“Can you see the holiness in those things you take for granted—a paved road or a washing machine? If you concentrate on finding what is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul.”

Rabbi Harold Kushner

In the U.S. this time of year calls us to thanks-giving. We know we are surrounded by infinite reasons to give thanks. One needs only notice. And this noticing, ever available, can become a continuous litany of gratitude. The health and vitality of our souls may depend on such awareness.

We realize the simplest gift, if noticed, can evoke a profound expression of gratitude. The “thank you” contained in our mindful attention to the gifts offered by our God declares, often without words, our deep appreciation.

Of course, many distractions lure us away from simple awareness. All good things—places to go, people to see, things to do—the pace and plethora can create such a din that quiet, simple, profound gifts may go unnoticed and unappreciated. And so, in this time of thanks-giving, we resolve anew to notice and rejoice in God’s generous blessings. We give thanks for YOU!
In memoriam

Sister Dorothy Dalton died Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. A Sister of Mercy for 71 years, she was 87.

Sister Dorothy ministered as a midwife and nursing instructor, including as a nursing instructor at Mercy School of Nursing in Toledo, Ohio, and director of nursing education at St. Rita’s School of Nursing in Lima, Ohio.

Her midwifery experience included positions as maternity supervisor/nurse midwife at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio; instructor of nurse midwifery at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg; and nursing consultant for women’s health at the Memphis/Shelby County (Tennessee) Health Department. Later, she served as a community outreach nurse for a retirement center and parish in Louisville, Kentucky.

Click on their names to read extended obituaries of Sister Dorothy and Sister Aidan Donaldson, which are included with today’s attachments.

Justice update

THANKSGIVING, MYTH AND REALITY
At Thanksgiving, many of the foods served—turkey, pumpkin, corn, squash, green beans, cranberries, and pecans—are native to the Americas. But the story of the first Thanksgiving is largely mythical. Native Americans sometimes call Thanksgiving a National Day of Mourning.

By the time the Mayflower arrived on the New England Coast, the epidemic diseases of the Europeans already had begun to spread among the Native Americans. Even before the Pilgrims landed, it was common practice for explorers to capture Native Americans and take them to Europe to be sold as slaves. The genocide upon the Native Americans had already begun. The 1514 journals of a Spanish priest, Bartolome de las Casas, bear horrific witness to Native Americans’ mutilation, slaughter and rape. The treaties written with the native tribes were all later broken by the government. Click on the blue words to learn the true history of Thanksgiving and the true story of one Native American tribe, the Lakota.

GIVING WISELY
Especially during the Christmas season, many organizations request donations. Unfortunately, some of the requests come from organizations that spend a large percentage on fund-raising or administrative costs. Among charities that use the money wisely are Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy ministries, and many local organizations. Solicitations by mail, however heart-wrenching, should be checked out. Donating to these groups may only mean that your name is sold to other organizations, so you receive even more solicitations. Also, many names of the worst offenders are very similar to legitimate charities. When solicited by phone, never give out your credit card information even if the organization’s name is familiar. Instead, visit its website and donate there or mail a donation. You can use these organizations to help you research charities: BBB Wise Giving Alliance; Charity Navigator; CharityWatch; and GuideStar.
During November, Black Catholic History Month, the Institute has been honoring the experiences of black Catholic women and men with a weekly blog series. Included in the series:

- “Fall Down, and Use the Grace of God to Get Back Up Again” by Sister Cora Marie Billings;
- “A Mercy Kindness, Etched in Memory” by Mercy Associate Boreta Singleton;
- “Being Black, Catholic and a Sister of Mercy” by Sister Terry Kimingiri.

Click here to read: Black Catholic History Blog

Guide for Advent

The 2019 Advent reflection guide, a collection of reflections for daily prayer during this holy season, is now available. For the guide, titled Awake! Wonder, Welcome, the Institute’s Advent Reflection Guide Committee collected contributions from members of our Mercy family around the world, in the forms of iconography, painting, photography, prose and verse.

The goal is to nourish the spiritual lives of each of us throughout the Institute and to honor this moment on our Journey of Oneness. You’re invited to use the reflections as part of your daily prayer. Links to the readings and reflection questions are included for each day.

Advent blog series

During Advent, the Institute blog will feature a series of reflections on the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Drawing inspiration from the symbolism of the candles in the Advent wreath, the series will feature four sisters writing on the virtues associated with each.

