

*Saint Katharine's CIRCLE*Quarterly Newsletter **Volume I, #4** November 2014*Saint Katharine Drexel National Justice Award*

On March 2, 2014 Sister Patricia Suchalski, President presented the **2014 Saint Katharine Drexel Justice Award** to **Katie Sullivan**, National Coordinator of Franciscan Volunteer Ministry and **Matthew Johnson**, Assistant National Coordinator. Katie and Matt assist volunteers from 66 Colleges and Universities who come from the four directions of the United States. There is a national network of Alumni whose three Core Values are: Intentional Community, Expressed Prayer and Direct Ministry.

Saint Katharine Drexel National Justice Award began in 2006. Nominations were made by Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. **In October, 2014 the Committee decided to ask/INVITE the communities of Saint Katharine Drexel Parishes to be part of the Saint Katharine Drexel National Justice Award Nomination process. Will you participate with us in this recognition?**

This Award is given to: A nominee who has demonstrated a total commitment of time, talent, and treasure to the same values that motivated Saint Katharine Drexel. **Influence has to have a broader impact than in the local community. Examples of past recipients:** Dr. Norman Francis, President of Xavier University of Louisiana, Sr. Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A. who is the first Native American woman Executive Director of the Tekakwitha Conference, Lou Baldwin, Author of "Katharine Drexel Apostle to the Oppressed", Wendell Young (RIP) who served as President of local 1776 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union for 43 years.

The nominee must be:

- Living a life infused with deep religious and moral value.
- Supportive of cultural and social equality among all peoples.
- Concerned for the poor, unchurched, and the alienated.
- Appreciative of the variety and values in racial and cultural heritages.
- Willing to do whatever is possible to bring about a better world of peace and justice for all.
- Involved with issues of national importance-national concerns (nominations not accepted for Politicians).

If you have any questions, please contact Sr. Pat Downs at skdcenter@comcast.net or call 215.244.9900 ext. 402. Nominations may be e-mailed or mailed to Sr. Pat by December 15. There must be supportive information along with your nomination. [1663 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020]

Your collaboration will make this very meaningful to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as, with you, we continue to share the Gospel legacy of Saint Katharine Drexel. **In 2015, St. Katharine's Feast day will be celebrated at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, March 8. Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia will be the celebrant and homilist.**

SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, 1931 – 1941

“Why fear? Go to Jesus confidently; you love Him and are loved by Him.”

Writings of Mother M. Katharine, #8

The missions of the SBS continued to grow. The leadership in 1931 consisted of Mother M. Katharine, Superior General, with Mother M. Mercedes O'Connor (pictured), Mother M. Philip Neri Maher and Mother Mary of the Visitation Leary on Council. Mother M. Jerome Keating became Treasurer General that year. A rural school opened in Gulfport, MS (1939). In the Southwest, Sisters went to Catherine Tegawitha (Tekakwitha) in Houck, AZ (1934), and San Jose in Old Laguna, NM (1935). Sisters began to minister in urban centers such as St. Anselm, Chicago, IL (1932), St. Vincent de Paul, Nashville, TN (1941).



Mother Katharine continued her arduous schedule. In 1935, she and Mother Mary of the Visitation left the Motherhouse Sept. 5, 1935, for the western houses. After visiting Houck, AZ, St. Catherine's in Santa Fe, and St. Michael's and Lukachukai, AZ, the mothers went to Chicago, IL, and then to Marty, SD, for the clothing of seven postulants as Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Mother Katharine returned to St. Louis to visit Sister Stanislaus who was ill. While there, Mother Katharine suffered a heart attack she could not ignore. She experienced several minor attacks on the journey but had forbidden any one to report them. This time she was hospitalized. Upon her release, Mother Katharine traveled back to Philadelphia where Dr. Max Herrman met her and ordered that she be admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital, Philadelphia.

Mother Katharine's doctors gave her a choice – continue as she had been and meet death soon, or slow down. Mother Katharine stepped down, resigning as Superior General. Mother M. Mercedes O'Connor became the second Superior General of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1935 and was elected to that position in 1937. Mother Katharine served as Vicar-General for two years, handling correspondence, but resigned even that position in 1937. Then she entered the contemplative phase of her life.

Mother Mercedes continued overseeing the vibrant and life-giving activities of the SBS. She oversaw the construction of a new classroom building for Holy Providence School at the Motherhouse. Mercedes Hall opened in 1940, sadly the year Mother Mercedes died.



Mother Mary of the Visitation Leary was elected Superior General. She continued to oversee the missions and to establish new ministry sites. She began preparations for the joyous celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Founding of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Feb. 12, 1941.

