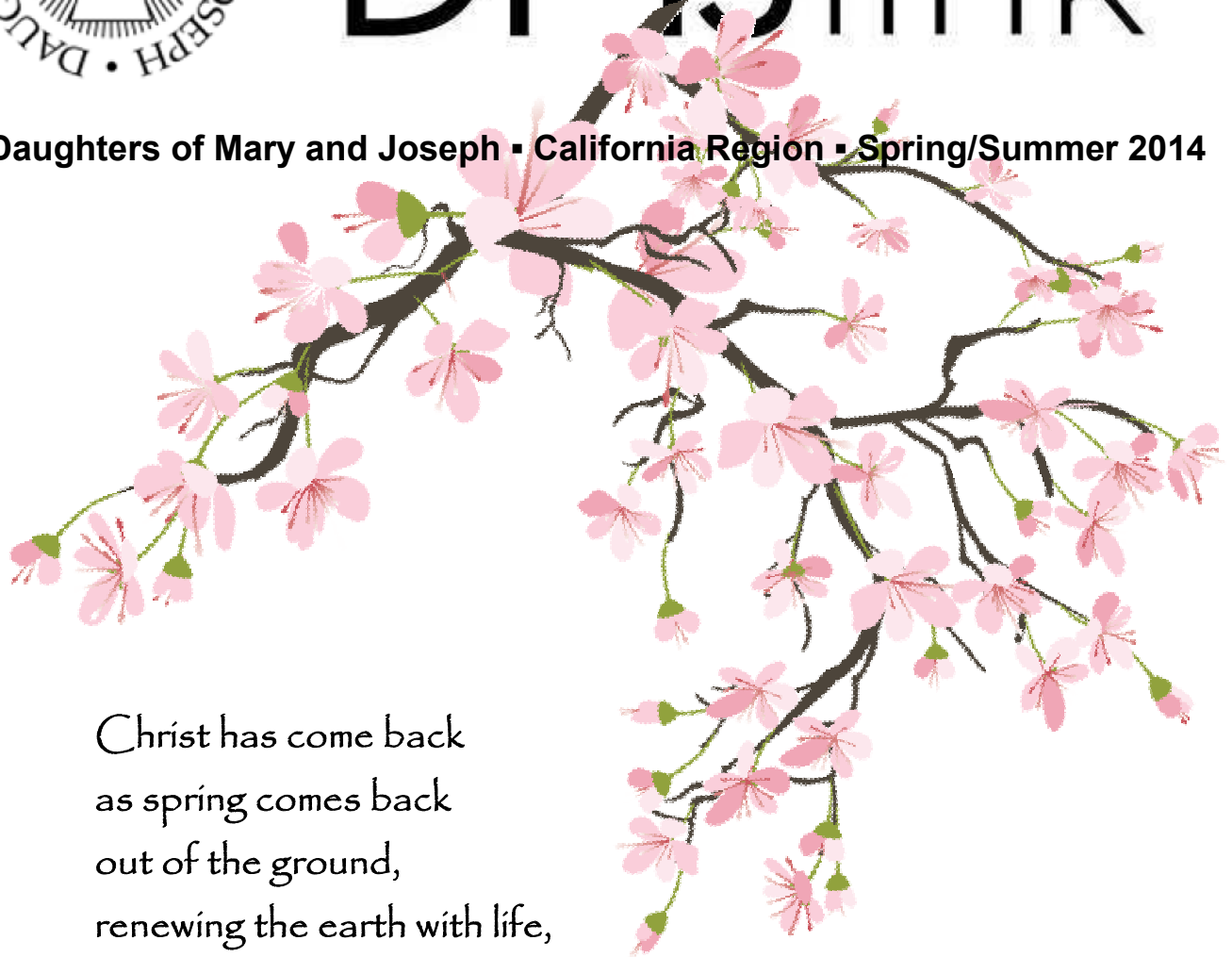




DMJlink

Daughters of Mary and Joseph • California Region • Spring/Summer 2014



Christ has come back
as spring comes back
out of the ground,
renewing the earth with life,
to be a continual renewing of life in our hearts.

May we continually renew one another's life in his love,
that we may be his Resurrection in the world.

