

Jubilee 2017

Celebrating 60 and 50 Years of Consecrated Life

Jubilarians who will reach milestones of 60 years consecrated life in August of this year include: Sr. Joan Klemballa who turned 80 in June and entered the Novitiate at 20 years old, Sr. Rosemary McKenna turned 79 in March and entered the Novitiate at 19 years old; and Sr. Marilyn Soeder who will be 80 in October and entered the Novitiate at 20 years old. Those who will celebrate 50 years include Sr. Lucille Clynes who was 69 in January and entered the Novitiate at 19, and Sr. Teresa de Jesus Aguilar Avila who will be 72 years old in September and entered the Novitiate at 22 years old.

Sr. Joan Klemballa, 60 Years

Born in New York, NY Sr. Joan Klemballa (Sr. Joan of the Rosary) was a member of St. Gregory Parish in Bellerose, NY and graduated from Our Lady Of Wisdom Academy, Ozone Park, NY in 1955. After entering the Novitiate in 1956, she began her vocation in the health field in 1957 as a student nurse at Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. Four years later she transferred to St. Charles Orthopedic Hospital in Brooklyn, NY as head nurse. By that time she had earned a BS in Nursing from St John's University, NY. While earning her master's degree in Bio-Physical Pathology from New York University, NY, she was the Operating Room Supervisor at Holy Family Hospital in Brooklyn, NY for five years. She returned to St Charles Orthopedic Hospital for a year as Assistant Director of Nursing Service before heading off Balaka Leprosy Hospital in Malawi, Africa where she served as Supervisor of the Outpatient Clinic. After a year she went to St Joseph's Hospital in Malawi, Africa where she was a Clinical Instructor and the Pediatric Supervisor.



Upon returning to the United States in 1972, she was an instructor in the School of Nursing for six years at Catholic Medical Center in Jamaica, NY. She then relocated to Washington DC to serve as an assistant and later associate professor in the Nursing Program at the University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC where she taught for fourteen years. During this time she also served on the leadership team as a councilor (1980 – 1983). In 1994 After earning a PhD in human development from the University of Maryland, College Park, MD she relocated to Mullins, West Virginia where she was a professor at Mountain State University, Beckley, West Virginia. While there she was instrumental in establishing a Family Nurse Practitioner program. During this time she earned her certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. She then went on to work as a Family Nurse Practitioner alongside Dr. Eileen Catterson, DW in the Pineville Children's Clinic (later to be

named Tug River Catterson Health Center), She was also a staff nurse at Hospice of Southern West Virginia during that time for two years.

Since relocating back to New York in 2013, Sr. Joan has served as an adjunct professor in the Nursing School at Molloy College, Rockville Center, NY and is a volunteer Family Nurse Practitioner at the RotaCare Clinic in Uniondale, NY.

Sr. Rosemary McKenna, 60 Years

Born in Queens, NY, Sr. Rosemary McKenna (Sr. Mary James of the Child Jesus), was a member



of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Floral Park, NY and a 1956 graduate of Our Lady Of Wisdom Academy, Ozone Park, NY. After entering the Novitiate in 1976, she served as a seamstress, elevator operator and caretaker on the babies ward at St. Charles Hospital in Brooklyn, NY for a year. She then headed off to Portsmouth Virginia where she was a student nurse at Maryview Hospital and earned her RN (1961) and then became head nurse until 1965. While earning her BSN in Nursing from Hunter College (1972), she worked for BHRAGS (Brooklyn, Haitian, Ralph and Good Shepherd) Home Care Corp of Brooklyn, NY as a personal health nurse through Our Lady of Presentation Church and The Visiting Nurses Association of Brooklyn, NY. She then spent a year in Thailand to help in the refugee camp for Cambodians. In 1980 she moved to Washington DC and spent a year in the Formation House

nurturing novice formation. While there, she was active in justice issues, and participated in protests to close The School of the Americas in Georgia. She was then named to the Daughters of Wisdom Leadership team in 1980 and served two terms as a councilor. Over the years she has also provided support and guidance to the Associates of Wisdom.

