Sister Mary Jonette Rolando, age 83, October 9, 2017

Sister Mary Jonette Rolando died at Catherine's Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 57 years.

Sister Mary Jonette entered the Sisters of Mercy in Frontenac, Missouri. She began her ministry in education, especially helping those with learning disabilities in Potomac, Maryland, and in St. Louis. Later she ministered in care and counseling in and around St. Louis.

Sister Mary Jonette had many talents, including being a great musician; she played the guitar, harmonica, piano, accordion, and dulcimer. She was also a talented composer.

Sister Mary Jane Martin, age 91, September 30, 2017

Sister Mary Jane Martin died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 69 years.

Sister Mary Jane entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio. She began her ministry in elementary education and later moved into finance/business office at Mercy Hospital Tiffin and the former Mercy Hospital in Toledo. Her final years were as part of the St. Bernardine community and its prayer ministry, quietly befriending many people.

Sister Mary Jane displayed her artistic talents as a sewer of clothing outfits, draperies, slipcovers for furniture, and lampshade covers.

Sister Barbara Karleskint, age 98, September 8, 2017

Sister Barbara Karleskint died at Catherine's Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 80 years.

Sister Barbara entered the Sisters of Mercy in Fort Scott, Kansas. For nearly 30 years, she ministered as a teacher and principal in Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. She then entered pastoral ministry, serving as chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott from 1978 to 1994.

Following her retirement from active ministry in 2006, she began taking formal art lessons and became an accomplished artist.

Sister Kathy Green, age 68, August 28, 2017

Sister Kathy Green died in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 46 years.

Sister Kathy served as the first president of the South Central Community, from 2008 to 2012. She spent more than 20 years in healthcare ministry, most recently as senior vice president for mission and values integration of Mercy Health in Cincinnati.

Also an educator, Sister Kathy was former chair of the Religion Department at Mother of Mercy High School in Cincinnati and chairperson of the Social Studies and Religion departments at Mercy Preparatory School in Erie, Pennsylvania. She also had ministered as a volunteer prison chaplain in Cincinnati.
Sister Mary Ellen Curl, age 75, August 25, 2017

Sister Mary Ellen Curl died in Nashville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 57 years.

Sister Mary Ellen entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio. She ministered in many parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, beginning as a primary teacher in LaGrange.

In 1995 she was appointed the first female pastoral administrator in the archdiocese for the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis/Loretto, and Holy Cross. Upon leaving parish ministry in 2004, Sister Mary Ellen began ministering at Sacred Heart Home in Louisville, primarily as chaplain. She also was a spiritual director and conducted directed retreats in Louisville and Nashville.

She had lived at Mercy Convent in Nashville since July 2014.

Sister Mary Neil Corcoran, age 91, August 20, 2017

Sister Mary Neil Corcoran died at Stella Maris hospice in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 72 years.

A Baltimore native, Sister Mary Neil ministered as a teacher in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Georgia for almost 30 years.

She was an associate professor at Mount St. Agnes College and Loyola College in Baltimore. From 1975 to 2002, she was Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Diocese’s Spanish Apostolate (now Esperanza Center). She also served as a chaplain at the city detention center.

Sister Rose Olivieri, age 84, July 29, 2107

Sister Rose Olivieri died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

Sister Rose ministered as a second- to fourth-grade teacher at Holy Angels in Sandusky; St. Ann in Fremont; St. Clement, Toledo; and St. Peter, Upper Sandusky, all in the Toledo (Ohio) Diocese.

For more than 30 years, Sister Rose served as community life coordinator for Sisters of Mercy at St. Bernardine Home. She also spent countless hours raising funds for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). In 2016 she received the Ray of Hope Award from NAMI for her outstanding work on behalf of the organization.
Sister Elise Schwalm, age 100, May 14, 2017

Sister Elise Schwalm died at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland, after a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

A Baltimore native, Sister Elise entered the Community in Mount Washington, Maryland. She ministered as a medical technologist at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore. Later, she was a counselor at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, and she also did parish ministry and diocesan work in Atlanta.

Sister Carmen Cruz, age 82, June 9, 2017

Sister Carmen Cruz died at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years.

Sister Carmen was born in Agana, Guam. A Sister of Mercy for 64 years, she chose as her ring motto “Rabboni” (Master) at the time of her profession of vows.

