



### ***Prayers for the Sick***

Let us pray for the sick, especially our Associates, Sisters of Mercy, family members, friends and caregivers. May God touch them with comfort, healing and strength.

We pray for people who are on our list this week – Jaxon McKinney (grandnephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe), Diane Hickey (sister-in-law of Cathy Hickey), Theresa Lacey (sister of Annie Brown), Marilyn Thurston, Patricia King, Sylvia Flood, Kevin Drover (husband of Geraldine Drover),

Marion Bonia (sister of Anne Marie Davis), Sister Theresa Boland, George Bradbury (husband of Barbara Bradbury), Rick Mahon (son of Doreen Stone), Margaret MacNeil (sister of Geraldine Drover) and Jim Wakeford (nephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe).

(If you wish to have your name or another person's name added to or removed from this list please let Sharon Drover know ([drover.sharon@yahoo.ca.](mailto:drover.sharon@yahoo.ca))



### ***Prayer for the Sick***

Through the Intercession of Catherine McAuley

God of Love and Mercy,  
You inspired Catherine McAuley,  
To serve your Son by responding

To the needs of her time.

Moved by her care for the Sick,  
We ask that through Her Prayers  
You reach out with Your Healing Love  
And restore them to full health

We ask this in complete  
Confidence through Jesus Christ, Your Son  
Amen.

Catherine McAuley, Pray For Us  
Amen.

## ***Happy Birthday Wishes to ...***



Tomi Cleal  
Sharon Drover

January 12<sup>th</sup>  
January 15<sup>th</sup>

## ***Light a Candle***

Let us continue, in solidarity with Mercy Sisters, Associates and Colleagues around the world, to light a candle and pray for justice and peace.



## **From the Wisdom Circles**

### ***Circle of Compassion***

***"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder  
battle."***

- Plato

## ***Contemplative Presence***

“If we know the divine art of concentration, if we know the divine art of meditation, if we know the divine art of contemplation, easily and consciously we can unite the inner world and the outer world.”

– Sri Chinmoy

## ***Integrity of Creation***

“Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God.”

– George Washington Carver (1864-1943)

## ***Diversity and Inclusion***

“Diversity and inclusion, which are the real grounds for creativity, must remain at the center of what we do.”

– Marco Bizzarri



## Notes from the Associates/Sisters

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

Jubilee Year 2025 has opened throughout the world.

Vatican announces motto of Jubilee Year 2025: 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Link to the events in Rome for the Jubilee Year, 2025 –

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/events/jubilee.html>

### The Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.*

*May those seeds transform from within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen*

*Franciscus*



## ***St. Marianne Cope – January 23<sup>rd</sup>***

(January 23, 1838 – August 9, 1918),

**Sister Marianne Cope, OSF** (also known as *Saint Marianne of Moloka‘i*) was a German-born American religious sister who was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, New York, and founding leader of its St. Joseph's Hospital in the city, among the first of 50 general hospitals in the country. Known also for her charitable works, in 1883 she relocated with six other sisters to Hawai‘i to care for persons suffering leprosy on the island of Moloka‘i and aid in developing the medical infrastructure in Hawai‘i. Despite direct contact with the patients over many years, Cope did not contract the disease.

In 2005, Marianne was beatified by decision of Pope Benedict XVI. She was canonized (declared a saint) by the same pope on October 21, 2012, along with Kateri Tekakwitha, a 17th-century Native American. Cope is the 11th Catholic active in what is now the United States to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

Marianne Cope died of natural causes on August 9, 1918 age 80. She was buried on the grounds of the Bishop Home. In 2005, her remains were brought to Syracuse for reinterment at her motherhouse. In 2014, her remains were returned to Honolulu and are enshrined at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace.





## ***The Archival Moment***

*The Archival Moment is contributed by Sister Charlotte Fitzpatrick.*

### ***Sister M. de Chantal O’Keeffe***

Mary Ellen O’Keeffe was born in Cork on November 16, 1838. While yet nineteen years old, she and five other young women from Cork arrived in St. John’s in May of 1858 to join the Sisters of Mercy. The Reception ceremony for the five, presided over by Bishop John T. Mullock in October of 1858, was the first of its kind to be held in the newly consecrated Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

Mary Ellen’s religious name was Sister Mary de Chantal, a name that became legendary over her nearly sixty years of Mercy ministry in Newfoundland. In September 1961, less than a year after her Profession of Vows, Sister M. de Chantal went to Brigus as a member of that founding community. In 1866 she became Superior of Mercy Convent in St. John’s, the second sister to hold that position since the death of Sister Francis Creedon. During her time of office, two new Mercy foundations were established – Conception Harbour and Petty Harbour. In 1861 she went to Burin as Superior of St. Anne’s Convent.

