

Cluny
SCHOOL

1957–2017



Photo: Courtesy of Cluny School

A time to plant, and a time for uprooting what has been planted.
(Ecclesiastes 3:2)

Sister Anne Marie Liston

March 1, 2017, was Ash Wednesday. The weather was still cold, rather dreary and rainy. A typical Ash Wednesday kind of day. That evening in the auditorium of Cluny School

we had good reason for our feelings to match the weather as Sister Luke, our Provincial sadly announced to parents, sisters, staff and Board Members that Cluny School would be closing for good as of June, 2017. To

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From the Editor's Desk



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Thank you.

It seems a bit presumptuous of me to write under the above title but I hope our former editor would approve. We all miss Sr. Regina but know that she is enjoying the rewards of a good life, well lived. Now if I can just get over the strange feeling that she is looking over my shoulder saying, “No, Sam, I think you should write that differently,” or, “shouldn’t you have a comma there?”

Christmas and Easter have long passed and we are well into summer as I write this but I would like to share an excerpt from a youth services reflection held Easter morning in Sr. Regina’s apartment. Katie, their leader, and Regina had a custom of doing this Easter morning with the “moms” who live at Angela’s Place.

In Katie’s words, “As we gather in Regina’s home, let us remember that she would want us to embrace and celebrate the resurrection and all its meanings: new life, hope, change and growth. She wants us to remember her, the love she gave us, and the wisdom she taught us. She wants us to move forward in her memory, and to love and support each other and the youth we work with, and to be grateful for the beauty of the world we live in.”

Thank you, Katie and all at Good Shepherd for all the goodness you showed to our sister. You have captured her love of life and of people. So, in that spirit ... we move on.

Sister Anne Marie

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Cluny School (Continued)



Annual play preparation with Sister Laetitia

say that there was shock, dismay, and sadness that greeted this announcement would be a bit of an understatement. Nevertheless, with the diminishing numbers of students, and the increasing costs of education and technology, it was inevitable.

We were blessed for sixty years to have so many dedicated and wonderful teachers who remained with us often at their own personal sacrifice. We had the vision of Sister Angela Schartz, who began Cluny 'on a shoestring and prayer' and encouraged us along the way, as did the succeeding Provincials. We had so many of the military families who never stinted on their service and support, whether here for three years or three months. We had great encouragement from our local community and most of all we had the love and appreciation of so very many parents who trusted their very special children to us, and special they were!

As the number of applicants increased so did our need for space and the "little school," as we called it, was added on to the Kindergarten building. Then we had to raise money for a larger addition and find ways to house more pupils as we added grades. Not too many students had the opportunity to finish their education in the rooms above the "carriage house" of the James Estate, or do their math on Father Maguire's kitchen table, but they were delighted to be different. The new addition took a while to pay off, and we were helped by the sacrifices other sisters of the province made to pay off the debt. The card parties and bingos from our Philadelphia sisters, the gifts, sale of their handmade Aran knits, and donations from the sisters in Providence, Hamilton and California added up little



Photos: Courtesy of Cluny School

Peace Celebration

by little and we were grateful. Still, we had to face the fact that bigger fund raisers were needed. And thus was born....CLUNY FAIR.

How many goldfish gave their lives? How many corks were painted? And how many tired, weary parents left our field at the end of the day having given their all to make it a success. Cluny Fair grew in size and changed in keeping with the times, but it was always a great day for those involved. It was a great family day for people from all over Aquidneck Island.

First Communion, the May Procession, Family Mass, golf tournament, annual play, the science fair, choir, art classes, sports — there were so many avenues to help a child realize his or her gifts and potential. Academic success was important, and standards were high, but most of all we asked each child to be the "best he or she could be" ... after all, isn't that what God asks of each of us?

There are so very many memories of Cluny that cannot be written down, or this newsletter would never end. Now that the closing has passed and time has worked its process of easing some of the loss, as Cluny Sisters we want to say, "Thank you" with all our heart to each of you who were ever a part of Cluny. The faces of the children that pass through our minds will remind us always of the beauty of children and we are grateful to have taught them. We are proud of them and they will always be in our prayers. As the saying goes, "Once a Cluny, always a Cluny." And in the words of Scripture, "I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever, there is no adding to it, or taking from it." (Eccl 3:14) Cluny lives on in our hearts.

Cluny Events and Celebrations

Sister Anne Marie Liston

So far, this year has proven to be a busy one in many ways, with some real milestones and some surprises. It is an exciting one as we all begin the remote preparations for our next General Chapter.

The General Chapter, held at our mother house in Paris, might be regarded in somewhat the same importance as a national election is in the United States, without the noise, fanfare and politics! But there, the similarity ends. For us, it is an opportunity to re-examine our way of life lived in so many different countries, with different cultures and languages, and yet unified by the same desire—to follow in the footsteps of Anne-Marie Javouhey, wherever God has placed us.

