April 2, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

In memoriam
Sister Mary Ann Brady

Justice update
States postpone primary elections, consider vote-by-mail procedures

COVID-19 response
Sisters in St. Louis make and donate more than 100 protective masks

CALENDAR

April 5
Palm Sunday

April 12
Easter

Community eNews is a semimonthly communication from South Central

Making room for the Holy Spirit

"Embracing His cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the Holy Spirit." ~Pope Francis

We join our prayer to yours as we beg comfort for our troubled world and invite you to experience this beautiful song of comfort by cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Songs of Comfort

May our Lenten journey, amplified by our current realities, reveal and deepen our experience of God's love and mercy!

Debbie Mary Rose Pat Jane

Click on the icons below to follow the Sisters of Mercy on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
In memoriam

Sister Mary Ann Brady died Saturday, March 21, 2020, at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. A Sister of Mercy for 72 years, she was 90 years old.

During her early years in ministry, Sister Mary Ann taught junior high students at St. Teresa, Nativity, and St. Margaret of Cortona parish schools in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1955 to 1968, she taught at Mother of Mercy and McAuley high schools in Cincinnati and Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1976, Sister Mary Ann became the first full-time director of communications for the Sisters of Mercy of the Union in Bethesda, Maryland. Sensing the need for materials to explain the life of founder Catherine McAuley and Mercy’s history, mission and values to new employees in Mercy hospitals and schools, she co-founded RSM Creative Services in 1980.

Click on her name to read an extended obituary for Sister Mary Ann Brady, which is included with today’s attachments.

Justice update

ELECTIONS IN TIME OF COVID-19
Because of the pandemic, at least 20 states have postponed primary elections until June. Questions arise such as: Will voting in November be safe for voters and election officials? The date for the presidential election is specified in the U.S. Constitution, but the procedures and laws governing elections are decided by state governments. One solution is to have everyone vote by mail, as three states already do. However, putting this in place for the November election is probably unrealistic. All states offer absentee-ballot options, but some place conditions on who can vote absentee. Allowing absentee voting for anyone who chooses could be an easy fix for state legislatures. Expanded online registration and expanded early voting also would assist in allowing people to vote without fear of contagion. Early voting typically draws fewer voters per day, meaning less standing in line and less crowding at the polls. Click on the blue words below for more information:

Brennan Center

National Conference of State Legislatures

SPIRITUALITY FOR A TIME OF SCARCITY
Our Mercy community and our world are on a journey into the unknown. How will this pandemic change us? As Mercy, during the next few weeks, how do we continue “to act in solidarity with the economically poor of the world, especially women and children… and one another as we embrace our multicultural and international reality?” (Institute Chapter 2005) While some sisters, associates and ministries still are actively engaged in care of people who are sick, homeless and poor, others of us have been confined to sheltering in place and working remotely. Conference calls and video-conferencing can’t totally take the place of in-person interactions. We must allow solidarity and the common good to guide our personal, community and political decisions. These
reflections from Sister Renee Yann and Father Charles Bouchard offer frameworks for a spiritual path through the coming weeks. (Click on their names.)

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**Mercy in the news**

**A MODEL FOR TODAY’S CRISIS**

Catholic News Service holds up sisters’ work during the 1918 flu epidemic as a model for health care today. The article quotes Boston Public Health Commissioner William Woodward from the October 18, 1918, edition of the *Boston Traveler* newspaper: “While praise must be given to all workers who assisted in fighting the epidemic, special praise should go out to the Catholic sisters who went out from their convents into private homes and, with the unselfishness that characterizes these women…, gave service which money alone could never have purchased.”

The article continues: “A history of the first 100 years of the Sisters of Mercy of Manchester, New Hampshire, published in 1968, recounted the experiences in October 1918 of Sisters M. Inez Bernier and Lumina Lemire at the home of ‘a wood chopper, his wife, a boy of 3 and an infant of only a few days’ living in ‘three rooms of a damp basement.’

“Once the temperature of the rooms had been raised by throwing wood on the kitchen stove, Sister M. Lumina applied herself to preparing some hot ‘stir-about’ for the father and son,” wrote Sister M. Benigna Doherty, author of the history. “Sister M. Inez, meanwhile, performed a task entirely new to her—bathing the infant.”

