The creative Spirit of God has been evident throughout the history of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. When one reflects back, names such as Sisters Rosalia, Marie Cecile, Mary Elise, Jean Andre, Theodora, and DeSales come to mind. Just a few examples of women who used their creative talents in the world of music, art, writing, and leadership, to enhance their own personal lives and the lives of those with whom they came into contact.

This same creative spirit of God is present in CSA today. This issue of Images is focused on a few sisters who represent all of us who have within us a touch of the creative God, each in our own unique way.

When one visits Mount Augustine and walks around the building or through the hallways one becomes aware that creative artists are at work. Sister Justine Sendelbach, spends many hours a week working in the beautiful gardens that surround the motherhouse. The creativity, for Sister Justine is in the planning of the gardens and the buying of the seeds. She also enjoys working with dried flowers and is noted for her beautiful bookmarks, note paper,
Fifty-one years as a Sister of Charity of St. Augustine have not diminished the spirit and enthusiasm which characterizes Sister Bernard Rostas in all her activities.

Early in life she developed an appreciation for beauty as she observed the exquisite original needlework creations of her mom and the loveliness of nature as she took walks with her dad. It was her West High School art teacher who introduced her to pen and ink sketching and water colors which brought to the surface her artistic and creative gifts.

When Sister Bernard entered the convent, she continued to work with water colors, creating beautiful spiritual bouquet cards. She remembers how pleased she was when one of her hand-painted cards was sent by the congregation to the Holy Father in Rome.

When Sister prepared for her ministry of teaching, she continued to enhance her artistic skill and enjoyed working with oil, charcoal, hard pastels, pen sketching and Swedish paper cuttings. It was one of her paper cuttings that was chosen as the best in an art show.

As a teacher, Sister became involved in conducting art workshops for teachers on different levels and creating projects for students. An especially interesting experience for her was teaching space and texture by radio.

Following her retirement from teaching, she continued to be available for art projects at Mount Augustine while assisting in the transportation department. When she became a volunteer at Timken Mercy Medical Center she became involved in numerous activities but continued to use her artistic talents whenever the opportunity was presented.

Now in retirement at Mount Augustine, Sister still finds an outlet for her considerable talent. Between her many volunteer driving trips to meet the needs of the sisters, she still finds time to enjoy wrapping gift packages that are original creations and objects of beauty. She frequently is called upon to work on special projects involving her talents as a calligrapher and artist. With it all, Sister hasn’t given much thought to finding that proverbial rocking chair.
Christmas tree decorations, and dried flower arrangements. Sister is a retired pharmacist who always had a garden and stated, “I enjoy gardening and want the residents of Regina Health Center to see something beautiful when they gaze out the window from the second floor dining room.”

On another visit to Mount Augustine, you might see Sister Mary Denis Maher taking a quiet moment by the lake to fashion a poem. Sister is one of the most talented writers in the community.

Sister taught creative writing at Ursuline College, and it was there that she first began seriously composing poetry. Among Sister’s successes as a poet are awards from “Verse Writers of Ohio” and “Yankee Magazine” as well as awards in national and state poetry contests. One of her most recent poems is entitled #2.

In her present position on the administrative team, Sister finds that time to write is in short supply. “For inspiration”, she muses, “one needs a block of quiet time in a park, or a library, or by the lake at Mount Augustine.” So, on a rare day, you may just spot her sitting by the lake, pencil in hand.

Regular visitors to the Mount Augustine gift shop are familiar with the beautiful work of two “artists in residence” at Mount Augustine...Sisters Corinne Baker and Sister Judith Labbe.

Sister Corinne has ministered in the “business world” most of her life and now, in her 50th year as a religious, is enjoying retirement at Mount Augustine. Sister Judith, who is 90 years of age, did a variety of ministries but perhaps is remembered most for her work as a seamstress in the sewing room at Mount Augustine.

Sisters Corinne and Judith have a common love of painting. They shared that love for years in the 1960s as they traveled together first by bus and later by car to Cudell Center in Cleveland where they took their love of art to another level. Sister Corinne has done a variety of works from a depiction of “the Alamo” to serene seascapes and she claims many ribbons for her work. Sister Judith has been asked to create over 100 original cards for the sisters’ feast days and has finished the project. Each sister will be gifted with a very “personal” card from this amazing 90 year old woman.

Sister Carolyn Fradette enjoys playing the piano for the enjoyment of others and also designs and creates lovely note cards with dried flowers. The cards are available in the Mount Augustine gift shop.

Sister Elizabeth Schur, who devoted her life to the teaching of art and now works with the Regina Health Care residents, says that “Creativity is expressing oneself in one’s own unique way”, a reminder that we all have within us a spark of God’s creativity.
Sisters Cheryl Keehner and Carole DeCrane enjoying a meal.

Associate Elizabeth Dougherty proclaiming the Word at Liturgy.

"We are Women at transformed by Christ, Water, collaborative fulfillment of God's world, flowing to be" (John 4/Woman R

Sister Virginia Durkin with Associates Mary and Fausto Hidalgo.

Sister Nancy Hendershot exchanging ideas with Associate, Ron Hank DiCato.
On Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20, The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine and Associates gathered for “Assembly” at Mount Augustine. The days began with a presentation by Sister Doris Gottemoeller, RSM who spoke on “Religious Life as a Gift for the Church and the World.” Sister challenged all present to learn from the changes of the past to create a new future for religious life in the Church and in the World. With Sister Doris’s words as a backdrop, the Assembly was devoted to reports by Sister Judith Ann Karam and Council; the Director of Formation and Associate Membership and the Vocation Director. Saturday concluded with a celebration of our ministries at Eucharist with Fr. Tony Schuller, SSS celebrating. Sister Eileen shared her personal reflections as part of the homily. On Sunday, a creative discussion led by the Core Values Committee led into an open forum where sisters and associates came forward to present personal insights and topics for further study. The assembly was another “Creative Moment” for CSA.
Nine Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine celebrated jubilees at Mount Augustine on September 24th in Richfield along with their sisters, friends, and relatives.

A wide variety of ministries is reflected in the lives of the celebrants as well as their dedication to a life of charity in the fields of education, health care, and social services. **Sister Carol Massek**, now retired, is celebrating 60 years as a religious. She was steadfast in her work these many years as a buyer, storekeeper, and treasurer primarily at the motherhouse and Parmadale.

Three golden jubilarians whose lives focused on Catholic education are Sisters Francesca Reardon, Martha Connelly, and Coletta McNamee. **Sister Francesca** left her mark on the parochial system as a teacher, principal, supervisor, and consultant to the Catholic Board of Education. Her present ministry is in Pastoral Care at St. John West Shore Hospital. After years as a teacher and librarian in the school system, **Sister Martha** now works at Pastoral Ministry in St. Patrick Parish on Bridge Avenue. **Sister Coletta**, who was a teacher and principal, now specializes in nursing home administration and is an Assistant Administrator of St. Augustine Manor.

The remaining five golden jubilarians are Sisters Helen Mary Frank, Rita Louise Neader, Maura Hannam, Mary Agnes Nelan, and Pauline Panik. Their ministries center in health care and social service institutions. **Sister Helen Mary**, originally a teacher, spent many years at Parmadale as a cottage supervisor before transferring to health care institutions. She is now a volunteer at Timken Mercy Medical Center.

Sister Rita Louise, a nurse, has devoted her apostolate primarily to the sick and elderly in CSA hospitals and at the motherhouse. She was coordinator of retired sisters and activities director at Mount Augustine and a nurse supervisor in CSA hospitals. Presently, Sister volunteers as a receptionist in the Emergency Department of Timken Mercy Medical Center.

For 12 years **Sister Maura** was responsible for the novitiate of the Congregation and formation of the...
novices and postulants. She was then appointed Director of the Admitting Office and Public Services at St. Vincent Charity Hospital where she worked until her retirement to Mount Augustine. **Sister Mary Agnes** is now retired but she spent most of her religious life working at the motherhouse and at Mercy and Timken Mercy Hospitals in Canton. She did clerical work, operated the switchboard, and assisted in the Medical Records Department. Parmadale and St. Vincent Charity Hospital were centers for **Sister Pauline**'s ministry. She served as a cottage parent at Parmadale and was receptionist in the Surgical Lounge in the hospital where she now volunteers. Friends and relatives of the jubilarians gathered in the Mount Augustine chapel at 2:30 to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving. Father John Mucha, a nephew of Sister Coletta, was the main celebrant and Father William Young, SSS, a cousin of Sister Maura concelebrated. Father Joseph McMahon, Chaplain of St. Vincent Charity Hospital, gave the homily. The Mass was followed by a reception.

