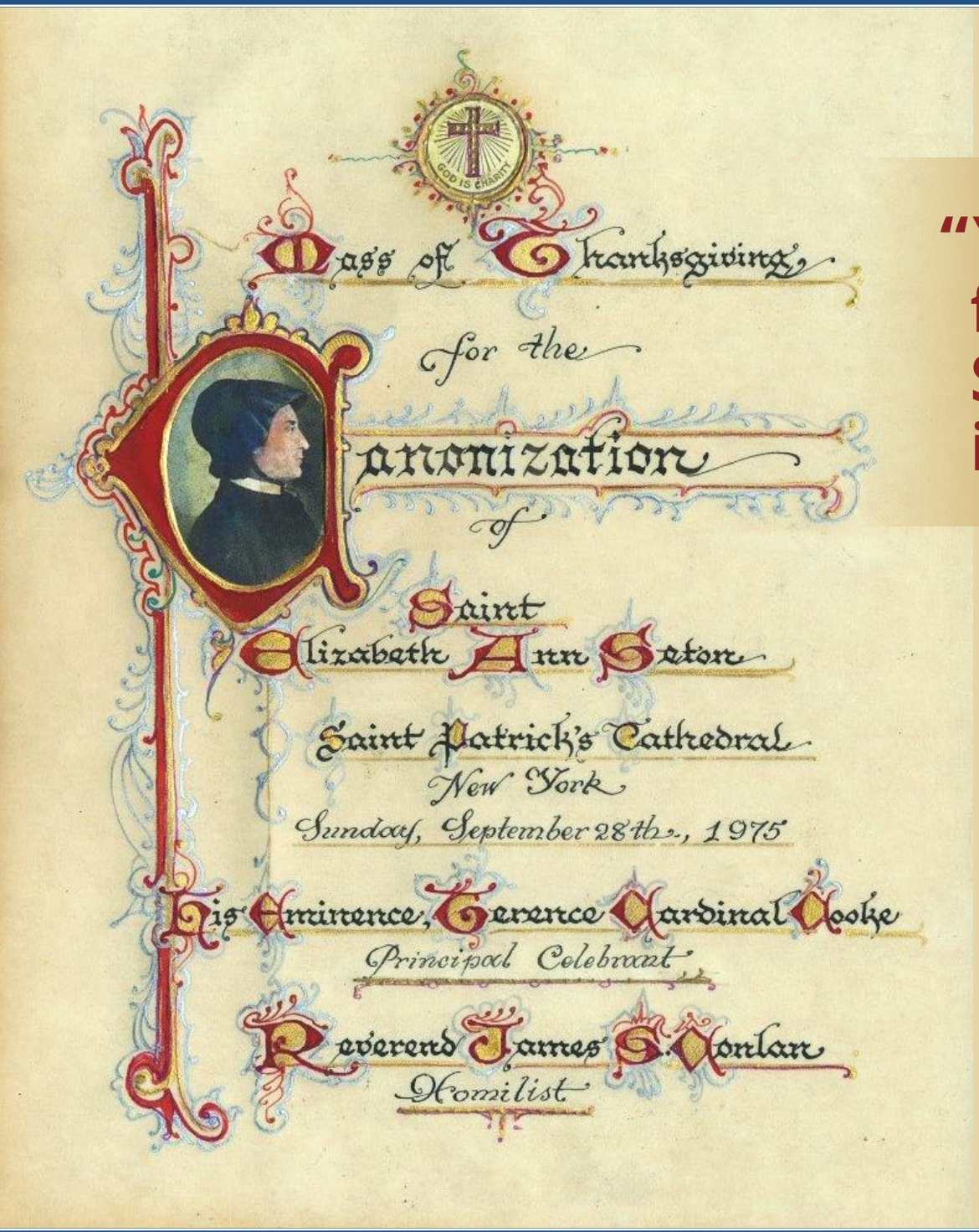
Vision

Sisters of Charity of New York • Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love • Vol 29 ISSUE 2



"Your foundress, Sisters, is a Saint."

— Reverend James S. Conlan, September 28, 1975, St. Patrick's Cathedral Mass of Thanksgiving

1975 – 2025

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

JUBILEE 2025: YEAR OF HOPE

SUMMER 2025

From the President

CELEBRATING THE IMPOSSIBLE YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Dear Friends,

Fifty years ago, the Church declared Elizabeth Ann Seton a saint. For the Sisters of Charity of New York, this was more than a moment of honor—it was a moment of profound recognition. Her canonization confirmed not only the holiness of our foundress, but also the sacred mission she began: one rooted in love of God and love of neighbor.

In this edition of VISION, we celebrate that moment and the ongoing miracle it inspired. From classrooms to clinics, from food pantries to peace centers, the ministries that flow from our charism continue to echo Elizabeth's work. Through education, healthcare, housing, pastoral care, and advocacy, we strive to be present where the needs are greatest—especially among those too often forgotten.

The Sisters we remember in this issue—Sisters Theresa Capria, Dominica Rocchio, Theresa Gravino, Eileen Martin, Cecilia Reeves, Theresa Courtney and Monica Griffin—lived that mission with deep fidelity. Each one, in her own way, reflected the life and spirit of Elizabeth Ann Seton. They taught, they led, they healed, they served. Their vocations took them to city classrooms and quiet chapels, to leadership tables and justice-focused ministries. Whether they worked with families, survivors of violence, students, educators or the deaf community, their lives made the Gospel visible.

Their witness reminds us that sainthood is not reserved for the canonized—it is lived in daily acts of compassion, courage, and commitment. Like our foundress, these Sisters said "yes" to God's invitation—often without knowing where it would lead. In doing so, they strengthened our ministries and extended our mission.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Elizabeth Seton's canonization, we give thanks for the women who followed her path—and for the ministries that keep her dream alive today. May we be inspired to continue building the Kingdom of God here and now, believing—as she did—in impossible things.

As we mark this anniversary, we also pause to remember Pope Francis, who was called home to God during this Jubilee Year. Like Elizabeth Ann Seton, he reminded us that holiness is found in humble service and closeness to those who suffer. His life was a witness to mercy, justice, and joy—a papacy shaped by compassion and rooted in the Gospel. We give thanks for his legacy and pray for our newly elected Pope Leo XIV, that he may be guided by the Holy Spirit as he leads the Church forward in faith, hope and love.

With deep gratitude and peace,

Sr. Donna Dodge

Sister Donna Dodge, SC
President, Sisters of Charity of New York

Cover photo caption: *Front page of Rev. James Conlan's Homily from September 28, 1975 Mass of Thanksgiving, Illuminated by Sr. Berenice Marie Leehive. Read more on this story in pages 9-11.*

Elizabeth Seton: A Saint For Our Times

By Sr. Regina Bechtle and Sr. Mary Mc Cormick

All religions celebrate those whom their tradition regards as saints. In the Catholic community, there has evolved a process known as canonization. Certain men and women are acknowledged to have lived lives of heroic virtue and are designated as Saint with a capital S.

