



RSHM Highlights

Eastern American Area

Summer 2022

UP TO THE SKIES OUR PRAISES RING

A few RSHM and friends were on site, and many sisters, relatives and friends watched on livestream as Sister Rosamond Blanchet was awarded the Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa at Fordham University Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 21. The citation reads as follows:

Upon her 2013 election as general superior of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary worldwide, Sister Rosamond Blanchet, RSHM, stated simply, "God always surprises." Carrying out such surprises with faith and constancy—and her characteristic joy—has been a hallmark of her six-decade vocation as a Catholic nun.

Sister Rosamond, or Sister Roz as she is known to most everyone, entered the RSHM in 1962, the same year she graduated from Marymount College, which was part of Fordham University from 2002 until its closing in 2007. Initially an elementary school teacher and principal in Queens, she later served as independent living coordinator with Good Shepherd Services for young women and subsequently as pastoral associate at a parish in Rumson, New Jersey.

Throughout the 1980s, Sister Roz served as formation director for the congregation's Eastern American Province before being named provincial councilor in 1997. Six years later, she became provincial superior of more than 200 sisters living and working in the eastern United States and at Marymount International Schools in Rome, England, and France.

*Her election as general superior in 2013 marked the first time an American-born sister from the Eastern American Province was responsible for RSHM life and mission in 14 countries around the world. During her six-year tenure, Sister Roz strengthened outreach to marginalized and displaced women and children, and initiated social justice and environmental stewardship programs in keeping with the congregation's guiding principle: *Ut Vitam Habeant*, "that all may have life."*



Sister Roz receiving her honorary degree.

In 2005, Sister Roz fittingly accepted the Gloria Gaines Medal from Marymount College on behalf of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Typically awarded to individuals who have made significant volunteer contributions to the Marymount community, the medal was awarded to the entire congregation, which founded the college in 1907. It was an expression of appreciation for continuing enrichment of the lives of Marymount alumnae and embodiment of the very same faith, compassion, and dedication that define a Marymount education and drive its alumnae to reach for surprising heights.

For her open-hearted devotion to lifting up women and children, and to embodying the life-giving message of the Gospels, we, the President and Trustees of Fordham University, in solemn convocation assembled and in accord with the chartered authority bestowed on us by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, declare Sister Rosamond Blanchet Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. That she may enjoy all rights and privileges of this, our highest honor, we have issued these letters patent under our hand and the corporate seal of the University on this, the 21st day of May in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two.

To this beautiful tribute we can only add AMEN!

Bea McMahan, RSHM

Signs of the Times

The RSHM Stand With Ukraine

After Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary responded to the Pope's invitation to join the world in a **Day of Prayer and Fasting for Ukraine** on Ash Wednesday, March 2. That evening, the RSHM community at Marymount Convent held a prayer service for Ukraine. The service included a reading of



L to R: Sisters Kathleen Kanet and Veronica Brand

the moving lyrics of Quaker singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer's "Send Love, It Matters," with the song's last lines apropos of the current situation: "Somewhere someone needs help. Send love. It matters."

The service concluded with the Ukrainian national anthem. On that same day, while the United Nations General Assembly passed

a resolution calling for the immediate end to the hostilities in the Ukraine, outside by the Isaiah Wall, the NGO community of Religious Congregations of Women and Men, including members of our 93rd Street community, held a spirited prayer for the people of Ukraine. Sisters Anne Considine, RSHM, and Margarita Cardenas, RSHM, created blue and yellow stoles for participants to wear, and all had sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine. Sister Dusty Farnum, OP, invited those gathered to pray the Hail Mary – the first part in a language other than English, and the second part in English. The prayer started in 10 different languages.