The first reflection, to be posted Friday, November 29, is “The Divine Hope of Our Advent God” by Sister Mary Sullivan.

Others in the series:
- Week two, peace, by Sister Marilyn Sunderman;
- Week three, joy, by Sister Vilma Alayo;
- Week four, love, by Sister Theresa Kane.

Click on the blue words to visit the blog: Advent reflections

Cincinnati Prayer Day

Sisters and Mercy associates in the Cincinnati (Ohio) Local Area Community (LAC) met for their annual Prayer Day on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Sister Sheila Carney (New York Pennsylvania West) led the group in a reflection on Catherine McAuley and her spirituality in good times and difficult ones.
The LAC welcomed back Sister Sue Ruedy and Sister Claudia Cano, who have moved from Cincinnati to begin a new foundation in rural Kentucky. In addition to sharing about Catherine and her legacy, the sisters and associates enjoyed catching up with one another.

Sister Claudia Cano (left) and Sister Sheila Carney

Thanksgiving video

A new video “How Do We Make Mercy Real?” has been released for Thanksgiving. It features Mercy sisters, associates and volunteers sharing the ways they spread the Mercy charism and thanking everyone for their prayers and other support. There are subtitles in English and Spanish. Click here to watch: Thanksgiving video

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sister gets award

Sister Ann Gorman received a prestigious “Champions of Mercy” award from Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio. The award is presented annually to five people who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the service of those in need in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Sister Ann was recognized for her long service in Catholic education, especially at St. Boniface School, most of whose students come from families living below the poverty line. Sister Ann reaches out to the parents or caregivers of these students and then identifies what is needed for the child’s success, whether it’s a coat or a tutor, dinner to take home or transportation to a doctor. She is always ready to respond. The principal of St. Boniface School...
nominated Sister Ann for this award, noting that her ministry at the school demonstrates so clearly her commitment to living out mercy daily, particularly to help struggling students.

Sister Ann Gorman (center) with Becky Johnson, a member of the Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio Board, and Joel Handorf, who chairs the Board.

Today’s attachments

• Directory changes for November 21, 2019
• Extended obituaries for Sister Dorothy Dalton and Sister Mary Aidan Donaldson

Send us your news

The next issue of Community eNews will be published Thursday, December 5, 2019. Send your news and photos to Beth Thompson, writer/communications strategist, by Friday, November 29.

We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your news.

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
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| Njuguna     | Sr. Winifred Wanjiru | Sister    | Residence | The Claver Home  
2 Widcombe Rd. P.O. Box 1  
Kingston, Jamaica W.I. 6  
Direct Phone: 876.978.6450 |
| Mackall     | Susan        | Associate | Residence | 10555 Montgomery Rd. Apt 48  
Montgomery, OH 45242-4455 |
| Marcum      | Amy          | Associate | Email     | admarcum@mercy.com                        |
| Schulmeister| Frank        | Associate | Status    | Inactive                                   |

Email updates to: ms2support@sistersofmercy.samanage.com
Will we all meet in heaven?
Oh what joy even to think of it.

Catherine McAuley

Sister Dorothy Dalton
Religious Sister of Mercy
March 18, 1932 – November 13, 2019

A native of Fremont, Ohio, Sister Dorothy Dalton (formerly Sister Mary Adelaide) attended St. Ann’s Elementary School and Our Lady of the Pines Aspirant School for high school. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Carolan Dalton; a sister, Carolan Dalton; and a half-sister, Mary Agnes Sanford Merchant.

A Sister of Mercy for 71 years, she earned an MS in nursing from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., as well as certification in nurse midwifery from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The majority of her ministries were in health care, including positions as nursing instructor at Mercy School of Nursing in Toledo, Ohio, and director of nursing education at St. Rita’s School of Nursing in Lima, Ohio.
Sister Dorothy’s midwifery experience included her service as maternity supervisor/nurse midwife at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio; instructor of nurse midwifery at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg; and nursing consultant for women’s health at the Memphis/Shelby County (Tennessee) Health Department. Her years as a midwife were special to her. She loved bringing new life into the world and blessing each mother with her newborn.

Later, after receiving certification in parish nursing, she ministered as a community outreach nurse for a retirement center and parish Louisville, Kentucky.

In 2005 Sister Dorothy returned to Fremont, where she volunteered at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center and later retired to St. Bernardine Home. Accompanying her to Fremont was her beloved cat, Kit, who provided her with many hours of entertainment and relaxation.

