

NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

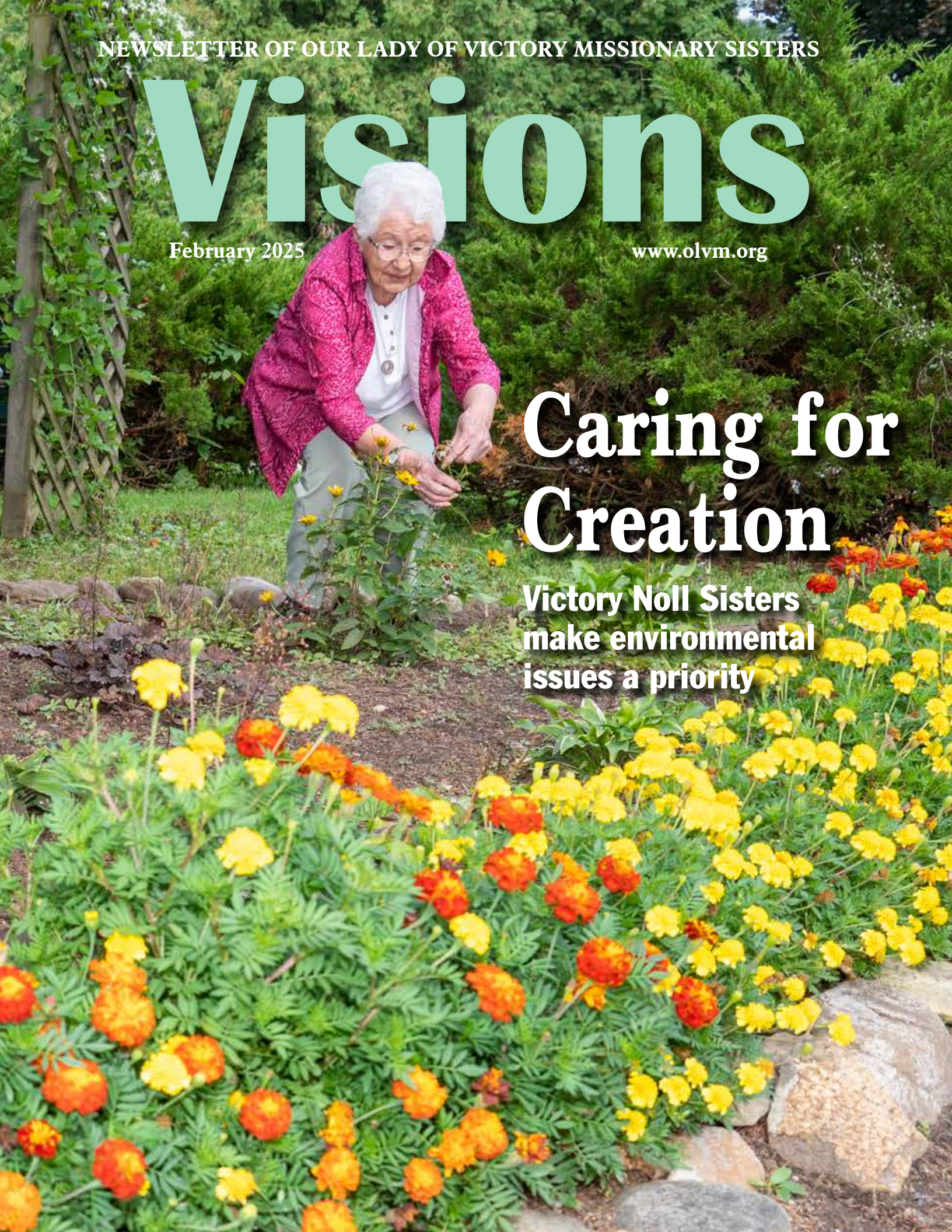
Visions

February 2025

www.olvm.org

Caring for Creation

**Victory Noll Sisters
make environmental
issues a priority**





Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a community of women religious founded in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein. The Victory Noll Motherhouse is located in Huntington, Indiana.

