



That all may
know the Savior

SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

Salvatorian News

*Walk
with us*



Go forward courageously and faithfully on the path Providence shows.

— Co-founder Father Francis Jordan

Father Jordan's words have carried us for many months leading to the decision I share with you today. Sisters of the Divine Savior have signed a letter of intent for Divine Savior Healthcare (DSH) in Portage, Wis. to affiliate with Aspirus health system based in Wausau, Wis. Once the affiliation is final, DSH would be a wholly-owned, fully-integrated part of the Aspirus system.

Faced with the growing complexity of health care, we made this decision to secure the future of DSH and continue its excellence in serving the people of Portage. Aspirus is a strong, community-directed health care system that understands the needs of communities like Portage. Aspirus also values our 102-year legacy of service there. And, its track record for collaboration and community engagement aligns closely with our core values that are the foundation of DSH.

Moving forward, we're helping Aspirus learn more about DSH with intent to finalize affiliation before January 1, 2020. Now, we're asking you to walk with us with your prayers, especially for our DSH associates who provide compassionate care for the Portage community.

Gratefully,

S. Beverly Heitke, S.D.S.

Sister Beverly Heitke, SDS
Provincial Leader

Celebrating 125 years: 1895-2020

Passion for Mission in the United States

Heavenly Father, we your children stand before you with humble and grateful hearts. One hundred twenty-five years ago, our Founders fulfilled the request of the Archbishop of Milwaukee to send Salvatorian Sisters to North America. Our Sisters worked long and hard to bring the love and kindness of Jesus to all. May we continue to show their passion for Mission.

— Excerpt from 2020 Celebration prayer written by Sisters of the Divine Savior Jane Barman, Debra Breese, Rita Faust and Margaret Hansknecht

When our Salvatorian Sisters first stepped foot in Milwaukee on July 4, 1895, fireworks and revelry in the streets combined for the makings of a celebration. But our three pioneer sisters weren't feeling celebratory. After their 11-day voyage from Rome via Antwerp, Belgium, landing at Ellis Island gave way to a short-lived sense of relief. Soon the sisters would begin the ministry that brought them to America. In the years to come, our growing religious community adapted its ministries to respond to the changing needs of God's people.



As we look forward to our 2020 Celebration of the 125th anniversary of coming to the USA, we invite you to take a step back in time with us. We'll share historical milestones and stories that bring to life the experiences of our sisters who came before us. You'll come to know them from their own words and the words of people they served.

We'll launch the first era of our digital historical timeline, **1895-1920: Responding to Immigrant Needs** on Thursday, September 5, 2019. That date coincides with the official feast of our co-founder Blessed Mary of the Apostles (Therese von Wüllenweber). Throughout the next 12 months, we'll announce these additions to the timeline with more stories to share:

1920-1950: Expanding in an "American" Church

1950-1970: Embracing Renewal

1970-2000: Building Collaboration

2000-Today: Searching for New Footing in a Changing World

Link to timeline as of September 5, 2019:

http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/125years_1895to1920/

Celebrating 2019 Jubilarians

We'll honor three sisters at a Jubilee Mass on September 6 at St. Anne's Salvatorian Campus Chapel.



70 years

Sister Louise Rausch, SDS

Sister Louise Rausch (Sr. Felice) cherishes the unexpected blessings she received in giving

of herself to others through ministry. After teaching in elementary schools, she led adult literacy classes and tutored English as a second language. She also provided beautician services after earning a license in cosmetology. Sr. Louise found the light within each person and helped them shine.



65 years

Sister Marie Ensslin, SDS

Before Sister Marie Ensslin (Sr. Mary Richard) retired from teaching in 2004, she relished

helping students enter the world of emerging technologies to meet challenges of the future. She also strived to instill values that would shape each student's life. Her motto: "Every child deserves a great teacher – one who has faith in each student and gives them goals they can reach."



60 years

Sister Clara Cáceres, SDS

Sister Clara Cáceres professed her vows in Bogota, Colombia and later became an

American citizen. Her path in education ministry took many turns over the years. Even after retiring, she continued to teach Spanish to adults, including sisters and young men in Salvatorian formation. They say Sr. Clara "came alive" in a way rarely seen when she was not teaching.

