



Since we were unable to worship together on Pentecost or to have our annual retreat, I'd like to focus our attention on the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, given the chaos that our country has been undergoing, that focus might seem detached from present reality. I assure you that this isn't true at all. We are living in a moment in history when I think the Church must speak to our society.

As I write, there have been 6,492,317 coronavirus cases worldwide (1.88 million of those cases in the United States) and 383,620 deaths; (108,195 of those deaths in the U.S.). Over 40 million U.S. citizens have filed for unemployment, and according to Forbes Magazine, the true unemployment figures may be worse than those of the Great Depression (Forbes, April 30, 2020). Riots and looting over police violence and racism have caused major destruction in our cities, and a number of our significant political leaders have called for more violence to "dominate the streets." People are angry, grieving losses of all kinds, and seek justice, truth, and leadership for U.S. citizens. The basic rights of our citizens are being threatened daily. Caring, compassionate citizens are being attacked as enemies, and military-style force has been used on them for exercising their right to protest. And, what has happened to immigrants on our borders is too complex and horrendous to describe in this article. The aforementioned facts are those from which we must not turn away or be silent about. They speak, I think, of a possible collapse of our democracy that is burgeoning. They also speak of an undermining of the values and responsibilities of our faith as Christians. Jesus himself was a non-violent revolutionary.

Our Constitution was composed "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity." Implicit in that Constitution is the idea that there can be no union without justice. The general welfare of Americans isn't promoted by attacking citizens, silencing their concerns, forcing them to return to work, or to vote in person at the unnecessary risk of their lives. However, domestic tranquility should not be pitted against the general welfare of all U.S. citizens. Inciting violence, racism, and militarism is not the Christian path to "peace, prosperity, and the pursuit of happiness." Even the devil can quote scripture, but he would be loath to live according to the gospel of Christ.



As Christians, we have vowed to live according to that very gospel, to follow Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. And at Pentecost, we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable us to be God's representatives in the world. We aren't the only ones whom God has favored. All people of faith, whatever their tradition, have also been blessed with God's truth and God's love. Indeed, all creation was brought into being by the Word spoken, and the Holy Spirit has brought life, light, and abundance to that same creation.

Fortunately, many of our people have answered the call to help their neighbors in whatever way they can. Health care workers, grocery store employees, artists, poets, and musicians have helped us survive this crisis. Their actions speak of true patriotism and compassionate care for the human race. Others have peacefully protested when the evils of racism were being played out in society and when people were being deprived of a voice in their own democracy. All of these people continue to work for the common good, domestic tranquility, etc. *They* are what makes America great.

Our God is a generous, merciful God who loves us, longs to be in relationship with us, and who also desires justice with mercy. Countless times, God showed mercy and forgave Israel, and God continues to nurture and forgive us. God is the "All-merciful" one, Yahweh, the Giver of life, the one who brings life out of death, the only judge who renews the face of the earth. This loving, forgiving, and patient God who has shown us true leadership, has also sent us the Spirit of wisdom and discernment, the Holy Spirit that prays within us and intercedes for us. This Spirit gifts us with wisdom,

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understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. It calls on us to follow God's example and to spread his gospel throughout the world. We must remember that "Dominion," of which "dominant" is a derivative, was rooted in **God** (*Dominus*), not mankind, in the experience of *God* by God's people.— We need, more than ever, to LISTEN to the Spirit of truth that prays within us and will guide us through the prevailing chaos.

And when we listen, we'll know that we're hearing God as we recognize the fruits of the Spirit in our own lives and in those of others. May we be a people who live out our lives according to the Holy Spirit's voice and bear its fruits into the world so that our country and our Church can work for the healing and reconciliation of humankind to God... so that we may promote truth, strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us live according to the guidance of the One who has claimed us as his own. Amen.

Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

In Memoriam



Sr. Mary Zita, CSM

Veronica Banayan Ngina, aka Sister Mary Zita, died peacefully in her sleep at the convent on January 3, 2020. Sr. Mary Zita was born in Banga'an, Mountain Province, Philippines on January 17, 1931 to Jose and Anna Ngina. She was the oldest of seven children. Her brother, George, and her sister, Hilaria, still live in Banga'an. Her sisters, Gertrude (Luke) and Judith (Gerald), and her brother,

Jose, live in San Antonio.

