



# St. Margaret's Quarterly

St. Margaret's Convent

17 Highland Park Street

Boston, Massachusetts

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WINTER 2003

## SISTER GRACE PROFESSED ON THE EVE OF THE EPIPHANY



*Sister Grace signing the Roll Book on the Altar, in the presence of Sister Carolyn, at her Profession.*

In a season rich with symbolism; the giving of costly gifts to the Incarnate Lord, the cleansing waters of Baptism, the provision of wine for the wedding at Cana, we rejoiced in one more gift and covenant made in our own day, the first profession of Sister Grace on the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany.

The rest of the world may not have known, but the angels rejoiced, and we with them, when one more young woman offered her life to God, hoping to do so perpetually after further training.

Sister Grace had been a novice for some time when she was sent to our house in New York City, to gain some mission experience. She arrived just after the tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup>. She found ample opportunity for the use of her natural skills and her contribution was greatly appreciated, so much so that there were fifteen people from New York City present on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003, as well as many other friends, to witness her formal and public avowal of a firm intention to give her life to God under the traditional Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. There was also the distinctly St. Margaret's promise, added by our Founder, to be gentle, and loving with all people. Surely it must have touched the hearts of all present, inspiring them to make their own offering to God according to their state in life.

After the solemn, joyful service, greatly enhanced by the music chosen for the festival and the singing of the Schola, everyone was invited to a reception in the refectory, which had been decorated with lovely flowers and candles and the traditional Profession cake. Afterwards, we took up our work with renewed gladness to be in God's House and about the business of the kingdom.

Sister Esther

## CALENDAR

### LENTEN DAYS OF PRAYER

**In Boston** on Saturday, Mar. 29, 2003 at St. Margaret's Convent, 17 Highland Park Street from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Sister Catherine Louise will lead meditations on the theme: ***We should Like to See Jesus.***

Luncheon will be served. Suggested donation: \$25. To register: by mail including your donation to reserve your place. Telephone reservations will only be accepted after Mar. 24, 2003. Scholarship aid available.

**In Duxbury** on Saturday, Apr. 5, 2003 at the Bertram Conference Center, 21 Harden Hill Road, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Sister Catherine Louise will lead meditations on the theme: ***We should Like to See Jesus.***

Suggested donation: \$15. Please bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be supplied. To register: by mail including your donation to reserve your place. Telephone reservations will only be accepted after Mar. 31, 2003. Scholarship aid available.

### THURSDAYS IN LENT

Five meetings on prayer in Duxbury, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 & 10. Beginning with coffee at 9:45 am. Ending with Eucharist at 11:45 am.

### TRIDUUM

**Maundy Thursday**, April 17th. Liturgy of the Lord's Supper at 6 pm Preacher: The Rev Carl P. Daw, Jr. Agape meal & Watch at the Altar of Repose.

**Good Friday**, April 18th. Liturgy at 5 pm. Preacher: The Rev. Edward W. Rodman

**Holy Saturday**, April 19th. Liturgy at 12 noon.

**Easter Day**, April 20th The Great Vigil of Easter at 4 am.

Preacher: Sister Adele Marie

You are invited to stay at the Convent for any part of the week and join the community in the life-giving events of the death and resurrection of Christ. Please make reservations.

### NEWS FROM NEW HARTFORD

Several years ago, in Philadelphia, when I became responsible for the mail, I learned that it was important to deal with it EVERY day. Just one missed day could lead to an overwhelming situation on the desk and a backlog from which it was almost impossible to recover! It's also true that a great deal of what comes in can be thrown out without even opening it. And yet there are some envelopes that certainly fall into the "junk" category that yield some wondrous bits of wisdom. I received a card a few days ago with this quote from the American novelist, Henry James. "Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind." While certainly not an all-encompassing theology or a statement of religious principles, it expresses a basic foundation for our life



together and our ministry and outreach. Like the "Golden Rule" it is very simple, but a lifetime of work with many a fall

and getting up again are involved. And it seems to me that persons trying to live this kind of life together are what many are searching for when they come here. It may be a group retreat, a workshop, young people who come to work on the grounds, a diocesan formation program, an individual coming "to listen for God;" for most it seems that the experience of being with an intentional community committed to sharing God's love is what is most important for them. These past months have seen Sr. Mary Eleanor, in addi-

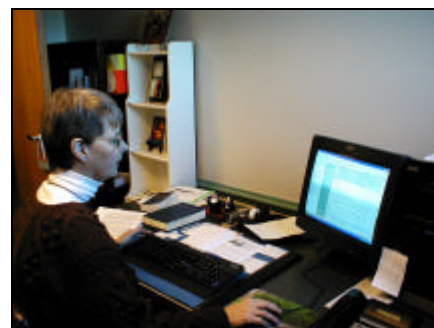
tion to her ministry here, going out to celebrate in several parishes where clergy have needed a supply priest. Sr. Rosemary continues her ministry of visitation at the Eastern Star and the Presbyterian Homes. Sr. Jane Margaret is organizing a Stamp Club exhibit as well as her work at the House of the Good Shepherd. Sr. Lucy Mary keeps our chapel beautiful and assists at the Eucharist at St. Luke's Home. Sr. Julian has taken her "Praying in 10's" to several Churches and helped with a district children's retreat here in December. We had the pleasure of having our Bishop, Skip Adams, and the Canon Visionary with us recently and we had good conversation about the role of St. Margaret's in the diocese and our mutual ministry.

