



DMJlink

Daughters of Mary and Joseph • California Region • Spring/Summer 2019

Celebrating 25 Years!



Ours is a ministry of prayer, hospitality and service.

Our center is here—

where light receives light and flows from light.

Spring/Summer 2019

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DMJlink Logo

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DMJlink is a publication of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. It has a twofold purpose:

- to inform its members of the involvement of our Sisters in mission and ministry;
- to acknowledge the generosity of our donors.

All material submitted for the DMJlink is subject to revision and/or editing.

Editorial Policy:

The mailing list for the DMJlink is **not** made available to any outside business firm or organization.

TAKEN FROM THE PRAYER SERVICE
CELEBRATING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE MARIAN RESIDENCE...
AND THE WOMEN OF FAITH
WHO CAME TOGETHER
TO BECOME A NEW COMMUNITY.
AS PART OF THE SERVICE,
THE NEW RESIDENTS STATED:

Ours is a ministry of prayer,
hospitality and service.

Our center is here
where light receives light
and flows from light.

Our home is Marian Residence-House of Light.

We look forward to future comings together
to celebrate one another...

our region...
and the life of the Church.

O Welcoming God, God of our hearts,
who hears our prayer,
help us to believe in beginnings,
to make a good beginning,
to be a beginning,
so that we may not just grow old,
but grow new each day
of this wild, amazing life you call us to live
with the passion of Jesus Christ. Amen



Spring, 2019



Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Joyful greetings of Easter and spring to each one of you! May God's promise of New Life bless and renew you! In some ways, it seems strange to be writing about joyful greetings and new life when daily we are surrounded by so much tragic and negative news and events. But this is exactly why the hopeful message of Easter is so important for us, that even in our darkest moments, we know that the rays of light of God's promise of new life are present, to transcend and to transform our lives.

For us in California, God has blessed us with such a transformation. After months of fires, followed by days and weeks of sometimes destructive rain, what a glorious introduction to the beauty of spring we've enjoyed in the flamboyant "super bloom" of wild flowers, cascading all over our hill-sides and valleys in a riot of unbelievable colors!! Who could believe that out of all of that destruction and pain such an abundance of new life and joy could erupt?!! And this is how God works in our lives, maybe in less spectacular ways, of transforming us in new and unexpected ways. With every act of kindness, every act of forgiveness, every act of love—given and received—our lives are transformed and we make present God's promise of new life.

With this edition of DMJ Link, we gratefully share with you a transformation that has taken place with the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, which began more than 25 years ago. All of you have been, and continue to be, a part of this. For, this year we are marking the 25th anniversary of our retirement center: Marian Residence. Without your support, generosity and hard work, we would not be celebrating this anniversary!

It is one thing to have a vision, but quite another thing to make that vision a reality! Marian Residence is the result of the extraordinary generosity of so many people: friends of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, past students, new friends who volunteered with the Golf Tournaments and friends who welcomed us when we visited their schools. You planned with us, worked with us, and especially prayed with us, that we would be able to provide a retirement center for our Sisters. And so we have!!

To focus on our 25th Anniversary, this edition of DMJ Link highlights some events of the beginnings of Marian Residence. We have also asked the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, who are currently living here "on the hill", to share what being a member of the Marian Residence community means to them.

Over the years many Daughters of Mary and Joseph have been blessed to live their remaining years in the beauty and peace of this gift you have provided for us. Each day, as we pass by our Donor Wall on our way to Chapel and as we read from our Donor Remembrance Book, we are reminded of each person who has shared, and continues to share, in the building and maintenance of Marian Residence. Each day, the Daughters of Mary and Joseph pray for each one of you.

Thank you. May God continue to bless each of you in all ways.

The Daughters of Mary and Joseph

Marian Residence

1994-2019

A recurring topic of conversation among our DMJ Sisters in the '80s centered around the question of retirement. A large majority of us were leaving behind the blessings of an energetic youth, and the awareness of the practical consequences of this reality stimulated local and congregational discussions. Province leadership became involved in a program organized by several congregations of Sisters in the Los Angeles Archdiocese, seeking answers to the same question of retirement. This was known as CPAR – Collaborative Project for Aging Religious. CPAR arranged ongoing conferences on Aging covering the multi-faceted realities of Loss, Grief, Death and Dying, Finding Meaning in our Elder Years, Life Review, Contemplative Spirituality, to name a few.



