

Our Life as Mission

NEWS FROM MARTHA
LEADERSHIP TEAM



Issue 11
September 2023

"Standing together in undaunted hope"



L to R top: Sr. Theresa Perro, Sr. Josephine Keyzer, Sr. Franklyn Ferguson; L to R bottom: Sr. Mary Chisholm, and Sr. Mary Dolores Sogz

*We, who are weak and powerless,
respond to the needs of the human family
with living faith in God
who gifts us with strength.
This faith expresses itself
in loving service to others
in our pioneering spirit,
in our joyful simplicity,
and in our welcoming presence
among ourselves and those
to whom we are sent.*

Constitutions #5

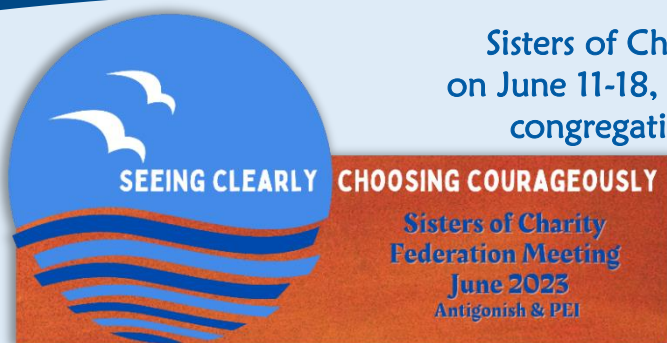


CELEBRATION

In June 2023, Sisters of St. Martha celebrated their Anniversarians – Sisters who have lived 60 and 70 years of consecrated life. As always, this special occasion was commemorated with a special Mass and a festive meal.



SISTERS OF CHARITY FEDERATION ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING



Sisters of Charity Federation Annual Leadership Meeting was held on June 11-18, 2023. This is an important gathering in the life of our congregation and the Sisters of Charity Federation. The Marthas were privileged to co-host it with our cousin congregation, the Sisters of St. Martha of PEI. Together we welcomed more than 70 members of Leadership Teams and some staff from the 13 member congregations of the SC Federation.

The first five days were held in Antigonish, NS. St. Francis Xavier University was the venue for accommodations and meeting space. The facilities were excellent and the staff at Governor's Hall exemplified the hospitality that we hold so dear in the Maritimes. For the final three days, the participants travelled to Prince Edward Island where the hospitality continued. The PEI Marthas hosted us at UPEI in Charlottetown for the final few days of our meetings. Once again, the Maritime hospitality was clearly present. For two congregations that are rooted in the Gospel Value of Hospitality we could not have been more pleased or proud of our local communities.



L to R: Sr. Brendalee Boisvert and Sr. Gemma Dunn



Sisters of Charity Federation Board members

SC FEDERATION ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING *continued*

The participants gathered around the theme of *Seeing Clearly, Choosing Courageously*. This time together provided the opportunity to look at ways in which each member congregation is living with the challenges of smaller numbers and changes in governance structures. We also shared ways to **move forward together as a federation** through:

- a collaborative vocation and formation ministry,
- sharing resources: whether through staffing, facilities, or spiritually.



Martha Leadership telling CSM story to the members of the Federation.

Jimmy Walters, the NGO representative at the United Nations, provided the members with an update on his work on our behalf, as well as some visioning for moving forward the SC Federation charism of Charity. You can read more on our Martha Justice Ministry Blog found [here](#).



Daily reports from the Annual Leadership Meeting are available on the SC Federation website:

<https://sistersofcharityfederation.org/category/news/annual-meeting/>

We were thrilled to have Sr. Dorothy Moore join us for an evening when we were blessed to watch a recent documentary about her life and work. This provided an opportunity for many participants to learn about the need for, and efforts being made towards Truth and Reconciliation.

A gathering of the SC Federation would not be complete without some time for exploring and fun! While in Antigonish, the participants visited Bethany Grounds: they toured Bethany Centennial Garden, met the Martha New Growers, and were welcomed by our Sisters at Parkland, Antigonish.



SC Federation members touring Bethany Centennial Garden



Darlene O'Leary, Martha Justice Ministry Coordinator giving a tour of New Growers fields.

We ended our time in Antigonish with a Kitchen Party at StFX where we were entertained in true Maritime fashion by our own Joan Dewar and members of her family, her mom Marian, brother Allan and his partner Shelly Campbell, son Andrew, and friend Mary Beth Carty. What a night! There was much dancing and clapping, and even a dragon joined in on the fun (more about that in another edition of OLAM)!

SC FEDERATION ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING *continued*



An evening of dancing at StFX



Sr. Rosemary MacDonald, a PEI Martha, talking about Living Well program in Charlottetown, PEI.

We left Nova Scotia via ferry and arrived on PEI where we were graciously welcomed by the PEI Marthas. After one more formal meeting, the participants were given the opportunity to visit two key ministries that are offered by the PEI Marthas and their collaborators, then, we were given a tour of Charlottetown, with a stop for lunch at the Charlottetown Hotel. It was there we learned of the cancellation of the ferry crossing for the foreseeable future due to mechanical issues! There was a great sigh of relief that we were ahead of that!!! It was already planned to leave PEI via the bridge, for which we were very grateful!

Finally, a trip to PEI is not complete without a visit to Anne of Green Gables. As many of our Federation members are from the United States, they were thrilled to have this opportunity to visit the place they have heard so much about. In fact, the whole of the visit to both Nova Scotia and PEI was a resounding success.

We are grateful to the staff at StFX Conference Services for their hospitality and efforts to make this gathering as successful as it was.

We extend our gratitude to the Antigonish community for being so welcoming to our guests as they explored the Town.

Our pride and gratitude to our staff members, who always go above and beyond, is truly what made this so memorable for our SC Federation Members.

Thank you!