Victory Noll Sisters:

- Proclaim the Word of God
- Stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression
- Foster justice
- Promote the development of leaders

WHAT'S INSIDE

4 **Sharing gained knowledge**
Sr. Mary Jo Nelson uses her experiences to guide others

6 **Right relationships**
Church's Jubilee year calls us to be a 'Pilgrim of Hope'

8 **Partner in Creation Care**
VN Sisters working with Catholic Climate Covenant

14 **A Helping Hand**
OLVM's guidance led to creation of new community

ON THE COVER

As part of OLVM's mission to care for the Earth, Sister Clarita Trujillo tends to a garden on the Victory Noll campus in Huntington.

OLVM Photo

One of the many divisive issues facing our country is climate change. Regardless of whether you believe the overwhelming scientific evidence that human activity has contributed to the changing climate, it is undeniable that humanity has negatively impacted the planet. The destruction of critical natural areas, pollution, and the accumulation of trash in landfills and oceans are clear examples. If there's one thing we can all agree on, it's that we need to do a better job of caring for our planet—our shared home.

PERSPECTIVES ALONG THE JOURNEY

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and Pope Francis' call to action in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the Victory Noll Sisters have made caring for creation a central focus of their mission. Individually, they strive to reduce their environmental footprint by limiting plastic waste, recycling as much as possible, and advocating for legislative measures to address environmental issues.

As a congregation, they have dedicated resources to support organizations and movements focused on environmental healing. For example, the sale of open land on the Victory Noll campus to ACRES Land Trust ensures its preservation, while major gifts to Catholic Climate Covenant fund various creation care initiatives. You can read about some of these efforts in this issue.

Every day, I witness the Sisters' deep concern and passion for caring for the earth. Even after 17 years with the Victory Noll Sisters, I am continually inspired by their ability to organize, focus, and take action—especially considering most of them are in their 80s and 90s. Their example challenges the rest of us to do our part. ❖

— Paul Siegfried

CONGREGATION LEADER

Sr. Jenny Howard, SP

Visions is published multiple times a year by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

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Using our gifts and skills in mission

The opening sentence of the Constitutions of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, refers to this Gospel passage: “Jesus, anointed by the Spirit, was sent by God ‘to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free.’” (Luke 4:18) The OLVM Constitutions goes on to proclaim “We, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, commit ourselves to Jesus and to his redemptive mission. We are called to serve God’s people.”

What gifts and skills are needed for the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters for these times in order to carry forward this mission — God’s mission in service of the people of God? Certainly, the OLVM mission is lived today faithfully in the commitment, life, and ministry of each OLVM Sister. However, what more needs to be accomplished to address the systemic issues that face our country and our world today?



Sr. Jenny Howard, SP
Congregation Leader

Guidance comes from those familiar directives in the OLVM Mission Statement calling for Sisters to proclaim the Word of God, stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression, foster justice, and promote the development of leaders.

As we read through this particular Visions newsletter, it is clear how this dynamic is being faithfully lived out. The OLVM mission and values reside not only in the individual Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sister, the mission also resides in the ways in which the OLVM Sisters today are companioning, partnering, and collaborating with others; in witnessing to the values of mutuality and inclusion; in striving to live in right relationship with God, others and all Creation. As we know from experience, together with people like yourselves we can make an impact...we are making an impact!

As we enter into this Lenten Season I invite you to join in this prayer of Lenten Fasting and Feasting.

*Let us Fast from words that divide, and
Feast on words that invite.
Let us Fast from “Either/Or” thinking, and
Feast on “Both/And” living.
Let us Fast from convincing certitude, and
Feast on space for uncertainty.
Let us Fast from anger, and
Feast on space for serenity.
Let us Fast from fear, and
Feast on being willing to speak.
Let us Fast from isolation,
And Feast on connection.
Amen. ❖*





Photo provided

In her current ministry, OLVM Sr. Mary Jo Nelson (left) collaborates with other communities of women religious as a consultant and as a resource companion for leaders with LCWR. Here she meets with Nancy Reynolds, SP, Carol Zinn, SSJ, Anna Sklut and Pat McDermott, RSM.

A companion on the journey of religious life

Sister Mary Jo Nelson uses her experiences to assist others

By Sister Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM

I entered adulthood highly influenced by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who introduced me to the Documents of Vatican II and to Catholic Social Teaching in high school. I loved what I was learning and this exploration of the Vatican II Church inspired my future life. Only in retrospect did I realize this was a gift for the rest of my life. The Church was changing and I dreamed

of earning degrees in theology and working in the Church. When I began my journey in religious life, this life itself was changing and would not only continue to change but invite us into a transformational journey.

I have always had a passion for religious life—partly because of my questions, and partly because of how the evolution of religious life changed me and continues to change me.

I became a student of this life. I read everything that came off the press, and attended many workshops on religious life. It also opened me to the painful gap between the emerging newness of this

life and the work of transformation. I had a longing to contribute to the emergence of religious life. I began to wonder about how I could work with congregations to open important conversations, to work with polarities, to seek the deeper meanings of our life in a divided world, country, and church.

Eventually, I earned an MA in Organization Development which gave me new frameworks and understandings for working with the many groups and communities.

My first years in leadership ministry in OLVMs (2000-08) was particularly formative. I was introduced to Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), to women religious throughout the country, to new thinking, to new understandings of religious life leadership. And, I began to receive invitations to work with several congregations. Over the last 25 years I have companioned communities in a variety of ways—facilitating chapters, working with leadership teams, facilitating various planning groups and community conversations.

A turning point in my ministry in and for religious life came when I was elected president of my congregation in 2016. At the time of our election, our leadership team had no idea that we were being called to lead our congregation into a future that had no road map.

About a year into our term, we realized that “this was not business as usual.” We needed to work with the congregation to consider the implications of our reality, and make choices about that reality. We needed to prepare for the next phase of our journey as a community. Although there were congregational items to attend to—land, buildings, civil documents, our mission-legacy plan, and planning for future leadership, there was also the heart work of tending to the essence of our life with its new challenges. This was very sacred work.

As my term ended, I again was asked to share our community journey with many others who were beginning this journey in some way.

I now serve as a companion to communities in a variety of ways—on going formation, planning for the future as communities grow smaller, facilitating conversations relative to future leadership needs, facilitation and discernment processes. I also serve



Photo provided

With her experience in leadership and 25 years working with communities of women religious, Sr. Mary Jo Nelson now serves LCWR as a resource companion for leaders of congregations.

as a resource companion for members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).

One emerging need is in the area of appointed leaders when a congregation can no longer elect their own leaders. We are beginning to learn a great deal about the ministry of appointed leaders, and what resources and orientation could be helpful for sisters preparing for this new ministry.

The journey of change, loss, transition, and conversion continues on. Yet, women religious are living in this space with incredible generosity and graciousness!

All my ministries have built on each other leading to my current one. I began as a parish coordinator of religious education, then served several years in diocesan religious education. I then served as the Vicar for Religious, Diocesan Pastoral Planning Coordinator, and Diocesan Chancellor. And, life as a Victory Noll Sister including all the growth opportunities embedded in congregational leadership have brought me to my current ministry of companioning women religious at this time in history. ❖



OLVM photo

Each Wednesday, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters gather for “Prayer for the World.” The weekly service focuses on social justice issues of the day.

Becoming a ‘Pilgrim of Hope’

Jubilee year calls for creating right relationships in our lives

By Sr. Beaty Haines

OLVM Social Justice Coordinator

Every 25 years the Catholic Church celebrates a Jubilee Year, or Holy Year. It’s a time for forgiveness, reconciliation, and spiritual renewal and is centered on the idea of returning to a right relationship with God, others, and creation.

Right relationships, on the individual level, are characterized by mutual respect, understanding, honesty, and open communication, where each person feels valued and supported without compromising their

own needs or exerting undue power over the other; essentially, it signifies a relationship where everyone involved is treated fairly. On the level of society, we refer to the establishment and promotion of right relationships between all members of the human family as justice and mercy. And how about our relationship with creation? In *Laudato Si’* Pope Francis encourages us to “speak the language of fraternity and beauty” in our relationship with the world and “to feel intimately united with all that exists, approaching nature with openness to awe and wonder versus having “attitudes

of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on our immediate needs.”

The theme for this Jubilee Year is “Pilgrims of Hope,” a hope rooted in our faith in God’s love for us and for all of Creation. As I reflected on the purpose of a Jubilee Year from the perspective of being “Pilgrims of Hope” I began by thinking about what it means to be a pilgrim. Pilgrims are persons on a journey based on faith and with a holy purpose. Are we not Pilgrims of Hope if we view our entire lives as a journey based on faith with the holy purpose of loving God and our neighbor as ourselves?

In his Encyclical, “Dilexit Nos, On Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ,” Pope Francis raises what he calls important questions of the heart: What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God?

During and after our recent national elections many people were also asking questions about the direction our country is going. Writer David Brooks went deeper than naming inflation or the class divide as the cause of where we find ourselves, although these factors certainly play a significant role. Brooks identified the deeper cause as that of a spiritual/emotional crisis.

Catholic Climate Covenant and the Laudato Si’ Movement, in a joint statement following the election, described the challenges we face in this country in this way: We need to renew our commitment to the values of our faith and follow our guiding principles of honoring our Creator, caring for each other, and protecting our common home.

I believe we can each be a “Pilgrim of Hope,” if we view our life as a journey of faith with the holy purpose of loving God and our neighbor as ourselves. This is also the basis for building a just society and relating to Creation with wonder, awe and gratitude to our Creator.

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 ... Amen. ❖

In her book, “Journey-Faith in an Entangled World,” Nancy Sylvester, IHM used the following quote because it captured her experience of faith:

“Journey faith—a faith that emerges and unfolds on a journey, which may have twists and turns, stumbling and uncertainty—rather than a ‘lab faith’ in which everything is clear cut and neatly defined.”

— Robert Ellsberg

CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT



Photo provided

Catholic Climate Covenant joined tens of thousands of people in New York City in the March to End Fossil Fuels and to demand climate action and the phase out of fossil fuels. They marched alongside young Catholics, motivated to march for their futures and for our common home.

Partnering for Creation Care

Catholic Climate Covenant helps VN Sisters leave an impact

By Katie Zakrzewski
Communications Manager
Catholic Climate Covenant

In 2021, 2022, and twice in 2024, Catholic Climate Covenant has worked with Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters to support creation care efforts in Catholic communities across the U.S. Each year, the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters (or as they are also known, Victory Noll Sisters) have entrusted the Covenant with \$100,000 to award at the Covenant's discretion as part of the Victory Noll Sisters Creation Care Small Grants Program.

Founded in 2006 by Executive Director Dan Misleh, Catholic Climate Covenant, a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., has inspired and equipped people and Catholic institutions in the U.S. to care for creation. Along with



VISION Catholic Climate Covenant envisions a world in which all humanity shares in both the responsibility and joy of our common home and all creation thrives with wholeness, abundant life, dignity, and justice.

MISSION The mission of Catholic Climate Covenant is to inspire and mobilize the U.S. Catholic community to care for creation and achieve climate justice through the lens of integral ecology.

VALUES Catholic Faith, Collaboration, Hope, Working for Justice, Leadership.

20 national partners, the Covenant guides the U.S. Church's response to climate change by educating, giving public witness, and offering resources.

One of the many ways the Covenant has engaged in this work is through partnership with the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

For the past four years, the Victory Noll Sisters have provided sizable grants to the Covenant. To boost local efforts at creation care and to honor the generosity and work of the Victory Noll Sisters, the Covenant created the Victory Noll Sisters Creation Care Small Grants Program in 2021 and awarded \$100,000 in increments of up to \$1,000 to 100 Catholic schools, parishes, and communities that submitted applications for a creation care project in their area that uplifted the voices of the vulnerable and marginalized while also displaying values related to Catholic Social Teaching and the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

The creation care projects from around the country were incredibly diverse: from a film festival to neighborhood clean-up events, and from wellness gardens at local hospitals, to workshops, speaker series, research projects, and many others.

The program was repeated in 2022, and the Covenant was pleased to give away 100 more small grants

But in 2024, the Covenant wanted to do something really unique.

After carefully reading applications from over 250 U.S. Catholic communities, Catholic Climate Covenant selected 91 recipients for the Victory Noll Sisters Creation Care Small Grants Program, rang-

By the Numbers

Catholic Climate Covenant Accomplishments

- **293** Creation Care Teams
- **10,000** Letters in Support of Climate Action
- **3k+** Work was featured in over 3,000 media stories.
- **7** Organized 7 national press conferences.
- **2,176** Equipped 2,176 local champions to lead Feast of St. Francis events.
- Convened one of the first conferences on Laudato Si'.
- Work with partners to share the Church's message on climate change.
- **125+** Catholic leaders who signed a letter to President Trump supporting the Clean Power Plan
- **15k** Catholics who signed a public letter urging support of the CPP
- **170+** Catholic leaders of Catholic organizations who signed a letter to the Administration and Congress urging support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and to rejoin the Paris agreement
- **8** Online action alerts on topics including the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris agreement, the repeal of the Clean Power Plan, and federal funding for climate science.
- **14** Letters to the Editor published, uplifting the Catholic voice on climate change in nine states
- **4** Op-eds published
- **2** Catholic delegations that met with federal representatives about the federal budget and the House Climate Solutions Caucus
- **47** Participants in Lobby Training Day who learned how to advocate for climate change solutions from a Catholic perspective and visited individual legislators, accompanied by Covenant staff and volunteers
- **1** Testimony delivered at the EPA hearing on the repeal of the Clean Power Plan in Charleston, WV

ing from \$500 to \$1,000, totaling \$85,074 in grants awarded.

The Covenant then decided to hold a second round of grant applications in the fall of 2024 — but this time, the award would be a \$20,000 large grant designed to help a Catholic community work on a “net-zero” project. This grant would be given to a diocese or Catholic organization to help initiate or be reimbursed for a large-scale net-zero emissions/ decarbonization project. Interested applicants had to answer a series of questions posed by Catholic Climate Covenant regarding carbon emissions reduction measurements, ties to Catholic Social Teaching, and other metrics for determining impact and success.

“During this grant application round, we had the opportunity to do something unique,” Misleh said. “When it comes to caring for God’s creation and making a lasting difference in the fight against climate change, all efforts matter — big and small. We’ve awarded many small projects and efforts in the past, but this round, we wanted to help jumpstart a bigger initiative by helping a diocese or Catholic community reduce their carbon emissions by committing to net-zero.”

The Covenant selected two winners for our \$20,000 net-zero Victory Noll Sisters grant, with each receiving \$20,000. One winner is the Waukesha County Creation Care Network formed by parishioners in St. Michael, St. Rose of Lima, St. Martin de Porres and All Saints parishes



OLVM photo

Victory Noll Sisters enjoy the colors of autumn during regular walks on the grounds of Heritage Pointe in Warren, Ind. The Sisters have made a commitment to caring for Creation, including a partnership with Catholic Climate Covenant.

in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Network submitted a project to reduce operational expenses of the four parishes and encourage carbon emissions reduction throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The Network would also serve as an educational agent for parishes and the broader community through publicizing results of this net-zero initiative and provide workforce development by engaging local labor to promote economic growth and environmental sustainability.

The second winner is the joint team of the Archdiocese of Omaha, the Dioceses of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Gary, Indiana. The team proposed a new net-zero assessment/strategy initiative that will provide the Archdiocese of Omaha, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and the Gary Catholic Communities with funding to

hire Constellation Energy. Constellation will use its Navigator Carbon Accounting Platform to conduct a baseline carbon emissions assessment of and provide net-zero pathways for all of the approximate 500 buildings in the Archdiocese of Omaha and 279 parish convent/rectory, school, and office buildings in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Constellation will also conduct an emissions appraisal/net-zero pathway for 10 buildings in the Gary Catholic Communities, including the Cathedral of the Holy Angels.

Catholic Climate Covenant is thankful for the generosity of the Victory Noll Sisters, and is humbled to help Catholic communities bring their creation care projects to life. ❖

Impacts Great and Small

Since 2021, Catholic Climate Covenant has awarded small grants to 291 Catholic parishes, schools, and communities, along with one large net-zero grant, through the Victory Noll Sisters Creation Care Grants Program. Many recipients expressed gratitude for the support, highlighting its impact. To share these stories, the Covenant created a “Where Are They Now?” blog series.

In Part 1, Darlene Maurer, leader of the NE Vicariate Care for Creation Steering Committee in Portland, Oregon, used a \$1,000 grant to sponsor an Environmental Enrichment Speakers Series. (Photo top)

Part 2 features Lisa Vesolich, Development Manager for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden, Pennsylvania, who shared her community’s successful Earth Day celebration. (Photo center) “Thanks to the support of Catholic Climate Covenant, we were able to welcome over 300 children and adults to our Motherhouse grounds for a day filled with activities aimed at promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability,” Vesolich said.

In Part 3, Soledad Haren, a board member of the Green & Woke podcast in Houston, Texas, explained how the grant helped elevate their show. “Grant funds are being used to develop our podcast into a television show,” Haren said, noting the focus on sustainable living, health and wellness, and environmental and social justice. (Photo bottom) ❖





Keeping up with the OLMV Sisters

Victory Noll Sisters have been busy, including celebrating the 105th birthday of Sr. Valeria Foltz (below), enjoying walks among fall colors (top right), and taking part in spiritual retreats (bottom right). ❖



Newspaper honors Sr. Lucille for 2024 ‘Letter of the Year’

Last April, the Fort Wayne (IN) Journal Gazette newspaper selected a letter to the editor written by OLMV Sister Lucille Martinez as their letter of the month.

This January, the Journal Gazette chose Sr. Lucille’s submission as their 2024 “Golden Pen Award” winner as its “Letter of the Year.”

In the letter, entitled “Immigrants deserve our compassion,” she recounted her personal experiences working at the United States-Mexico border as a volunteer at Annunciation House in El

Paso, Tex., and with the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Mexico. She told the migrants’ stories of fleeing the dangers in their home countries and trying to find freedom and safety for their families.

Sr. Lucille called for elected leaders to work toward immigration reform that can also respect the human rights and dignity of those seeking a better life in America.

Her letter was once again reprinted in the January 18 issue of the Journal Gazette. ❖



Sr. Lucille Martinez

Grant recipients named for 2024-25

Each year, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters provides grant funding through Victory Noll Empowerment Grants. Organizations may apply for up to \$50,000 in funds.

The grant committee looks for groups that closely align with the OLVN mission of promoting justice for those living in poverty and oppression, empowering persons to contribute to a more just and peaceful society, protect and sustain the environment, and contribute to the well-being of families.

A total of 13 recipients were selected to receive funding for the 2024-25 grant cycle. Those organizations are listed below including their location and the focus of their missions.

Grant applications for 2025-26 are now being accepted. The deadline is July 1, 2025.

Information and application forms are available at www.olvm.org/grants. ❖

RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	FOCUS
A Mother’s Hope	Fort Wayne, IN	Pregnancy Crises
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	El Centro, CA	Neglected Children
Dawn’s Place	Philadelphia, PA	Trafficking
Death Penalty Action	Ghent, NY	Capital Punishment
Madonna Mission	Chicago, IL	Refugee Children
MANA de Albuquerque	Albuquerque, NM	Youth Leadership
Place of Grace	Huntington, IN	Transitional Housing
Redemption House Ministry	Fort Wayne, IN	Transitional Housing
Talitha Koum Institute	Waco, TX	Children’s Health
The Learning Center House of Connections	Chicago, IL	Adult Literacy
Viator House of Hospitality	Arlington Heights, IL	Detention
Vincent Village	Fort Wayne, IN	Homeless
Youth Services Bureau of Huntington County	Huntington, IN	Youth Support

OLVM's offering of a helping hand

By Jeff Hoffman
OLVM Archivist

When you have a good thing going, people will take notice and try to emulate you. This has been the case with Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, whose work with marginalized populations has been extolled since their beginning in 1922.

During the 1940s in Detroit, Monsignor John Ryan was familiar with the work of the Victory Noll Sisters and the effectiveness of their door-to-door home visiting. He asked them to help in the spiritual formation of a new congregation within the Archdiocese of Detroit.

With the assistance of the OLVM Sisters, Msgr. Ryan created the new community called the Home Visitors of Mary. They were officially established on November 21, 1949, as “an urban Catholic community with the purpose of ‘helping incarnate the risen Christ’ especially among African-Americans.”

OLVM Sisters Mary Louise Perl and Mary Agnes Flashpohler provided the initial religious training for the first two candidates of the Home Visitors of Mary — Mary Schultz and Mary Agnes McInnis, who was a member of the Army Nursing Corps in World War II in the Philippines. Until the summer



OLVM Archives

The photo above shows the founding of the Home Visitors of Mary Community on November 21, 1949, with Spiritual Director Monsignor John Ryan at the center. On his near left is Foundress Sr. Mary Schultz, with Sr. Mary Agnes McInnis on his right. OLVM Sisters who helped with initial formation are Sr. Helen Flaspohler on the far left and Sr. Mary Louise Perl on the far right.

of 1954 at least one Victory Noll Sister would remain in Detroit to provide guidance to the Home Visitors of Mary. These included Sr. Benigna Furst and Sr. Julia Marie Schmitt.

There were several connections between the two communities over the years.

After getting her bachelor's degree, Mary Schultz began working in the Van Antwerp Library, which would become the Catholic Bookstore in Detroit. It was around this time that she began writing the familiar OLVM phrase “All for Jesus through Mary” in notebooks, looseleaf paper, desk diaries,

journals, and in the margins of calendars. She answered a notice for an instructor to catechize the Catholic students at Lincoln School in Detroit.

The notice she answered was placed by Josephine Brownson, who in 1916 founded the Catholic Instruction League, which catechized Catholic students attending Detroit public schools. She would go on to write more than a dozen books geared toward the catechizing of Catholic youth.

OLVM Founder Father John Joseph Sigstein often sought out Brownson to provide guidance and assistance in catechizing youth. Through the 1930s, Fr. Sigstein called on Brownson to tutor his novitiate in Detroit, Huntington, and even in New Mexico.

In their early years there was little material available in the

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following the completion of OLVM's year-long Centennial Celebration in 2022, Victory Noll Archivist Jeff Hoffman continues his historical look at significant events and individuals from the congregation's first 100 years.

The HVM Sisters and Me

By Sr. Rita Musante, OLVM

I came to know the HVM Sisters when my mission assignment called me to Detroit and I moved into our VN mission house on Arden Park. There I learned that our neighbors down the street were these Sisters whom we as a VN Congregation had assisted in their early years of formation. What I did NOT know, as a very young Sister myself, was that their Community was only 16 years old at that time!

The 2nd Vatican Council had just ended so our two communities experienced the early years of renewal together there in the Detroit archdiocese. Frequently we shared prayer as well as fun times and learning experiences and got to know one another personally. Their membership at that time was made up of women from other countries as well as from the African-American and Caucasian communities of Detroit. I was blessed one year when one of their Sisters offered to guide me on my first 30-day retreat, as a gift from her community to mine. This typified the spirit that existed between our two communities.

When I left Detroit in 1973, I lost track of these Sisters except for occasional brief news updates, Christmas letters, etc. about them. But just two years ago I was privileged to reconnect with them in person as a mutual friend and I enjoyed dinner and an evening of getting re-acquainted. We also learned of their amazing expansion to Nigeria in the early 2000s where already more than 30 Nigerian Sisters are living out their charism and mission in multiple locations in that country!

Most recently, thanks to Sister Jenny, I was privi-

instructing of catechetics, so Victory Noll Sisters often created their own teaching tools, including catechist course curriculums, schoolbooks, and other instructional texts they translated from English to Spanish.

Like the Victory Noll Sisters, the Home Visitors of Mary Sisters also published instructional

material to meet their needs. In 2012 they published a catechetical textbook for youth that introduced a new method of teaching doctrine based on Scripture and life experiences in conjunction with the Catholic Catechism.

While OLVM's direct work with the Home Visitors of Mary ended in the 1950s, their connec-

tion and friendship with Victory Noll Sisters has spanned across the decades.

In November, the Home Visitors of Mary celebrated their 75th anniversary, and Victory Noll Sisters were invited to be a part of the event, a nod to their influence in development and direction of the HVM community. ❖



OLVM Photo

During the recent 75th anniversary celebration for the Home Visitors of Mary in Detroit, OLVM Sr. Rita Musante (left) had an opportunity to engage in conversation with Sr. Clare Emeruom, Community Administrator for the HVM Sisters, and pass along greetings and best wishes from the OLVM Sisters.

leged to attend their 75th anniversary celebration in Detroit. It was pure joy to rejoice with the five remaining older members I knew, and to have a conversation with Sister Clare, their new leader from Nigeria. The Mass and program of tributes and recalling history past and current were very inspiring and helped me learn more about their membership and mission in Nigeria.

I am grateful for the blessing of knowing these Sisters through these many years! ❖



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Visions

FROM THE VICTORY NOLL ARCHIVES



For the Victory Noll Sisters, care for the earth has taken on many forms. They tend to the grounds on the Victory Noll campus. They advocate for clean air and clean water and support environmental causes and organizations that work toward a better world. And they help to educate the next generations about the importance of a healthy earth. Here, Sr. Mary Joan Ginsterblum gives a lesson to visiting students from Huntington Catholic School. Sr. Mary Joan knew the different trees on the grounds and their role in a thriving ecosystem. ❖