Sisters Teach Theology at Georgian Court University

While teaching music at Mount Saint Mary’s Academy in Watchung, NJ, many years ago, Sister Judith Schubert, RSM, substitute taught for an Old Testament class and found her passion, teaching Scripture.

“I do love music, but Scripture is my life. I just love the Bible,” says Sister Judith, a professor of theology who has taught at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ since 1978.

“Many students here have grown up without religious affiliation or knowledge,” says Sister Judith. “But most students know that Noah is identified with the flood. I ask them to stand up, look out the classroom window, and see the world like Noah. That helps them realize that he had a limited scope of the world compared to today’s standards. I help introduce them to the Bible and I try to keep religion relevant.”

Sister Mary-Paula Cancienne, RSM, an assistant professor of theology who has taught at Georgian Court University since 2008, also keeps religion relevant. “Some students come to class saying they don’t believe in God,” she says. “But they only have a child’s understanding of who God is. They have developed their scientific and literary skills over time, but not their spirituality.”

“We want students to develop a more complex wonderment of life, creation, our place in the world, our moral responsibility and joy,” says Sister Mary-Paula. “We also try to enter into non-violent dialogue and figure out how to have a conversation with a person who maybe thinks the exact opposite.”
Dear Friends,

Each year as the warm, muggy days of summer begin to wane, and the first hints of autumn’s beauty and freshness emerge, I recall my days as an educator and school administrator. I remember the feeling of anticipation that accompanied this change of seasons, as I looked forward to preparing for a new school year and engaging new students.

The Sisters in this issue’s “cover story” reflect a similar eagerness in how they relate to today’s young people in their theology classes. Through the Scriptures and theological conversation the Sisters bring their students to a new understanding of God’s place in the events of the world and in their own lives.

Although not always immediately discernible, God’s hand is at work in our world. Unsettling world events and natural disasters here and abroad, continue to dominate the news. Problems with the economy, immigration, healthcare and injustice touch us and those we love.

Even through all of this, we can find glimpses of God’s presence all around us. They include the example of Pope Francis, whose humility and simplicity have helped name him “the world’s pastor”; the generosity and volunteerism witnessed in our Mid-Atlantic area that have emerged in the wake of Hurricane Sandy; and your continued support of Mercy. This support has sustained us through the years, and is crucial to our ministries. Because of it, I feel that together we can look forward to the future with much anticipation of a stronger, more peace-filled world.

Your support, prayers and fidelity to the works of Mercy enable us to encourage young people in their education, including their understanding of God, and to continue to live out our fourth vow, service to the poor, sick and uneducated.

Your partnership and commitment are an inspiration to all of us. Your continued assistance is an example of your dedication to the works of Mercy, which our Founder, Catherine McAuley called “the business of our lives.”

May God continue to bless you and those you love with hope and enthusiasm for the future. May you feel God’s presence in your life each day.

In Mercy,

Sister Patricia Vetrano, RSM
President

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**PRAYER TIME**

In your mercy and love, O Lord, protect your people and come to their aid.

Grant us relief from storms and danger, and bring us calm and moderate weather.

Let us live secure in your peace, that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth and the harvest of your love.

With confidence we make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

– Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family
Making a Difference in Spring Lake

Sisters Margo Kavanaugh, RSM, and Carole MacKenthum, RSM, have both worked at St. Catherine’s School, a K-8th grade school in Spring Lake for 20 years and say they have stayed because education “is the heart of the church.”

“We are reaching the uneducated and raising the level of consciousness for others,” says Sister Carole, who teaches religion at the school. “As Catherine McAuley did, we are responding to people’s needs,” says Sister Margo, the school principal. “And Catherine always had a sense of how to empower people, which is something we try to do.”

