

Marist Mission Today

Number 93

Marist Missionary Sisters

Winter 2023

Dear Partners in Mission,

I hope and pray that this year, 2023, has brought you & your family closer to God. Your continuous prayers and support keep us

working on the mission, proclaiming the Gospel to the poor and less fortunate despite our diminishing age and numbers.



Article 24 of our constitutions: "Called to live the paschal mystery in times of suffering, sickness and old age as well as in times of success, health, and activity, we always share in the mission of the congregation." We are missionaries wherever we are, and the beauty of our Convent at 62 Newton Street is a powerhouse of prayers for the mission & hospitality to our sisters and the broader community.

As Pope Francis exclaimed: "The elderly, through their faith, wisdom, and experience, can bear convincing witness to the presence of God's kingdom in our midst and the authentic meaning of our earthly existence." Therefore, our SMSM community continues to be a presence of God's universal love.

While financial support is vital, your prayers and encouragement are also valued. We are grateful for partners like you who have made a difference in our mission advancement. Please be assured that you and your family are included in my humble prayers.

I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a Prosperous 2024 full of hope.

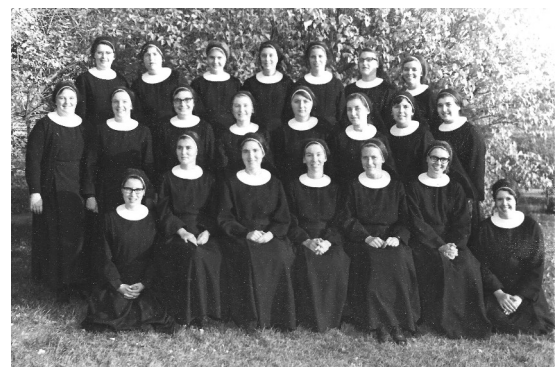
*United in prayers
Sister Helen Muller, SMSM
Regional Leader
Region of the Americas*

Missionaries for the whole of our life

To all of you faithful partners, may you enjoy this issue as it chronicles our unfolding mission through the years.



Laughter, games and enthusiasm, bounced off the walls of 62 Newton St. Novitiate in 1964 as 21 Postulants, mostly young women fresh out of high school, were learning to become Marist Missionary Sisters. Setting out for unknown lands to share the Good News of God's love, was the burning desire in each heart.



Today, there is still laughter, albeit, less games, and less energy, as we elderly missionaries have returned to retire at 62 Newton St. Here, we are called to our most challenging mission - suffering and prayer- as we work on our PHD (preparation for a happy death).

Many wonderful stories can be heard around the dinner table as the Sisters recall their missionary adventures. Incredible experiences in exotic places, at times requiring heroic effort. Passing on one's story is essential, the temptation is to get stuck there and to refuse to embrace life as it presents itself today. The League of Prayer ministry has allowed us to embrace our new mission of prayer, to those God brings to our door, as well as, to our family, community, friends, Nation and the world.

Sr. M. Rita Philippon, smsm, has led this ministry for over 30 years. As a member of the development team, she has ordered the prayer cards, answered requests, inscribed the names in our enrollment book and arranged for our Chaplain to say 3 Masses a month for those inscribed in the league of prayer. Did I mention that as we pray our evening office we pray "for our benefactors and those enrolled in our League of Prayer"?

We extend our sincerest thanks to Sr. M. Rita for this hidden and quiet ministry which she has done with great dedication and reliability. She hands this ministry over to Sr. Judith Sheridan, as Rita struggles with diminishing eye sight. Sr. Mary Rita, who has promoted the great power of prayer, can take comfort now in knowing that we pray for her.

Sr. Judith Sheridan, smsm



62 Newton St. community



Mission of prayer



Sr. Mary Rita Philippon

Who Sings, Prays Twice

The singing nuns have nothing on us. Music, the language of the soul, is an intricate part of our life and prayer as Marist Missionary Sisters.

Sr. Mary Anne Faucher has brought music to all her missions and continues today here at 62. Her choir practice each Tuesday prepares the few attendees for upcoming Marian Feasts which we celebrate in style. We also prepare for funerals of our Sisters, ordinary time masses and all our wonderful liturgical feasts.

Our great parish of Sacred Heart has embraced us throughout all our years in Waltham. We have also been a vital part of its ministry until today. We contribute as the choir for the 4pm mass on Saturday. Two of our 4 novices join us from our novitiate in Belmont. We rejoice in this new life for our Congregation.

Sr. Palepa Ioane leads with her guitar and we old and young lift our voices in praise to God.

Sr. Judith Sheridan, smsm



Sister Mary Anne Faucher



Sr. Annet Nakiwala (Uganda), Sr. Jacinta Obi (Nigeria), Sr. Judith Sheidan (USA), Sr. Virginia Fornasa (USA), Sr. Palepa Ioane (American Samoa)

Those who have gone before us...



Sister Rose Marie Mailhot, smsm

April 23, 1928 – October 15, 2023

From: Waltham, Ma

Missioned in: Jamaica, USA, Peru



Thinking of becoming a Marist Missionary Sister?

Learn more: Visit our websites: maristsmsm.org & smsmsisters.org
Contact: vocations@maristsmsm.org

Did you know? When you visit maristsmsm.org on your **phone, tablet or computer**, you can

- Request prayers
- Make an online donation
- Sign up for our news posts
- Download the most recent 6 issues of the MMT.

Wills – Memorial Gifts

If you are planning your bequests or memorial gifts you can help us to continue to bring the good news of God's love to those in need in many parts of the world.

Our official name and address for legal documents:

Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary
349 Grove Street,
Waltham, MA 02453

OR: CURRENT RESIDENT

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Waltham, MA
Permit No. 59435

Marist Mission
349 Grove Street
Waltham, MA 02453-6018