



Eastern American Province

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That all may have LIFE and have it to the full.

HONORING PERE JEAN GAILHAC

By Angelica Hinojosa

Every year, the Extended Family honors Father Gailhac’s zeal and spirit by meeting together and discussing a topic we believe Father Gailhac would find interesting. On November 12, 2016, Catherine Vincie, RSHM, guided us through a discussion of “What is the New Cosmology?”

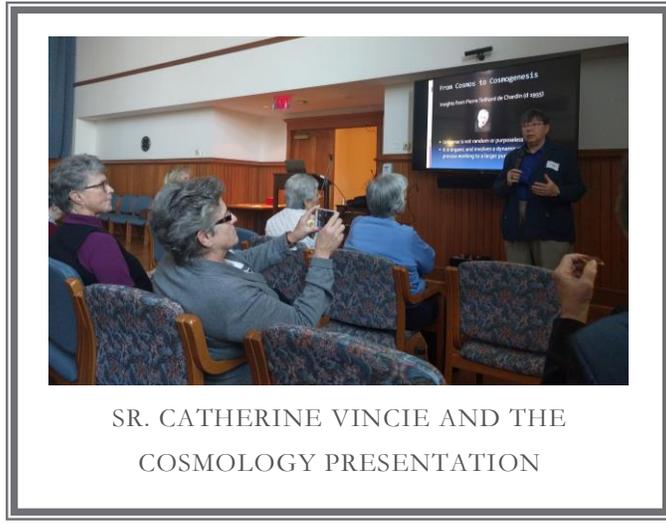
As the author of “Worship and the New Cosmology: Liturgical and Theological Challenges,” Sr. Catherine presented as a gifted scholar who is quite knowledgeable about cosmology. She welcomed everyone to begin



thinking about what can be an overwhelming topic, integrating dialogue about theology and science.

Sr. Catherine took questions from the audience, but more of them were comments that more information, listening, and exploring are needed from the audience members on how the New Cosmology impacts everyday science in our lives. The presentation ended with Mass in Butler Memorial Chapel.

For further reading, Sr. Catherine’s books can be purchased online.



SR. CATHERINE VINCIE AND THE COSMOLOGY PRESENTATION

Our Mission

The SHM-EF embraces all those who desire to share in the spirit and charism of the RSHM and their founder, Jean Gailhac, and foundress, Mere Saint Jean. The RSHM treasure the friendships and associations shared with students, faculties, staffs, families and colleagues over the years. All are invited to participate in the SHM Extended Family, which embraces all who want a deeper understanding of the challenges of the Church today and the RSHM Institute's focus on justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

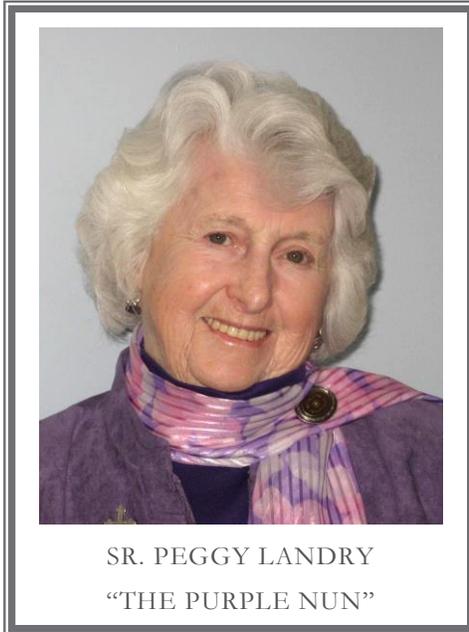
REMEMBERING SR. PEGGY

By Anne Marie Keyes

Sr. Margaret Ann Landry, Margaret, Margaret Ann, Peggy, - Many names, one sterling person! The many places Margaret Ann lived and worked, Farmington, Tarrytown, Arlington, Zimbabwe, New York, California, Stony Brook, - these reflected and became part of the breadth and scope of her life. In each of the places and times Peggy's revealed a strength of understanding, an incredible generosity of spirit. Her understanding and heart were deeply personalized, as witnessed by the many people from so many places who call her "friend" and who revere and mourn her these days.