Read about our jubilarians here: sistersofthedivinesavior.org/2019jubilee



You can send Jubilee greetings c/o:

Mission Advancement Office • 4311 N. 100th St. • Milwaukee, WI 53222 or missionadvancement@salvatoriansisters.org

A gift to support our mission is a meaningful way to honor a jubilarian. You can mail your donation to the address above, or donate online: sistersofthedivinesavior.org/donate

Counting Your Blessings



Threading hope through the eye of a needle

Sister Mallika Bandera, SDS contacted us when she learned your gifts will cover the budget for two years for our home economics and day care programs in Pakistan. In Sr. Mallika's words, your generosity to the Salvatorian Center for Holistic Education will "lift up the lives of children, young girls and young mothers who need our support."

Sr. Mallika is one of three Sri Lankan sisters who minister in Pakistan. She also asked us to share the joyous news that five Pakistani women are newly professed Salvatorian Sisters. She ended her message saying, "I thank you and your friends, family members of our sisters and all our donors. May you enjoy the blessings and favor of God in every moment."

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Sister Magda gives hope and joy to others

Salvatorian Sister Magdalena (Magda) Kumorek, SDS entered the Sisters of the Divine Savior Congregation in 2004. She describes a time of her discernment to religious life as “fighting with God.”

“When I was in high school I decided to start going again to church on Sundays. Before that, I didn’t go to church on Sundays for a few years, but I was still searching for God and praying. At the end of high school God touched me very deeply.”

Sr. Magda started reading the Bible and listening to the readings during the Mass with understanding. She says her parish organist also helped to deepen her faith. Although she began thinking about religious life, Sr. Magda admits she didn’t want to hear God’s call.

“I was worried I would have to lose everything, scared that God wanted to take away from me everything that I loved and knew. So I ignored God’s call, and after high school I went to the Medical University to study physiotherapy.” Two years later, she withdrew from school and entered the Salvatorian Congregation. Sr. Magda says, “I couldn’t fight longer with God. I decided to trust and answer to His love and His invitation.”

Sr. Magda recalls her first encounter with Sister Małgorzata Oczkowicz, SDS, who was working in vocations and living in Sr. Magda’s home town of Żywiec, Poland.

“We didn’t meet on retreat,” says Sr. Magda, “but during my neighbor’s birthday party. I was shocked when I saw a nun at this party. Sr. Małgorzata was different than I thought a nun should be. Her openness, joy and simplicity changed my way of thinking about the nuns. I was thinking about religious life, and didn’t want to accept God’s call. Her presence was a kind of sign from God, and from that day, I kept contact with Salvatorian Sisters.”

Sr. Magda took part in a retreat led by another religious community, but didn’t feel comfortable there. She had a much different feeling with the Salvatorians.



Sister Magdalena Kumorek, SDS visited from Poland over summer 2019. She travelled around the U.S., sharing about our international missions at weekend Masses.

“When I first came to Goczałkowice – Zdrój (our Provincial house close to my home city), I felt very comfortable – like in my own house. A lot of young sisters were here, so I found my place and common ground with them. They helped me survive first months in the convent, because it wasn’t easy leaving my family and friends.”

It wasn’t easy for her family either.

“My parents were very sad,” Sr. Magda recalls. “They didn’t want me to enter, but they didn’t stop me. They always told me, ‘You should do what you think makes you happy. This is your life.’ I’m really grateful because my parents always supported me. When they saw that I am happy, they accepted my decision.”

Since then, Sr. Magda has devoted her life to proclaiming Jesus and His Gospel.

“I share my passion and faith with children whom I teach religion at primary school. I try to lead my pupils to discover and to love Jesus our Savior.” Sr. Magda says her ministry brings to life the words from Acts 20:35, “There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.” She strives to instill that message in her students.

“These words of Scripture are very important. Today’s world tries to persuade the youth that everything belongs to them, that they can use everything, and throw away if they don’t need it anymore. And it’s not only about things, but also people and relations. So I try to make them aware of the needs of others. I teach them how to give ourselves to others, instead of receiving all the time.”

Along with sharing her faith in the classroom, Sr. Magda cares for elder sisters in her Salvatorian community. She knows their challenges and considers their lives a model for hers.

