



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
THE MESSENGER



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Pentecost 2026

On Independence Day this July, we sang Hymn 596 from The Hymnal 1982. It began: *"Judge eternal, throned in splendor."* But it was these lines in the second verse that struck me the most:

*Still the weary folk are pining for the hour
that brings release,
And the city's crowded clangor cries aloud
for sin to cease;
And the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace.*

The writer of these lines, Henry Scott Holland, was not only a priest in the Church of England but also active in fighting social injustice in East London. His descriptions of suffering include not only people but creation itself.

One of the ministries our Community offers is daily intercessions during the Noon Office. People send us their prayer requests, both locally and from far away, and these petitions range from personal to global. Since our last newsletter, we've prayed regularly for those in the midst of famine and war, immigrants in detention centers, those fighting wildfires, rescue workers providing aid for natural disasters, victims and perpetrators of gun violence, and those in positions of political power, that they would act justly. We have, with our prayers, joined with Holland's petition to "cry aloud for sin to cease."

This "crying aloud" was already much in my thoughts when those words jumped out to me in the hymn. In *The Tears of Things*, by the Rev. Richard Rohr, Fr. Rohr introduces where the title of his book comes from. He shares that in Virgil's *"Aeneid,"* the hero Aeneas contemplates a painting that shows the battle of the Trojan War and depicts his fallen friends and companions. Aeneas is so

overwhelmed by the sadness of it all, that he speaks of *"the tears of things"* (p. 3). Fr. Rohr discusses how this phrase has touched many people over time in a variety of settings. He shares:

"Prophets and mystics recognize what most of us do not – that all things have tears and all things deserve tears. Tears come from both awe and empathy, and they generate even deeper awe and deeper empathy in us. The sympathy that wells up when we weep can be life-changing, too, drawing us out of ourselves and into communion with those around us." (p. 4)

Scripture is full of references to tears. Psalm 56:8 says that God keeps "track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book." We know that Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35). Although there are many varied and layered responses to pain, tears are one natural response. But it does not always end there.



I have long respected the truth and wisdom of Fr. Rohr that *"If you do not transform your pain, you will always transmit it in another form"* (p. 6). He has found, like many others before him, that spiritual communities can be one place where such sacred transformation can occur; where pain can be transformed into external action and compassion for others.

We can be comforted in remembering that our Lord chose to take on our pain and our tears by entering into our suffering with us. We worship a God who chose to take on human flesh, who was capable of being wounded. He carries his wounds with him beyond the resurrection. We must never forget that all of our lives are a participation in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Then we will discover that when we "cry aloud," we will find God crying aloud with us.

In these times of suffering, may God give you the courage to share it with others, to remind you that you are not bearing it alone. May the communal sharing of pain usher in the beginning fruits of healing. May the tears shed water the ground for enriching transformation that sprouts forth seeds of action, compassion, and service, so that we may all do our part to bring forth the kingdom of God.

- Sister Hannah, CSM

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Associate News



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

Dear Associates,

Just recently, we had a wonderful Annual Silent Retreat with Dr. Hannah Matis. As many people said, she stretched our minds and made us much more aware of the impact the Song of Songs has had and continues to have on our lives. I was glad that we had such a great crowd attend-about fifty-nine in total (including the convent participants, musicians, Dr. Matis and the Rev. Dr. Justin Anthony, her husband and our retreat celebrant). People came from eleven states: Tennessee, Texas, Colorado, Louisiana, West Virginia, Missouri, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, and Virginia. Twenty-three were Associates and their relatives, nine Oblates and their relatives, and ten new participants-several from Missouri thanks to Cyrus Parks. The Evening Prayer on Thursday night was a powerful experience with a packed convent chapel, as was the Sunday Eucharist that ended the retreat. Thank you all for your presence and participation! And for those that could not attend for various reasons, know that you were in our thoughts and prayers.



