

# What's Up ? Us !



*Yes, We Can!  
We're still  
crossing the  
Alps!*

In a winter LCWR webinar on the next steps in the journey of religious life, Mary Jo Nelson spoke of a smaller congregation as becoming a new kind of congregation. This change is not an end, fulfillment, diminishment or failure. It is a recommitment to live into our next phase. The gifts we need to go on, Mary Jo identified as relationship and contemplation, sacred conversations, and engagement with persons beyond the congregation—consultants, collaborators, companions.

June 16th at Mercy Circle, Avis Clendenen and her IBVM team, Anne Hyzy, Arlene Ashack, Jean Okroi, Lorraine Crawford and Nancy Kennelly, provided us with a day to look back with new eyes at Mary Ward and our heritage, to share with Mercy Sisters, IBVM friends and companions our pilgrimage as Mary Ward Women. She encouraged our trekking in the style of Mary Ward.

Yes, we have Alps around us. We have the beauty of companions. We are made for these times. May we continue our loving look at our reality, our opportunities, our challenges. May we continue the conversations and the journey with hope and with excitement!

Inside you will find stories and pictures of neighbors near and far, an invitation to share stories of people in your neighborhood, a request to share your story for the future, and something to make you smile. There are links to summer music too...Read on and Enjoy!

## Sacred Conversations



Sr. Betty Crotty with Grace Creighton



Peg Schneider and Claudia Nolan



Sr. Rosemary Lynch, Avis Clendenen and Sr. Esther O'Mara

## Relationships

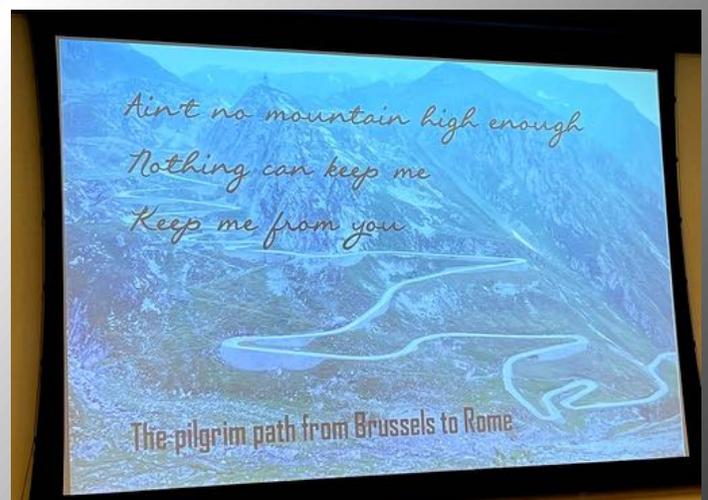


Sue Fenske, Nancy Taylor, Sr. Kay Foley, Avis Clendenen, Gretchen Gerdes and Mary Ellen McDonnell

## Trekking Companions



Standing: Sr. Frances McCarron, Mary Ellen McDonnell  
Seated: Eleanor Doitje, LoB, Silvia, ROM, Mary DePaul Palaszek



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOVdGmfKC1M>

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

The following is a paraphrase of a prayer used at some IBVM remembrance gathering somewhere at some time. I found it my Mary Ward folder.

Author is unknown.

As we continue to cross our Alps and claim our “upstream spirituality” may we remember and give thanks.

Blessed be all the women in Mary Ward’s Institute who have carried the charism down through the centuries in simple, dynamic and faithful ways.

Remembering those who have gone before us, those we have read about or have known:

Happy are you who performed what you were called to do faithfully and diligently. Remember us.

Blessed are you who did not let yourself be deterred by opposition. Inspire us.

Happy are you who, in quiet confidence, believed God’s will would emerge in times of confusion. Pray for us.

Blessed are you who discovered the freedom you had to refer all to God. Pray for us.

Happy are you, women of strength and courage, who did what was seen to be good in the circumstances in which you were placed. Inspire us.

Let us pray: We call on you, Holy Women of the Institute, the cloud of faithful witnesses who accompany us on our journey and intercede for us. Ask that we may receive increases of the graces of vision, courage and generosity so that we might meet the challenges of our times and give praise and glory to God. Amen. Alleluia.



## LIFE IN THE NINETIES

At 97 and 94 years of age **Srs. Mary Simpkin** and Frances DeMott, respectively, are joys to visit at Resurrection Life Center. Mary has dementia but surprises me, as we wheel around the hallways, by telling the time from the wall clock.



