

TEL-A-CROSS



Sisters of Holy Cross Newsletter

Winter / Spring 2020

25 YEARS AGO

by Sr. Thérèse Martin, CSC



Sr. Jacqueline Delage
Director for the first ten years.



Sr. Pauline Morneau
25 years as Editor of the
Tel-A-Cross.



Sr. Suzanne Levesque
Administrative Assistant
for 25 years.



Sr. Jacqueline Brodeur
Director for the past fifteen years.

The Development Office of the Sisters of Holy Cross is 25 years old! It was opened by Sr. Jacqueline Delage who did an excellent job as its first Director for ten years; Sr. Jacqueline Brodeur followed wonderfully in her footsteps and has been Director for 15 years; Sr. Suzanne Levesque, its very capable Operations Assistant has been in the Development Office for 25 years and still counting! Yes, the Development Office is celebrating 25 years of existence.

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But who are we celebrating today? Who has, in fact, made possible the success of the endeavor? To whom do we owe the results of so very many of our development projects this last quarter of a century? It is to YOU: you, the former students, the families, the friends of the Sisters of Holy Cross of the U.S. Sector! We are celebrating first and foremost today your kindness, your generosity, your faithfulness, your contributions, your support your collaboration, your prayers, your gifts, your friendship, your loyalty, your goodness, your presence, and your love. We would like to "TELL ACROSS" the entire group, the many, many hundreds of wonderful people you are and how proud we are to know you and how grateful we are for the essential part you have played in our development.

The Development Office came to be 25 years ago, yes. But it did not simply "come out of the blue". The spark that ignited the fire of its creation came from the heart and mind of Sr. Pauline Morneau. Fanning that flame were the generous leadership gifts of Sr. Lucille Cantin and her team. The mission was clear: finding ways to sustain a quality of life that would make meaningful mission still possible for those Sisters of Holy Cross transi-

tioning into their elder years and needing new services and accommodations for this new phase of life. Through the years, the Development Office made appeals in line with particular projects very much connected to its mission. And when it did, it is YOU, our former students, families and friends who furnished the logs that helped keep that fire of mission burning bright in our elder years. Have you seen our beautiful green space; the chairs in our chapel; the new roof and windows at the Health Center; the elevator at the back entrance of the Manor; the now handicap-accessible front entrance; the minibus: etc. etc. ...?



And for 25 years, we have continued thanking God for you, staying in touch with you, praying for your intentions, offering a special Mass each month for all of you. We have continued to "TELL ACROSS" the entire Holy Cross Congregation of your goodness and great generosity. Today, through this Silver Jubilee of "Tel-A-Cross" we celebrate with you these 25 years of mission of the Development Office and thank the Giver of all Good Gifts for calling us together, to do this "Work of Resurrection".

In Loving Memory

**Sr. Rena Gagnon, CSC
(Sr. Mary Reina)
December 20, 1922 - July 2, 2019**



Sr. Rena was raised in Frenchville, Maine. Early in life she chose to enter the Sisters of Holy Cross and served them with a smile for 80 years.

She was associated with the Manchester Alliance, a fundraising group of the Sisters of Holy Cross. The Tuesday night Bingos raised enough money to pay for the building of Holy Cross Hall. Her smile and warmth were gifts to many. Among the many who loved her, was her true friend Pauline Lavoie. Side by side they worked and prayed together through the years. They encouraged people to come and enjoy the gardens of flowers and, yes, the bingos. People would come all over to take pictures of her large sunflowers.

For many years Sr. Rena labored quietly ironing the caps to be worn by the Sisters. She loved to have the young Sisters come and watch her as she accomplished this endless task. . .

All were touched by her hospitality and genuine holiness.

Sr. Therese Poirier, CSC
(Sr. Mary Helen of Jesus)
May 24, 1923-September 1, 2019



Sister Therese Poirier was born in Manchester, NH in 1923 and entered the community in 1944. She served the community for 75 years.

Her many talents were a gift to all her knew her. She taught piano in Canada, in Suncook and Rochester, NH and New Bedford, MA. She assisted the community Treasurer and was always dedicated to many responsibilities. We all remember her caring heart, sense of humor and who she was, always dedicated to the many responsibilities entrusted to her. She had a great love for her sisters Cecile and Rita. She will be greatly missed by all.

