



A Reflection: Volunteering with the Afghan Refugees

by Sr. Dorothy Fabritze, MSC



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It happened again! A plea for volunteers from Catholic Charities in San Antonio, TX, sent to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, was forwarded to my provincial superior, and received by me in an email. This call sparked plans for me and many others to respond. Within ten days there were three of us - Sr. Marie Clark, MSC, Sr. Joel, LSJ, and I - driving again for three and a half days to be of assistance to the refugees from Afghanistan. In all, thirteen sisters found housing with the

Congregation of Divine Providence: Maryknoll Sisters, Dominican Sisters, Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, Congregation of the Holy Child Sisters, Little Sisters of Jesus, and Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart.

This time was different from my experience assisting migrant youths at the border last summer! This time Sr. Marie Clark and I began by assembling donated dining room chairs (one hundred of them). As we unpacked the boxes of new chairs, separated the pieces to be assembled, used power screwdrivers, and admired the finished product, I recalled the hours I spent with my father as a young girl learning these specific skills. We volunteers were able to deliver four of these tables and multiple chairs to the Afghan families already settled in an apartment.

A few of the refugees who could speak English (since these were the translators for our military) shared information with us about their culture and their life experiences. I continue to reflect on what I learned from them and I hope to incorporate it into a wider appreciation for all the diverse cultural gifts God has graced us with in our lives.

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Laudato Si: Care for Our Common Home

by Sr. Theresa Molchanow, MSC



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Today I noticed a robin tilting its head to the soggy soil. As it hopped from one spot to another on the lawn, I wondered: "What is Earth saying? Do I, too, listen to Earth's voice?"

By walking together towards an Integral Ecology in collaboration with the Church, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, their Lay Associates, all People of Good Will and Others, the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the

U.S.A. and throughout the world have made a commitment to the vision of "Laudato Si," Pope Francis' encyclical of 2015 on Care for Our Common Home.

"But, why that? And, why now? Surely, there are many other issues demanding one's energy, prayer and resources!"

Opening the door of our house this morning, a blue sky, a few wandering clouds and the sun greeted me and I thought: "God's in his heaven -- all's right with the world!" (Robert Browning)

There is also another reality threatening Earth, as Pope Francis expresses in "Laudato Si."

We Sisters, together with you, have seen Earth's tears in the Covid pandemic, rising ocean levels, polluted soil and air, deforestation, vanishing wildlife, mudslides, wildfires, tornados, landslides, earthquakes, etc. We have heard Earth's cries in wars, refugees, devaluation of human life, inequality, greed, discrimination, persons caught in the web of human trafficking, aborted babies, abandoned elderly, the disappeared, etc. Everything that lives is part of the web of life and has an integral right to live and thrive.

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To receive Connections in email format only,
contact: cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org

Lay MSC Ceremony of Commitment Dec. 12, 2021

In December of 2021 the Lay MSC Associates, accompanied by the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, gathered to: celebrate the commitment of their newest member Sonia Santiago; renew their commitments as Lay MSC; and welcome a transition in leadership.

The festivities began with a beautiful Mass in the Sisters' chapel and ended with a communal lunch. Following a warm welcome to Sonia and her family, former Lay MSC Director Diana Hospador thanked Joann Rivera for her service as Director for the past



Mary Ann McNally (left) accepts the role of Lay Director from former Lay Director Joann Rivera (right).

eight years. Joann's commitment to the Lay Associates has been extremely fruitful and challenging; she has been, and will continue to be, a great asset to the community.

Looking to the future, Joann then introduced the newest Lay Director, Mary Ann McNally. The Lay MSC Associates have

warmly welcomed Mary Ann and have continued in the vein of prayer and fellowship with her as their leader. Mary Ann and the Lay Associates welcome anyone interested in living the MSC charism and spirituality through their own life experiences to contact Sr. Lorraine Molchanow at LorraineMolchanow@gmail.com. All are welcome. †



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and visiting www.mscreading.org

Volunteering *continued from page 1*



Sisters Marie Clark and Dorothy Fabritze enjoyed dinner with other volunteers during their stay in Texas.