Such is Elizabeth Seton, the first one to have been born in the United States.* When it happened fifty years ago, in 1975, it was a huge honor for our country that she, a native New Yorker, wife, mother, widow and foundress, had been named a saint for all people and all cultures. (The truth is, that of the ten thousand or so saints recognized by the Church, many more men than women have been canonized, and of the women, many more are religious than members of the laity.)

Here are some myths about saints that might give us the wrong ideas concerning sainthood:

1. "Saints are special, not like me." No! "Each person," says Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, "makes God present; each face reveals God's face, each voice resounds with God's word."

Saints grow in the everyday soil of ordinary life — in the home, at work or in school, in the day-to-day exchanges with family, relatives, neighbors and friends, in times of joy and sadness, illness and good health.

Such was Elizabeth Seton's life. Born into a loving family, she knew the heartbreak, at age three, of her beloved mother's death. Later on, as part of a blended family, she experienced misunderstanding and aloneness.

But as a wife and mother she was blessed with the great joy of a loving husband and five children. She knew these were God's gifts to her, and her spiritual life became one of gratitude and blessings for what she had been given.

Later, as a widow with her children to support, she found solace in becoming a member of the Catholic Church. Her decision to say "yes" to the invitation to become the foundress of the first community of religious started in the United States brought her — and us — into a new place of loving God and serving God's people.

2. "Saints are born that way." No! Author Paula D'Arcy says, "God comes to you disguised as your life." Every day we have choices to make — choices to open our eyes, our hands, our heart, choices that help us stretch beyond ourselves, risk loving just a bit more, or, conversely, stay within our comfort zone — choices to let the broken places, our hurts, keep us down or lift us up.

Elizabeth Seton, like us, had many choices to make about how she would spend her life. For her, relationships were the defining experiences of her life. As a young woman she decided that marriage and family were the ways she could fulfill the yearnings of her heart. Within that life, she made time for prayer, reading Scripture, taking part in the offerings of her church. After she became a Roman Catholic, her spiritual life, with its emphasis on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, deepened.

The entrance to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton—where pilgrims come to honor the legacy of the first American-born saint, whose life of faith, family, and service continues to speak powerfully to our times.

She made choices every day to grow toward holiness — trying to be all that she could be, all that she was called to be, all that God created her to be. For Elizabeth and for us — that's holiness.

3. "Saints are miracle workers." Not really — rather, saints point us toward the goodness and power of God who works through humans in mysterious ways. It is true that, for someone to be declared a saint, the Church requires proof of miracles attributed to that person's intercession.

In Elizabeth Seton's case, one of those miracles happened at St. Joseph's Hospital (now Medical Center), Yonkers, in October, 1963. Carl Kalin, a Con Ed engineer and Yonkers resident, was admitted with an extremely rare brain disease. Only five cases had been documented, and no one survived. Sisters of Charity who served at the hospital prayed for a miracle through Mother Seton's intercession. After five days, Carl awoke from a coma; five days after that, he left the hospital, completely cured.

God acts in our midst in a thousand ways every day. Miracles happen all around us, if we just have eyes to notice and hearts to believe.

**Mother Frances Cabrini was born in Italy, emigrated to America in 1889 and became a citizen in 1909. Canonized in 1946 by Pope Pius XII, she is considered the first American citizen to become a saint.*

Canonization Cultivates Community

By Lisa A. Shay, *Associate*

"May you always be able to cultivate the genuine fruitfulness of evangelical holiness," exhorted Pope (now Saint) Paul VI at the Canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton in 1975. That metaphor became literal when Sister Mary Ann Garisto persuaded the leadership team to turn land in Stanfordville into Sisters Hill Farm in 1999. Farmer Dave Hambleton has been overseeing that ministry ever since. Starting with a couple of part-time workers on an acre of land that produced 20,000 pounds of produce in its first year, the farm has grown to four apprentices supporting 400 members on five acres. By 2014 it had produced a million pounds of produce, and it is projected to reach 2 million pounds this year. In my recent interview, Dave emphasized that the 10-fold increase in membership on a 5-fold increase in land was the result of a planned evolution in a natural, ecological way. His practices anticipated *Laudato Si'*.

I asked Dave why he hires apprentices, who must be replaced annually in a time-consuming process: 30-100 interviews for just four positions. Dave is not just a farmer, but in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity, he is foremost an educator. He carefully selects young people who are inspired to be part of something larger than themselves and who care about the farm's mission. They already come highly educated, with degrees from Princeton, Harvard, Brown and The Cooper Union, and he furthers their education in the best practices of efficient, sustainable agriculture. He has hired more than 50 apprentices, from a variety of backgrounds and religious traditions, most of whom are still farming and many of whom have their own farms. His teaching reaches a global audience through his Sisters Hill Farm YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/smallfarmsolutions) that has 2,900 subscribers, over a half million worldwide views and his videos have been watched for over 16,000 hours (nearly 2 years).

Sisters Hill Farm 2025 Season Apprentices Art, Jacob and Nate. (Photo credit: Sisters Hill Farm)

More than produce, Famer Dave cultivates community. In addition to his community of apprentices and online subscribers, the farm has 61 members who have renewed for 20 years or more and over 85% of members renew annually. In comparison, a 2023 Penn State Extension article reveals a 45% renewal rate for community-supported agricultural farms.

Since its inception, the Farm has helped people in need, donating at least 10% of its produce, including to a food pantry founded by a former apprentice, Long Table Harvest (longtableharvest.org). Dave cultivates linkages with other ministries of the Sisters of Charity, donating to Vincent's Table, and supporting about 35 families with free or reduced-cost shares. He also has hosted visits by Catholic school students. Sr. Margaret Dennehy has fond memories of bringing girls from her beloved "St. Al's" (St. Aloysius School in Harlem) to the Farm to experience nature in a fun and educational way. One year they helped plant potatoes and at the end of the season received a huge bag containing the fruits of their labor. In celebration, Sr. Margaret introduced her African American and Hispanic students to her Irish heritage of baked potatoes. The girls were amazed that baked potatoes, whether white, red or blue were equally delicious!

Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation Secures Affordable Senior Housing in Rockland County

The Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation (SCHDC) has recently made significant strides in supporting affordable senior housing in Rockland County. Under the leadership of President and CEO Matthew Janeczko, SCHDC acquired Haverstraw Place — a 90-unit affordable rental development for senior citizens — for $8.176 million. This acquisition ensures that more than 90 seniors can continue to age in place within their community.

The project received a $2.5 million loan from Rockland County's Housing Action Loan Opportunity (HALO) fund, underscoring the county's commitment to addressing housing affordability. Matthew Janeczko emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating, "Haverstraw Place is home to more than 90 seniors who will be able to age in place, remaining in their broader community because of the county's investment."

Haverstraw Place provides safe, affordable housing for seniors in the heart of Rockland County.

