Lent invites us to ‘bother to love’

Next week we celebrate Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. According to Thomas Merton, the original meaning of Lent, the *vers sacrum*, is “the Church’s ‘holy spring’ when catechumens were prepared for baptism” and public penitents made ready “for their restoration to the sacramental life” of the church. Lent, then, is a season of healing.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive a cross of ashes upon our foreheads, a paradoxical symbol of death and the promise of new life. Lent, then, is a time of penance and healing, grief and joy, death and resurrection. Lent, if we are open, hurls us into the great mystery of God’s love. As James Martin suggests, it invites us to look at “where we’re not even bothering” and then “bother to love.”

Who is God calling me to see and bother to love this Lent? Am I fasting as a reminder of the millions of people who go hungry every day? Am I sharing my resources with widows, orphans and strangers?

As we approach Ash Wednesday, let us ask ourselves two questions: This Lent, what am I called to realize? And whom am I called to bother to love?

Mary Rose  Pat  Jane  Debbie
Sister Mary Annella Martin died Thursday, February 6, 2020, at Mercy Springwell in Baltimore, Maryland. A Sister of Mercy for 63 years, she was 90 years old. Sister Annella ministered at Mercy Hospital (now Mercy Medical Center) for nearly 50 years, first as a bedside nurse, then as a nursing instructor, and in later years holding various positions, including director of primary care services, director of ambulatory services and administrative assistant to the president.

Sister Annella also was an influential member of Harbel, a community organization in Baltimore, where she became more aware of the great need for decent housing among the working poor. At the hospital, she initiated Mercy Housing, which helped employees work through the processes of renting or buying homes. One of Sister Annella’s strongest interests was Mercy Association, and she considered Mercy Medical Center’s very active Association group as one of her proudest accomplishments.

Click on her name to read an extended obituary for Sister Annella Martin, included with today’s attachments.

Sister Marion Mordica died Saturday, February 8, 2020, in St. Louis, Missouri. She was 94 years old and was preparing to celebrate her 75-year Jubilee as a Sister of Mercy.

Sister Marion entered the community in Webster Groves, Missouri, in 1945, and professed perpetual vows there in August 1951. She held degrees from Our Lady of the Lake, Texas, and Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois.

She had a colorful and busy ministry in education. At each school where she served as principal (29 years), she also conducted the school choir and staged an operetta each year. She spent summers teaching religion in rural areas and one summer worked with incarcerated students.

In addition, she tutored junior high and high school students at St. Joseph High School in Jackson, Mississippi. Because of health issues, she had moved to Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis in January 2015.

Click on her name to read an extended obituary for Sister Marion Mordica, included with today’s attachments.
Justice update

RACISM AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Celebrations of Black History Month often miss the broader social context of the embedded white culture and supremacy that affect racism, poverty and violence. Nor is it acknowledged that churches, including the Catholic Church, are complicit in the sin of racism. In 1979, the U.S. bishops issued a document on racism titled “Brothers and Sisters to Us All.” Twenty-five years later, in 2004, a study was commissioned to evaluate the document’s effectiveness, and the results were discouraging. Most Americans never had heard a homily on racial justice. Only 18 percent of bishops issued statements condemning the sins of racism; these statements generally dealt with personal racism, not structural racism. White Catholics exhibited diminished support for government policies aimed at reducing racial inequality. Racist beliefs are seen as personal but not reflections of endemic cultural patterns. In 2020, the same patterns endure. For more information, click here: Commemorating

BUDGETS ARE MORAL DOCUMENTS
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in his 2009 encyclical, Caritas in Veritate, “It is good for people to realize that purchasing is always a moral—and not simply economic—act.” This equally applies to the tremendous purchasing power of the federal government’s budget. Purchasing includes purchasing services, as well as material objects. The U.S. bishops, in “Economic Justice for All,” stated: “The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion; the production to meet social needs over production for military purposes.” President Trump’s proposed 2021 federal budget is an immoral document, since it would push millions of less fortunate Americans into, or deeper into, poverty and cause widespread hardship even as it increases tax cuts for the most well-off. Inequality would further widen inequality and racial disparities. For more explanation of the proposed budget, click here: 2021 Budget Proposal

Health care hero

The Cincinnati (Ohio) Business Courier has awarded the 2020 Health Care Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award to Sister Doris Gottemoeller. The Courier recognized Sister Doris’ ministry with the Mercy Health hospital system, noting that she now is on the board of Cincinnati-based Bon Secours Mercy Health, the fifth-largest Catholic hospital system in the United States, and also is vice chair of Bon Secours Mercy Ministries.

“Sheer innovative ideas helped transform how health care is provided,” the Courier said in announcing Sister Doris’ award.

She will be honored at the 23rd annual Health Care Heroes awards dinner on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati.
Click here to read more: Heroes

2020 Jubilarians

Forty-four sisters from South Central and Guam are celebrating Jubilees this year. The list of 2020 Jubilarians is included with today’s attachments.