Preparation begins well in advance and with the newest modes of technology there is communication and discussion, exchanges of ideas, suggestions and deliberations winging their way around the Cluny world. Here in the U.S. we plan with the help of a facilitator, Sister Constance Gilder, SSJ and a committee of sisters who work with her, to formulate the agenda and issues which will be studied at our Province Chapter in October. At the heart of all this is our desire to continue to be faithful to the missionary spirit of our foundress. Each General Chapter takes an enormous amount of work and organization on the part of those involved so we ask your prayers for all of us as we plan for May, 2018.

As we anticipate the happenings of 2018 we also celebrated our 70th year as Clunys here in the United States and Canada. Small in number we might be, but we do like celebrations! On Saturday, July 15, we had a special Mass to commemorate our 70 years. The Mass was presided by Father John McNulty, our former pastor, and we were touched by the gratitude and support of so many of the parishioners who attended.

At the end of September, we will have another milestone to rejoice in as we will be marking the 50th anniversary of three of our Sisters: Marie Cooper, Luke Parker, and Mary Patrice Watson, as they celebrate their Golden Jubilees. One hundred and fifty years of dedication to God's people!

Working for the Justice that Brings Peace

Hamilton Associates Pursue Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

Sister Anne Marie Liston

Our Canadian associates continue to keep us informed of their work for justice, especially on the topic of Human Trafficking. In April, they attended the annual Stop Human Trafficking Conference sponsored by the Waterdown Stop Human Trafficking Committee and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. This year the title was: "The Porn Culture" and explored the issue of pornography and its link to human trafficking.

In addition to viewing the documentary film, *Over18*, which details the history of the pornography industry by Michelle Brock, cofounder of "Hope for the Sold" and a presentation by Glendyne Gerrard, Director of Defend Dignity, on porn as a public health crisis. This approach has the advantage of characterizing pornography as a health issue and represents a specific strategy to solve the problem legislatively in much the same way as the tobacco consumption was targeted. The group had the opportunity to sign a petition to the Attorney General and the Canadian Minister of Justice and are planning to develop their own responses to this evil of our present society.

They also received a positive reply from the De Groote School of Business (at McMaster University) acknowledging their correspondence concerning the obligation to serve the greater good of the community by emphasizing these values in their business ethics, practices and the distribution of equitable human resources.

Thank you, Terry Wallace, for keeping us up to date!

*I have chosen you and sent you out
to produce fruit.*
(Jesus)

In Memoriam

Sister Anne Marie Liston



Sister Gerard Grogan

Born into this life November 19, 1918
Religious Profession August 12, 1941
Born into eternity March 3, 2017



Sister Rosaleen (Joseph) Cummins

Born into this life October 4, 1930
Religious Profession March 15, 1956
Born into eternity March 25, 2017



Sister Eucharia McLoone

Born into this life July 12, 1925
Religious Profession 1947
Born into eternity April 20, 2017

During the spring months, we were saddened to hear of the passing of three of our former companions here in the U.S. Though retired for several years in Dublin, Ireland at Mt. Sackville Convent, our dear sisters, Gerard Grogan, Rosaleen Cummins and Eucharia McLoone were very much in our thoughts and prayers. The sisters going home for holidays in past years brought us news of their well-being and we were happy to hear about them.

Sister Gerard set out for Africa after her profession and served in the Gambia. Later, she came to our province and served many years in the Hamilton community as well as in Providence. She was a great cook and everyone who speaks of her remembers the delicious scones and the gracious hospitality she showed whenever we chanced to visit.

Sister Rosaleen was a very caring and efficient sister who served in Providence at the cathedral rectory, and

later looked after the ladies at St. Margaret's Home with great devotion. Her dry wit and cheerful solicitude for them was well appreciated.

Sister Eucharia McLoone came from years of ministry in the West Indies to become our provincial, and later became superior in Stella Maris in Newport before being elected to the General Council of the Congregation. As provincial, she saw us through the tumultuous days of post Vatican II renewal, and her warm and welcoming smile will be with us for a long time. We will never forget the choir practices and the attention to detail she gave them; nor her good advice when community get-togethers went on and on: "Perhaps we should go to bed and let these sisters go home," she would graciously suggest. May the Lord grant them the just rewards of the many years of service and love they gave to so many.

*Clearly you are a letter of Christ which I have delivered,
a letter written not with ink,
but by the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh in the heart.
(2 Corinthians 3:3)*



Cluny Sisters in Reunion Celebrate 200 Years

Sister Anne Marie Liston

Just a little over two years ago our Congregation held a meeting called the Council of the Congregation on an island called Reunion.

Located in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar, and southwest of Mauritius, Reunion was once known as the Island of Bourbon. It is approximately 970 square miles and has a population of 850,996. This island is considered to be the most prosperous of the Indian Ocean islands and is one of the overseas departments of France.