Welcoming Ernesto Cabrera, Our New Vincent's Table Coordinator

We are pleased to welcome Ernesto Cabrera as the new Vincent's Table Coordinator. With a strong commitment to service and community engagement, Ernesto brings both experience and passion to this vital role.

Ernesto, a graduate of Lehman College with a degree in film and media, began his work with Vincent's Table in January and has already embraced the mission with enthusiasm.

He stocks the Community Fridge, manages food orders, organizes and bags supplies, and coordinates pickups from St. Francis of Assisi Church in Midtown to distribute food at Our Lady of Angels in the Bronx. Twice a month, he helps provide not just food, but also coats, toys, and diapers to those in need.

Beyond his work at Vincent's Table, Ernesto is deeply involved in his faith community. He and his wife, Katherine Perez—a UMSV graduate, videographer, and owner of Kat Productions—serve as youth leaders at their church. A talented drummer, Ernesto also teaches music to young children, extending his love for service through both faith and creativity.

Looking ahead, Ernesto is working on launching a breakfast program for Seton College students and establishing a third location for monthly food distribution. His dedication and vision are already making a meaningful impact, and we are excited to see all he will accomplish in this role.

Teamwork in action – Sharon L. Dosin, SPHR, COO, SCNY, Adelina Gonzalez, devoted volunteer, and Ernesto Cabrera, Vincent's Table Coordinator, during a food distribution on Vark Street

LEFSA: 39 Years of Service and Community

By Carl Petrus, *Director, LEFSA*

This year, Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates (LEFSA) marks 39 years of dedicated service to the unhoused community of New York City. Since its founding in 1986 by Sisters Dorothy Gallant and Teresa Skehan, LEFSA has worked not only to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness but also to address its deeper causes.

LEFSA's Annual BBQ Welcome Table

Sisters Dorothy and Teresa understood that while providing food, water, and warm clothing was essential, it was not enough to break the cycle of homelessness. People needed to know their lives had value, that hope was possible, and that they were not alone. That belief continues to guide LEFSA's mission today. Through street ministry, shelter outreach, and community-building efforts, LEFSA creates spaces where individuals can share their experiences, connect with God, and support one another on their journey toward stability.

Serving the Community Every Day

Each month, LEFSA serves approximately 1,960 people, providing not just meals but also socks, coats, and daily encouragement. Street ministry takes place three times per week for most of the month and four times per week during one week, offering hot food—chicken, rice, vegetables, water, and snacks—to those in need. The shower ministry is also growing, now operating on the last Saturday of each month by appointment.

Recognizing the importance of holistic well-being, LEFSA has expanded its services to include an exercise and nutrition class, held every fourth Thursday.

LEFSA continues to foster community and empowerment through special events:

- African American History Celebration at the Leadership Study Day;
- Health Fair at San Damiano Hall, featuring blood pressure and glucose screenings, blood work, vision and dental checks, and potentially mental health support. LEFSA is working with local hospitals and partnering with the Friars of St. Francis of Assisi Church to ensure comprehensive care.

As we approach our 40th Anniversary, LEFSA remains committed to offering hope, dignity, and support to those facing homelessness. This work would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of friends like you. Thank you for walking this journey with us!

POTS: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Community

Last year was a remarkable one for Part of the Solution (POTS), filled with achievements that made a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. In 2024 alone, they served over 15,000 households, provided more than 3 million meals, prevented 310 evictions, helped secure 150 new jobs, and assisted our community in obtaining over $15 million in public benefits. These numbers represent more than just services—they reflect lives changed, stability restored, and hope renewed.

One of their key partnerships is with Care for the Homeless (CFH), an organization that has provided high-quality, dignified healthcare to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness for nearly 40 years. Together, they ensure that vulnerable individuals receive accessible primary and mental healthcare, oral health services, and referrals to specialized providers—all critical steps toward long-term stability.

In May, POTS was excited to showcase their newly renovated and expanded space at 2759 Webster Avenue in the Bronx. This transformation enhances the Food Security and Long-Term Stability programs, allowing us to serve more people more effectively. Guests had the opportunity to explore the new facilities, connect with many of the dedicated team members, and witness firsthand the impact of this expansion on the lives of those they serve.

UMSV Campus Ministry members volunteering at POTS for Wellness Day

Elizabeth Seton Women's Center: A Visit to Mother Seton's Roots

As the Church prepares to mark the 50th anniversary of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's canonization, Ellen Mihovic, Director of the Elizabeth Seton Women's Center, made a meaningful pilgrimage to Emmitsburg, Maryland—the very place where Mother Seton's legacy began. Accompanied by two dedicated volunteers, Ellen visited the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, taking time to reflect on the life and mission of the first American-born saint.

While in Emmitsburg, the group also explored the serene beauty of the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, located nearby at Mount St. Mary's University. The visit was a moving tribute to the spirit of service and faith that continues to inspire the Center's work today.

The New York Foundling: Honoring the Past, Running Toward the Future

Founded in 1869 by the Sisters of Charity of New York, The New York Foundling remains a beacon of hope for vulnerable children and families—an enduring testament to the mission of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The Foundling recently honored that legacy during its Mission & Service Award Ceremony, where Sisters Carol Barnes, Charlotte Raftery, and Virginia Searing were welcomed by Foundling President & CEO Melanie Hartzog. In a moment of deep gratitude and recognition, Sr. Carol was honored with the newly named Sr. Carol Barnes Mission Award, celebrating her lifelong commitment to service before it was presented to this year's honorees.

Sr. Charlotte Raftery, Ellen Eng (NY Foundling Chief Strategist), Sr. Virginia Searing and Sr. Carol Barnes

That spirit of dedication lives on in many ways. SCNY supporter Barbara Burke, who recently marched alongside Sr. Kathleen Byrnes at the Hands Off Rally in Manhattan, also ran in this year's NYC Half Marathon as part of Team Foundling Charity. Barbara ran in honor of Sr. Vivienne Joyce, SC, who devoted many years to the Foundling as a social worker. Inspired by Sr. Vivienne's compassion and their time together in a parish liturgy group, Barbara carried her legacy forward on race day. Together with teammates Martin Whelan and Percy Rodriguez, Team Foundling raised nearly $20,000 to support the Foundling's mission.

Barbara Burke and Sr. Vivienne Joyce

From its earliest days to today, The Foundling remains deeply rooted in the charism of charity and service. Just as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton sought to protect and uplift the most vulnerable, this ministry continues to evolve, ensuring that children and families receive the care and support they deserve.

Seton's Light, Still Shining: A Tribute to Love, Service, and Distinction

Mother Seton's legacy—education, compassion, and service—lives on at Elizabeth Seton Children's. Like our foundress, they serve with gratitude—helping children and young adults with medical fragility experience the fullness of life.

That mission continues through the extraordinary dedication of people like this year's Mission Award honorees: Sade Aulet, RN; Trecia Wellington, CNA; Margarita Gonzales, teacher assistant; and Nathalie Medero-Ponciano, administrative assistant.