But it was at St. Michael’s Convent, Belvedere that Sister M. de Chantal found her true home and where she spent most of her life. As Superior in the late 1880s she oversaw the construction of the modern brick orphanage, but the huge debt accrued became a great source of stress and anxiety for her and her sisters. With few possibilities for funding in Newfoundland, the ingenious and resourceful Sister M. de Chantal and her companion, Sister M. Ignatius Guinane travelled to the United States, where they already had contacts, to seek the needed assistance. The bishops of Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia facilitated their access to Newfoundlanders living in their dioceses and the response to their plea was overwhelming. *The Daily News* of April 22, 1927 records that the sisters returned, delighted with the success of their endeavor and “carrying golden dollars in exchange for the golden impressions they left behind.”



Sister M. de Chantal died on April 5, 1927 at the age of 88. The newsletter of Our Lady of Mercy Academy, *Inter Nos* of May 1927, gives a glimpse of the esteem in which she was held by sisters, students and the wider community:

*The limited confines of her convent walls could not narrow her broad mind,  
while her large generous Irish heart but grew and expanded with her years,  
and in it she seemed to find place for everyone... with increasing years she  
seemed to grow more forgetful of self and more concerned for the happiness  
and comfort of those around her.*



### **Sister Joan Lewis on “Showing Up”**

Sister Joan Lewis, CND gave a presentation on “Showing Up” as a way to live our lives. She began with Richard Rohr’s definition of “Showing Up”:

“For me, “showing up” means bringing our hearts and minds into the actual sufferings and problems of the world. It means engagement, social presence, and sincere concern for justice and peace, and for others beyond ourselves.”

We may feel we do not have what it takes to show up, but we need to remember that “God does not call the EQUIPPED. **God EQUIPS the called.**

By saying, “here I am Lord”, we let ourselves be found by the God who is always near us.

Jesus ‘showed up’ at his birth. God loved us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins. God loved us so much that he sent us into

the world to share who we are as gift. We are to bless others, serve them, love them and care for them; encourage, support, uplift and nurture them. Our presence in the world is part of God's plan for reconciliation and healing.

Jesus 'showed up' at his baptism. The heavens opened and a voice was heard, "this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased". At our baptism we are anointed with oil which is a sign that we are joined to Christ and share in the threefold mission as: Priest; Prophet; King (Queen):

- We serve as Priest through our sacrificial efforts to bring people to God
- We serve as Prophet through our witness to the truth in word and deed.
- We serve as King (Queen) in an effort to lead others.

God has called us by name and has loved us before we were born. How are we living out our Baptismal vows?

Jesus 'showed up' through his ministry. Jesus 'showed up' to ordinary people, on ordinary days, and did extraordinary things. By virtue of our confirmation, we receive counsel and guidance from the Holy Spirit. Am I aware that Jesus is in all those I meet, in all creation and that Jesus is present in my life at each moment? Each time I meet another on my journey, JESUS IS SHOWING UP in them, and JESUS IS SHOWING UP THROUGH ME.

How do I understand my ministry as an Associate, a parishioner, a community member; as a follower of Jesus? Are we using all our talents, gifts, training, and opportunities for God's work of building the Church and uniting all things in Christ? St. Peter reminds us:

"Each one of you has received a special grace, so like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others. If you are a speaker, speak in words which seem to come from God; If you are a helper, help as though every action was

done at God's orders; so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ, since to him alone belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Our service to God's kingdom is an extension of Jesus' works. It's something we do with Him, not just something we do for Him. Or better said, it's what Jesus does through us.

Discovering God's purpose for our lives frees us to ...

- > say "**yes**" to things that align with the purpose God has for us.
- > say "**no**" to the things we are not meant to engage or undertake.
- > live **confidently** because we know God is with us and has equipped us
- > live **bodily** because we know it is God who has designed the plan and purpose for our lives.

To recap, ministry is all about love; bringing our hearts and minds into the actual suffering and problems of the world. But before we can help others, we need to begin with ourselves and remember the first commandment: Love God and Love your Neighbour as Yourself. Unconditional love means loving ourselves in such a way that we feel free to be what we are now, in this moment.

Are there people waiting for us to "Show Up"? Are there people who can say, "I knew you would come."



Joanne Pierce Misko, former Sister of Mercy who became a pioneering FBI agent, dies at 83.

The oldest of four children, Joanne Eileen Pierce was born in Niagara Falls, New York, on Jan. 7, 1941. Her father was a police officer during World War II. Her mother managed the home.

Joanne Pierce became a nun after graduating from high school and continued her education at Mt. St. Joseph College, later known as Medaille College, in Buffalo. She received a master's degree in history from St. Bonaventure University, a Franciscan school outside Olean, New York, in 1970.