Other jobs Sr. Marie Clark and I worked included stocking shelves at the local Food Bank which services local immigrants, delivering donated clothing to the apartments of the refugees, and sharing donated toys with children - a small, donated bounce house, and of course, stuffed animals.

Sr. Marie Clark and I gratefully experienced Afghan hospitality. Upon entering each apartment, our hosts immediately offered tea, water, and sometimes Afghan cooked rice (Delicious!). Even though their present resources are few, they insisted that we would accept the little they had.



Sisters Dorothy and Marie joined other volunteers in delivering items to the food bank of a local parish.

We also experienced the joy of the children who, despite our language barrier, enjoyed throwing a ball back and forth and running and playing. A donated stuffed toy brought smiles and a donated bicycle was the greatest possession.

And yet, it is the same Love of God which called us all together for the opportunity to witness to God's great love for all peoples. This love feeds, clothes, and shelters those in need. We all are given a love that: reaches out to others with compassion (to be and to suffer with); journeys with the other in good and challenging times; supports the weaning spirits; and points a way to hope and peace. Sharing this love is the purpose of living. †

SAVE THE DATE



**MSC Oktoberfest is planned for
Sunday, October 9, 2022
at the Reading Liederkrantz
from 12 – 5.**

**Join us as we toast
to another year of the
Missionary Sisters of the
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus'
mission of love!**



2021 MSC Sisters Donor Report

The MSC Sisters express joyful gratitude for all who support our mission. Each of your gifts, whether time, energy, treasure or prayer supports our mission to be God's Heart for others in the United States Province and around the world. Your generosity also enables us to care for ourselves as we age. Thank you for sharing your resources with us. Your gifts make a positive difference every day!

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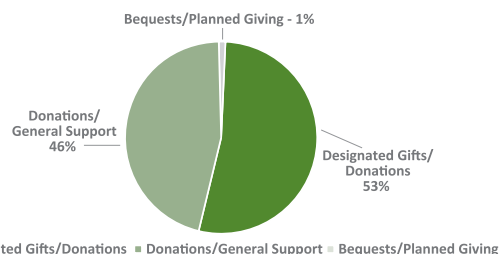
"The love of the heart of Jesus is the remedy destined to save the world at this crucial moment of time."

— Rev. Jules Chevalier, MSC

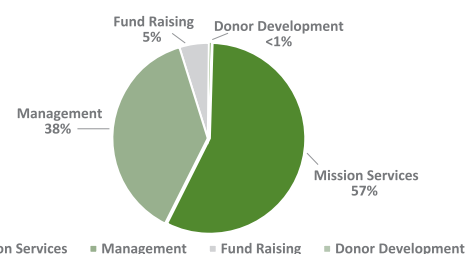
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How could we M.S.C. Sisters not see and hear when we have always believed that *"wherever life groans, God calls us."* With great respect, we believe that all created things are meant to co-exist in harmony as God has designed it to be for *"God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good."* (Genesis 1:31) In effect, we M.S.C. Sisters have been invited into an Ecological Conversion of heart, mind and choice. What we have chosen is to pray with and for creation, to be aware of the damage caused to Earth, to convert and to educate ourselves, to live more simply, to advocate in protection of our common home and to act together. In other words, to think deeply, live wisely and love generously and, through these efforts, to live and extend our mission: *"To be on Earth the Heart of God!"*

Within the scope of possibility, we M.S.C. Sisters of the U.S.A. have *declared* to our Sisters everywhere and, now to you, what we can do together towards an even greater love for our Creator, for everyone everywhere and for the home we share. You, everyone, has a part to play in bringing to life the invitation extended to each of us by Pope Francis. Together, we can Care for our Common Home. *"Praise be to You, my Lord!"*

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<https://laudatosimovement.org>

<https://paxchristi.net>

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Sr. M. Georgette Casavecchia, MSC

1942 – 2021

Our Sister Georgette was someone filled with abounding JOY. It is said that to have true joy one must put Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last. This is how Sr. Georgette lived her life.

