



St. Margaret's Quarterly

St. Margaret's Convent

17 Highland Park Street

Boston, Massachusetts

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SPRING 2004



View of Duxbury Bay

PLANNING YOUR SUMMER VACATION?

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.



Bertram Conference Center

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 large dining room and 10 bedrooms with bunk beds.



The Farmhouse

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



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. Rentals range from overnight to several weeks. To inquire about rates as well as availability for your vacation, email resbostonssm@yahoo.com or call our Reservations Desk at (617)445-8961 X127. For more photos and a printable map to our Duxbury location, go to our website at www.ssmbos.com and click on the "Duxbury" button. You will love it!!

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

On Saturday, April 24, Sr. Promise and Sr. Sarah attended an event on children's and youth ministries in the Diocese of Connecticut. Called "Take Me to the Water," the conference was organized around the theme of baptism.

The day opened with a service of prayer, music, and story. A praise band played us in, we all sang a hymn, and Masanko Banda taught us two songs from Malawi. He told us that our stories are universal, knowing no boundaries and no continent. If there is something we can do for our children, it is to tell them our stories, teach them our song and listen to their voices.

We continued the morning with a series of workshops entitled Stream Walking. There were three sessions: Naming, Proclaiming, and Serving. Sr. Promise attended "What's in a Name?" Participants learned the meanings of their names, wrote them on drops of water, and made a river of the drops. Sr. Sarah heard the story of how Janice Yancy of the Diocese of Massachusetts received her name "Bright Light" at her Native American naming ceremony.

In the Proclaiming session, Sr. Promise listened to a ventriloquist tell the story of the Feeding of the 5000 from the perspective of a little boy. The point was made that he was not even counted among the 5000, as only men were counted, but that he was the one who had the ingredients of lunch for the others. Sr. Sarah took part in a session on liturgical dance. Participants were taught a dance to "The Circle of Life."

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TAKE ME TO THE WATER

(continued from front)

For the final morning session, Serving, Sr. Promise attended "One Body, Many Parts." Each person chose two colored pieces of cloth and wove them into a stole being made on a loom, worn later in the day at the Eucharist. The multicolored stripes were a reminder that we are all different, but are one in Jesus. Participants also wrote one gift God had given them on the board. Sr. Promise was especially touched by the child who said her gift was love. Sr. Sarah's group spent their session making up bags with toiletries and toys for children being taken into foster care.

Our entire afternoon was set in the context of the Eucharist. After more prayer and music, our liturgy of the Word was a set of three modules. The Tree of Life reminded us of our place in creation as we decorated a little person and glued her on the tree. A parable of sorts, The Ragman, was acted by some of the youth. The Ragman was a Christ figure, giving new clothes in exchange for old rags and their accompanying pain. The final unit was on how we serve and moved us into a remembrance of baptism in which we signed the cross on each other with holy water. We finished the day with our Eucharistic meal.

Sr. Promise and Sr. Sarah enjoyed the conference very much, running into old friends and meeting new people. It was good to be able to explain to people what these grey outfits are all about ("What are you?" "Are those acolyte robes?") and to extend the invitation to come to the convent for a visit and a time of refreshment.

Promise and Sarah, SSM

SR. ANN EXPERIENCES SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

What they say about

"Southern hospitality" certainly is true. I spent ten days traveling in Florida and Georgia and was treated royally by our Associates. Ellie Wilson, along with two of her friends, met me at the St. Petersburg Airport on April 23 and drove me back to her house in Largo.

The next day she made sure I was able to swim in the Gulf of Mexico and had a chance to practice the "St. Petersburg shuffle". When you're in the water you walk with a shuffle so that any stingray that might be lying peacefully in the sand would know you were around, and you wouldn't step on top of it. I spoke during sermon time during all three services at St. Dunstan's Church in Largo. They were very interested in hearing about St. Margaret's and promised to help spread the news about the Religious Life in the Episcopal Church.