She joined the Sisters of St. Mary the Virgin, an indigenous Episcopal monastic community, in the late 1950's, but had known the Sisters since she was a teenager.

Sr. Kiara, CSM, Sr. Lucy, CSM and the Archie Stapleton family were very influential in the lives of the Sisters of St. Mary the Virgin. Sr. Mary Zita was life professed on March 25, 1963. Her ministry in the Philippines focused on children and hospitality: an orphanage at one time and then the Children's Christian Fund and the hospitality ministry at St. Joseph's Rest House.

Sr. Mary Zita came to the United States in 1992, and became a part of the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province, at that time. She served for seven years at St. Mary's Convent, Los Angeles. Her gifts included gardening, bread making, hospitality, joy, prayer, and love of all creation, especially babies and birds. Her Sisters in community; her caregivers, Jimmie Jo Cantrell, Carol Collins and Joan Penrose; and Compassus Hospice team, especially Tracey Anderson and Angela Patterson, cared for her until her death. Sr. Mary Zita will be remembered for her commitment to prayer, her beautiful smile, and thankfulness. On her behalf, the Community says a warm, deep, "thank you" for Sister's life among us. The burial service has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Associate News

Dear CSM Associates,

I write to you this Pentecost season, in the year of 2020, another year in the



Sr. Mary Zita, CSM

life of the COVID pandemic.

Our June silent retreat (June 18-21) was canceled this year. We will miss seeing many of you. Please take time for silence and rest in other ways.

I do want to share with you some of the many ways that I have seen "love in action" among our Associates this year. Several Associates came to be with the Sisters the morning Sr. Mary Zita died; their presence helped us in our grief. Our Associates in the Philippines joined Sr. Mary Zita's family at a memorial service in Banga'an, to grieve a death and to celebrate a life well lived.



CSM Associates, Friends, Family, and on the far right is Sr. Ines, CSM at Sr. Mary Zita's memorial service in the Philippines

The messages sent of love and concern, the gifts through Paypal and USPS, the errands run, the prayer requests shared, the colorful masks made, and many other innovative ways of "being church and being community" have been felt and seen here at the convent. One Associate taught me to "grocery shop online." Another Associate sent in her pledge early, to help with our financial needs. Two men from Chattanooga (Michael Thompson, a hospice nurse, and LB Blackwell, a high school teacher) were planning to officially become Associates this spring. The pandemic has delayed their official admission, but their labors of love continue in their lives and in those surrounding them.

Two persons who attended Sr. Madeleine Mary's meditation workshop in Collierville are now exploring our Associates' program.

It has been a real delight and a

computer challenge for me to connect with you, our Associates, in a variety of ways. I am so grateful for the gift of the Holy Spirit and your commitment



Sr. Elizabeth Grace, CSM

“to love one another.” May we continue to offer hope, to “pray without ceasing,” and to be open to the Spirit as she blows within us and throughout the world in 2020.

Deep peace -Sr. Elizabeth Grace, CSM

Our Associate, Mrs. Garvin Colburn of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, turned 100 this year!



Garvin Colburn

Deaths of Associates since our last newsletter: The Rev. Richard Price of Asheville, North Carolina.

Continuing Service

Sr. Ines continues to stay active in the Philippines and keeps us updated with her ministries.



Sr. Ines, CSM

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, is where Sr. Ines attends and she shared with us that they had a full church on Ash Wednesday. She participated in the Stations of the Cross services on Fridays during Lent with the students from St. Mary School.

The Memorial Mass for Sr. Mary Zita was held at St. Matthew’s Church

on March 1st. Sr. Mary Zita’s family, Associates in the area, and friends attended the service. Sr. Ines reported that Father Milagros Ordinario, the priest at St. Mathew’s Church, gave a very nice homily. The children in attendance had Bible study with our Associate Josephine Lay-os before the Mass started. After the Mass, Sr. Mary Zita’s family served a very sumptuous meal.

Sr. Ines remembers Sr. Mary Zita as a very good example for her to follow, especially her commitment to prayer. She also remembers Sr. Mary Zita as being talented in crocheting and having a green thumb too, especially in her flower arranging skills.

