



Vol. 8/No. 5 – May 2025

Kitty's Chronicle

Mercy Associates Newsletter

Prayers for the Sick

Let us pray for the sick, especially our Associates, Sisters of Mercy, family members, friends and caregivers. May God touch them with comfort, healing and strength.

We pray for people who are on our list this week – Jaxon McKinney (grandnephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe), Diane Hickey (sister-in-law of Cathy Hickey), Theresa Lacey (sister of Annie Brown), Marilyn Thurston, Patricia King, Sylvia Flood, Kevin Drover (husband of Geraldine Drover), Marion Bonia (sister of Anne Marie Davis), Sister Theresa Boland, George Bradbury (husband of Barbara Bradbury), Margaret MacNeil (sister of Geraldine Drover), Jim Wakeford (nephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe) and Mike Kelly (husband of Anna Kelly).

(If you wish to have your name or another person's name added to or removed from this list please let Sharon Drover know (drover.sharon@yahoo.ca).





Prayer for the Sick

Through the Intercession of Catherine McAuley

God of Love and Mercy,
You inspired Catherine McAuley,
To serve your Son by responding

To the needs of her time.

Moved by her care for the Sick,
We ask that through Her Prayers
You reach out with Your Healing Love
And restore them to full health

We ask this in complete
Confidence through Jesus Christ, Your Son

Amen.

Catherine McAuley, Pray For Us

Amen.

We remember Mercy Associate - Eleanor Mary
Nolan

May 5, 1942 - March 25, 2025 (age 82)





Happy Birthday Wishes to ...

Geraldine Vicars	-	May 3 rd
Marilyn Stack	-	May 11 th
Marie Higgins	-	May 16 th
Sr. Monica Hickey	-	May 25 th
Gerri Stapleton	-	May 26 th
Lois Craig	-	May 28 th
Barbara Hawley	-	May 29 th

Light a Candle

Let us continue, in solidarity with Mercy Sisters, Associates and Colleagues around the world, to light a candle and pray for justice and peace.



From the Wisdom Circles

Circle of Compassion

“Compassion is the greatest form of love humans have to offer.”

- Rachel Joy Scott

Contemplative Presence

“Lord, I desire to grow in my relationship with You. Help me to become more like You each day. Strengthen my faith, renew my spirit, and open my heart to Your Word. Teach me to live according to Your will, and deepen my understanding of Your love and grace. As I seek You, may I reflect Your character to those around me. May my life bear fruit for Your glory. Amen.”

- Prayerlit

Integrity of Creation

“The unceasing activity of the Creator, whereby in overflowing bounty and goodwill, He upholds His creatures in ordered existence, guides and governs all events, circumstances, and free acts of angels and men, and directs everything to its appointed goal, for His own glory.”

- J.I. Packer

Diversity and Inclusion

“Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, communication is

open, and rules are flexible – the kind of atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family.”

- Virginia Satir

Notes from the Associates/Sisters

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mercy Wellsprings

We need constantly to contemplate the
mystery of mercy.

It is a wellspring of joy,
Serenity, and peace ...

From the heart of
the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery
of God, the great river of mercy wells up
and overflows unceasingly. It is
a spring that will never run dry,
no matter how many people draw from it.

Misericordiae vultus #2, #25

A special note of best wishes to Barbara and Eric Albrechtsons as they make a move to their new home in Toronto. Barbara has been a dedicated member of the Mercy Associates and sat to enjoy a good cup of tea with the group from Coolock House. So Barbara this is not good-bye but farewell for we will meet again.



*The tender Mercy of God has given us one another.
~ Catherine McAuley ~*



Feast Day May 30th – St. Dymphna

Dymphna was born in Ireland in the 7th century. Dymphna's father Damon was a king of Oriel. Her mother was a devout Christian. Her father was a pagan king. It is said her Christian mother secretly baptized and raised her in the faith.

When Dymphna was 14 years old, she consecrated herself to Christ and took a vow of chastity. Shortly thereafter, her mother died. Damon had

loved his wife deeply, and in the aftermath of her death his mental health sharply deteriorated.

Years later Dymphna settled in Geel and built a hospice for the poor and sick of the region.

After her death a church honouring Dymphna was built in Geel. By 1480, so many pilgrims were coming from all over Europe, seeking treatment for psychiatric disorders that the church housing for them was expanded. Soon the sanctuary for those afflicted was again full to overflowing, and the townspeople began taking them into their own homes. Thus began a tradition for the ongoing care of those with psychiatric conditions that has endured for over 500 years, and is still studied and admired today. Patients were, and still are, taken into the homes of Geel's inhabitants. Never called patients, they are called boarders, and are treated as ordinary and useful members of the town. They are treated as members of the host family. They work, most often in menial labour, and in return, they become part of the community. Some stay a few months, some decades, some for their entire lives. At its peak in the 1930s, over 4,000 'boarders' were housed with the town's inhabitants.