*Erika Ewen,
an Associate
admitted at our
June retreat*

I am hoping that this annual silent retreat will become an annual gathering of as many of our whole

*Sandy Bethel,
an Associate
admitted at our
June retreat*



Community: Sisters, Associates, Oblates, interns, friends, and newcomers- as can come. This is one way that we can feel connected with the whole body and either begin or continue new friendships. We all need community in such a fragmented and isolating time.

You should try to reserve the dates for our next retreat now: June 17- 20, 2027. The retreat will be led by Br. Ephrem, OHC, the new superior of the Order of the Holy Cross, who will share his reflections on Thomas Merton and "his ability to show how the contemplative dimension of life leads to the prophetic." (More information in later communications.) I think that he will offer us much food for thought, so consider inviting a friend to come as well.

As for other Associate updates, I have continued efforts to reach each of you by anniversary cards, e-cards, and MailChimp e-newsletters. It would really help if you would occasionally write me back to confirm that you are receiving the MailChimp newsletters and to send me any updates to your contact information or rule of life. Thanks to all those who have already written me about their life changes and any present prayer requests.

Over the time since our last printed newsletter, two Associates, the Rt. Rev. Craig Anderson and Sarah Zimmerman died. Bishop Anderson had a memorial service at All Saints' Chapel in Sewanee and was memorialized in a MailChimp newsletter earlier. Sarah Zimmerman died suddenly in late June of a heart condition. Her family is in deep grief over her sudden death. Please remember them in your prayers.

Later, I will probably be able to share more about Sarah in a MailChimp newsletter.

We have also welcomed seven new Associates: Cyrus Parks, Jennifer Wickham, The Rev. Ron Taylor, Erin O'Rourke Nieman, Adam Dawkins, Sandra Bethel, and Erika Ewen. You have already heard about all of them, except for Sandra and Erika in MailChimp newsletters. I will share more about Sandra and Erika in the next MailChimp newsletter that will come out in August, after the Rev. Christina R. Salzer is also received. I hope to share more about the 2027 Annual Silent Retreat in the MailChimp, also. So, don't miss it! Please stay connected and let me know how you are.

Blessings,
Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

RIP: The Rt. Rev. Craig Anderson, Sarah Zimmerman

New Associates: Cyrus Parks, Jennifer Wickham, The Rev. Ron Taylor, Erin O'Rourke Nieman, Adam Dawkins, Sandra Bethel, Erika Ewen



Sr. Madeleine Mary admitting the Rev. Ron Taylor at The Episcopal Church of St. Peter By-the-Lake in Denver, North Carolina



The Rev. Adam Dawkins, Sr. Madeleine Mary, and Erin Nieman in our convent chapel

"Visiting the Philippines"

By: Sister Elizabeth Mills,
CSM



Sister Ines and Sister Elizabeth in front of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Sagada

I had the opportunity to go to the Philippines during Eastertide (April 13-May 6) and spend time with Sr. Ines. It was such a joy to be part of CSM, Sagada for several weeks. We no longer have a convent in Sagada, but we do have a CSM Sister stationed there. The Church of St. Mary the Virgin (CSMV) provides a cottage for Sr. Ines in the church compound. I stayed in a room in the parish house, which was the former convent for the Sisters of St. Mary. My room was named "*Regina Coeli*," Latin for "Queen of Heaven." While there I wondered, which of the former Sisters lived in this cell? There is an age difference of sixteen years between Sr. Ines and myself but only five years difference between the dates of our life professions. We lived together for four years in Sewanee. It was very good for both of us to live and to pray together again as Sisters of St. Mary, this time in Sagada. I had also visited Sagada and Banga'an in 2007 and 2009.

I would like to share with you some of the history of the Sisters and the Community in the Philippines. Then I'd like to reflect on CSM, Sagada in the 21st century and some of the highlights of my trip.