Elizabeth Seton Children's marked National Nurses Week and Teacher Appreciation Week with a special Mission Awards celebration, honoring these four individuals whose daily contributions uplift and empower those they serve. Sisters Margaret O'Brien, Marie Morris, Maria Iglesias, and Virginia Searing joined in recognizing these caregivers and educators—each one a reflection of the values of love, service, and hope that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton lived so fully.

State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins also honored SCNY Associate and Elizabeth Seton Children's ambassador Stephanie Gabaud with the 2025 Woman of Distinction Award, celebrating her commitment to service and advocacy inspired by the legacy of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: *"Stephanie Gabaud is a shining example of what it means to be a Woman of Distinction.*

Back: Sade Aulet, RN; Trecia Wellington, CNA; Margarita Gonzales and Nathalie Medero-Ponciano. Front: Sisters Margaret O'Brien, Marie Morris, Maria Iglesias, and Virginia Searing.

Her strength, spirit, and dedication to advocating for medically complex young people is nothing short of heroic. … I am honored to recognize her with this well-deserved award."

Saint Joseph's Medical Center 1888...

By Sr. Margaret Egan

On September 14, 1975, a *New York Times* article captured the essence of Saint Joseph's Medical Center (then Hospital) with its title that read, "The Miracle Occurs Daily at St. Joseph's." The *Times* reporter, Peter Kihss, was initially referring to the October 1963 specifically declared miracle involving a Saint Joseph's Hospital patient who was in a coma state, afflicted with a rare disease. Through prayerful, concerted efforts, led by the Sisters of Charity of New York, a miracle of the patient's cure was "officially" attributed to Elizabeth Seton. This declared miracle fulfilled the necessary requirement for Church canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in 1975.

Dr. Paul Tucci, an attending physician at Saint Joseph's, commented to Peter Kihss that "Medicine is not just a science and an art. There is a certain amount of spirit too and that makes for a totality of people."

And so, today in 2025, **THE MIRACLE CONTINUES** through the Mission and Values of Saint Joseph's.

Saint Joseph's Mission

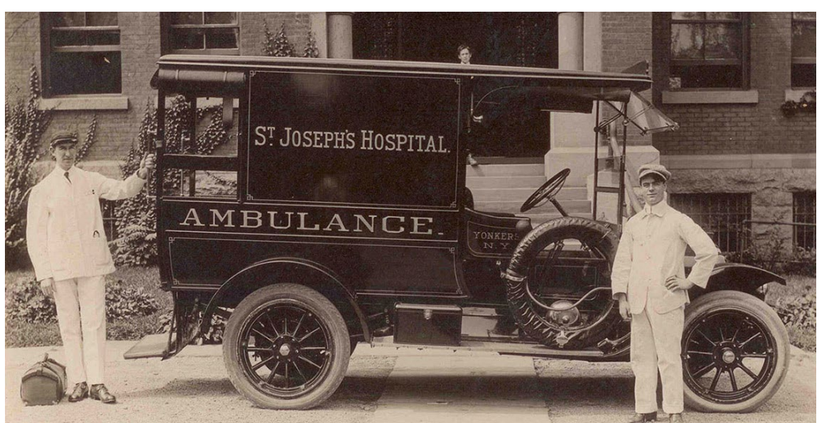
Saint Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers, NY, is a Catholic healthcare facility, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York. We strive for excellence in healthcare in an atmosphere of support and shared ministry.

Saint Joseph's Values

We believe in:

- Respect and compassion for ourselves and others
- Excellence in service
- The dignity of human life
- Commitment to the community

Saint Joseph's Hospital, circa 1888—where a legacy of compassionate care began. From its earliest days, the hospital has stood as a beacon of healing, hope, and service to the Yonkers community and beyond.



AND SO, THE MIRACLE CONTINUES.

Today, Saint Joseph's Medical Center, founded in 1888, is a not-for-profit healthcare facility governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees made up of business, civic and religious leaders of the community. Michael J. Spicer, Saint Joseph's President and CEO, who has served there for 40 years, has just celebrated 25 years in his strong leadership capacity as President. Presently, Saint Joseph's is the only Catholic Hospital in New York City's five boroughs and Westchester. It is also one of 30 designated Safety Net hospitals in the state, named so because as part of its mission it serves a disproportionate share of those on Medicaid, Medicare, or what is called Government Pay or No Pay. There are over one million outpatient visits annually in its various clinics and primary care offices.

Sr. Margaret Egan—author of this reflection and a dedicated member of the Saint Joseph's Board of Trustees—continues to guide the mission and values that define the only Catholic hospital serving New York City and Westchester.

An experienced team of competent and dedicated healthcare professionals manage the day-to-day operations of the Medical Center. Saint Joseph's includes a 194-bed acute care hospital, a 138-bed psychiatric hospital in "St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester," and two affordable senior housing facilities for low-income, frail elderly. It also manages 1,300 supportive housing apartments throughout New York City and Westchester, as well as numerous out-patient programs and services for the residents of Westchester and the five boroughs of New York City.

AND SO, THE MIRACLE CONTINUES.

Recently, the Yonkers Mayor, Michael Spano, conducted a broadcast interview with President Michael Spicer. Mayor Spano applauded Saint Joseph's for its continued effort to improve and expand its facilities and equipment, resulting in enhanced and increased health care for all. Such improvements and expansion include but are not limited to the following:

1. Technological and quality-driven improvements which provide for increased access to patient data at the appropriate times to make better, more informed decisions about patient healthcare.
2. Emergency Room/Radiology renovation and advancement.
3. Renovation/Upgrading of Patient Hall units.

Saint Joseph's is enthusiastically and successfully engaged in communal outreach, responding to "the signs of the times" in its response to Community Health and Behavioral Health Needs in Yonkers as well as throughout the Hudson Valley, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. For example, locally, in response to human health needs, Saint Joseph's administers monthly mobile food distributions on Vark Street, Yonkers. This practice has generated much hope and good will among the Yonkers Community as well as Saint Joseph's employees. In addition to its Crisis Residence, Saint Joseph's, in collaboration with numerous agencies, participates in the Crisis and Prevention Response Team that services the community through mobile, telephone and Zoom health visits. Back at home on its own campus, a former patient just recently sent an observation to Saint Joseph's President Spicer as she wrote, "I was so impressed by the kindness and compassion of Saint Joseph Medical Center staff. I just wanted to share with you my observation of the spirit of compassion and charity existing among your employees."

AND SO, THE MIRACLE CONTINUES.

Through its School-Based Health Clinic Saint Joseph provides core, comprehensive services including physicals, immunizations and mental health screening. The Medical Center currently provides physical therapy and occupational therapy at 43 public schools in Yonkers and primary care services at seven schools. Saint Joseph's now manages over 1,500 housing units in its provision of a wide range of housing in New York City and Westchester. Accordingly, and strategically, it continually seeks funding opportunities to effectively address additional, affordable housing needs as it maintains and renovates existing residences.

AND SO, THE MIRACLE CONTINUES.

