



Journeys

SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR

Vol. XXXVI No. 1
Spring 2022

Humble and Courageous Leadership Shared with Dr. Karen Kenkel, Villa Joseph Marie Interim President

Villa Joseph Marie High School Interim President, Dr. Karen Kenkel, agreed to be interviewed and share insights about her trip to visit the SSCs in Chicago and Lemont.

Villa Joseph Marie Interim President Dr. Karen Kenkel and VJM Board Chair Mary Smithson visited the Sisters of St. Casimir Leadership team at St. Casimir Center in Chicago on December 13-14.

What were highlights of your recent visit with the Sisters that live and work in the Motherhouse?

While I have had the good fortune to regularly interact with Sister Immacula Wendt and Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius in person when they visit Villa, it was particularly inspiring to meet Sister Regina Dubickas and Sister Margaret Zalot at the Motherhouse and to experience a tour of the Legacy space with them. What impressed me most about my visit was the pervasive spirit of community. These women religious are truly sisters in a family joined together by faith.

I shared delicious meals with them cooked up by Sister Immacula, washed dishes alongside Sister Margaret Zalot and Sister Dolorine Lopez, worshipped with all of the Sisters in the small chapel they use during COVID. I witnessed how they quietly support each other without fuss in their day-to-day living, how they look out for and attend to each other and to their mission, each according to her ability and gifts.

continued on page 6



From left: Sister Regina Dubickas, Sister Immacula Wendt, Dr. Karen Kenkel, Sister Margaret Zalot, and Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius at the second floor entrance to administrative offices at the Motherhouse in Chicago.

A message from Sister Regina



Not too long before her death on March 26, Sister Regina jotted down some notes for Sister Margaret Zalot for this issue of *Journeys*.

Know that there will be more to come in the next special issue of *Journeys*.

It is spring 2022. It is Easter. In the Song of Songs 2:10-12, 13b we read:

*"Arise my beloved, my beautiful one and come!
For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and
gone. The flowers appear on the earth...
Arise my beautiful one and come."*

Fitting words for Sister Regina then and during the funeral Masses celebrated on April 1 at Franciscan Village

in Lemont, Illinois, and April 2 at St. Casimir Center in Chicago.

And words of gratitude for all the generous donors who are listed in this issue. And words of gratitude for all those who reached out to Sister Regina during her illness with prayers, cards, Mass offerings, phone calls, and so much more. You were, for her, part of the great cloud of witnesses that surrounded her with your love and prayers.

We all learned much during the pandemic. Sister Regina learned more as the words of Rumi came to life:

"We are all just walking each other home."

Reflect on how you might have walked her home. How she might have walked you home.

In her notes to Sister Margaret Zalot, Sister Regina made reference to the death of Eleanor Ebert, SSC Auxiliary President. She was conscious of others living and others dying and how we need to accompany each other.

Excerpts from Sister Regina's letters to family, Sisters, Associates and faithful friends

March 4, 2022

I have learned much about what illness can teach us; I have experienced love and sacrifice on the part of caregivers and have thanked God for every day as it is a gift. I am grateful to each of you for your prayers, your understanding, your love. We continue the journey together for a great love! There is always hope! Miracles still happen and they are happening all the time, maybe not in the way we wanted or thought, but in the way God gives.

March 18, 2022

*I ask you to continue to keep me in your prayers and want you to know that I continue to pray for each of you. I love you and truly feel that "we're all walking each other home." (Rumi)
Thank you for being with me on my journey.*

Sister Regina

Villa Joseph Marie High School Principal Lauren Carr visits Chicago in February

Villa Joseph Marie High School Principal Lauren Carr shares insights about her trip to visit the SSCs in Chicago and Lemont in February.

What were the highlights of your visit with the Sisters at the Motherhouse?

Lauren Carr:

- The actual feeling of walking the halls of the Motherhouse, where so many of the SSC that I have been taught by, worked with, and looked up to spent large portions of their lives, was tangible.
- Being able to share in evening prayers with the Sisters, and then to hear Sister Regina speak about various memories of her niece and nephews, as well as stories of her own childhood and how she and her parents and sister came



From left: Sister Immacula Wendt, Lauren Carr, and Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius in the Legacy Room at St. Casimir Center.

from Lithuania, due to a sponsorship via an ad, coming through Ellis Island, her family making their way to Illinois, her mom sweeping floors at the movie theater and bringing home combs and coins she'd find at night for her daughters, her father working and occasionally bringing home a piece of chocolate for the girls to eat, which connected so gently to Sister Regina eating a piece of Dove chocolate after our dinner on that Monday evening.

• Being able to spend two hours alone with Sister Regina to just chat. It was like sitting with a relative and swapping stories. While her health was declining, she was so present and her genuine thought-filled self.