Later in the month, on March 25, the solemnity of the Annunciation, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary joined Pope Francis and Catholics around the world in lifting up to God, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, "the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, entrusting the future of our human family to the Queen of Peace" as the Pope consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Holy Week services at Cormaria included prayer for the people of Ukraine and prayers for peace. Father Tim Brown, SJ, wove current events into the services, relating Ukrainians' experience to Jesus' Passion. The Stations of the Cross included photos and commentary from several Ukrainian women from Lugansk, Kyviv, Mariupol, Borodianka, and Kharkiv detailing their

experiences of this war. Following is an excerpt from the third set of stations, praying for the strength not to look away from what is happening in Ukraine:

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Natasha, Mariupol

Half a million Mariupol residents are cut off from life. There are no streets left with undestroyed houses. The bodies of the dead are buried in the courtyards of the residential sectors. There is no light, heat, water, food, communications in the city. Children are dying of dehydration. The enemy cynically breaks the promised "green corridors," blocking any attempts to deliver food and medicines.

Lord, give us the faithfulness not to look away.

As the invasion triggered one of the largest refugee crises since WWII, with more than 6.5 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and displacing approximately one-third of its population, sisters in the convent, joined by the Area Council, contributed over \$7,000 to support Catholic Relief Services' efforts to provide shelter, hot meals, supplies and counseling support to the refugees. Additionally, sisters donated sweaters and blankets to a local Ukrainian church which distributed them to Ukrainians in need. These actions are just part of similar efforts taken by other Areas across the Institute to support those who have been impacted by this war.

While the war continues in Ukraine, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, like so many others across the country and around the world, continue to pray for peace, take action whenever possible and stand in solidarity with the resilient people of Ukraine.

*Cathy Wilkins
Director, Communications & Advancement*

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Mary

This is always a special feast day for the RSHM. This year it was particularly enriched by a presentation co-created by Sister Catherine Patten and Sister Catherine Vincie, providing insight into the changes Pope Francis is making in the structure of the church.

Following are some key quotes:

There is a revolution underway in the church, and it is progressing so quietly that we could miss it. In the words of Pope Francis, “The reform is not an end in itself, but a means to give a strong Christian witness; to foster a more effective evangelization; to promote a more fruitful ecumenical spirit; to encourage a more constructive dialogue with all.”

The constitution “Praedicate Evangelium” begins by saying that preaching the gospel is the first service that the church offers to all of humanity. The role of the Curia is placed squarely in the service of evangelization. Francis says, “The church fulfills her mandate above all when she testifies, in word and deed, to the mercy that she herself freely received.” We know how important mercy is for him. Remember, when asked “Who are you?” he replied, “I am a sinner.” And again, he says, “The evangelizing community places itself through works and gestures in the daily life of others, shortens distances, lowers itself to humiliation if necessary, and takes on human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in the people.”

On the Role of Bishops: We know that the bishops, even archbishops and cardinals, felt that the Curia saw them as serving the Curia. Francis, throughout this document, turns this on its head. The life of the church flows from the base upwards before it flows from Rome downwards.

On the Role of the Laity: Francis says, “Every Christian, by virtue of Baptism, is a disciple-missionary, to the extent that he met the love of God in Christ Jesus.” Throughout the document provision is made for non-ordained persons to exercise governance. This is a major change in canon law. Never has clericalism been dealt such a deadly blow!

On the Process of Reform: Francis knows that changing minds and hearts is a big task. He is deliberately slow, patient, collaborative, including the peripheries. But let us not confuse Pope Francis’ patience with a lack of strength or courage. He is not afraid of confronting the Curia officials and challenging them when it is warranted. Over and over again, we can see his commitment to dialogue. The context of decision-making must be prayer and trust in the Holy Spirit. And the final stage is allowing the Holy Spirit to bring forth a new response.

Following Sister Catherine Vincie’s presentation and responses from the Synodal Task Force, we proceeded to the Eucharistic Liturgy with Rev. Senan Taylor presiding. His reflections on the human joys and sorrows of the Heart of Mary brought us in touch with the particular graces of this feast day. A festive lunch was the icing on the cake!

Bea McMahon, RSHM



Sister Roz welcomes Father Senan Taylor



Sister Catherine Vincie, RSHM, presents “Praedicate Evangelium” to the community.