We are the resurrection, going on always,
always giving back Christ's life to the world.

(Caryll Houselander)





Spring/Summer 2014

Editorial Staff

Sally Nowinski
Sr. Linda Peters
Sr. Linda Webb

DMJlink Logo

Jonathan Nowinski

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.

Dear Friends,

Once again we connect via *DMJlink*—this time during the glorious season of Easter and emergence of spring. We hope that as you browse the contents of this little publication, you are well and noticing the signs of new life all around us.

Recently, I came across a strange line attributed to poet Charles Bukowski: “Find what you love and let it kill you.” At first I recoiled at what seemed to me pure foolishness. Then it occurred to me that this line has something to say about the Easter season we are celebrating, about the little dyings and risings we experience every day. Perhaps many of us allow what we *don’t* love to kill us and diminish our spirits – unnecessary stress, unhealthy relationships, resentments, poor health choices. I wonder: How often do I let what I *don’t* love dampen my spirit and fritter away my energies? How much of my best energies are being expended in service of what I really don’t care about? How much do I let what I *do* love shape the way I think and act? How much of my life is being “used up” in a way that truly honors my deepest desires and commitments? I wonder.

According to the Gospel, Jesus was deeply aware of whom and what he loved and named what he was really passionate about. He directed all his energies into his mission, even though it meant facing a terrible death. In the end, Love prevailed. This Paschal season reminds us of that cycle of dying and rising that replays over and over again in our lives. It is there I find the ultimate consolation, the supreme Good News -- united with the Risen Christ, all of our dyings and risings, all our struggles to get it “right,” take on profound meaning and purpose. Fused with him, they emerge as part of the bigger picture in which Love prevails.

As we continue to celebrate this Easter season, I wish to extend special thanks to all our benefactors on behalf of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph here in California. We deeply appreciate the wonderful generosity shown in your prayers for us, your moral support, and your financial contributions – all of which keep us going. May you and your loved ones truly enjoy this season of rebirth.

Blessings of peace,

Sr. Karen Marie
Regional Leadership Team

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

Sister Regine Donner Honored

On March 18, at St. Basil Church in Los Angeles, 77 seniors from 51 Catholic high schools were honored for their exemplary community service. Also honored were 10 exceptional Catholic high school teachers.

We are pleased to have one of our own, Sister Regine Donner, D.M.J. among those so honored. This is the second time Sr. Regine has received this award!

Sister has been a teacher at St. Joseph H.S. in Santa Maria for over 25 years. During that time she has been active in encouraging students to participate in Christian Service activities.



Then, after a long day at school, Sister goes daily to Marian Hospital to oversee the highly successful teen volunteer program. This personal example has been a marvelous witness of Christian service.

The student honoree from St. Joseph H.S. was Alexis Laggren. This was a double pleasure for us since both Alexis and her mother, Michelle (Merlo) Laggren were graduates of our DMJ elementary school: St. Louis de Montfort. (We had a lovely reunion following the Awards Ceremony.) It was wonderful to see this missionary spirit of Christ being passed on from generation to generation. As Archbishop Gomez said in his homily: "You inspire us!"

-Sister Helen Vigil, D.M.J.



Sister Kate Creedon (1951-2013)



*“May we continually renew one another’s life in his love,
that we may be his Resurrection in the world.”*

(Caryll Houselander)

Often, with the unexpected death of a friend or someone we admire, we are challenged to reflect on what is meaningful in our lives. Somehow the gift of that person’s life helps us to renew ourselves to be *“his Resurrection in the world.”*

These words from Caryll Houselander became a poignant and lived reality for us DMJ’s this past December, as we together experienced the sudden and untimely death of our Congregational Leader, Kate Creedon. Having just arrived in Kampala, Uganda, to begin her visitation with our Sisters there, Kate was suddenly taken ill, and within a few days, she passed away.

Kate was born and raised in Co. Kerry, Ireland, and it was from there that she entered the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. Totally dedicated to being a compassionate presence of God’s love to all whom she met, Kate’s ministries led her to serve the People of God in Ireland, in various countries in Africa and finally in Rome, Italy. Now rejoicing in the new life of our loving God, Kate’s life journey has gone full circle, with her bodily remains renewing the Irish land of her birth.

