



Gratitude and Generosity

When we look at the world situation today, we may find it difficult to feel grateful. There is so much violence, natural disasters, poverty and illness in so many places. However, if we seriously ponder more deeply the generosity of God, we might feel otherwise. God has been lavish in creation. Let's take a look around to see the beauty of sunrises and sunsets, the growth and the variety of trees and flowers, the power of the ocean and the refreshing water of lakes. We often move too fast and do not take time to look around. When we think of God's generosity in giving us his Son Jesus to become one of us, showing us God's great compassion in enveloping us with grace and blessings throughout our life, gratitude could well up in our hearts. Let us pause and feel gratitude...

Wondering what I would write about in this column, I realized that I have been reading a book entitled: **The Enduring Heart: Spirituality for the Long Haul** by Wilkie Au. He reflects on how to live with grace and courage when life is difficult. He also suggests that the way of gratitude and generosity are essential for enduring spiritual vitality. He reminds us of the Gospel story of the grateful leper, the one of the ten cured who comes back in **gratitude** to say thank you to Jesus, the Healer. The author also reminds us of the parable of the vineyard owner who hires help all through the day to work in his vineyard. Some people do not appreciate that parable because they think that the owner is unfair in giving all the laborers the same pay. They do not understand that this parable is about the **generosity** of the owner who pays each man, no matter when he began the work day, the same generous salary. The parable is about our lavish and generous God. Our God is loving, kind, merciful and generous to each one of us.

If we make a **habit of gratitude** the reward is inner joy. It could become an attitude of mind and heart. If we **ponder God's generosity** we may be encouraged to do the same, to be generous to those around us, to those in need near or far. Generosity does not always mean giving away lots of money. It can be giving a kind word of encouragement or a smile to someone who looks sad or having a bad day. It can be reaching out to someone who is lonely with a visit, a phone call or a letter. It may mean giving of our time to help in a soup kitchen or pantry, or to volunteer at a hospital or in our parish.

My sense is that gratitude and generosity are closely connected. One will lead to the other. I am grateful for each of you who have read this column through the years and also given generously to our ministries in Africa or to our retirement needs.

Sr. Suzanne Beaudoin, SSCh.



LINKING THE FUTURE TO THE PAST

Having been the first Editor of *THE ANNALS*, I am happy to be invited to contribute an article at this time. Thank you to all our faithful readers over the close-to-thirty years of this publication. May God bestow His blessings upon you and all your loved ones now and in the future.



Sr. Jacqueline Ouellet, SSCh.

The last issue of *ANNALS* described in considerable detail the transitioning of the Sisters from Pleasant Street to Boston Post Road, as well as the distribution of furniture and treasures. An area of interest still in progress at the time was the ARCHIVES, defined by Google as “the repository of the permanently valuable records of an organization.” We certainly could not move our Archives to the General Headquarters in France. Where would this repository be for us, Sisters of St. Chretienne?

Allow me to backtrack. . . to reminisce a bit, in order to give due credit to Sister Ella Blais, who was the first official Archivist of our Province. Sister Ella, after taking courses, and following workshops, organized the documents and other items to be kept for historical interest. In time, a large room at 207 Pleasant Street was designated as the Archives Room. The shelving brought from our Academy at Harrison Road, Salem, provided perfect storage space, and Sister Ella used all required archival material, labeling every box. In short, she accomplished a huge task successfully. In time, many sentimental articles were

placed in the Archives Room for safe-keeping. When Sister Ella transferred to Florida, Sister Constance took on the duties of Archivist.

In 1995, I moved to Marlboro. Among several other services, I took on the Archives, not exactly as Archivist, but more as “Guardian of the Archives.” At least that is the way I saw my role. My responsibility was in large part to maintain and protect what had been so well organized. Also, I was to file in proper boxes whatever new and valuable items crossed my desk. These duties lasted almost two decades. Then, Sister Julie Tremblay volunteered, and was appointed to be the next active Archivist. Membership was declining; but, at that time, there was no indication that our property would be put up for sale. Several years later, we were made aware of the situation which led to moving away from Pleasant Street. What would happen to our Archives?