*Resurrection Life Center*



She also says aloud what pops up in her purview—the date on the large calendar placard and signs mounted on hall bulletin boards. She reads letters (and does not need eyeglasses for this) from her niece Susan and cards she has received. Sr. Frances DeMott and I get to listen to Mary's mail when we meet together. We all know Mary as an outdoors person and on the enclosed patio at her residence, she verbalizes what she sees other residents outside doing. I think she was correct once when she said that "those kids got out of school to come here" as some elementary children talked to their relative on a bench. Socialization for Mary and her companions in the Monarch wing enables them to participate in daily events in a natural way. Mary's curiosity about what is within her reach keeps her independently involved in a small but important way. I have a pleasant surprise when I bid her goodbye because she always says "thank you" to me.



**Sr. Frances DeMott**, a sort of poet in residence at RLC, enjoys reading her poetry from either of her two volumes. She has not written any lately but fortunately keeps her collection of hand written poems in two binders. Her favorite poem appeared last year in What's Up and is called, Moses. Frances spends her days reading and re-reading some of her old spiritual favorites, her poetry and watching TV news programs. Oh, she so likes watching the Green Bay Packers and her favorite quarterback, Aaron Rodgers. Frances is a superb conversationalist.



She always follows up on a visitor's story with the perfect comment and enters seamlessly into the give and take of conversation.

## IN GEAR AT ST. PATRICK'S RESIDENCE

At St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville, **Sr. Rosemary Lynch** is still driving—that is, she's driving her motorized chair. Yes! She passed that test and is no longer a beginning driver.



She happily "rolls" along with me and other visitors out the front entrance to enjoy the blooming lilac bush or finds the way to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor porch to catch more fresh air. In #211 W., Rosemary's room has an office corner where she conveniently keeps a lap top and printer.

She has always been up-to-date with the news and events and that has not changed. Weekly, Rosemary Zooms with 3 friends to share reflections on the next weekend's scripture readings. The ramp-equipped van makes it easy for her to attend a friend's funeral, get to Herrick Lake for the Stepping Forward gathering and pay a visit to Casa San Carlo.

She's always been in gear!



By Julie Stapleton, IBVM

Click below to read, a story about Christa Para, IBVM:

“Christa’s Story of Lice and Love” by Ray Almanza

<http://maryknollsociety-4277556.hs-sites.com/blog/the-privilege-of-getting-head-lice>

A mountain of lice, a story of love—Christa offers a reality check for those coming to learn more about ministry at the border.

Sr. Christa Parra



We travel the Alps of life as pilgrims, sharing the journey with all on the path, sharing life, faith, and the simple joys of the journey. Here, **Sr. Ellen Enright** is lector of the day for liturgy at Casa.



The following comes from a recent communication between Sr. Judy and Ann, a director at Artis.

*“We are so blessed to have all three Sisters here! They are each very special in their own way and contribute so much by helping others...the Lord is using them to make a difference in the lives of their other ‘neighbors’, especially the new ones who need a friend. The Sisters are great and have a sense of humor too! I love that they were teachers since they already come with a ‘servant heart’ and understand that when people struggle, they just need patience and guidance and a little love.” Ann*

Editor’s note: At Mercy Circle, Avis spoke of living an upstream spirituality, finding strength and vulnerability in flowing with and in the Source. I do not understand this completely, but perhaps our sisters at Artis experience and live this spirituality now. This place, their ‘neighborhoods’, are their Alps, and, Yes, they can!



Sr. Claire Vandborg



Sr. Peg Caulfield



Sr. Marietta Brummel



*Pam Smith*



**Giving thanks to the Sisters who dreamed of Mary Ward Center and made it happen!**



*Laura Schmidt, Sr. Lorraine Crawford and Megan Beutel*

*Sr. Barb Nelson, Chris Teichler, Laura Schmidt, Sr. Nancy Kennelly, Megan Beutel*



*Sr. Frances McCarron, Sr. Helen Timothy, Jennifer Schmitz, Sr. Betty Crotty and Sr. Judy Illig*



*Sr. Judy Illig*



*Marianne Solorio presenting Sr. Rosemary Lynch with a special dedication Library in her name.*

