

# A CELEBRATION OF JUBILEE

On May 19, 2018 we celebrated the jubilees of ten sisters. In the summer issue of *Bylines* we presented five of the celebrants, Sisters Alice Gallin, Laurence Montgomery, Stephanie Nolan, Jeanne Brennan, and Anne Duggan. In this issue of *Bylines* we tell a little of the life story of the other five, Sisters Jane Finnerty, Martha Gleason, Peggy Kelleher, Anne Walsh, and Sandy Wardell.

## 60th ANNIVERSARIES

**Sister Martha Gleason** was born in Boston to Mary and Clarence Gleason. One of five children, Martha attended Ursuline Academy in Boston. At the end of High School she entered the Ursulines in Beacon, NY, graduated from CNR, and by 1961 was teaching Latin at Ursuline Academy in Springfield, MA. With the exception of one year spent teaching at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Martha spent the next 28 years teaching in the Northeast Province of which she was a member. Her teaching took her to Dedham and Springfield, MA, to Lewiston and Sanford in Maine, and back to Dedham. During this time she served as director of Maine's Diocesan Office for Women Religious, as Provincial of the Northeast Province, and as co-chair of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in the Boston Archdiocese. On coming to the Eastern Province in 2014 Martha worked as Co-Director of peer ministry for several years at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle. At present Martha lives at Andrus where she is a lively advocate for the handicapped.



**Sister Anne Walsh**, known to many as Annie, is the tenth and youngest child of John Walsh and Margaret O'Hanley. Given the name Catherine at birth, she was born and brought up in Newport, Rhode Island. Like her two sisters Meg and Mary before her, Anne attended The College of New Rochelle where she majored in psychology. After college, Anne entered the Ursulines in Beacon and after profession went on to teach in Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE, Blessed Sacrament New Rochelle, and Ursuline Academy in Bethesda, MD. After receiving her masters in education from Villanova, Anne served the province as Assistant Principal in Wilmington and at Notre Dame School in Malone. She was Assistant Superior in Wilmington while Mary Magdalen O'Hara was Superior there, and following Magdalen, was appointed Superior of the Wilmington Community in 1978.

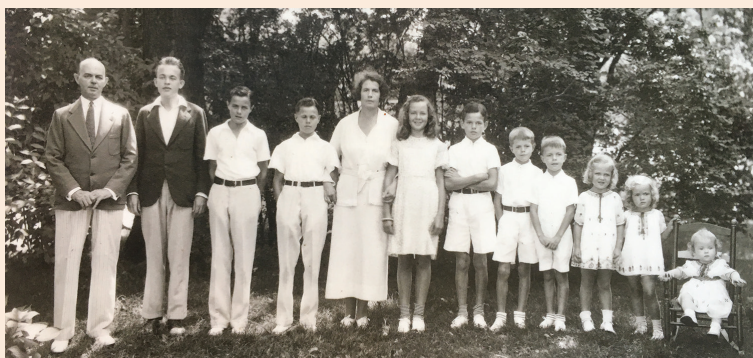
In the year 2,000 Anne participated in an Ursuline Exchange Program. She spent three months in England at the Ursuline Convent at Forest Gate outside London. While there she

explored her family tree in Lismore, Ireland, the home of her great grandparents William Walsh and Margaret Ahearne from Deerpark who emigrated to the United States during the Great Famine.

The quote above is from a Delaware newspaper interview with Sr. Anne. In the photograph of Anne's parents and their ten children on the left, Anne is the tiny toddler on the far right. She is presently living at Andrus on Hudson.



"I have a tremendous love for people," she responded when asked why she chose life as a nun. "I want to transmit God's love to the people."



## 50th ANNIVERSARIES



Bronx born **Sister Jane Finnerty** is youngest of the three daughters of Thomas and Catherine Finnerty. She is a graduate of the Academy of Mount St. Ursula and of The College of New Rochelle. After receiving her Bachelors degree in Science from CNR, Jane, following her two older sisters, entered the Beacon novitiate. After profession she completed her MS in Science Education at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. As her work began to focus on the teaching of religion, she earned an MA in Religious Education at Fordham University. In 1979 Sr. Jane became the Mission Education Coordinator for Propagation of the Faith for the New York Archdiocese. She has been engaged in parish work and served as Consultant for Parish Sacramental

Programs for the NY CCD Office. In the Order she has been Postulant Directress and Ursuline Formation Director in Rome for sisters having a year of renewal. Since then Jane has been actively engaged in Province leadership. At present she is our Provincial. Her interest and duties have recently led her to travel to Kenya to prepare the Kenyan Ursulines for joining the Roman Union and to Ireland to witness the profession of vows of the Irish Ursulines on their joining the Roman Union.



**Novice Sr. Jane with postulant Sr. Mary Beth Read.**

**Sister Margaret Mary Kelleher**, whom we call Peggy, is the daughter of Daniel and Margaret O'Brien Kelleher. One of five children, she grew up in the South Bronx in St. Jerome's Parish where she was taught by Ursulines. After graduating from Academy of Mount St. Ursula High School, Peggy received her Bachelors degree in biology from



the College of Mount Saint Vincent, and before joining the Ursulines, worked for three years in cancer chemotherapy research for Charles Pfizer and Co. in Maywood, NJ. Following the novitiate, she received a Masters in Biology from Fordham University and soon thereafter, a Masters in Religious Education from the same institution. After two years of teaching religion and biology at St. Joseph's Academy in Malone, NY, she became Coordinator of Religious Education at St. Helena's Parish in the Bronx from 1973-1977. Then began her study for a Ph.D. in Liturgy and Spirituality at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. In 1982 Peggy was named Instructor in Sacramental Theology at Catholic University. In 1983 she taught at Fordham University as Assistant Professor of Liturgy and Spirituality in the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education. In 1986 Peggy returned to the faculty of Catholic University to what is now the School of Theology and Religious Studies. Recently retired, she lives in New Rochelle and is writing a book on liturgical ecclesiology.

**Sister Sandy Wardell** is from Wilmington Delaware. She is the daughter of John Edgar and Edith May Wardell. Her education was in Wilmington at local elementary and middle schools and she graduated from Wilmington High School. She met the Ursulines when employed as a secretary to Sister Marie Albert Walsh at Ursuline Academy in Wilmington. She entered the Beacon novitiate in 1965 and after profession, she received her BA in psychology from Herbert Lehman College in the Bronx. For 30 years Sandy taught 2nd grade at St. Athanasius school in the Bronx but that did not keep her from being engaged in many other life-giving projects. As part of the Roman Union Exchange Program, Sandy spent a summer in Vienna teaching English and computer science. She was a Child Care Counselor at Covenant House in New York, participated in a Franciscan Study Pilgrimage in 1983 that took her to Italy. For some time she was a live-in coordinator at Providence House in New Rochelle - an emergency shelter for homeless women and children. In recent years she spent a month with the Ursuline Sisters in Laredo, Texas working to aid refugee children. In 2016 she joined, for a year, a new Ursuline community - the St. Lucia Retreat Center - being formed in South Africa. Her adventurous spirit and fresh outlook on life will be assets in her participation in the General Chapter in Rome in 2019. She is one of our two elected delegates.