What would Saint Joseph Medical Center's founders think of the mission, activities and accomplishments of this institution today? Would they not agree that in the spirit of St. Elizabeth Seton, the Medical Center competently strives "to express its love for God in love for its fellow men and women?" Surely, we can say that Saint Joseph's truly "…is standing upon the shoulders of those who went before."

Loving God, with confidence we pray that you will continue to bless all associated with Saint Joseph's with the desire, wisdom and means to continue to fulfill its mission of loving care and outreach which is really your mission. Amen

AND SO, THE MIRACLE CONTINUES.

A Season of Firsts at the University of Mount Saint Vincent

It's a season of firsts for the University of Mount Saint Vincent's Physician Assistant (PA) Program. The first cohort of students—in the first registered PA program in the Bronx—have earned their white coats upon completing the program.

The 28-month program welcomed its inaugural class in August 2022—a bold and intrepid group of future practitioners who courageously said "yes" to forging a new path. Nearly two and a half years later, 47 students have completed the requirements for their degree, marking a milestone for both the program and the Bronx community.

CBS News recently highlighted another of UMSV's historic firsts: Seton College's inaugural class of students. The new two-year college, designed to expand access to higher education, is already making a profound impact on its students and their families.

This spring, students from the newly opened Saint Joseph's Hospital and the UMSV School of Nursing embarked on a transformative journey to Guatemala. There, they provided care at newly established clinics serving local communities and worked with the Barbara Ford Peace Center, furthering the mission of compassionate healthcare beyond borders. Stay tuned for an in-depth look at their experiences in the Winter 2026 edition of *VISION*.

Breaking the Cycle: Protecting Girls from Violence in Guatemala

By Luciano Laynez Pérez, *Executive Director, Barbara Ford Peace Center*

In 2024, over 56,000 pregnancies were reported among Guatemalan girls aged 10 to 19, with nearly 2,000 involving minors between 10 and 14 (RENAP – OSAR Monitoring). These alarming numbers highlight deep-rooted issues such as sexual violence, early marriage, lack of education, and limited healthcare access. Child pregnancy robs girls of their right to play, learn, and grow safely, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, exclusion, and gender-based violence.

Families of these young mothers also struggle, with many facing food insecurity—20% of youth report skipping meals daily, and 14% of households include individuals who eat only once a day. This deepens cycles of poverty and limits opportunities for a better future.

At the Barbara Ford Peace Center, we work to break these cycles by providing education, psychosocial support, and economic empowerment. By equipping girls and their mothers—especially in indigenous and rural communities—with tools to thrive, we can challenge discrimination, machismo, and violence.

Young mothers and their children gather at the Barbara Ford Peace Center in Guatemala, where education, support, and empowerment offer hope in the face of early pregnancy and systemic inequality

We know this is hard work whose results are not immediate, but we are confident that investing in the protection of girls will generate profound changes for their families and future generations. It is time to act to build a country where girls can live with dignity, free from violence, and with real opportunities for development. Change takes time, but protecting and investing in girls today will transform families and future generations. Now is the time to act.

The Sisters of Charity of New York Mission in Guatemala

By Sr. Virginia Searing,
Director, Ministry Relations

Sr. Rosenda Castañeda Gonzales has opened a new home for The Sisters of Charity Dispensary of Integral Health in Santa Cruz. The clinic has a pharmacy with patent and homeopathic medicines, an examination room, a massage room and the beginnings of a physical therapy room. The corner building, in the heart of the market area, will be helpful to those who come to the city to sell their goods. When the third floor is made habitable, it can become a school room for the children who spend their days with their parents in the market and not in a traditional school. As always, the Sisters of Charity are recognizing and trying to meet unmet needs.

Saint Elizabeth Seton School in Nebaj, Guatemala

Sister Maria Pablo, SC, Teacher and Assistant Administrator at Elizabeth Seton School in Nebaj, inspires students through education and leadership. Pictured here, a math class with enthusiastic students and a group photo in front of the Barbara Ford Peace Center, a hub for empowerment and transformation in the Guatemalan Highlands.

A new chapter begins: the Pastoral Health Clinic proudly displays its welcoming sign, guiding visitors along the path to compassionate care.

Campus Ministry Celebrates Betty Bayley's Path to Sainthood

Campus Ministry began the year with the traditional Betty Bayley Brunch, welcoming our Sisters, along with UMSV faculty and staff, for a special gathering. Held annually near her Feast Day, this celebration offers an opportunity to learn more about Betty Bayley—the woman who would one day become a saint. SCNY Associate Lisa A. Shay delivered a fascinating presentation on Elizabeth's early years, offering insights into the life that shaped her path to sainthood.

You can watch the presentation on our YouTube channel: youtu.be/xOVGumD5eEA

This spring, UMSV's Office of Mission and Ministry embarked on a pilgrimage to Emmitsburg, MD, to explore the life and legacy of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton. From her home to her sacred resting place, pilgrims reflected on the profound impact of her faith and devotion—returning inspired to share more of St. Elizabeth's story and spirit with their students.

Betty Bayley, by Joseph Dawley, Artist

***A glimpse into her early life**—Elizabeth Seton's personal items, including shoes and jewelry from her pre-religious years, are on display at the National Shrine in Emmitsburg*

***Symbols of commitment**—Elizabeth Seton's cap, cape, and belt reflect her daily life as a foundress and faithful servant to God's mission*

***Sacred ground**—The marked altar where Elizabeth Ann Seton received Holy Communion invites pilgrims into her profound spiritual journey*

***A resting place of peace**—The cemetery at the Shrine holds the legacy of devotion and the quiet strength of early companions in faith*

***Three Sisters. One Mission.** This stone marks the historic moment three Sisters journeyed to New York—launching a mission that would shape Catholic education and service in America*

***A house of reverence**—The Basilica at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton stands in Emmitsburg as a testament to her enduring impact on the Church and the faithful*

Celebrating Fifty Years of Sainthood

By James Rowe, *Communications Director*

In a time when voices of hope were inked by hand and sacred truths shimmered in gold leaf, one homily rose to meet the glory of a saint. Ten hand-illuminated pages—a labor of love, art, and reverence—capture the heartbeat of a Church in awe. Reverend James Conlan, with words both tender and bold, gave voice to a people celebrating the impossible: the canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Now, on the fiftieth anniversary of her canonization, we turn those radiant pages again—not only to remember—but to be renewed. For what was once spoken in wonder half a century ago still dares us to dream...of yesterday, of today, of tomorrow.

Let us dream of impossible things. Let us dream of yesterday and today and tomorrow.

Let us dream of the Impossible Yesterday

It was a yesterday of beginnings and birth and revolution.

It was the day of a woman who went from riches to rags to glory. Yesterday was this woman's day. Yesterday lasted forty-six years.

She lived that long, this woman who could hear God's voice and could understand the meaning of that voice as few others could. She was young and healthy and beautiful and found her joy elsewhere. Her mysterious God gave her love and marriage—on a string. God pulled the string, and she was left with death and widowhood, and she said, "I praise You, Lord!" God gave her a faith which filled her life and told her she must strive for more, and she said, "I love You, Lord!"