**A prayer, of thanks, a plaque to honor all Sisters who have worked at Mary Ward Center, a meal and a tour of Mary Ward Center culminated in a special dedication. The long desired library for the center has been established and named in honor of Rosemary Lynch, dreamer and Founder.**

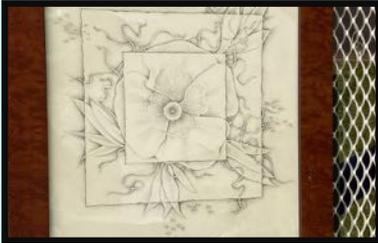




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The Wheaton Franciscans celebrated an Anniversary of Presence on June 12th at their campus in Wheaton. Part of the one day event was an art show featuring artists from Anawim Arts and work related to the care and appreciation of nature. It was pleasant to walk through this gallery and appreciating variety of materials, topics, and themes reflecting the spirituality of the artists.

Above: Works by Sr. Arlene Ashack, IBVM and photos by Diane McGuire.

### ***Preserve Your Story!***

A while back, Kevin Korst contacted us to tell us about a project he would like to do with the US IBVM Sisters.

***The archives are gathering oral history interviews and would love to capture your experiences as an IBVM Sister! Recorded in audio, these casual conversations will help preserve the history of the IBVM for future generations. Please contact Kevin Korst at [kkorst@ibvm.us](mailto:kkorst@ibvm.us) or 630-909-2904 with any questions or to schedule an interview.***

***Thanks for your continued support of the archives.***

Kevin asked us to let him know if we would be willing to be interviewed and recorded (voice only). Rosemary Lynch immediately volunteered. Kevin went to her home and talked with her, recording her history, historic moments in her lifetime. This record will be sealed for 50 years for those who will, in the future, want to know about Sisters, religious life and the Company of Mary Ward.

Please contact Kevin at [kkorst@ibvm.us](mailto:kkorst@ibvm.us) if you are willing to meet with Kevin to share our story, our legacy, our hope.

## “Our Neighbors”

Mr. Rogers used to sing: “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” Jesus was asked, “Who is my neighbor?” Who are your neighbors and how is God working in you? I would love to have little stories about interactions along the way. Here are 2 of mine to get you started. PLEASE send in some moments you have had meeting your ‘neighbor’.

Recently a request came to our office via Una Coogan, IBVM webmaster, to Chris, to me and eventually to Kevin and Betty in Archives. A woman in Alaska found a 7 Sorrows Rosary in an antique shop in her town. A tag on it read + Sr. Cassin. She researched nuns and found the name with the IBVMs, but had no more information. At lunch, Betty recognized the name as one of her grade school teachers, but she also found another Canadian IBVM by that name. This woman was delighted with what we could send her. I noticed that her email address included “sacred art” so I asked about it and recommended she look up Anawim Arts. She was delighted yet again! We ended up corresponding a few times about Ukraine, homelessness, aging religious communities and the world’s need for prayer. We promised each other to pray. **Who is my neighbor? How God is Working!**

Recently I was donating at the blood bank and was attended by Chandra, the director. I noticed her Black History button and asked her what might be a good book on Black History for me to read. I didn’t get that answer, but she told me about her family of foster and adopted children. One, a 17-year-old, was looking for information about her mom. Ancestry couldn’t help her, but Chandra wanted some way to find out about Americans from Belize, about migrations that took people to Belize and from there to America. I texted Brenda in Rome, and a week later, Brenda responded with all she had learned about the migrations. Gratitude poured out from Chandra’s heart. **Who is my neighbor? How God is working!**

These are not stories of lasting connections, just of companions on the journey. What are your stories? Send to me at [mtcarton@comcast.net](mailto:mtcarton@comcast.net) Please and thank you!



Front Row: Sr. Barb Nelson, Sr. Connie Steffen, Sr. Judy Illig  
Standing Top Row: Sr. Julie Stapleton, Andy Wells, Sr. Betty Crotty, Laura Schmitt, Sr. Helen Timothy and Sr. Ciindy Langlois

### Congregation 22 A meeting with our international IBVM “Neighbors”

Back in February we spent time at our Regional Congregation looking at the results of our Conversation Circles and summarizing the Emerging Themes. From those we selected 2 themes and what they would look like in our lives.

Recently we received these statements from all the IBVMs gathered at province and region congregations. We are not asked to meet, discuss and report at this time. BUT! If you have read through them and would like to have an opportunity to voice an opinion, conviction or hope, please contact our delegates: Srs. Christa, Barb and/ or Judy. Let us pray with and for all!



