



# St. Margaret's Quarterly

St. Margaret's Convent

17 Highland Park Street

Boston, Massachusetts

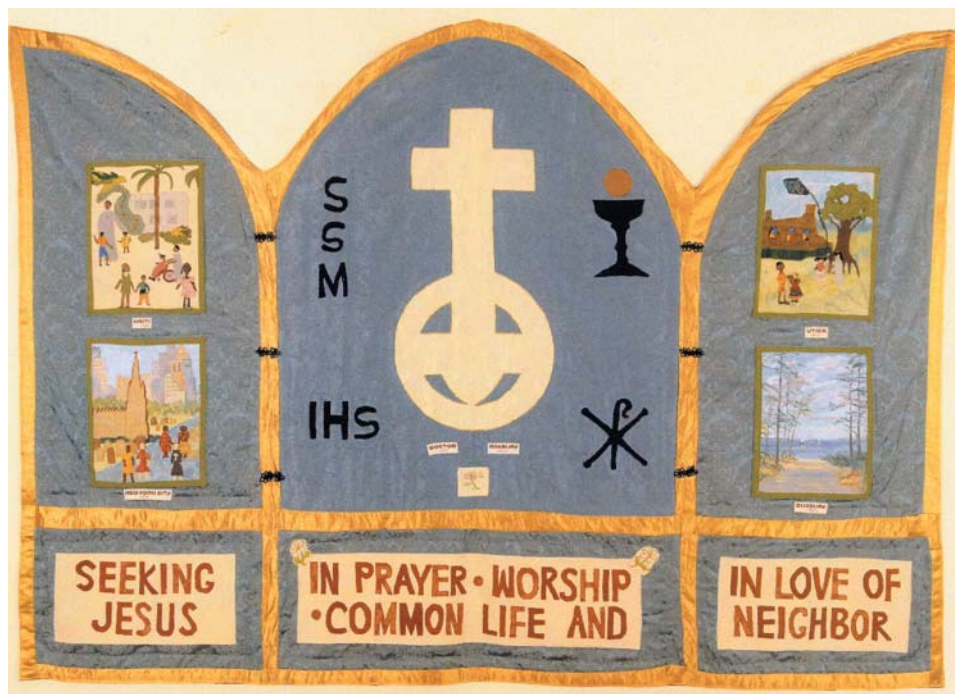
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## OUR FAITH QUILT

By Ann, SSM

On January 29, 2005, Sr. Promise asked if anyone was interested in making a quilt that would express our faith. She had met Elizabeth Quinlan at a workshop and learned about the Faith Quilt Project. The concept for this project was formed after the documentary, "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero" was shown. Clara Wainwright and her friend Maggie Herzig looked at the many diverse faiths in Boston and began gathering groups of quilters to work with various faith groups in making visible what they hold most dear.



Over the past five or six years more faith groups began quilts – including the Society of St. Margaret. Many sisters gave up two hours every Monday to work on the quilt- Sisters Marjorie Raphael, Emily Louise, Ann, Marie Therese, Brigid, Promise, Beatrice, Sarah, and

Cross. Four symbols are placed around the cross - the chalice and bread, the body and blood of Christ; The X with a staff through it, called the Chi Rho (a monogram of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ); IHS, another monogram using the first three letters

(*iota, eta and sigma*) of the Greek spelling of Jesus; and the SSM, which stands for the Society of St. Margaret. The words Boston and Roxbury are below the St. Margaret's Cross, representing the Motherhouse, located first at 17 Louisburg Square in Boston and currently at 17 Highland Park Street in Roxbury.

The side panels represent the other houses of the Society in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, New

Hartford, New York, New York City, and Duxbury, Massachusetts. The representation for Haiti - where the Sisters started a school and home for aged people - shows them caring for elderly and handicapped people. The house for New York City shows Trinity Church, Wall Street, against a New York skyline. The panel for the New Hartford (Utica) house is an applique of the Chapel. Sr. Marjorie Raphael represented the Duxbury house with a seascape showing the beauty of the Bay. Under the panels for each house are the dates of formation stitched in counted cross-stitch by Sr. Ann.

Jane Mary. Elizabeth Quinlan and her husband Vinnie DiOrion would come over to help, bringing all the supplies that we would need. Following the quilt work we would share a pot luck supper. During these meetings we became close friends.

