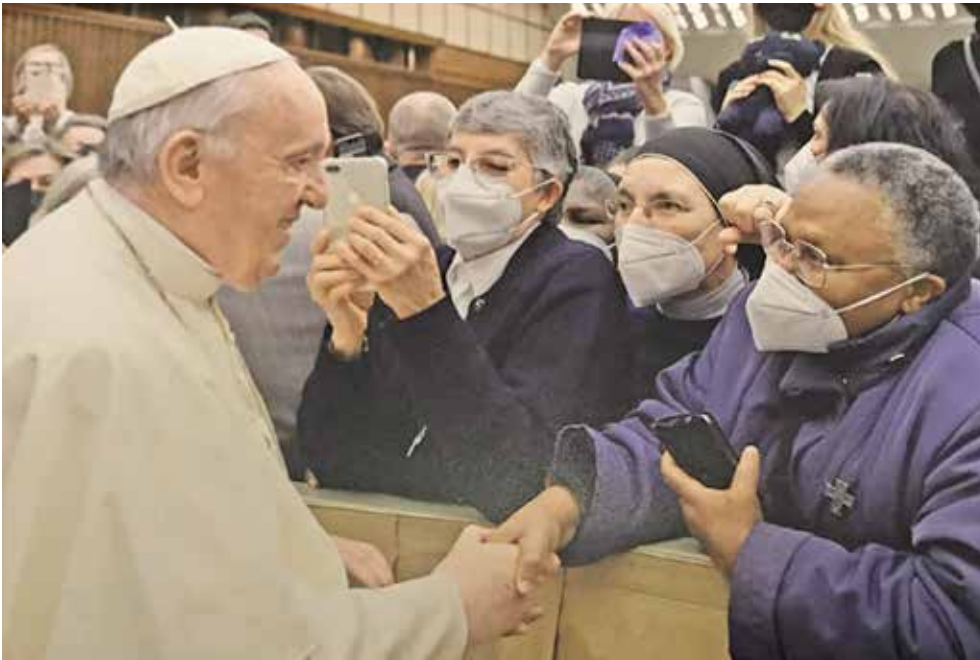


Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny  
Province of USA & Canada

# Connections

## Cluny Sisters Leadership Meets in Rome Reflections on the Council of the Congregation

Sister Genevieve Marie Vigil



Pope Francis with L-R Sister Ludovina Lemos, Provincial of Portugal, Sister Maria Nieves, General Councilor, and Sister Clare Stanley, Superior General

**O**n February 13th, Sister Clare Stanley welcomed 26 Provincials, Vice Provincials and Regionals for the Council of the Congregation in Rome, Italy. The Council of the Congregation, which is held 3 years after a General Chapter, had been delayed for 9 months due to the global impact of Covid. Even as we met, 4 Sisters had to join our prayer and discussions via Zoom.

Our gathering was truly a Synodal Process. In Communion, we began the day with faith sharing and ended the day with a multi-lingual Eucharistic Celebration. Our communion was strengthened, broadened

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Kathleen Madory**

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# Remembering Our Editor, Sister Anne Marie Liston



Born into this life  
August 15, 1937

Religious Profession  
February 11, 1961

Born into eternity  
February 4, 2022

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is a publication of the  
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**E**llen Liston was born to Richard I. Liston and Ida E. Morrison on August 15, 1937 in Brooklyn, NY. Perhaps because she was an only child, she became a lifelong avid reader and lover of mysteries. Growing up, she also greatly enjoyed high jinks with her Aunt Catherine, who was the same age, and the other neighborhood children.

As a child, and then as a young adult, Ellen suffered from serious illnesses. Because of her fragile health, she was told she could never join a religious community. But since sixth grade, she had wanted to be a missionary sister. After refusals from other congregations, her dream of becoming a missionary was realized when she was welcomed into the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in 1960.

As a teacher, she was creative and injected her classes with her inimitable sense of humor. She taught at Cluny School, Newport and St. Catherine Laboure, Torrance, CA, where she later became principal. She then served as Cluny Vocation Director until she became chaplain at St. Jean de Brebeuf High School in Hamilton, ON, Canada, before returning to teach at Cluny School again. Her next assignment was as pastoral associate at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Whitesville, WV.