**Sr. Julie Stapleton** is seen here at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem with international neighbors. She inserted a prayer list with all of our names. Julie has promised an article with pictures and stories of her gift of time in the Holy Land.



# Welcome Summertime!

Sitting on the dock of the bay – Otis Redding <https://youtu.be/rTVjnBo96Ug>

Summertime – Ella Fitzgerald <https://youtu.be/u2bigf337aU>

Under the Boardwalk – Drifters <https://youtu.be/EPEqRMVnZNU>

Summer Breeze – Seals and Croft <https://youtu.be/GQQbjpomexo>

A Summer Song by Chad and Jeremy <https://youtu.be/W2PCHoKdQSA>

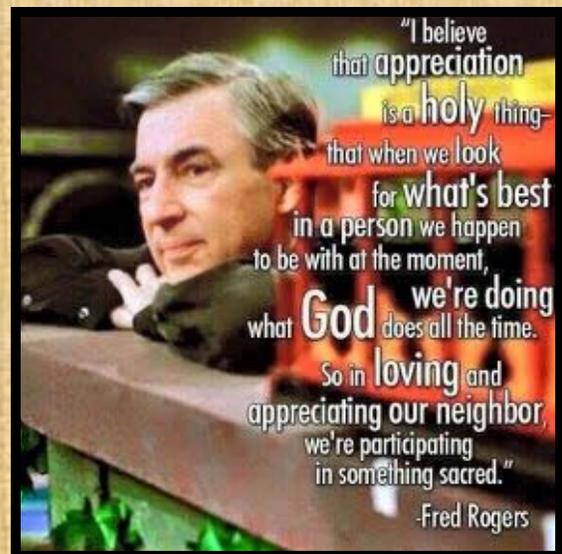
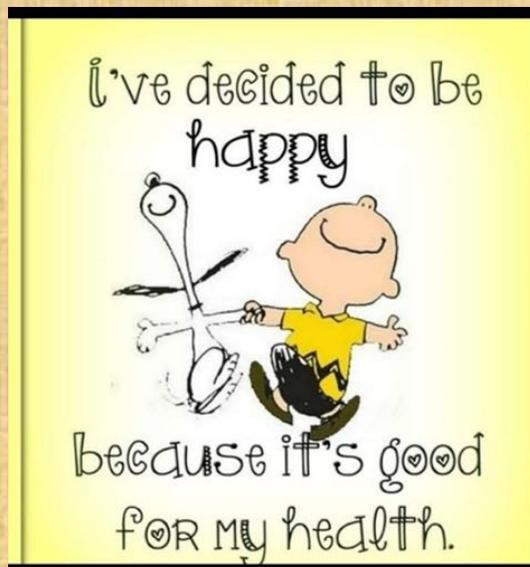
Dancing in the Street – Martha and the Vandellas <https://youtu.be/68Uv959QuCg>

Saturday in the Park – Chicago <https://youtu.be/e0HDsguQcsE>

Good Vibrations – Beach Boys [https://youtu.be/Eab\\_beh07HU](https://youtu.be/Eab_beh07HU)

Here Comes the Sun - Beatles <https://youtu.be/KQetemT1sWc>

Wonderful World—Louis Armstrong <https://youtu.be/2nGKqH26xlg>





**Summer Sea Sillies  
(Fishy Jokes)**

**Q: What do you get when you combine an elephant with a fish?**

**A: Swimming trunks!**

**Q: Do fish go on vacation?**

**A: No, because they're always in school!**

**Q: Why did the dolphin cross the beach?**

**A: To get to the other tide!**

**Q: Why don't oysters share their pearls?**

**A: Because they're shellfish!**

**Q: Why do fish like to eat worms?**

**A: Because they get hooked on them!**

**Q: What is a shark's favorite sandwich?**

**A: Peanut butter and jellyfish!**

**Q: What is a frog's favorite summertime treat?**

**A: Hopsicles!**

**Q: What do you call a fish that doesn't have any eyes (i's)?**

**A: A fsh!**

**Q: Why should you never blame a dolphin for doing anything wrong?**

**A: Because they never do it on porpoise!**

**Q: Why do fish swim in saltwater?**

**A: Because pepper water would make them sneeze!**

Source: Online Summer Jokes

July 2022