It makes me beyond appreciative to know I was able to see her in her final weeks.

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JANUARY 1, 2021– DECEMBER 31, 2021

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*Thank
you*

*The Sisters thank all of their benefactors
and apologize for any names that may
have been inadvertently omitted.*

The SSC Auxiliary Bids Farewell to Eleanor Ebert

By Susan Binkis, SSC Auxiliary Moderator

The officers of the Sisters of St. Casimir Auxiliary extend our sincere good wishes to all of our Auxiliary members. The past two years have presented us with many challenges, and the possibility and nature of future activities are still being discussed. However, we want you to know that we are still “working” for the St. Casimir Community on your behalf. We are not collecting annual dues until we resume activities.

However, we are fulfilling the spiritual mission of our organization by joining the Sisters in prayer, and by honoring those of our members who have passed on with Masses said on their behalf. Please be sure to notify us if you know of any of our members who have died in the past two years. They will be acknowledged in the next *Journeys*.

Other than dealing with the COVID pandemic, perhaps our greatest challenge has been the passing of our dedicated President, Eleanor Ebert. Eleanor passed away on September 22, 2021, having lived 90 years with a youthful vigor that kept us all on our toes. Ginger Madden, our Vice President, has stepped up to lead the organization until regular meetings resume.



Eleanor was a special person, and we want to share some of the highlights of her interesting life.

Born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, she was a teen beauty, who earned first runner-up in a Miss Lithuania contest. In 1949, at the age of 18, she and her sisters moved to Chicago and opened the Four Sisters Tap on 43rd and Halsted. It was there she met her husband.

Although she did not attend university, she always pursued learning. Her children shared with us many stories that demonstrated how she was constantly re-inventing herself, sewing in the neighborhood, taking art lessons and learning to drive late in life.

There was so much about Eleanor that none of us knew. She accepted an invitation from her retired Air

Force brother-in-law to visit Afghanistan in 1978. She visited India to see the Taj Mahal, London, Paris, Greece, and Amsterdam, as well as travelled in the United States to Alaska and Hawaii and camped in the Wyoming wilderness. Her fishing trips to Canada were special times for her and her family.

Eleanor raised her family and shared with them her deep commitment to the community. She was involved with Girl and Boy Scouts, Parent-Teacher associations and the Park District and served as President of the St. George Young at Heart Club.

Upon the death of former President Mary Rudis, Sr. Genevieve Kripas asked Eleanor to serve as President of the Sisters of St. Casimir Auxiliary. She accepted, bringing a devotion and untiring spirit to the job. Eleanor was dedicated to the Sisters and to the beatification cause of Mother Maria Kaupas.

As described by a friend, Eleanor was a force of nature. For those of us who planned and worked with her, purchased raffle tickets from her, and shared so many hours of laughter and banter, we can only agree. Please keep her and all our deceased members in your prayers.



From left, top row: Sister Rita Marie Kerdock, Sister Mary Louise Andrulonis, Sister Bernadette Marie Janus. Sitting from left: Sister Margaret Petcavage, Dr. Karen Kenkel, and Mary Smithson at Franciscan Village in Lemont.

This incredibly precious family-community helped me to see the power of a humble and courageous faith, and to witness the source of the charism that pervades the Villa Joseph Marie community. I was also impressed with the wisdom, courage, and faith-filled pragmatism of the Sisters of St. Casimir as I learned more about their various enterprises in Chicago.

This is an order that, under the guidance of Mother Maria Kaupas, founded not only Villa Joseph Marie, but also helped build a hospital in Chicago, and built a school and a Motherhouse nearby that each spans a city block. It is one thing to read about these accomplishments, but quite another to see what monumental achievements they are!

It is also an order that has made the conscious decision not to renew its numbers, and has embraced the non-renewal of the order with courage and transformational thinking anchored in faith. I learned that the Sisters have sold or transferred control of almost all of their various enterprises –Villa Joseph Marie being a notable exception - while preserving their faith and service focus, and

they've done so through a process of community discernment.

The Motherhouse, which at one time housed over 500 Sisters of St. Casimir, was transferred by the Sisters to Catholic Charities and continues to serve the poor, maintaining the SSC mission. When the Sisters transferred their hospital to Sinai Health, they required the preservation of its chapel and a commitment to continue to support the health needs of the poor and vulnerable. This hospital now serves members of its surrounding community regardless of their ability to pay, and has the busiest emergency room in the Chicago area.

The SSCs' Maria High School became a K-12 charter school, Catalyst Maria that provides a positive and safe alternative for children of all ages on the Southwest Side of Chicago. It is striking to reflect that the Sisters chose to sacrifice the school's explicit Catholic affiliation in order to continue to do God's work through the school. And the words of Mother Maria Kaupas continue to adorn its walls: "Always more, always better, always with love."

