

# Newsletter. . .



Since his election, our Holy Father, Pope Francis has emphasized over and over again the importance of compassion. He has refused to be trapped in judgmental statements on hot-button issues. While avoiding the frequently used, "No comment," he instead follows the example of Christ in directing his interrogators to imitate Our Brother Jesus by looking with love on all. Francis stands securely with the teaching gift of the Holy Spirit and with the sacred tradition of faith and morals. His specialty however, is in extending compassion to all, loving like Jesus so that everyone can feel at home in the house of God. Yes, even the worst of us once we feel this love, will seek forgiveness and begin to love as Jesus does.

As a religious, Francis consecrated his life to God and perhaps he has prayed, "Take Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my entire will. All I have and call my own. You have given it to me. Now I return it. Give me only your love and your grace. That's enough for me, your love and your grace are enough for me."

## Women Religious

DIocese of CAMDEN



## Thank you. . . and farewell

As we continue our ministries, others have been called elsewhere to serve. The following sisters will be missioned outside the Diocese of Camden and we bid them farewell and wish them God's speed: Sisters Marie DiCamillo, OP; Mary Ella Morrison, OP; Kathleen Aherne, OSF; Anne Lillis, OSF; Catherine Mary Kane, OSF; Winifred Grelis, SSJ; Rosemarie Lafferty, SSJ; Helen Gilbert Mann, SSJ; Bernadette Kane, IHM; Antoine Lawlor, IHM; Helene Cooke, IHM (S); Helen Sanchez, MPF; and Sister Philomena Gini RSM.

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### SAVE THE DATE:

- November 2 - Mass for Deceased Religious  
Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan
- December 7 - Advent Retreat  
Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS
- February 1 - World Day for Consecrated Life  
and Jubilee Celebration
- March 8 - Lenten Retreat  
Dennis J. Billy, CSsR

# WELCOME

Welcome to the following sisters who will be ministering in the Diocese during this year: Sister Mary Lou Lafferty, OSF (A) who will assume the role of Prison Minister Coordinator. Sister Maureen Chinn Fatt, OSF, volunteer at Emmaus Catholic Community; Sister Betty Jean Takacs, MPF, principal of St. Joseph Regional School in Hammon-ton; Sister Anne Pierre, IHM who will minister to the aged in St. Simon Stock Parish in Berlin; Sister Marie Andrew, IHM who will assist in reli-

gious education in St. Raymond Parish in the Villas. Sister Patricia McGinley, SSJ

who will serve as Pastoral Associate at Christ the King Parish in Haddonfield.

## STATISTICS

Each September, the office of the Bishop's Delegate for Women Religious updates the Bishop on the number of Sisters serving in the Diocese their community, where each one lives and how you serve. This includes those retired sisters who prayer for all of us. This year we are 258 women religious. Bless us one and all.



## November 2nd



Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan,

D.D. will celebrate the Mass for Deceased men and women religious at the Spirituality Center in Blackwood on November 2nd at 10:45 am. Names of those who lived and served in the Diocese of Camden and who died during the past year, e. g. November 2012-2013 will be remembered during the Mass.

The Liturgy will be followed by a brunch. All religious are invited. More information will be sent out closer to the date.



## THE VOWS

Teilhard De Chardin-The Divine Mileu Explained: A Spirituality for the 21st Century

According to Teilhard, "One cannot dedicate his or her life to the practice of poverty, chastity, and obedience without an explicit invitation from God. This "vocation," he explains, is a divine call "to a flight beyond the normal spheres of earthly, procreative, and conquering humanity." A vocation to a monastery or convent should not be assumed or undertaken without that call. In a most radical sense, to choose to become a vowed religious is to live one's life without ever embracing the responsibility of ownership (vow of poverty), relinquishing totally the right to use one's natural attraction to form a loving union with another person and raise a family (vow of chastity), and handing over those fundamental choices that shape one's productive life and career to another human being (vow of obedience). According to Teilhard, no one has the right to choose for oneself without a divine summons to live such a humanly diminished life. (Louis M. Savary)



# THE UNTOLD STORY OF RELIGIOUS WOMEN

**“Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America,”** a one-hour documentary relating the vital role women religious have played and the impact they have had in shaping the nation’s social, cultural and spiritual landscapes, will be satellite distributed by NBC to its stations and affiliates on Sept. 12 for broadcasts Sept. 15 through March 15, 2014. Known scheduled broadcasts will be posted on [www.interfaithbroadcasting.com](http://www.interfaithbroadcasting.com) and [www.womenandspirit.org](http://www.womenandspirit.org).

Narrated by noted NPR and ABC senior news analyst Cokie Roberts, this documentary provides an inside look at the mystery that has shrouded Catholic women religious since they first stepped onto what is now American soil, in New Orleans in 1727, to serve those most in need.

This documentary is an outgrowth of the touring exhibit (2009-2012) of the same title that traveled to nine museums, including the Smithsonian and Ellis Island, and was seen by approximately one million people. At present there are 57,000 women religious in the nation.



## Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Founded originally in Monroe, Michigan in 1845, there are now three separate communities that have flourished from very humble beginnings: first in Monroe, then in Philadelphia (now Immaculata, PA) and finally in Scranton, PA. All three branches continue in the footsteps of St. Alphonsus in serving the poor and most abandoned in their many ministries which include works among the poor in large cities and small towns; schools and universities in North and South America; parishes, hospitals, and prisons. Their works in various Dioceses include

Hispanic ministry, Diocesan Administration, Religious Education, Adult Faith Formation, Apostolate to the Deaf, Visually Impaired and People With Special Needs; Children’s Catechetical, Marriage Tribunals, Spiritual Direction, Hospital Chaplaincy, and Campus Ministry. The sisters respond with zeal and enthusiasm to the call to evangelization. Well educated, many with advanced degrees, they live lives of humble service in community, remaining faithful to the teachings of the Church they love and serve and striving every day to be poor, chaste and obedient.

## Speakers Needed

December 7-8 weekend has been designated for the annual diocesan collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. In the past, many sisters have volunteered to speak during Masses at various parishes. When a religious speaks, the collection spikes. Seeing and hearing you makes a difference to the people in

the pews. If at all possible, since almost everyone of our communities receives financial assistance, I urge you to call your local parish and offer. In a recent communication from NRRO, Sister Mary Ann Walsh noted, “By 2023, religious past age 70 will outnumber those under 70 by roughly four to one.”





**DELEGATE FOR  
WOMEN RELIGIOUS**

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**You are invited to participate in a holy hour of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The first evening of adoration will take place at Holy Eucharist Parish in Cherry Hill at 7:00 p.m. on November 2nd. This evening is primarily for Deanery 2.**



*Heavenly Father, bless our diocese with the grace of many vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, grant to those you have called the willingness and generosity of spirit to give of themselves in devoting their lives and their talents to the service of our Lord and to his Church. Increase the faith of all, and particularly the faith of those you have called and will continue to call. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**Of Various Things. . .**

There can be no doubt about how gifted we are here in Camden. We have so many beautiful people who contribute to our city and to the life of the Body of Christ. Recently, for example, Sister Veronica Roche, SSJ received the "Many Faces In God's House Award" for her work in immigration reform. The full article appeared in the September 23rd edition of the CSH. Congratulations, Sister.

**SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 7  
ADVENT RETREAT FOR RELIGIOUS  
BLACKWOOD SPIRITUALITY CENTER  
1840 PETERCHEESEMAN RD.  
BLACKWOOD, NJ 08012  
BROTHER MICKEY MCGRATH, OSFS  
PRESENTER  
9:30-2:30  
MASS INCLUDED**