Sister Carmen earned a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Sacred Heart College in Belmont and a master’s in theology of applied spirituality from the University of San Francisco (California). She was an outstanding primary education teacher in Catholic schools on Guam and in Charlotte, Asheville, Wilmington, and Gastonia, North Carolina, for 28 years. For 26 years, she served at St. Joseph’s/Mission Hospital in Asheville as a certified hospital chaplain. During that time, Sister Carmen also ministered with the Asheville Police Department as a volunteer chaplain.

Sister Mary Antonine Maca, age 91, May 11, 2017

Sister Mary Antonine Maca died at Mercy Convent in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

During her years of ministry in Oklahoma, Sister Antonine taught at John Carroll School, Holy Angels and Immaculate Conception in Oklahoma City; and St. Benedict’s, Shawnee and Blessed Sacrament in Lawton. She also taught at St. Alphonsus and Holy Name of Jesus School in New Orleans, Louisiana.; St. Joseph’s School in Slaton, Texas.; and St. Eustachius School in Portageville, Missouri.

In addition, Sister Antonine taught English to Cambodian refugees in Oklahoma and assisted them in resettlement. She also ministered on the Sioux Wind River Indian Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota; St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota; and did parish ministry at Our Lady of the Cove in Kimberling City, Missouri, and St. William in Gainesville, Missouri.
Sister Irene Huber, age 88, April 27, 2017

Sister Irene Huber died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Sister Irene held a bachelor’s degree in education from the Athenaeum in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a master’s in art from Notre Dame University. Her ministry was in education. She taught elementary grades in Cincinnati, St. Catherine’s in Toledo, St. Mary’s Mansfield and St. Mary’s Kirby, where she also served as principal.

After graduating from Notre Dame University, she taught art for the rest of her life, beginning at Central Catholic in Toledo. Later she moved to Jamaica and taught at Alpha Academy in Kingston. Returning to the States, Sister Irene taught art for many years at Daytona Beach Community College and later at the Center for Seniors in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

Sister Mary Bernadette Karleskint, age 99, May 5, 2017

Sister Mary Bernadette Karleskint died Friday, May 5, 2017, at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri, after a brief illness. A Sister of Mercy for 81 years, she would have turned 100 on Tuesday, May 9.

Sister Mary Bernadette earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and administration. With her love for teaching, she ministered in multiple areas throughout what was then known as the St. Louis Province: in Kansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Missouri. Among her positions, she served as teacher, principal, librarian, and superintendent. After retiring from education, she volunteered at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.
Sister Jean Marie Hobbs, age 72, April 18, 2017

Sister Jean Marie Hobbs died at Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 54 years.

Sister Jean Marie entered the Community in Mount Washington, Maryland. She ministered as a kindergarten and pre-kindergarten teacher at schools in Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. Most recently, she taught from 2013 to 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Baltimore.

Sister Mary Clare Windholtz, age 85, April 15, 2017

Sister Mary Clare Windholtz died Saturday, April 15, 2017, at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

Sister Mary Clare entered the Community in Cincinnati in 1950. She devoted much of her ministry to elementary education, parish ministry and religious education.

Sister Mary Matthew Snow, age 95, March 31, 2017

Sister Mary Matthew Snow died at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 62 years, she recently had celebrated her birthday.

Sister Mary Matthew taught every grade except first. Included in her teaching ministry were Charlotte Catholic High School; Sacred Heart College, where she was dean of women; Belmont Abbey College; and the Catholic Orphanage of Nazareth in Raleigh, North Carolina.

She also ministered at St Joseph’s Hospital in Asheville and Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, where she was the head of the School of Medical Technology.
Sister Marjorie Woods, age 82, March 22, 2017

Sister Marjorie Woods died in Jamaica. She was a Sister of Mercy for 62 years.

Born in Canada, Sister Marjorie entered the Community in Cincinnati, Ohio. She ministered as a teacher at the Jessie Ripoll School and at Alpha Academy in Kingston, Jamaica. She also served as Alpha charities coordinator at Convent of Mercy/Alpha and most recently was manager of St. Joseph’s Daily Bread soup kitchen in Kingston.

