

Heartbeats

Servants of the
Holy Heart of Mary

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“Margaret, are you
grieving over
Goldengrove
unleaving?...”

The above lines from poet Gerard Manley Hopkins are from a poem entitled *Spring and Fall, To a Young Girl*. In it, Hopkins speaks to the bittersweet experience of change that a young girl is experiencing. I liken it to the first stirrings of loss that a person on the threshold of adolescence feels but cannot explain in words. Not only the young, all of us experience feelings of melancholy, nostalgia or wistfulness for what has been and what will never quite be the same again.

During the transitional time of fall, we gratefully disengage from the heat and humidity of the dog days of summer and welcome the crisper but shorter days of autumn. The hours of

sunlight shrink to their fewest and we get ready for winter’s sharp and chilling blasts. As in every season, fall finds us in transition.

In this issue of Heartbeats, we will look at a few of us who have recently experienced transitions (and celebrations, too).

TRANSITIONS

Sister Mary Kay
Himens

Sister Mary Kay came to Mercy Community in 1990. Previously she had ministered as a teacher and principle at Our Lady Academy, Beaverville, as a campus minister and therapist in Gunnison and other towns in western Colorado and at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. in the similar roles. Over the years, Sister Mary Kay has ministered as a therapist and

Sr. Mary Kay
Himens



spiritual director. She has also been involved on an astonishing number of committees and boards in the Champaign-Urbana area.



To show their affection and regard, the Administration of OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center (formerly Covenant, formerly Mercy) prepared an open house for Sister Mary Kay on Wednesday, August 29. As we can see by the photos in this issue, Mary is well loved and respected.



Sister Mary Kay sees the time ahead of her as a quiet period in which to continue to integrate the many experiences of her life in prayer and creative writing.

Sister Elsie Gamez

It takes insight and courage to assess one's condition and make choices accordingly. One of our Sisters recently came to the conclusion that she will not renew her

driver's license before her next birthday in October. I will let Sister Elsie speak for herself:

I've decided to give up driving for the following reasons:

1. I feel well on-and-off. On the "off" times, I don't drive.
2. About two months ago, I read an article in the Kankakee Daily Journal about elderly drivers who are past their prime. I thought, that's me for sure.

3. One morning, I was on route 50 going to Target. I was almost there, when I saw a police car behind me. Was it me? Sure enough!

After I stopped in the parking lot, he came over. He had been observing me. Now and then, I was going partly on the other lane.

Was I aware of it? -No.

Was I on drugs? -No.

Well, he would give me only a warning ticket. The officer was very young, delicate and respectful in his approach. He took his time talking to me. He was like an angel. He was a blessing to me.

- That's it! I resolved not to renew my driver's

license. Yes, it was time for me to get detached of the wonderful freedom I experience when driving. May God help me to freely detach myself of future comforts.



The article Sister Elsie references is attached to this issue of Heartbeats. Thank you Sister Elsie for making this decision and for sharing your journey with us. Now it is up to those of us who are drivers to continue to be available and pro-active for those of us who have given up this privilege.

CELEBRATIONS

Sister Charlene Cesario

The faith community of St. Patrick's in Urbana took time on Sunday, September 9, to celebrate Sister Charlene's 60 years of vowed life as a religious.

The simple celebration was held at the 8 am Mass with a reception held following, catered by the parishioners.



A breakfast buffet of assorted cakes, fruit, coffee and juice were shared by many who celebrated with Charlene.

Speaking to the parishioners at the Mass, Sister Carol noted that the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary have been in the Champaign-Urbana area for 92 years involved in healthcare, pastoral work, parish ministry, faith formation, elementary and secondary education, spiritual direction and counseling.



Also noted was that Sister Charlene had spent a third of her religious life working for and with St. Patrick's Parish Community.

Because we believe that "where one of us is, all of us are", Sister Carol thanked the parishioners for allowing us to serve for and with them through Sister Charlene's ministry.

Sister Loretta Finn

"She is our angel," were the words overheard at Sister Loretta's 90th birthday celebration at St. Mary's Hospital on September 11.

The administration group of the hospital happily prepared and celebrated with Sister Loretta.



Christopher Shride, CEO of the hospital, was eager to

note that in honoring Sister Loretta for her prayerful support of the administration, staff, patients and their families, that the spirit of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, founding congregation, continues to live within the walls of St. Mary's.



There has been a continual presence of our Sisters at the hospital since 1897. For her part, Sister Loretta was excited to greet all who attended. Former students, family, friends, and hospital personnel helped to make her 90th birthday "the best celebration ever."