Our quilt is a triptych with three panels, the center being the Saint Margaret

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The bottom panel runs across the whole quilt and represents a part of St. Margaret's mission statement. Daisies, placed throughout the quilt, are the St. Margaret's flower. These were embroidered by Sr. Brigid.

With a total of fifty-six quilts, and some quite large, the Cyclorama in downtown Boston was chosen for the main exhibit space. So, from Friday, April 7, 2006 to Monday, April 10, 2006, all the quilts were on exhibit. During these days there were talks on the quilts, sacred music from different faith traditions, sacred dance, poetry, painting and even a panel discussion on "Spiritual Leadership in Difficult Times." We often thought of all the other people working on quilts, and we were eager to get to know them. It was so nice to get to know some of them and to learn that they were just as eager to meet us.

For the remainder of April our quilt has been moved to the Museum of the National Center of African-American Artists. We look forward to hanging it in our convent. The next time you come for a visit be sure to take a look at it.

## NEWS FROM NEW HARTFORD

by Mary Gabriel, SSM

We had a wonderful retreat time with some parishioners from St. Matthias in Rochester. Both adults and young people were with me for the meditations and afterwards, while the youth were with Sr. Julian, the others had quiet meditation time. Our theme was the appearance of Jesus to the followers on the road to Emmaus. We worked through this familiar story and experimented with different ways of making it more deeply a part of our own lives. One of the participants later wrote a poem that I want to share here:

"The Road to Emmaus"

On the first day of the week,  
wounded, scared followers seek,  
A refuge far away,  
from this sorrow filled day.  
A place to run and hide,  
not to be discovered.

Surely death would be,  
if anyone should see.  
A Stranger now comes near  
for all of us to hear.

He has a sense of grace,  
but we do not know his face.  
The stories that he tells,  
we have often heard,  
our hearts are pounding faster,  
with every binding word.

The day is nearly over,  
and we are at our best.  
Invite the Stranger, "Stay with us",  
now is time to rest.  
We sit to feed our bodies,  
by breaking of the bread,  
now we are astonished,  
to find our spirits fed.

The Bread is broken,  
our eyes opened wide,  
to see our Lord and Saviour,  
sitting by our side.  
We go to tell the others  
what we have seen today.  
He's not bound by space or time,  
Now, we know the Way.

- Kirsty

I have just returned from the Annual CAROA conference which was held this year at the Community of St. Mary (Southern Province) in Sewanee, TN. Sr. Elizabeth from NYC also attended. It was wonderful to be able to visit with so many old friends and to make some new ones. There were about forty religious present and the main focus of the meetings was "Transitions".

Sister Elizabeth Ann, SSJD and Mother Miriam, CSM both gave power-point presentations about the moves their

communities have undergone recently. In between these, there were meetings for superiors, novice guardians and heads of houses. As usual, we glean lots of information from one another, and discover how much we have in common.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the conference, for me, was the viewing of the DVD on the Religious Life put together by members of CAROA. It will be shown at the Gathering and will soon be available for community members to show to congregations, Conventions, youth groups, etc. It will be a prominent part of the CAROA booth at General Convention and we hope will be a valuable tool in raising interest and knowledge about the Religious Life in the church.

## QUARTERLY COSTS

by Grace, SSM

As the cost of printing, ink, and paper have gone up, the cost of producing the St. Margaret's Quarterly has risen as well. Please consider sending a donation for \$20 for a year's subscription, which would cover our costs. Thank you.



*Kethia Jean-Simon, our postulant in Haiti*

## PLANNING YOUR SUMMER VACATION?

by Grace, SSM



*Bertram Conference Center*

The Sisters of St. Margaret welcome inquiries regarding the use of our facilities in Duxbury, which offer unlimited access to our private Duxbury Bay Beach.

The Bertram Conference Center accommodates a maximum of 20 people overnight and is used primarily for groups and retreats. It has a large meeting area, two large decks, a good size dining room and 10 bedrooms with bunk beds. The kitchen had recently undergone a complete renovation, including new cabinets, appliances and flooring.

The Farmhouse is a recently renovated pre-Revolutionary War building which is available all year. It has one master bedroom and 4 single bedrooms plus two baths. It has all modern amenities including a full kitchen, washer and dryer, and fireplace.