Dymphna is known as the Lily of Éire, due to her spotless virtue. Some modern holy cards portray Dymphna in green and white, holding a book and white lilies.





The Archival Moment

The Archival Moment is contributed by Sister Charlotte Fitzpatrick.

An Archival Moment – Sister Mary Cecilia Jordan

Mary Joseph Jordan, daughter of Bridget and Patrick Jordan, was born in St. John's in 1853. She entered the Sisters of Mercy at Mercy Convent on Military Road on September 8, 1871. At her reception into the novitiate, she was given the name Sister Mary Cecilia. She made profession of vows on January 23, 1874. Sister M. Cecilia spent twenty-five years of her life at Sacred Heart Convent in St. Lawrence. A capable and dynamic woman, she served as superior of the community for many of those years. She was a competent and enterprising administrator and an accomplished musician, and much of her time was spent preparing the children to participate in plays, operettas and concerts. These events often served as fundraisers for the purchase of new equipment for the school or the church. Sister M. Cecilia was one of the many Sisters of Mercy who instilled and developed the strong musical tradition that still exists in St. Lawrence. Sister M. Cecilia died after a short illness on March 5, 1904 at the age of fifty-one years. The Evening Telegram of March 5, 1904 says this of her: "By her death, St. Lawrence has lost a benefactor, the poor a friend and the Convent a wise and good superior." Another report in the same newspaper on March 8, 1904, reports that "a large number of people was present from St. Lawrence and the neighboring settlements to testify their respect for the deceased nun, whose many benefactions and gentle disposition had enshrined her in the hearts of the people." Sister M. Cecilia is one of the six Sisters of Mercy buried in the Sisters' cemetery in St. Lawrence.

“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day.”

- St. Gianna Molla



Celebrating Women

Yvonne Brill



Early Life and Education

Yvonne Brill (née Claeys) was born on 30 December 1924 in St. Vital, [Manitoba](#) (now part of [Winnipeg](#)). Her parents were immigrants from Belgium. The adventures of Amelia Earhart, the first woman to pilot a plane across the Atlantic Ocean, inspired Brill to go to school. She tried to enroll in the [University of Manitoba](#)'s engineering program when she was 18, but she was denied. A mandatory summer camp for all engineering students did not have facilities for a woman, and the dean refused to change them to accommodate Brill.

Brill went on to pursue a degree in mathematics and chemistry, graduating at the top of her class at age 20. But, this initial snub left her with a lifelong passion for encouraging [women in the sciences](#). It also made her resolute in the face of gender-based discrimination — something she would experience

frequently throughout her career. “You just have to be cheerful about it and not get upset when you get insulted,” said Brill.

Early Career and Rocket Science

After graduating from the [University of Manitoba](#), Yvonne Brill moved to Los Angeles to work for Douglas Aircraft. Her first job involved calculating trajectories for a potential [satellite](#). She is believed to be the only woman who worked on rockets in the United States in the 1940s, which was part of its appeal to Brill. “I reckoned they would not invent rules to discriminate against one person,” she said. However, she did not find the purely theoretical work satisfying and preferred to work on practical applications.

While working toward her master’s degree in chemistry at the University of Southern California, Brill took a job at the Marquardt Corporation. There she perfected a type of rocket fuel system that led to the first successful test of a US-made ramjet, a type of missile propulsion technology. (*See also [Canadian Aerospace Industry](#)*).

After obtaining her master’s degree, she married research chemist William Brill in 1951. In 1952, the couple moved to the east coast of the United States for his work.

Development of the Electrothermal Hydrazine Thruster (EHT)

Shortly after moving, Yvonne Brill began working for the RAND Corporation, where she researched and developed data on rocket fuel combinations that became the American standard for decades. In 1958, she stepped away from her job to raise her children. She worked part-time as a consultant, eventually returning to full-time work for RCA Astro in 1966. Her job involved working on the NOVA rockets that powered NASA’s Apollo missions to the moon. (*See also [Canadian Astronauts](#)*).

While there, Brill completed a project she had been working on in her own time for years. It was a new kind of engine that would become her most important contribution to rocket science: the electrothermal hydrazine resistojet, or electrothermal hydrazine thruster (EHT). Used primarily on geosynchronous [satellites](#) — satellites that need to stay in the same position relative to the earth, like communications satellites — it uses electricity to

heat the rocket fuel hydrazine. Brill's innovation allowed satellites to use fuel more efficiently, which allowed them to operate longer. It has been used to keep satellites in orbit since 1983 and it remains the industry standard. (See also [Space Technology](#)).

Brill finished her career with NASA. She oversaw the Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Program and served on the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel. She was also involved in numerous National Research Councils related to space flight and exploration.