When I think of Margaret Ann, I think fidelity, faithful to her family, faithful to her God, faithful to all in her life, standing by you and for you, encouraging you and sharing whatever happened in your life, remembering all of us in particular ways, special greetings for Marie, chocolates for Benny, flowers for Annie. She never forgot!

When I think of Margaret Ann, I think communication, not only keeping in touch, family,



SR. PEGGY LANDRY
"THE PURPLE NUN"

brothers, sisters, cousins, nieces and nephews, lifelong friends, sisters in religion, colleagues, students, alumnae, but also connecting people with one another, opening life and love, often in new ways. Peggy was a live connection, a communications center, even before the Internet.

Of course, when any of us thinks of Margaret Ann, we think "purple." As a mutual friend said on learning of Peggy's death, "Margaret Ann will be the only angel with a purple

robe."

And the intelligence, the smarts of Peggy, her love of history and reading; the graciousness of Peggy, the attention to the needs of others, to detail, to beauty, to color. Peggy, always ready and able to rise to any occasion.



SR. PEGGY (3RD FROM LEFT) WITH
EXTENDED FAMILY CORE
COMMUNITY

Her last act speaks volumes, hosting visiting sisters in Lourdes Hall, with a tour and cookies, and then asking for their blessing. Way to go, Peggy! And may you go in peace, in joy, in ever new life!

You have been the "good and faithful servant," You have lived the loyal life! We thank you and we love you!

THE LEGACY OF SR. PEGGY – THE PURPLE NUN

By Annette Cunningham

“Soy tan agradecida” for what I learned last week. Here are some of the things I learned last week: I read one morning that learning one new word in a foreign language each day fosters brain health. How could anybody resist such an optimistic opportunity and challenge? So, as you have read in the headline of this column, the first learning experience I was able to log in on in my trajectory to improved brain health was an expression of gratitude. For the two or three of you who share my woeful lack of proficiency with America's second language that phrase means **“I am so grateful.”**

Let me tell you about some of the other things I learned and which richly deserve to generate gratitude.

I learned that test trains are running up and down the tracks in the Second Avenue Subway. I learned that our national anguish of an endless electoral campaign will presumably end in less than two weeks.

Finally, and most marvelously, I learned that there is such a heroine as “The Purple Nun,” and that she is not the central character in a graphic novel. She was a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary for more than five decades. In a community that takes as its mantra the scriptural promise to work to bring life and bring it more abundantly, it probably shouldn't be surprising to review a chronology that includes service as a teacher, a college administrator, a faculty member of Marymount International School in what was then Umtali, Southern Rhodesia, and one who helped create there the mission school of St. Killian.

On return to the US she once more set out on an unexpected path for more than two decades as counselor and campus minister at Long Island's Stony Brook University, where she could have been remembered as Dr. Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM; DHL upon receiving the University's accolade of Doctor of Humane Letters. Instead though, to most of the scores of students, alumni, and colleagues who traveled to Tarrytown to honor her in a rainy night's Vigil and the next Day's jubilant Mass of Resurrection she was “Sister Peggy or The Purple Nun,” so called for her penchant for unifying her wardrobe around that single color.

Tens of thousands of shares on the linked social media pages of Stony Brook and the RSHM global network celebrated memories of the wise, practical and remarkably generous woman who always made time for the human concerns and aspirations that she respected as of first importance.

In a final commendation at her Funeral Mass at Marymount Convent in Tarrytown, the celebrant suggested that in this painfully fractured political season we might do well to consider that in her light we will come to see how red and blue reach new glory as purple. None better than she to discourage anyone who might consider that miracle impossible. French was the language she taught to students at Marymount School in Arlington, Virginia, but I think she will not object to being the heartfelt Amen! Alleluia! of a story about gratitude headlined “Soy tan agradecida.”

Annette Cunningham's article was previously published on www.womanaroundtown.com.

ANNUAL CORMARIA REREAT IN SEPTEMBER 2016

By Eileen Manning

I had the pleasure of spending a beautiful September weekend at Cormaria Retreat House. Reconnecting with my spiritual roots reawakened my faith in many ways. Sister Ann's warm welcome and inspirational words provided a wonderful base for the spiritual unfolding of the weekend. I was educated by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary at Mother Butler Memorial High School and this weekend reminded me of the embracing qualities of my Catholic faith which was fostered by my teachers at Mother Butler.



