



November 28, 2011

Let's face it. Times are tough. We have all seen the high prices at the grocery store, foreclosed homes on the market and friends or family members out of work. Since the Great Depression there has never been a time of greater need for so many in our country. To think about retirement is difficult at best even if careful planning and investing had once been in your favor. It's hard to be thankful sometimes, when faced with the challenges of the future.

But the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary is thankful. Every dollar we receive is used in ministry and for the retired and infirm Sisters. **With life expectancies increasing, our dollars don't seem to go very far. The majority of IBVM Sisters are retirement age or older.** In a recent meeting of several religious communities in this country, we found that the IBVMs were not alone. The average age of an IBVM Sister is now 76.

You know of several retired Sisters who work in our ministries from reading our newsletters. There are others who on a regular basis may be seen in our Office of Development helping with paperwork and mailings. They are retired but still working in mission and ministry and thankful that they can be of service. Other Sisters with ambulatory or medical needs are living at Resurrection Life Center where they receive the skilled nursing care they require.

One retired Sister who passed away at Easter was Anastasia O'Connor. Her dedicated spirit and mission was seen even the night before she died at the age of 89, as she hand wrote thank you notes to several donors. Her early days as a teacher at St. Adrian and principal at St. Bernard and St. John of the Cross were places she lived her mission of empowering the students, teachers and staff members she came to know and love. Later she held leadership positions in the IBVM Provincial Offices and Community and served as a staff member of Loretto Extension Service and consultant in the Loretto Early Childhood Center. She was a friend to all and courageous with the challenges of her time.



Anastasia O'Connor, IBVM

**I would like to contribute to the work of the IBVM Sisters.**

**In the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

My gift is given as a living tribute in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is given as a memorial in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

I do not need a thank you letter/tax receipt for this gift.

I would like an email thank you letter/tax receipt for this gift

*Thank you for your generosity.*

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As Regional Superior, she was involved in the 1989 sale of several acres of the Loretto Wheaton property that is now the beautiful Mary Wood subdivision. Her devoted life to the Institute and Gospel message centered upon *never ceasing to be of service to those who are in need*. The need for funding the retired Sisters was part of her mission. She worked to ensure that the proceeds from the sale of the property were invested wisely. With the best planning for future needs of an aging population, even a modest downturn in the economy affects the financial situation of the Sisters. In her day, Sister Anastasia turned to you for help. She was never disappointed! Will you lend your support once again? **Our retired and infirm Sisters need you now more than ever!**

As you reflect on generations in your own families who have moved to retirement communities or assisted living facilities, please consider these women who have shared in your life. They may have been your teacher, religious education director, mentor or friend. Just as Sister Anastasia had the fortitude to see ahead for the future, we hope that you will support the retired and infirm Sisters.



**IBVM Sisters enjoy their Christmas party at Resurrection Life Center.  
Clockwise from left: Francis Clarke, Evelyn McCloskey,  
del Rey Waite (standing), Rita Rzeppa, Marietta Brummel,  
Maria Bierer and Mary Clare Mracek.**

We hope that in this season of giving thanks and giving to organizations that need assistance, you will help us with the financial challenges we face here at Loretto. While careful planning allows us to maintain all that we do here in ministry, this is home to the retired Sisters. They care about you as much as you care about them.

We encourage you to make as generous a gift as you can. No one can predict the future but with your support, their lives will be enhanced and the Sisters who still serve in ministry will be able to do so. In the spirit of the season, we offer prayers of thankful hearts to you this Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sincerely,

Anne Delaney  
Director of Development

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Please make check payable to IBVM Office of Development.

VISA/MC/Discover # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to remember you on your birthday. Month/Day \_\_\_/\_\_\_ (Hers) Month/Day \_\_\_/\_\_\_ (His)  
Your gift is tax-deductible within the guidelines established by the IRS

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