Significance and Legacy

In addition to creating the EHT, Yvonne Brill contributed to rocket systems that powered the first weather [satellite](#), known as TIROS, the NOVA rockets that were used in NASA's moon missions, the first upper-atmosphere satellite, the Mars Observer and the space shuttle.

Although she never officially studied engineering and never received her professional engineer's license, Brill was made a fellow and has been recognized by numerous engineering associations, including the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

Brill died on 27 March, 2013 in Princeton, New Jersey. Michael Griffin, president of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, praised her as someone who combined "a clear vision of what the future of an entire area of systems should be with the ingenuity and genius necessary to make that vision a reality." Professional organizations and acquaintances praised not only her work, but also her dedication to advancing women in scientific fields. Some noted that she had been writing letters of recommendation and submissions for awards up until her last days. In recognition of this work, the NAE established a lectureship in her name.

However, Brill's official *New York Times* obituary sparked debate. The original draft praised her skills as a mother and cook — specifically citing her beef stroganoff — before mentioning her career as a rocket scientist. After a public outcry, the obituary was edited to highlight her career accomplishments first.



May 3rd - International Astronomy Day

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican holiday that commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. This day is celebrated with parades, music, traditional foods, and cultural activities.



May 10th - International Migratory Bird Day



This day celebrates the beauty and diversity of migratory birds and raises awareness about the need to protect their habitats and ecosystems. It is a great opportunity to learn about these fascinating creatures and appreciate the wonders of nature.

May 11th - Mother's Day



Mom's are like buttons...they hold it all together

~ Her children rise up and call her blessed ~
Proverbs 32:28

May 12th - International Nurses Day

International Nurses Day is celebrated annually on May 12 to honor the contributions of nurses around the world. This day recognizes the critical role that nurses play in healthcare, and the tireless dedication and compassion they bring to their work.



May 15th - International Family Day



"Family-oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025"

May 20th - World Bee Day



In 2025, under the theme "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all", the World Bee Day celebration will shine light on the vital roles of bees and other pollinators in ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and food security and nutrition.

May 24th - Victoria Day

After the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, an act was passed by the Parliament of Canada establishing a legal holiday on May 24 in each year (or May 25 if May 24 fell on a Sunday) under the name Victoria Day.



Poetry Pause

Hope Is The Thing With Feathers

EMILY DICKINSON

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.



From Kitty's Kitchen

Ham Pot Pie



Ingredients

Vegetables: Use fresh or frozen carrots, peas, and corn, and cut them evenly. Yukon or Gold potatoes—no need to peel!

Protein: Cube leftover ham or grab a pre-cooked [ham steak](#) from the store.

Liquids: Use quality chicken stock and whole milk (or 1%/2%).

Veggies: Onion, garlic, and celery create a great flavor base.

Seasonings: Adjust to taste, and add fresh herbs for more flavor.

Pie crusts: Store-bought is easy, Brush with egg for a golden finish!

Directions

Boil: Boil potatoes, carrots, and peas in chicken broth until potatoes are soft.

Cook Veggies: Sauté onions in oil until soft, then add garlic and celery.

Make Sauce: Melt butter, add flour, and cook until browned. Gradually add broth and milk, season, and simmer until thick, stirring often.

Combine: Add corn, ham, and veggies to the sauce. Adjust seasoning to taste.

Assemble Pie: Pre-bake one crust after brushing with egg whites. Add filling, top with the second crust, seal, and brush with egg whites.

Bake: Cook until crust is golden. Cover edges if they brown too quickly.

Serve: Let cool 10 minutes before slicing.

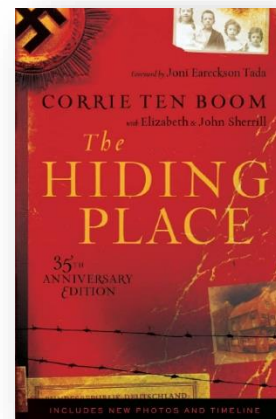


From Kitty's Library

A Good Read...