The Sisters of St. Mary in the Philippines in the 20th Century
Bishop Charles Brent, Missionary Bishop of the Philippines, and Rev. John Staunton visited our Community in NY in 1916 and asked us to consider sending Sisters to join the Episcopal Mission in Sagada. After prayer and reflection, the answer was yes. Three CSM Sisters sailed to the Philippines in 1917 to join the Mission. Sagada is located in the Cordillera Mountains at the elevation of 4,829 feet. Different CSM Sisters were sent to Sagada from New York for about fifty years. Their foci were health, education, and children. The Sisters of St. Mary the Virgin (SSMV) was founded in 1940. This was an indigenous order of Sisters that worked alongside the "American CSM Sisters." The American Sisters withdrew in the late 1960s and the Sisters of St. Mary the Virgin continued to pray and to minister in Sagada and the surrounding barrios. The Rev. Archie Stapleton and his family lived and served at the Sagada Mission from 1959-1969; quite a few of the "Sagada Stapletons" now live in Sewanee. Three SSMV Sisters came to Tennessee in 1992 and were received as Sisters of St. Mary. Sisters Mary Zita and Virginia Clare stayed to live and to minister in the United States; Sr. Mary Frances returned to the Philippines. American Sisters, Sr. Lucy and Sr. Margaret, went and stayed in the Philippines several times during the 1990s. Our Oblates, Anne and Kermit Cudd, and our Associates, Bill and Phebe Hethcock, also spent time in Sagada during the 1990s. Ines Miller and Evelyn Patong became postulants of the Community of St. Mary in December 1997 and continued their monastic formation in Sagada.

Sister Ines

Sr. Ines was born and raised in Sagada. Her schooling was in English. She speaks both English and Igorot, the local dialect. Sr. Ines came to live in Sewanee from 2000-2007. She made her life profession in the convent chapel on February 1, 2001. She was trained as sacristan for the



Sister Ines, CSM

Community and also served at Epiphany, Sherwood. Sr. Ines loves to sing and to chant. Sister also had the opportunity to take Education for Ministry (EfM) while in Sewanee. Upon her return to the Philippines in 2007, she became very active at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. She was trained as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and often walked up and down the hills, visiting the sick and the homebound, and taking them communion. Sr. Ines was a member of the church choir. She was trained and received a certificate from Wycliffe Seminary for "Basic Hebrew and Translation Checking Training" in October 2025. Presently she is working with a local team to translate the Old Testament into various local dialects and languages. She, like Bishop Samuel Schereschewsky, is "well fitted" for the work of translation and checking.

CSM, Sagada in the 21st Century

Each week Sr. Ines and I looked at the bulletin board in the parish house, and discovered what masses would take place in the church next door. There were several funerals, requiems, school masses, marriages, anniversaries...almost every week. Since prayer is the center of our monastic life, Sr. Ines supports the church and her neighbors by attending most of the masses. We would gather every evening in her cottage at 5 pm for Evening Prayer; we rotated leading and reading. If I had stayed longer, I am sure we would have been chanting and singing in no time.

Her base communities are the Associates, the church staff, and

her biological family. The church staff numbers around ten persons. Many persons in the Philippines stop at 10 am and 3 pm for coffee and conversation; often we joined some of the church staff for these short breaks.

The Associates meet regularly on the fourth Thursday of the month for Eucharist and fellowship; they have yearly Lenten and Advent retreats. I went to an Associates' gathering where we had a good exchange of ideas and stories. Manang Rosalia Padayao gathers a group on Sunday afternoons to make crafts out of old calendars and newspapers. Future projects are to make church linens and to reconnect with and give support to families who have "special needs" members. There was "on record" a group of thirteen active Associates in the Philippines when I arrived; often other friends joined these monthly gatherings. Nine of these friends were received this past June 18 and June 24 as Associates. Manang Elizabeth Alicda, a tailor and now an Associate, has designed a special blouse for the group.

Sr. Ines has nine siblings, one brother and eight sisters. Five of her sisters live in the Sagada area; her mother also lived nearby. It was very special for me to meet and to become reacquainted with many of them. Her mother, Manang Judith Miller (whom I visited several times), had cancer, was on hospice, and died on July 6, 2026.

Highlights of my trip

- I had such fun hiking with Sr. Ines' sisters, Lydia and Pia, and Lydia's two dogs.

- It was such a treat to have Sr. Ines' pancakes (plain or banana) almost every morning.

- What a delight to sing (accompanied by an accordion) and to dance (line dancing, Igorot dancing, Virginia Reel) with the ECW!

- Sr. Ines taught me some Igorot words



Sr. Ines and Sr. Elizabeth with a group of Associates in Sagada

and expressions.

- I spent time with Sr. Mary Zita's family in Baguio. Two of her sisters, Judith and Gertrude, were visiting from Texas. I saw Hilaria, another sister and our Associate, and George, Sister's brother and an almost centenarian, on the first day I arrived. Her niece, Jasmin, was such a gracious hostess. Gertrude is a "mover and shaker." She worked out the logistics of my transportation from flatland Manila to mountainous Sagada. This is a 10-12 hour trip and is often divided into two days.

I was very aware, during this trip, of the presence of God, in whom we live and move and have our being, and of my dependency on others. After the first few days, I was able to relax and to graciously receive all that was offered and given to me. It was a very good learning experience for me.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Fletcher Comer



Our close friend and part-time

neighbor, the Rev. Fletcher Comer, died on January 12th. Fletcher served on our Board of Advisors from 2014 until 2016 and was always eager to support our Community and promote our ministries. Fletcher was field work mentor to Sister Madeleine Mary when she was at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Scottsboro, Alabama in 2007. She described him as a "kind and gentle soul who could calm troubled waters and always made people feel welcome." While serving on our board, Sister Elizabeth said "he shared his willingness to help and his wisdom in the ways of the world and the ways of God." He was also a friend to Sister Hannah throughout her formation and journey, and attended her installation as Prioress in 2023. The Community remembers, with fondness and gratitude, the many times Fletcher and Judith would serve at our altar together.



The Revs. Judith and Fletcher Comer serving at our altar in the convent chapel

On July 5th, we had the Interment of the Rev. Fletcher Comer at the Sisters' cemetery. The Comer family provided music, and his wife and our Associate and close friend, the Rev. Judith Comer, was the officiant. Her grandson Brittan was crucifer, Fletcher's brother Kim was reader, her three sons, Fletcher Comer III, Patrick Comer, and Walton Comer, all sang together during the service. It was a beautiful send-off. For his life of faith, service, and ministry, and for his longstanding friendship, we give thanks. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Alice Ramsey

Alice Ramsey and the Sisters of St. Mary, Sewanee had a close relationship for over forty years. Alice was an EfM mentor for over twenty years. She introduced EfM participants to



Alice Ramsey

retreat and silence by bringing them to St. Mary's Retreat Center annually. Her commitment to the Sisters began in the 1980s, when she became an Associate in 1983. She and her husband, Dick, who later became an Associate, participated in silent retreats, Celtic pilgrimages, and an annual week of canning with the Sisters. She organized quiet days at Grace Episcopal, Chattanooga and invited the Sisters to attend. She organized "day trips" for Sisters without family nearby.

Alice became an Oblate of our Community in 2000, and her friendship with the Sisters deepened. Dick died in 2011. She later moved to Sewanee, and rented the Sisters' "cottage in the woods," Woodhaven. She loved all of our interns and became a grandmother-like figure to them. When she returned to Chattanooga and to Grace Episcopal in 2018, we had a festive send off party that was well attended by the local Sewanee community.



Sr. Hannah, Sr. Madeleine Mary, Alice Ramsey, Sr. Elizabeth, and Sr. Felicity at the rededication of the rose garden bench

Alice returned to the convent in Sewanee for a visit in 2022 when we rededicated the restored bench in our rose garden in honor of our Alice's recent 90th birthday. It was another joyous celebration. Our friendship with her remained strong and grounded. One of the Sisters spent time with Alice the week of her death, being in silence and praying together. She died on February 12th. We continue to give thanks to God for the life, witness, and ministry of Alice Ramsey.

"On Homemade Yogurt"

By: Sister Felicity, CSM



Sister Felicity

I started making homemade yogurt sometime in January, partly because of the expense of buying 4 quarts of yogurt a

week, partly as a way to reduce our plastic usage, and partly as a fun little side project in addition to the myriad other homemade things that have been fun to learn.

