



Spirit Echoings

Pope Francis' Prayer For Peace

**Lord God of peace,
hear our prayer!**

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered, how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

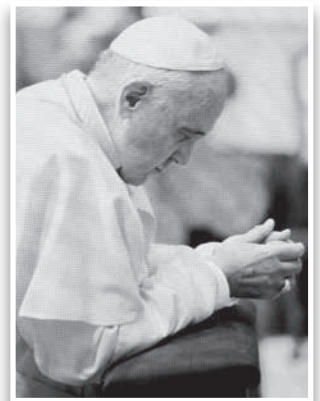
Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace.

Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.



Pope Francis
prays for
peace.

from Sister Diane



Sister Diane Smith, SHS
General Superior

New Life

When I think of spring and April my thoughts are of New Life. Following the weeks of Lent we celebrate the glorious Easter feast of the Lord's Resurrection. It is the season when daffodils bloom, buds burst forth on the trees, and the farmers plow the fields for planting seeds.

Let us take a moment to reflect on our Lord's parable of the sower and the seed. The seed is God's grace and mercy. God generously bestows it on each of us. Am I open to hearing God's word from Scripture and through my daily encounters? Do I accept God's abundant love in my life?

How does one prepare the soil of the vegetable garden or the flower beds for planting?

As I examine my life, I ask, "What kind of soil am I?"

- Have I become dry and hardened, needing the moisture of prayer to let go of anger and grudges?
- Have I become depleted of spiritual nutrients due to excessive distractions that choke out my inner peace?

The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted.

Matthew 13:23

How does one nourish or fertilize the soil for abundant growth and harvest?

- Do I take time to listen for the inspirations of the Holy Spirit?
- Have I tried to participate more fully at Mass?
- Do I spend extra time in quiet prayer, letting the Lord love me?

How does one become fertile ground? The soil of its own cannot do it; it must allow itself to be dug up, tilled, aerated, etc. I must beg our Creator God to remove the weeds and the rocks from my life. The practice of daily prayer is one way to heighten my awareness of those weeds and stones. In this way, the "soil" of my soul is able to absorb the nutrients and receive the seed. The gardener does the work; I only need to offer myself and allow God to love me.

This process takes time. It is through patience that I cultivate resilience and allow the seed of God's love to thrive within me. When I nourish my mind and heart with self-compassion and the Lord's teachings, I can embrace the gradual transformation of any healing and growth that God's love can accomplish in me.

I suggest the reading of the parable of the sower in Matthew's gospel (Matt. 13, vs 4-23). Then a listening in your heart for the Holy Spirit to speak to you and allow God's love to soften the soil of your heart to bring forth whatever growth your soul may need.

Holly Ann Mularski Remembered



Holly Ann

For the past 29 years, Holly graciously served our community as receptionist.

For those who called the Motherhouse, they were greeted with a lovely 'Sisters of the Holy Spirit'. And Holly greeted visitors with the same friendliness and willingness to assist them.

A graduate of Norwin High School, Holly got to know each of our Sisters. Her parents, Regis and Phyllis were pleased when she accepted a position with us.

We were blessed to have Holly with us for so long. She radiated joy to all who came to know her. Holly was gracious, gentle and caring, and everyone who entered our building was guaranteed a smile and a kind word.

Holly died unexpectedly two days before Christmas. She is greatly missed by us, her brothers Gary (Joan), Terry (Margy), Mark (Kathy) and their families. Holly is also greatly missed by our employees.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated by Rev. Leroy DiPietro in our Motherhouse Chapel on February 8.



Holly and
her parents.



Valued Employee Retires

For many years we Sisters of the Holy Spirit have been blessed with the talents and many services with which Bonnie Mayer has gifted us.

Bonnie was hired to assist Sister Grace Fabich, who at that time was community treasurer for the congregation. That was twenty-three years ago. Sister Diane Smith had worked closely with Bonnie for a number of years and praised her for her loyalty, integrity, accuracy, friendliness and willingness to assist wherever needed. She added that a list of her accomplishments would fill volumes since Bonnie graciously assumed many duties, not only in the Motherhouse, but also at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center.

Sister Donna Smith, Administrator of the Center stated: “Bonnie Mayer worked part-time at Martina for all of the seventeen years that I have been here as Administrator. While her formal job description was primarily financial in nature: taking care of the books, and invoices, paying the bills, and doing banking, her actual involvement at the Center went way beyond that over the years.

Bonnie was often the “sunshine” in the day when she was here.

She worked many of our fund-raisers, both in the preparation and at the actual event. Keeping the office in order and getting things done in a timely fashion were among her many skills. She did the filing, proof-reading, and often the typing of thank you’s and other general communications. Jellybeans and dark chocolate were among her favorite snacks, and occasionally we would pause and take a break to enjoy one of those treats. Bonnie was an all-around good and loyal employee and her presence will be greatly missed!”