But the impossible had only begun. Without precedent, she founded tradition. Without wealth, she founded schools and orphanages. Without husband, she founded a new family beyond the counting. Without encouragement, she breathed confidence into others. Without priesthood, she brought Christ to a new world. The impossible yesterday was a daily miracle of this woman's faith.

Who could believe that a woman could grow beautiful along that sorrowful way? Who could believe that feet that walked our roads would dance in the soft clouds of heaven? Or that beauty, wit, love, and courage could all come together in one woman in such a way that tragedy would crawl away defeated, that women by the thousand would say, "I shall follow you where you lead," that prayer in her name would lead to miracles on earth? As dreams go, it is rather nice.

If such a woman had really lived, it would have been wonderful . . . yesterday.

A journey of faith—Sisters of Charity gather at the airport, bound for Rome and the canonization of their foundress, ready to witness history in the making.

Sr. Marie Berenice Leehive, SC, instructs students in an oil painting class at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, circa 1970s. Her artistry would later bring life and light to a historic homily through stunning hand-illuminated pages.

You can't help but smile when your foundress just became a saint

Sr. Mary Alphonsus Crimmins bringing the gifts. Mother Loretto Bernard Beagan was to have presented, but became ill.

Let us dream of the Impossible Today

Let us dream that today heaven and earth touch in a breathtaking sign that sweeps over the earth, that today we see one of these rare moments when God and humanity breathe the same word at the same time with the same meaning, that the sign and the word, accompanied by pealing bells and shouts of joy, issue from the heart of Christ's Vicar on earth, and that the one word is carried through the air and through the heavens and is heard by millions, and that word is "Saint."

"She is a Saint." This impossible dreamed-up woman is a saint.

Let us dream that heaven has a today.

Though there are no measured minutes there, let us dream that today heaven has moments we can number. It is fitting, after all, because this woman of the impossible yesterday once wrote, "Surely, the next blessing in our future existence, to that of being near the Source of our perfection, will be the enjoyment of one another's society, no separation, but free communication of affection, unshackled by the whys and wherefores of this world."

Sr. Mary Albert Lilly and Sr. Mary Aquinas Allison on their way to Rome for the Canonization of Mother Seton

So, there she is, in our dream, being embraced by her husband William, and little Anna, young William, Richard, Catherine and Rebecca. Husband and five children tease the wife-mother about the celebrations in her honor. There is laughter and song and love.

Mother Elizabeth Boyle is there, she who was the first Mother of the Sisters of Charity of Mount Saint Vincent. One by one they come, the thousands of Sisters and Daughters of Charity who followed her steps and her spirit on earth. Hosts of saints and angels convene, and there in the center stands Mary, the Mother of the Lord, with the Woman of Yesterday and Today. Finally, there is the Lord–the one Whom the woman had adored in the Eucharist is before her. While she was on earth and in the Sacramental Presence, all the joys and heartbreaks of life meant nothing. It is even more so now. Her God is there with her; it is all that ever mattered.

But we dream of impossible things. As dreams go, it is rather nice. If such a woman had really lived, it would have been wonderful . . . today.

Canonization Mass for Elizabeth Ann Seton

Let us dream of the Impossible Tomorrow

Let us dream of a true devotion to this Woman of Yesterday and Today. Let us imagine that thousands will pray for miracles in her name and, imagining the impossible, that miracles will happen. The impossible tomorrow will be the day when faith flourishes again, when great numbers will seek their strength before the Tabernacle of the Lord, when selfless service in love will be the standard of Christian witness to all the world's needy, and when the need of consciousness-raising about the dignity, role, and personhood of woman will be remembered as a curious, though needed, moment in history.

But only prophets can dream well of tomorrow's impossible things. The wonders that may be must still be built upon the wonders that were and are. The prophets' history tells us that every once in a while the sun stands still, the sea is parted, Lazarus comes forth. We stand rooted in reality.

Were the bells ringing today? In whose name did we pray? Whose sisters are you? Reality must come home to us. The impossible woman of yesterday and today lives. Everything, except the wild imaginings of her heaven life now, is more real than this pulpit, these stained-glass windows. She is a saint! She has a name! Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton. She entered our lives long ago in her gentle way. Now she has burst in upon us.

We have only to look and know she is here. Your foundress is a Saint. What you have known in a human way, you know now with divine assurance. Your sisterhood is unquestionably touched by God. Your vows, your constitution, your daily mission is ordained for eternal glory. Goodness can no longer be enough. Greatness is your standard.

It always was, of course. How else explain the words of Cardinal Hayes some years ago to the Sisters of Charity of Mount Saint Vincent, "You have been our very flesh and bone, our soul and spirit." How else explain the words of Cardinal Spellman who knew that it was the Sisters of Charity who opened our first child-caring institution, our first parochial schools and academies, our first Catholic hospital, our first foundling hospital. The Cardinal said, . . . "you wove the fabric of faith in New York." How else explain that His Eminence Cardinal Cooke has had no words other than pride and gratitude for the Sisters of Charity of New York.

Because you have remained true "children of the Church" through these years, the numbers of the Sisters of Charity have grown beyond the wildest dreams. And because you have answered every cry of need and pain that you have heard, all New Yorkers of every faith and color and heritage have come to know that Sisterhood and Charity are the same.

Since the impossible things of yesterday and today have truly taken place, then the impossible things of tomorrow may be near at hand. Mother Seton lives not only in the presence of her Lord, but in the lives of her daughters. If it be God's will, the impossible tomorrow will be as real as yesterday and today.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us!

Sisters of Charity of New York and other guests in Rome to attend canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton

Banner from the 1975 canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton—honoring the first American-born saint with grace and grandeur

"Ubi Caritas": Honoring a Legacy in Song

"Ubi Caritas—Where there is charity, there is God"—this hymn echoed through St. Peter's Basilica at the Canonization Mass of Elizabeth Ann Seton. It resonated again in 2023 when, following the Sisters' historic decision to begin a path to completion, Sr. Sherryl A. White, CSJ, PhD, led the emotionally charged General Assembly in song. A brief clip of that moment became one of our most engaging social media posts.

Among those touched by the video was Jessica Meyer, who, inspired by the Sisters' heartfelt singing, composed "Sisters of Charity." The piece had its world premiere at Mount Saint Vincent in April 2024 and was featured in *VISION* Magazine's Summer 2024 edition.

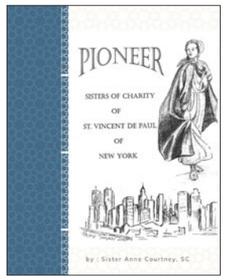
As we approached the 50th anniversary of Mother Seton's canonization, we felt called once again to honor her in song. Following our February 8th Congregation Day, sixteen Sisters gathered in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception to sing "Ubi Caritas" in tribute to our foundress. Guests at our Spring Benefit enjoyed a special preview, with the video to be shared on September 14, 2025.