Sr. Rachel Labonville, CSC
(Sr. Mary Lydia of the Sacred Heart)
March 26, 1943– September 2, 2019



Sister Rachel was born in Manchester, NH. After the death of her mother, she was adopted by her grandparents. She entered the Sisters of Holy Cross in 1961 and served the Congregation for 58 years.

She taught in St. Albans, VT, and in NH in Newmarket, Manchester, Nashua and Jaffrey. She became Director of Religious Education in Keene and Massachusetts in Peabody and Lakeville.

Sr. Rachel loved life. For years she had a frame which read "Take Time". Truly her life was about taking time to think, for it's the source of power. Take time to play, read, be friendly, laugh and do charity. Take time to give, because it's too short a day to be selfish, time to love because it is a God-given privilege. She always had a beautiful smile that brought warmth to everyone.

Sr. Marie Jalbert, CSC
July 17, 1950 - September 21, 2019



Sr. Marie was born in Springfield, MA. Before entering the Sisters of Holy Cross she served in the U.S. Air Force as a medic during the Vietnam War. She then entered the Sisters of Holy Cross where she served the Congregation for 46 years.

Sr. Marie served 38 years in Canada where she missioned as a Liturgy Coordinator, Pastoral Associate and Auditor for the Diocese of St. Boniface Marriage Tribunal. She then came to NH and was of service to the Sisters and residents at St. George Manor, Manchester.

Sr. Marie was a very talented and giving person. She was artistic, had a wonderful smile and always willing to lend a helping hand wherever needed. Sr. Marie's presence is greatly missed.

Sr. Lorraine Doucet, CSC
(Sr. Mary Lucien of the Cross)
May 15, 1938 - February 4, 2020



Sr. Lorraine died on February 4, at the age of 81. She was born in Manchester, the daughter of Lucien and Lorette (Lemay) Doucet. She entered the Congregation in 1961.

She was a Junior High School teacher in NH and Connecticut. Sister then went to Notre Dame College as an Associate Professor of Biology. She received her PHD from Clark University in Worcester, MA. She returned to Notre Dame College as an Associate Professor of Biology and was later named Chair and Professor of that department.

In 1986 she was hired by UNHM as Associate Professor of Biology, Laboratory Supervisor and Environmental Safety Supervisor. In 2000 she received the Dean's Award from UNH in recognition of her excellent service to the Greater Manchester Community and UNH. She remained at the University until her retirement in 2012.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

SISTERS OF HOLY CROSS COMMIT TO OFFSET CLIMATE CHANGE

by Sr. Denise Turcotte, CSC



Fr. Basile Moreau, founder of the Family of Holy Cross

How You Can Help Reduce the Carbon Footprint

In the Encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis stated that "Climate Change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political. It is one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." For people of faith, response to this crisis is not an "option"; it is a matter of justice and solidarity.

In 2010, the **Family of Holy Cross** took action: we made a joint commitment which includes:

- resisting the culture of consumerism and foster models of development that respect the rights of the whole Earth Community.
- ensuring that ecological sustainability is integral to our congregational planning, and practices.



In 2013, these children from Milot, Haiti, planted trees funded by our Carbon Footprint fund.



2019, Sr. Minouse Blais shows how the trees have grown

What is the Carbon Footprint Fund? By driving, flying, heating our homes, we generate carbon dioxide which, along with methane, contribute to the greenhouse gases which impact Earth. We, Sisters of Holy Cross, calculate our emissions for travel and place the money into a *Carbon Footprint Fund* to support grants.



Sr. Françoise Savoie, Tacna, Peru
Let the Sun heat the water for you.

Since 2013, we have funded 13 projects which educate and mitigate against climate change: planting trees, vegetable gardens, creatively educating adults, school children in various countries: Peru, Haiti, Canada, Africa. Our Manchester "Green Space is such a project and was realized with the help of various donors.

Would you like to help us fund more projects? You can calculate your carbon footprint when flying across country, driving on

long or short trips, or simply donating a chosen amount to:

Holy Cross Development Office, 365 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH, 03109.
Indicate if it for the Carbon Footprint Fund. Thank you.

Read about other activities the Family of Holy Cross has taken: *Tending the Tree of Life: Voices from Holy Cross. www.holycrossjustice.org/resources.*

Mass is celebrated on the 26th of each month for you, our benefactors.

Contributing Editor:
Pauline Morneau, CSC



Layout/Photography:
Suzanne Levesque, CSC



LIFE BEYOND THE 80's

The Constitutions of the Sisters of Holy Cross state that a sister of Holy Cross is **on mission until she dies**.