The Hiding Place
By: Corrie ten Boom

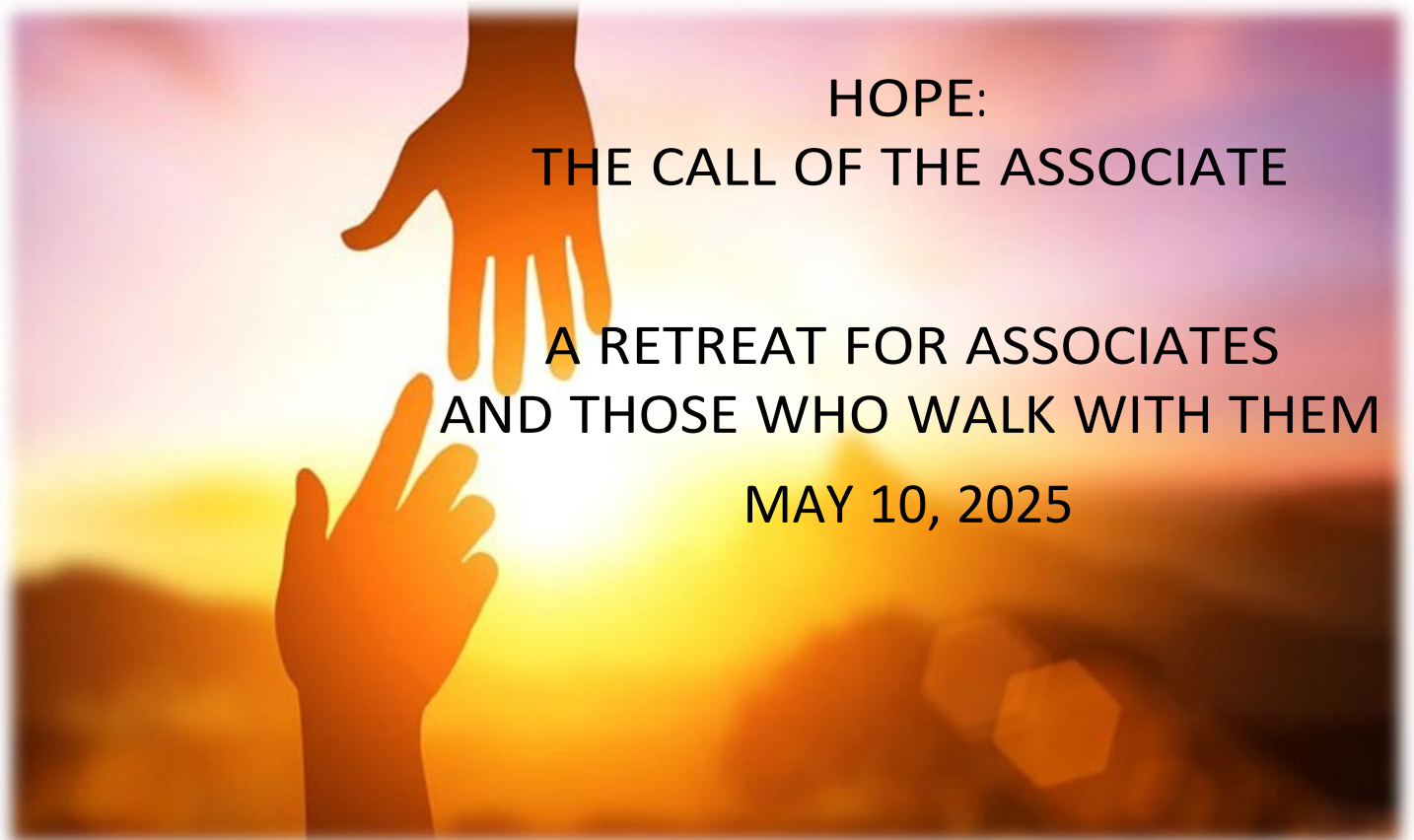
Corrie ten Boom was a woman admired the world over for her courage, her forgiveness, and her memorable faith. In World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jews escape the Nazis, and their reward was a trip to Hitler's concentration camps. But she survived and was released-as a result of a clerical error-and now shares the story of how faith triumphs over evil. For thirty-five years Corrie's dramatic life story, full of timeless virtues, has prepared readers to face their own futures with faith, relying on God's love to overcome, heal, and restore. *The Hiding Place* tells the riveting story of how a middle-aged Dutch watchmaker became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's death camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century.



We strongly encourage you to go to our mercy website:
www.sistersofmercyfnf.org and have a look at the ASSOCIATE section.

There are many new additions, lots of photos and some videos.

We hope that you will enjoy and be encouraged to keep working for the growth of our Mercy Associate relationship.



REMINDER!

The Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, May 10th, 2025, from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm.

The Retreat will take place at the Assembly Hall at Littledale (just east of the building with the two round towers). No cost!



Sister Eileen and Catherine Penney Ryan are having a craft table at the Retreat on May 10th.... handmade Cards; hand painted brooches and magnets. Payment can be made in cash or e-transfer. Drop by the table and have a look!

Pause for Thought ...

“Imitate a little child, whom one sees holding tight with one hand to its father, while with the other it gathers strawberries or blackberries from the wayside hedge. Even so, while you gather and use this world’s goods with one hand, always let the other be fast in your heavenly Father’s hand, and look around from time to time to make sure that He is satisfied with what you are doing, at home or abroad.”

- Saint Francis de Sales, p. 96 *Introduction to the Devout Life*



The Last Word...

“This is your life, joys and sorrow mingled, one succeeding the other.”

- Letter to Frances Warde May 28, 1841