For us, Cluny Sisters, Reunion has a much more important role to play as we consider it to be the “first mission land of the Cluny Sisters.” In 1817, Blessed Anne-Marie Javouhey sent the first group of sister overseas to the Island of Bourbon. She had been asked by the administrator for the island, M. Desbassyns, to send sisters to look after the children on the island.

On the morning of June 28, 1817, after a voyage of five months and eighteen days on the ship, “Elephant” four Cluny sisters landed at St. Denis, in the north of Reunion. There they discovered that the Governor had decided that they would



Photos: Courtesy of the Province of Seychelles

Altar for the Bicentennial Mass

begin work in the southwest, so they had to re-board and finally reached their mission field in September of 1817.

They began with a primary school, and soon with the arrival of other sisters there were schools opening up all over the island. Today the Congregation has trusteeship of fifteen nursery and primary schools and one agricultural vocational school.

Their work continued and branched out into hospitals, home care, social services for the poorest of families, as well as parish work and catechesis.

Despite the lack of vocations the sisters continue working with the young people and the sick, conducting retreats and catechesis, and following our foundress' advice, “to be where there is good to be done.” They are accompanied by a growing number of lay Cluny Associates who collaborate and support them in their mission.

Like the mustard seed of the Gospel, the little island of the Indian Ocean has sent forth its fruits to all of us and to the Church beyond.

Congratulations, dear Sisters, you are an example for us all!

Celebrating Golden Jubilees

August 26, 1967 - August 26, 2017



Sister Luke Parker

Fifty years of Vowed Life fills me with gratitude. A beautiful vocation has embraced me and I am blessed to live at the heart of Jesus Christ's Mission.

A time of Jubilee is an ancient call to celebrate and rejoice; liberate all from bondage; forgive and reconcile; allow the whole of earth to lay fallow. With Mary, my very being sings, Magnificat!

Eagerly, joyfully, I recommit myself to live and move and have my being in the non-violent Gospel of Jesus and the urgency to act on behalf of justice, equality and the dignity of each and all.

My Jubilee Year urges me to carve out time and space within all of life and deepen my contemplative seeing, communal living and creative acting. I invite all to join me in returning to God all that belongs to God.

You know all things, you know that I love you.

(John 21:17)



Sister Mary Patrice Watson

When I read the life of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey for the first time in 1964, I was inspired by her life and I wanted to follow her vision of discipleship, always seeking to know and do the Holy Will of God. This attraction deepened as I came to know Cluny Sisters missioned in California. I am very grateful for the gift of my Cluny vocation, for fifty amazing years of vowed service in the Church's mission, and for everyone who has been part of my life. By God's grace, every new day is simply amazing.

My prayer today is that, like Blessed Anne Marie and our Lady, we may continue to journey together as missionary companions, freely living a joyful YES to the Lord's all-embracing call: Go out to all the world and proclaim the tenderness of God.

Amen! Alleluia! Let's celebrate!



Sister Marie Cooper

"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough." (Meister Eckhardt)

Many are the thank you prayers in my heart: from childhood moments when I discovered Jesus as a loving brother and creation as God's awesome gift, to encountering Anne Marie Javouhey in my teen years and discovering my call to Cluny. She continues to inspire, guide and challenge me in following Christ.

As I celebrate my jubilee year, I give thanks for all that has been and for all who have been a part of my life, and have inspired and sistered and brothered me along the way: family, Cluny Sisters here and abroad, friends and co-workers in ministry, neighbors and parishioners. You are numerous and greatly loved! What a grace! My heart is filled with gratitude.

Magnificat anima mea!
(Luke 1:46)



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Bringing Hope & Compassion

Exciting News from Hamilton, Ontario

Sister Regina's beautiful life is immortalized in the best way

The life and spirit of the late Sister Regina Brunelle will live on at Good Shepherd. The "Grandmother" of Angela's Place and the Jeanne Scott Parent & Child Resource Centre, who passed away late last year, is being celebrated by changing the name of Angela's Place to Regina's Place.

Renaming the home is a fitting tribute to a mentor, friend, teacher and advocate for hundreds of young moms and their children. Their lives - and the lives of Sister Regina's co-workers - are far better for having been in her presence.

Brother Justin Howson, Provincial Superior of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God - Province of the Good Shepherd in North America, made the announcement at the Youth Services

graduation ceremony in June. This year, 11 young mothers successfully completed their high school studies and received their graduation diploma.

The honor was preceded earlier this year by the dedication of the Sister Regina Centre for Education, an alternative education setting at the Jeanne Scott Centre, located adjacent to Regina's Place. The classroom dedication was led by Loretta Hill-Finamore, director of Good Shepherd Youth Services, and honored all that Sister Regina gave to her community. Good Shepherd co-workers, along with the young people she touched along the way, shared memories and poetry at the memorial service. A plaque in Sister Regina's honor now hangs on the classroom wall.



Sister Regina Brunelle

Photo: Courtesy of Good Shepherd Youth Services

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Please remember the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in your will. Thank you.