As one of our Sisters stated so well: “Kate was a lover of music, a great thinker, a widely read woman who had a special passion for poetry. It is from these that she shared with us her insights and wisdom.” Below, in an excerpt from one of her poems, Kate prays with and for us that we *“may continually renew one another’s life in his love”*.

“Deeply at peace, with joy and yet with deep longing,
I find myself at the end of the day,
as dusk falls over this beautiful city,
beseeching you – my God without boundaries!

Enable us to take into our hands and hearts
the gift of this moment and enter into the pain,
experiencing its healing balm even
as it brings us all the way to Calvary and beyond.

Help us all grow in patience,
in your seemingly slow process of work,
in waiting, even in our wandering the desert of the unknown,

while still believing that your time will come,
the next step on this journey home to you
will be revealed by you...”

(Kate Creedon)

~Sister Linda Webb

Sister Mary Perpetua O'Hely (1932-2014)

Sister Mary Perpetua O'Hely was born in Dublin, Ireland to Thomas O'Hely and Mary Bruen on August 29, 1932. She was educated by the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin. She entered the Daughters of Mary and Joseph in 1950. After her profession in Belgium she came to California. Her first assignment was at Morning Star on Pine Street in San Francisco. Her subsequent ministry assignments were Saint Sebastian, Precious Blood, Saint Augustine, Saint Paul the Apostle and hospitality at Our Lady of Lourdes on San Vicente. In addition, she worked at Regis House in the After Care Program, Cheryl Louise Education Center and at Sanwa Bank in Culver City where she was the phone operator.



While these are pertinent facts about her life, they in no way do justice to the person she was. Mary Perpetua's clock was always at least half an hour behind ours and she had no problem keeping her time—much to our dismay. She was an aficionado with regard to bus schedules. One Thanksgiving she decided to go shopping at the Mall. Dinner time arrived and she had not returned and we began to become concerned. About an hour and a half later she came home. She said she got on the wrong bus so she decided to see where it went before she got off. She was totally nonplussed about the situation!

Our Sisters from other Regions who sent condolences, remembered her as a gentle person. Some of these comments were: From Belgium: "I have a memory of someone so welcoming, with her beautiful smile." From Ireland: "She was a lovely gentle woman, whose quiet presence made a difference to all of us." From Africa: "I cannot tell how many times she exhibited a saintly life as we interacted." From California: "The first thought that came to me was: we have a saint in heaven praying for all of us here on earth."

Mary Perpetua had a great love for the Mass. Even when her health was failing, there were times that she went to Mass when she should have stayed at home. She was faithful to praying the Office on a daily basis. She was a woman of great prayer. She will be missed by all who knew her.

On March 22nd, Mary Perpetua lived her life as she had always lived it. She participated in all the sessions of our DMJ March Days, was present for Mass and dinner, and even attended the evening movie. It would seem as though she had finished her journey and left us without fuss.

In closing, I would like to share with you a quote from our venerated Founder: "Let us never forget that we (DMJs) have always more need of saints than of learned people to carry out the plans of divine Providence for our Institute."

Today we have one more saint!

~Sister Sheila Marie Lynch

***Our Founder experienced God
as all-merciful,
all-compassionate,
and he calls us to reflect in our lives
the merciful love of God...
(DMJ Constituitions)***



Sister Teresa Groth, DMJ

When I made my first vows as a Daughter of Mary and Joseph, I promised to be an "instrument of mercy," following the call of our Founder. About the same time, almost five years ago, I began to work with men coming back after long-terms, decades, in state prison. From my involvement as a volunteer a few days a week to having the responsibility of managing five transitional homes for these men, the invitation to be an "instrument of mercy" has helped me grow in this ministry as a DMJ. I listen to many heart-wrenching stories. I walk with the residents in their many challenges. What has emerged for me in my relationships with the men, is the mutuality of this ministry. There is no doubt that my management of the Homes, with the support of volunteers and staff, benefits the men in their transition back into society. The graces I receive far outweigh my service.