The idea for an intercongregational retirement center, large enough to house a few hundred elders, was one topic under consideration. It would meet the needs of the varying stages of aging – independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing. Much research went into this venture; numerous meetings and consultation ensued. Eventually this idea was dropped as it became clear that each congregation preferred its own center.

The DMJs examined various means to address the need for a retirement center. The movement from active ministry to “retirement” was new. Sisters had spent 40, 50, even 60 years in ministry. Questions were asked – “How can we continue to be involved in ministry in our retirement?” “Where will we build a center that keeps us involved in the local church?” The awareness that we continue to live according to our charism of being Instruments of Mercy in every phase of our lives, took on deeper significance. The question of living where the Sisters had access to the beauty of nature was also important. Since such a spot was available here in Palos Verdes, the decision was made to build Marian Residence ‘on the hill’.

A capital campaign was launched in 1990 under the direction of Sister Sheila Lynch, along with the establishment of a building committee comprised of Sisters Mary Anne Peterson, Mary Christina Punch and Jean King, with Bill Bowler as Construction Advisor and Client Representative with all personnel connected with this new building project. Later, as the residence took shape and furnishings were discussed, Theresa Reilly was hired as the interior decorator.



Looking back on the activity of this period in our story, one is struck by the vitality and excitement of the campaign and building committee. Golf tournaments were a strong feature of the campaign, with Sisters and the Golf Committee raring to go at each event. Some Sisters even played in the tournament! Concentrated work and fun brought the building project to completion in 1994.

MOVING IN...

The first community of 8 sisters moved into Marian Residence on December 12, 1994, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sister Margaret Haller was appointed Director.



From this new experience of our elder sisters forming community together, a distinctive culture emerged setting the tone for a focused way of life in retirement. In keeping with our Founder's wishes for his congregation, Marian Residence was to be a place where the prayer life of the Sisters embraced the concerns of so-



*Thank you very much and may God bless you.
 Sister Mary Signatus Sister Mary Patricia
 Sister Mary Anne Sister Mary Aidan Sr. Mary Dolores
 Sister Sheila Haller Sister Mary Agnieszka Sr. Anne Margaret*

society and the world, with a special remembrance of all who were responsible for making the dream of the retirement center come true. This, along with the spirit of hospitality and inclusion continues to be the hallmark of Marian Residence today.

As is normal, aging poses numerous and challenging questions. As time went on, varying degrees of wellness among the elders called for adjustments in the day-to-day care of the Sisters. This came as no surprise since all of us were aware of the same phenomenon happening in the lives of our own families and friends. To help our leadership address this new reality, Sue Nowinski, RN, was hired as Health Care Coordinator for the Province. Eventually some Sisters, whose health needs were beyond the scope of Marian Residence, moved to Nazareth House or similar facilities. While we recognize that this is never an easy decision for the individual Sister and the community, being realistic - we know that it places us in solidarity with the vast majority of elders in our society. We are grateful for God's constant caring for us and the gift of our faith.

For 25 years, Marian Residence has been home to over thirty Daughters of Mary and Joseph. Also, many Sisters have come to us on a temporary basis to recuperate after surgery or other health procedures. Our dedicated Staff has become "almost family". They have accompanied us through the various stages of elder years and mourned with us at the time of death. But death does not have the last word! Our liturgies remind us that life is changed, not ended. In this Paschal Season of Resurrection and Christ's sudden appearances along the journey, we see that we too are surprised by God's faithful presence every day. Alleluia!

Now let us meet some of the residents as they talk about their own experiences living at Marian Residence.



