

# Saint Katharine's CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter Volume IV, #2 May 2017



## Happenings at the Shrine: 2017 National Justice Award

On Sun., March 5, 2017, Bishop Edward Delliman celebrated the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Chapel which publicly recognized the Feast Day of St. Katharine Drexel and honored the **2017 St. Katharine Drexel National Justice Award Winner, Anne Hoppenot**. Anne is affiliated with the Stuart County Country Day School and is the co-founder of **KONEKTE Princeton-Haiti**, an organization that works passionately to maintain a partnership between Princeton, NJ and Fond Parisien, Haiti to support children and communities with educational initiatives.



S. Donna Breslin, President of the SBS, presents Anne Hoppenot with the 2017 SKD National Justice Award as Bishop Delliman looks on.



L to R: Pierre Hoppenot, Bensalem Mayor Joe DiGirolamo, Anne Hoppenot (National Justice Award Recipient), State Representative Gene DiGirolamo. Photo courtesy of Joyce Hadley, ASBS



Participants enjoy a delicious reception at the Mission Center after the Feast Day Mass and presentation of the Justice Award.

*"God is to lead my soul on the road He wills  
and I wish to follow Him and obey His call."*  
M.M. Katharine

As true missionaries, (*one who is sent with the power of Christ*), the Sisters received their assignments to **Paul's Run Retirement Community** where their "total gift of self" will be lived out through new forms of ministry to others.

Part of the Mission Ritual included the blessing of the head, the heart and the hands of each Sister.

An anointing with oil is given to the hands that will perform the good works of ministry.



A handmade quilt, blessed by all of the Sisters, was presented to each Sister as she was commissioned for her new ministry in Paul's Run.



Traditional SBS send-off: waving the white handkerchiefs!

# Our Featured Parish.....



## *Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Sugar Grove, Illinois*

Our parish is the newest parish in the Rockford Diocese and one of the newest in the state of Illinois. We had the celebration of our very first Mass on Saturday evening, November 29, 2008 in the multipurpose room at John Shields Elementary School. There were over 200 people in attendance for that first Mass, and an additional 200 people were present for the second Mass the following Sunday morning.

During the weekdays, we operated out of an office space in downtown Sugar Grove.

Our faith community came together quickly focusing on St Katharine Drexel's joyful spirit and love for the Eucharist as central to our Parish Mission Statement.

After four years in our temporary quarters, we moved into our new parish home, which was dedicated on December 1, 2012.

We now embrace about 1000 people coming to worship here every weekend. We also have developed 40 ministries that serve both our faith community and the surrounding area. One of those ministries is our own chapter of the *Associates of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament* (ASBS), which serves as a great connection to our patroness and to the order of religious sisters that she founded.



Every spring our parish very generously makes donations of school supplies to one of the schools and faith communities that were founded by **St. Katharine Drexel**. This summer, some of our teens will be traveling to a St. Katharine mission site in Nebraska. The spirit of our patroness is very evident in the life and generosity of so many of our people here in Sugar Grove.

*We look forward to a follow up article in a future issue regarding the trip which some of the parish teens will be taking to Nebraska!*

*Article and pictures out of the generosity of the Pastor of the Parish: Rev. Robert W. Jones*  
[www.stkatharinedrexel.org](http://www.stkatharinedrexel.org) (630) 466-0303



*Sisters who have completed their mission on earth  
and have begun a new one in heaven ...*

Sr. Marie Michelle Callanan, SBS  
(Oct. 3, 1928 – Feb. 19, 2016)

Entered in Aug. 1947 and took her  
final vows in July 1955.  
Celebrated her 60th Jubilee in  
July 2007.



Sr. Maureen Hurley, SBS  
(Jan. 24, 1922 – Mar. 28, 2017)

Entered in Aug. 1945 and took her  
final vows July 1953.  
Celebrated her 70th Jubilee in July  
2015.



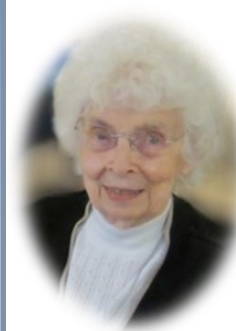
Sr. Kathryn Gates, SBS  
(Nov. 7, 1932 –  
Apr. 7, 2017)

Entered in Aug. 1950  
and took her final vows  
Aug. 1958.  
Celebrated her 65th  
Jubilee in July 2015.



Eternal rest grant  
unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual  
light shine upon  
them.

Sr. Helene Slavin, SBS  
(Feb. 27, 1923 –  
Apr. 12, 2017)  
Entered in Feb. 1942  
and took her final vows  
July 1950.  
Celebrated her 70th  
Jubilee in July 2012.



Sr. M. Michaelleen Lavin, SBS  
(Sept. 15, 1921 – Apr. 24, 2017)  
Entered in Aug. 1942 and took her final vows  
July 1951.  
Became a U.S. Citizen June 1946.  
Celebrated her 70th Jubilee in July 2012 .



"May He be so pleased with His work in your soul, and through you in others,  
that He will take infinite pride in His accomplishment forever."

*M.M. Katherine*

**COMING UP AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. KATHARINE DREXEL**

Twenty-six groups are scheduled to visit the Shrine during May including a visit from SKD Parish in Mechanicsburg, PA. In June, another 13 groups will come including the new SKD Parish from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. **Why not schedule a visit from your parish /school?** Dates available through December. Call Tina at **215-244-9900 x380** for more information. Or email **skdshrine@comcast.net**.

# Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

**2017 Gala Event**  
*The Mission continues...*

As Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, we believe God calls us to be a sign in the world of the power of the Eucharistic Christ to effect unity and community among all peoples.

**Continue your support!**

Admission - \$100 Seniors - \$85  
 Cocktails, Buffet, Music, Auctions, Raffles  
 Call 215-244-9900 x380  
 Reserve your seat or donate online:  
[www.KatharineDrexel.org/annualgala](http://www.KatharineDrexel.org/annualgala)

Sunday, September 10th  
 3-8 PM  
 at Pen Ryn Estate

Since 1891, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have dedicated their lives to furthering the mission of **Saint Katharine Drexel**. In 2016, the President of the SBS stated: “we rededicate our resources to our mission serving some of the most vulnerable people in the United States, Haiti and Jamaica.” (Sr. Donna Breslin, SBS)

The transition from the Motherhouse to **Paul’s Run Retirement Community** continues this mission “to be a sign in the world... to effect unity and community.”

You have an opportunity to take part in the mission by attending and/or donating to the annual Gala. Proceeds support all of our missions and the care of our retired Sisters.

*You’ll help us, won’t you?*

Raffle tickets available for **Gala Prizes:**

**Money Raffle:**

**Tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25.**

**Annual GALA Money Raffle**



Gala is Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017  
 at Pen Ryn Mansion 3 - 8 PM

1st Prize \$1000  
 2nd Prize \$500  
 3rd Prize \$250

**RICARDO**  
 2-piece LUGGAGE  
 Value \$100

**Money Tree**  
 Value \$300

**HP 250 G5 Notebook PC**  
 Value over \$500

**A TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS**  
 The Columns  
 Woodlawn Plantation  
 Parkway Bakery and Tavern  
 Home of The New Orleans Free Boy!

**L'Aveu**  
 Skin Care Products  
 Value over \$250

**Crystal & Cloth**  
 Set of 8 Waterford  
 Cordial Glasses  
 Waterford and Irish Heritage Crystal Pieces  
 Tablecloth (102" X 60") plus 8 Napkins  
 Value over \$300

**St. Katharine Drexel Basket**

**Prize Raffle:**

**\$5 each, 5 for \$20.**

Winners will be drawn at the Gala—  
 Sept. 10th.

You need not be present to win but  
 we’d love to see you there!

Call Tina at 215-244-9900 ext 380  
 or email [skdshrine@comcast.net](mailto:skdshrine@comcast.net)



# MAY - MONTH OF MARY

## A MOTHER'S LOVE: IN HEAVEN and ON EARTH



BVM statue in St. Elizabeth Chapel at the  
National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel

Mary, our Blessed Mother, is mother to us all. We have her love, guidance, help and protection for all time. While on earth, Mary gave herself completely to do God's will and was a blessed example of a mother's life of caring for those she loved. Mary intercedes for us with her Son as our own earthly mothers often do for their children.



Hannah Langstroth Drexel

Katharine's birth mother, Hannah Langstroth Drexel, gave the ultimate gift and sacrifice by giving birth to her and losing her own life five weeks later.

Kate's stepmother, Emma Bouvier Drexel, became her earthly mother raising sisters, Elizabeth, Katharine and Louise. Emma was an inspiration and a model ~ a mother in all ways to them. Emma exposed Katharine and her sisters to the values and beliefs of their faith through example. Their love of God and of others grew steadily. Caring for others, sharing with the less fortunate, was always a large part of the Drexel life in Philadelphia year after year.

A mother knows the importance of educating her children in all areas of their lives. This was shown most conscientiously by Emma as she exposed the girls to many aspects of education, culture, good works and a sense of responsibility to others for the many gifts provided to their family by God.

Katharine had two great pillars in her life:

### **EDUCATION and THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Both of these were part of her life as a child, young woman, foundress of a religious order and servant of God. Kate, as she was called, loved the Eucharist and when she was nine years old she wrote a Christmas letter in French to her mother. She promised, "I am trying to study hard so that I may make my first Communion this year." Although she studied, Kate had to wait until she was eleven.

Emma gave Katharine a life-long setting for living and growing in her faith as much as any mother ever could. Katharine cared for Emma, who had cancer, in the last years of her life. Her love and respect for her mother was proven by actions.



Emma Bouvier Drexel

***"Love is  
proved by  
deeds.***

*~St. Katharine Drexel*



*The gifts given and received between mother and child and blessed by God  
and encouraged by Our Lady are the perfect examples  
of what is possible in our own lives if we follow their guidance.*



(continued on next page)

Her privilege was not without difficulties as it is in all lives. But the “gifts” given to Katharine by her mothers, became a strength in her fiber. When Katharine founded her order of *The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People*, she also “became” mother to her congregation as well as to so many lives touched by her work and dedication. Mother Katharine utilized all of the gifts and teachings with which she had lived during her personal formation.

### **Mother Katharine’s Reflections on Hannah’s death:**

***“December 30, 1858 – I was the cause of her death. She probably merited for me my vocation.”***

*From: Meditation Slips Vol. 1 pg. 21 dated December 27 (no year) but likely after 1939.*



***"Happiness is doing what God wants us to do."***

### ***The faces behind the CIRCLE***

**Martha Horton [right]** from SKD Parish in Alton, New Hampshire communicates nationally with SKD Parishes and Schools and other supporters of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and creates an outline for the publication.



**Tina Gerlach [left]**, Office Manager for the SKD Shrine, Bensalem, PA, does layout, production, emailing and web posting.



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