Please send photos of Jubilee events to Beth Thompson at bthompson@mercysc.org so we can share them in CommunityeNews.
Congratulations to all of our Jubilarians!
ONLY 36 OF THE 20,000 INSTITUTIONS THAT OFFER AP COURSES EARNED THIS DOUBLE DISTINCTION FOR CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN BOTH AP COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES. IN ADDITION, NINE MERCY SCHOOLS WERE AMONG 782 INSTITUTIONS TO EARN ONE AP COMPUTER SCIENCE FEMALE DIVERSITY AWARD.

ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE ANTI-RACISM ANALYSIS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 21–24, 2020, AT MERCY ADMINISTRATION CENTER IN BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA. TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE: WORKSHOP REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, MARCH 23.

MORE THAN 600 SISTERS, ASSOCIATES AND CO-WORKERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THESE ANALYSIS WORKSHOPS. FOLLOW-UP RESOURCES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE GROWTH TOWARD BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST ORGANIZATION.

CONTACT ANNA FLORES (AFLORES@SIstersofmercy.org) AT THE INSTITUTE OFFICE AT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR SPECIAL NEEDS RELATED TO ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP.

SOGI: SAVE THE DATE

THE SECOND SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) GATHERING WILL BE HELD MAY 1–3, 2020, AT CABRINI RETREAT CENTER IN DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS. SISTERS, ASSOCIATES, COMPANIONS AND MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS ALUMNAE(I) WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+ AND THEIR ALLIES ARE WELCOME.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GATHERING IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE TO SHARE STORIES AND EXPERIENCES AND TO CELEBRATE EVERYONE IN MERCY’S DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

MORE INFORMATION, AS WELL AS RESOURCES FOR PRAYER AND STUDY, SOON WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE INSTITUTE WEBSITE. WATCH FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS THERE AND IN MERCY NOW.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE WORKGROUP AT SOGI@SIstersofmercy.org.
More Mercy

You'll find additional news and information from the Sisters of Mercy in these publications:

• **Mercy eNews**, weekly online newsletter from Mercy International Association
• **Investing in Mercy**, monthly newsletter from Mercy Investment Services
• **Mercy Now**, biweekly newsletter from the Institute
• **MESA Flash**, weekly e-newsletter published by Mercy Education System of the Americas
• **¡Viva! Mercy**, bimonthly magazine published by the Institute

Today’s attachments

• Directory changes for February 20, 2020
• Extended obituaries for Sister Mary Annella Martin and Sister Marion Mordica
• 2020 Jubilarians

Write, call, email ...

What’s going on in your area? We love receiving and sharing your news. Send your stories and photos to Beth Thompson, writer/communications strategist, by Friday, February 28 for publication in the next issue of Community eNews on Thursday, March 5, 2020. Thank you!
## South Central Directory Updates

**February 20, 2020**

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| Calhoun    | Sr. Mary Dorothy       | Sister  | Residence         | Catherine’s Residence  
2039 North Geyer Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3332  
Phone: 314.909.4400 |
|            |                        |         | Ministry          | Catherine’s Residence  
2039 North Geyer Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3332  
Title: Prayer and Works of Mercy |
| Ducey      | Sr. Sarah              | Sister  | Ministry          | Jewish Family Services  
10950 Schuetz Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63146-5704  
Phone: 314.812.9341  
Fax: 314.812.9398  
Email: sducey@fsstl.org  
Title: Psychologist |
|            |                        |         | Ministry          | Catherine’s Residence  
2039 North Geyer Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3332  
Title: Social Security Disability Office – Psychologist |
| Ruedy      | Sr. Susan              | Sister  | Ministry          | Laurel County Public Schools  
710 North Main St.  
London, KY 40741-1222  
Direct Phone: 608.862.4608 x5042  
Title: Home Hospital Instructor – Itinerant Special Education Teacher |
| Sherman    | Sr. Sarah Marie        | Sister  | Cell Phone        | 513.910.2034 |
|            |                        |         | Residence         | McAuley Convent  
1768 Cedar Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45224-2802  
Phone: 513.681.2100  
Direct Phone: 513.354.5022 |
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<td>Allen</td>
<td>Debra</td>
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<td>Patricia</td>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tricia.vasil@gmail.com">tricia.vasil@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Email updates to: ms2support@sistersofmercy.samanage.com*
Sister Mary Annella Martin, one of two children born to Edward and Regina McGinnis Martin, was given the name Marie Therese at baptism. Raised and educated in Baltimore, Maryland, she attended St. Bernard’s Elementary School and Seton High School, graduating in 1947. Soon afterward, she began studies leading to her goal—becoming a nurse. She enrolled in the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, and when she completed training for her RN credential, began her bedside nursing career at Mercy Hospital, where she continued to work for almost 50 years.