We are grateful for the ministry of Sr. Ines and her continuing service in the Philippines.

Ever consider putting St. Mary’s in your will?

Want to help St. Mary’s ministry?

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

“Daily Office in the Parking Lot” by CSM Associate Dr. Susan Nelson

Becoming an Associate of the Community of St. Mary has been a significant part of my spiritual life, my anchor to the past and the present in a world that rushes by. When I discovered there was this group of lay people who identified themselves with the community of Sisters Constance, Frances, Thecla and Ruth, I knew that was a community I wanted to be part of. The Sisters who came from New York to Memphis to start a school and

found themselves compelled by compassion and mercy to care for hundreds of people and families devastated by yellow fever. The Sisters whose names are engraved on the steps of the altar at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Memphis, Tennessee. I was thrilled to learn that this religious community was alive and well and there were Sisters living in a convent in Sewanee, Tennessee. A living connection to the past, and a community of lay people who pray with and for the Sisters and follow the Benedictine Rule. Daily Prayer. Hospitality to Strangers. Commitment to living the gospel in their everyday lives. When Iolis Carruthers, a long time Associate, explained all this to me I could hardly believe it. Right here in our midst, in our post-modern, highly cynical, faith-strapped world, a community of believers who embraces prayer and daily ordering of their lives around their faith. I knew right away I wanted to be part of that. That was 7 years ago.

Every year in September we have what we call Martyrs Weekend at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Memphis. The feast day of Sister Constance is September 9, commemorating the date of her death. Due to efforts of the Sisters, Rev. Bindy Snyder, and other Associates from Memphis, this feast day was established by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1981. At St. Mary’s this annual feast is a huge celebration. We dedicate the entire weekend to activities remembering the story of the Martyrs of Memphis, including Sr. Constance and her companions, as well as Father Louis Schuyler and Father Charles Parsons. A service of “Letters and Carols” is held on Friday night, with readings from the diaries of Sr. Constance, Mother Harriet Starr Cannon, Bishop Charles Quintard and others who described the tragic events of 1878. At least one of the Sisters visits us, from Sewanee, along with a few Associates and Oblates. Two years ago we started a neighborhood event, inviting our neighbors to an outdoor gathering where we check blood

pressure and glucose and offer health information. This is the same neighborhood Sr. Constance worked in, and many of our neighbors need food, health and spiritual ministry just as they did when the Sisters lived here. Sunday morning, we celebrate the Eucharist at St Mary's, followed by a picnic at Elmwood Cemetery where the Sisters are buried. A graveside observance recalls their sacrifice and their love for their Lord that compelled them to give their own lives in His service.

About 5 years ago, one of our parishioners was cleaning the gravesite and made an incredible discovery. There is a headstone with the names of Constance, Thecla, Frances and Ruth. As he was digging to clear brush from around the headstone, his shovel struck something hard – turns out that what we thought for years was only a square headstone is actually connected to stone extensions which form the shape of a cross.



Original square headstone memorializing Srs. Constance, Thecla, Frances, and Ruth



Fully restored gravesite with cross pieces with the Rev. Bindy Snyder laying flowers

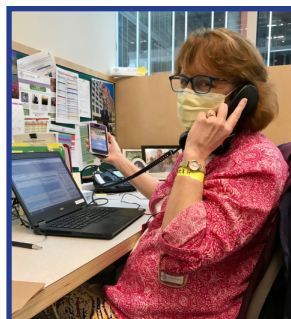
Checking with the Elmwood Cemetery office to learn more, he discovered two more Sisters are buried at this site, Sr. Isabella and Sr. Mary Frances. A flurry of calls and more research, including calls to the Eastern Province in Greenwich, NY, revealed Sr. Isabella died in 1887 and Sr. Mary Frances in

1907. Both lived and worked at St. Mary's. You can read more about Sr. Isabella at Project Canterbury. A new marker was placed in 2015 to mark their graves.