*The Farmhouse*



*The Boathouse*

The Boathouse is ideal for a summer vacation for one to five people, offering 3 small single bedrooms plus a futon that comfortably accommodates two in the living room. It is available from mid-June through September. It is steps away from the private beach. There is a well equipped kitchen, a fireplace, and double front doors that open up to a panoramic view of Duxbury Bay.

Linens are provided in each facility, and off street parking is available on site. All three buildings are located a short walk from Hall's Corner, which has a deli, a pizza parlor, a Dunkin Donuts, and a Chinese restaurant for catering or take-out. Duxbury and nearby Plymouth offer lots of opportunities for sight-seeing, picnicking, enjoying the beach, and historic sites to visit.

To inquire about rates and availability, call 617-445-8961 X127, or email us at [resbostonssm@yahoo.com](mailto:resbostonssm@yahoo.com). See our website [www.ssmbos.com](http://www.ssmbos.com) for more pictures of all three buildings and a printable map with directions.

## CONSIDER A REMEMBRANCE IN YOUR WILL

After you have provided for your family and any other responsibilities that you may have, you might want to remember the Sisters of St. Margaret in your will.

This generous gesture is a way to continue the good you have done on earth by providing for the continuation of the spiritual activities here on earth for time to come.

The suggested wording using our legal title is: "I give and bequeath to the Society of St. Margaret, Boston, Massachusetts, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used in their ongoing work for the greater glory of God."

## SR. JANE MARY n/SSM

by Grace, SSM

On Saturday evening, April 22, 2006, Jane Harrison was received as a novice of the Society of St. Margaret. She was clothed in the habit and took the name Sr. Jane Mary. The service of Evensong was beautiful, with all of the Sisters of the Boston Convent present in choir. Sr. Jane Mary's mother, Mrs. Myrtle Harrison, was able to be present, having traveled from Shelburne, Ontario, Canada. Our Associate, Dr. William Harrison, Jane's brother, sent his regards from Keremeos, British Columbia, Canada, where he is a theologian and "clergy husband" to his wife, The Rev. Rita Harrison, and father to Richard and Charles, Sr. Jane Mary's nephews. We are happy to welcome Sr. Jane Mary as the newest member of the Society and we look forward to her life and ministries with us.

## EVENTS 2006

**June 9-11, 2006- Rejoicing in God's Creation-** A weekend retreat in Duxbury. Led by the Sisters of St. Margaret, this silent retreat offers time and space for prayer and contemplation in the beautiful seaside setting of Duxbury Bay. For more information or to make your reservation, call St. Margaret's Convent 617-445-8961 x 127 or email us at [resbostonssm@yahoo.com](mailto:resbostonssm@yahoo.com). Visit our website [www.ssmbos.com](http://www.ssmbos.com) for directions to Duxbury.

**July 13-15, 2006- A Conference for Associates.** Entitled "Holiness in a Post-Modern Age", this weekend program exclusively for our Associates will be presented by the Reverend Doctor Richard Valantasis, SSM Associate.

**Saturday, July 15, 2006- St. Margaret's Day.** Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am. Preacher: Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett, Mary Wolfe Professor of Historical Theology at The Episcopal Divinity School. Luncheon follows.

**October 6-8, 2006- An Invitation to Explore Vocations Weekend.** Are you between the ages of 21 and 45, and interested in learning more about the religious life? We welcome single women of faith, lay or ordained, who are searching for a life in community with prayer at its center. This vocations weekend is offered at no cost and includes room and board. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from the convent. Space is limited. Apply now. For more information and an application, please contact us at the Boston Convent or download an application at [www.ssmbos.com](http://www.ssmbos.com).



*Sr. Jane Mary, SSM with her mother, Myrtle Harrison.*

## WHO IS BOB?

by Kristina Frances, SSM



*Male bonding time at St. Margaret's*

Some of you may have wondered, "Who is that male voice answering the phone at the convent?" The answer is Bob Witmer. Bob has been working with us for almost four years; first as our Computer Technician, and now as our Administrator.

Bob came to us from the business world and says he has been pleasantly surprised by life at a non-profit organization. This job is never boring, and he has learned a whole new vocabulary: refectory, sacristy, feria, postulant . . . . He finds that many people are surprised when they discover that he works at an Episcopal convent (Bob always includes Episcopal; he is a great advertisement for religious life in the Episcopal Church). The next question, "How do you like working with nuns?" provides the opportunity to respond, "They are called Sisters."