Among Sister Dorothy’s survivors is her sister, Sister Ann Dalton of Cincinnati, and several cousins. She was especially grateful for the faithful visits from her cousins Kathy Schneider Pfefferle and David Dalton.

**Funeral Mass:** November 18, 2019, at St. Bernardine Home, Fremont, Ohio

**Interment:** Our Lady of the Pines Cemetery, Fremont
Will we all meet in heaven?  
Oh what joy even to think of it.

*Catherine McAuley*

Sister Mary Aidan Donaldson  
Religious Sister of Mercy  
August 20, 1908 – October 25, 2019

Sister Mary Aidan Donaldson was born in Newry, County Down, Ireland, at a time of hardship for Catholics in Ireland. Her mother, Ellen Connolly Donaldson, died of complications after the birth of her son, John, who died at 5 months when Sister Aidan was just 3 years old. She lived with an aunt for about a year and then went to live in Our Lady of Mercy Home for girls when she was 4 years old because her father was a station master for the local railroad and traveled during the week.

Some 92 years ago, two Sisters of Mercy from Mobile, Alabama, then a little port city in the United States, were sent to Newry County Down, Northern Ireland, to recruit young women to join the Sisters of Mercy and minister in America. One of those invited to join the order was a young lady named Sarah
Donaldson. Somewhat perplexed by it all at first, she declined but later decided that she “would give it a try for a while.”

In February 1927, Sisters Aidan Donaldson, Elizabeth Corr and Brendan Robinson traveled by ship to New York City. It was a long hard journey, but they made the most of it by entertaining the passengers with playing the piano, singing and dancing.

Sister Aidan entered the convent on March 3, 1927, made her first vows on September 26, 1929, and made her perpetual vows in 1932. Her education ministry began in 1929 and ended in 1978 at the age of 70. She taught and served in administration at schools in Baltimore, Maryland, and Bessemer, Birmingham, Huntsville, and Mobile, Alabama, as well as Pensacola, Florida.

From 1978 to 1988 Sister Aidan did parish ministry in St. Catherine, St. Ignatius and Corpus Christi parishes. She didn't drive, so she organized some friends to drive her for visitation to the sick. At the age of 85, Sister Aidan began taking art lessons and completed many paintings on the little desk in her bedroom. In 2005 at age 97, she had her first art show in the Heritage Center at St. Ignatius. Most of Sister Aidan's paintings sold with commissions for eight more. All of these were original creations—no copies.

Sister Aidan was seriously ill for about five years in the late 1930s and early '40s. She learned and practiced some very good habits, which contributed to her longevity. Every day when she came in from school, she'd pick up the U.S. News and World Report or Time magazine and the newspapers and go to her room. She'd read, take a short nap and then come down for prayers, supper and community activities. After night prayers, she'd be off to bed by 9 p.m. She'd be up at 6 a.m., in the chapel for prayers and Mass before starting the school day.

In 1982 Sister Aidan was eager for something NEW to do. She was invited to Baltimore to answer phones and engage with the residents at a new ministry, Marian House, a residential program for homeless women. She stayed for a month and developed lasting relationships with some of the women.

In the mid-1990s, Sister Aidan, who was then in her mid-80s, asked to go with Sister Johanna Crabtree to attend a theological program at Notre Dame University offered that summer. They did go and had great stories about getting around the campus. Sister Aidan never stopped wanting to be useful, relevant and educated.

At age 97 and not ready to fully retire, Sister Aidan asked about going back to work. She was invited to visit the residents at Portier Place and conduct a Communion Service on Fridays. She was thrilled to have that special ministry. And what a big success she was; the residents said they “liked Sister Aidan's Mass better than Father's.” She continued as a volunteer at Portier Place and celebrated her 100th birthday with the residents.
Like our foundress, Catherine McAuley, Sister Aidan witnessed the hardships of the poor and underserved in her life and ministry, serving God and empowering others through her various Mercy ministries.

We bid farewell to the oldest Sister of Mercy in the world “until we all meet in heaven, oh what a joy even to think of it.” Interestingly, on the day of her death, this very quote appeared on the Mercy Through the Years Calendar. (October 25).

**Funeral Mass:** November 4, 2019, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Mobile Alabama

**Interment:** November 4, Catholic Cemetery, Mobile