Synodal Task Force members (L to R) Catherine Vincie, RSHM; Anna Maria Lionetti, RSHM; Jacqueline Porter, RSHM; Maria Timoney, RSHM; and, Catherine Patten, RSHM (not pictured) put together the day’s program.



Eucharist was followed by a festive lunch



Following the presentation, sisters broke into small groups to discuss.



Logo: Created by Edith Hart, RSHM, in honor of the Jubilarians

Jubilation IS THEIR NAME

April 30 dawned bright and clear for the 10 RSHM Jubilarians celebrated on that day. Father Phil Kelly set a joyful tone in a memorable Eucharistic Liturgy. His “God is good!” elicited an enthusiastic “All the time!” Aretha Franklin’s song *How I Got Over* with its fitting words... “My soul looks back in wonder...” provided a framework for his reflection on the contributions of women religious to the life of the Church: bringing Vatican II to life in the USA, holding the mystery in a spirit of contemplation, creating space for dialogue and, especially at this time, showing us how to let go. The seed must die so that new life may spring forth. His reflections culminated with the RSHM quest THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE!

At the end of the liturgy, Sister Bea McMahon, RSHM, toasted the 60-, 65-, and 70-year jubilarians in tributes of diamond, platinum and sapphire:

First, the sapphire:

Sister Francis of Assisi Kay, citizen of the world with a spiritual heart beyond latitude and longitude, and a bodily heart that simply will not give up! We salute you today, dear Francis, our elder and wisdom figure, on your 75th anniversary of Profession.

Next, the brilliant platinum:

Sister Angela Maloney, gentle woman, quiet light, if the little ones she prepared for First Communion could line up in their special outfits today, the procession would dazzle us, and probably reach all the way to heaven!

Sister Edna O’Connor, a nurturer of life in many venues, bringing the concepts of her Headstart experience in Virginia to the school she founded for children of AIDS victims in Africa—model of creative initiative in service to those in need.

Sister Anne Walsh, whose name will be forever associated with Fordham University. Cheers from the athletes she has tutored, counseled and accompanied long after their graduation would raise the roof of our chapel today.





RSHM Jubilarians: back row L to R: Sisters Maureen Kelleher, Georgette Lawton, Edna O'Connor, Virginia Dorgan, Mary Alice Young, Anne Walsh; second row: Anna Maria Lionetti, Kathleen Kanet, Angela Maloney; seated, Francis of Assisi Kay

And now to our diamonds, many faceted, reflecting the whole spectrum of light:

Sister Virginia Dorgan, Jinny, faithful friend, advocate for justice and peace, a delightful blend of southern charm and northern light.

Sister Kathleen Kanet, promoter of dialogue, not just in the living room but in the public forum as well. Ever ready to challenge, but also to cheer.

Sister Maureen Kelleher I think the Pope had her in mind when he called the world to care for immigrants. From Puerto Ricans in the South Bronx to Guatemalans in Immokalee, she's been right there, seeing their needs as well as their gifts.

Sister Georgette Lawton "Come on a My House" must have been written for her. Having experienced the needs of the homeless in shelters for years, Georgette, with Melchior, founded Columba Kavanagh House in 1985, and has never left there. Who else do you know who has been tireless in sheltering the homeless for 40 years?

Sister Anna Maria Lionetti You may chat with her over a cappuccino, or perhaps a tequila. This lover of Italia has also been south of the border. Wherever she goes she leaves a little of her heart, and takes with her treasured friendships.

Sister Mary Alice Young, with a photographic memory, surely recalls in vivid detail every person and event in the 60 years celebrated today. Among the many places involved, Chicago and Rome may be at the top of the list.

The toast ended with a prayer for the Jubilarians... "our TOP TEN women today, totaling 645 years of consecrated life. Looking back and looking forward, we pray FOR ALL THAT HAS BEEN, THANKS! FOR ALL THAT WILL BE, YES!"

The joy of the liturgy carried over to the festive meal shared by the jubilarians with family and friends.