The Privilege of Being Retired

By Sr. Mary Angela O'Connor

*I am retired from teaching at last,
and I am really having a blast!
When I was young I loved to teach,
but now that privilege is out of reach.*

*Gone are the days when I got up at six,
but now my rising hours I can fix.
I am free to get up whenever I please,
and for being a "lazy bones" nobody will tease.*

*I am never bored as I have a lot to do,
including praying, reading, and composing poetry too.
At the age of ninety, I feel energetic and good,
and I get up when I feel I should.*

Sister Barbara Teresa Wright

For over ten years now, I have been fortunate to live at the DMJ Marian Retirement Home in the quiet, safe, and beautiful city of Rancho Palos Verdes. Living here is quite a change from the many places I used to live. From San Francisco to Culver City to Mexico, I have been lucky enough to meet many wonderful people. I was a school teacher for students of various ages. I particularly enjoyed teaching music and art classes, as I was able to reach many of my students through a creative and artistic curriculum.

In Mexico, I worked at two orphanages where I helped make a difference in the lives of many underserved families. While I miss teaching students and the work I did in Mexico, I have found new ways at Marian Residence to relax and to enjoy retirement. I now have more time to practice the piano—an instrument that brings me joy and contentment. Lately, I have been sketching and coloring landscapes, so drawing may be a new hobby for me.

To keep in touch with friends in Mexico, I have enjoyed learning computer and technology skills. And, of course, the beautiful scenery of Rancho Palos Verdes is a sight I will never grow tired of seeing. For a few years, I enjoyed the views of the lush trees at a nearby horse stable, but unfortunately the horses were moved to a different location. Visiting the horses brought me much peace. Now that I am at Marian Residence, I look back on my life and I thank God that He provided me with the heart and love to serve and teach others.



Sister Julia Costello

One of the joys of retirement is living in our lovely home in Palos Verdes. There are eight of us DMJs living here, all in varying stages of aging.

We have a wonderful staff, so devoted and caring. They are always ready to assist us. Carmen is our resident manager and we are so blessed to have her.

What do we do all day? Those who are able to help in the Retreat Center and Parish do so. Some others look forward to an afternoon nap! We pray together in the evening. Some are able to attend morning Mass in the parish, while others go to the evening Mass by car. Twice a week we have physical exercises led by one of our staff; this is a fun time as well as a chance to stay limber!



We constantly receive prayer requests from friends and former students. We take these requests seriously, knowing that people count on us. As DMJs we recognize that we have committed ourselves to “be there for the whole Church.”

Occasional outings are a treat. Last week we traveled to the local beach and stopped at Starbucks for a “special.” Two adventurous DMJs traveled to the desert to enjoy the wildflowers.

I appreciate my time here at Marian as an opportunity to reflect on my years of life and ministry. Especially I treasure the memory of the years I spent at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center and the many other places where I served. I am grateful to God for the graces that made this possible. I thank my DMJ Community for the support and friendship through the years. Finally, I am hopeful for the future as we begin our third century of service to God’s people.

Sister Catherine McShane

Now that I am retired, my image of God remains the same as it has been all my life. As we were growing up in Ireland, God was always the center of our family life. The rosary was said every night, and our parents gave the example.

I lived on a family farm and the cows had to be milked every day. Each day was the same as the next, and the cows did not know any difference.

In 1952 I entered the convent, to the surprise of my family and friends. This is a decision I have never regretted. God has strange ways that are sometimes hard to understand.

As a teacher I taught in Los Angeles schools and later in New Mexico schools. I have very happy memories of this time. I made many friends along the way and I still keep in touch. My first teaching assignment was at Our Lady of Peace, San Fernando, I taught first grade with 50 or more students in a classroom. Here we



were, five DMJs, in full habit, in the sizzling heat, temperature 100+, and no air conditioning. We thanked God for the luxury of a swimming pool, compliments of the McCauley Family; we were saved!

In 1975 our Congregation had the opportunity to start a foundation in New Mexico. Fr. Ted Isiais wanted to reopen a Catholic school in Socorro, and I was one of the privileged ones to go there. What a wonderful experience! Most of the students had been born in that area; they spoke Spanish and English. I picked up some Spanish, but it was not necessary for me as a teacher. My years in New Mexico hold very many happy memories for me of the teachers and the students. Now if I have a choice of food, my first choice will be Mexican.

