



That all may  
know the Savior

Spring 2020

# SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

## Salvatorian News

*Walk  
with us*



There's an element of coincidence to what has transpired in the first month of 2020. On January 1, we began the official yearlong celebration of our 125th anniversary of coming to the U.S. to minister in home nursing. Then on January 31, we completed our transfer of sponsorship of Divine Savior Healthcare (DSH) in Portage, Wis. With approval at the highest level of the Catholic Church, DSH is now officially part of the Aspirus health system based in Wausau, Wis. This transfer marks the end of an era for us, and I can assure you, it didn't just happen.

Over many months, Sisters of the Divine Savior, DSH and Aspirus performed our due diligence to make sure it was the right thing to do for all of us. It's exciting for DSH to become part of a thriving system with a strong commitment to community-based health care. It's also exciting because the core values of DSH and Aspirus are remarkably connected. We Salvatorian Sisters have been blessed with more than 100 years of joy serving the Portage community as religious sponsor and partner in ministry with DSH. For that, we will be forever grateful. We ask you to walk with us in prayer for the success of this new partnership between DSH and Aspirus.

Gratefully,

*S. Beverly Heitke, S.D.S.*

Sister Beverly Heitke, SDS  
Provincial Leader

## Your trust and generosity kindle our mission spirit

As planning evolved for our 2020 Passion for Mission celebration, it stirred up memories of people who became living, breathing "milestones" throughout our 125-year history in the U.S. Many such milestones are Salvatorian Sisters who came before us, on whose shoulders we stand today. Others are supportive families, generous friends and faithful donors who continue to inspire us to bring the love of our Savior to those we serve in His name.

Throughout 2019, you were by our side with your thoughts, your prayers, and your gifts. You reminded us that we're never alone as we minister to the physical, social and spiritual needs of people here in the U.S. and around the world.

Living out our mission this past year drew us closer to you because we relied on your support to make our ministries possible. We truly hope your prayers and gifts drew you closer to the people we serve, even when they were thousands of miles away.

In May 2019, you learned about our small community of Sri Lankan sisters who operate a mission in an area of Pakistan known as Youhanabad. There, education and job skills training have helped instill dignity and confidence for women and girls to take control of their lives as valued members of Pakistan's patriarchal society. Your generous response to our request for support provided two years of funding for home economics and day care programs at the Salvatorian Center for Holistic Education. Sister Mallika Bandera, SDS captured the deeper impact of your donations when she wrote, "it will lift up the lives of children, young girls and young mothers." She also shared about another far-reaching impact, the joyous news that five Pakistani women professed vows with the local Salvatorian community.

*continued on back page*



Your gifts thread hope in the lives of young women at our Center for Holistic Education in Pakistan.

# MISSION WELL



*Take your giving to a deeper level ...  
to help sustain our life-giving ministries.*

Mission Well is an opportunity to deepen your support for Sisters of the Divine Savior and our ministries. Through the ripple effect of monthly giving, Mission Well will build a deeper source of sustainable funding to:

- care for physical and medical needs of our elder sisters;
- support our sisters who serve as pastoral caregivers, tutors, prison ministers, refugee aides and anti-human trafficking advocates; and
- support collaboration with our international missions, to empower women and families through education, health care, skills training and shelter projects.

As a Mission Well Donor, you can:

- designate your monthly gift for one or more ministries close to your heart;
- make charitable giving intentional, as part of your monthly budget;
- choose a monthly gift amount that you can change at any time;
- set up secure, automatic transactions through your bank or credit card account.

**Join our current monthly donors as a MISSION WELL Charter Member by enrolling in 2020. Email Lori Graff at [graffl@salvatoriansisters.org](mailto:graffl@salvatoriansisters.org) or call (414) 466-7414.**



## Companions in Mission

It's been 20 years since **Therese D.** of Bayside, Wis. got an up-close viewpoint on the Sisters of the Divine Savior sponsorship ministry. Therese, who goes by Tracy, served seven years on the Board of Directors for the former St. Mary's Nursing Home in Milwaukee. She recalls, "I was most impressed by the honest caring always shown by the sisters. As the nursing home struggled to survive, the sisters faced difficult decisions, yet never wavered in their commitment to serving the residents, even when weighed against their other priorities."

Tracy came to St. Mary's board in 1993 on recommendation by an outgoing board member, someone she considered a mentor. Her expertise was a strong fit with the board's needs. Professionally, Tracy's responsibilities included oversight of services to transition acute care patients — often to a skilled care facility or nursing home — so she understood patient needs and administrative challenges.

