



Circle of Charity



Our efforts in the Work of Charity

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Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

Fall 2007

Sister of Charity performing work in Humility, Simplicity and Charity in New Orleans

New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina will forever be synonymous with one another. Approximately 80% of New Orleans was flooded and 1,800 people lost their lives in Hurricane Katrina.

As one of the deadliest and costliest hurricanes in the history of the United States, Hurricane Katrina transformed not only New Orleans, but also a nation.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Americans united and showered compassion upon the Gulf coast in the form of monetary donations, product and food donations, and volunteer hours.

Two years later, little has changed in New Orleans. The flood waters are gone and with it the homes and businesses that once thrived there. Families have re-located to cities across the United States who embraced them.

What remains in some areas of New Orleans is reminiscent of a ghost town.

In August, Sister Maureen O'Brien, SC, accompanied by Susan Newman and Jillian Kruprey, graduates of Aquinas Academy and Greensburg Central Catholic High School, were part of a service experience, developed by the Vocation Personnel of the Sisters of Charity Federation in collaboration with the Office of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, to address this.

Operation Helping Hands is an outreach program designed to assist members of New Orleans in reoccupying their homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

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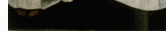
Top Photo: Sister Maureen (center) with Susan and Jillian
Bottom Photo: Operation Helping Hands group

Sisters of Charity: Charity Embracing the Far East



For nearly 50 years, the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill have had a Far East ministry.

"I think that we have to be globally aware," said Sister Marlene Mondalek, SC, general superior of the Congregation. "We can't insulate ourselves or close our eyes to what's happening in the rest of the world. We're being called to solidarity with the whole human family."



Some of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill ministries in the Republic of South Korea and Republic of China include:

- ✦ St. Joseph High School for Girls (1961)
- ✦ Eun Hae School for physically challenged children (1984)
- ✦ St. Mary's School for the Visually Impaired (1988)
- ✦ Montessori Kindergarten (1988)
- ✦ Seton Retreat House (1990)
- ✦ Seton Day Care Center (1995)
- ✦ Incheon Social Welfare Center (1996)
- ✦ School for developmentally challenged children (1997)
- ✦ Seton Sunflower House, a shelter for orphaned, troubled, and run-away teenage girls (1999)
- ✦ Seton Rehabilitation Center (2002)

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Welcome the Christmas Season with the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

You are cordially invited to attend the 2007 Advent Visit with the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at Caritas Christi. The visit and refreshments will be from 2:30-4 p.m. Solemn evening prayers and music will begin at 4 p.m. We hope you will attend this holiday event with your family. Please RSVP by **November 16** at 724-836-0406, ext. 647.



New Orleans Service Experience

Sister Maureen, Susan, and Jillian traveled to Nazareth Inn, a senior citizen complex which overlooks Lake Pontchartrain.

"Huge dumpsters lined the parking area. Our task was to clear the apartments of furniture and personal possessions left by residents evacuated to various sites. Most of the residents never returned to claim their possessions. We were charged to dispose of everything left behind," said Sister Maureen.

Family photos and letters, diplomas, certificates—the memories of a lifetime were being disposed of into dumpsters.

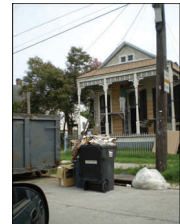
"The disposition of personal items was emotional, causing the atmosphere to become quiet and reflective. Prayer was integrated into each day's activities. We gathered each evening for theological reflection on the experiences of the day and to connect the experience with the Charism of Charity," continued Sister Maureen.

Sister Maureen, Susan, and Jillian worked as part of *Operation Helping Hands* for one week. In January, the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill will send another "team" to assist in this service experience.



9th Ward, New Orleans

It is through your generosity that our Sisters can practice their active ministry in New Orleans. Through the support of our benefactors living in the Gulf States, New Orleans is one step closer to recovery and the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill continues to fulfill our mission of work performed in humility, simplicity, and charity.



Rebuilding in New Orleans

Far East Missions

From the time that the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill began their missionary work in South Korea, the proceeds of the mission fund raisers and contributions from donors to the Korean Fund were deposited into a special account to be used for the needs and works of the sisters in Korea.

On October 13, we hosted our Far East Missions Card Party and Luncheon. This annual event drew an attendance of approximately 142.



It is through your support for nearly half of a century that our sisters can continue and expand our ministry in the Far East.

Today, there are 153 professed, 33 temporary professed, 11 novice, and eight postulant Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill of the Korean Province.

Sister Gemma Del Duca's Work of Charity in Israel



Sister Gemma Del Duca's vision of a Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies became apparent in 1975, the same year of the canonization of our foundress, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Sister Gemma's concept for a Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies materialized and became, with assistance from others, part of Yad Vashem, the world's center for Holocaust education in Israel.

Sister Gemma, in addition to the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education at Seton Hill University, was presented the *Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education* by Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate.

Sister Gemma was the first non-Jew, first non-Israeli person to receive this honor.

Sister Gemma's life is a true reflection of the words of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, "to Him be glory forever who has called you to so glorious combat and who so tenderly supports you through it. You will triumph, for it is Jesus who fights, not you, my dear one."

*"Among the numberless favors it has pleased God to bestow on me thro' you—
well may I pray for you—but he alone can recompense you."* -Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton