

Currents of Change

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the Sisters of Charity, BVM

Benefactors Partner to Enhance Motherhouse Chapel Worship

*We must
be the
change
we wish to
see in
the world.*

-Gandhi

A serendipitous turn of events now enables hearing-impaired sisters at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, to listen and hear with clarity all parts of the sacred liturgy for the first time in many years—thanks to a “hearing loop” now in place in the Motherhouse Chapel.



Many retired sisters benefit from the new hearing loop installed in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Hidden under the newly-installed carpet, the loop has opened up a new world of sound for our retired sisters.

The loop technology takes a feed from the PA system, transmits it through a wire loop surrounding the worshippers, and projects magnetic signals to an inexpensive telecoil (T-coil) receiver in the listeners' hearing aids. The result is clear sound with no background noise.

While this technology is not new, it has not been readily available in the United States because hearing aids were not often equipped with T-coils. This trend is changing and assistive listening devices are gaining momentum across America, especially in places of worship.

After attending a presentation by a leading hearing loop

advocate, BVM Linda Roby, director of deaf ministry in Portland, Ore. (see p. 3), brought the idea back to Mount Carmel at the perfect time: plans were underway to install new, much-needed carpeting in the Motherhouse Chapel. While the BVM leadership team was intrigued by the new technology, the next challenge was being able to support this unforeseen *and unbudgeted* technology.

“Our prayers were answered,” BVM Vice President Kate Hendel explains about a call she received one day in October from Cathy and Bob Everhart, who were interested in helping our retired sisters (see p. 2). When they heard about the hearing loop, the Everharts quickly offered to not only fund this project but also a variety of related

expenditures that enhance our sisters' hearing.

After experiencing the new system, BVM Paul Francis Bailey says, “I cannot laud the loop sufficiently to express how truly wonderful it is. I hear the homily distinctly, grasping every little nuance and inflection.”

(St.) Geraldine Moorman, BVM adds, “I used to use the hearing aids in the back of the chapel. They had to be inserted each time I came. I had to hold them tightly in my ears to get the full benefit. Since the new hearing loop was installed, I have not missed one sentence of Fr. Tom's homily.”

Other sisters are eager to share their enthusiasm. “Before the hearing loop, I was not able to hear what anyone at the

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Donor Profile: Cathy and Bob Everhart



Cathy and Bob Everhart grew up in strong Catholic families with principles of honesty and integrity embedded in their upbringing.

Cathy Doke Everhart attended St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines, Iowa, where she recalls the sisters who influenced her as strong role models: BVMs Mary Esther Campbell,

Mary Wilma Rita Walsh, Terese Rink (Lumina) and Katherine Ward (Jean Helene).

Though she had always wanted to be a registered nurse, Cathy also felt called to religious life and entered the BVM community at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1963.

“It was an extremely fulfilling and spiritual experience for me, but after five months and many counseling sessions with our loving postulant mistress, BVM Anne Marie Dolan (Cyrilita), I decided religious life was not my calling,” says Cathy. She enrolled in nursing school and received her RN in 1967, the same year she met and married Bob, who was serving in the U.S. Navy.

While raising their son and daughter, Cathy worked as a

nurse childbirth educator and Bob advanced in the telecommunications field, eventually establishing his own company. Over the years Cathy continued to work as a nurse in office and hospital settings.

They were both active in scouting and numerous parish activities. “The BVM philosophy of reaching out to help others whenever and wherever we can has been a solid belief for both of us,” says Cathy.

After reconnecting with BVM Kathleen Antol, an old friend from the Set of 1963, Cathy and Bob attended the July 2013 jubilee weekend at Mount Carmel. Besides being spiritually enriched, Cathy shares, “It was wonderful to see how Mount Carmel has

been renovated and what loving care is given to the sisters in retirement. It was inspirational to hear about the current BVM ministries!”

After their visit, Cathy and Bob decided they wanted to help with the sisters’ needs. In October, Cathy spoke with BVM Vice President Kate Hendel (Set of 1963) and learned that the BVMs had discussed the need for a “hearing loop” in the Motherhouse Chapel.

After learning more, Cathy and Bob decided to fund the project. Cathy says, “We’ve been thrilled to hear that it is making such a big difference in the sisters’ lives, and feel blessed that we were able to ‘give back.’”

Sister Spotlight

Anne Marie Dolan, BVM (Cyrilita)



Growing up across the street from Blessed Sacrament Grade School in Chicago, Anne

Marie Dolan, BVM recalls that “by the time of my first communion, I knew I wanted to be like the sisters who taught me.”

After her father’s death, her mother worked seven days a week at Cook County Hospital and Anne Marie took care of her younger brother and sister after school. “My parents’ deep faith and the BVMs who taught me at Blessed

Sacrament and St. Mary High School served as an inspiration for my vocation,” she says.

For 21 years, Anne Marie taught elementary school in Illinois, Iowa, Wyoming and Wisconsin, where she served as superior at Gesu Grade School in Milwaukee.

Anne Marie next ministered as postulant mistress for six months at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, and as novice mistress for three years at Guadalupe College, a novitiate established in 1964 in Los Gatos, Calif., where BVM standards would be carried into new territory.

“I told the novices to consider themselves pioneers—that we had the same mandate as

Mary Frances Clarke and the early community, who lived lives of sacrifice and prayer,” she says. “The seeds planted at Guadalupe have been in full bloom these many years. And when I came back to Mount Carmel, I felt the strength and virtue of sisters past.”

After earning a master’s degree in counseling/guidance, Anne Marie spent the next 25 years as teacher and guidance counselor at Cathedral High School in Chicago, while also actively involved in many areas of parish ministry. When the high school closed in 1994, Anne Marie added her volunteer service as minister of care at Northwestern Hospital. She served in parish and hospital

ministry while living at Holy Name Convent until 2006, when she moved to Wright Hall, a BVM residence in Chicago. She continued her hospital ministry until her retirement to Mount Carmel in 2011.

At 93, Anne Marie serves as lector at Mass, attends class at the Roberta Kuhn Center and participates in monthly Taizé prayer sessions. She visits other sisters and reads to those with failing eyesight.

“As I look back at the generosity of our donors across the country, particularly for the Guadalupe College novitiate, I see the same spirit in donors who sustain our ministries today.”

OLP Alumnae Association to Host All Class Reunion

The first All Class Alumnae Reunion for Our Lady of Peace (OLP) High School in St. Paul, Minn., will be held on Aug. 9, 2014, at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul.

The day will include an open house where former classmates can gather, reminisce, and view memorabilia from the OLP days, and take a self-guided tour of the school.

BVM President Teri Hadro ('64) plans to attend and is looking forward to this first all class reunion.

Deb Swenson, reunion committee contact person, says, "OLP alumnae come from all walks of life, but we

share a common pride in being alumnae of OLP and a devotion to the BVMs who taught us how to be strong women and to believe we could accomplish anything if we tried our best."

In September 1951, OLP was formally dedicated and opened its doors to 115 freshman students. By 1954 the student body totaled 752 and included junior and senior classes. A year later, the OLP Alumnae Association was formally established and officers were elected. By that fall, enrollment at OLP rose to 900.

During the 1970s, families began to move to the suburbs and demographics soon reflected a decline in archdiocesan city-wide high school population. After 21 years, OLP closed its doors in June 1973.



Lois Dunne Graham ('59) and Roselina Tinnes, BVM discuss a sophomore foods class project at OLP.

Joan Doyle, BVM (Leon) was president of the congregation at the time. She expressed pride in the accomplishments of the OLP students and graduates and in the sisters who served at the school, bringing to mind a favorite BVM prayer: May God complete the work begun in us!

"Our Lady of Peace alumnae continue to identify

strongly with OLP although it has been closed for over 40 years," Deb shares. "Reunions are well attended and many friendships have endured."

For more information:
email Deb at: dcswenson3730@gmail.com or call
the BVM Development Office:
563-588-2351, ext. 5519

Sister Spotlight

Linda Roby, BVM



Though she grew up as a "West Coast girl," BVM Linda Roby spent summers visiting relatives in Iowa, including her BVM aunt, Carl Loras Pilmaier. Feeling called to religious life after graduation, she soon found herself a reluctant "Midwesterner" as a postulant at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

For most of her religious life, Linda has ministered with the deaf—a passion ignited within her as a novice during a summer spent tutoring deaf children in Chicago under the

tutelage of LaSalette Zegers, BVM. "With her gentle guidance and encouragement, I fell in love with deaf children, and after graduating from Clarke University I went on to receive my master's degree in deaf education," says Linda.

From living and teaching at a residential school for the deaf in Milwaukee, Linda went on to become an "itinerant" teacher with the public school program for the deaf in Portland, Ore., teaching oral deaf students in classes ranging from second grade through high school. She also began teaching religious education in Sign.

Her involvement in deaf community liturgies and programs combined her gifts,

training and "greatest loves," and she assumed the role of full-time director of deaf ministry in the Portland Diocese in 1977.

"The following years were filled with new ministry adventures and challenges," says Linda. Though exhilarating, they were also exhausting, and after five years Linda needed a change of pace and returned to the classroom in Des Moines, Iowa. "But I kept a hand in it," she says, "teaching fingerspelling and Sign, attending deaf community events, helping interpret at Masses, and training volunteers in interpretation."

In 1990 Linda returned to Portland to teach and in 1992, she again accepted the position

of director of deaf ministry. She continues in that role today. "Together we are making God's word visible and alive through Sign, through our care for each other, and in our reaching out to serve those in need."

Though Linda is the first BVM to serve in pastoral ministry among the deaf, she has never felt alone.

"I value the reality that 'where one BVM is, we all are,'" she says. "And I extend that to include our donors—we are all working to build God's kingdom together and your financial support plays a very important part in the ministries we share. Thank you!"

Currents of Change

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Christine Chapin-Tilton
Development Director



Shirley Brown
Donor Relations Specialist



Lori Hesselting
Administrative Assistant



Jane Schrunk
Database Administrator

Development Office

1100 Carmel Drive • Dubuque, Iowa 52003-7991
Phone: 563 588 2351 • Fax: 563 588 4832
Email: development@bvmcong.org • Website: www.bvmcong.org



1100 Carmel Drive
Dubuque, Iowa
52003-7991

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Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need. —Kahlil Gibran (1883 – 1931)

'Hearing Loop' . . .

Continued from p. 1.

microphone was saying," says Louise Marie Levandowski, BVM (Laurina). "After the installation, I was able to hear every word clearly. I am truly grateful for what has been done to help all of us with hearing aids."

"One of the things I really appreciate is the fact that I can hear the names of the deceased sisters whose anniversaries are on that particular day," BVM Carmelina Myers explains. "I can also share in the laughter when the homilist slips in a humorous remark."

Therese Frelø, BVM (Ann Carmelle) sums it up: "The hearing loop is close to a miracle . . . It is a joy to peacefully participate in the liturgy, listen to the homilist, and appreciate the total experience. Thank you."

The Sisters of Charity, BVM are truly grateful for the partnership of our benefactors in helping to meet the needs of retired sisters at Mount Carmel.

Our gratitude is extended to the Everharts, as well as the many benefactors who participated in the 2013 Birdies for Charity event. Birdie proceeds were used to install the Motherhouse Chapel carpeting.



Prayer Requests

Our BVM sisters at Mount Carmel always pray for persons in need as part of their ministry of prayer. We invite you to visit our website to send a prayer request:
http://www.bvmcong.org/support_prayer_request.cfm

2014 Upcoming Events

- April 6:** Immaculata Alumnae Luncheon, Chicago
- April 6:** Area Social, Washington, D.C.
- April 27:** St. Mary Alumnae Luncheon, Chicago
- May 4:** Mount Carmel Memorial Mass, Dubuque, Iowa
- July 19:** BVM Senate Social with former members, Dubuque, Iowa
- Aug. 9:** Our Lady of Peace All Class Reunion, St. Paul, Minn.
- Aug. 21:** Mount Carmel Summertime Social, Dubuque, Iowa

BVM Alumni

Don't forget that there is a section on the BVM website to post upcoming reunions and gatherings. Visit the website at www.bvmcong.org.

Go to the *Alumni* section. Click on *Alumni Reunions* and enter the information about your gathering under *Post a Reunion*.

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