This creative, progressive, transfor-

mational, fluid thinking anchored in faith, mission, and Gospel values has made a profound impact on me. I cannot imagine a more challenging task than to manage the metamorphosis of a religious order while preserving its charism, but the Sisters continue to do so with the calm, clear eyes of faith and the support of each other. May they inspire all of us navigating change in Catholic education.

The Legacy Room of the Sisters of St. Casimir opened to the public in August of 2018. You received a guided tour by two members of the Leadership team – what were the highlights for you? Any particular favorite story? Discovery?

For me, my tour guides were the highlight of the Legacy Room. Sister Margaret and Sister Regina spent close to two hours walking and talking with me through the space. Another highlight was to realize the reach and impact of the Sisters' work as it was displayed in the Legacy space. From the schools they staffed and the teachers they trained, the art they produced and the sick they tended, I saw the power of one

strong-willed and faith-filled woman to change the world by empowering a community of women religious.

I also learned of the courage of Mother Maria, who travelled alone by boat from her Lithuanian homeland to the United States when she was only 17, on a journey that took over 45 days. Unhappy with American culture at the time, she decided to return to Lithuania a few years later on another arduous journey, only to arrive in Lithuania and discern that her calling was to be a Sister in the United States – and to found a new order!

As our young JEMS leave Villa and head off to college, I want each of them to be inspired by Mother Maria's courage as well as her perseverance through a difficult path of discernment.

Imagine traveling back to Lithuania for 45 days only to realize: wait, this is not where I need to be! And then to have the courage to turn right back around and fight to establish a new order, often against considerable headwinds and opposition.

The chapel at St. Casimir Center

is a very important place – and the sarcophagus of Mother Maria is a sacred place for visitors. Could you share any thoughts about the chapel with *Journeys* readers?

I was awestruck by the chapel. You walk down the hallway and open a door that looks almost like any other door to a bedroom in the Motherhouse and behold a sublime space. The chapel has a cosmopolitan beauty that reflects the influences of the time in which it was built, from the glowing Tyrolian-stained glass windows to the Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie style light fixtures, to the religious inscriptions in Lithuanian. In comparing it to the chapel at Villa, which is very different in appearance from the Motherhouse chapel, both chapels evoke the same spirit of the welcoming sacred, and are spaces of solace, inspiration, and devotion.

Your visit included quality time visiting our Sisters at Franciscan Village in Lemont. What insights or thoughts could you share?

I was struck, again, by the wisdom and love of the Sisters. They welcomed

VJM Board Chair Mary Smithson and me into their family community, and made sure that we met all of the Sisters at Franciscan Village – from those living independently in a wing reconfigured at the Sisters' request to support a faith-community, to those requiring either assisted living or intensive hospital support.

I met former principals, teachers, and students of Villa, and it was fun to hear stories of some of the hijinks the Sisters got up to. While a student at Villa, for example, one of the Sisters developed a thriving business of selling access to the convent to Villa students at 25 cents a visit while the Sisters were at Mass. This "Villa-ness," as she referred to herself, got caught when one of the Sisters was ill and stayed in her room instead of going to Mass, and caught the girls roaming the convent halls.

I also learned the origin stories of some of Villa's cherished traditions from the women who began them. My visit was a deeply meaningful experience that made present to me the power of faith communities in a way I had not witnessed before.

Mother Maria Kaupas Center in Mount Carmel, PA Resumes Service Programs

Six college students spent part of their Christmas holiday break helping others through the Sixth Annual Winter Service Program, sponsored by the Mother Maria Kaupas Center in Mount Carmel, Pa.

It was the first time in the service program for five of the students.

The program was not held in 2020-2021 because of COVID restrictions.

The students' service this year included projects at the Kaupas Center and their home parishes. They made and delivered homemade soup to senior citizens and homebound residents and performed volunteer efforts at the Mount Carmel Area Public Library and Mount Carmel Area Ministerium Food Pantry, as well as at the Knights of Columbus in Mount Carmel.



From left: Michael Balichik, Eliza Watkins and Bradley Shurock, cut up ingredients for the homemade soup, which was later delivered to homebound residents in Mount Carmel.

Participants in the Winter Service Program are volunteers, but in appreciation for their six days of service, the Kaupas Center awarded

each volunteer with a \$200 stipend to provide some small assistance in pursuing their college educations.

The Service Program seeks applications annually from area college students who are members of the three Roman Catholic parishes and one

Ukrainian Catholic parish in Mount Carmel and Kulpmont, Pennsylvania.



St. Casimir Academy Maria High School *Alumnae*

There are a limited number of T-shirts available for \$15.00.

Please make your check payable to: Maria Kaupas Center and mail it and order form to Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius, SSC.