Sister Mary Gabriel  
**LETTER FROM SISTER ANN**

Dear Associates,  
 I pray that you all had healthy and happy holidays. We had some lovely services and I really enjoyed experiencing the liturgy after having been away for so many years.

I'd like to share a little of my travels since leaving New Hartford. At the invitation of St. Clement's Church in Honolulu, Hawaii Sr. Grace and I made a visit during the last week of September. We had many opportunities to share information about St. Margaret's, the religious life and the work of St. Paul's (NYC) at Ground Zero. My other trip was to New Hampshire. I stopped first to see our Associates, Rita and James Abbott in New London, New Hampshire. We had a delightful visit, catching up on all the news and reminiscing over the years past. I then drove up to Colebrook, New Hampshire. Our Associate Ginger Jannenga lives in this small town along with her five huskies, one greyhound, one Corgi and one cat. Being a "dog person" I was delighted to get to know all of them (including Ginger!) Ginger gave me a grand tour of the mountains surrounding this northern town and the Rev. Marilyn Neary showed me the churches involved in the Border Ministry - All Saints, Here-

ford, Quebec, St. Paul's, Canaan, Vermont and her church, St. Stephen's, Colebrook, New Hampshire. All these churches are within a twenty-minute drive of each other! The Rev. Granvyl Hulse, Jr. says in his book *A History of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*, "Virtually without a resident ministry for



more than half of its 175 year existence, there is something about the Episcopal way of life that bonded a diverse group of people into a worshipping congregation which has survived despite all odds. Something beautiful, something divine has prompted lay men and women time and again, to rise from the pews and call the assembled body to worship the living God." These churches have raised up five Canon Nine priests and one deacon to serve them. It is a very creative approach to a problem common to many small, poor churches.

I would like to encourage each of you to think about inviting me to talk about St. Margaret's and the religious life. I am happy to travel to wherever you are, so don't hesitate to ask. I would only ask you to find me a bed for the time that I am with you. I look forward to meeting many of you in the year ahead. Faithfully,

Sister Ann

**FESTIVAL MUSIC**

At St. Margaret's Convent in Boston, MA, 17 Highland Park Street, on Sunday March 2nd, 2003, at 4:00 pm. Refreshments and Open House follow. Let us know if you are coming so that we may make adequate preparations.

Sister Jennifer Anne has been released from her vows and left the Community December 14th, 2002. Our prayers go with her in her new life.

**SISTER CAROLYN'S VISIT TO HAITI**

My life has been truly blessed by my visit with our sisters in Haiti. They are celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of residence and service in Haiti. Not having lived there since 1986, I was astounded at the crowded conditions and bursting population of the poor in Port-au-Prince. There are strikes and demonstrations from many groups for and against the government, while the rich become richer and the poor, poorer. Children are not able to maintain a regular school schedule, and the people cannot go to work, if there is work for them. Our sisters are valiantly caring for many people.

I was invited to conduct one piece of music for the concert honoring the sister's anniversary. Upon arriving I discovered the music to be a cantata by Bach, "Unto Us a Child is Born". I had three rehearsals with singers and two with orchestra. Due to demonstrations and strikes I did not have everyone present until the actual performance. The boys, 27 sopranos plus tenors and basses numbered 50 singers. They had memorized the cantata in German.

The orchestra consisted of strings and woodwinds. I had been the hesitant one. They sang and played from the depths of their hearts, and one child said in his rehearsed English, "Thank you for music, thank you for bring beauty to Haiti.

Pray for our sisters and for the country that some solution may be found.

Sister Carolyn

**CORRECTION**

On page 76 of the Fall Quarterly 2002, the statement was made that Education in Haiti is free." This is not accurate. No school tuition is required but there are so many other expenses involved that school is very expensive. The children of Haiti are in desperate need of our support so that they may have a fair start in life.

**COMMUNITY NOTES**

The year 2002 came to an end for us with a beautiful Service of Lessons and Hymns in our lovely Chapel, followed by a pleasant evening of renewing old friendships with our Associates and other friends enjoying delectable refreshments in our refectory. The next morning, January 1st, 2003 the celebration of the Eucharist was at 11:30 am.. Sr. Adele Marie presided and the Rev Carl Daw preached. After being fed in the Eucharist, we enjoyed a delicious dinner with our friends and Associates, provided as always for us by Sr. Claire Marie's capable directions.