We drove over to St. Petersburg to see Jeanette Miekka and her husband. They were about to fly to France for a visit with their daughter and her family. We had a delicious dinner with them and a very enjoyable visit. Then we headed down to Sarasota to see Lois Johnson.

Lois took us to see Agape Flights and I had an opportunity to thank them for being so faithful in delivering our mail to Haiti. Please keep them in your prayers as their lease for the hanger expires at the end of June. I was pleased to have Ellie meet both Lois and Jeanette, as they live close enough to visit.

Traveling from the west coast to the east coast, I couldn't resist driving down to the Everglades National Park and the National Cypress Preserve. I saw many wading birds and alligators as well as porpoise.

Our Associate June Gibson hadn't seen any of us for at least twenty years. She took me to see her church and all the lovely

sights of Stuart, Florida. We had a wonderful time catching each other up.

I flew over to Savannah, Georgia and was met by our Associate Lynda Ueberall. I had a short but delightful visit with Lynda and Edward. She took me to see the historic side of Savannah, which is a beautiful city. I flew back to Atlanta where Dr. Frank Green met me. He drove me up to his home in Chickamauga, GA, which is the site of a famous battle in the Civil War. Frank owns a bed and breakfast which is known as the Gordon-Lee Mansion. During the war it served as a hospital for the Union Army. We had a great time talking about our memories of Haiti, where Frank volunteered to do dentistry for many years.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to see our Associates and to spread the word about the Religious Life. Don't tell anyone, but it hardly seems like work to me!

For the last bit of Associate news – Joyce de Jorna was received as an Associate on December 4th, 2003 and the Reverend Janice Matter was received as an Associate on March 27th, 2004.

Ann, SSM

SSM HOSTS ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN MUSICIANS CONFERENCE

The Association of Anglican Musicians chose to have their Region I Mid-Winter meeting at the DeBlois Conference Center at the Boston Convent, entitled "Chant in History and Plainsong."

About a dozen and a half participants braved a harsh New England snowstorm on the afternoon of February 6th to travel to Boston from around the New England and New York area. The conference began with a reception the evening of their arrival, followed by dinner, then a special

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performance by Sr. Kristina Frances. The program consisted of works by Hildegard of Bingen, Lucretia Orsina Vizzana and Rosa Giacinta Badallaand. She was accompanied by Sr. Carolyn. The evening ended with Compline.

The following morning, the Rev. Carl P. Daw, Jr. celebrated the Holy Eucharist and preached. Bruce Ford led the morning session, speaking about the disappearance of chant from the liturgy and the need to regain a prominent place for it in our liturgies today. He showed ways in which chant can be effectively used, including responsorial and antiphonal psalmody. Dr. Edith Ho, Director of Music of the Church of the Advent in Boston, led three fine cantors from her choir, demonstrating and leading the participants in examples of chants. Dr. Ho led the afternoon session with an excellent exposition of the practical use of chant in liturgy.

The weekend was reported on extensively in the March 2004 edition of the Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians. Written by Robert J. Russell, the review was quite complimentary in its appreciation of the reception given by the Sisters of St. Margaret. "There could not have been a more appropriate setting than St. Margaret's Convent in which to immerse ourselves in plainsong. Christopher Babcock, Region I chair, put together an outstanding program, ably assisted by Sr. Carolyn, Superior of the Society of St. Margaret and Past President of AAM, who, along with the Sisters of the Convent, were most gracious and welcoming hosts."

We are grateful to AAM for their appreciation and we welcome other groups to consider holding their conferences, annual meetings or retreats here.

Grace, SSM

SISTERS ATTEND THE CONFERENCE OF ANGLICAN RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN THE AMERICAS MEETING

As springtime exploded around us, Religious women & men descended on the Convent of St. John the Baptist in Mendham, N.J. from all over the Americas for the meetings of C.A.R.O.A. They represented almost all of the Religious Orders who are members of C.A.R.O.A. It was a wonderful "getting together," and Sr. Adele and I enjoyed it very much.