The concept is fairly simple, and various European cultures have been doing it with quite low tech for centuries, if not millenia – milk is heated to at least 180 degrees Fahrenheit, then cooled to 100-115 degrees, an existing yogurt culture is stirred in, and then the whole mixture incubates at a warm temperature for several hours. Modern food science, striving for uniformity between batches, has given rather exact recommendations in temperature, amount of starter used, and incubation time, but in my experience, yogurt is both quite lenient and quite responsive to its environment, rather like handmade

bread. It takes longer to set firmly in the winter, particularly using what I call "the Russian grandma method" of wrapping the pot in a cozy blanket and putting it somewhere relatively warm to incubate. The Instant Pot, which is much more convenient timewise, heats the milk to exactly 185 degrees and incubates at exactly 104 degrees every time. This often beats standing at the stovetop stirring for 45 minutes to prevent burning, or losing heat throughout the day, but at some level, mechanizing the process loses a bit of its "soul." Many people believe specialized equipment is necessary, but our ancestors did without any of that, keeping the bacteria alive for the next generations of people and yogurt to the present day, where they are isolated and bred as starters.



Sister Felicity's Homemade Yogurt

Six months later, I do default to the Instant Pot, since I can "set it and forget it" and read, pray, or journal while stirring the cooling milk. But I have noticed that I get a firmer texture when I babysit the milk at the stove, especially when it can get up to a real boil at 209 degrees. The starter does degrade as well, making the yogurt grainier and more sour with each generation. In order to get firm, unseparated creaminess, I have to start over with a few spoonfuls of fresh culture. In the end, yogurt is a time investment – not only in terms of time spent stirring or monitoring temperature, but in the scheduling to make sure the starter is fresh (up to a week between batches, maximum) and the constraints in other activities to monitor it and maintain its bacterial integrity. It requires

sustained attention and care, as well as familiarity with variable cues that are really more about intuition and experiential knowledge than empirical measurement. The guide books say that the incubation temperature must be above 110 degrees and consistently maintained, and milk boils at 212 degrees. But here on the mountain in Sewanee, I was quite worried when the milk was bubbling at 208 degrees and simply wouldn't rise above 209. Also, it turns out that yogurt bacteria, similar to bread yeast, are perfectly happy with the vague temperature "nice warm shower water that you can hold the tip of your finger in for about 5 seconds before it feels too hot."

There are all kinds of spiritual insights that rise to the top of my mind when I consider yogurt – how looking after bacteria is strangely similar to caring for other human beings; how returns to spiritual sources are periodically needed for refreshment and renewal in faith; how the Holy Spirit, life-giving force, blows where and how it pleases, despite our (my) best attempts to systematize and make things more efficient. But I think concluding with an invitation and a recipe will do more to experience food for the body and soul.

A recipe for simple (not to be confused with convenient) homemade yogurt:

Ingredients: one half gallon of whole milk; a few good spoonfuls of plain yogurt

1) Pour milk into a large pot or saucepan and heat on medium to boiling, stirring to prevent scalding on the bottom. Look for the proteins changing consistency on the spoon and bubbles moving just under the surface. This a great opportunity for deep kitchen conversation or some informal meditation and listening.

2) Remove the pot from the heat, but continue stirring for a while to prevent a skin forming. Check the temperature every once in a while or do the fingertip test (with clean hands!). Take

out about a cup of warm milk, stir in the culture, and stir it into the larger pot.

3) Put a lid on the pot and quickly wrap the whole thing securely in a thick, cozy blanket. Set it somewhere warm for anywhere from 6 to 9 hours, but don't check on it or else the heat will escape. This is kind of a trial-and-error situation.

4) When the yogurt has properly set, it will hold together and separate from the side of the pot when tilted. Spoon it into quart containers and put it in the fridge overnight to firm up even more. Extra whey is okay – you can spoon it off if you like.

