



# From the Editor's Desk



**Cluny Connections**  
is a publication of the  
**Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny**  
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**Editor: Anne Marie Liston, SJC**  
ellenliston@yahoo.com

**Javouhey House**  
78 Carroll Avenue  
Newport, RI 02840

**Phone: (401) 849-5124**

**Layout: Marie Cooper, SJC**  
clunymarie@gmail.com

**Javouhey House**  
78 Carroll Avenue  
Newport, RI 02840

**Phone: (908) 728-0090**

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A year ago we reflected on a year like no other, searching for a reason to hope. We were encouraged by the anticipation of vaccines coming, babies to be born, weddings being planned, professions and final vows of Cluny Sisters around the world. As the year unfolded, hopes were fulfilled. Yet, it also brought challenges: natural disasters, a resurgence of COVID, and the loss of loved ones, friends, and Sisters in community. Today we find ourselves, as we did last year, grateful but mourning, seeking new hope for a new year.

This issue of *Cluny Connections* brings reasons for hope. Hope for our Church through the new Synod that gives each person, whether engaged or hesitant at the margins, an opportunity to speak, listen, and be heard. Hope for a broken world through the *Cluny Circle of Love* bringing the good news of Cynthia Sanchez' success. Hope for Cluny around the World, in the papal recognition of Sister Rufina Donat's lifelong dedication. Hope through the inspiration of Dr. Andries Helt's life of dedication to family, the sick, and to his faith.

In his last encyclical, *Brothers and Sisters All*, Pope Francis wrote:

*Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love ... Hope is bold ... Let us continue, then to advance along the paths of hope.*

As we advance along the paths of hope, we give each other reason to hope day by day by doing "a little bit of good" to carry out the "Work of Christmas" throughout the New Year.

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