Sister Julie followed courses and seminars, and inquired about preserving our Archives for posterity. Her research took her to Boston College, where the Jesuits maintain a large Center for Catholic Archives. That was our answer, but much preparation was in order before such a move could happen. There were new rules to be observed. The task appeared overwhelming; so, I was called out of retirement to give a helping hand several days a week. My past experience in the archives, plus my typing skills, proved to be valuable assets. Sister Julie spent innumerable hours to advance the progress of our preparation. Everything underwent scrutiny.

Linking the Future...continued

One area of major interest pertained to our forty-five foundations in the United States. From the very beginning, Journals were kept. There we find the valuable historical facts of our beginnings, and of our growth and service over the years. In some cases, there are several boxes for a single establishment. All of these were reviewed and checked against the original labels, and revisions were made when needed.



Sr. Julie Tremblay, SSCh.

At the workshops and seminars she attended, Sister Julie learned of new techniques and up-dated requirements, which she was quick to implement. Sister Julie was serious and meticulous, developing some areas of record keeping. One major undertaking was to account for every deceased Sister from Europe, Canada, and the United States, who served in the United States since 1903, drawing up a list by family name, religious name, date of Professions, date & place of birth, of arrival in the U.S., of death and burial, and dates of departure as the case may be. This spreadsheet is most informative and valuable. Another important project was to review the present personal files of each deceased Sister. These files include such information as birth, First Communion and Confirmation certificates, a listing of ministries, a record of family history, diplomas, etc. We did a similar set of files for the Sisters who left the Congregation.

Among the *Miscellaneous* items, we have a replica of the original religious habit of the Sisters. There are boxes of obituaries/eulogies of all the deceased Sisters in the Congregation. Included also is information on our Associate Program, a

variety of our Newsletters, reports of Provincial and General Administrations and Chapters, correspondence dating back to Anne Victoire, our Foundress, and to Bishop Jauffret, closely linked to our Foundation. At some point, it occurred to me that we needed to know exactly what would be in Boston. So, I volunteered to compile an INVENTORY, coming up with ten categories. To be sure, the General Archivist in France will receive a copy. The Regional Administration will also keep one in the United States for future reference. There is, of course, a copy to be left at Boston College. The Inventory will serve as a tool for a more effective research of information.



Once all boxes were removed and relocated while waiting to be transferred to Boston, a buyer came



to remove the shelving, leaving another very empty room, and very mixed emotions, such as a sense of loss against a greater sense of gain and gratitude to God for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Chretienne, and for the great history each member leaves behind. We also keep in mind and heart and prayer all the wonderful people we encountered over our years of service.

Sr. Jacqueline Ouellet, SSCh.

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. Alice Fontaine
(Sr. Richard Marie)

March 22, 1921 - November 2, 2021



Sr. Alice was a Pawtucket RI girl who loved her parish, Our Lady of Consolation, and her teachers, the Sisters of St. Chretienne, and felt the Lord calling her to the same vocation. After pronouncing her vows on August 15, 1947 in Giffard PQ, Alice was missioned to

teach junior high at the parish school there for six years. During 62 years, she taught in MA and NH parish schools, becoming the principal at OLC (1986-95). She later taught math in the GED program in Providence where she was very devoted to her adult students. In 2005, at 78, Alice spent several months in Ngara, Tanzania helping our African Sisters with English as they began a ministry among street children there. Even after moving to the retirement community in Marlboro MA, Alice helped in the Sisters' thrift shop. The Lord has now called Alice, so rich in devotion to His people, to share in His glory forever.

Sr. Jeanne Bouchard
(Sr. Marie Lucienne)

July 11, 1931 - January 29, 2022



A native of South Attleboro, Sr. Jeanne loved school and always wanted to be a teacher like the Sisters at Our Lady of Consolation in Pawtucket. In 1950, after professing her first vows in Giffard PQ and a year

of Normal School, Jeanne was missioned to teach at the Academy in Salem MA. She taught for 60+ years in grades 6 - 8 in various parish schools, and spent many years teaching 8th grade at OLC, her alma mater. She was totally dedicated to her students; her classes were the focus of her energies. As her later years were marked by declining health, her prayer life was the center of her days. We pray now that she may watch over the new generation of children in our schools in Africa.