From the Archives: Submitted by Dr. Stephanie Morris, Archivist

Featured Parish:

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church ~ Frederick, Maryland

8428 Oppossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702 www.saintdrexel.org

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church is a growing parish of 850 registered households in Frederick, MD, in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, located near the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Since our beginning as a mission church in 2000, we have attempted to embody the charism of St. Katharine Drexel for our Church, community and to support the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in their mission.

We are nearing the completion of our capital campaign and will soon begin construction of our church. At the present time, guided by our **Pastor, Father Keith Boisvert**, we celebrate the sacraments in the gym of St. John Regional Catholic School which is adjacent to our property.



Our Mission Statement pledges us to be a Eucharistic-centered and welcoming community and our distinguishing ministries include:

“Kate’s Kids” ~ a youth catechesis program during Sunday Mass,

“Drexel Voyagers” ~ a ministry for elder parishioners

“Bensalem Groups” ~ small, neighborhood faith sharing gatherings, a social justice ministry

“Helping Hands” ~ assists parishioners in need, bereavement and health ministries

“Together Growing in Faith” ~ a whole-community catechesis program Sunday nights which includes a shared meal, and faith formation for all ages



We are blessed with a vibrant membership of a great number of families from various countries in Africa, as well as those of African-American heritage. The African community has become an integral aspect of our parish life and includes an African



choir which makes a beautiful contribution to our liturgies. How grateful we are for this sign of the charism of Mother Katharine and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to be manifested in our midst.

For several years, our parish has hosted a community wide interfaith New Year’s Eve Prayer Service. This event is an inspiring and edifying coming together of a wide swath of Frederick’s religious communities and civil leaders, praying in unity for peace and good for our local, national and global communities. This year, the event began with a concert organized and led by our parish music director, Mr. Daniel Owens. The service included prayers by representatives of local Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim communities. It was an awesome way to bless the year past and welcome in the new, in the name of the God we all honor and worship in our myriad of spiritual traditions.

News from Around the Country



Sugar Grove, Illinois

Sugar Grove Blesses New Mosaic

Gary and Kathy Scott, ASBS



Observer photo by Amanda Hudson

Bishop David Malloy celebrated Mass and blessed an outdoor mosaic on Aug. 31st depicting St. Katharine Drexel surrounded by children of varying heritages following the Mass. Sister Pat Downs, Director of the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel, attended the dedication and blessing representing the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Bishop Malloy commented that the art “encapsulates the mission she had” to the poor, including to Native and African Americans. “It is a reminder to each of us to reach out with our faith,” he said. “This is your patron saint,” and her patronage is more than a nickname for this church. “You have a saint to whom you are able to have the right to call on for assistance”, he said. “You should have a devotion to her and have knowledge of what she has done.”

This is the latest addition to artistic renderings of St. Katharine including a 6’ tall Icon hanging in the Chapel, and her portrait which hangs prominently in the entrance to the Religious Education wing.

A second class relic provided by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament resides in the reliquary located below the altar in the sanctuary.

Katharine’s spirit is alive and well!

Saint Katharine Drexel BIRTHDAY TEA

St. Katharine's birthday is November 26.

This year it falls the day before Thanksgiving. How much we have to be thankful for on that blessed day! Her life was such a gift from God, as is all life.

The Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel will be celebrating with **"Mother Katharine's Birthday Tea"**.



This event will be held at the National Shrine on November 20, 2014 from 2pm-4pm.

Additional interest will include the book signing by author (and Drexel relative) Cordelia Biddle of her newly published book -

Saint Katharine: The Life of Katharine Drexel.

For those of us unable to attend, the gift shop will carry copies...

What a wonderful Christmas Gift!

Check the online store for upcoming specials!

www.SaintKatharineDrexelGiftShop.org

Think how you may remember St. Katharine's birthday...attending Mass and receiving The Eucharist is one way - and that was always close to her heart.

The SKD Cookbook

Well underway with 400+ recipes submitted ~ being compiled, categorized and edited.

THANK YOU for your tremendous response. Watch for the publish date!

There is a shared sentiment that St Katharine's Feast Day is the perfect time for the introduction and sale of the cookbook.

The National Shrine and Mission Center

On the website ~ www.katharinedrexel.org

There is a **wealth of information** on the newly updated website for the Shrine and Mission Center. Please check it out and add it to your parish or school website as a link so more people will have it easily accessible. Information about St. Katharine, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayer Requests, Happenings, List of SKD parishes and the Gift Shop just names a few of the areas to explore.

Happy Reading ~ Spread the news!

Thank you for of your support and interest in Saint Katharine's CIRCLE. It is a privilege and a wonderful learning experience to work with so many entities all over the United States. Please contact me with ANY suggestions and information.

The next featured school or parish will be contacted in December for the February Edition.

Many Blessings to you all during the beautiful Seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Martha Horton and Communications Committee

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