CANADIAN RELIGIOUS CONGRESS (CRC)

At the General Assembly of the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) held May 25-28th in Montreal, Sister Brendalee Boisvert was elected as the President of the 2023-2025 CRC Administrative Council.

CSM Congregation Leader, Sr. Brendalee Boisvert, had served on the CRC Executive as the Atlantic Representative since 2016. At the 2021 Assembly, she was elected as Vice President of CRC and, for the next two years, also continued to serve as Atlantic Representative. At this year's Assembly in Montreal, she was elected the president of the Administrative Council for the upcoming two years. It should be noted that, having served for a number of years as representative for the Atlantic Region, she knows its needs well, and will continue to bring that perspective to the

larger table.

Join us in continuing to offer prayers of support and gratitude for Sr. Brendalee's generous service.

Established in 1954, the CRC is a membership organization that is made up of 240 Major Superiors of Catholic congregations of women and men religious who are based in Canada.



<https://crc-canada.org/en/>

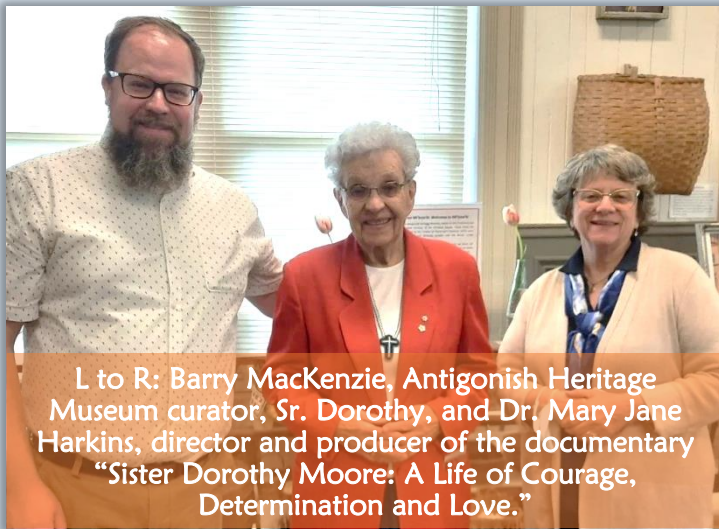


We are proud of you Sr. Brendalee and know that your passion for Religious Life, your many gifts of Leadership, and the wisdom you bring, will be of great benefit to the CRC, the larger Church in Canada, and to the people of God.

SR. DOROTHY MOORE

This year has been another eventful one for Sister Dorothy Moore. Most importantly, her book *"A Journey of Love and Hope. The Inspirational Words of a Mi'kmaw Elder"* (Nimbus Publishing), a collection of talks, presentations, prayers, and ceremonies won in one of the five categories at Nova Scotia Book Awards: the George Borden Writing for Change Award.

Sister Dorothy was presented with the George Borden Writing for Change Award at the Gala Ceremony on June 5th in Dartmouth. This award is given for an outstanding non-fiction book by a Nova Scotian author that inspires others and challenges the status quo.



L to R: Barry MacKenzie, Antigonish Heritage Museum curator, Sr. Dorothy, and Dr. Mary Jane Harkins, director and producer of the documentary "Sister Dorothy Moore: A Life of Courage, Determination and Love."

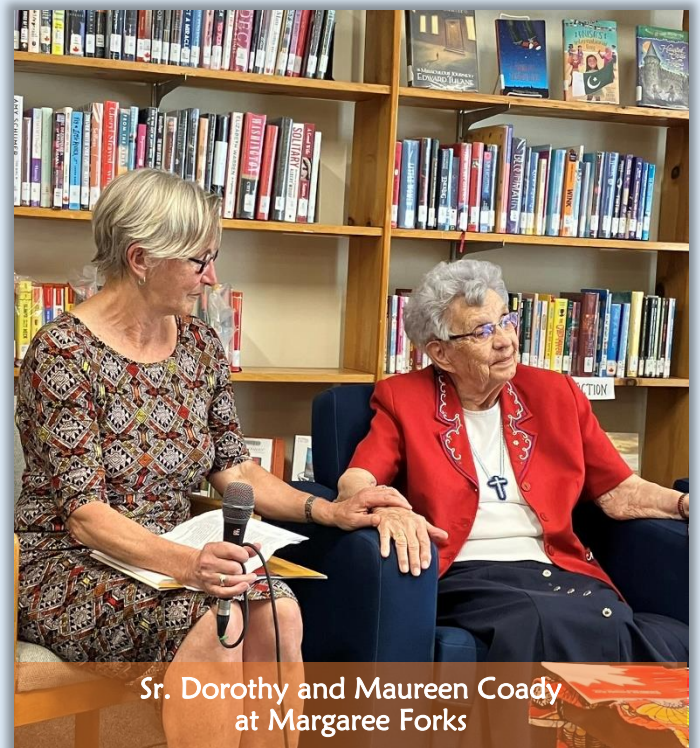
The release of Sr. Dorothy's book was celebrated locally on May 28th at the Antigonish Heritage Museum with a special Book Launch event.

On July 1st, Sr. Dorothy took part in Margaree *Canada Day Celebrates* event at Coady Tompkins Memorial Library in Margaree Forks, the birthplace of the founder of Antigonish Movement, Fr. Moses Coady. Sr. Dorothy was one of five Guest Readers at this prominent literary event that was also a musical and cultural celebration.

Finally, on September 28th, StFX University Learning Lodge honored Sister Dorothy's life, work and wisdom during a special event that included a screening of the documentary about her life.



Sr. Dorothy and her niece Kara Paul at the Gala ceremony in Dartmouth, June 5th



Sr. Dorothy and Maureen Coady at Margaree Forks

Congratulations on all your achievements, Sr. Dorothy!

CATCHING UP WITH THE MARTHA ASSOCIATES



Greetings to all our dear Sisters of St. Martha and everyone else! The summer is here, a time for bright early mornings, birds singing, warm evenings and the smell of BBQ in the air! A time for a little relaxation, rest, reading, and berry eating!!

For the Martha Associates, summer marks a time of pause from our usual Associate gatherings. It is a time of renewal for our bodies, minds, and spirits! We give thanks for what has been and look forward to being together once again in September.

All Martha Associate groups have enjoyed a busy year! Our groups in Lethbridge; Trenton; Sydney Mines; and Sydney / Glace Bay have been actively gathering in person, sharing prayer, enriching their knowledge, and deepening their faith through book studies; guest speakers; reflections and group sharing.

One topic that has been shared among all the groups is: **“How do we help to keep the Charism of Gospel Hospitality alive into the future?”** Of course, this is in the hands of the Holy Spirit! However, we all acknowledge the fact that our Associates, like our Sisters, are diminishing in number. We also acknowledge how very blessed we feel to be Martha Associates. We felt certain there were many people living lives of Gospel Hospitality that would love to be Martha Associates. So, what can we do? How might we invite others to “Come and See” what Martha Associate life is about? The Martha Associate Committee members and the associate groups took some time this year to address this question.

In the recent past, a person could only be invited to “Come and See” by a Sister of St. Martha. However, as Martha Associates, we are aware that we have also been gifted with the charism of Gospel Hospitality. It would



“Come and See” day held on May 13, 2023

follow, therefore; that Martha Associates can also invite a person to “Come and See”! With that premise in mind, and with the support of the Martha Associate Committee, the Associate groups and the CSM Leadership, the **first “Come and See” day** was held on Saturday, May 13th, 2023, at the Bethel Presbyterian Church Hall in Sydney from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. All Eastern groups were included, with prayerful support from our Western associates. A total of 24 participants attended: 10 Associates, 10 guests, and 4 Sisters of St. Martha. The morning program



consisted of prayer, presentations on “what it means to be an Associate”, and “Our Baptismal Call”, a personal reflection on being a Martha Associate, an invitation to consider becoming a journeyer, and finally, a closing ritual followed by lunch. The guests were invited to attend group gatherings in the Fall if they would like to journey with us. At least 5 of our guests have decided to begin the process of journeying!

A similar “Come and See” day was held on Saturday, June 24th, 2023, in Antigonish at Martha Place. The difference being that we currently do not have an Associate group in Antigonish. All of the participants were guests and had been invited by a Sister of St. Martha. A total of 12 guests attended the day, along with Sr. Brendalee Boisvert, Sr. Sandra Cooke, and Julia Townsend. Sr. Sandra Cooke has graciously agreed to be the coordinator for the new Associate group. There was a positive response among the newcomers, and we felt confident that some of the group would most likely become journeyers.

During my annual trip to Lethbridge in May of 2023, I presented the idea of having a “Come and See” day there as well. The group was open to the idea, and we will visit this again in the Fall of 2023.

We currently have 4 journeyers in the East (3 in Sydney Mines and 1 in Sydney/ Glace Bay group). We have 1 journeyer in the West. The journeyer in the Sydney / Glace Bay group will be received in October of 2023.

While being a Martha Associate is not necessarily about having large numbers, we



Photos: Associates, guests, Marthas
on May 13, 2023

recognize our role in affirming others in their lives of Gospel Hospitality. This may lead to a conversation about Associate life and an invitation to “Come and See” with the potential to add new journeyers and, hopefully, more Martha Associates. It will be wonderful to see where the Spirit leads us!

With Blessings and prayers to our Sisters from all Martha Associates!
God bless,

~ Julia Townsend,
Director Martha Associates
July 10, 2023

VOICES FROM THE MINISTRIES

One of the goals of *Our Life as Mission* publication is to share the current comings and goings of the congregation as well as important topics related to active Martha ministries. Some columns though, serve a different purpose: of sharing and thus preserving our stories and, in the process, revealing *our common Martha heart*.

In the *CSM Facts* column, we tell some lesser-known facts about the organization, in the *Martha Memories in Objects*, we feature meaningful CSM artifacts, replete with memories. In this column – *Voices from the Ministries* – we present Sisters' individual stories. We've interviewed many Marthas who generously shared their personal background, vocation journey, and recollections of their usually very full work lives. The scope of congregation's ministries over the last 123 years has been significant as Marthas worked in numerous fields in many locations around Canada and the United States, and St. Kitts. The stories presented here are individual memories of life as mission and, hopefully, they convey the inspiring Martha spirit – the charism of Gospel Hospitality.

It is our hope that these testimonies will help the charism live into the future.

In this issue, we're sharing an account of a busy life of Sister Bernadine MacIntosh, 94, a seamstress, a housekeeper, a cook, and a Sister of St. Martha for over 67 years. Before entering the congregation, Sr. Bernadine had worked for five years as a seamstress in the US but had thought of becoming a religious, possibly a missionary, long before that. She didn't personally know any Marthas, however, growing up on Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton, she knew of the work of the Marthas, particularly at the Villa Madonna orphanage that was located very close to her family home. Even though her mind was made up to enter the Marthas as soon as she



Sr. Bernadine MacIntosh and Sr. Ada Fougere working on a drapery projects, undated

returned from working in Massachusetts, she remembers that it was not easy to leave her close-knit, warm household: her parents and two siblings: adopted brother Joe and her sister Mary. They were all proud of Sr. Bernadine's decision but would miss her very much. Sr. Bernadine notes that she had lived life to the fullest before entering, so the decision to join the Marthas, in the end, was an easy one - she knew she wanted a different life and pursued that call. She considers herself very lucky because she led a fulfilling, independent, and good life and enjoyed most things that she encountered on her path. Sr. Bernadine's work trajectory followed the growing needs of various Martha missions around the country. All her ministries kept her very busy and she is quick to admit that she loved this active and lively life very much and wouldn't have it any other way!

Because of her sewing expertise (it was her mother who taught her this skill) and substantial work experience, Sr. Bernadine was directed to the Habit Department at Bethany to make Sisters' clothes. At the time, before Second Vatican Council called for an updating of religious life which resulted, among many significant reforms, in a transition to life without a habit, she had her hands full:

"I was 8 years in the habit department, we had to make summer cloaks, the long winter cloaks. We made the veils, the habits... the costume skirts (they went under the habit), the coifs, the cinctures... everything... We had 16 buttonholes to do by hand on the long cloaks!"

So much sewing required from Sr. Bernadine a lot of patience and maybe a hint of perfectionism.



Sr. Bernadine MacIntosh, 1980s

She took on a different ministry in 1964 and hadn't fully returned to sewing for a few decades, not until she moved back to Bethany and, around 2002, started doing drapery, which she continued until 2016. During those two decades, she made all the drapes for Bethany Motherhouse, Marian Community, cottages, and some missions!

In the years between sewing in Habit Department and working on drapery, Sr. Bernadine was involved in institutional housekeeping: most of the time, she served as the executive housekeeper in charge of large hospitals. She started at St. Rita's Hospital in Sydney, NS and then worked at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, later in Mineral Springs Hospital

in Banff, AB, St. Peter's Hospital in Melville, SK; and St. Mary's Hospital in Inverness, Cape Breton, NS. Finally, she came back to Bethany Motherhouse to become its household manager, an enjoyable position that was a bit less stressful than running housekeeping in the big hospitals.

In her role of housekeeping manager at various hospitals, Sr. Bernadine supervised staff and took care of housekeeping inventory. She emphasizes she wouldn't have been able to do any of it without proper education, encouraged and supported by the Marthas. She had acquired an impressive number of professional certificates and diplomas after completing various courses such as Institutional Housekeeping, Instruction for Administrators of Extended Care Facilities, 20th Century Hospital Housekeeping, Supervisor's Safety, National Sanitation Training, and even Basic Automotive repair skills!

"I would never have been able to do the work, you have to know what you are doing! You can waste a lot of money... so you have to know when things need to be done and need to be repaired...."

She attributes her management skills and work ethics to the influence of her parents:

"I'm sure it's the way I was brought up. My mother was a good manager. My father worked every day of the week...."

When asked about her daily routine during those years, Sr. Bernadine remembers doing it all - big and little tasks:

"Nobody knows the half of it, how much was involved. It was all good years, and that's the main thing."

She gives a funny example of one such small yet at the same time huge task. While she lived in Saskatchewan, a local farmer gave the Marthas rhubarb for the winter. Sr. Bernadine and another Sister were tasked with transporting it so they drove to the farm. A huge pile of rhubarb was waiting to be packed in their car:

"We started to shove it all into the car and filled it to the roof. The trunk was everything was filled, there was no room for us to sit in the car! The next day I spent the whole day bagging it and putting it in the freezer at the hospital."

It was one of so many errands that just had to be done.

THE CREDO OF HOUSEKEEPING

Housekeeping is not a job, it is a profession and an honored profession. As long as I am able I shall attempt to advance this profession, I shall continue to study, to observe, to learn about new products, new methods, and anything that will help me maintain a cleaner, more competently run hospital. My work is important and I am proud of it. I am needed and every man and woman I am privileged to direct or help is needed. We are performing an indispensable service to humanity. This is especially apparent in a hospital where cleanliness means so much to those who are ill, both in body and spirit.

I count it a privilege to be employed in the field of sanitation and I shall fight unceasingly to bring housekeeping and maintenance to a higher standard.

Let us put housekeeping where it belongs, in a respected and appreciated position, where people will enjoy job satisfaction and find pride in the accomplishments this work produces, a clean hospital, a grateful public, in turn the certain knowledge that they too are vitally needed.

The door is opened, the steps lead upwards and each of us in this field can contribute something toward adding dignity and professional status to Hospital Sanitation.



Sr. Bernadine MacIntosh, Genesee Community, 1998. She enjoyed cooking salmon and Chinese food!

Despite such focus on work tasks, Sr. Bernadine knew how to stop for a while and enjoy beautiful things in life: admire an elk just outside the Hospital in Banff or marvel at a little bird that sat down on her finger and allowed her to carry it throughout the hospital... much to the enjoyment of the patients. She recalls a sweet story of a connection she made with a little girl Rose Marie in one of the hospitals where she worked. She was almost blind but could see a bit. Although lying in her crib and supposedly unable to move very much, Rose Marie attempted to bounce around. Sr. Bernadine used to take her by the hand and help her sit up and get her out of the crib. The girl knew Sister's step and when she heard her coming, she would beat on the side of her crib. Eventually, she was able to sit up, and

to get up. She was later placed in another facility and continued to respond to loving care.

No doubt work was the most important part of life for Sr. Bernadine. Naturally, she participated in all spiritual rituals provided by the Martha community - a routine of prayer and Mass - but she also lived out her faith through work - in all the minutiae of countless tasks and responsibilities in all the jobs she held, the charism of Gospel Hospitality manifested itself in her dedication and welcoming attitude.



A beautiful example of crewel embroidery by Sr. Bernadine. She did hand embroidery and appliqué patterns.

Did you know?
CSM FACTS

From the congregation's foundation, sewing has had its place. Habits and linens were made in-house and outfitted the congregation, furnished the convent, supplemented the Sisters' everyday needs, and even generated a small income.

MARTHA NEEDLECRAFT

The first dedicated sewing department was opened at Bethany in 1921. Devoted to habit making, it was known as the "black sewing room" and was headed by Sister Mary Teresa Landry. A complementary "white sewing room" was also established for the making of linens and other items.

In the mid 1930's, Sisters Thecla Price and Leocadia (Evelyn) LaRusic, both of whom were exceptionally skilled seamstresses, were sent to Halifax to learn vestment sewing under the direction of Mother Teresa Codie of the Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ). Sisters who remain unnamed in CSM history, then travelled to a Benedictine Monastery in Collegeville, Minnesota, to learn more techniques and acquire vestment patterns that aligned with the liturgical renewal. All returned armed with excellent training and patterns.

The Church Goods Department was formally established around 1936. Initially, it serviced Bethany alone, but demand among the diocese grew and production consisted of chasubles, maniples, stoles, amices, albs (liturgical vestments), altar linens, and elaborate silk banners. No detail was too small as ready



Sr. Mary de Chantal (Catherine) MacLean;
1968; Sewing Department

The Marthas frequently answered the call for first communion dresses and fine embroideries, selling their work at bazaars and fundraising events. They also sold to private buyers. Deo Soli cites a story (p.25) in which Mabel Hubbard Bell, wife of Alexander Graham Bell, requested the special sewing skills of the Marthas!

hands even crocheted the silk cinctures for use with the vestments.

The Sisters who ministered and collaborated in the Church Goods Department were some of Bethany's most talented artists and artisans and included Sisters Leocadia (Evelyn) LaRusic and Mary Remigius (Mary Frances) MacGillivray. Sister LaRusic worked in the Church Goods Department from about 1936-1954 and was responsible for training sisters in the ministry. Sister MacGillivray studied art extensively and worked much of her religious career teaching it.



Mary Remigius (Mary Frances) MacGillivray



Sr. Leocadia (Evelyn) LaRusic



Photo: Making Church Vestments. Sr. Marie Elizabeth, Sr. Ann Ignatia, Feb 12, 1964

Unfortunately, textual records related to the Church Goods Department and its activities are scarce. In 1969, the Congregation's Council motioned to phase out the department. It can be inferred that demand for locally made vestments and other church goods dwindled or did not supply a return that justified its continued operations. On August 31st, 1970, a Council Meeting made reference to the phase out being complete and the space being free for use.

The congregation continued with the craft on a smaller scale. Sr. Margaret Ann Fraser ran a sewing department at Bethany up until the day the Motherhouse closed, and she provided sewing alterations for fellow Sisters until quite recently. Some Sisters continue to pursue personal projects to this day, many still have their own sewing baskets.



Sr. Sandra Cooke entered the congregation with this sewing basket, which is now 65 years old!



The Marian Banner

Amongst several samples of Sister Mary Remigius MacGillivray's work preserved by the CSM Heritage collection is a stunning piece she made in partnership with the Church Goods Department – a banner dedicated to Mary and the Christ Child, produced exclusively for display at the 1947 Marian Congress.

Designed and stenciled by Sister MacGillivray, it measures an impressive 49 1/2" X 86" and depicts Mary and the Child towering above an abstracted globe and flanked by two angels, kneeling in prayer. Embroidered stars scatter across the sky and the words "Mother of Divine Grace" encircle the standing haloed figures.

Sister Leocadia LaRusic was responsible for sewing the banner and embroidering its delicate details using a pastel palette of silk thread on silk moire fabric.



The Marian banner was likely seen by tens of thousands of attendees of the Marian Congress. Held in Ottawa from June 18-22, 1947, the event celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Ottawa's founding and was attended by more than 200,000 pilgrims from all over the world. It offered a unique occasion to pray to the Virgin Mary for lasting world peace as the horrors of World War II continued to reverberate, and Cold War tensions had begun to simmer. The Congress assembled

at Lansdowne Park, where the exhibition grounds housed 106 kiosks featuring congregations and religious works from around the world. Mother M. Ignatius, and Sisters Thecla Price, Remigius MacGillivray, and Veronica Gebert travelled together to install a Martha exhibit and educate visitors about the Congregation. The Sisters of St. Martha's contribution comprised of a miniaturized replica of the Bethany Motherhouse and grounds and a Marian Shrine, for which the banner served as a spectacular backdrop.



GREETINGS TO YOU ALL FROM MARTHA JUSTICE MINISTRY



Greetings to you all! I hope you had some time to enjoy the beauty of the summer months.

This summer was the hottest in modern history! We've heard about heat waves across the planet, and of course we know about the fires and flooding that have hit us very close to home.

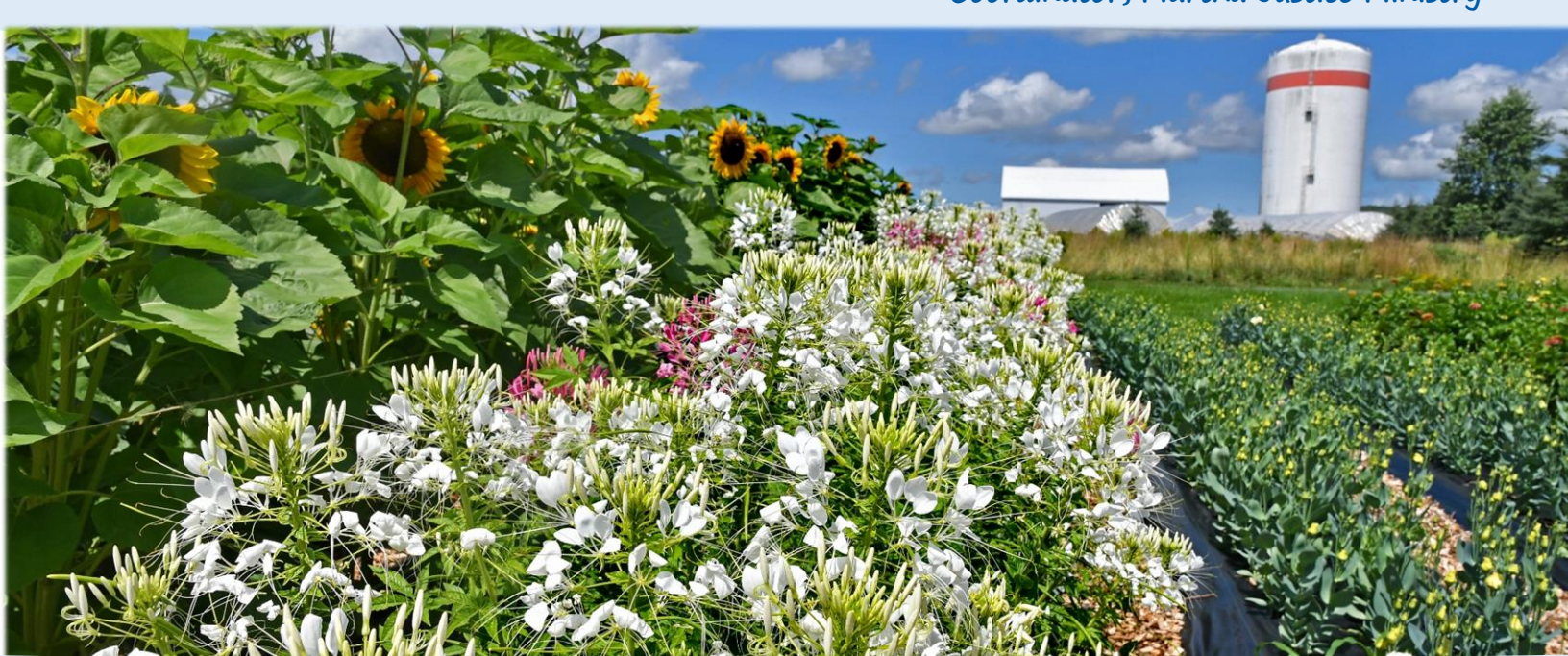
I was in Bedford during the flash flooding in July, a result of warmer ocean temperatures caused by the climate emergency. Watching scuba divers on a boat in Bedford's Sunnyside Mall parking lot, it was hard not to be

overwhelmed by the feeling that we are not responding urgently enough to this crisis.

As we recognize this urgency, we continue in our efforts in working for social and ecological justice, which are deeply interconnected. We celebrate the growing solidarity and action in communities locally and globally, as we work together to care for the earth and for those marginalized.

Your prayers and support are so appreciated and essential! I hope you find hope and inspiration in the work we are able to be part of. Peace and Blessings,

~Darlene O'Leary
Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry





*Embracing Our Neighbour
and Our Common Home*

ACEP PRESENTATIONS ON BASIC INCOME

The Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (ACEP) was pleased to make presentations to both the Antigonish Town and County Councils calling on them to support a guaranteed livable basic income.

Colleen Cameron and Darlene made the presentations, arguing that the municipalities are seeing the impacts of poverty, food insecurity, and the rising cost of living every day. ACEP co-chair, Wyanne Sandler, attended the town presentation, and Sr. Marion Sheridan attended the county presentation.

We shared that more and more municipalities across Atlantic Canada are calling on the federal government to implement a guaranteed livable basic income, so that there is regular, livable,

and dependable income security to help people through this challenging time. We are also seeing growing support in sectors including Community Health Boards and food security groups.

Both the town and county voted unanimously in support of a resolution to send a letter to the Prime Minister and Premier calling for a basic income program. ACEP continues to be part of Basic Income Atlantic Canada, a growing Atlantic region coalition that is supported by the Tamarack Institute.



To learn more and support our consensus statement, go to:
<https://www.big-ns.org/read-and-sign-the-consensus-statement>

BASIC INCOME
NOVA SCOTIA
SOCIETY

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Take Action

TAKE ACTION

PETITIONS

READ AND SIGN OUR

CONSENSUS

STATEMENT

HELP PASS MUNICIPAL

RESOLUTIONS

Read and Sign the Atlantic Canada Consensus Statement

Basic Income Atlantic Canada has reached consensus on a statement describing basic income and why it is necessary for the Atlantic Provinces. This is a useful tool for discussing a basic income and advocating for policy change in our provinces.

CONSENSUS STATEMENT, ENGLISH

CONSENSUS STATEMENT, FRENCH

SIGN CONSENSUS STATEMENT

READ AND SIGN!

BASIC INCOME NOVA SCOTIA, 5516 NORTH STREET, HALIFAX, NS, B3K 1M8,
CANADA 902-220-0344 BIGNOVASCOTIA@GMAIL.COM



BLANKET EXERCISE

Following our Lenten Book Study of Sr. Dorothy Moore's book, *A Journey of Love and Hope: The Inspirational Words of a Mi'kmaw Elder*, we were blessed to have the chance to experience a Blanket Exercise at the Bethany Resource Centre Gathering Room.

The Blanket Exercise is a guided experience, in this case led by Mi'kmaw leader Terena Francis and co-facilitated by Joanne Tompkins, that leads participants through the history of colonization in Canada/Turtle Island from the perspective of Indigenous peoples.

Participants experience this history in a new and experiential way and then have an opportunity to share in a circle what the experience meant to them. It was such

a powerful learning for everyone, for those who experienced it for the first time, and for those who have done the exercise before.

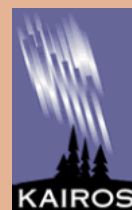
We are so grateful to Terena and Joanne, and to Sr. Dorothy, who joined us for the Blanket Exercise and helped us engage in this history in a way that awakens the essential work of facing the truth and walking the path of reconciliation.



To learn more about
Blanket Exercise click
here:



<https://www.kairosCanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>





“CANADA IS BURNING” RALLY

On June 28th, Martha Justice Ministry and friends took part in the “Canada is Burning” rally in front of Minister Sean Fraser’s office in Antigonish, organized by 350.org and partners. Similar rallies took place across Canada.

In the wake of the earliest and worst forest fire season in Canada, which impacted Nova Scotia directly, and what has become the hottest summer in modern history, the rally called on the federal government for an emergency-level response to the climate crisis.



To see photos from across Canada, go to:
[Canada is Burning - June 28 2023 | Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/canada-is-burning/albums/with/72181420000000000)





JEM/ORCIE “LEARNING & LOBBYING” EVENT

Martha Justice Ministry was part of the Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM) and Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) Learning & Lobbying sessions in May and June.

These sessions were part of a shared effort by JEM and ORCIE to bring religious congregations more deeply into the policy work on climate justice and into direct lobbying with federal officials.

The first session was a webinar with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives’ Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood and with Climate Action Network Canada’s Caroline Brouillette. They discussed key policy issues in Canada on the climate crisis and key areas for advocacy. The next session was led by Sr. Sue Wilson, CSJ, on how religious congregations can engage more deeply in advocacy and lobbying and why they should.

Later that week, there was an in-person session in Ottawa, led by ORCIE Executive

Director Genevieve Gallant, on lobbying pointers. The following day, two groups including members of religious congregations and staff met with a range of MPs, Senators, and others to discuss our key priorities for climate justice policy.

On June 6th, we held a debrief to share learning from the sessions and lobbying, which helped us to see what worked well, where we can grow, and what might be next steps. We hope to do another Learning & Lobbying event in the fall.



To see recordings of the
online sessions, check out the
JEM YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@jemgathering3555>

FEDERATION GATHERING – JIMMY’S VISIT

Jimmy Walters, the UN NGO Representative for the Federation, visited Sisters at Parkland during Sisters of Charity Federation Annual meeting held in June in Antigonish and PEI.



You can read more about his visit in
Darlene’s newest blog entry here:
<https://www.themarthas.com/martha-justice-blog-detail.php?4>





JPIC/RAC EVENT

On the May long-weekend, Martha Justice Ministry participated in a special joint Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Atlantic and Religious of Atlantic Canada (RAC) event in Halifax. The special occasion was a full day with Sr. Ilia Delio, the renown Franciscan scientist, author, and founder of the *Center for Christogenesis*.



Joanne Tompkins and Sr. Marion Sheridan



Sr. Ilia Delio

JPIC Atlantic participants gathered on Thursday evening and Friday to check in on the work being done in our communities. We heard from ORCIE's Genevieve Gallant about the work of her office on federal advocacy on climate justice and reconciliation policy. We also had a chance to discuss planning for JPIC Atlantic with Sabrina di Mateo of the Canadian Religious Conference. We worked on a letter to the Atlantic Bishops on climate action and discussed fall and spring meetings.

On our day with Ilia Delio, she shared on her work on cosmogenesis, consciousness

shifts, and the direction technology might take. There were very interesting discussions and reflections in small groups about how we apply these ideas. It was a very enriching time together!



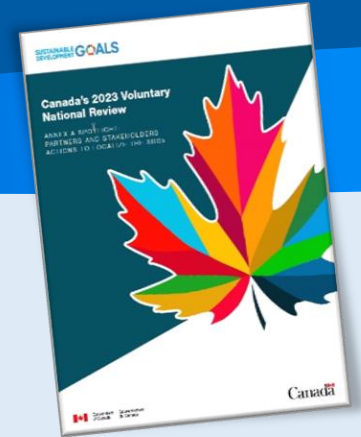
<https://christogenesis.org/>





CANADA'S VNR REPORT

Earlier this Spring, the Sisters of St Martha and Martha Justice Ministry participated in the federal government's consultation ahead of Canada's second Voluntary National Review on progress in implementing Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



As 2023 is the midway point to achieving the goals, it is important that Canada's report reflect the broad efforts in communities across the country to move the SDGs forward. It is also important to identify where there are barriers to achieving those goals.

At the United Nations High Level Political Forum in July, Canada was one of several countries reporting on our progress. While Canada has made significant steps forward since the development of these goals, Canada and the world are far from achieving these 17 goals and 169 targets. In fact, due to Covid-19 and other factors, there have been setbacks in progress – globally, only 15% are on track. While the news is discouraging, we were happy to see the many good initiatives that Canada has implemented, including national, provincial, territorial, municipal, Indigenous communities, civil society, and academia.

We were excited that the Marthas and Martha Justice Ministry were named as stakeholders doing important work to implement the SDGs, along with colleagues at the Coady Institute (Extension) and the Tamarack Institute (Annex, p. 6).

We hope that Canada and all countries will renew their commitment to achieving the SDGs and to ensure that “no one is left behind.”

- The Martha Justice Ministry and the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish have been involved in implementing the SDGs since 2015. Major outcomes of their work include education and advocacy initiatives, events, policy briefs, educational resource development, reports, network and coalition development, organizational alignment with the SDGs, and social media engagement. They advance the SDGs through many ways, including as members of the Basic Income Atlantic Canada coalition (SDG 1, No Poverty) and through their New Growers program, which is a farm apprenticeship program mentoring young farmers in organic farming and local food access, now in its 10th year (SDG 2, Zero Hunger). They also advocate for social and ecological justice (SDG13, Climate Action) and protection of land (SDG 15, Life on Land) and water (SDG 14, Life below Water).

To read Canada's report and Annex,
go to:

[Voluntary National Reviews 2023,
Canada | High-Level Political Forum](#)

Canada's 2023 Voluntary National Review
A CONTINUED JOURNEY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA
AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

6



HEALTHCARE FOR ALL – EVENT FOR KERIAN BURNETT

On July 16th, an event that Martha Justice Ministry sponsored and supported was held at the Antigonish Library Community Room called “Healthcare for All: Kerian Burnett’s Story.”

**NO
ONE IS
ILLEGAL**
NOVA SCOTIA

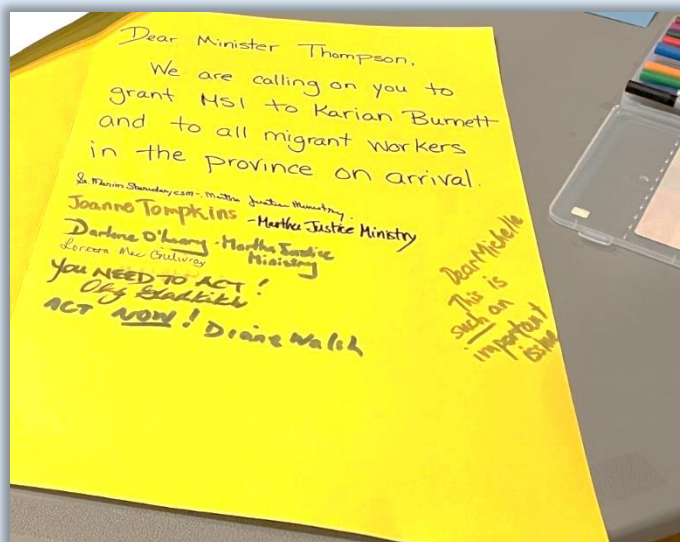
Kerian Burnett is a migrant worker from Jamaica who was diagnosed with cancer and who did not have access to health coverage in Nova Scotia through MSI. The event was hosted by No One Is Illegal, Halifax and supported by Martha Justice Ministry.

At the event, Stacey Gomez from No One Is Illegal talked about the challenging situation facing migrant workers in Nova Scotia and Canada, particularly when it comes to their health. For Kerian, she lost her coverage when she was laid off from her work due to her diagnosis. She fought to stay in Canada so she could receive life-saving treatment.

No One Is Illegal is part of a larger network fighting for the rights of migrant workers who come to Canada each year and are vulnerable to human rights violations due to their precarious immigration status.

We support the regularization of migrant workers, who do essential work in Canada for very little pay and are often mistreated. We also hope that the Nova Scotia government and federal government do what they can to help Kerian, who is unable to pay for the treatment she needs.

We are happy that following the event, Kerian received health coverage, though many migrant workers are still vulnerable.



To learn more, go to:

<https://www.migrantjusticens.ca/kerian-burnett>

<https://www.migrantjusticens.ca/about-us>



MARTHA NEW GROWERS

Martha New Growers are still into their growing season! Check out these photos taken throughout the spring and summer.



Meghan Johnny



Clayton MacLeod



Danielle Speck, chatting with a visiting
SC Federation member



David Matheson

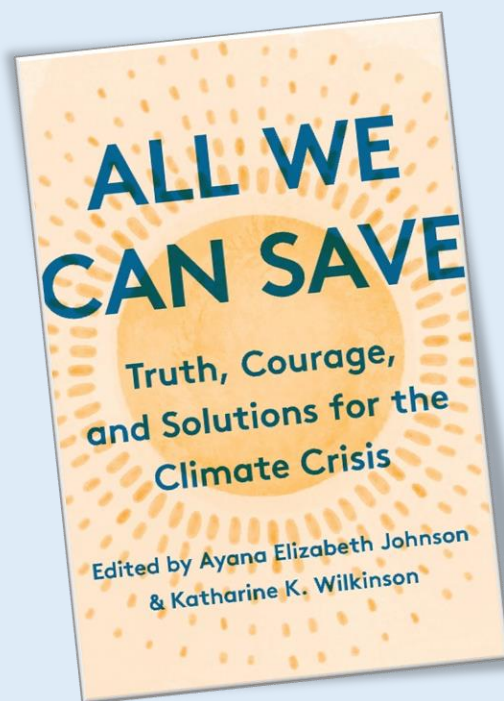
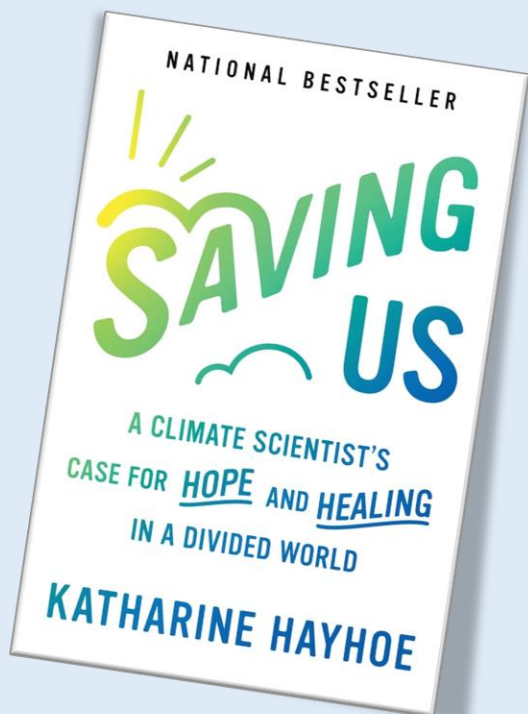


MJM RECOMMENDS

The Martha Justice Ministry library has a range of books on social and ecological justice, reconciliation, and peace topics. We encourage you to read with us!

*Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for
Hope and Healing in a Divided World*
by Katharine Hayhoe

Katharine Hayhoe is a Canadian climate scientist living in Texas and an evangelical Christian. Her book offers a helpful approach to addressing how religious or ideological differences on the climate crisis often derail us in responding or leave us feeling frustrated and powerless. Through stories, personal experiences, and strong scientific knowledge, Hayhoe provides advice and guidance for us to talk about and work together to address this global emergency.



*All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and
Solutions for the Climate Crisis.*
by Ayana Elisabeth Johnson and
Katharine K. Wilkinson (Eds.)

This is a beautiful collection of essays, poems, and reflections from a range of perspectives and experiences of “climate feminism.” They include analyses of patriarchal structures that have fueled the crisis, as well as the often-overlooked experiences and collective empowerment of women and girls around the world working for change, bringing “heart-centred” and “head-centred” leadership and healing.



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CSM MISSION

We, Sisters of St. Martha, inspired by God's graciousness, hear, embrace and respond to the cry for Gospel hospitality.