For example, the men have been deprived for many years of the simple joys I take for granted. They'll spend hours admiring a tree, listening to the birds singing, in some cases cycling along the ocean or park pathways. Just walking around the neighborhood or using public transportation in total freedom delights them. Years in prison have not been wasted – their hearts are attuned to God's presence in the ordinary. Observing this and listening to their excitement deepens my appreciation for all they are enjoying, and heightens my own sensitivity to the gift of NOW.

With the help of Sister Linda Peters, Sister Nuala Briody and a couple of regular staff members we serve close to sixty men housed and supported by The Francisco Homes. All of the residents -- at some point convicted of a violent crime -- live in harmony, and work together as witnesses of the transformative grace of God's mercy and compassion. There is no way we could give ourselves credit for what we see happening around us. It would be foolish. Yet it happens while we are simply present to them in our commitment as DMJs. So the phrase "instrument of mercy" in God's hand has taken a whole new level of meaning when I can set aside fears and frets over my limitations and trust that I can be

used by God, and kept in "good working order" thanks to the care and encouragement of my DMJ sisters.



Mission: The Francisco Homes is a faith inspired organization, who empowers former inmates to achieve wholeness, develop leadership and contribute productively to society through a model of restorative justice.

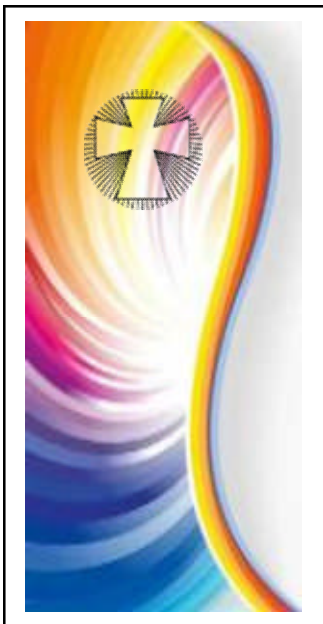
The Francisco Homes
P.O. Box 7190
Los Angeles, CA 90007

60th Jubilee Celebration for 10 DMJs.



Pictured: Front row: Sisters M. Perpetua O'Hely, Barbara Theresa Wright, Christina O'Connor, Bishop Thomas Curry, Sisters Stella Maria Enright, Mary Jensch, Lois Claiborne, Therese Martin Schwalenberg, Ruth Schwalenberg.

2nd row : Sisters Catherine Sullivan and Sheila Collins.



The photograph depicts the joy of ten members of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph as they celebrated their 60th Jubilee of First vows. The Liturgy was celebrated at St. John Fisher Church in Rancho Palos Verdes on Sunday, October 22, 2013.

The Community was honored to have Most Reverend Thomas J. Curry present as Celebrant, and concelebrant clergy from many other parishes where the individual Sisters had been involved in a variety of ministries.

Everyone expressed gratitude to God for the wonderful gift these Sisters were in those parishes and schools throughout our country and the world where they had served the Church.



Imagine a God who dances with Joy...

DMJ Honored with a Spirit of Giving Award

There was a buzz of excitement on November 9th as the Riviera Country Club filled to capacity for a gala celebration sponsored by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Our Lady of the Angeles Region. Sister Stella Maria Enright, DMJ was honored with the Sister Peg Dolan Spirit of Giving Award and renowned sportscaster, Vin Scully, was presented with the Humanitarian Award. Additional awards were given to exceptional parish volunteers in the OLA Region. The evening was a spirited celebration of the fruits of generosity and altruism seen in the lives of the individual awardees.

Sister Stella, currently principal at St. Paul the Apostle School in Westwood, accepted her award following a moving introduction given by Richard Caruso. Sister Stella and her dedicated faculty members have implemented many creative programs that have allowed the students to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Mindful of our DMJ Founder's directive to "be there for the whole Church," Sister Stella has focused her attention on broadening the youngsters' perspectives on the world around them while, at the same time, forming them in an attitude of giving. We DMJs are pleased that one of our own sisters has been recognized for her leadership in making this important contribution and trust it will continue to bear fruit in the lives of the students.

~Sister Karen Marie



The little stream sings
in the crease of the hill.
It is the water of life. It knows
nothing of death, nothing.
And this is the morning
of Christ's resurrection.

The tomb is empty. There is
no death. Death is our illusion,
our wish to belong only
to ourselves, which is our freedom
to kill one another.
From this sleep may we too
rise, as out of the dark grave.