Sister Cordelia Eckert, age 94, March 20, 2017

Sister Cordelia Eckert died at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

After graduating from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Sister Cordelia went on to earn an MBA from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, and later, an MSW degree from the University of Maryland.

Her abilities in the business arena were recognized immediately; on the day following her first profession of vows, she was assigned to full-time ministry in the business office at Mount St. Agnes College in Baltimore. She enjoyed her work there and at Mercy Medical Center, where she served as internal auditor for 21 years.

Sister Mary Christopher Bourke, age 99, March 18, 2017

Sister Mary Christopher Bourke died surrounded by several sisters, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Maryland following a heart attack. Sister Christopher had just celebrated her 99th birthday on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, and she would have celebrated 80 years as a Sister of Mercy this year.

Sister Christopher devoted her ministry to education, as a teacher and administrator. For most of her active years in ministry, she was principal at Mount St. Agnes High School in Baltimore, during which time she also served on the Provincial Council of the Sisters of Mercy.
Sister Marie Moore, age 84, March 18, 2017

Sister Marie Moore died peacefully while hospitalized in Knoxville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

Sister Marie ministered for many years in health care, most recently as mission representative with Tennova Healthcare in Knoxville. She also had served in leadership, as Tennessee regional councilor for the Cincinnati Provincialate.

Among her healthcare positions, she served as chief executive officer of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois; as vice president of mission at Uihlein Mercy Center Convent in Lake Placid, New York; as vice president of mission integration at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky; and as mission representative for Mercy Health Partners – St. Mary’s Medical Center in Knoxville.

Sister Mary Placide Kilcoyne, age 102, February 26, 2017

Sister Mary Placide Kilcoyne died at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee, surrounded by her sisters. She was a Sister of Mercy for 68 years.

Among her ministries, Sister Placide ministered as administrator of finance at St. Mary’s Memorial Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee, and served on the Province of Cincinnati Administrative Team as treasurer. She returned to St. Mary’s as a financial auditor until her retirement to Mercy Convent in 2006.

Sister Mary Virginia Marasco, age 90, February 10, 2017

Sister Mary Virginia Marasco died at Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

As an educator and an administrator, Sister Virginia ministered to children in schools throughout the state of Mississippi, serving in Jackson, Greenville, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay St. Louis, as well as in New Orleans, Louisiana, and St. Louis, Missouri. In addition, she served on the staff at Mercy Junior College in St. Louis as an instructor in English and speech, guiding and directing the educational formation of many future Sisters of Mercy. She also served as coordinator for the Mercy Associate Program for the St. Louis Province.

Sister Virginia continued to minister to those who were sick and shut in through her telephone ministry after she moved to Convent of Mercy in Mobile in January 2015.
Sister Mary Bernarda Hoff, age 91, January 27, 2017

Sister Mary Bernarda Hoff died peacefully at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina, after a lengthy illness. Sister Bernarda was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, she entered the Community in Belmont. She finished nursing school at St. Leo’s Hospital in Greensboro and later earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

In 1952 she began her ministry at St. Joseph’s Hospital (later Mission/St. Joseph) in Asheville, North Carolina, where she served until 2001. Sister Bernarda retired from the hospital to Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont in 2001 but continued volunteer work, particularly at Catherine’s House, a shelter for women in transition, until she no longer was able.

Sister Maria Thecla Camacho, age 99, January 21, 2017

Sister Maria Thecla Camacho died at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam, surrounded by Sisters of Mercy and close relatives. She was one of the first residents at Mercy Care after she retired from active ministry as a social worker and a director of the Campaign for Human Development and director of Social Justice in Inarajan, Guam.

Sister Thecla, who had celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with Mercy, was one of the first local Chamorro women to enter religious life in 1941, before World War II. She entered the Franciscan Missionaries in Manila, Philippines, and did missionary work in Madras, India, for some 20 years. She started the Master of Social Work program at Stella Maris College in Madras, then returned to Guam to care for her aging parents and transferred to the Sisters of Mercy in 1978. She was pre-deceased by two sisters who also were Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Mary Geralda Schaefer, age 98, January 18, 2017

Sister Mary Geralda Schaefer died Wednesday, in St. Louis, Missouri. A Sister of Mercy for nearly 84 years, Sister Mary Geralda was 98 years old.