5) Enjoy for breakfast with granola in the morning!

Have you considered a planned gift or leaving a bequest to the Community of St. Mary?

You can make a tax-deductible gift by check or by an online donation to "The Sisterhood of St. Mary"

Sr. Hannah Shares News from CSM



Sr. Hannah, CSM

Louisiana, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. These opportunities have been made possible through invitations by friends from seminary and from our

Since our last newsletter, we've spread the word about our Community and Episcopal religious life in Arkansas, Maryland,

Texas, California,

Associates at a variety of Episcopal churches across the United States. We have admitted seven new Associates since last November and four new Oblates.



The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt placing the life profession ring on Sister Felicity



Sister Felicity surrounded by her family at her Life Profession

We also had an important celebration in our Community with the Life Profession of Sister Felicity on December 6th. On the feast of St. Nicholas, our Bishop Visitor, the Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt, celebrated, preached, and received the solemn lifetime vows of Sister Felicity on behalf of the church. It took five years of formation to make it to this day. We had University of the South organist, Dr. Geoffrey Ward, as our organist (who knew Sister Felicity from her time in the University Choir) and had her parents, Kirsten and Cy, as oblation bearers. We were delighted to have so many of her family members and friends join us for such a joyous occasion. With over seventy people in attendance; we even had some seated in our bell tower! The following day, we admitted her father, Cy, as an Associate.

Later that month, we said farewell to our longtime employee Carol Collins. She had worked for the Sisters since 1988. We had a lovely retirement party for her in which some of her family members were able to attend. We cannot thank Carol enough for the important role she's played as an amazing, kind, funny, and hardworking woman and presence within the Community. She's cooked and cleaned but also been a close friend of Sisters, interns, guests, and visitors.



Back row: Sr. Felicity, Sr. Hannah, and Sr. Egeria Mark

Front row: Sr. Madeleine Mary, Carol Collins, and Sr. Elizabeth at Carol's Retirement Party

February was another time to celebrate as our postulant, Sydney Dudley, was clothed as a novice on February 14th and took the name, Sister Marcella. Her parents, sister, and sister's boyfriend, were able to attend the clothing ceremony and our chapel was overflowing with guests.



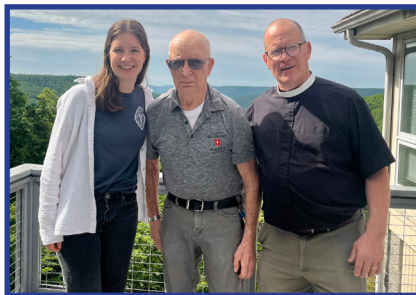
Our overflowing chapel at Sister Marcella's Clothing as a Novice

Our new novice, Sister Marcella



In April, Catechumenate, the undergraduate ministry at the University of the South, hosted a special gathering to introduce undergraduate students to monastic life. Sr. Egeria Mark, a longtime group leader at Catechumenate, gave a brief introduction and a spirited panel discussion followed for over an hour. On the panel were Sr. Egeria Mark, Sr. Hannah, Sr. Marcella, and our intern Emily Tess. We are grateful to Lay Chaplain, Mary Margaret Murdock, for the invitation and for our continuing collaboration with All Saints' Chapel.

May was a time of transitions. We said farewell within the first week to our long-term intern Emily Tess. Her dad, the Rev. Mike Tess, an Episcopal priest in Wisconsin, and her grandfather, Clayton, joined us for her last weekend with us. We had a festive goodbye party for her to thank her for her hard work.



Emily Tess with her grandfather, Clatyton, and her dad, the Rev. Mike Tess

On Trinity Sunday, we had the commissioning service for our three summer Organic Prayer Program interns: Eleanor Dean, Jackson Newton, and John Uther Henderson. Our summer interns joined us for our June retreat. We admitted two new Associates, Sandy Bethel and



Our three summer interns: Eleanor Dean, Jackson Newton, and John Uther Henderson

Erika Ewen. We also admitted two new Oblates, Phylcia McFaddin and Brenna Seifried Ruiz. They were the second and third new Oblates this year, as the Rev. Michael Sturdy was the first Oblate admitted this year when I flew out to Houston to admit him in March at the church where he serves as curate, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. The Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Barker became an Oblate in December of 2025 in our convent chapel.