The keynote speaker was Fr. Robert Hale, OSB. His theme was "Action in Contemplation and Contemplation in Action." We heard lectures about lectio divina (often translated as holy reading) and centering prayer. He provided us with lots to think, meditate and pray upon. The meetings were informative and lively. A time of sharing was provided and seemed to be beneficial to all.

We were hosted by the Sisters of St. John the Baptist, and they could not have been kinder or more helpful. The food was excellent. The grounds in Mendham are extensive and provided a lot of space to walk, pray and meditate. I found the outdoor labyrinth especially conducive to prayer.

An office book was compiled by Br. Derek, SSF; it was a lot of work, and much appreciated. The liturgy was very special. Sr. Helena Marie, CHS provided different, interesting music. Also lots of drums, flutes and other instruments which everyone could join in and use to make "a joyful sound for the Lord!" Sr. Dorcas, CSM taught others and then provided dance, making the Eucharist a very special time.

We had a fun afternoon, with offers of a trip to Princeton University, a trip to a conservation area, or a visit to Day Top. I went to Day Top. It is located in the old

school buildings of the convent. The program houses up to 70 young drug/alcohol addicts, male and female, between the ages of 14-18, and mainly from the suburbs. It is a very structured program geared to getting these young people back into society. It was an impressive program with very positive results.

It was a special time and a pleasure to see everyone - making new contacts, renewing old friendships and sharing ideas and information are some of the benefits of this getting together. The week flew by far too fast.

Christine, SSM

COMMUNITY NEWS

In addition to the travels detailed in articles throughout this edition of the Quarterly, sisters have participated in many events.

Sr. Carolyn led a conference on spirituality at St. Paul's Church in Rochester, N.Y., on Saturday, March 6. She preached at both the 8 am and 10 am services on Sunday. She will also be leading several private retreats for those preparing for ordination this summer. On May 6, she preached at Morning Prayer at the Memorial Church of Harvard University, where she is an Affiliated Minister and member of the Chapter.

Sr. Ann and Sr. Claire Marie spoke about Haiti at All Saint's Church in Stoneham on March 14. **Srs. Ann, Claire Marie and Promise** spoke about Haiti to the Outreach Committee at St. Anne's in the Field's in Lincoln on May 6.

Sr. Sarah took a class on Prayer at Episcopal Divinity School, taught by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas.

Sr. Promise continues her studies in Early Childhood Education at Roxbury Community College.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS 2004

ST. MARGARET'S DAY

Plan ahead to attend the St. Margaret's Day celebration with us on Saturday July 17, 2004. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:00 am, and the Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, will preach. Luncheon will follow. The Sisters are celebrating 100 years on our Roxbury site and we welcome all of our friends and associates to join us. Please reserve a spot well in advance by calling 617-445-8961 X127, writing to us at 17 Highland Park Street, Boston, MA 02119-1436 or emailing us at Resbos-tonssm@yahoo.com. Our website www.ssmbos.com has a printable map with directions.

In Duxbury:

For these events, participants are asked to bring a sandwich. Beverages will be provided.

Praying with Flowers - Saturday, October 16, 2004 - This Day of Prayer will be led by Sr. Christine at the Bertram Conference Center, 21 Harden Hill Road, from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. Suggested donation \$15.

Knitting Prayer Shawls - Saturday, November 6, 2004 - This workshop will be led by Sr. Grace at St. Marina's, 60 Harden Hill Road, from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. Suggested donation \$15.

An Advent Day of Prayer - Saturday, December 4, 2004 - Leader to be announced. This day of prayer will be held at the Bertram Conference Center, 21 Harden Hill Road, from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. Suggested donation \$15.

In Boston:

An Invitation to Explore - Are you between the ages of 21 and 45? Have you ever wondered whether or not you could be called to live the Religious life? We welcome women of faith, lay or ordained, who are searching for a life of community, with prayer at its center, to come be our guest. See what our life is like. This vocations weekend is offered at no charge and includes room and board. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the Convent. Space is limited, so apply now. For more information, call the Vocations Director at (617) 445-8961, email us at info@ssmbos.com, or visit our website for a downloadable brochure and the application.