I was blessed to be in the care of many angels. Sr. Catherine led us in meditation; Sr. Agnes taught Tai Chi on the Peconic Bay; and Clare Horn miraculously brought all this together.

The Mass on Sunday reminded me of familiar rituals and how embedded my religious roots are within me. I look forward to attending another peaceful, soul-calming weekend retreat at Cormaria.



2017 RSHM JUBILARIANS Renewing Their Commitment to Their Vocation

70 YEARS

SR. FRANCIS OF ASSISI KAY

SR. DENISE OSTERHAUS

60 YEARS

SR. SCHOLASTICA GONZALEZ

SR. ANNE MARIE HILL

SR. CECILE KAVAL

SR. ANN THADDEUS MARINO

SR. BEATRICE MCMAHON

SEPTEMBER RETREAT FROM A SISTER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Catherine Bennett, RSHM



THE PEACEFUL SCENERY OF CORMARIA

Once again we had the semi-annual retreat weekend at Cormaria. We were welcomed on Friday evening by Sr. Ann and were enriched by an excellent DVD by Sr. Joan Chittester, OSB. On Saturday morning we spent time in silent Contemplative Prayer- Meditation, then Tai Chi followed by a delicious breakfast. In the late morning Sr. Ann gave a talk after which we spent some time in quiet. We had a delicious Lunch followed

by some time to rest or sit on the Porch and gaze at the beautiful Bay and watch all the boats. We had time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Andrew Blake followed by Evening Mass at the end of which we had a beautiful ritual of blessing each other. Before Supper we had some wine and cheese and really enjoyed each other's company. In the evening we watched a short DVD on "Gratitude" by Brother David Steindel-Rast which really inspired us. After each of the DVDs we had some time for discussion.



OUR VERY HELPFUL SISTERS

On Sunday morning we had Meditation and Tai Chi again followed by a lovely Brunch. We then had time to say our 'Goodbyes' and to thank the gracious Cormaria Sisters for their loving hospitality.



RETREAT PARTICIPANTS AT BRUNCH

AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

By Andrea Carson

When I was called into my boss's office one Monday morning in October, I was worried that I was in trouble. I've worked at the LIFE Center since September of 2003 and really love the work we do there. I was racking my brain for what I could've done while I took a seat in Sr. Susan Gardella's office. Slightly nervous, we exchanged pleasantries. Then something completely unexpected happened.

I wasn't in trouble, I was being offered an opportunity of a lifetime. Sr. Susan asked if I would like to go to France for a few days to see where the RSHM was founded. I was completely speechless. Would I like to go to France? Who would say no to that? Certainly not me. My only concerns were a lack of valid passport and the fact that I would be travelling with three women I had never met.

A little over two whirlwind weeks later, I found myself in Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris, completely in awe of my surroundings. A slightly scary cab ride later, we pulled up to our hotel. We only had one full day in Paris, so no time for a rest. We freshened up and headed out to see the sights. We saw the Eiffel Tower, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Louvre, and so many others. It was hard to know where to look.

After a day and a half in Paris, we boarded a train to take us to Beziers, in the south of France. We were met in Beziers by Sr. Bernadette McNamara. She took us to Bon Pasteur, our home for the remainder of the trip. After being shown to our room, we had a light snack and headed out to the Mother House, a mere two blocks away. Sr. Therese-Marie Potelle met us

there and introduced us to our companions for the week, a lovely group of people from Carlisle, in the Northern European Province.

The next few days were filled with workshops about spirituality, field trips to different historical sites in the area, especially those relevant to the RSHM. We also had some time to explore Beziers on our own and have some brie and bread in a little cafe or two. At this point, our motley group was sharing experiences and bonding over our mutual desire to continue the RSHM charism and do our part to change the world for the better. It was enlightening to see that the mission we strive to follow in Sleepy Hollow is the same as the NEP was upholding in their city in Northern England.

Just about a week after our departure from New York, we were on our way back. I had lots of time to reflect on our journey. I left France with a renewed fire and the desire to share it with the people around me. It was a wonderful, life changing trip and I thank the community for the wonderful opportunity.