“I admire our elderly sisters. They worked in the days of Communism, so they know terror and poverty. Because of that, now they have a lot of illness. They are very brave and don’t give up. They would not change anything in their life. They often share experiences with us younger members, and give us good examples of being Salvatorian Sisters.

“I’m very grateful to God for calling me to the Salvatorian Sisters where I can live, share and grow in my faith and give hope and joy to others.”



In Memoriam

Sister Ana Maria Gomez, SDS died April 29, 2019 at age 89. She was professed 66 years. After many years serving as a licensed practical nurse, Sr. Ana Maria found her heart drawn to ministry in Arizona prisons.

Read about Sister Ana Maria here:

<http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/memoriam/>

2019 Woman of Faith weaves a healing network to empower survivors of sexual trauma

There is no question that Rachel Monaco-Wilcox is driven with the spirit and passion to help survivors of domestic violence, rape and trafficking.” Those powerful words open Ann Angel’s nomination of Rachel for our 2019 Woman of Faith Award.

Ann is an English professor at Milwaukee’s Mount Mary University who collaborated with Rachel to launch the Untold Stories Program in 2014. The two-day writing workshop helps survivors find strength and healing through personal testimony. It has also helped change cultural attitudes and strengthen laws to protect — rather than punish — survivors. But Ann says Rachel believed she could still do more.

Rachel’s “more” was founding LOTUS Legal Clinic, where she serves as chief executive officer, and law profession colleagues provide trauma-informed legal services to victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Austin Reece joined the LOTUS staff in 2018 and now directs Untold Stories. Together, he and Rachel have facilitated writing workshops, organized art shows and poetry readings, edited *Untold Stories Magazine*, and accompanied survivors to the National Crime Victim’s Rights Ceremony at the state capitol in Madison, Wis.

“Her work is a calling,” Austin says, “and the daily substance of her work is embodied in empathy and a genuine human connection with the vulnerable and disenfranchised. Her work informs her character and her character colors every aspect of her work.”

Rachel opens every meeting at LOTUS with a prayer or spiritual poem. Austin says, “It centers and grounds our difficult, yet important work that demands nothing less than passion — because they’re worth it and because the Christian faith commands and inspires it.”

Rachel taught Dr. Emily Nolan when she was earning her doctorate in art therapy at Mount Mary. Emily says, “I was impressed with the way Rachel interacted with students, teaching conflict management from a very compassionate heart and making lasting connections with her students.” For Emily,

“My passion to help survivors comes from being an honest witness to myself as a survivor, and accepting the power of my own voice instead of fearing it.”

– Rachel Monaco-Wilcox



that lasting connection is now the art therapy component to Untold Stories.

“Art therapy helps to further witness survivors’ stories and build empathy,” says Emily, now an assistant professor at Mount Mary. She says Rachel’s mission is growing with plans to offer Untold Stories workshops nationally in the coming year.

“Rachel and I have a collaborative working relationship that supports Untold Stories, Mount Mary’s graduate art therapy program, and survivors of sex trafficking and sexual abuse.” Rachel has even helped advocate for state licensure of art therapists to qualify for insurance reimbursement.

Dr. Carrie King, chair of Mount Mary’s Counseling Department, also works with Rachel on projects related to healing trauma. She says Rachel’s personal experiences and faith inspire her to serve the most vulnerable in our society.

Carrie says, “Rachel possesses high-level awareness of the support survivors need,” and shares her acuity with mental health providers and legal advocates to help them apply research-based principles of trauma-informed care to their work. She also encourages collaboration among legal and counseling professionals to improve client outcomes.

Carrie’s letter of support for Rachel’s nomination closes with this tribute:

These snapshots of what Rachel has done and what is in her heart have inspired me to give more of myself to the greater good. She has opened my eyes to new ways to care for those who experience shame, fear and insecurity. If ever there was a Woman of Faith whom I can identify with and look up to, it is Rachel.

Learn more at lotuslegal.org



WOMAN OF Faith AWARD

Please join us to honor

Rachel Monaco-Wilcox

CEO & Founder of LOTUS Legal Clinic

Thursday, September 26, 2019 • 7:00 p.m.

SDS Community House • 4311 N. 100th Street, Milwaukee

RSVP for this free event by September 20 at

sistersofthedivinesavior.org/wof or call 414-466-7414

Special thanks to WaterStone Bank
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wsbonline.com