An Exploration of the Spirituality of Hildegard of Bingen - Begins Friday evening, October 29 and continues until 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 31, 2004. This conference, led by Sr. Emily Louise, will include presentations, discussions, and time for reflection and prayer. Call for additional information regarding costs and accommodations.

A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols - Sunday, November 28, 2004, beginning at 4:00 pm. This service in the St. Margaret's Chapel features The Schola Cantorum and congregational participation, with a reception following in the Convent refectory. There is no charge for this service. Freewill offerings will be gratefully accepted.

An Advent Day of Prayer - Saturday, December 11, 2004 at St. Margaret's Convent from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. Leader to be announced. This day of prayer includes luncheon in the Convent refectory. Suggested donation \$25.

A Personal Prayer Weekend - Friday, afternoon December 17 until Sunday December 19, 2004. This weekend is an opportunity to savor Advent's final days and to prepare for Christmas in the setting of a private retreat supported by an atmosphere of prayerful silence, the Holy Eucharist and the Daily Office. Call for additional information regarding costs and accommodations.

Christmas, New Years Eve and New Years Day at the Boston Convent

December 24, 2004: **The Christmas Mass**. The Sisters at the Boston Convent welcome you to share in the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord at 10:00 pm. Refreshments follow.

December 31, 2004: **Welcoming the New Year**. The Sisters welcome you to join them at 7:00 pm in a service of lessons and carols. Reception and refreshments follow the service. Overnight accommodations are available - contact the reservations desk for more information.

January 1, 2005: **The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**. Choral Eucharist at 11:30 am. Dinner following.

For more information or to reserve your place for any of these events, please call us at (617) 445- 8961 X127, email us at resbos-tonssm@yahoo.com or write to us at St. Margaret's Convent, Reservations Desk, 17 Highland Park Street, Boston, MA 02119-1436. Scholarship aid is available for all of these events. We look forward to seeing you!

The Sisters of SSM

EXCERPTS FROM SR. MARIE MARGARET'S LENT/EASTER LETTER

At the end of February, the Sisters went for a few days of retreat and spiritual refreshment outside of Port-au-Prince. Everything seemed to be fine in spite of the political and social situation in the country. On Tuesday we received various messages of trouble which were of concern to us and others. One rumor going around was that the rebels were going to blow up the presidential palace on Ash Wednesday. I became concerned and arranged for us to return to the Convent.

In the afternoon of Ash Wednesday we returned to our convent in Port-au-Prince driving through barricades and nearly empty streets. Soon after our arrival at the convent, the "chimieres" started burning tires on all four corners around us, stopping cars, and searching people. We heard a lot of gunfire. The next day, the tension increased. People were running to the market to get ready for whatever might happen. Stores and banks were closed. People came to our convent looking for food, money, consolation, venting their feelings and their fear. Things went on like this for the rest of the week, the "chimieres" becoming more aggressive each day.

Finally, on Sunday, February 29, early in the morning we heard the news that Aristide had resigned, but it could not be confirmed that he had left the country. Prior to that, a friend arrived, advising us not to go out. Then it was confirmed that Aristide had left the country. Since we did not have electricity, we planned to say Morning Prayer on the porch, rather than in the chapel. No sooner had we sat down when we

heard gunfire nearby. We decided to go back inside.

After breakfast, we observed gangs of armed people, children as well as adults, trying to break into the bank across the street from the cathedral. Failing to gain entry, they decided to set it on fire. They also set fire to homes and gas stations nearby. Shops were pillaged and set on fire. We found ourselves in the middle of all this pillaging, looting and burning buildings. It was total chaos. There was no way to get help. No one was in charge. It was the longest morning I have ever known in my life.