Front row from left to right: Andrea Carson (LIFE Center), Sr. Moria Lever (NEP) and Greg Smith (NEP), Toni Murray (Director of Nursing, Tarrytown) and Donna Cascone, (Tarrytown, Director of Building and Management) and then, Maureen Wilson (NEP) and Clare Horn.
Back row from left to right: Sr. Bernadette MacNamara (NEP), Jean Morton and Eileen and Peter Silvester (All NEP)

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTREGRITY OF CREATION

By Betty Flynn

As the liaison from the Extended Family to the RSHM EAP JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) committee, I have attended several meetings this past year. The focus was on preparation for participation in the Institute-wide JPIC planning meeting taking place in January 2017 in Brazil.

The JPIC Priorities include:

- A. Prophetic Listening
- B. JPIC Spirituality
- C. Partnership with UN Non-Governmental Organizations
- D. Human Rights
- E. Communication

Sr. Virginia Dorgan, EAP JPIC Chairwoman, stated "Our recent Presidential Election raises opportunities for healing, peace-building and standing with the oppressed." She will be sharing the results of the Brazilian JPIC meeting in February.

SITES TO CHECK OUT

By Angelica Hinojosa

<http://www.rshmvolunteers.org/>

Applications are being accepted!

RSHM Co-Coordinators
Susannah Bourbeau & Sr. Mary Heyser
50 Wilson Park Drive
Tarrytown, NY 10591

sbourbeau@rshmeap.org

<http://lifewaynetwork.org/>

April 1

'End Human Trafficking' Conference

May 25

Celebrating 10 Years of LifeWay Network:
Event Towards New Life

<http://www.cormaria.org/support-cormaria.php>

Cormaria offers hospitality to people of all faiths for spiritual and human growth. The staff of Cormaria, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, considers this inclusive hospitality as an expression of their call to celebrate God's love and to make that love known to others. Aware that the Spirit is present when "people come away and rest a while", the mission of Cormaria is to create an atmosphere where the Spirit flourishes for the life and dignity of all. Welcome all!

ANNUAL ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER

By Clare Horn

Approximately 50 RSHM, Extended Family and visitors gathered at Marymount Convent for our Advent Day of Prayer on December 11, 2016 where our day started with Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Senan Taylor, O.F.M. Cap. Senan empowered everyone through his insightful, practical and down to earth homily bringing the gospel to the circumstances of our daily life.

Liturgy was followed by lunch and a time to socialize with the sisters, friends, and visitors. In reviewing the end of day evaluations many highlighted in their remarks the value of our coming together, the conversations and strengthening of relationships, and opportunity to share and ‘catch up’. It was highly valued in giving balance to the day’s activities of Liturgy, prayer and the presentation.

Sr. Margaret Ellen Burke, who presented in the afternoon, is a Sister of Charity from Mt. St. Vincent, NYC. She has worked with the terminally ill and is currently a retreat director and spiritual director. She spoke on “Transformative Hope”.

Sister Burke’s presentation focused on awareness of **hope**, and the importance of our fostering hope and bringing hope to others. She posed two questions to the group: “What gets in the way of my/our being a hopeful people?” “What gives us hope?”

We reflected quietly on these questions and then shared our thoughts in a small group. Many of those present found the topic of hope and its significance and power to be essential to one’s life. Several said they were ‘borrowing hope from everyone’, they found consoling and encouraging the sharing by others of ‘reasons for being hope-filled.’

In taking leave of the day’s activities many remarked that the transforming power of the Spirit was palpable in what we heard and learned from others.

Thank you to the Extended Family Core Committee for organizing the day and preparing a delicious lunch!

Eastern American Province Extended Family Core Committee

Co-Chairs: Mary Heyser, RSHM (mheyser@rshmeap.org) and Clare Horn (horn.clare@gmail.com)

Members: Catherine Bennett, RSHM; Jamie Burke Clark; Betty Flynn; Patricia Healy; Angelica Hinojosa; Francis of Assisi Kay, RSHM; Ursula Mahoney; Marion McGarry; Linda Onorato; Dotsie Ryan-Beck; Maureen Vellon, RSHM; Alberta Wort; Monica Walsh, RSHM; Margaret Ellen Flannelly, RSHM.

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SHM-Extended Family is a publication sent via email. It provides a review of local events in the Eastern American Province. To include others in receiving this email, update your contact information, and/or receive event information, please send an email to SHMEF@rshmeap.org.

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