Sister Geralda ministered in education, teaching at schools in New Orleans, Louisiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; several cities in Texas; and St. Louis. She served as principal of Sacred Heart Parish School in McAllen, Texas, and she also had been a professor at Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas. After retiring from education, Sister Geralda was involved in prison ministry in south Texas.
Sister Rosemary Schlagheck, age 96, January 15, 2017

Sister Rosemary Schlagheck died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 78 years.

Sister Rosemary spent 46 years ministering in Catholic elementary schools in Ohio. At various times, she served at St. Catherine’s in Toledo, St. Mary’s in Kirby, St. Vincent de Paul in Toledo, St. Mary’s in Mansfield, St. Mary’s in Vermilion, and St. Clement’s in Toledo. In addition to teaching, she was principal and assistant principal at several of these schools.

Sister Alvin Seubott, age 81, January 6, 2017

Sister Alvin Seubott died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Savannah, Georgia. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

Sister Alvin ministered for more than 50 years in education and child care. In her first ministries, she taught at Shrine of the Sacred Heart elementary school and then at Villa Maria in Baltimore, Maryland, and St. Mary’s Home in Savannah, Georgia. In 1994 she received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice from Pope John Paul II for service on behalf of the children at St. Mary’s.

Sister Mary Angelita Heinrich, age 91, January 6, 2017

Sister Mary Angelita Heinrich died peacefully surrounded by members of her community at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

Sister Angelita ministered as a teacher and principal of schools in Missouri and Texas. In addition, she ministered in the development office and library at Mount St. Mary High School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; as superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, and archivist for the Sisters of Mercy St. Louis Regional Community.
Sister Mary Brian Rafferty, age 84, December 29, 2016

Sister Mary Brian Rafferty died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Sister Brian received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Webster College in St. Louis and a master’s in special education from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Sister Brian ministered for 55 years in education, teaching at schools in New Orleans and Lafayette, Louisiana; and in St. Louis. She had lived at Catherine’s Residence since 2010.

Sister Julia Marie Burke, age 80, December 20, 2016

Sister Julia Marie Burke died at Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama, after a long struggle with cancer. She was a Sister of Mercy for 61 years. Born in Ireland, she entered the Community in St. Louis, Missouri. She earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from St. Louis University and a master’s in mathematics from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi.

Sister Julia Marie ministered as a teacher in Gulfport, Biloxi, West Point, and Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Jeanerette, Louisiana. She later served as director of pastoral services at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Vicksburg and as parish director of religious education at Annunciation Parish in Kiln, Mississippi. From 1993 to 2015, she was director of religious education at Sacred Heart Parish in D’Iberville, Mississippi.

Sister Mary Aquin O’Neill, age 75, December 14, 2016

Sister Mary Aquin O’Neill died in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 58 years.

Sister Mary Aquin ministered as resident scholar, theologian and administrator at Mount St. Agnes Theological Center for Women in Baltimore from 1992 to 2014. She also had served on the faculties of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana; Salve Regina College in Newport, Rhode Island; and Loyola College in Baltimore, and earlier taught at Convent of Mercy High School in Mobile, Alabama.
Sister Virginia Marie Jones, age 88, December 9, 2016

Sister Virginia Marie Jones died peacefully surrounded by members of her community at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 68 years.

Born in Somerville, Massachusetts, Sister Virginia Marie attended high school in Malden, Massachusetts, and received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from St. Mary’s College in Xavier, Kansas.

She ministered in nursing at Mercy Hospital in Brownsville and Laredo, Texas; at Warner Brown Hospital in El Dorado, Arkansas; and Mercy Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri.

Sister Maura Delaney, age 96, December 4, 2016

Sister Maura Delaney died peacefully at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 78 years.

Sister Maura earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Mount St. Agnes in Baltimore and a bachelor’s in music education and master’s in school administration at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

She ministered as a teacher, principal, band and choir director at schools in Baltimore; Huntsville and Mobile, Alabama; Savannah, Georgia; and Pensacola, Florida. Sister Maura received the Diocesan Medal of Honor twice from the Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee.

Sister Florence Judge, age 93, November 29, 2016

Sister Florence Judge died at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Sister Florence grew up on a farm in Hastings, Minnesota. She met the Sisters of Mercy at their residence for women in Washington, D.C., where she was one of thousands of young women who left their homes to work in government offices vacated by men serving in World War II.