As I sit here in Marian Residence recalling past memories, I feel very privileged to be part of a community where I can relax and think back over my good life of 88 years.



Sister Catherine Sullivan

Did anyone ever ask me what were my wildest dreams for a perfect Retirement Spot?

I think not...but I now have "my spot"...

DMJ Marian Retirement Home
in Rancho Palos Verdes.

This home, built in the 90's, thanks to the very generous donors and wise planners has been a "perfect" home to many of our retired DMJs. After many years of classroom teaching and parish ministry, I have been welcomed to Marian and am happy to call it my "home."



This is an ideal location. Let me take you for a short walk.

DMJ Retreat Center is a short sprint away and St. John Fisher Church is a five-minute walk from our home. We are surrounded by a wide variety of flowers and trees...a rainbow of color. As we wander through the grounds, we have a panoramic view of the LA megalopolis. Spectacular at night! Want to see the ocean? Ten minute-sprint to the bluff...and a perfect view of Catalina. So, what do I do with my "free time" in this ideal spot? Of course, I have brought with me a heart full of memories from my "former life." Now is the time for me to be with my DMJ Sisters; enjoy the natural beauty; spend time with the Lord; relax with a good book; and take advantage of the offerings at MJRC and St. John Fisher Parish.

In the words of the poet, John O'Donohue:

**"Now is the time to enjoy your heart's desire,
To live the dreams you've waited for,
To awaken the depths beyond your work
And enter into your infinite source."**

Sister Louis Marie Hanrahan

Marian Residence “grows” on one slowly. This statement needs fleshing out. As I glance briefly over the years, I see that exiting from one calling in life to another requires adjustment and resiliency.

I have had the opportunity of teaching in schools in California for a number of years. Then my ministry moved to North Cameroon for another number of years. Finally, I returned to California and was blessed to become part of a dedicated group of women and men who gave of their time to make life better for the poor and homeless.

Marian Residence, Palos Verdes, California, is a place where a number of DMJs choose to spend their “Golden Years.” My first experience of Marian Residence would be the opportunity to share with our DMJs their rich and varied lives.



Some random memories of a few of our Sisters:

Sr. Philomena Mulholland...her strong, resonant voice reciting her beloved poetry.

Sr. Brigid Johnston...with her rich biblical background and her love for Irish tenor, John McCormick.

Sr. Anne Margaret...with her “common sense” and wry outlook on life.

And Sr. Mary Jensch, with her down-to-earth culinary skills, as she described the “how to” of barbecuing a lamb chop. You could taste the chop before it ever left the grill!

At Marian...DMJs exhibit a sense of solidarity as we pray individually or together. There is time to focus on the needs of the world, with particular emphasis on issues of justice and peace. We are deeply aware of our DMJ charism of mercy and compassion to flow in us and from us. We are also aware of being a prayer support for our younger sisters.

These memories are made possible for us because of this Center you, our donors have built for us and continue to sustain us in a lovely location, with beautiful grounds, and proximity to the ocean. Add a wonderful and caring staff that make this Center a Home.

We, DMJs say, in the words of Pablo Casals:

**“Do you know who you are? You are a marvel.
In all the world there is no other
exactly like you.”**

That's the Way it Was

Sister Sheila Marie Lynch
Celebrating 60 years as a DMJ

I recall when, in my youth, my mother asked me if I had ever considered becoming a nun. My response was a resounding NO! I did not like nuns! In the weeks after this conversation two Sisters from the Daughters of Mary and Joseph came to our school promoting religious vocations to Religious Life with the Daughters of Mary and Joseph community. I was very much attracted to their beautiful habit and their ministries of education and nursing.



After conversing with these two DMJ's, intentions to enter with them flooded my mind and heart. One letter led to another, until I finally entered Rosary Convent in 1956. I later made my First Profession of Vows in 1959 and I was assigned to teach school in California.

