

Built to Love

August 2021

“ *By our essential natures,
we are built to love.* ”

Sister Frankie Vaughan



Dear Friend,

I am writing today to ask your support in caring for our older, “retired” Medical Mission Sisters (MMS). I have to smile because those who know MMS recognize that ‘retired Sister’ is a misnomer! For example, Sister Jane Coyle, age 99, shared shortly after moving to a nursing home that her purpose there is still unfolding, and she trusts God to direct her path.

Sister Maria Hornung, age 84, lives and works in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. While walking to the Community Center at Visitation one day she met a woman and invited her to stop by the center. Sister Maria offers welcome and refreshments at the center to neighbors who are waiting to “shop” for staples, produce and frozen food downstairs. In the photo above, Sister Maria (right) is with the woman she had just met that morning, who upon entering the center came to sit beside her. After telling this story of new friendship, Sister Maria went on to say that when she was cooking meals at the Thea Bowman Women’s Center before it temporarily closed due to Covid, the women who came in would drift back to the kitchen area, one by one, offering to stir the soup or wash the dishes. They wanted to talk about family, and healing, and spirituality. Sister Maria says, “Jesus is still the most trusted reality in the lives of these women who have suffered over the years from trauma, often from within their family situation; from substance dependency; and from being unhoused. The women frequently want to talk about Jesus.”

The health of our older Sisters spans a spectrum of being able-bodied and independent, to requiring full-time support and attention in a skilled nursing care unit. The costs of providing appropriate medical care continues to increase, even for our Sisters who remain independent. Your gift helps us meet these costs so our Sisters, who have given so much to the world, can be assured of proper care that addresses their needs. We are so grateful for each and every gift, no matter the size!

Gratefully,

Sister Frankie Vaughan, MMS

Sister Frankie Vaughan, MMS



Sisters Pat Gootee (left) and Judy MacDonell (right) joined an interfaith gathering at the Cathedral in Tucson, AZ to show their support for the migrants crossing the border. Speakers included a bishop, rabbi and a Muslim cleric who shared his experience in coming to America as a child. They also heard from an indigenous person who urged the group to support immigration reform. Several migrants spoke about difficulties they suffered on their journeys to the U.S.

Built to Love

Your gift will go directly to our Retired Sisters Fund.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$25 \$60 \$150 \$225 Other _____

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MMS in North America were recently asked to share how they are practicing the seven spiritual works of mercy which are: Support those who are Questioning; Share Your Wisdom; Be present to Those who are Separated from God; Bear Wrongs Patiently; Practice Forgiveness; Comfort Those in Pain; Pray for the Living and the Dead.

Sister Helen Lembeck shared a meditation practice that she says, “got me through the pandemic.” Using her modified version of the patriotic rosary for our nation, Sister Helen prayed every evening, making use of the five mysteries for that day: praying for the three branches of government, then the Governors of all the states and territories, and lastly local officials. For each decade she prayed for the states, naming Sisters, Associates, family and friends who live or lived in that state. She included a prayer for the end to violence and racial injustice. Sister Helen shared that in these quiet moments she felt in communion with all those for whom she prayed, which was especially meaningful during the physical isolation of lockdown.



“*God is here.
It's not our power.
It's God's mission...we're
just a little bit in the plan.*”
Sister Joan Coughlin

Please know that the Medical Mission Sisters respect and treasure your support and friendship. We do not sell or rent your name to any other organization.

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