Beatrice McMahan, RSHM

As part of Marymount University's "Founders Week" in February, Sister Catherine Vincie, RSHM, PhD, visited the campus in Arlington, Virginia, to deliver her presentation on *RSHM Identity: Animating Lives and Institutions*. Since its founding, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary have always worked to bring value and attention to the human person's body and spirit in order to strengthen both our individual spirituality and the spirituality of others to help support the common good.

In a year filled with change and turmoil throughout the world, Marymount has demonstrated this mission in a variety of ways. This is perhaps best exemplified through its decision to bring all students back to campus again in Fall 2021 for a complete return to in-person learning, all while navigating the ongoing complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Marymount's students had attended classes in a hybrid format during the 2020-21 academic year, following only a few months of fully-remote education from March-August 2020.

Early in the 2021-22 academic

year, Marymount's "Saints Rebound" program strove to bring students back safely though an emphasis on required COVID-19 vaccinations, additional safety protocols around campus and a continued investment in mental health support and resources. Marymount's faculty, staff and students were diligent in their vaccination efforts, helping the University achieve a 98 percent vaccination rate. In the midst of the highly transmissible Omicron variant in December, Marymount announced additional steps to look after the health of its own community. This included a COVID-19 booster requirement and partnering with the health care startup, Curative, to provide no-cost COVID-19 testing right on campus, for use by members of the University as well as the broader regional community.

Placing a high degree of importance on the physical, mental and emotional health of Marymount students, faculty and staff was a necessary task at an important time, but other types of health and healing were

also addressed. As the country continues to tackle the issue of racial justice, Marymount continued to prioritize its efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion.

In October, the University was selected by the Association of American Colleges and Universities to host a new Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Campus Center. Through a grant proposal titled *Unity through Diversity: Growing Our Strengths as Saints*, several goals were set, including fostering racial healing and relationship building in the Marymount and Arlington communities, as well as generating further support for Dreamers and immigrant students.

In January, Marymount commemorated the National Day of Racial Healing through a virtual meeting of community members. In March, the University held its first-ever Dreamers Symposium, which served as an opportunity for students, staff and community members from local Northern Virginia institutions to share their experiences about how to better serve undocumented students.

Legacy is also an important pillar for the RSHM, and the concept of legacy is always cognizant through the congregation's interactions with individuals across the world. Following this example, Marymount has made numerous innovations in the academic curriculum to produce a legacy that will last for generations. These include new undergraduate programs in Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering, Cybersecurity, Neuroscience and Cloud Computing, as well as partnering with the business startup Placemakr to launch new Hospitality and Innovation tracks for graduate MBA and IT students.



A wide-view of Marymount University's 2022 Commencement.



Chapel at Marymount University

In May, Marymount received a generous gift to establish the Center for Professional Ethics and Social Responsibility, which will serve as a central hub for professional research, education, leadership and community engagement related to ethical conduct and the social responsibilities of individuals and institutions. With the concept of “truth” being more important than ever, the Center will foster dialogue, training, research and problem solving in order to impact change and commitment to social responsibility at the individual, professional and community levels. Through these examples and more, Marymount is following the RSHM’s mission to create positive change in the University community and beyond while serving the greater good. An institution with a strong faith

foundation, Marymount is striving to tackle some of society’s most complex issues to better assist and prepare its students. The lessons from the RSHM will continue to serve as a reminder for the

University as it educates its current students and future generations of Saints.