Sr. Georgette grew up in a warm and loving Italian family in Conshohocken, near Philadelphia. Both her parents had emigrated to the U.S. from Italy in search of a better life. She had two older brothers and chose her religious name in memory of her brother George who died at a young age.

Sr. Georgette came to know our Sisters when she attended Sacred Heart Hospital School of Practical Nursing in Norristown. After graduating as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) she entered our community on September 7, 1962.

After her First Profession of Vows, Sr. Georgette offered her compassionate care as a nurse in many and various ways. She ministered in our Motherhouse Infirmary taking care of our elderly and infirm Sisters. For several years she was a nurse and housemother at Sacred Heart Home in Coopersburg, and also served as a housemother at Mary's Shelter where she cared for unwed mothers and their babies.

Sr. Georgette also ministered in St. Mary's Hospital, Athens, Georgia, both as a nurse and in pastoral ministry at the nursing homes affiliated with the hospital. For several years, Sr. Georgette took care of the patients at Mt. Trexler Convalescent Home, Limeport, and at Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown. Sr. Georgette also served as a parish visitor at St. Michael Parish, Lansford. In 1992, when our Sisters in Australia requested the "loan" of a Sister to be a welcoming presence in their Hospitality House, Sr. Georgette responded to that call. Her openness and joyful spirit endeared her to every person she met.

Sr. Georgette came to Sacred Heart Villa in 2011 and entered fully into the community life there. She volunteered wherever help was needed, especially in our Development Office. She participated in the activities offered to the residents and always added to the fun at gatherings and celebrations. She truly reflected the words of St. Irenaeus: "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Even when early dementia set in, Sr. Georgette continued to live life to the fullest.

For the last 2 years she has resided at St. Joseph Villa, the retirement home of the Bernardine Sisters. As her health declined, she still kept her joyful attitude and a "twinkle in her eye." She suffered with great patience and never a complaint. †

Consider Membership in our Monthly Giving Program

Your monthly CC gift is automatic and tax deductible and provides our Sisters a stream of guaranteed income they can truly count on. To become a monthly donor, set up your gift at MSCreading.org/giving-opportunities/

or email cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org and we will set it up with you.

Thank you!

Donor Tributes

As our benefactor, YOU enable the wonderful stories shared in this newsletter to happen; YOU are the key to the MSC Sisters accomplishing our mission to be the Heart of Christ for others. Please continue your generous relationship with us so that we may continue to positively impact peoples' lives with the love of Christ.

"With Friday being the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I remembered MSC Sisters in a special way at morning Mass. Enclosing something just in memory of Sr. Marianne Baker – such a good friend for all too short a time. God bless you all." —Helen

"Sr. Dorothy touches base with me almost monthly. She lets me cry when I need to, she helps me to pray when I need to, she shares wonderful stories, listens soulfully, and helps me to smile, laugh and carry on. She is such a gift!" —Marian

"I was a nursing student at Sacred Heart in Allentown, PA in 1962. By 1964 I began my second year in Pediatrics with Sr. Marie Janesch. She was wonderful – very caring and kind! Truly an inspiration to me! Please give her my love and thank her for me and tell her I think of her often." — Jo Ann

"Shout out to Sr. Marie Clark, the best seventh grade teacher ever!"
— Billy

\$10,000 Heart of God Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Bob and Bonnie Klostermann of Athens, Georgia. Bob and Bonnie first met MSC Sisters through our ministry at St. Mary's, our hospital in Athens, Georgia and they have remembered us ever since. Thank you, Bonnie and Bob and congratulations! Thank you to all who played! YOU helped raise more than \$40,000 for the MSC Sisters and their mission to love with the Heart of Christ.