Tracy also has fond memories of St. Mary's board annual holiday gatherings, saying, "They were a great opportunity to get to know other board members and the sisters more personally. Their goodness and warmth held true outside the board room — the sisters were the 'real deal'!"

*"Their goodness and warmth  
held true outside the board room.  
The sisters were 'the real deal.'"*

— Tracy D.

SDS MISSION WELL  
Charter Member

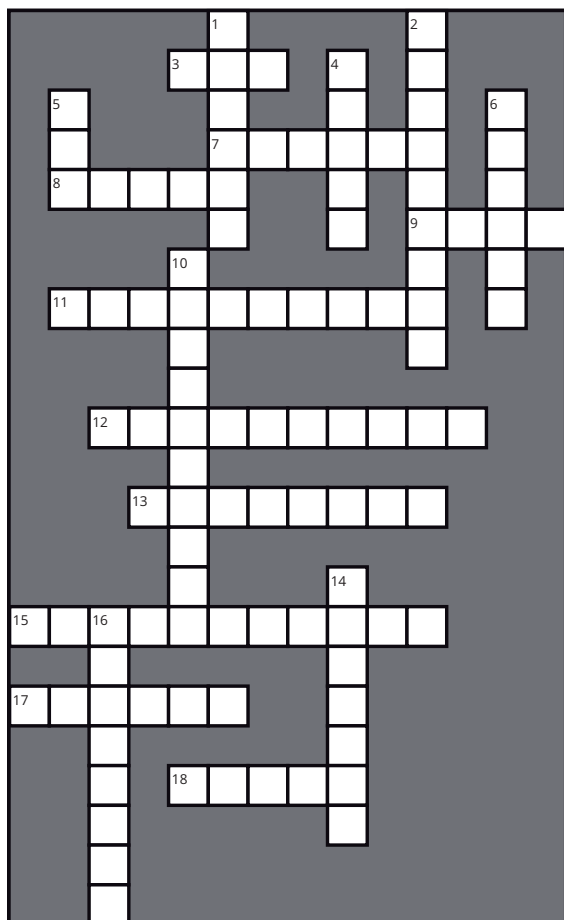


By the time Tracy's board service ended in 2000, the Salvatorian Sisters left an imprint on her heart. "After I left the board, I wanted to continue supporting the sisters in some way. I set up my bank to automatically send a monthly donation to SDS. It's not a huge amount, but it's consistent. I hope my few dollars multiplied over time are giving back to others and help to cover costs of whatever the sisters identify as the greatest need."

Tracy's generosity to the Salvatorian Sisters is intentional and comes straight from the heart. "Simply, I find their dedication to serving needs of the world inspiring, whether focused on needs of the elderly or persons with disabilities, or a commitment to educating women. I am pleased to support all SDS ministries, but education and health care resonate with me most personally."

# #SDS125yrsintheUSA

Before you word lovers puzzle over this crossword, you might want to buff up on your SDS history here: [sistersofthedivinesavior.org/125years\\_1895to1920/](http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/125years_1895to1920/)



## DOWN:

- 1 SDS Constitution's first language
- 2 Evermore known as Blessed
- 4 DS girls aka
- 5 Initially, its Sunday Mass goes to class
- 6 Mixed signals give birth to a hospital here
- 10 Reverse integration uplifts this "Rocket City"
- 14 Hall holds first DSHS prom
- 16 SDS taboo before Vatican II

## ACROSS:

- 3 There's room in the inn named for this pope
- 7 Briefly, it affords SDS new momentum
- 8 Mother Olympia's dream mission
- 9 Mistaken for a time bomb
- 11 Troop 61 still calls it home today
- 12 Headline heralding DSHS expansion
- 13 Surname atop SDS home nursing ledger
- 15 Steamer taking SDS across the pond
- 17 First convent first month's rent in dollars
- 18 Not a one in the convent to sip our soup

Follow us on Facebook during Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-12 for puzzle answers!

CLIP & SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE



#SDS125yrsintheUSA

Sisters of the Divine Savior celebrate 125 years in the USA in 2020. Trace our history on digital time lines and read about our sisters who paved the way for us.