*Nicholas Munson
Director of Communications
Marymount University*



Marymount University has introduced a new B.S. degree in Neuroscience

HIGHLIGHTS PUZZLE: Biblical Royals

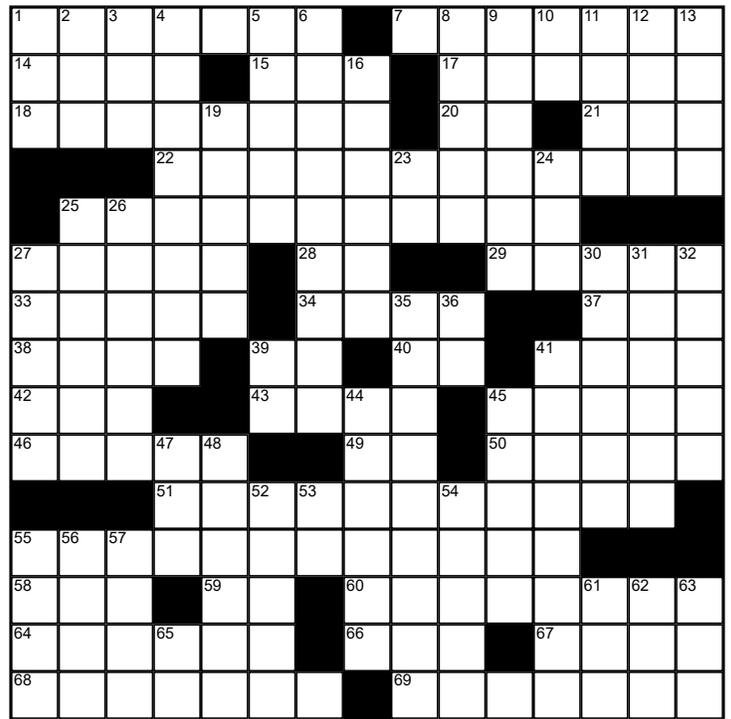
The themed clues in this puzzle refer to kings and queens in the bible
 Answers are posted at: www.rshm-east.org/rshm-highlights

Across

1. *His gift was wisdom
7. Pals
14. En Lai
15. Family gal
17. Unlike a fox
18. (3 words) a different drummer
20. That is, briefly
21. Prince _____, son of Henry IV
22. *She came from the South to meet Solomon
25. Two variations of the name Mary
27. Ike's wife
28. Counterpart of DC
29. Exams prior to SATs
33. Encircled
34. Rebels, briefly
37. _____ Paolo
38. Uprising
39. You in Latin
40. Preposition with home or large
41. Alerts to radio cars, abbr.
42. Even one
43. United States Arctic Service, abbr.
45. Basic principle
46. Treats with a light beam
49. Short for venerated holy one
50. *He had John the Baptist beheaded
51. *He typified the high priesthood of Christ
55. Automatic aids for spelling
58. Eng. as a Second Language
59. Tennessee, abbr.
60. Pushes through
64. *Beautiful queen who saved her people
66. Your in western slang
67. _____ dynamic
68. Cars manufactured by the Chrysler Corporation until 1961
69. What remains when the birds have flown

Down

1. Jr. high subj.
2. Unit of electrical resistance
3. Mauna _____
4. Group silence
5. Milo _____, actor
6. Bad dreams, var.
8. Bring together
9. Takes Advance Placement courses
10. Delirium tremens, abbr.
11. "Whose Izzy _____?"
1924 popular song
12. Online laboratory, briefly
13. "See ya later, alligator,"
in text
16. Lovely!
19. Healed
23. Operating room, abbr.
24. Initials at sea
25. Boat basin
26. Perth and South in NJ
27. Ethical lesson
30. Hope (to)
31. Manual for a teacher's asst.
32. Doctor for sinking ships? abbr.
35. French prisons
36. Alternate for Ave.
39. Et _____ Brute



41. Performer cut from a lake ballet
44. Scarlett's love
45. A long lunch
47. Rock music genre, abbr.
48. Verse with seven lines
52. Licensed Practical Nurses Regional Office, abbr.
53. Alternate for AD
54. It's black-and-white but not a newspaper
55. Tall slender plant growing on marshy land
56. Office of the State Supervisor of Ed.
57. Favorites on the sandwich menu, briefly
61. I told you so
62. Org. coming with April showers?
63. Just kidding
65. Hemoglobin, abbr.

Bea McMahon, RSHM

RSHM Highlights is a production of the Communications and Advancement Office of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Eastern America.
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