

# IN Formation - Vocation SCN9

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH  
SPRING 2015



## New Vocation/Formation Ministry Team

A three person Vocation/Formation Ministry Team for the Sisters of Charity was launched in late January, 2015. Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC will be a full time member of the team and will be the Charism Animator. Maryanne's work will include promoting the charism of the Sisters of Charity both within and outside of the congregation. She will also be responsible for reaching out to women desirous of deepening their spirituality, including those who are interested in life as a Sister of Charity. She will be the admissions person for the congregation and is responsible for the Initial Formation Program. Sister Maryanne comes with many years of experience in this area.

The Service Coordinator, Sister Elise Gittrich, SC, will reach out to young adults by creating service opportunities for them. Creating a "Holy Hangout" and a center that focuses on service, spirituality, and socialization will be goals for her. Elise will work three days a week and brings her many years of experience working with those who are poor, especially women.

Diane Collesano, SC who is a Theology Professor at the College of Saint Elizabeth will communicate the charism through social media and will reach out to schools and college groups. Because of her commitment to the college, Diane will be available one day a week for this important work.

While each of the Team members has a specific focus they will work together and will overlap responsibilities when needed. We wish Diane, Elise and Maryanne much success in their new ministry of reaching out to young women.



*(l to r) Sister Maryanne Tracey, Sister Diane Collesano and Sister Elise Gittrich*

## Vocation News

On March 9, I had the pleasure of visiting Saint Anne Villa so that I could hear the stories of a few sisters and possibly video them for the *Living Charity* video project. I began my visit with the sisters by joining them for rosary in the chapel, followed by mass. Every sister in the chapel had such a warm smile to give as they passed by to go to their pews, and many stopped by me after mass to find out my story. I joined the sis-

ters in their dining room for lunch where I was able to meet several more sisters. Their stories ranged from hearing their call to vocations at an early age, to attending college at the College of Saint Elizabeth, to being trained to be teachers and nurses. However, through all their stories, there was a common theme of the love and appreciation they have for being part of the Sisters of Charity.

~ Nichole Ayala

## Year of Consecrated Life Open Campus Day

Wake up! Wake up, World! With words like these Pope Francis baptized this year as the Year of Consecrated Life. One of the purposes he had in mind in doing this was to invite young Catholics to consider the consecrated life (as sister, brother, priest, monk, nun) as a possibility for themselves.



One way the American Church decided to celebrate this year was for all consecrated religious to have an Open House on February 8th. Here at Convent Station we invited people in to tour our home, to share with the sisters, to hear their stories, to catch a glimpse of their many ministries.



Genuine hospitality brought sunshine to an otherwise gloomy day. People, both young and old, seemed truly delighted to come into our home, indeed to visit the whole campus. It was an eye-opener for some to see and hear about the many ministries the sisters engage in.



From the opening prayer to the last person to go out the door a marvelous spirit filled the whole house.

## A Morning of Retreat

Sunday March 1, 2015 the new Vocation/Formation Team welcomed eight women to Convent Station for a morning of retreat. This was the first venture of the new team and was very successful. The retreat included Mass, a presentation on the Transfiguration, quiet prayer time, sharing, lunch in the sisters' dining room and a closing prayer after lunch. The women enjoyed their quiet Sunday morning of prayer and found it a good way to enter more fully into the Lenten season. They look forward to additional spirituality programs in the future.



*come,*

*Dee,*

*Nerve*

*with the Sisters of Charity  
and Daughters of Charity*

*NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY*

*a retreat for single,  
Catholic women  
ages 18-45*

*Explore the call to be a  
Sister. Spend time in prayer  
and service with us as you  
adventure on in your  
discernment journey.*

*6 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday  
\$15*



*May 29-30, 2015  
Sister Denise LaRock, D.C.  
sisterdenise.larock@doc.org*

The Vocation/Formation Ministry Office  
has a new e-mail address.

[choosecharity@yahoo.com](mailto:choosecharity@yahoo.com)

This address will be used on all public relation materials, ads, flyers, promotional items, etc. Please feel free to share this e-mail address with anyone who may be interested in more information. Thank you!