By the afternoon, we heard the noise of heavy arms being fired; I do not know if it was the national police or the U.S. Marines. Then, within a few minutes it was quiet around us except for the noise of helicopters flying overhead. We understand that this was to protect the presidential palace from further looting. Looting continued throughout the week in other areas. There were no services in the cathedral from Ash Wednesday until Sunday, March 7. When services resumed, few people came at first out of fear. The "chimieres" were still attacking people on the streets, breaking car windshields, or car-jacking.

The next day, Monday, March 1, people started coming to the convent from 7 a.m. on, looking for assistance. The banks being closed, no one could get cash. The food shops and street merchants were not open for business. We helped as we could, providing money and food. We are the welcome center for those of all social classes and denominations. Some came to us in tears, saying, "We have no other place to go but here, knowing you will give us what you can." This is just what we did.

By our presence in Port-au-Prince through these troubling days we were able to minister to the old people in residence at the Foyer Notre Dame, as well as those who work for us, the families who depend on us for aid, the children who benefit from our scholarship funds, the maintenance men at the schools, and the sacristans of the cathedral. We did not abandon them.

We have many repairs to do at the Foyer and here at the convent. We need a transformer so that we can have electricity, since the one we had exploded in December. This will cost more than several thousand dollars. We are going through a very difficult time right now. We live moment by moment; this is a time of great uncertainty. We are crying to you for help. Agape Flights still comes once a week with our mail and packages. We have email whenever there is electricity available.

I thank you for all your help, your concern and your prayers. Thank you for what you have given us through the years. And now we hope you will reach out to us in this time of great need. Again, thank you and may God bless you. Our mailing address, telephone number and email address appear in the directory panel of this issue of St. Margaret's Quarterly.

Marie Margaret, SSM

For a list of items needed, directions on how to send them to the Sisters, or for more information on making contributions for the Sisters in Haiti, please contact the Boston Convent at (617) 445-8961 X146 or email info@ssmbos.com, or contact the Sisters in Haiti directly as noted above.

COMMUNITY NEWS
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Sr. Christine, as a member of the Duxbury Garden Club, took part in their Flower Show at the Bertram Conference Center in Duxbury on May 20th.

Sr. Grace did a Ground Zero presentation at St. Philip's Church in Laurel, Md. on March 13th and preached three services on the 14th, along with speaking at the Adult Forum on "the Call to the Religious Life." She spent the weekend of April 24 - 25 speaking and preaching at St. Margaret's House in New Hartford.

Sr. Kristina Frances has

been attending monthly Novitiate Study Days on various topics with the Novices of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge.

The Sisters are pleased to announce that **Sr. Kristina Frances** has been elected to make her Profession in Annual Vows, which will take place on Pentecost, Sunday, May 30 at 4:00 pm in the Chapel at the Boston Convent.

Please pray for all of the the Sisters as they meet in Boston from August 26 to September 5 at our Annual Gathering. The Boston Convent and Conference Center will be closed to the public during this time.



LADY MARGARET
1990-2004

We give thanks for the life and companionship of our Boston Convent dog, Lady Margaret, and for the joy she brought to the whole community.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. MARGARET
Boston Massachusetts

SPRING 2004

St. Margaret's House

47 Jordan Road
New Hartford NY 13413-2385
(315) 724-2324
Email: SsmsistersCNY@aol.com
Website: www.ssmcny.org

Neale House

50 Fulton Street
New York New York 10038-1800
(212) 619-2672
Email: Sisters@trinitywallstreet.org

St. Margaret's Convent

17 Highland Park Street
Boston, MA 02119-1436
(617) 445-8961
Fax (617) 445-7120
Email: ssmconvent@ssmbos.com

St. Margaret's South Duxbury

BOX C
Duxbury MA 02331-0605
(781) 934-9477

St. Margaret's Convent

Port au Prince Haiti
Telephone: 011+509+22+2011
Email: marieyvettesm@starband.net

Mailing Address:

St. Margaret's Convent, P-a-P

c/o Agape Flights
7990 15th Street East
Sarasota FL 34243

Visit our Web Site
www.ssmbos.com

St. Margaret's Quarterly, SPRING 2004



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