Several of our Sisters had their annual long retreat in January. Sr. Claire went to the Genesis Center in Westfield MA, while Sr. Sarah and Sr. Kristina Frances had their retreats at St. Joseph Villa Retreat Center in Cohasset.

Sr. Catherine Louise and Sr. Ann have attended a couple of peace rallies, as well as meetings of the Downtown Clergy on the same subject. One of the rallies was on Boston Common and was attended by thousands of people. The other was a Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain rally at Trinity Lutheran Church in our own neighborhood. A group of us also attended the Ecumenical Prayer Service calling for peace at Trinity Church, Copley Square, arranged by our own Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Shaw. Every day we pray that the war with Iraq and North Korea may be averted.

Many of our Sisters went to the ordination and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris on January 18<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Church in Copley Square. The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris, the first woman to be ordained and consecrated a Bishop in the Episcopal Church, advised her successor the "she must not demur from urging us out of the comfortable pew and challenging us to seek the welfare of the city and the suburbs alike." She urged her to remember that prayer is her life and her lifeline and that the power behind her is greater than the task ahead of her.

Several of our Sisters have been travel-

ers this month: Sr. Carolyn went to Haiti for her annual visitation while Sr. Brigid went to England to visit all our Houses there. Sr. Grace has been to Chicago to a conference for Generation Xers and Sr. Ann went to northern New Hampshire to visit Associates. She is expecting to go to Maryland to visit the Associates there. Sr. Marion and Sr. Mary Michael had the joy of going to a Christmas Pops Concert as guests of Dick and Georgia Pease, old friends from Neale House and St. Margaret's House in New York City.

Sister Christine is serving on the Prison Ministry Committee of the Diocese of Massachusetts, as a supplement to her weekly visits to the Suffolk County House of Correction. This committee is currently working to encourage the parishes and deaneries to participate in education regarding their efforts to oppose the use and expansion of segregation units (Disciplinary Detention Units) and other forms of inhumane isolation of prisoners in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections.

Massachusetts has no death penalty sentence but the community has taken a stand in opposition to the death penalty and has supported the Moratorium. Our interest was aroused by correspondence with a prisoner on death row who sent materials on the Moratorium and on the Tollbells program. We pray for those who are to be executed and toll our bell on the evening of an execution. To learn more and to help, simply search on the internet for moratorium or tollbells.

Sister Mary Michael

**THANK-YOU** to all who have helped the Quarterly to continue printing in color. If everyone who receives the Quarterly contributed ten dollars each year, the costs would be covered. Any amount great or small is much appreciated.

## THE CHORAL FELLOWS

Of The Harvard University Choir came to sing *Compline* at The Convent on Saturday, February first. *Compline* was preceded by a short and beautiful concert conducted by Dr. Murray Forbes Somerville. The music included *O'er the Hill and O'er the Dale* arranged by G.R. Woodward *O Lord, give us thy Holy Spirit* and *If ye love me*, both by Thomas Tallis; *Come let's Rejoice* by John Amner. And *Ave Maria* by Josquin Des Pres. The singing was exceptional and we thank Dr. Somerville and the Choir for coming to be with us.



**THE RT. REVEREND STACY F. SAULS**, Bishop of Lexington, came to see Sr. Esther. He was with us January 30-31.

## ST. MARGARET'S DAY

**Saturday July 19, 2003** at St. Margaret's Convent, 17 Highland Park Street, Boston, MA. Eucharist at 10:00 am followed by lunch.

**Preacher:** The Right Reverend Frank H. Vest, Jr., Retired Bishop of Southern Virginia.

Please let us know if you are coming by Tuesday July 15, 2003.

## THE SOCIETY OF ST. MARGARET Boston Massachusetts

### WINTER 2003

#### St. Margaret's Convent

17 Highland Park Street  
Boston MA 02119-1436

(617) 445-8961

Fax (617) 445-7120

Email: [ssmconvent@ssmbos.com](mailto:ssmconvent@ssmbos.com)

#### St. Margaret's South Duxbury BOX C

Duxbury MA 02331-0605

(781) 934-9477

#### St. Margaret's House

47 Jordan Road

New Hartford NY 13413-2385

(315) 724-2324

Email: [SsmsistersCNY@aol.com](mailto:SsmsistersCNY@aol.com)



Visit our Web Site  
[ssmbos.com](http://ssmbos.com)

#### St. Margaret's Convent

Port au Prince Haiti

Telephone: 011+509+22+2011

Email: [ssmhaiti@haitelonline.com](mailto:ssmhaiti@haitelonline.com)

#### Mailing Address

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

c/o Agape Flights

7990 15th Street East

Sarasota FL 34243

#### Neale House

50 Fulton Street

New York NY 10038-1800

(212) 619-2672



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17 Highland Park Street

Boston Massachusetts 02119-1436 USA

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