After her service on the Leadership Team, she worked between Parish Community Health at St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn, NY as a pastoral assistant; and with BHRAGS, Inc. as a nurse, administrator and ultimately executive director, where she achieved 30 years of service when retiring in 1996. Over the years she served on numerous boards including the Brownsville Multiservice Neighborhood Health Center.

In the final years of her ministry she had a three month sabbatical in Texas for "Ministry to Ministers," followed by ten years in Connecticut where she worked in community service at Wisdom House in Litchfield, CT and as a Pastoral Associate in St. Margaret's parish in Waterbury, Connecticut. While there she co- founded the "In The Making" program (1998), designed to reach out to women in need and coach them in life and employment gaining skills. This program is still operating in Waterbury, CT.

In 2008 she was one of 5 Sisters asked to open a house in Broad Channel, NY to welcome women interested in religious life. While involved in this community, Sr. Rosemary has helped to guide three women to an international Novitiate and has seen them return to the US for Profession and assignment in local communities.

Sr. Marilyn Soeder, 60 Years

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Sr. Marilyn Soeder (Sr. Ann Montfort of the Cross) was a member of St.



Matthias Parish in Ridgewood, NY and a 1955 graduate of Our Lady Of Wisdom Academy, Ozone Park, NY. She entered the Novitiate in 1957 and began studies at St. John's University, Jamaica, NY where she earned a BS in Science with a teaching certificate (1963) and an MS in Biology (1967).

She began her vocation as a science teacher at Our Lady Of Wisdom Academy, Ozone Park, NY from 1959-1964 and also taught at Christ the King High School in Middle Village NY from 1964-1967. Afterward, she would serve for over 20 years in Malawi, Africa, and Papua New Guinea. While in Malawi she was deputy headmistress and teacher in the Providence Secondary School (Mulange), and headmistress and teacher at St. Mary's Secondary School (Zomba). In Papua New Guinea she was a science lecturer at St. Benedicts

Teacher Training School and a science department head and teacher in Kiunga High School. She later returned to Papua, New Guinea and served in the Office of Street Ministry as a Clinical Social Worker (2010 – 2013).

In 1991 when she returned to the United States she resumed her studies at Fordham University, Manhattan, NY where she earned an MSW in Social Work. She worked at St. Vincent's Hospital in Brooklyn NY from 1993-1998 as a Clinical Social Worker, and then was off to Lima, Peru to work at the Insitituto Mundo Libre. While there she worked in a residential therapeutic community for male street children.

After over a year in Peru, she returned to the United States and began work as a school social worker serving at Heartshare Early Childhood Center (2001 -2008), Brooklyn NY, and later as a Clinical Social Work Supervisor at the Martin De Porres School for Exceptional Children, Elmont, NY. (2013-2016).

Sr. Marilyn is currently a member of the Daughters of Wisdom's International/Intercultural Community in Huntington Station, NY. Today in her retirement years, she volunteers her time Teaching English as a Second Language in three places: with Literacy Suffolk; and in the Opening Word program for Hispanic women, and in a program she helped to start for Hispanic men at St. Hugh of Lincoln Parish in Huntington Station, NY. She also volunteers once a week at the Family Service League pre-school and tutoring a 9-year-old in reading.

Sr. Lucille Clynes, 50 Years



Sr. Lucille (Lucy) Clynes, Sr. Cecelia Marie, born in Brooklyn, NY was a member of Holy Child of Jesus Parish in Richmond Hill, Queens, NY and graduated from Our Lady Of Wisdom Academy in 1965. She entered the Novitiate in 1965 and went on to earn a BA in Social Studies and a BS in education from Marillac College, St. Louis, Missouri (71) and a master's degree in administration and leadership development from Catholic University of America, Washington, DC (80). She also studied theology at St. Louis University and Catholic University of America.