The new grave marker for Srs. Isabelle and Mary Frances

Fast forward to March 2020. The middle of a pandemic. I am the medical director of Church Health, a faith-based health care clinic in midtown Memphis. About one mile from St. Mary's and the neighborhood the Sisters lived and worked in. We serve the uninsured in Memphis, the people who work for a living but have no health benefits. Day care workers and cooks, construction and landscape workers, musicians and artists, waiters and warehouse workers. With the lockdown, many of those folks have lost their jobs. We have had to re-invent our entire clinic operations, shutting down our dental and eye clinics and re-organizing everything, from waiting room redesign to screening all patients and employees at the door for COVID symptoms, to new COVID cleaning protocols for exam rooms to turning ½ of our clinic visits into video calls. Then with the government funding of "tests for everyone," we set up COVID testing stations at our own clinic site as well as pop-up stations across the city to target underserved neighborhoods.



Dr. Susan Nelson, Associate, CSM

This was a huge effort, as you can imagine, and my ordered Rule of Life with daily prayer went right out the window. One morning, after driving to work I sat for a minute in the parking lot, taking deep breaths. I checked the Mission St. Clare app to read the daily readings, and realized with a jolt, "It's the Feast of the Annunciation!" Later I shared my experience with the Sisters via email, and Sr. Elizabeth kindly replied. Here is part of her response:

"As I read Susan's email, I thought of *Ten Decades of Praise* when "the Sisters at the Asylum realized suddenly one evening that the day had been Sunday, but one commented 'Every Day is the Lord's Day now.'" (page 102)

We recently celebrated the Feast of the Ascension, which we call the "Birthday of the Cathedral," founded on Ascension Day in 1858. During this time of lockdown, we have all missed corporate worship. I hated to let this special day pass without any type of remembrance. I realized that if I can do Zoom calls for work, we could "Zoom" evening prayer, so several Memphis Associates "gathered" on May 21 for Evening Prayer. Sr. Elizabeth joined us, which made me very happy. Of course, if we had gathered in person that would not have been possible. A reminder that even in the darkest of times, God makes a way for us to experience His love.

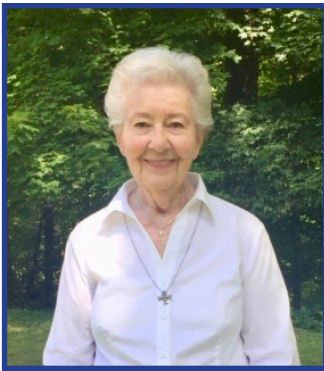
When Sr. Hannah asked me to write this piece, I was honored. Being part of this Community has given me tremendous love and support over the years, and I am grateful for all of it.

Susan Nelson

"Reflection on St. Mary's"
by CSM Oblate
Marcia Mary Cook

It is the Feast of the Ascension as I begin this article. All my life I have

kept this feast as a High Holy Day, and observing it with the Sisters of St. Mary has been an annual joy since I moved to Sewanee in 1994. But today in the midst of the COVID pandemic, we cannot celebrate with the Sisters at the Convent, so again I turn to my Bible and Book of Common Prayer to read of Our Lord's last instructions and leave-taking, and pray with the Church for "faith to perceive that... [Christ] abides with his Church ... even to the end of the ages..."

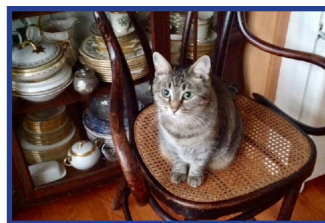


Marcia Mary Cook, Oblate, CSM

When I became an Oblate in 2007 it was the logical fruition of association with Benedictines since age 14, entering Stanbrook Hall, a Benedictine H.S. for girls connected to the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth MN. As a college student active in Canterbury fellowship and choir, I felt drawn to keeping some kind of "rule" in my spiritual life. I found that "regula" in the Benedictine Community of St. Mary, as did my Godmother Lois Holland. While at the Univ. of Iowa, I began attending CSM retreats in the Western Province, and was received as an Associate in Wisconsin. Marriage to the Rev. Halsey Moon Cook and ministry in NY and Maryland, meant connecting with the Eastern Province of CSM and 30+ years of rich intimacy with Benedictine life in Peekskill, NY. Nurture and mentoring came from Sisters Mary Anselm, Mary Gregory, and Anastasia, but also from retreat leaders like Bede Thomas Mudge, OHC and Madeleine LEngle. "Listen!" is the very first word of Benedict's Rule, which I have tried to obey in conversations and meditations with all of these people, and countless others

all my life.

