Congregation, Rev. Timothy Lyons, CM. Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Kevin Peek, a nephew of Sister Denise Roche. The Welcome came from past president Sister Mary Charlotte Barton, who also conducted the Ritual of Transition prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The ritual was a beautiful blessing of the outgoing leadership, Sisters Julia Lanigan, Diane Bardol, Cecelia Cosgrove, Elizabeth Dawn Gear and Mary Elizabeth Looby.

Sisters, with grateful hearts we thank you for your generous service during these past five years. You have served with wisdom, discernment and courage...you have given from the storehouse of your gifts and talents...May our gratitude ring in your hearts...”

Following this blessing, the new leadership: Sister Denise Roche, President and Sisters Anne Marie Beirne, Bridget Mary Connor, Barbara Schiavoni and Eileen White, the Leadership council, were asked to stand for a blessing by their Sisters in community. The blessing affirmed their selection as leaders; pledged the loving support, faithfulness and prayers of their Sisters; and professed a re-commitment to sharing the mission and charism of St. Marguerite d’Youville with others.

Closing remarks came from Sister Denise Roche.

Musical accompaniment provided by Sister Mary Lee Farrell, GNSH, Sister Michelle Lesher, SSJ and Teresa Newman brought a feeling of joy and celebration to this auspicious Liturgy.

The reflections of both Sister Mary Charlotte Barton and Sister Denise Roche are available here.

For photos of the day, click here.

Thank you Luncheon

Before we let them go, the staff at the administrative offices had a surprise luncheon for Leadership. Eileen Dickerson prepared a loving tribute with the following sentiment reflecting all of our thanks,

“So today, we, your staff, want to salute and thank all of you: Sister Julia, Sister Diane, Sister Dawn, Sister Ceil,

Sister Mary Elizabeth--for your vision, your courage, your tenacity and most important, your shining example of how to navigate tumultuous change with intelligence and grace. Thank you! We will miss you. But the mission of Marguerite d’Youville and the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart lives on. God bless you all!
GNSHappenings...

Feast of the Sacred Heart
On Friday afternoon, June 8 we gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart at the Sisters of St. Basil Spiritual Center. Rev. Christopher Looby, nephew of Sister Mary Elizabeth, was our celebrant. Arrangements were made to bring our Sisters from Holy Redeemer Lafayette by bus and it was wonderful to have so many of them with us. The newly elected leadership council was present for the celebration, along with Philadelphia area Sisters, employees and Grey Nun Associates. Following the liturgy, a delicious supper was served.

In Buffalo, a celebration for the Feast was held in the Holy Angels Chapel of D’Youville College, followed by supper. A collection was held to benefit Genessee-Orleans Ministries. Pictures of both celebrations are available [here](#).

When Sister Mary Denis Woods died in 2016, according to her wishes, her body was donated to science. A short while ago, her cremains were returned to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart for burial. With nearly 20 family members, and Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart the ceremony took place on June 2, 2018. Read more [here](#)

Concerts at Holy Redeemer Lafayette
Pictured at left below, the Centennial Singers presented a concert to the residents of Holy Redeemer Lafayette. The concert held on Tuesday, May 29 featured two of our own, Sisters Mary Karen Kelly and Ann Zita Crudden. On Thursday June 21, The Lafayette Chorus held a concert which featured our Sisters singing, “One Hand, One Heart” from West Side Story.

Pictured L-R are Sisters Kay Healy, Mary Charlotte Barton, Anne Boyer and Bernadtte Lalonde. Sister Eileen Murray is also part of the chorus.

Thank You!
“Dear Aunt Mary, I want to thank you and all the sisters for having me...celebrate Mass on your feast day! Your hospitality and generosity are most appreciated. I had a marvelous time. Love, Chris.”

We were grateful for your presence, Fr. Chris!

Circle the City
The effort to Circle the Cities in prayer will take place again this year on Sunday July 29. As last year, this event will take place in cities across our country, and around the world. Silence is powerful. By harnessing the power of silence and prayer, we hope to spread a feeling of peace and hope across our country and throughout the world. Our Sisters at Holy Redeemer Lafayette and the Magnificat community will participate where they are. Due to safety concerns for all residents of these facilities, we are unable to invite people from outside other than our own Sisters and Associates. However, we do encourage you to participate where you are able and will post our resources on our website.

Thank You!
Dear Aunt Mary, I want to thank you and all the sisters for having me...celebrate Mass on your feast day! Your hospitality and generosity are most appreciated. I had a marvelous time. Love, Chris.

Rev. Jack Nevins
Early on Saturday morning, June 23, Fr. Jack Nevins, affectionately known as “Rev Nev” went home to his loving God. Family and close friends were able to say their goodbye’s during his brief stay in Hospice care. On Thursday June 28, at his viewing and funeral liturgy his reach was in great evidence. Many were surprised to see old colleagues and friends and there was a constant chorus of “How did you know Jack?”

Pictured here in his green jacket is how we’d like to remember him. Thank you, Rev, for your service to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart as our chaplain for almost 10 years.
Twenty-seven Grey Nuns, Grey Nun Associates and friends enjoyed together the 20th annual Eco-Spirituality weekend at St. Gabriel’s Retreat Center in Clarks Summit June 22-24, 2018. Sister Sheila Stone, mainstay and powerful influence on the evolution of this weekend, traced its history on Friday evening after Mimi Palkovics led the group in prayer.

Saturday was a retreat day with guest speaker and retreat director Sister Linda Gregg, SSJ, and her assistant, Sister Mary Rowell, SSJ. We were guided in theological reflection framed in cosmology, the “new story” of the earth and humanity’s relationship to the universe. Sister Linda referenced our Grey Nun spirituality of the Sacred Heart and Father Lowell Glendon, S.S.'s, exegesis on our metaphors as she instructed us on the story of creation as interpreted through indigenous cultures and through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

There was time for relishing the beauty and mystery of the natural world – our kin – on the grounds of St Gabriel’s, since we were favored by several hours of dry weather and even sunshine. Silent reflection and resting in the arms of nature helped us return, as Father Thomas Berry wrote,

“...to our native place, after a long absence, meeting once again with our kin in the earth community.”

Sister Linda guided us to rediscover the Trinity as relational, not just juridical as in classical theology. We learned that up until the 12th century, our Church recognized and emphasized both the “book” of nature and the book of Scripture as revelation of God. We recognized with Thomas Aquinas that “...the cosmos is an astonishing image of God.”

We conversed about our concerns regarding care of and destruction of the planet. We encouraged one another to:

1. find a companion who shares our passion for care of the environment and will help keep us hopeful,
2. act consistently and persistently in our own local situation, whether workplace, home, neighborhood, or whatever
3. realize the importance of lobbying for policy change that favors environmental protection.

We shared hopeful experiences and thanked Mary Jane Key for making cloth bags (to avoid plastic) for all 27 participants.

We celebrated the Saturday Vigil liturgy with our hosts, the Passionist Sisters.

Saturday evening was led by Lucia Iacono. Lucia incorporated music, literature, and movement in creative ways to lead us to be more mindful and truly present to the beauty of the natural world. Together, we collaborated on creating a book for the weekend – contributing art, poems and prose according to our gifts.

Sunday was reserved for considering commitments to make for the coming year. Both Mary Jane Key and Sr. Barbara Harrington facilitated this part of the weekend. Categories of our 2018-2019 Commitments are as follows:

1. recycling;
2. communion with nature;
3. prayer, contemplation, relaxation;
4. advocacy (including education); and
5. support of our GNSH Social Justice Office priorities.

Next year’s meeting will be the weekend of June 21-23, 2019. Check with Sister Sheila Stone or any “Eco Woman” if you’re interested in attending! All are welcome!

More details and photo links are available here.
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 July 2018
11: Scott Raymond Dozier, NV
17: Christopher Young, TX
18: Robert Van Hook, OH

Scheduled Executions for August 2018
9: Billy Ray Irick, TN
14: Carey Dean Moore, NE
30: Joseph Garcia, 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

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NewsNotes is published monthly, on the last Wednesday of the month.

CALENDAR
July
1 Installation of New GNSH Leadership
4 Independence Day Holiday
9-16 Leadership Visits to Sisters at Magnificat, Holy Redeemer Lafayette and the Plaza
29 Circle the Cities event

FUTURE DATES
August
7-10 LCWR 2018 Annual Gathering
October
1-16 Sock Collection for the Homeless

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.