Sr. Lucy began her ministry in education in Connecticut as a social studies and religion teacher in Waterbury Catholic High School(1971-75), and then as Assistant Dean of Discipline at Holy Cross High School. She returned to New York

in 1977 to become Assistant Principal, and later principal at St. Mary Gate of Heaven School, Ozone Park, NY until 1984.

For the next 23 years, she served as the Diocesan Director of Christian Formation for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida. During this time she also served on four Provincial Leadership Teams serving terms as a council member and Vicar of the congregation. In 2007 she served as Canonical Treasurer for the Province, and was Vocation Director from 2005 until 2014.

She returned to Florida in 2014 to resume work in the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida and

currently serves in Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ponte Vedra, Florida as a Pastoral Minister.



Sr. Teresa de Jesus Aguilar Avila, 50 Years

From the Daughters of Wisdom, Province of Columbia, Sr. Teresa de Jesus Aguilar Avila, Sr. Teresa Ceclia, has been in the United States on a work visa and is a part of the US Provinces' International/Intercultural Community in Huntington Station, NY.

Sr. Teresa de Jesus Aguilar Avila made her first profession in 1967 in Choachí, Columbia and her first mandate was in Acacias Meta, Columbia to teach at Our Lady of Wisdom

High School and to direct the Parent Association. After four years she was sent to Villavicencio, Meta and joined the John XXIII community. While there she worked in the Diocesan Pastoral Outreach Program and assisted in the formation of rural Base Communities, worked with teachers of the parish school and with the religious education program.

In 1975 she was sent to Bogota, Columbia for her Juniorate year as a Daughter of Wisdom, and to prepare for final profession. In 1977 while studying at La Salle Catholic University, she was a teacher at Wisdom High School, did pastoral work with female prostitutes and for the Diocese of South Santander. Later she was sent to Egipto, Bogota also to do pastoral work.

She participated in the Pastoral Councils of the Parish and became the Diocesan Coordinator of home-schooling for adults in 1983 when she was sent to Cordoba and Caparrapi, Columbia. From there it was off to San Paulo, Brazil to participate in the CESEPI/86 conference and the Interfaith Meeting in Golas. While there she was active in formation of Base Communities in the Afro Pastoral and Women's Groups.

In 1987 she was sent to the outskirts of Cartagena, Columbia to work in the Foundation of Faith and Joy (De Fe y Alegría). There she helped to start base communities, provided ongoing formation and eventually helped to start a school for adult education. She then returned to Bogota, Columbia and was a member of the Wisdom Community in the Guacamayas District providing pastoral ministry and worked in the Anglican School, Our Lady of Wisdom and at Saint Joseph parish school.

It was back to Brazil in 1991 for seven more years where she joined the International Wisdom Community and took theology courses at Our Lady of the Assumption University. Again her ministry included working with Base Communities, Afro Pastoral and the Women's movement. From there she was sent to Cumanda, Ecuador to work with rural communities, Pastora; Councils and in Quito with the Afro-Ecuadorians. In 1998 she returned to Columbia to join the Mother Marie Louise Community in the Guaca Maya District in Bogota. There she worked at Our Lady of Joy High School while caring for her ill mother.

Eight years later she returned to Villavicencio, Meta to the Little Montfort Community and worked in formation of families and pastoral leaders for the Arch-Diocesan Creation and Coordination Organization of the Early Infant Pastoral. And then, in 2014 she was sent to join the Acogita "welcoming" Community to collaborate on the direction and creation of the Mother Marie Louise of Jesus Community in the Mirador section of Corinto. While there she helped to develop a Program of Integral Ministry for women and children who were from families who were displaced due to violence in the country.

In April 2017 Sr. Teresa arrived in the United States to become a part of the Daughters of Wisdom's International/Intercultural Community at Huntington Station, NY. During this time she has been both learning and sharing herself with the people of St. Hugh of Lincoln Parish, Huntington Station, NY, by providing educational services to the Hispanic immigrant population. She also participates in the "Divine Mercy" group and and "Community of Jesus, Mary and Joseph." where participants receive work in preparation for the "Fifth Encounter" which is the U.S. Bishops' renewal program for the Hispanic Community.