Sister Florence ministered for nearly 40 years in education at schools in Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
Sister Sandra Marie Sander, age 77, November 19, 2016

Sister Sandra Marie Sander died in the company of her family and the Sisters of Mercy at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 59 years.

A native of St. Louis, Sister Sandra Marie received a bachelor of science degree in biology from Webster College and was a certified medical technologist. Among her ministries, she spent more than two decades as laboratory supervisor at Mercy Hospital, St. Louis, and she also served in administration at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

Sister Joseph Marie Perez, age 86, November 6, 2016

Sister Joseph Marie Perez died peacefully after a long illness at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 69 years.

A native of Agana, Guam, Josefina Perez met the Sisters of Mercy when they came to Guam in 1946. She received the habit and a new name, Sister Joseph Marie, on December 6, 1948.

Sister Joseph Marie ministered as a teacher at the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in Agana, St. Anthony School in Tamuning, and as a teacher and principal at Santa Barbara School in Dededo. She also did pastoral ministry at St. Joseph’s Parish in Inarajan and worked at the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center at the University of Guam and at Infant of Prague Nursery and Kindergarten in Mangilao.

Sister Mary Donna Cooper, age 73, October 30, 2016

Sister Mary Donna Cooper died at Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama. She was a Sister of Mercy for 55 years.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Sister Donna ministered in education with young children for 34 years in Georgia, Maryland, Florida, and Alabama. She later served as a hospice home health chaplain at Mercy Medical in Mobile and then as a rehabilitation chaplain at Daphne (Alabama) Facility.

Most recently, Sister Donna ministered as a visitation chaplain at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Mobile, visiting parishioners who were sick and homebound.
Sister Mary Carmelita Peredo, age 88, September 23, 2016

Sister Mary Carmelita Peredo at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years.

Sister Carmelita was a teenager when the Japanese invaded Guam. After Guam was liberated by the Americans in 1944, she became devoted to the church and was attracted to religious life after seeing The Song of Bernadette. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1952 and started her lifelong ministry in child care, serving as the first administrator of Mercy Heights Nursery/Kindergarten in Oka, where Guam Memorial Hospital stands today. She later served at Infant of Prague Nursery in Tai, the first day care center on Guam.

Sister Ann Beiersdorfer, age 79, September 22, 2016

Sister Ann Beiersdorfer died peacefully after a long illness McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 61 years.

A Cincinnati native, Sister Ann earned a bachelor’s degree in art at Our Lady of Cincinnati (Edgecliff) College and a master’s degree in philosophy from Notre Dame University. She taught art at Edgecliff and at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Sister Ann was a demanding but beloved teacher. She was known for her generosity and great sense of humor, as well as for being a perfectionist who was extremely well organized. For many years after she retired from teaching, she continued to do art work and also volunteered each week at Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati, holding infants who were ill and sewing for them.

Sister Helen McCreary, age 86, September 20, 2016

Sister Helen McCreary died at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland, after a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 69 years.

Sister Helen was a native of Macon, Georgia, where she met the Sisters of Mercy as a student at Mount de Sales Academy. In addition to a bachelor’s degree in education from Mount St. Agnes College, she earned master’s degrees in history from the University of Dayton and in religious education from Fordham University.

Sister Helen spent most of her life ministering as a teacher and principal in Georgia and Maryland. She taught theology and history for 22 years at her alma mater, Mount de Sales Academy. She also served as principal of Blessed Sacrament School in Savannah, Georgia; Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Baltimore, Maryland; and St. Anne’s School in Columbus, Georgia. She had lived at The Villa since August 2008.
Sister Maureen Ryan, age 81, September 3, 2016

Sister Maureen Ryan died peacefully after a long illness in Kingston, Jamaica. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

Sister Maureen was born in Ireland but entered the Community in Jamaica, where she ministered for most of her life. She made her perpetual vows in August 1957 in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Our Lady of Cincinnati (Ohio) College.

Among her ministries, she served as principal of Alpha Boys’ School (now Alpha Institute) and of Mount St. Joseph Prep School, both in Kingston, Jamaica. Sister Maureen had lived at The Claver Home in Kingston since October 2008.