**Images**

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**Do you know someone interested in becoming a Sister of Charity of St. Augustine?**

Please have her contact  
Sister Ruth Ann Patrick  
c/o Mount Augustine  
5232 Broadview Rd., Richfield, OH  
or by phone at 979-0943 (home)  
or 861-6200 (work).

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**“Angel of Hope”**

**New video on the Life of Sr. Mary Ignatia**

A new 40 minute video on the story of **Sr. Ignatia Gavin**, CSA and her work with the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous is now available for purchase.

For more than 40 years, Sr. Ignatia was a messenger of hope for alcoholics and their families. Her courageous stand for medical treatment and her caring devotion to the victims of alcoholism helped Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson, founders of Alcoholics Anonymous - and thousands who came after them.

You are invited to help make the story of Sr. Ignatia and the ministry of CSA better known by telling your family, friends, parishioners, etc. about this NEW video, and encouraging them to buy it through CSA.

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Cost: Videos are $19.95 and can be purchased at the Gift Shop at Mt. Augustine and/or through Sr. Mary Denis. Checks should be made out to Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. If videos must be mailed, please use the Order Form enclosed with this issue of IMAGES. Thank you for any help which you can give to this project.
Recently, a physician friend asked me how my water color painting was going. I told him that my paints and brushes were "in storage" and sadly drying up. Since he was my teacher, he immediately responded with dismay and encouraged me to "get back to it!"

When I reflect on what "creativity" means, I think of my own life and know that the gifts God has given me need to be brought forth from storage, experienced and proclaimed. As this gift is used in painting, it is expressed in different ways based on skills and the vision shaping the image. The gift of the artisan is the same. The expression changes with time.

Pope John Paul II invites religious to creative fidelity. To the Superiors General on November 27, 1993, he said:

"The founders knew how to incarnate in their time, with courage and holiness, the evangelical message. It is necessary that, faithful to the breath of the Spirit, their spiritual children continue in time this witness, imitating their creativity with a mature fidelity to the charism of the origins, in a constant listening to the needs of the present moment."

Throughout our history, CSA has opened our hearts, taken our charism (gift) of charity, and attentively read the signs of the times. We have experienced the power of the Spirit and searched for the will of God in creating new potential to serve others.

Since its founding in 1851, the Congregation has been in service in health care, attentively meeting the needs of the times. We have served in home health and hospital care, care for the alcoholic, clinics for the underserved, etc. Today, health care is changing rapidly. A new response is needed by CSA to creatively continue the mission.

In May, 1995, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine Health System signed a letter of intent with Columbia/HCA to form a 50/50 joint venture partnership to operate the hospitals sponsored by CSA. The provisions of the partnership include terms which meet all of our Catholic ethical, canonical and faith obligations. In addition, funds will be received by CSA HS which will enable the Congregation to develop new ways of responding to meeting the needs of the underserved through foundations in Canton, Cleveland, and Columbia, SC. We are in a process of continuing to plan and evaluate the partnership. We have engaged staff, physicians and trustees from our CSA sponsored institutions in the process. Their commitment to find ways to journey with CSA in preserving Catholic health care ministry is a gift.

The changes that will happen in our health care system are both creative and transformational. They are a response to our commitment to live an experience of God at the very heart of the rapidly changing world. The proposed partnership between CSA HS and Columbia/HCA is the first such joint venture between a Catholic health care system and an investor owned corporation. Being "first" in painting such a new picture, brings challenges as well. Yet, it is believed that the partnership will strengthen the Catholic health care ministry in order to survive well into the future. All of these efforts are to assure that the apostolic mission of CSA will be fulfilled, i.e. "responding as our founding sisters did to the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of God's people." (CSA Constitution, page 7)