The school’s motto is “faith, knowledge, and service,” which the sisters make sure to incorporate into all areas of the school. Students take religion classes and they complete liturgical projects for each season. Every month, each class is also in charge of preparing for liturgy. The youngest students help create prayer services for smaller events. Sister Carole has a rosary faith group with kids and parents, with a fellowship hour afterwards.

“The school day isn’t just 8 to 4,” says Sister Carole. “We reach out to the community and care for them. We also bring food to those who have lost loved ones and visit students who are in the hospital.” “We used to be known as the ‘walking sisters’ but now we’re the ‘driving sisters,’” says Sister Margo. “We are always going to see to the needs of the people.”

Sisters Teach Children, Young Adults, Adults

A commitment to education has been a hallmark of the Sisters of Mercy since their founding in Dublin. Sisters of Mercy from the Mid-Atlantic Community serve in all areas of Catholic education and in the public sector. Sisters serve in parish elementary schools and religious education programs, in diocesan and private secondary schools, in colleges and universities, alternative middle school programs, adult education and literacy programs – any place where there is a need for quality education.
Mercy Matters

On April 20 Sister Percylee Hart, RSM was inducted into the Camden Catholic High School Emerald Hall of Fame for Academics and Arts. This Hall of Fame was founded to promote pride in Camden Catholic HS and to honor alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have made outstanding accomplishments in their communities and their lives. A well-respected educator and school administrator Sister Percylee has devoted herself to Catholic education and has been a principal since 1970.

Sister Mary Philomena Gini, RSM was honored on May 10 during a liturgy at Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill, on her retirement after 39 years in the Guidance Department. She also received a proclamation from the Mayor of Pennsauken and many other presentations to acknowledge her service at the high school and her 60 years as a Sister of Mercy. A beautiful wall collage, highlighting the contributions of the Sisters of Mercy who staffed the school over the past 125 years, was also unveiled during the event.

We are proud to announce that Mount Saint Mary Academy Directress Sister Lisa D. Gambacorto, RSM, Ed.S has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJAIS). She will serve a three-year term on the Board and serve on two committees. NJAIS is a non-profit association whose mission is to foster the educational, ethical, and professional excellence of its member schools, while safeguarding their independence. We congratulate Sister Lisa on this honor.

The Mount Saint Mary Academy Hall of Honor was established in 2006 to recognize and honor life achievements that reflect the Mercy Core Values of justice, respect, compassion, integrity, and service as lived by members of the Mount Community. Sister Kathleen O’Halloran, RSM, Mount graduate, class of 1957, was honored to be inducted into this prestigious Hall on May 18.

Sister Francesca Holly, RSM has retired to Gabriel Hall at Mount Saint Mary. She is working with Sister Judy Ward in Catherine’s Legacy. The transition has been both exciting and happy. Sister says “Life is moving at a very fast pace and I am enjoying my new status with the Sisters of Mercy and my return to the Mount”.

Congratulations to Sister Barbara Williams, RSM who has once again been selected for inclusion in “Who’s Who in America.” This is the 21st consecutive time Sister Barbara has been included -- from the 48th edition in 1994 through the 68th edition for 2014.

Sister Mary Michaelita Popovice, RSM was presented with the Humanitarian Award by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce on April 25. Sister Michaelita is Program Director for the Warren Basic Material Needs program for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen in Phillipsburg, NJ.
Please join us as we celebrate our Annual Mass of Remembrance

Please be with us as we celebrate our annual Mass of Remembrance on November 3rd, at 2:30 PM, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Mount Saint Mary, Watchung.

We hope that all of our friends and benefactors will attend this special Mass, celebrated in memory of our deceased family members, friends and Sisters of Mercy, especially those Sisters who died this past year – Sister Catherine “Kate” McCarthy, Sister Gloria Jean Bateman, Sister Mary Innocent Dolan, Sister Mary Gail Nolan, Sister Marina O’Donnell, Sister Mary deSecours McIntosh, Sister Mary Doris Wiswell, Sister Mary Peter Coakley, Sister Mary Celestine Palz, Sister Mary Daniel Schroeder, Sister Doris Kelly and Sister Mary Edwarda Barry.

