



# Women Religious

## Bishop Galante's Message



In the August 17th edition of the *Star Herald*, Bishop Joseph Galante wrote about his appreciation of the contributions of Women Religious. In his column, the Bishop cited his own long history of working with and for sisters both as the Vicar for Religious in Brownsville, Texas and again in Philadelphia where he served in that capacity before being appointed to the Vatican as undersecretary for the Congregation for Reli-

gious and Secular Institutes in Rome.

"Sisters have contributed, and continue to contribute, in so many ways to the life of the Church. My principal focus has been to look at and understand what is called the particular "charism" of each Religious Institute...The women who founded Religious communities expressed their understanding of the Gospel message and invited others who heard the Gospel in the same way to join them. This reality has continued over the centuries...

Religious contribute to the life of the Church by trying to live out their particular way of hearing the

Gospel and responding to it. Their ministries flow out of that Gospel call. The Church continues to be enriched by the example, the dedication and the self-sacrifice of Religious women. Like all of us, including bishops, they are not perfect, they have their struggles. But they are women of prayer, of love for God and their sisters and brothers. They continue to enrich the life of the Church.

I personally owe a great deal to Religious women in terms of my own growth in prayer and heightened awareness, especially of the poor and needy."

## The Year of Faith

With his Apostolic Letter of October 11, 2011, Porta Fidei. . . , Pope Benedict XVI declared that a "Year of Faith" will begin on October 11, 2012 and conclude on November 24, 2013. October 11, 2012, the first day of the Year of Faith, is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. . . (Vatican II) and also the twentieth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. During the Year of Faith, Catholics are asked to study and reflect on the documents of Vatican II and the catechism so that they may deepen their knowledge of the faith.



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### SAVE THE DATE

- OCTOBER 20 FALL GATHERING-STONE HARBOR, Judith Parsons, IHM
- DECEMBER 1: ADVENT RETREAT
- FEBRUARY 2 WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE AND JUBILEE
- FEBRUARY 16—LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION Sister Mary Hughes, OP

# FALL HAPPENINGS

With the Fall of each year comes the sad news that some of our sisters who have lived and ministered among us are now moving on - some to serve elsewhere and others to a well deserved time of retirement: Sisters Rose Caritas Batcho, and Janice Fern, IHM; Jeanne Williams and Sandy Stevens, OSF Teresa Kovac and Jessica Whitman, Fms; Gina Piazza and Anna Eleuteri, MPF; Celeste Mokrzycki, Regina Raphael Smith, SSJ

On October 20, Sisters will enjoy a pleasant day on the Jersey shore at Villa Maria, Stone Harbor. Sister Judith Parsons, IHM will be the presenter for the day.

Sister Judy, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of philosophy at Immaculata University and enjoys sharing her knowledge of the life and works of Edith Stein, a Jewish convert who died at the hands of the Nazi government. The title of Sister's presentation is "Edith Stein: Life, Legacy and



Challenge." The day will begin at 9:30 and end at 2:30 with time to pray and enjoy the beach.

## Rest In Peace . . .

MMS Sister Jean Mouch,  
MMS, M.D. January 1

OP Sister Catherine James  
Hanley (January 29)

OSF Sister Mary Ann Shambo  
(Aston) April 19, 2012

Sister Rita Francis  
Fiefaus

(Aston) May 25

OP Sister Ann Reyes  
(Ossining)  
April 17, 2012

FDNSC Sister Patricia Burns,  
(May 31, 2012)

SSJ Sister Harriet Corrigan  
(July 2012)

DM Sister Gabrielle Gattone  
(August 4, 2012)

*"Those who lead  
others to justice will  
themselves shine like  
stars for all eternity"*



## FINAL VOWS

Sister Stacie Marie Gagnon, FMIHM, professed her final vows at a 10:30 Mass at St. Bridget's parish church in Glassboro. Father Matthew Weber, pastor, presided. The FMIHM sisters serve in 15 different countries on five continents and Sister Stacie will say farewell to her friends and family here in the US to begin her work in Malta where she will be teaching in a large school for girls. We will miss her and wish her well as she begins her new assignment. Congratulations Sister!

## Sister Mary Hughes, OP at the National Press Club



Sister Mary Hughes of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) spoke at a National Press Club luncheon about the LCWR's changing relations with the Vatican.

In April, the Vatican informed

LCWR about alterations the organization will be required to implement. The notice was made at the end of a four-year assessment and detailed the need to remedy perceived conflicts associated with the group's activities and projects. The Vatican expressed the need for reform to guarantee LCWR's commitment to Church teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women's ordination and homosexuality.

LCWR, the largest group for Roman Catholic nuns in the United States, met this month to decide how the organization

should respond to a recent Vatican call for reform. Sister Hughes presented her group's position to reporters and took questions following her speech.

Sister Mary is the immediate past president of LCWR, which represents about 80 percent of the country's 57,000 Catholic sisters.

**On February 16, 2013, Lenten Retreat Day Sister will share with Religious of the Diocese her thoughts on living the vows in today's world.**

## The Franciscan Missionaries of the Infant Jesus

We are the Franciscan Missionaries of the Infant Jesus. Our charism is directed to helping the world to seek out what is good and positive. We strive to give especially to those little ones wounded by family and social situations the tools to rise up and face life with a sense of joy and dignity. For this reason, within the social context of the USA, we are ready to meet the needs of children through education and personal formation and to provide all persons with the means of spiritual and cultural progress. We hope to assist the laity in maturing in the Faith so that they may be enriched with Gospel values in a society which runs the risk of forgetting the values of the Spirit .

In the Diocese of Camden, we are ministering at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Cherry Hill, St. Margaret in Woodbury Heights and St. Michael in Gibbstown. We wish the Savior, born in Bethlehem, to be born in the hearts of all those we serve .







## **DIOCESE OF CAMDEN**

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**We're on the web. Click on  
Diocese –Clergy and  
Religious and then Women  
Religious.**

### **DELEGATE'S MINISTERIAL ROLE**

Maintaining personal files for all women religious in Diocese  
Communicating news and information regarding ministry openings, housing, compensation scale, events for religious and other items of interest

Establishing contact with religious in the diocese through visits and participation in local events/celebrations at residences and ministry sites, including contemplative monasteries

Representing concerns, grievances and questions of individual religious and groups to the appropriate persons when requested, honoring confidentiality

Working collaboratively with the Diocese regarding ministry opportunities

Representing the Diocese through participation in international, national and regional organizations of religious

Planning activities and events relating to women religious

## **.. CELEBRATING 75 YEARS**



The Theme for the 75th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Camden Diocese is "Full of Grace." To further acknowledge Mary's importance in the life of the Church, and our dedication and devotion to our Mother under the title, "The Immaculate Conception, we will join our parishes in a pilgrimage to her national shrine in Washington, D.D. on October 13.

There will be opportunities to prayerfully explore the Basilica, a place rich in history. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and the day will include a concert of sacred music, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, and the procession of parishes and various groups. The day will conclude at 4:PM with the celebration of Mass.

The presence of Women Religious at this event is an opportunity to witness to the vitality of our vowed consecration and to assure the people of God that we remain faithfully at the service of Jesus Christ and his Church. Join with me in making this pilgrimage to honor Mary, Our Mother and to give glory and thanks to God for the blessings bestowed so generously on our diocese. See you on the bus.