Phylcia McFaddin, Sr. Hannah, and Brenna Seifried Ruiz

Oblates are people both lay and ordained who live as extensions of the Community out in the world. They apply the wisdom of the Rule of St. Benedict to their lives and develop lifelong bonds with our Community. They have a two year formation period in which they learn the rhythm of the Daily Offices, *lectio divina*, have regular study of the Rule of St. Benedict and other Benedictine books.

We so appreciate the ongoing support of our ministries from our friends, interns, Associates, Oblates, and readers of this newsletter.



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St. Mary's Chronicles 2025-2026

November 9, 11 - On Sunday, Sr. Egeria Mark led the adult forum at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas. On Tuesday, she preached on campus at St. Martin's Episcopal Center at the University of Arkansas alongside seminary alum the Rev. Charles Maritrn.

November 15-16 - Sr. Madeleine Mary was the guest preacher at St. David's Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

December 6 - Sr. Felicity made her Life Profession in our convent chapel.

December 13-14 - Sr. Egeria Mark led an Advent Quiet Day at St. John's Western Run in Reisterstown, Maryland and preached and presided alongside fellow seminary alum, Rev. Ivan Ruiz-Swartz.

December 14 - The Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Barker made her lifetime Oblate Commitment in our convent chapel. Her daughter, the Rev. Amanda Barker, was celebrant.

December 18 - We had a retirement party for our employee, Carol Collins, who worked for the Sisters since 1988.

January 15 - Sr. Egeria Mark celebrated at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Brenham, Texas, preached at both services, and participated in a forum in between services.

January 22, 24-25 - Sr. Hannah was invited by our board member, the Rev. Adam Dawkins, of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, to be the guest speaker on Thursday for Canterbury Westwood at UCLA. On Saturday she led a Quiet Day at St. Alban's. On Sunday, she preached at both Sunday services and led their Adult Forum.

January 24-25 - Sr. Egeria Mark led a quiet day at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Corpus Christi, Texas on Saturday. On Sunday she served as preacher.

January 28 - Sr. Egeria Mark served at Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchitoches, Louisiana, with her fellow T'24 classmate, Rector of Trinity and Associate of our Community, the Rev. Kris Paul. Sr. Egeria Mark celebrated at their Wednesday Healing Service and gave a presentation about St. Mary's.

February 14 - Our postulant Sydney Dudley was clothed as a Novice in our convent chapel, taking the name Sister Marcella.

February 20 - Sr. Madeleine Mary went to The Episcopal Church of St. Peter By-the-Lake in Denver, North Carolina to preach, to give a program, and admit the rector, the Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor, as a new Associate.

March 1 - Sr. Hannah went to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas to preach.

March 2-4 - Sr. Egeria Mark led the Clergy Lenten Retreat for the clergy of the Episcopal Church in East Tennessee at Grace Point Retreat Center. Afterwards, she was the speaker at St. Elizabeth's youth group with her fellow T'24 classmate, the Rev. William Simerly, who serves as curate at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Knoxville.

March 18 - Sr. Madeleine Mary was invited by the Rev. Dr. Mary Grace DuPree, Associate of our Community and Priest-in-Charge of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Covington, Georgia, to give a Lenten program on personal vocation.

April 12 - Sr. Madeleine Mary was invited by our Associate, the Rev. Basye Holland-Shuey, to give a presentation to the Daughters of the King chapter at the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Alabama.

April 21 - Sr. Madeleine Mary was invited by the Rev. Ashton Sims, Priest-in-Charge at St. Martin of Tours in Chattanooga, to lead their vestry retreat.

April 26 - Sr. Hannah was the guest preacher at The Church of our Saviour in Atlanta.

May 31 - We commissioned our three Organic Prayer Program summer interns: Eleanor Dean, Jackson Newton, and John Uther Henderson.