Sr. Marie Therese Ebacher
(Sr. Jeanne de la Croix)

January 26, 1930 - March 13, 2022



Sr. Marie Therese Ebacher from Amesbury MA, was the younger sister of Beatrice and Margaret, both Sisters of St. Chretienne. In 1960, she went to Djibouti, Africa where she witnessed her faith by her teaching, enhancing the dignity of the Somali women and girls in Ali Sabieh, a desert area. Having learned Arabic and studied the Quran, Marie Therese also helped the Bishop of Evry, France set up a diocesan office for Christian/Muslim relations. In recent years, her health declined and she lost the ability to speak. She found other ways to reach out in love, and in turn was loved by all. She now rejoices, fully alive in her Lord's Kingdom of Love.

IN MEMORIAM *continued...*

Sr. Paulette Roy
(Sr. Marie Antoine)

November 12, 1944 - May 4, 2022

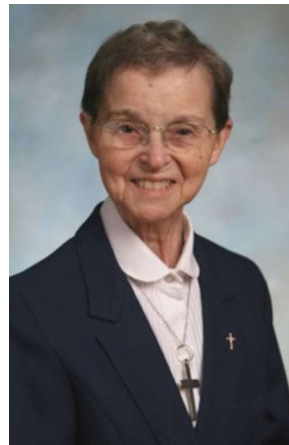


Sr. Paulette generously responded to God's call as a Sister of St. Chretienne. She was given the mission to cook for her Sisters in service to the Cree people in northern Alberta. She loved the lifestyle, so close to nature, and the spirituality. Paulette later served as a phle-

botomy technician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa FL. She had an extraordinary gift for drawing blood from infants. Illness caused Paulette to return to Marlborough in 2014. She remained active, helping as sacristan. On May 4th she was welcomed Home by her Beloved Lord, "Come, Paulette, blessed by my Father; inherit the Kingdom prepared for you...!" (Mt 25:31-46)

Sr. Jeanne Arsenault
(Sr. Marie Rose)

February 7, 1937 - May 26, 2022



Sr. Jeanne Arsenault, from Mexico ME, died on May 26th at Alliance Health at Marie Esther in Marlboro MA. after 67 years of religious life. A teacher for 35 years (Grade 1 thru 4) in parish schools in Amesbury, Salem, Mexico and Rumford ME, Sr.

Jeanne was tiny in stature but enthusiastic in preparing her students for their First Communion. In her later years, Sr. Jeanne led monthly Communion services at the local nursing home, directed the Sisters' bell choir and was "singing Sr. Jeanne" for the little children at our preschool. A gentle spirit, Sr. Jeanne leaves a legacy of kindness and attentiveness to the needs of those around her.

Sr. Lisette Michaud, SSCh.

I am interested in contributing toward the needs and ministries of the Srs. of St. Chretienne

Retirement needs

Nazareth Center in Tanzania, Africa

\$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____

Your concern and interest are vital to us and any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

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ADDRESS _____

Please make checks to: SISTERS OF ST. CHRETIENNE
and mail to: Regional Office, 720 Boston Post Road E, Marlboro, MA 01752

Gratitude to our Benefactors



Alliance Health at Marie Esther was able to purchase at the end of 2021 a large van with grant money and a number of donations. The van can accommodate twelve persons including four wheel chairs. It is being used for leisure outings with the Sisters, for medical appointments and for shopping. In this photo, Sisters are being taught how to access it.



To celebrate certain events, to open the summer season and for special treats, we call for the coming of the Ice Cream Truck. The Sisters always enjoy these treats where they can select their favorite ice cream bar or other treat. Due to the generosity of our benefactors, it happens quite often!

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