Sister Marie Chin, age 72, August 25, 2016.

Sister Marie Chin, an international leader, speaker and a beloved wisdom figure, died peacefully after a long illness at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 55 years.

Dedicated to the mission of the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Marie practiced it in one of the poorest countries in the world. She was not only attentive to the needs of her local area of Jamaica but also highly aware of global issues and was constantly thinking of ways to engage others in alleviating poverty and suffering. As a leader, she was soft-spoken but visionary with a strong commitment to building relationships.

“It seems to me that solidarity and compassion go hand in glove with each other,” she wrote in 2009. “When I activate the power of compassion, I literally cross over from my separate, distinct world into the world of humanity. I reach beyond myself to touch another and in the touching, connection and healing take place.”

Sister Marie held a number of leadership positions with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas—most notably president. She also served as vice president and as a member of the Institute Leadership Team. Her other positions included membership on the former Cincinnati Regional Leadership Team, director of formation and local administrator for Jamaica, and membership on the first Community Leadership Team for the Sisters of Mercy – South Central Community.

Sister Marie Catherine Wise, age 84, August 22, 2016

Sister Marie Catherine Wise died suddenly but peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 69 years.

Sister Marie Catherine experienced a call to religious life at a young age. She attended Our Lady of the Pines Aspirant School (a high school staffed by the Sisters of Mercy for young women interested in religious vocation) and after completing high school, entered the Community on September 7, 1947, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

After graduating from Mercy School of Nursing in Toledo, she ministered in health care at Mercy hospitals in Toledo, Tiffin, Hamilton, Springfield, Oregon, and Lima, Ohio. Her assignments included operating room nurse, emergency room nurse, pediatric supervisor, and nursing services supervisor. She served as president and CEO of Mercy Hospital Tiffin from 1986 to 1993. From 1994 to 2005, she was housing manager for Charles Meadow, a low-cost housing complex for seniors in Tiffin. Sister Marie Catherine had lived at St. Bernardine Home since 2008.
Sister Mary deLima Hoffman, age 86, July 5, 2016

Sister Mary deLima Hoffman died at Mercy Health Center Convent in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years.

Sister Mary deLima entered the Community in September 1949. From 1955 to 1972, she ministered as a teacher at schools in New Orleans, Metairie, and Kenner, Louisiana; and McAllen, Texas. She later served for many years in the business office and as a medical records clerk at Mercy Hospital in New Orleans. In addition, she volunteered at St. Alphonsus Early Childhood Center in New Orleans. She had lived at Mercy Health Center Convent in Oklahoma City since 2012.

Sister Mary Timothy Warren, age 90, July 11, 2016

Sister Mary Timothy Warren died at Marian Center at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years. A native of Asheville, North Carolina, she was introduced to the Sisters of Mercy by her friend Father John Manley, also an Asheville native.

Among her ministries, Sister Mary Timothy served as a teacher and principal of Catholic elementary schools in Charlotte, Asheville and Long Island. She also ministered at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte as a cytology technician, director of continuing education, and a counselor in the family surgical waiting room.

In addition, she served as a pastoral associate at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. She also developed and served as administrator of the Lay Ministry Program in the Diocese of Charlotte and was Vicar for Women Religious in the Diocese. In her later years, she volunteered at Mercy Heritage Center in Belmont.

Sister Elsie Marie Graff, age 98, August 8, 2016

Sister Elsie Marie Graff died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 74 years.

Born in Colorado, Sister Elsie earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing education at St. Mary College in Xavier, Kansas. She had a long ministry in health care as a nurse, administrator and chaplain at hospitals in Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas.

Among her roles, Sister Elsie served as director of nursing services at Mercy Hospital in Independence, Kansas, and St. Margaret’s Mercy Hospital in Fredonia, Kansas; and as chaplain at St. Francis Mercy Hospital in Washington, Missouri, and Mercy Hospital St. Louis. She had lived at Catherine’s Residence since April 2006.

Sister Elsie loved to read and stay informed on current events. She also enjoyed needlepoint, crocheting, sewing, and 1,000-piece puzzles.
Sister Jean Mary Durbin, age 90, April 9, 2016
Sister Jean Mary Durbin died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

She entered the Community at age 19 in 1944—11 years after her sister, the late Sister Dorothy Marie Durbin, entered. Sister Jean Mary taught elementary school for 13 years in Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; at St. Paul, Our Lady of Consolation, and St. Athanasius in Louisville, Kentucky; and at her home parish, St. John the Evangelist in Paducah, Kentucky.