Scripture and the writings of the saints remind us of the effectiveness of prayer and the strong bonds that exist between us and our departed family members and friends.

In the writings of St. Ambrose we read:

“We have loved them during life, let us not abandon them, until we have conducted them by our prayer, into the house of the Lord.”

Please use the form below to share with us the names of any persons you would like remembered at this special Mass. The names of those who have passed away since November 1, 2012 will be inscribed in our Book of Remembrance, which will be placed in the Sanctuary during the Mass. Please complete the form, and return it by October 28th in the return envelope provided for your convenience.

You may send in the names of your beloved deceased whether or not you are planning to attend the Mass.

(Following Mass, light refreshments will be available in Mercy Hall.)

Dear Sisters,

Please inscribe in the Book of Remembrance the names of those who have died this past year:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please also remember at Mass: ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Requested by: ____________________________________________________________

I (we) will _____ will not _____ attend the Mass. No. attending _____
In Memoriam

Sister Mary Daniel Schroeder, RSM, died on Friday, March 29, at McAuley Hall Health Care Center in Watchung. Sister served the Lord through her ministry of music and made a lasting impression on many lives. She taught music for many years at St. James School in Woodbridge; Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville; Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung; and Phillipsburg Catholic High School in Phillipsburg. She also served as a pastoral music director and musician in several parishes in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. After retiring, Sister continued her music ministry as a volunteer at Mount Saint Mary and worked on the “Catherine’s Legacy” project until moving to McAuley Hall.
April 27, 1926 - March 29, 2013

Sister Doris Kelly, RSM, (formerly Sister Mary Roland), passed away quietly on April 9, at McAuley Hall Health Care Center in Watchung. Sister Doris entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1944. She taught for more than 45 years throughout the Camden, Trenton, and Metuchen dioceses. Sister Doris was a gifted artist as well as a talented and generous person; her works may be seen in the halls and rooms of many Mercy facilities and in the homes of friends and family.
April 6, 1925 - April 9, 2013

Sister Mary Edwarda Barry, RSM, died on Saturday, July 19, in Watchung. A teacher at St. John, Lambertville; St. John, Collingswood; and St. Mary, South Amboy, she became the first chair of the Sociology Department at Georgian Court College. She worked in Social Concerns, in St. Francis, Metuchen, and was the local leader of the Sisters in St. James, Red Bank. Sister Edwarda was a co-founder of the House of Prayer at Mount Saint Mary, Watchung, a member of the Community Leadership Team, and co-director of the Center for Christian Concerns at Georgian Court. She was also an assistant to the president of the college and currently served as the University Historian. Sister Edwarda loved her Mercy family and was a devoted member of the Barry family.
August 6, 1924 - July 20, 2013

“...Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
Rev 2: 10
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Ms. Lorraine L. Kinsella
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Catherine V. Horan – on the occasion of her 100th Birthday
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Catching Up with Sister Janice Edwards

When I joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1965, Vatican II had just ended and women religious were on the verge of profound transformation. Early in this renewal, God drew me toward the ministry of spirituality and spiritual direction. Offering spiritual direction to others, teaching spirituality courses, and creating spiritual direction practicums have been some of my most excelling ministry adventures.

2012’s, While this book tells the story of the brain surgery I experienced when I was forty-three years old, Love is the Heart narrates experiences of directees, victims of September 11, and tells some personal stories that show how contemplating our pain and joy readily makes us more like God. More information about Wild Dancing: Embraced by Untamed Love, published late in 2012, can be found in the book section of Amazon.com, where it can also be purchased.

Wild Dancing: Embraced by Untamed Love

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Mass of Remembrance
Sunday, November 3rd
Chapel of the Immaculate Conception
Mount Saint Mary
Watchung, NJ