Wendell Berry, *This Day*



MEET OUR NEW DMJ ASSOCIATES

Our Founder experienced God as all-merciful and all-compassionate, and he calls us to reflect in our lives the merciful love of God, centered on the heart of Christ. We return love for love, allowing God to use us as instruments of mercy in his hand...(Ass. Constitutions #2)



On November 17, 2013, we had a joyful celebration as two women made their commitment to full membership in our DMJ Associate family. Julia Lu, a native of Taiwan and Margaret Dennis from Scotland are both residents of Southern California. They became good friends as they went through their formation program together. They are currently very involved in our Associate program, sharing their many gifts and talents with us and with the people of God in their parish communities. Their presence among us is a blessing for all. Women of prayer and lots of enthusiasm they truly exude our DMJ charism.

With the addition of Julia and Margaret to our DMJ Associate family, we now have seventeen active members and twelve praying members. Although they are unable to attend our meetings, our praying members keep contact with us through email. Some who live far away join us every June for our annual Associate weekend retreat.

Both DMJ's and Associates feel very blessed, especially with our new members and with the six "come and see" members who are discerning their call as they come to know us better. God's promise of new life is truly present among us at our monthly meetings as we joyfully share together the many ways our charism is being lived today in both the DMJ's and the Associates.

~Sister Julia Costello

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

Casey Aichrath
Norm & Barbara Smith

Sr. Mary Angela
Niki Selna

Sr. Renee Bauerly
Nancy Malaspina

Karen Bauerly Beainy
Nancy Malaspina

Sarah Conefrey
Sr. Kitty Moloney

Rev. Patrick Crowley
Sr. Catherine McShane

Janie DiBenedetto
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock

Sr. Mary Enda
John E. Boessenecker

Sr. Stella Maria Enright
Ms. Leita Peterson
St. Paul the Apostle

Sr. Frances Fisher
Patrick Johnston

Kathleen Fitzgerald
Norm & Barbara Smith

Melinda & Kevin Gay
Sr. Julia Costello

Patrick Hart
Daughters of Mary and Joseph

John & Margaret Healy
Daughters of Mary and Joseph

Dr. Peggy Herrera
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock

Rodolfo Isidoro/Gerardo
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock

Sr. Mary Jensch
Mrs. Mary T. Giles

Anne Jones
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock

Louise Josalle
Mrs. Sharon (Josalle) Rockel

Nick & Wanda Koller
Daughters of Mary and Joseph

Sarah Larson
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock

The Manley Family
Sr. Julia Costello

Helen Martinez
Luisa Septimo

Mary Lou
Lawrence Los

Sr. Teresa McShane
Rev. J. McCormick & Lulu

Deacon Gaspar Munoz
Daughters of Mary and Joseph

Sr. Mary Agnes O'Callaghan
Ms. Dolores Padilla

Loretta Rinaldi
Sr. Louis Marie

Joan G. Roberts
Mrs. Marcee Roberts-Ferguson

Evelyn J. Rozwadowski
John & Yolanda Oreb

Sue Ruh
Mrs. Maryanne Wedner

Margaret Schilz
Sr. Catherine McShane

Sr. Madeleine Sheehan
Mr. John & Mrs. Adrienne Baker

Ricardo Valle
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock

Johnny Vasquez
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock

Carson Verزالik
Annette Lenneman &
Chuck Winkler

Lawrence Weissman
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Sue Sherlock



Remember Your Loved Ones In a Special Way

**Enroll your loved ones, living or deceased, in the
Daughters of Mary and Joseph Prayer League.**

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:

Development Office
5300 Crest Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

In Memory of...