Bob is vastly outnumbered by the women in our household; even Penny, our dog, is female. He finds support and encouragement from our cat Sir Lancelot, who is happy to have another guy around. Most mornings Lancelot can be found supervising Bob, and helping him with his various duties, especially typing.

Bob has been a great blessing to us, assisting us with all the business of the office as well as ensuring that our computers are working properly. His recent projects have included computerizing our library catalogue, helping redesign the website, and updating

our computer systems.

The sisters appreciate all the work Bob does to make life run more smoothly, and enjoy his easy manner and sense of humor. When he is not at work, Bob enjoys sitting on the beach on Cape Cod, and spending time with his wife, his children and his grandchildren.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Sr. Carolyn was on mission in Honolulu from March 21-28, 2006. She led programs on spirituality, working with Brother Robert Sevensky of the Order of the Holy Cross and the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes of the Memorial Church, Harvard University.

Sr. Sarah gave an Anglican prayer bead workshop at Trinity Church, Rockland, MA., on Monday, May 8th, 2006.

Sr. Grace did a Ground Zero presentation at Beacon House on April 24th.

Sr. Sarah and Sr. Emily Louise led workshops for the conference of Diocesan Episcopal Church Women at the Boston Convent April 21-22, 2006.

Sr. Mary Gabriel and Sr. Elizabeth attend the spring meeting of the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas which took place at the Convent of the Sisters of St. Mary in Sewanee, TN from April 25-30, 2006.

On Sunday, April 30th 2006, Sr. Carolyn was at All Saints' Church, Peterborough, N.H. as preacher for Evensong. The occasion was the investiture of the boys and girls as Choristers in accordance with the Royal School of Church Music program.

On May 4th and 5th, six Sisters attended the Kellogg Lectures at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. Karen Armstrong was the speaker, giving three outstanding lectures.

Sr. Ann visited our Associates Patricia Waller in Rockport, MA., Laura Troupe in Norton, MA., and Marylou Davis, Sunny Cole, Mary Rouillard, the Rev. Joseph Pace and the Rev. Judith Toffey, who live in CT. Sr. Ann attended the opening night of the Faith Quilt exhibit at the Cyclorama and the following exhibit at the National Center of African-American Artists.

Sr. Kristina Frances led the Lenten quiet day in Boston on March 18th. There were 11 people in attendance, and a variety of music was played to illustrate various way of incorporating music into one's prayer life. Sr. Adele Marie celebrated the closing eucharist. Sr. Kristina Frances joined the Schola Nocturna in singing Night Prayer on April 2nd at the Church of the Messiah in Newton. This service is an expanded version of the traditional Compline office, and has successfully attracted a younger crowd. She attended the Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society Dinner on Friday, April 28th which was in honor of their 150th anniversary.

## WHERE WE ARE

### by Grace, SSM

#### BOSTON CONVENT:

Sr. Carolyn  
 Sr. Adele Marie  
 Sr. Esther  
 Sr. Bernardine  
 Sr. Catherine Louise  
 Sr. Marion  
 Sr. Mary Michael  
 Sr. Emily Louise  
 Sr. Ann  
 Sr. Claire Marie

Sr. Christine  
 Sr. Marie Therese  
 Sr. Brigid  
 Sr. Promise  
 Sr. Beatrice  
 Sr. Grace  
 Sr. Sarah  
 Sr. Kristina Frances  
 Sr. Jane Mary

#### NEW HARTFORD, NEW YORK

Sr. Mary Gabriel  
 Sr. Jane Margaret  
 Sr. Mary Eleanor  
 Sr. Julian

#### NEW YORK CITY

Sr. Elizabeth  
 Sr. Gloria  
 Sr. Adele

#### PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Sr. Marie Margaret  
 Sr. Marjorie Raphael  
 Kethia Jean- Simon

#### KATHERINE LUTHER HOME, CLINTON, NEW YORK

Sr. Lucy Mary  
 Sr. Rosemary

<h2>The Society of St. Margaret</h2>
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<h2>VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.SSMBOS.COM</h2>
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 Eastertide 2006**

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