Go to: [sistersofthedivinesavior.org/125years\\_1895to1920/](http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/125years_1895to1920/)

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|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Era 1: 1895-1920</b>  | Responding to Immigrant Needs                 |
| <b>Era 2: 1920-1950</b>  | Expanding in an "American Church"             |
| <b>Era 3: 1950-1970</b>  | Embracing Renewal                             |
| <b>Era 4: 1970-2000</b>  | Building Collaboration                        |
| <b>Era 5: 2000-Today</b> | Searching for New Footing in a Changing World |

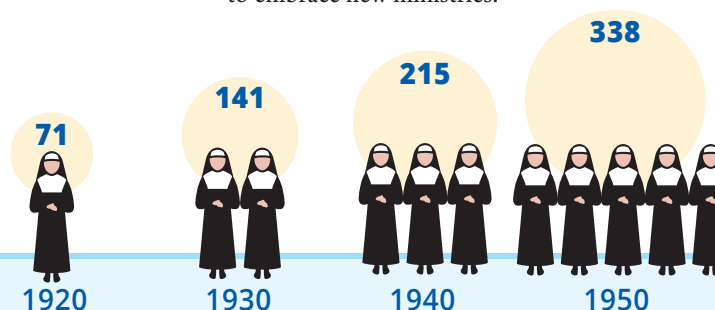
## Era 1: 1895-1920 Responding to Immigrant Needs



The missionary response of hearty immigrant women religious characterizes the first 25 years of Salvatorian Sisters' presence in the USA.

## Era 2: 1920-1950 Expanding in an "American Church"

Growth in membership enables Salvatorian Sisters to embrace new ministries.





### Era 3: 1950-1970 Embracing Renewal

St. Joseph Mission School in Huntsville, Ala. makes history with peaceful “reverse integration.”



### Era 4: 1970-2000 Building Collaboration

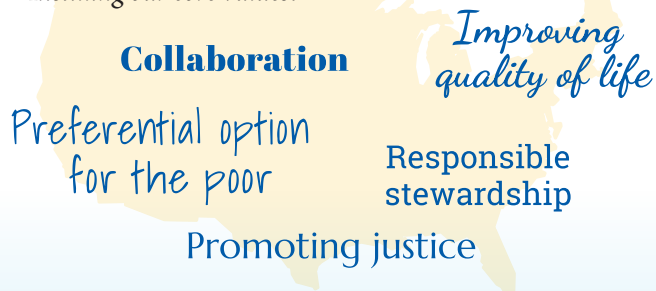


“New needs in the Church and world are calling forth new responses from persons gifted with the ability to respond to these needs.”

— Sister Maureen Hopkins,  
named one of first SDS  
Sponsorship Coordinators

### Era 5: 2000-Today Searching for New Footing in a Changing World

Instilling our core values:



We gratefully acknowledge research assistance from Provincial Archivist **Sister Mary Jo Stoffel, SDS** and **Sister Carol Thresher, SDS**, along with contributions of the late **Sister Margaret Shekleton, SDS**, who chronicled the first 90 years of our North American Province in her book *Bending in Season* ©1985.



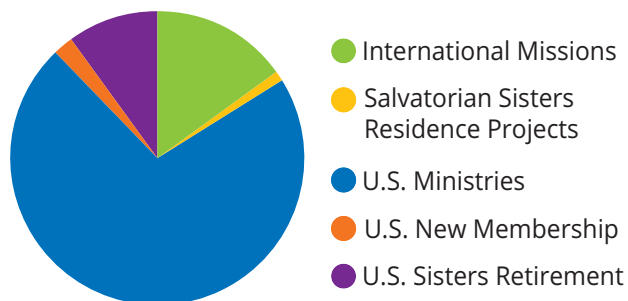
SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR



## Mission spirit *continued from page 1*

As the 2019 Advent season began, we asked you to open your hearts to support the needs of our North American Province. In our 2019 Christmas letter, you read about Sister Darlene Pienschke’s ministry to provide humanitarian aid to refugees at the U.S./Mexico border. Her work there is just one example of how we adapt our ministries to changing needs. In response to that letter, you blessed us with 412 gifts ranging from \$1 to \$20,000. Each and every gift, no matter the size, kindles our mission spirit. Your trust in us and your generosity are powerful sparks.

### Your gifts touch lives near and far



We depend on your generosity, but we want you to know we continue our efforts to procure monetary grants from foundations too. Last year we received grants to fund special initiatives, including: prospecting for new members; developing a new SDS website; and implementing the Pastoral Agents Program in Colombia, South America to prepare lay leaders to carry on our sisters’ apostolic works.

Also in 2019, we affirmed support for Salvatorian ministries in developing countries by renewing our commitment to the diocesan mission co-op program. Last summer 13 sisters traveled to 17 parishes in 8 dioceses across the U.S. to talk about our worldwide missions. Among them was Sister Magda Kumorek visiting from our Polish Province. During our mission talks, we share experiences of our international sisters who serve in their home lands to improve quality of life through education, job training, medical care, housing projects, elder care, anti-trafficking efforts and social work. It’s humbling to witness selfless giving by members of large and small parish communities. Most have never before met a Salvatorian Sister, but like you, they reach deep into their hearts to share their blessings with God’s neediest people.

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