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L-R: Sister Marie-Genevieve (Senegal), Sister Genevieve Marie Vigil, Sister Teresa Rai, General Councilor, and Sister Edel Rai, Provincial of North India/Nepal

### Reflections on the Council of the Congregation (Continued from page 1)

and deepened as we listened to 30 reports on the social/political, ecclesial and geographical events and challenges of the 56 countries where Cluny Sisters live and minister.

Participation was lived in honest listening and dialogue as we worked together to learn of the growth and development of the Congregation, to review the implementation of the General Chapter of 2018, and to explore proposals for the next General Chapter.

These days of communion and participation were days of an Emmaus journey, where we experienced “our hearts burning within us” as we prepared to return to our own Jerusalems to live and proclaim

God’s Mission, to make the presence of Jesus seen, heard and felt through us.

At a time when the cold winter weather of Rome was relenting, we experienced the grace of new hope through our *cor unum* (one heart) in living the vision of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey with our sisters throughout the world.

As a group, we participated in Pope Francis’ General Audience on Wednesday, February 23rd, the day he began a series of catechesis on the meaning and value of old age (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOhEO1U1K8U>). Sister Clare, who shook the Pope’s hand, told us that she would never wash her right hand again!!! (maybe).

# Cluny Circle of Love 2022 - Sophia Academy



“Sophia Academy engages girls from low income families on a joyful quest for self-discovery and opportunity through a middle school education grounded in social justice.

Founded in 2001 by Sr. Mary Reilly, RSM, Sophia Academy is the only independent all-girls middle school in Rhode Island focusing on the intellectual and emotional growth of students from low-income families. Our motto, “reflecting wisdom in the girl,” captures the essence of our school as a place that draws forth each girl’s inherent wisdom, helps her to find her voice, guides her to embrace challenges and develop her intellect, and sets her on a path to discover and realize her dreams. Sophia Academy’s mission springs from Sister Mary’s vision: to provide a rigorous, relevant, empowering education, preparing our students to be successful in high school and beyond, helping them to lead their lives as confident, compassionate women.”\*

Sophia Academy has annually participated in our Cluny Circle of Love since our collaboration with other religious congregations in its founding. We are proud to support the vision and mission of a school that connects so well with our own vision for the education of young girls and women.



\*

# Cluny Circle of Love 2022 - Sophia Academy

Urban Essays  
My Covid Chronicle

Feidy B.

Sophia Academy Class of 2021

In early 2021, Sophia Academy's Grade Eight students learned and practised the elements of photography: light, color, rule of thirds, pattern, close-up, point of view, contrast, leading line, curves and framing.

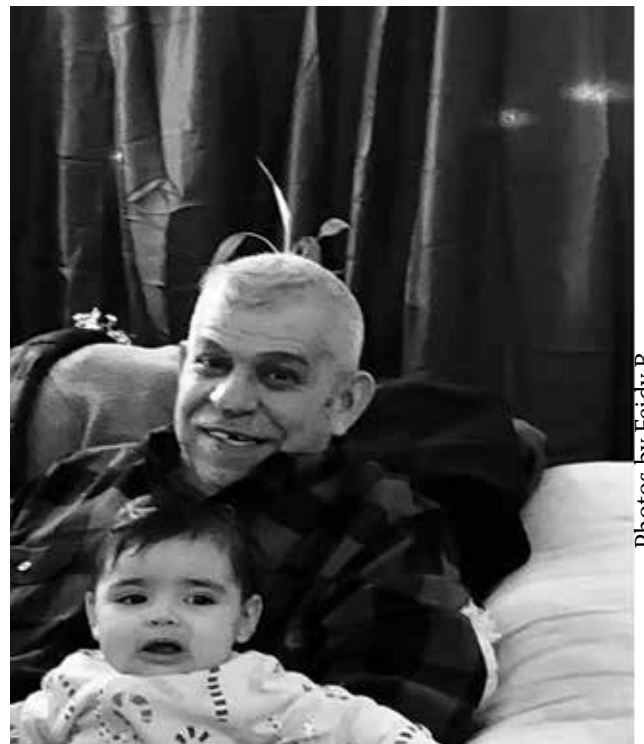


The students looked at the photographic essays of award-winning artist, LaToya Ruby Frazier. Their assignment was to apply the elements to tell their personal story during the pandemic of 2020 with photography.