We wish many happy years in retirement for Bonnie! May God bless her abundantly!

Community Celebrates Jubilarians

October was the setting for honoring three of our Sisters whose combined years as Sisters of the Holy Spirit equal one hundred ninety years. Sisters Grace Fabich and Madalyn Chlebowski each celebrated sixty-five years and Sister Madeline Horning, sixty.



Sister
Madalyn
Chlebowski

Sisters Grace and Madalyn began their apostolic assignments as teachers. Sister Grace went on to serve as school principal. After she left that ministry, she became the treasurer for our congregation. A many-talented person, she served our congregation as council member, then as General Superior when she led the community for eleven years. A highlight of those years was the construction of our new Motherhouse.

Following her teaching appointments, Sister Madalyn was sent to Rome for studies in scripture and theology. Further studies at Fordham University prepared her for her years as novice director, council member, and pastoral minister at Marian Manor Nursing Home. Sister ministered there until it closed. Sister moved to the Motherhouse where today she also provides spiritual direction.

We praise God for the generous offering of the lives of these Sisters as they continue to seek to carry on the mission of Jesus.

While Sister Madeline Horning began as teacher, her talents in caring for others resulted in her becoming a registered nurse. Sister served for forty-eight years at Marian Manor Nursing Home and through its becoming a part of the Vincentian Marian Manor Nursing Home. When those doors were closed on the former Marian Manor campus, Sister retired to the motherhouse where she continues to assist Sisters in accompanying them to doctor appointments and assisting in caring for their needs.



Sister
Grace
Fabich



Sister
Madeline
Horning



Sister
Eleanor as
High School
teacher.

Remembering Sister Eleanor Giuliani, SHS

“While you’re up from the table, would you mind getting the coffee (or dessert, etc.)?”

Sister Eleanor once said that this question that she asked frequently was something that she thought others would like to know about her. And while it became a well-known joke, Sister Eleanor was the first to laugh when she was reminded of it.

This former popular business teacher at Holy Ghost High School (when she was known as Sister Severia), reverted to her baptismal name after Vatican II.

Eleanor Giuliani grew up in Steubenville, Ohio, the daughter of Saveria and Helen Wrlczinski Giuliani. Following her graduation from Steubenville Central Catholic High School, she entered community in 1949. Six years later she professed her final vows as a Sister of the Holy Ghost.

For most of the next 65 years, Sister Eleanor ministered in the field of education. She graduated from Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and became a beloved teacher in schools in Pennsylvania and Ohio: at St. Alphonsus in Wexford, Immaculate

Conception in Bloomfield, St. Clement in Navarre, Ohio, Holy Cross in Glassport, and Holy Ghost Academy and Holy Ghost High School in West View. Loved by her students, Sister Severia could be found as a monitor at their dances, cheering at their basketball games and attending their plays and events. Even after Holy Ghost High School closed, Holy Ghost Alumnae continued to be her faithful and frequent visitors.

In 1970 Sister Eleanor and Sister Mary Lou Witkowski went to the Diocese of Grand Island in Mitchell, Nebraska. There the sisters worked with migrant laborers and with very many poor and elderly people. They visited the people in their homes and also took the census for St. Therese Parish. Sister was deeply moved by the poverty of the people with whom they worked.

Following her teaching ministry, Sister Eleanor began a new ministry at Marian Manor Nursing Facility where, for the first nine years, from July 1991 until 2001, she was the Director of Central Supplies. For the next nine years, she was the co-ordinator for the Essential Oils Aroma Therapy program. Sister Eleanor said that within this time she continued with the Pet Therapy Program with Star, the Manor's Lab dog. In 2007 Sister Eleanor received a Service Award for fifteen years of service at Marian Manor.

While Sister was still ministering at Marian Manor Nursing Facility, her beloved brother Lawrence and only sibling died. Closing the family home and putting all things in order after Lawrence's death was a difficult time for her. She later said:



Eleanor and her brother Lawrence.



Sister Eleanor as 70th jubilarian.

"Abrupt changes in life require strength and perseverance."

Following a hospitalization in 2023, Sister returned to Vincentian Marian Manor; however, this time it was a resident. She later moved to Kane Scott Regional facility where she continued to receive care until her death on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

Sister Eleanor was a lovely and dedicated woman who brought much joy into the lives of many people: her cousins and friends, Holy Ghost High alumnae, and the Sisters of the Holy Spirit with whom she holds a special place in their hearts.

May God now grant her eternal rest, happiness and peace. Rest well, Sister Eleanor. We will miss you.

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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?**

Contact Sisters of the Holy Spirit - Vocations Office

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