We invite you to watch this moving tribute on our YouTube channel. **youtube.com/@sistersofcharityny**

A powerful moment of unity—Sisters stand at the altar, singing "Ubi Caritas" in heartfelt tribute to Mother Seton, carrying forward her legacy in one voice. Singing Sisters included (Front) Helen F. Connors, Carol De Angelo, Karen Helfenstein, Regina Bechtle, Terese McElroy, Gloria De Arteaga, (Middle) Mary Mc Cormick, Claire E. Regan, Donna Dodge, (Back) Maryellen Blumlein, Ellen Rose O'Connell, Eileen McGrory, Carol Finegan, and Virginia Searing.

Honoring the 33 Pioneers of the Sisters of Charity of New York

"They were starting out on this new adventure, a new religious congregation in this new republic that was not a Catholic place and not friendly to Catholics, many times. They had no history to fall back on. We can look back, but they really had to live that hope that if this was God's desire, he would provide a way. And we are heirs to that promise." — Sr. Mary Mc Cormick



The journey begins here—Pioneer: Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York serves as the foundation for a year-long tribute honoring the 33 Pioneers of the Sisters of Charity of New York

Many are familiar with Mother Elizabeth Boyle, our first Mother, but what about Sister Mary Philippine Beaven or Sister Mary Valeria Rowan? These remarkable women were among the 33 pioneers—the first Sisters of Charity of New York.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Elizabeth Seton's Canonization, we are revisiting these courageous women and sharing their stories throughout the year. The series began on May 15 with Mother Elizabeth Boyle's story, presented by Sister Jean Flannelly, SC, in a special YouTube video. Every Wednesday, a new pioneer's story is shared, culminating on December 31, the anniversary of the Sisters of Charity of New York's incorporation.

Thirty-three Sisters are participating as storytellers, offering insights into the faith, dedication, and lasting impact of these founding women. Join us in honoring their legacy by following the series on our YouTube channel: **youtube.com/@sistersofcharityny**

“What is Ours to Do?”

By Sr. Carol De Angelo, *Director, Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation*

The Kingdom of God is now—but not yet. In John 10:10, Jesus says, “I have come that you may have life and live it to the fullest.” His parables and stories remind us of God’s love and mercy—and of our call: “As I have loved you, so must you love others.” (John 13:34)

As a Sisters of Charity ministry, the PJIC Office, its committees, and our community of Sisters, Associates, and collaborators intentionally pray, reflect, and respond to today’s signs of the times. We are called to address complex issues—migration, climate change, racism, poverty, and trafficking—through the lens of gospel values and Catholic social teaching.

Some may label this work “liberal,” but in truth, we are people of faith striving to follow Jesus. Our mission is rooted in love, dignity, justice, and relationship. We partner globally with the Sisters of Charity Federation at the UN and the *Laudato Si’* Movement, and nationally with groups like Justice for Immigrants, Alliance to End Human Trafficking, and NETWORK. We advocate for policies that reflect our commitment to the common good and the protection of the vulnerable.

Our work is not only about education and advocacy—it’s about spiritual transformation. That’s why we’ve engaged fully with the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform, a multi-year journey toward ecological conversion.

This year, the PJIC Office hosted transformative discussions on immigration, anti-racism, and care for creation, featuring books by Fr. Daniel Groody, Michelle Alexander, and Sr. Elizabeth Johnson. These conversations deepen our awareness and awaken our commitment to build the beloved community, here and now.

As we continue this journey of transformation, we invite you to reflect on Leadership Conference of Women Religious’ question: “What is ours to do?”

Sr. Kathleen Byrnes was one of several of our Sisters who participated in a Hands Off Rally in Manhattan and Hastings-on-Hudson

Sr. Frances Keegan, chair of Global Poverty Committee, helps Sisters at Kittay to send letters to legislators on ending hunger

Sisters, Associates, along with UMSV Campus Ministry members came together at the Laudato Si’ Tree to celebrate Earth Day and say the rosary

Guided by the Spirit: Celebrating 25 years of the Co-Creators’ Sacred Journey

By Diandra Garcia-Heredia, *Advocacy & Program Coordinator for PJIC*

The Sisters of Charity of New York recently marked the 25th anniversary of their Co-Creators Group, a fellowship dedicated to ecological and spiritual transformation. This milestone celebrates the group’s deep commitment to fostering a close relationship with “Mother Earth” and their ongoing journey of faith and learning.

Sr. Barbara Srozenski (L) leads Contemplative Prayer group at Mount Saint Vincent Convent

This past winter, Sr. Barbara Srozenski, SC, welcomed me into her home at the Convent, where she reflected on the group’s origins. Inspired by a 2000 lecture on the sacredness of creation, Sr. Barbara—a retired chemistry teacher—felt called to embrace all of creation, from the smallest insect to the vastness of the universe. She immersed herself in ecological studies and invited others to do the same.

What began as a book discussion community has grown into a vibrant group that meets monthly in the Convent’s solarium. Their readings—ranging from Judy Cannato’s *Field of Compassion* to the writings of St. Teresa of Avila—focus on interconnectedness, contemplation, and spiritual transformation. Members reflect on personal growth and its impact on the world, aligning with Pope Francis’s *Laudato Si’* and the Vincentian-Setonian tradition of love and service.

Longtime member Sr. Lorraine describes the group as “prepared” for the Church’s growing ecological awareness, while Sr. Mary Donagher calls them “energetic readers” who put “mind to the heart.” Their commitment has evolved over the years, from annual silent retreats to a now-sacred 10-minute silent contemplation at each meeting, allowing members to listen deeply to the Spirit and one another.

At 91, Sr. Barbara remains an active leader, encouraging members to engage in compassionate action and inner transformation as a means of addressing global issues. With continued support from Sr. Donna, President of the Sisters of Charity, the Co-Creators Group hopes to expand and explore new spiritual writings.

“Come and join us!” Sr. Barbara proudly declares.

As I prepared to welcome my son Jesse—a name meaning “the Lord exists”—I felt deeply connected to this journey of co-creation. The Co-Creators Group isn’t just about book discussions; it’s about recognizing our role in this sacred Creation, from the smallest stone to the miracle of new life.

Spring Benefit 2025

Once again, friends, benefactors, and Sisters came together for a memorable Sisters of Charity of New York Annual Spring Benefit on May 16, 2025, at Chelsea Piers. The evening was filled with good food, great conversation, and wonderful music—all in support of the Sisters' mission.

This year, we were proud to honor William J. O'Connor, President of Parish Property Management, Inc., and Sue Porcelli, a longtime Associate, for their dedication to the values of charity and service. Guests enjoyed the return of Dancing with the Sisters and the always-popular Photo 360 experience, along with powerful video presentations highlighting Vinny's Café and LEFSA, the evening's featured ministries.

A special moment came with a sneak preview of our Sisters singing "Ubi Caritas" in honor of the 50th Anniversary of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's canonization—a moving tribute to be officially released on September 14, 2025.