In 1970 she was in an auto accident and suffered a head injury that prevented her return to teaching. She spent the last 45 years in the ministry of prayer.

Sister Mary Johanna Niklas, age 84, April 2, 2016
Sister Mary Johanna Niklas died peacefully at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio, following a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Sister Mary Johanna earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Our Lady of Cincinnati College and a master’s in mathematics from Xavier University. She ministered in secondary schools, teaching math, German and physics.

From 1989 to 2007, she served as a medical records clerk for Mercy Home Care in Hamilton, Ohio, and from 2007 to 2011, served in that position with American-Mercy Home Care in Cincinnati. She had lived at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati since February 2016.

Sister Helen Sigrist, age 89, March 27, 2016
Sister Helen Sigrist died peacefully at Stella Maris Hospice in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 69 years.

Before entering the Community, she worked for the Army Corps of Engineers. After World War II ended, she earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Mount St. Agnes College and began her ministry in education.

Over the years, Sister Helen taught at nearly every level from first grade through college. She taught at schools in Washington, D.C.; Warrenton, Florida; and Baltimore, Woodstock, and Salisbury, Maryland. In addition, she supervised religious education programs and was active in pastoral care and parish ministry.

Sister Mary Kathryn Slaughter, age 82, March 26, 2016
Sister Mary Kathryn Slaughter died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri.

A Sister of Mercy for nearly 60 years, Sister Mary Kathryn earned a master’s degree in administration from St. Louis (Missouri) University and a bachelor’s degree in education from Webster College in St. Louis.

She ministered as a teacher and principal at schools in St. Louis, Missouri; Little Rock, Arkansas; New Orleans, and Kenner, Louisiana; and Gillespie, Illinois. She also served in administration at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, and later worked part-time in the finance office at Mercy Center in St. Louis.
Sister Marie Marguerite Rouleau, age 100, March 18, 2016

Sister Marie Marguerite Rouleau died peacefully on, at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 80 years.

Sister Marie Marguerite attended St. Xavier Academy in Providence, Rhode Island, where she met the Sisters of Mercy.

She taught music and other subjects at the elementary and high school levels in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. For several years, she was secretary to the superior general and the Leadership Team at the Sisters of Mercy Generalate. In 1972 she transferred to the Cincinnati Province and taught business at Mercy Academy in Louisville, Kentucky. After retiring from teaching, she served as assistant bookkeeper at St. Catherine Convent in Louisville. A violinist, Sister Marie Marguerite frequently played her renditions of sacred music for liturgies at the convent.

Sister Phyllis Ann Gerold, age 86, March 15, 2016

Sister Phyllis Ann Gerold died peacefully after a lengthy illness at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Born in Sandusky, Ohio, she earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Our Lady of Cincinnati College and a master’s in hospital administration from St. Louis University.

Sister Phyllis Ann’s vision and insights made her a leader in healthcare in northwest Ohio. Among other positions, she was the longtime chief executive officer of the former Mercy Hospital of Toledo and St. Charles Mercy Hospital of Oregon, Ohio.

Sister Mary Gloria Auer, age 83, March 9, 2016

Sister Mary Gloria Auer died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years.

For almost 50 years Sister Gloria ministered in elementary education, first as a junior high teacher and later as principal. Sister Gloria ministered at schools in Cincinnati, Ohio; St. Catherine of Siena in Toledo, Ohio; Ascension School in her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio; and Assumption school in Geneva, Ohio.

Before retiring from active ministry, she served as director of Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont.
Sister Marianne Angert, age 93, February 26, 2016

Sister Marianne Angert died peacefully at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 75 years.

Sister Marianne held a doctorate in health education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

She ministered in healthcare at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, and Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. She also spent many years at West Virginia University instructing, developing and improving the curriculum in the School of Medical Technology. In addition, she was a faculty member and dean of students at Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

Sister Elizabeth Mary Burns, age 92, February 25, 2016

Sister Elizabeth Mary Burns died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 75 years.