Mission Update



Each year during the Lenten Season, St. Mary's Church, Kutztown, hosts a Fish Fry for its parishioners. Sr. Marie Clark, MSC who serves as Pastoral Associate at St. Mary's enjoys volunteering to serve each year.

Nun Run 2022 Master Winners



Overall winners Andrew Brown and Colleen Hayduk; Sr. Raymond Gazo, MSC; Over 60 winners Robert Madeira and Diane Showers

Congratulations to our Fall 2021 Sweepstakes Winners: :

Daniel Wiedrykas, Russell Reber, Diana Yost, Steve Geras, Ronald Kerns, Lorraine Bitetto, Robert Janci, Kathleen Unger, Carmen Tolino, Barbara Miller, Connie Sakasits, Anthony Camilli, Paul Molchanow, Ken Reber, Joseph Bechtel, Elizabeth Currey, and Kathleen Sakasitz.

Jubilarians 2021-2022

We will celebrate our 2021 and 2022 Jubilarians Saturday, September 24 with an 11:00 am Mass at the St. Michael Convent Chapel.

70 YEARS



Sr. Bernette Ball, MSC



Sr. Francine Fehrenbach, MSC



Sr. Mary Seibert, MSC

60 YEARS



Sr. Anne Kane, MSC



Sr. Maureen Carroll, MSC



Sr. M. Sheila Tague, MSC

50 YEARS



Sr. Patrice Cosgrove, MSC



Sr. Gina Maria Iadanza, MSC

Join our prayers of joyful gratitude for our Jubilee MSC Sisters!

Celebrating 70, 60, and 50 years of service in vowed religious life, our Sisters gratefully thank YOU, their family, friends and benefactors for your support. To honor or remember one of our Jubilarians with a gift, please print the Sister's name on your check memo and remit to: MSC Mission Advancement, 51 Seminary Ave., Reading, PA 19605.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Nun Run 2022 VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE:

Andrea Bensusan, Kathy Blume, Nancy Chaiko, Janet Decembrino, Joni Garza, Sue Kasopsky, Courtney Moody, Carol Noga, Rita Philips, Carm Sosik, and Barb Spinka. As committee members, these ladies devote hours of their time to planning, donating and working to ensure a successful Nun Run before, during and after the event. MSC Sisters are grateful for your volunteerism and friendship. ♥

Interested in volunteering on our events committee?

Email Carrie at cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org.



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We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Many Thanks for the Successful Return of Nun Run 2022

April 23 began with a few raindrops, but runners and walkers quickly replaced the rain with their contagious energy and smiles as MSC Sisters welcomed familiar and new faces for Nun Run 2022, our annual event now in its 13th year. Back in-person after two years of strictly virtual registration, the Nun Run registered more than 200 runners, walkers and virtual participants as well as hundreds of donors and sponsors.

Nun Run 2022 will be remembered for several noteworthy reasons: the communal efforts of our volunteers from our committee to our course set-up to our race day folks which led to a seamless and enjoyable event; the various reunions among our MSC Sisters and former students and colleagues; the personal bests reached by runners and walkers alike, for example our very own Sr. Dorothy Fabritze finishing the 5K; the teams which participated in Reading including Hildebrand H2+, St. Mary's Church Kutztown, Team SJB (St. John the Baptist Ottsville), Sistas for Sisters, Team Fullington, Good Shepherd School Camp Hill, and the Lay MSC Associates as well as the teams who joined us virtually including Team Swann, Seibert Squad, and St. Ambrose Schuylkill Haven. We deeply appreciate every single one of them!

Truly this event invigorated our Sisters who, like many, are happy to be experiencing more normal gathers these days. We hope, too, that those who joined us feel the same way— inspired to continue reaching for personal bests and perhaps to live the MSC mission to love with the Heart of Christ with all whom we meet.

★ **Mark your calendars for Nun Run 2023 which is set for Saturday, April 29.**