My Oblate rule – my "obligation" to the Community - gives me strong support in making decisions, in ordering my prayer life, in helping me choose nourishing spiritual books, as well as daily guidance navigating the present sheltering-in-place. So at present and for the unknown future, *ora et labora* is lived out here at home in domestic duties, keeping an orderly household (helped by my companions, daughter Kathleen and cat Babette), eating simply and remembering that where I am is where God is for me.



Babette

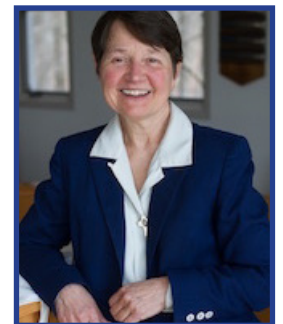
To me that truth is what St. Benedict meant by *stability*; it is the deep foundation of my commitment to CSM, the centeredness I live out in the Rule and Centering Prayer, and the fidelity of my relationships with the Sisters, my family, friends and colleagues. Joan Chittister, OSB has written that Benedictine stability is "designed to still the wandering heart." As I anticipate my 90th birthday, when my heart wanders into regrets or sorrows stretching back to childhood, and I cry "*suscipe me, domine!*" Jesus reminds me that stability is interior and spiritual, that I am truly rooted and upheld in God, so that my Oblate commitment can be unwavering: As I promised before Sr. Lucy and the Sisters, "*I desire to remain faithful to this commitment the rest of my life, the Lord being my helper. Amen.*"

Missing my Sisters so much all these weeks, especially serving at the altar for the Friday Healing Service!; nevertheless, I am comforted to know that we are still together in the Daily Offices and worship of Our Lord in our hearts.

My day ends with silence and Compline, imagining our beloved Benedictine communities joining together hour by hour in grateful repose as the world turns. "Guide us waking O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in peace."

Marcia Mary Cook

Sr. Madeleine Mary Shares News from CSM



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who have thought and prayed for us. Thank you for the donations that you have sent to support us during this time. Likemany others, we, too, have been affected by stock market changes and other things that have changed our income. However, we are managing, thanks to your help. The world is in so much flux right now that it is hard to focus on anything that happened before our present crises of the coronavirus, race-related deaths, riots, and massive unemployment. But by remembering those things, we also remember that our lives are greater than our present dilemmas and that together we will be in a different place by our next newsletter- hopefully, a better place.

November and December, which now seem so far back, passed with some of our usual activities: Christmas preparations, our Advent Thank you party, Lessons and Carols at the University, and a magnificent Christmas Eve service and Christmas dinner with friends. But alongside those events, we also had some new experiences: Sr. Hannah preached and led the adult education class at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome

Georgia, and experienced her first caving event with their youth group and members of the Canterbury Club at Berry College. Then there was the rescue of "Jude," a stray cat that we found dying under the ramp to our chapel.

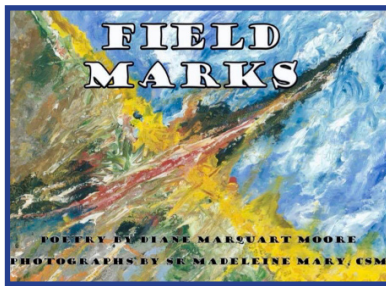
He owes his life to Maddy, our new postulant, who nursed him through the night, to the vet who helped heal him, and to a pet-lover who adopted him and gave him a great home.



Maddy with Jude's new owner

After that, life began to change. Sr. Mary Zita's health had been failing for some time. Shortly after Christmas, her family visited with her and she did have communion on Christmas Eve. But then, she mostly stayed in bed during our annual chapter meeting and the renovation of the dining room and music room floors that occurred at the end of the year. On January 3 while we were at the Eucharist, she quietly slipped away. We all gathered around her bed for final prayers and she entered the next life. Her death, though sad for all of us, was also a wonderful release from pain and confusion for her.