After a long day of teaching at Mount Mercy Academy, a Catholic school in Buffalo, Sister Joanne Pierce would return to her home at the Sisters of Mercy convent, where she and the other nuns liked to unwind with board games. "She always wanted to play Clue," one of her fellow teachers later said. "That should have been a clue."

Joanne Pierce Misko, who died Dec. 13 at age 83, eventually traded her nun's habit for a career in law enforcement, joining the FBI in 1970. She started out as a researcher, one of the few roles then available to women at the bureau, and two years later became one of the first women to serve as a special agent.

The job had effectively been closed to women ever since J. Edgar Hoover took over as director in 1924, back when the FBI was still called the Bureau of Investigation. But weeks after Hoover's death in May 1972, FBI Acting Director L. Patrick Gray III relaxed the rules, making it possible for Misko and a Marine Corps veteran, Susan Roley Malone, to be sworn-in that July.

Known internally as "the nun and the Marine," they were the first female special agents in nearly a half-century. The duo became roommates and friends while training for life in the field.

Misko and Malone trained together, "We were complementary," Malone said in a 2012 interview for the FBI. "We worked together. We would practice the run at night, we would go to the gym and work out. We were allies."

Around that same time, she decided to join the FBI, inspired by a recruiter from the bureau who visited the school where she was teaching. Life in the convent was "wonderful," she told the Sun-Sentinel, "but I just wanted to move on and have a family and get married."

Joanne Pierce married a fellow FBI agent, Michael Misko, in 1981.

“I honestly didn’t see myself as a pioneer,” she said in the FBI interview. “It was just a role that I was fortunate enough to become a part of.”

Her death, at a nursing home in Wheatfield, New York, was confirmed by her brother James Pierce. Her husband died in 2021.

(Washington Post Updated Dec 22, 2024)



**Chinese New Year 2025 is a Year of the Snake**, more specifically, Wood Snake, starting from January 29th, 2025, and lasting until February 16th, 2026.



## Poetry Pause

### **I'm January**

by Annette Wynne

I'm January bringing you  
A year of days—all brand, brand new;  
I step upon the frosty ground.

When chimes and sleighbells ring around;  
You welcome me and children sing,  
And joy comes into everything.  
I bring you love and lots of cheer,  
And work and friends for all the year.





*From Kitty's Kitchen*

## ***Turkey/Chicken Fried Rice***

### **Ingredients**

1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1/2 cup diced onion  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 cup frozen green peas  
1/2 cup matchstick cut carrots  
2 cups cooked rice, grains separated  
2 teaspoons sesame oil, or to taste  
1 tablespoon soy sauce, or to taste  
1 pound leftover turkey/chicken, diced  
1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste  
1 pinch white pepper  
1 large egg, beaten  
2 green onions, chopped



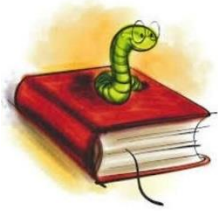
### **Directions**

Pour oil into a large, nonstick skillet over medium heat. When oil is hot, add onions and stir about 1 minute. Add garlic and stir about 30 seconds.

Stir in frozen green peas and matchstick carrots and cook, stirring, 3 to 4 minutes. Add rice and stir in sesame oil and soy sauce. Cook, stirring, about 2 minutes.

Stir in turkey/chicken. Cook and stir about 2 minutes. Season with salt and white pepper.

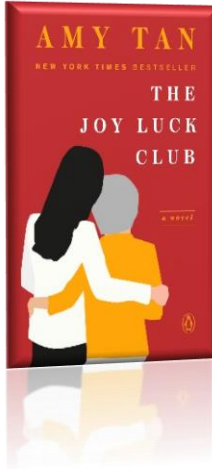
Move the skillet contents to one side of the skillet and pour in beaten egg. Allow egg to spread into a thin layer. When egg is set, score into strips, then stir into rice mixture. Remove from heat. Sprinkle on chopped scallions and serve warm.



From Kitty's Library

A Good Read...

## ***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**



Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.



We strongly encourage you to go to our mercy website:

[www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org) and have a look at the ASSOCIATE section.

There are many new additions, lots of photos and some videos. new additions, lots of photos and some videos.

We hope that you will enjoy and be encouraged to keep working for the growth of our Mercy Associate relationship.

## ***Pause for Thought ...***

*“My muscles are sore, but they work. I did not sleep well last night, but God woke me up. My wallet is not full, but my belly is. I may not have it all, but God gives me what I need. My life is not perfect, but my life is good. I’ve truly been blessed. Thank You Lord. Amen”*

**- Lessons Taught by LIFE**





## *The Last Word...*

“Pray fervently to God to take all bitterness from me. I can scarcely think of what has been done to me without resentment. May God forgive me and make me humble before He calls me into His presence.”

- Letter to Frances Warde June 16, 1838