Some of our Sisters who are in their 80's and are still in fairly good health are able to be out doing some ministry for others. We would like to highlight 3 in this issue of Tel-A-Cross.

Sr. Germaine Goyette, CSC

(Rose Germaine)

by Sr. Elaine Poitras, CSC



If you've ever asked yourself, "what do Sisters do when they retire?", let us enlighten you or maybe even inspire you. Meet Sister Germaine Goyette, a life-long educator who, is **91** years old, resides at Holy Cross Health Center. While devoted and faithful to her ministry of prayer Sister has not yet fully "retired" from her ministry of education, a call that continues to engage her from the depths of her heart and soul. Sister is currently tutoring an African priest who, while he speaks English, depends on Sister Germaine to assist him with proper pronunciation. She also tutors a woman, a native

of France, to improve her English and speak it more effectively.

Sister spends hours each week preparing for these 2 weekly sessions. It's difficult, isn't it, not be amazed and inspired by such genuine commitment to the mission?

Sr. Jeannette Landreville, CSC

(Dorothy, Martyr)

by Sr. Claire Thornton, CSC



Sr. Jeannette Landreville is a vivacious, energetic, and cheerful individual who, at 89 years old, continues to teach religion and sacramental preparation classes to the children at St. Catherine School in Manchester, NH. She often says that the children give her life, and that she, in turn, gives them a love learning. She is an excellent teacher who knows how to deliver the content for understanding, how to correlate it with "real" life examples, and how to make learning enjoyable.

Sr. Jeannette often tutors young children who are struggling with reading. She is patient, understanding, and generous in giving of her time and attention. Sr. Jeannette's techniques have always been very effective and she shares their joy when they succeed. Experiencing that "a-ha" moment for

a teacher is priceless.

When she is not in the classroom, she visits the elderly and the sick of the parish. She brings them a smile, positive energy, and hope. Sometimes, she even brings them some of her home-made fudge. That makes everyone's day!

Her energy never ends. Sr. Jeannette begins her day early and never goes to bed early. She finds time to help others, listen to the events of their days, finishes tasks with enthusiasm, and shares a story or a joke along the way. She is a faith-filled, joyful encouraging, and compassionate woman.

May Sr. Jeannette continue to live life with such vitality!

Sr. Norma Comeau, CSC
(Sr. Alice-Louise)
By Sr. Jeanne Boucher, CSC



I would like to tell you about Sr. Norma Comeau who, in her early childhood, always desired to be a teacher. When she entered the Sisters of Holy Cross, her dream became a reality. She taught in several schools staffed by the Sisters of Holy cross. When Holy Cross Family Life Center opened, she felt called to join the staff and has taught there for 8 years. Monday and Wednesday mornings come early at 5:45 a.m. in order to be ready for her classes at HCFLC.

When asked how the day went, she is always eager to share on how much her students are energized and how much she is energized as well. It's inspiring to hear their stories of success, and sometimes misery, because of the situations they have survived in their countries. Most of her students are professionals in their own right and on their own merit. Doctors, economists, journalist and reporters who arrived here with college and master's degrees. They come from Rwanda, Kurdistan, Columbia, Brazil, Serbia and Haiti.

She enjoys interacting with these students and learning about their cultures, customs and countries. It's amazing to read their compositions in September and to see the progress they have made since then. All they desire is to learn.

Dealing with advanced students is a challenge, and she is always ready to perk up to the challenge. She spends hours on the computer preparing work for her next sessions. She arrives home not tired but refreshed. She'll often say, "They give me much more than I give them, but they don't know this." Sr. Norma at the age of 88, appreciates their fresh young minds, their great appreciation for their teachers. I asked why they called her "teacher". It appears that it's a name of high respect, as close to calling their teachers mother.



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- Carole Marcotte
- Dorothy Bates
- Irene Ricard, CSC
- Aurelia Bellerose, CSC
- Betty Kudrich
- Rachel Labonville, CSC
- Alice Ferland, hca
- Lamarre Family
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- Mauréen A. Krzanowski
- Arthur & Virginia Delage
- Adrien & Claire Hotte
- Gerard Migneault

Send a donation to the Development Fund in memory of a loved one who has been called home to God? Put a notice in the paper suggesting that friends of the deceased do the same. Your loved one will be included in the daily prayers of The Sisters of Holy Cross.

Why Not . . .

Memorials