These photographs represent the stories of their neighborhoods, their family life, their heritage and how 2020, the year of COVID-19 pandemic, affected their worlds... Enjoy!

"10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1," screamed my family as we entered the most eventful year of our lives. 2020 brought many tragedies, from wildfires to police killings that inspired powerful protests, to loved ones losing their lives, and most importantly, something that affected us all: Covid-19.

My photo essay shows a few things that occurred during the pandemic such as attending school virtually, discovering a new hobby (piano), occasional outings, test taking, and new family members who brought us joy during rough times like these.



Photos by Feidy B.



## Province of Portugal

### A Few Glimpses from the Island of Madeira

Cluny Sisters in Portugal are dedicated to caring for our Common Home and its people.



Sister Idalina Faneca's school has received the "Green School" award, ranking high for their efforts to care for the environment.

With some of the employees, Sister Idalina organized a composting project. The compost is then used in gardening.

And look at the results!

Sister Angela Joseph harvests beans from a garden that benefitted from the composting project. It was transformed from rocky, dry soil into rich loam.



Sister Assumption visits isolated neighbors suffering from mental illness to share staple foods provided by the community.



Thank you, Sisters, for your witness! And thank you, Sister Idalina, for sharing the good news and the photos.

## In Memoriam



Cluny Affiliate Maria Helt, MD

**D**r. Maria Helt passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on January 22, 2022, at the age of 93. Forever in love, she is now together again with her partner in life of 65 years, the late Dr. Andries Helt. She was a loving mother of 5 children. Born and raised in Holland, Maria and Andries immigrated to Canada where they started their medical careers and family. Maria and Andries worked in partnership as family physicians for over 40 years. A woman ahead of her time, Maria's devotion to her career and family allowed her to accomplish what few women of that time were able to achieve. She was a passionate medical practitioner who devoted her life to helping others, including working with Spanish-speaking refugees in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and doing missionary work in South America. She lived her life with optimism, curiosity, compassion, a hint of adventure, and gratitude. She will be forever missed and never forgotten. Maria is fondly remembered by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny.



Cluny Affiliates Joseph and Kathleen Madory

**K**athleen Madory, or Kathy, as she was known to so many, was grounded in her roots and in the deep faith of her Irish heritage. She did not become a Cluny Sister, as did her three missionary aunts, who left home to announce the Good News a hemisphere away. Instead, Kathy, with the same determination, witnessed to Christ as a lay woman, a wife, a Rotarian, and an employee at her various jobs. And we know that her husband Joe, who preceded her in death in 2018, only had eyes for Kathy!

The door of Kathy's heart and the door of her home were always open. Kathy was always interested in what was happening in your life. She remembered what you'd said the last time and would refer to it to encourage and support you.

Kathy made friends for a lifetime, whether they stayed in Staten Island or moved far away. She was loyal and caring, and she kept in touch. Thank you, Kathleen Callaghan Madory, for your Christian witness in our midst and for the difference you have made in so many lives.

---

### Sister Anne Marie Liston (Continued from page 2)

After her time in West Virginia, Sister Anne Marie returned to Cluny Convent, and then to Javouhey House in Newport. She not only gave of herself generously in all these ministries, she also served as Provincial Councilor, and later as archivist for the province, and as local community leader.

Born on the Feast of the Assumption, Sister Anne Marie had great devotion to Our Lady and could frequently be found praying fervently.

Sister Anne Marie was the editor of Cluny Connections from 2017 to 2021. We will miss her sense of humor, her way with words, and her interest

in many things both local and international.

Over the years, she kept in touch with many past students, their families, and parishioners. Sister Anne Marie's missionary spirit never flagged. Despite declining health, she remained engaged in a variety of activities, from volunteering at the Potter Animal Shelter to spending time with Cluny Sisters and friends.

Sister Anne Marie was pre-deceased by her parents and her aunt, Catherine LaDisa. She is survived by her cousins Cathy Albergo, Tom LaDisa, and Rosemary, Gail and Page Morrison.



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