



# Spirit Echoings



Painting by Sister Mary Richard Mehelich, SHS

Trust in the  
Lord forever,  
for the Lord God  
is an everlasting  
rock.

(Isaiah 26:4)

## Trust In The Lord

Barely a day goes by that the Lord doesn't invite each of us, in some way, to walk on water: to trust where he calls us to go, the path he sets out for our journey.

Many are the days when each of us takes at least a small, tentative step, in faith, walking on the troubled waters of our lives.

And if we look behind us, each of us will likely see a life's journey in which we've walked on stormy water many times — times in which we've been afraid and started to sink — times when the Lord has helped us make safe passage.

(Homily from Mt. 14:22-33 by Very Rev. Robert F. Guay on August 10, 2014)

# from Sister Grace

## We Are All Bearers of the Gift

We have just completed the lengthy process of publishing our history, *A Quiet Spirit: The History of Sisters of the Holy Spirit of the Diocese of Pittsburgh*. The history of our community as Sisters is a remarkable story of faithfulness, of spirit, of spiritual growth and of selfless service.

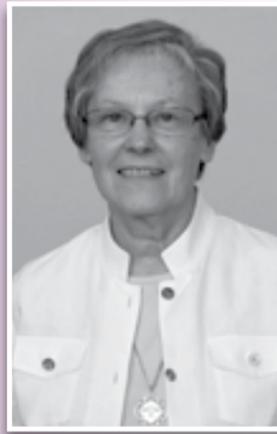
What sustained our pioneer Sisters, what they carried throughout their journey, is their unique gift to us. It is our legacy. We, as individuals and as a community of Sisters, are challenged to discover, to receive and to make it part of who we are, to treasure it, make it that which we give to the world each day and pass on to those who will follow after us.

This spirit that pervades our history weaves in and out of our lives and comes now and then as a whirl wind lifting our hearts and our hopes, then calmly moving us on. It is a quiet peace that speaks loudly. It is

God-borne; it is the Holy Spirit. It is part of our jubilees, our funerals, our days with family and friends, all our celebrations. It is our daily companion and guide - what we have to offer to all in our ministries, our conversations, our contacts.

This past month we celebrated the 50th jubilee of Sr. Madeline Horning and how over the fifty years as a Sister of the Holy Spirit she, faithful to her vows, has touched the hearts and minds of her Sisters, her co-workers, her family and friends. That spirit has taken root in her many years ago and now, alive and elusive as it is, still animates her in her work, in her life.

Just as that "Quiet Spirit" has been passed on to us, we now touch and pass the Great Spirit of peace and love on to you. As it weaves and flows through your life may you gift it to others as you touch their lives.



Sister Grace Fabich, SHS General Superior

"We now touch and pass the Great Spirit of peace and love on to you."

### Holy Ghost High School All Class Reunion, Saturday, October 11, 2014

Graduated or Attended 1941-1983 (Alumnae Only)

Cost: \$50.00  
Tentative Schedule:  
Registration 11:00 AM  
Mass 12:00 PM  
Catered Buffet Dinner

Don't miss this opportunity to renew old friendships and to create new ones!

**For additional details, please contact:**

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For complete schedule and registration, please visit: [www.sistersoftheholyspirit.com](http://www.sistersoftheholyspirit.com).

## Sister Madeline Horning Celebrates 50 Years

A bright sunny day ushered in August 10th as friends and family gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the profession of vows of Sister Madeline Horning. The Motherhouse chapel was beautifully decorated, and strains of "Send Us Your Spirit" rang out as the procession entered for the Eucharistic Liturgy.

The Very Rev. Robert F. Guay, V.E., chaplain at the Motherhouse was the celebrant and homilist. Concelebrating was the Rev. John F. Walsh, Chaplain of Marian Manor Nursing Home, and assisting as altar server was seminarian Paul J. Brandimarti, nephew of Sister Madeline.



Seminarian Paul J. Brandimarti greets his aunt Sister Madeline and Sisters Grace, Madalyn, Cynthia, and Diane.

Sister Madeline, daughter of the late Carl Joseph and Madeline Bernard Horning, grew up in North Canton, Ohio. There she attended St. Paul School where she met the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. She said that it was her eighth grade teacher, Sister Monica, who had a great influence on her becoming a Sister.

During her early assignments, Sister Madeline taught in various schools in the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Youngstown. As the Sisters of the

Holy Spirit were assuming more responsibilities in the health care field, Sister Madeline obtained a Bachelor of Nursing degree from La Roche College. For the past 37 years, Sister has ministered at Marian Manor Nursing Home.

In addition to her role there as a Supervisor, Sister Madeline also serves as a member of the General Council, the governing body of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. Her qualities as a patient, honest, and hardworking person assist her in all those responsibilities.