(those remembered are in **BOLD**)

Sr. Mary Agnes Mel Dangcil Mr. Albert S. Tucker, Jr.	Mary Clifford Sr. Sheila Collins	John & Joan French Mr. John J. French
Frances & Tony Alfano Ms. Kathleen Townsend	Costley & Sink Families Mr. & Mrs. David F. Costley	Cecile Gainey Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Gainey
Josefina & Jose Alvarenga Robert F. Alvarenga	Sr. Kate Creedon Ms. Deborah Gaume Julia C. Lu Sally Nowinski	Sr. Mary Gemma Mr. & Mrs. Joe Quartucci
Gloria Alvarez Mr. Alexander Alvarez	Sr. Eileen Cronin Mr. & Mrs. Steven Doi	Richard Giles, Jr. Sr. Mary Jenschi
Sr. Annunciata Sr. Sheila Collins	Sr. Elizabeth Cronin Mr. Jim Lee Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sheridan Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Sheridan	Mary Gonden Michele MacKenzie
Sr. Mary Aquinas Mr. Al Dieterle Mr. John J. French	Maureen Cronin Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Sheridan	Ken Graf Mr. Richard Graf
Glenn & Maureen Ashburn Mr. & Mrs. James Hughes	John Curran Sarah Conefrey	Ron Hallol Mrs. Carole Buerkle
Thomas M. Bader Carol A. Bader	John F. Daly Ms. Kay Daly	Rosemary & Jake Harper S. J. Schulz
Dora Barberena Leonore Penny	Sam DeFelice Mrs. Irene DeFelice	Edgar Harries Sr. Louis Marie Hanrahan Sr. Helen Vigil
Art & Eva Bauerly Mrs. Karen Beainy	Terry DeLorenzo Ms. Julia A. Brady	Margaret (Garvey) Helms Mrs. Dorothy Van Nice
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Anne Bowman Mrs. Anne Buist	Vincent Doi Mrs. Agnes Doi	Frances & Theresa Ioppolo Mr. Joseph Ioppolo
Richard Dockweiler Brady, Sr. Mrs. Kathleen V. Brady	Wes & Toyoko Doi Mr. & Mrs. Steven Doi	Tamara Marie Josi Daughters of Mary and Joseph
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Imelda Buist Mrs. Margie Manning	Sr. Donna Mr. & Mrs. Bob King	Barbara E. Kay Ms. Kim Lacaille
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John C. Clarkson Cecilia Ray		Sr. Pauline Knapp Mrs. Marcia Pistilli

In Memory of... (continued) (those remembered are in **BOLD**)

Rev. Robert Koerman, OMI John Wildermuth	Sr. Mary Patricia Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Gainey	Judge & Mrs. Scherb Mrs. Judy (Scherb) Skraba
Ginny Lambert Mrs. Jenny Saraceno	Madeline H. Pennisi Ms. Madeline Pennisi Fendler	Margaret Schilz Sr. Catherine McShane
Sr. Johanna Leahy Ramona Zeroski	Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Pennisi Ms. Muffie Pennisi-Fendler	Julia Mary Crotty Sears Mr. Thomas Sears
Mary Lewis Ms. Marydee Falque	Sr. Mary Perpetua Akiko Hiraga	Arthur & Alexandra Selna Mrs. Michele Burger
Mary & Frank Longworth Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Pelton	Julia Lu	Ms. Niki Selna
Mildred Machado Mr. Fredrick Machado, Jr.	Sally & Sue Nowinski	Sr. Madeleine Sheehan Mr. John & Mrs. Adrienne Baker
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Charles McDonaugh Mrs. Nancy McDonaugh	Jack & Filomena Porco Mrs. Jenny Saraceno	Monique Staudhammer Dr. Gabriel Bonnet
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Valerie Paine Mr. John & Mrs. Adrienne Baker	Sue Ruh Mrs. Maryanne Wedner	Richard & Susie Shiffrar
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	Paul & Helen Samway Mr. & Mrs. Robert Samway	Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Johnson
	Deacon Valentin Saucedo Mary and Joseph Retreat Ctr. Staff	Margaret Welker Susan Costamagna
	Isabella Scheler Sr. Mary Perpetua	

In Memory of... (continued) (those remembered are in **BOLD**)

Jack & Florence Wildermuth

John Wildermuth

Robert Wood

Mrs. Theresa Wood

Tom Yuhas

Mrs. Eileen Yuhas

August & Margaret Zamarin

Mrs. Kathleen V. Brady

Dr. William Zimmerman

Mrs. Nancy Parnin Zimmrman



Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Development Office
5300 Crest Road
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behind you is nothing . . . compared
to what lies within you.*



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www.daughtersofmaryandjoseph.org

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