Many years later, Sister Annella recalled that in her early nursing career, she did not consider entering a religious order. Although she was familiar with Sisters of Mercy and the Daughters of Charity (her teachers at Seton), it was not until she was working side by side with white-garbed Mercy sister-nurses, that she began thinking seriously about becoming a sister herself. She often cared for patients who
were economically poor, and she felt drawn to them yet unable to do all that she wanted to do for them. She also had obligations at home, but she grew more and more certain that God was calling her. When she announced her decision to enter a religious community, her mother stood up and screamed, a reaction young Marie Therese never forgot. But her brother injected some calming humor, asking her, “So can I have your car now?”

Sister Annella entered the Sisters of Mercy at Mount Washington, Maryland, in 1957. She asked for some version of Ann as her religious name but was told that there were far too many Ann's already in the community. Undaunted, she spent hours searching old Mercy Chronicles, finally coming up with Annella, a name she quickly came to love. Older than most of the others in her band, many of whom had entered directly from high school, Sister Annella remembered her formation years as “tiresome” with rules she felt were “sometimes foolish.” Although she admitted that those early years in the community were hard, she had a wealth of amusing and happy stories about them. During that time, her nursing education continued at Mount St. Agnes College in pursuit of a BS in nursing, followed by studies at the University of Maryland, where she was awarded a master’s in nursing.

In 1961, Sister Annella was recruited to teach in the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, having been recognized for her skills as a bedside nurse, her ability to communicate knowledge to new nurses, and her leadership skills. In less than a decade, she became director of the nursing school. Her former students remembered Sister Annella with fond respect. She continued working at Mercy Hospital for nearly 50 years, first as a bedside nurse, then as a nursing instructor, and in later years holding various positions, including: director of Primary Care Services, director of Ambulatory Services and administrative assistant to the president.

Although devoted to her work at Mercy Hospital, Sister Annella also found the time and energy to be an influential member of Harbel, a community organization in northeast Baltimore. Through her work there, she became more aware of the great need for decent housing among the working poor. Back at the hospital, she initiated a new program, Mercy Housing, which helped employees work through the complicated processes of renting or buying homes. One of Sister Annella’s strongest interests was in Mercy Association, and she considered the successful and very active branch of Mercy Association at Mercy Hospital as one of her proudest accomplishments. Although she retired from active ministry in 2010, Sister Annella continued to volunteer at the hospital for as long as she remained in good health. During her final years, she joined with the Villa (the former Mercy retirement convent) community of sisters, and then with the Mercy Springwell community in the ministry of prayer and works of Mercy.

**Funeral Mass:** February 15, 2020, in the chapel at Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

**Interment:** Woodlawn Cemetery, Baltimore
Sister Marion Mordica, a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was one of 10 children born to George Marion Mordica and Frances Cora (Selby) Mordica, who were both from Louisiana.

Sister Marion entered the Sisters of Mercy in Webster Groves, Missouri, in 1945 and professed perpetual vows there in August 1951. She held degrees from Our Lady of the Lake, Texas, and Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois.

Sister Marion had a colorful and busy ministry in education. At each school where she served as principal (29 years), she also conducted the school choir and each year staged an operetta. She spent summers teaching religion in rural areas, and one summer she worked with incarcerated students of color. In addition, before retiring from active ministry, she tutored junior high and high school students at St. Joseph High School in Jackson, Mississippi.
Because of health issues, Sister Marion moved to Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis in January 2015. Her eyesight and hearing, as well as her mobility, continued to diminish. Despite these challenges, she relished the opportunities at Catherine’s Residence and St. Louis in general.

Her ring motto was “My Jesus, I Trust in Thee.”

**Funeral Mass:** February 11, 2020, in the chapel at Catherine’s Residence, St. Louis, Missouri

**Interment:** Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis
Jubilarians - 2020

South Central Jubilarians

80 Years
Mary Ruth Boudot
Mary Claver Young

75 Years
Mary Concetta Cardinale
Maureen Dees
Rita May Killian
Mary Rosella McNamee
Mary Judith Schmelz
Rita Mary Wasserman

70 Years
Mary Lizette Bathe
Mary Louise Burt
Mary Juliane Carey
Mary Matthias Haberberger
Cleopha Ruth Heinrich
Carol Ann Holzschuh
Mary Jonella Rhoda
Joyce Rose Rohmann
Mary Jerome Spradley
Joan Marie Warnement
Margaret Wasserman
Mary Grace Wee Tom
Maria Goretti Weldon
Mary Robert Williams

60 Years
Mary Judith Ann Carron
Patricia Carter
Maria Edwards
Mary Sarto Gaffney
Mary Vernon Gentle
Susan Arnold Harms
Theresa Lowe Ching
Reine Marie Martin
Mary Lee McCrady
Kathleen Marie Noonan
Mary Schmuck
Mary Clyde Stiers
Barbara Wheeley
Mary Ann Wilhelm

50 Years
Irene Bishop
Mary Rose Bumpus
Carolyn McWatters

25 Years
Áine O'Connor

Guam Jubilarians

70 Years
Francis Marie Blas
Imelda Marie Paulino
Mary Gertrude Quitugua