Sister Liz, who ministered in education and healthcare, served at hospitals in Mississippi and Arkansas.

She also was an instructor and assistant professor at St. Louis University School of Medicine; assistant professor and associate professor at the University of Illinois School of Medicine, Chicago; and professor at the University of Iowa and Ohio State University. In addition, Sister Liz was a professor and Fulbright scholar at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, West Africa, and was a project director and grant writer for the Archdiocese of Cape Coast, Ghana.

Sister Jude Marie Piazza, age 88, February 17, 2016

Sister Jude Marie Piazza died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 61 years.

Sister Jude Marie had a long ministry in nursing and pastoral care at hospitals in Springfield, Missouri; Vicksburg, Mississippi, Fort Smith and Hot Springs, Arkansas; Independence, Kansas; and Daphne, Alabama. She specialized in Reiki, a Japanese technique of spiritual healing.

Sister Mary Eloise Morrison, age 96, January 31, 2016

Sister Mary Eloise Morrison died peacefully at Mercy Health Center Convent in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was a Sister of Mercy for 79 years.

Sister Eloise ministered for more than 50 years throughout Oklahoma in education, social and parish ministry. She also served as a volunteer in hospitals, nursing homes, homebound services, and refugee placement, most recently in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She had lived at Mercy Health Center Convent since June 2015.
Sister Mary Timothy Collins, age 92, January 29, 2016

Sister Mary Timothy Collins died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio, surrounded by family and sisters. She was a Sister of Mercy for 75 years.

In 1945 Sister Timothy began her ministry in elementary education. She spent many successful years in the classroom and as an elementary principal at schools in Ohio: St. Teresa in Cincinnati, St. Mary’s in Mansfield, St. Anne’s in Fremont, St. Mary’s in Kirby, St. Catherine’s in Toledo, and Holy Angels in Sandusky.

In 1994 she went to Assumption Parish in Geneva, Ohio, where she served as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) director and religious education coordinator.

Sister Frances Ann Cook, age 75, January 26, 2016

Sister Frances Ann Cook died surrounded by her family and friends at St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System in Savannah, Georgia. She was a Sister of Mercy for 57 years.

Sister Frances Ann ministered in education and pastoral care. Since fall 1999, she had taught at St. Vincent’s Academy in Savannah, managing “Cyber Island,” its computer resource and research lab. Earlier, she served as a guidance counselor at St. Vincent’s and taught at several other schools, including Mercy High School in Baltimore, Maryland.

In addition, she had served as director of adult education and as director of communications for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia, where she also ministered as a pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church.

Sister Mary Agnes Procopio, age 92, January 25, 2016

Sister Mary Agnes Procopio died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

For 21 years, Sister Agnes ministered as a primary teacher in various schools throughout Ohio. In 1976 she became a patient visitor at Mercy Hospital Tiffin, Ohio. She served in that ministry for 26 years, retiring in 2002.

In 1989 Sister Agnes received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce of Tiffin. Mercy Hospital Tiffin honored her in 2014 with the Catherine McAuley Lifetime Achievement Award.
Sister Marie Foley, age 86, January 15, 2016

Sister Marie Foley died peacefully at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years.

Sister Marie was a beloved mentor to many students, parents and teachers during her 40 years ministering at Mercy High School in Baltimore. A native of Watertown, South Dakota, she entered the Community in February 1950.

In September 1953 Sister Marie began her ministry as an elementary school teacher, serving first at Mount Washington Country School for Boys, then for three years at St. Mary’s School in Mobile, Alabama. After a sabbatical of independent study at Michigan State University, she joined the faculty at Mercy High School, where she served from 1973 until 2013, much of that time as director of Human Development.

Sister Mary Ralph Heckemeyer, age 92, January 11, 2016

Sister Mary Ralph Heckemeyer died peacefully in St. Louis, Missouri, after an extended illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

Sister Mary Ralph earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing education from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1952 and a master’s in social work from Barry School of Social Work in Miami, Florida, in 1968.

She had a long ministry in healthcare, serving as a nursing unit supervisor in the late 1940s and 1950s; in administration in the mid-1960s; and as vice president, treasurer, director of social services, social worker, and volunteer from 1968 to 2006 at Mercy Hospital St. Louis.