Having taken care of sick and dying Sisters for the last eleven years, we found ourselves suddenly getting more rest and having more availability for new ventures. We converted two rooms on the first floor into additional guest space. Sr. Hannah taught two religious knowledge classes and preached for the students of St. Andrew's School. We attended the funeral and memorial service of our friend and Associate Bob Short. The Rev. Diane Moore, an Associate and poet, and I, as the photographer, collaborated on a new book entitled *Field Marks*.— It is still available for purchase, if you are interested.



Field Marks Book

Next, February seemed full of celebrations: our 155th anniversary on the Feast of the Presentation; the going away party for Joan Penrose (Sr. Mary Zita's primary care-giver part of the time.); our invitation to St. Andrew's School presentation of the "The Sound of Music;" the Evening Prayer visit by Bp. Phoebe Roaf of West Tennessee and Bp. Brian Cole of East Tennessee; and finally Sr. Hannah's celebration of "The Sounds of Nature" offered as a contemplative prayer service at the convent.



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM, Sr. Elizabeth, CSM, the Rev. Molly Short, and Sr. Hannah, CSM at St. Andrew's Sewanee's "Sound of Music" Production



The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf, Sr. Hannah, CSM, Sr. Elizabeth, CSM, the Rt. Rev. Brian Cole, and Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

Though WHO had declared a global health emergency at the end of January, a national emergency was not declared in the U.S. until mid March.

The outbreak of the coronavirus that had begun in China in December began impacting the U.S. more noticeably. In Sewanee, life went on as normal in Sewanee; though more precautions were being encouraged. We welcomed students from St. Andrew's at a worship service. I led a workshop and preached at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Collierville, TN. — a wonderful group of people.



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM teaching at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Collierville, TN

Sr. Hannah gave a presentation for University students at the Vice-Chancellor's residence. The Sisters even took a much needed vacation during Spring Break.

On the other hand, Penny, our beloved dog, had already taken a turn for the worse, while Sr. Mary Zita was in decline. Penny's arthritis and pain from the deteriorating bone mass in her paw became increasingly worse. Shortly before our trip, we made the difficult decision to relieve her of her pain by putting her down. We managed to say our final good-byes to Penny in the chapel she loved so much, surrounded by her friends. She was much loved by all who came to the chapel and will be missed.



Penny

Our trip gave us some rest and time to grieve not only for Penny, but also for Sr. Mary Zita. Even then, we tried

to stay away from people because of the coronavirus. The virus had spread to every state before we got home. We have suspended public worship services ever since.

After sending employees home for the first week, they asked- out of boredom- to come back. But of course, we could not have them working near other people or each other. So, we had to reimagine everyone's work. The employees did a lot of painting and isolated garden work, and the Sisters mastered weeding, using lawn-care equipment, cooking meals, and cleaning the house. We all really got into "*Ora et labora.*"

With no guests coming, we used the opportunity to paint all the guest areas and the interns' house, and to clean and wax the floors of the interns' house to a fine shine. We sorted things, got rid of some and organized the rest. We also learned how to use Zoom video conferencing in new ways. Sister Hannah finished her semester of seminary classes using Zoom. Thanks to Joseph Sumpter's generosity, we were also able to use his company's wireless for Zoom meetings with our Advisory Board, and I was able to attend the annual meeting of the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas virtually. I had my first virtual doctor's appointment; though the reception at the convent was terrible. Sr. Elizabeth attended some meetings virtually, and Sr. Hannah virtually attended the Episcopal Preaching Foundation's Preaching Excellence Program conference. Because of the virus, our world had to change, and we adapted.

I must admit that it felt very odd to observe Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost without the Eucharist, a congregation, a priest, or guest musicians. But, we did it. We adapted the services as best as we could. Each day, we sang the offices and added a spiritual communion. The Sisters took turns preaching during Holy Week, and I have been

offering reflections and sermons on Sundays and feastdays. — I think it is now time to start a rota for reflections and sermons so other Sisters have more of a voice as well.

Because of the increased risk brought on by COVID19, Sewanee cancelled all in person gatherings. We, too, had already closed our guest accommodations and suspended public services. Nevertheless, as I have said, we continued our regular round of prayer and invited people to send us prayer requests. Many did, and before we are finished with the virus, I expect many more requests will be made. Because we and our Oblate, Karen DeBruler, tested negative and had self- quarantined, we have been able to maintain a semblance of normality. We have been blessed to celebrate the Church Year rather well, I think. We, likewise, were able to celebrate the end of Madeleine Park's internship, and later her admission as a postulant. — God be praised!