I began my Ministry in teaching in Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Mill Valley, followed by Our Lady of Peace, Saint John Fisher, Our Lady of the Rosary and finally as principal of Saint Augustine in Culver City.

In 1990, our Provincial Leadership invited me to become Director of Development and to spearhead the Capital Campaign of Marian Residence, an awesome and rewarding task indeed! With the project coming to completion, I became C.E.O. of a rehabilitation center in San Pedro called *House of Hope*. I later became Director of another such facility called *Flossie Lewis* in Long Beach. Of these three projects, being fundraiser for the building of the DMJ Retirement Center now known as Marian Residence, has become for me a deep source of pride and joy as I have recently taken up residence here, myself.

In looking back over these past sixty years, I am struck by the influence each assignment has had on my life. Gratitude seems a very small word to express how I feel. I recall a priest saying, "We are a strand in the personality of everyone we meet." To me, it has been the reverse, because I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to be part of the education and help to those in need.

I am forever grateful to God and Our Blessed Mother for the faith of my parents, the joy of my brothers and sisters, and most of all for those who have influenced my life along the way. My heart speaks only gratitude in return and I pray, "May God be Praised!" for my gift of a Religious Vocation to the Daughters of Mary and Joseph.

In Honor of... (those honored are in **BOLD**)

Sr. Theresa Berry

Mary Bertone
Irene Kim

Rick & Nicole Briant

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Smith

Sr. Nuala Briody

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Beautifully decorated Enrollment Cards are mailed
according to your request. All prayer requests are placed in
the chapel at Marian Residence where the Sisters pray for
your intentions each day.

To request enrollment forms please contact:

Sr. Linda Webb
(310) 377-9968

Requests may also be made in writing to:

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Patrick Shawn Sullivan

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick P. Sullivan

Kathleen (Keller) Sutliff

Susan Keller Nelson

Walter Swist

Christine & Scott Crowe

Louie & Irene Tiscornia

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Margaret & Raymond Welker

Mr. & Mrs. Matteo Costamagna

Virginia Lee (Jackson) Wells

S. Irene Kim

Mrs. James Westwood

Nowinski Family

Jack & Florence Wildermuth

John & Loretta Wildermuth

Patricia Wolfe

Julia Lu

Eddy & Christina Van Guyse

Martha Yelaca

Mr. Nicholas W. Yelaca

Edward Yerke

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Yerke

James Young

Janet Watkins

Tom Yuhas

Mrs. Eileen Yuhas

August & Margaret Zamarin

Kathleen V. Brady



Sister Madeleine Sheehan 1929–2018

Sr. Madeleine, of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, was born July 12, 1929, to Edward and Annie Sheehan in Listowel, Co. Kerry, Ireland. Madeleine is pre-deceased by her parents and four siblings, William Sheehan, Maura O'Dea, Tess Conroy and Edward Sheehan. She is survived by her sisters Nina Repetski, Nancy Cahill, Philomena Johnson and Josephine Birmingham.

Sister Madeleine Sheehan was noted for her great love of Irish dancing and achieved excellence in Ireland as a champion dancer. As a longtime teacher in the parochial schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Madeleine always included after-school classes in Irish dancing.

Madeleine's teaching ministry included the following schools: St. Augustine, Culver City; Our Lady of the Rosary, Paramount; St. James, La Crescenta; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Mill Valley; Our Lady of Peace, Sepulveda, and Marycrest Kindergarten, Rancho Palos Verdes. Her last teaching assignment was in the Paramount Unified School District as a Reading specialist. When Madeleine retired she moved to Marian Residence, in Rancho Palos Verdes, where she lived for 15 years.

Our Mission:

We are an international community of vowed religious women. We are committed to deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship manifests itself as an individual and corporate response to the needs of today's world. Our mission is to be a compassionate, joyful presence enabling those to whom we minister to recognize their value and dignity. We are dedicated to sharing the merciful love of God with all who experience brokenness or poverty in any form.

Our Vision:

"Be there for the whole Church, be there as a pardoned sinner who has found peace and rejoices in the merciful love of God."

° Msgr. William Van Crombrughe, Founder