In his homily, Father Guay quoted Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who once wrote that "the witness, the 'martyrdom' of religious life is generosity, detachment, sacrifice, and self-forgetfulness in order to care for others." Father Guay went on to say, "Sister Madeline, we thank you for being this kind of witness through your commitment to consecrated life. By responding wholeheartedly to your vocation you have been a faithful witness of 'a different way of doing things, of acting, of living.' It is this kind of faithful living out of a religious vocation that has the capacity, as Pope Francis says, 'to wake the world up and thus make the Church attractive.'"

Following the beautiful Eucharistic Liturgy, the Sisters joined the many friends and family of Sister Madeline for a celebration dinner.

In reflecting on her golden jubilee, Sister Madeline had this to say: "I am ever so grateful for the many blessings and opportunities I have had during my fifty years as a Sister of the Holy Spirit." And to Sister Madeline, we add our 'Thank you'; may God continue to grace you with many blessings as you continue to serve others so generously!



Sister Madeline Horning.



Very Rev. Robert Guay and Rev. John F. Walsh

# Sisters Celebrate 75th Jubilee

Friends and the families of Sister Rose and Sister Anne gathered at Marian Manor Nursing Home on April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday, to celebrate one hundred fifty years of service by the jubilarians. Rev. John F. Walsh, chaplain of Marian Manor Nursing home concelebrated the Eucharistic liturgy with the Very Rev. Robert F. Guay, V.E., celebrant. Father Guay is also the Episcopal Vicar of Region One in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the chaplain of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

In his homily at the Jubilee Mass, Father Guay stated: "Each one of us paints a picture of God through our lives and this is often one of the more powerful ways those around us come to know, love and serve the Lord. For by what we say and do we paint for them a picture of God that is real and present. I think it is safe to say that Sister Anne and Sister Rose have been painting a picture of God for others some 90 plus years of life and in a particular way through their 75 years of faithful and dedicated service to consecrated life as a Sister of the Holy Spirit."

## Sister M. Anne Kwitowski SHS – 75th Jubilarian

Sister Anne grew up in Glassport and entered the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. She said, "After having taught for over fifty years, I left that ministry which I had loved to become the Adult Day Care Director at Marian Manor Nursing Home. I later became an Aide in the Alzheimer's Unit. That ministry made me become aware and reflect on compassion, patience, on touch that heals, on listening to another's pain, fears and anxieties, and to approach them with love and concern."

Sister Anne loves to pray. She said that Holy Mass, the Eucharist, daily devotions to the Holy Spirit, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and several saints sustain her enthusiasm and commitment to religious life. Sister Anne is now a resident of Marian Manor Nursing Home.

As Father Guay concluded his homily, he said: "St. Ignatius of Loyola once penned these words, 'Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to Him and if they were to allow his grace to mold them accordingly.' Sister Anne and Sister Rose, we thank you for abandoning yourselves unreservedly for the sake of the kingdom of God and for allowing God's grace to mold you and use you for his divine purpose and plan. We thank you for accepting and responding to the call of God. We thank you for embracing and faithfully living the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. We thank you for 'showing up', as it is said, and being there for Christ and his Church as a Sister of the Holy Spirit."



Sister M. Anne Kwitowski, SHS

## Sister M. Rose Krystopolski SHS – 75th Jubilarian

Sister Rose said that it was very generous of her parents to allow four of their five daughters to enter religious life. They all became members of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

For thirty seven years, Sister Rose taught in various schools in the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and

Youngstown. During those years she also spent ten years as a church organist and five years as a principal at St. Paul School in North Canton, Ohio. Following those years in education, Sister Rose pursued studies and became an LPN. In that capacity, she served at Marian Manor Nursing Home, Holy Spirit Guest Home and at the Motherhouse. She also served at

St. Alexis Manor in Wexford. Marian Manor Nursing Home is now home to Sister Rose in her retirement.

In reflecting on her life as a Sister of the Holy Spirit, Sister Rose stated, "I am grateful for my vocation. What sustains me most in my commitment to the religious life is daily Mass, the Holy Eucharist, and communal prayer. The Holy Spirit is the source of all wisdom, and I rely on the Spirit to help me in all difficulties. He has never failed me."



Sister M. Rose Krystopolski, SHS

"I rely on the Spirit to help me . . . He has never failed me."

## Student Captures Honor



Sister Mary John and Alexander Hill.

Alexander Hill, an eighth-grade student at St. Maria Goretti School in Bloomfield, took second place in the Pittsburgh "Do the Write Thing Challenge."

Alexander was featured in the Spring edition of SPIRIT ECHOINGS as one of the top ten finalists in the competition in which 2158 students from the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Woodland Hills School District, and

the Pittsburgh Diocese Catholic Schools had submitted entries.

Alexander was presented with a Samsung tablet and two tickets to Pittsburgh Steeler and Pirate games. The awards were presented at a dinner in May at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Attending with Alexander were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sean Hill, Sister Mary John Cook, SHS, principal of St. Maria Goretti School, teachers Diane Majchrzak and Linda Attwood, and students Angeline Pho and Cedric Ruffin, each a runner-up in the competition.



Alexander with teacher Diane Majchrzak at Steeler game.

