



Spirit Echoings

Saint Michael Defend Us

In 1884, Pope Leo XIII had an alarming vision showing God and Satan in conversation. Satan was boasting that he could destroy the Church if given time and power. God granted him a century to test the Church. This happened 33 years to the day of the final vision of our Blessed Lady at Fatima on Oct. 13, 1917. Pope Leo foresaw our troubled times and urged us to pray the rosary. In 1886 he gave us the Prayer to St. Michael to be recited after Masses. Today we pray:



*Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.*

*Be our protection against the wickedness and
snares of the devil. May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray; and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who
prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*

from Sister Diane



Sister Diane Smith, SHS
General Superior

You Are Precious

Do you hear God saying to you, **"You are precious!"** Can you open your heart to hear and feel that unconditional love? Take time to let God love you. Take those few moments throughout the day to realize that God wants to be with you at all times.

So often we think that we are not worthy of God's attention. Perhaps we think, "I'm not good enough." What happens as we allow God's deep love permeate our lives?

- Although our daily struggles will still be with us, we feel more at peace within.
- When we are confronted with negative attitudes from others, we can know that those words do not define our value – God loves us as we are. God does not reject us.

- As we grow in that inner peace we also experience more joy and tend to be more gentle in our interactions with others.
- God fills us with renewed hope, knowing we can move beyond our past failures.

God does not promise us a life without pain, but God promises to walk with us through the difficulties of daily life. We can hold on to this assurance: God is with us and knows us by name. Let God love you and see what happens in your life.

*"Because you are precious in my eyes,
because you are honored,
and I love you....
Do not be afraid for I am with you."*

Isaiah 43:4

You, our special friends, are in our thoughts and in our daily prayers.



Sisters Elect Leaders

Installation of
General Council

Every four years a Chapter of Elections is held to elect Sisters who will govern for the next four years.

May 29, 2026 was the date selected for the election of the General Superior. Sister Diane Smith, who had served for the past four years, was re-elected. According to our Constitutions and since we are a diocesan congregation, the local bishop is to preside over the election of the General Superior. However, since Bishop Mark Eckman was unable to do so, he appointed Sister Mindy Welding, Delegate for Religious, to preside over this election.

On Saturday, May 30, four Councilors were elected to assist Sister Diane in managing the affairs of the

congregation. Sister Diane presided over that election. The four Sisters elected that day were Sr. Donna Smith, Sr. Cindy Ann Kibler, Sr. Cynthia Wessel, and Sr. Madeline Horning.

The Eucharistic Liturgy on Sunday, July 12, was celebrated by the Most Rev. William J. Waltersheid. After the homily, Sister Diane and Council members approached the altar for the Installation Ceremony. The bishop handed Sister Diane the Congregation's Seal, and he greeted each Sister, encouraging each in her role of service. The community was invited to pray for and support their leaders. Sister Diane then spoke briefly to the congregation.



Sister Anna
Marie Gaglia,
CSJ

Life in the Spirit

When God inspires the foundation of religious groups within the Church, they are entrusted with a certain charism, a certain gift they are called to share.

As for Sisters of the Holy Spirit, our lives are dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 8 of Saint Paul's letter to the Romans, and his letter to the Galatians 5:22-23 point out the assistance that the Holy Spirit gives to one who is seeking to live a Christian life according to the direction and under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

It is a beautiful thing to realize that the Holy Spirit can help us to love, forgive, and accomplish whatever we could not do on our own.



Sisters Marie,
Grace, and
Madalyn



Sister
Mary Ann

Sisters Cynthia,
Janelle, Patricia
Eleanor, and
Mary Lou
(standing)





Sisters
Mary John
and Donna



Sister
Diane

For this reason, every four years our congregation holds a General Chapter for us to, among other things, review our lives in the Holy Spirit, seeking always to carry out the mission entrusted to us. Prior to this Chapter, many meetings were held for the entire congregation. Once the General Chapter began, the delegates to the Chapter became the highest authority in the congregation, supplanting that of the General Administrators.

Nearly a year of preparation was held in anticipation of this General Chapter. Sister Anna Marie Gaglia, CSJ, assisted our congregation in its preparation, and she presided over

the Chapter meetings which took place during several weekends. Our congregation is grateful for Sister Anna Marie's expertise and wonderful leadership

At the conclusion of the Chapter, decisions of the Chapter meetings were approved. These become the mandate for the General Superior and Council to implement throughout the next four years.



A little break after
so much work.



Sisters Donna,
Madeline, and
Norma

Alumnae Reminisce



From time to time, HGHS alumnae visit the Sisters here at our Motherhouse.

Recently the Class of 1971 (above) was celebrating their 55th reunion. Only two of their former teachers are still living: Sister Bridget Miller and Sister Marita Juras.



Rev. Walter
Mahler



Sister
Grace

When Sister Marita asked the ladies to recall some of their happy moments in high school, they readily came up with the following:

- Mrs. Berg's spaghetti (Yummy)
- Field trips
- Readers Theatre
- Broadway Reviews
- Forensic Tournaments
- Glee Club –Hallelujah Chorus
- Glee Club – Broadway Reviews
- Church songs
- The Chapel
- Getting Male teachers
- Basketball games
- Dodge Ball with Monica



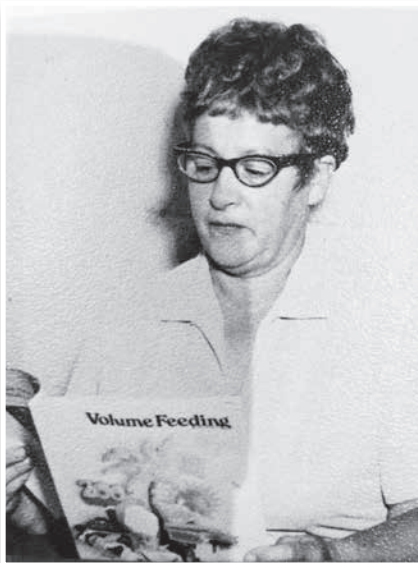
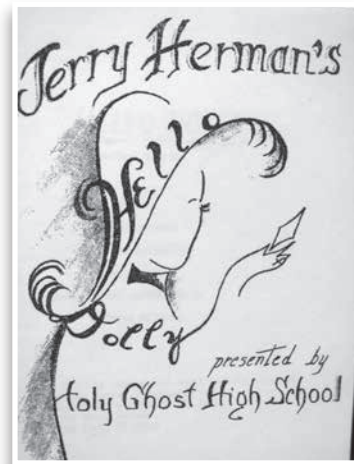
Sister
Bridget

The visit was spent in looking at pictures and recalling many happy memories. These pages show some of that afternoon's experience.

Sister Marita



Mr. John Gould with drama club



Mrs. Berg

Motherhouse Chapel



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General Superior

Sister Donna Smith, SHS

Assistant General Superior

Sister Cindy Ann Kibler, SHS

General Councilor

Sister Cynthia Wessel, SHS

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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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