Madeleine Parks, our new postulant!

We have been able to update our website (Fabulous! Check it out.) thanks to the work of Casey Perkins-Lawrence and Sr. Hannah, and to stay in touch with people through social media, Zoom, and telephone calls. We have definitely been supported by our Benedictine lifestyle and we have taken special care to stay balanced and healthy.

The month of May brought on new

challenges with regard to our summer internship. We were supposed to have two interns. But after giving them a choice to withdraw, one did. Edith-Marie Green, however, still wanted to participate. She likewise, had been self-quarantined on her family farm in Mississippi. So, after some prayer, research and discernment, we decided to let her come. We changed her program to include testing for the virus and a time of quarantine. Edith-Marie arrived on May 24. She tested negative and after quarantine, we look forward to her full integration. For now, she is doing a lot of reading, meditating, and some isolated garden work. So, expect to hear more about her later.



Edith-Marie Green, our summer Organic Prayer Program Intern

It is nice to experience some normality in the midst of the chaotic situation in our country. I think we have enjoyed garden work, learning how to use garden and lawn tools, and the Sisters have worked hard to ready this place for everyone's return. However, we also know that we will all be changed. We are changing now. There are some changes that need to happen for the good of all people, for truth, justice, and mercy to grow in our land. Hopefully, we will ponder and learn from the chaos we all are traversing. Perhaps, we can recognize our need for each other, our need for God's guidance, and we will invest our lives more intentionally in our baptismal vocation for our good and the good of others. Be blessed and assured of our prayers.

St. Mary's Chronicle

November 17: Sr. Hannah preached and led the adult education class at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome, Georgia. She also went caving with their youth group and members of the Canterbury Club at Berry College.

December 8: The Community held an open house and tree trimming party.

December 13: The stray cat Jude found a home.

December 14: The Community held its annual Advent Thank You party for employees, board members, celebrants, and volunteers

January 3: Sr. Mary Zita died peacefully at the convent.

January 13: Sr. Hannah preached and taught two 12th grade religious studies classes St. Andrew's Sewanee School.

January 18: Sr. Madeleine Mary and Sr. Elizabeth attended the burial service of our friend and Associate Bob Short. Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Madeleine Mary attended his memorial service.

January 25: Our Associate and close friend, the Rev. Diane Moore, published a book of poetry entitled "Field Marks" with photography by Sr. Madeleine Mary.

February 2: We celebrated our 155th anniversary of the Community of St. Mary on the Feast of the Presentation.

February 6: We celebrated the last day of Joan Penrose's employment with us.

February 8: The Sisters attended St. Andrew's Sewanee's production of "The Sound of Music."

February 21: Sr. Hannah presented "The Sounds of Nature" contemplative prayer service at the convent chapel.

March 1: The Rev. Molly Short, chaplain at St. Andrew's Sewanee School, and some of her students joined us for Sunday worship.

March 1: There was a thanksgiving and memorial service held for Sr. Mary Zita at St. Matthew's Church in Banga-an, in the Philippines. Sr. Ines, Sr. Mary Zita's family, Associates and friends attended this service.

March 7-8: Sr. Madeleine Mary led a Saturday workshop on the practice of meditation with Scripture and also preached at the Sunday services at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Collierville, TN.

March 9: Sr. Hannah was the guest speaker at the "Evening at Chen Hall" dinner hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, John McCardell, at his residence.

March 12: Penny, our dog, was put down after a long battle of arthritis, pain, and decreased mobility. She was buried in our pet cemetery and we had a service for her.

March 18: The Community suspended in person worship services due to the pandemic.

April 27-May 2: Sr. Madeleine Mary participated in the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas (CAROA) conference by Zoom.

May 2: Sister Elizabeth was featured in the Folks and Home newsletter for being a part of the SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life) class here in Sewanee.

May 3: The Community celebrated Maddy's completion of the Organic Prayer Program long term internship.

May 7: Madeleine Parks was admitted as a postulant.

May 24: Edith-Marie Green joined us as a summer intern.



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