## Canonizations Evoke Memories

Sister Marita, Rev. Benedetto Vaghetto, and then- Pope John Paul II.



With the canonizations of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II on April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday, some of our Sisters recalled opportunities they had to meet Saint John Paul. A number of our Sisters saw the Holy Father during his visit to Philadelphia. At World Youth Day in Ontario, Canada,

Sister Patricia Eleanor Myers and Sister Teresa Baldi were delighted to get a close look at him when he passed by in the Pope mobile. Sister Mary DeChantal Serwinski and Sister Christina Marie Janusek

Wuerl as bishop. Sister Marita's sister, Mary Lou Ramirez, was also pleased to join them for that event. In addition to having ideal seats in St. Peter's Basilica for the ordination, they were also honored to join Bishop Wuerl and a delegation of priests, religious and laity from Pittsburgh for a private audience with the Holy Father.

When the Very Rev. Adam Maida was created a Cardinal in Rome, it was Sister Mary Richard Mehelich and Sister M. Cyrilla Czystuch who were present in Rome to witness then-Bishop Maida receive the red hat from then-Pope John Paul II.

On October 19, 2014, Pope Francis will beatify Pope Paul VI. Following the death of St. John XXIII, it was left to Pope Paul VI to implement the reforms of Vatican II. Sister Marita Juras and Sister Madalyn Chlebowski were students in Rome during the pontificate of Pope Paul VI. They were present at many Masses and events where he presided, and at the conclusion of their time in Rome, they attended an audience where the Holy Father presented them with a special message. May these saintly pontiffs now intercede for us.

had many occasions, including a general audience, to see him during their years of study in Rome. Here in the States, courtesy of television, we were delighted to see Sister Christina Marie at the Christmas Midnight Mass in Rome at which the Holy Father presided.

In 1986, Sister Marita Juras and Sister Mary John Cook were in Rome for the ordination of the Most Rev. Donald



Sister Mary John greets Pope John Paul II as Mary Lou Ramirez and then-Bishop Donald Wuerl look on.

## Community Bids Farewell to Sister M. Cyrilla Czystuch

Although she was quiet and unassuming, Sister Cyrilla served God's people very well.

Stephanie Czystuch entered the Sisters of the Holy Spirit from St. Anthony Parish in Homestead, PA. The daughter of the late Eugene and Mary Ras Czystuch, she was the youngest of their five children. A very devout child, she loved the Holy Eucharist and became a daily communicant, not only during the school years, but even during the summer months. She recalled that her mother would take her with her to Mass. She also enjoyed attending Vesper Service on Sundays, May devotions, and Lenten devotions. During Parish Missions, the crowds were so big that the children were encouraged to stay at home. This Stephanie did, but she held her own devotions. She once wrote, "I would have my own devotions, praying and singing aloud especially hymns from the Polish Hymnal."

Stephanie's father died during the depression and her brother Ted and sister Ann found jobs to help support the family. When they would go out with their friends in the evening, Stephanie would sit with her mother and read to her from religious magazines. Eventually her petition, prayed during the novena to St. Anthony for the grace to enter the convent, resulted in her entering the Sisters of the Holy Ghost.

Sister Cyrilla's early years in education were spent in the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg. She was a dedicated teacher, and her education at Duquesne University, Pitt University, and Mount Mercy College had

prepared her well. Sister Cyrilla went on to teach math at Holy Ghost High School where she won the esteem and affection of the young ladies there. Sister Cyrilla was also greatly involved in forensics and accompanied her students to tournaments where she also served as a judge. Besides belonging to National Forensics and Catholic Forensics, she was also the Moderator for the Mission Society at the high school.

Her love of teaching ended when she was elected to the General Council of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in 1979 where she served as General Secretary and as Assistant General Superior. During that time she also served as House Superior at the Motherhouse where she ministered well to the Motherhouse Sisters. Sister Cyrilla could always be counted on to know the where-a-bouts and the what-a-bouts of community matters. Many documents in our archives carry her signature on them.

Her last years were spent in the ministry of prayer. She closed her eyes in death on June 25, 2014, at Marian Manor Nursing Home.

In a community gathering a few years ago, Sister was presented with the following tribute: "Sister Cyrilla, you build community by your respectful attention to other members, your selfless giving, your gentle, kind and encouraging ways. You are a person of dedication. It is with an ease and a gratefulness that you accept the help offered by others, and you teach us what it means to live a life that embraces simplicity. In the face of illness and life's tragedies you have been a constant reminder of acceptance, calmness and serenity. We thank you."



Sr. Cyrilla at an earlier meeting with Bishop Paul Bradley, former chaplain of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

May her  
dear soul  
now rest  
in eternal  
peace.

## SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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## Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit of Pittsburgh, declare our mission is to be joy-filled disciples of Jesus, prophetically witnessing to the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, aware of our call to work for the transformation of society into a Gospel community, reconciled with God and with one another.

**Is God calling you to religious life?  
Would you like to join us in our work of Love and Joy?**

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