**Click here** to read more.

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**Sisters in St. Louis respond to need for masks**

Sisters at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri, recently made more than 100 protective masks to help alleviate the shortage created by the COVID-19 pandemic. They donated masks to Emmaus Home and other retirement communities, as well as for use within Mercy Center. Pictured cutting out material are Sisters Michaelanne Estoup (left) and Dorothy Calhoun; at the sewing machine is Sister Lafemant Pelikan.
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 April 2, 2020
- Extended obituary or Sister Mary Ann Brady

Stay connected

During this time of working remotely and canceled events and gatherings, it’s important to stay connected. How are you adapting to this unique time? Share your news and photos, your tips for sheltering in place and ways of being Mercy from a safe distance. Send them to Beth Thompson, writer/communications strategist, at bthompson@mercysc.org, by Friday, April 10, for publication in the next issue of **Community eNews**, which will come out Thursday, April 16, 2020. Stay well, and stay in touch!
# South Central Directory Updates

## April 2, 2020

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*Email updates to: [ms2support@sistersofmercy.samanage.com](mailto:ms2support@sistersofmercy.samanage.com)*
Sister Mary Ann Brady, who was born in Toledo, Ohio, was the fourth child of Louis and Katherine Rayman Brady. She attended Blessed Sacrament Elementary School and Central Catholic High School, Toledo. A few months after graduation in 1947, Mary Ann entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio; at her religious Reception in 1948, she received the habit and the name Sister Mary Protase. She professed perpetual vows on August 16, 1953, and returned to her baptismal name in 1966.

An educator for most of her religious life, Sister Mary Ann earned a B.S. in English with a minor in history from The Athenaeum of Ohio in 1953; an M.Ed. in chemistry from Xavier University, Cincinnati, in 1957; and an Ed. S. in instructional systems technology from Indiana University in 1970. Awarded

Will we all meet in heaven?
Oh what joy even to think of it.

Catherine McAuley

Sister Mary Ann Brady
Religious Sister of Mercy
January 14, 1930 – March 21, 2020
During her early years in ministry, Sister Mary Ann taught junior high students at St. Teresa, Nativity, and St. Margaret of Cortona parish schools in Cincinnati. From 1955 to 1968, she taught at Mother of Mercy and McAuley high schools in Cincinnati and Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1976, Sister Mary Ann became the first full-time director of communications for the Sisters of Mercy of the Union in Bethesda, Maryland. Sensing the need for materials to explain the life of Sisters of Mercy founder Catherine McAuley and Mercy history, mission and values to new employees in Mercy hospitals and schools, she co-founded RSM Creative Services in 1980. In addition to orientation programs, print materials and Mercy-related art, she arranged for production of wooden, laser-cut Mercy crosses, which can be found today in Mercy institutions and convents throughout the U.S. During that time, Sister Mary Ann also served in mission services at St. Charles Mercy Hospital in Oregon, Ohio, where RSM Creatives was located.

While on sabbatical in 1990, Sister Mary Ann spent three months at Project ARISE in Pharr, Texas, using her teaching skills to assist people in learning English as a second language.

Sister Mary Ann transitioned back to education, her first ministry, in 1993 as an English professor on the faculty of Mercy College of Northwest Ohio. In 2000, she became the College’s coordinator of special projects, setting up the archives and creating an impressive heritage display. Sister Mary Ann also served as liaison to the St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary.

When applying to enter Sisters of Mercy at age 17, Mary Ann expressed the desire “to fulfill my purpose for existence to the best of my ability.” That desire, together with her ring motto, “Thy Will Be Done,” guided her in each ministry.

She received several honors, including Teacher of the Year, membership in Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Mercy College’s Mind, Heart, and Spirit Award. She also received the Toledo Award from the St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary for support of women and community service in her professional and personal life. According to Sister Rose Marie Golembiewski, one of the sisters residing with her, “Mary Ann “put her whole heart into everything she did … and in her graciousness and spirit of welcome she was a replica of Catherine McAuley.”

**Funeral Mass:** March 26, 2020, at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio

**Interment:** St. Bernardine Home Cemetery