While the joy of being together is always the highlight, we're thrilled to share that this year's benefit raised $255,000—strengthening and sustaining the Sisters' mission. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us in support and celebration!

Honoree Bill O'Connor, his colleague, and Julia O'Connor

Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Sally Hanson, Monsignor Donald Sakano and Sr. Karen Helfenstein

Sr. Donna Dodge and Master of Ceremonies, Matt Janeczko

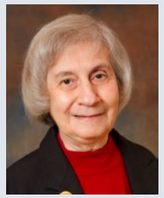
Mary Mooney, Honoree Sue Porcelli, and Sr. Donna Dodge

Golf Outing

In a touching display of good sportsmanship, Sr. Donna Dodge stepped up to the tee to demonstrate a perfect swing—offering some pre-game inspiration to the less seasoned golfers. Friends and supporters gathered at Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester, NY, for a day on the green to benefit Vincent's Table Ministry and UMSV Athletics.

Nick Perpepaj, Felix Perez, Louis Vidal, Kevin DeGroat, Dr. Susan R. Burns and Sr. Donna Dodge

In Remembrance



Born on August 8, 1932, in the Bronx, **Sister Theresa Capria** was one of four children of Francis and Louise Amenta Capria. She attended Saint Barnabas High School and earned a BA in Mathematics before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1954. She later obtained an MA in Catechetical Theology and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction.

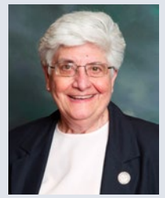
For 53 years, Sister Theresa served as a teacher, pastoral minister, and Congregation leader. She taught high school mathematics and religion before transitioning to parish and diocesan faith formation. She twice served as Assistant to the President of the Congregation and represented the Sisters of Charity Federation at a Vincentian Family gathering in Rome. In retirement, she remained active in ministry and volunteer work.

Sister Theresa passed away on January 31, 2025, in her 71st year as a Sister of Charity. May she now find peace in the fullness of God's promise.

Born on October 28, 1933, in Brooklyn, **Sister Eileen Martin** was one of two daughters of James and Catherine Treanor Martin. She attended Blessed Sacrament High School and worked for two years before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1953. She later earned degrees in history, education, and parish ministry.

For 50 years, Sister Eileen ministered in elementary education as a teacher and administrator. She served at several schools before becoming the longtime administrator of Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School in Center Moriches, where her leadership was so impactful that Suffolk County declared "Sister Eileen Martin Day" upon her retirement. In retirement, she remained active in parish ministries and outreach.

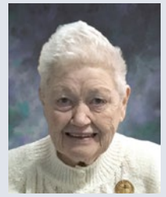
Sister Eileen passed away on February 22, 2025, in her 72nd year as a Sister of Charity. May she now rejoice in the glorious freedom of the children of God.



Born on October 10, 1938, in Manhattan, **Sister Dominica Rocchio** was one of three children of Anthony and Antoinette Santoro Rocchio. She attended Saint Jean Baptiste High School and Fordham University, later earning multiple degrees and certifications in education and administration. She entered the Sisters of Charity in 1962.

For 57 years, Sister Dominica dedicated her life to education and Congregation leadership. She taught English and Religion in several high schools before serving as Associate Superintendent of Secondary Schools for the Archdiocese of New York and later as Superintendent of Schools in Newark. A respected consultant and board member, she received numerous awards, including an honorary doctorate from Seton Hall University. She later served in Congregation leadership.

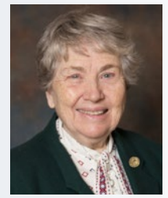
Sister Dominica passed away on February 10, 2025, in her 63rd year as a Sister of Charity. May she now rest in God's loving embrace.



Born on March 11, 1930, in the Bronx, **Sister Cecilia Reeves** was the eldest of three daughters of John and Teresa Doherty Reeves. She attended Cathedral High School and Hunter College before entering the Sisters of Charity of New York in 1949. She later earned a BA in History from the College of Mount Saint Vincent and an MA from Seton Hall University.

For 49 years, Sister Cecilia served in education—39 in elementary schools and 10 in high schools. She taught at several schools before becoming Principal of Saint Denis in Yonkers, where she led the school to Middle States accreditation. She later served in administration at Sacred Heart High School.

In retirement, Sister Cecilia continued to serve, including assisting retired sisters. She passed away on March 10, 2025, in her 76th year as a Sister of Charity. May she rest in God's eternal peace.



Born on March 25, 1930, in the Bronx, **Sister Theresa Gravino** was one of five children of Michael and Minni De Monte Gravino. She attended Cathedral High School before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1947. She later earned degrees in Latin and Religious Studies, as well as certification in Deaf Education.

Sister Theresa dedicated 49 years to education, teaching Latin in high schools and serving as a Religious Education Coordinator for the Catholic Deaf Center. She later worked at Saint Joseph School for the Deaf and continued supporting the deaf and hard-of-hearing community in retirement. Her beautiful singing voice and deep compassion touched many lives.

She passed away on February 16, 2025, in her 78th year as a Sister of Charity. May she now rejoice in the loving embrace of God, to whom she said "Yes" throughout her life.

Born on March 3, 1932, in the Bronx, **Sister Theresa Courtney** was one of four children of Patrick and Mary McCabe Courtney. She attended Cathedral High School, later earning a BA in English from the College of Mount Saint Vincent and an MA from Catholic University. She entered the Sisters of Charity of New York in 1952.

Sister Theresa dedicated 45 years to ministry—30 in education and 15 in advocacy for women. She taught at several schools, including Cathedral High School, before serving at Sanctuary for Families, where she supported victims of domestic violence. Even in retirement, she continued her advocacy as a tutor in prisons and shelters.

Known for her humor, deep friendships, and unwavering commitment to justice, Sister Theresa embodied the Charity spirit. She died on March 19, 2025, in her 73rd year as a Sister of Charity. May she rest in God's eternal love.

Born on March 19, 1935 in the Bronx, **Sister Monica Griffin** entered the Sisters of Charity of New York in 1953. For 54 years, she served in elementary education and finance, teaching in schools across the Bronx, Manhattan, White Plains, and Beacon, and later supporting parish and congregational ministries. Known as a gifted math teacher, she brought calm, order, and kindness to her classroom. Her warmth extended to her community life, especially in joyful Friday night card games with Sisters and Associates. For two decades, she offered financial support to the Church of the Incarnation. In retirement, she resided at Mount Saint Vincent Convent and Cabrini of Westchester, where she died on April 21, 2025, in her 72nd year of commitment. Sister Monica is remembered for her gentle spirit, deep faith, and loving bond with her brother Michael, a devoted presence in her later years.

Sisters of Charity Center
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471-1093

718-549-9200 | www.scny.org

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"Peace and Blessings to all our readers this summer. Ubi Caritas!"

— Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips

Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips celebrated her 75th Anniversary as a Sister of Charity