St. Casimir-Maria
Alumnae Association
2601 West Marquette Road
Chicago, IL 60629-1817
773-349-8065
www.stcasimir-mariaalum.com
alumnae@ssc2601.com

Please continue to update your contact information and send us your email addresses.

Some alums receive *Journeys*, and if you know of other alums who would like to receive *Journeys*, please send us contact information.

We plan to have alumnae news in future issues of *Journeys*, a publication of the Sisters of St. Casimir.



Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius sporting the alum T-shirt.

T-shirt Order Form

Name			
First	Maiden	Last	Year of Graduation
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Cell phone			
E-mail			
Size (available in M, L, XL)			

Is There Going to Be a Maria High School 40th Reunion?

With graduations drawing near, the thought of high school class reunions may be far in the future for many graduates. Journeys would like to share the story of the Maria High School Class of 1981's 40th Reunion party, hosted by Ann Latoza Nagel. Ann kindly shared "Is there going to be a Maria HS 40th Reunion this year?" with Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius.

One day in March, I scrolled through Facebook. I ran across a post on a Maria HS Facebook page. Dawn Serafin, a classmate from '81, was asking, "Is there going to be a Maria HS 40th Reunion this year?" There were 31 comments to Dawn's request. Unfortunately, as with anything else indoors, due to the pandemic, the Maria HS Alumnae was not hosting a reunion for the Class of 1981.

So, I thought, I have room in my backyard, more like 3 acres, to host a reunion. After conversing with Dawn and Melanie McCarthy Shelley, a "Reunion Party" was born. I posted on the Maria HS FB page that anyone who attended Maria HS and had graduated in 1981 was invited to attend an impromptu reunion at my home in Monee, Illinois, on June 12, 2021.

Our first mission was to get the word out to as many classmates as possible. Dawn worked on Classmates.com, and Melanie contacted friends she was still in touch with as well as looking up our classmates on Facebook. I contacted Sister Elizabeth Ann at the Maria HS Alumnae website and put a few ads in the local papers in and around Maria HS neighborhoods.

We received many responses to our endeavor. My invitation was simple, but detailed. I stated that we would have a big, beautiful tent in which we can all eat and catch up with our visiting classmates. The menu was a throwback to our days of buffets at local restaurants we ate at when we were kids: roast beef, broasted chicken, mostaccioli, and salad.

I also provided a list of hotels/motels and camping places within a 25-mile area of my home for those who were coming from out of town. I had my stereo for music, which played songs from the '70s and '80s; I also had a picture of our graduation bulletin blown up and everyone who

forever grateful for the items she lent us and allowed us to purchase. We sold many alumnae T-shirts to all that were there.

Some of the classmates who lived not far from my home (so glad to find I have classmates that live so close to me) brought either a salad or dessert. There were about 15 tables and 50 chairs set up under the tent. Everyone, just like we did in the lunchroom back in the day, sat with our friends and ate our meals.

We started off with a prayer for dear, departed classmates, then a champagne toast, and then a prayer for our meal. We conversed under the tent, and we basked in the afterglow of the setting sun and through our conversations of yesteryear and of our families that have grown over the years.

I had everyone fill out a questionnaire that gave an opportunity to connect with one another. We had classmates who came from Boston; Maine; Fort Myers, Florida; San Antonio, Texas; Phoenix; Marana, Arizona; and Terrebonne, Oregon. We

had classmates who still live in the vicinity of Maria High School to a classmate from Lake Villa, Illinois, to southern Illinois in Girard, and everywhere in between.

As we parted ways, we all stated that 40 years is too long to wait to get together again. So with that, another idea was born. If my classmates and friends agree, maybe we can get together every 5 years. It can be held at the American Legion Hall near my home, or it can be held at my home again.

In 5 years, I will be posting once again on FB: "who wants to have a reunion for classmates of '81?"



Jeane Pendergast, Jane K. Arelene, Pratel Farrar enjoying the class of 1981 reunion.

wanted could take pictures alongside the poster.

A big shout out goes to Dawn, who created bags from Arizona, where she has lived since the early '80s. She had every kind of knick-knack, a T-shirt, and a water bottle. She also had bags of candy from 1981. Dawn also made black mortarboards with "Maria HS Class of 1981" written on the top and attached a tassel in our school colors and the #81.

Then there were the many items from Sister Elizabeth Ann that Dawn went to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir to pick up. We all are

At Journey's End — *Eternal Days Beginning*

Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC MAY 9, 1933 – FEBRUARY 13, 2022 (FORMERLY SISTER M. AGNETTA)



Johanna Marie Shainauskas, the daughter of Stanley and Julia (Pulokas) Shainauskas, was born in Chicago in the Bridgeport community on May 9, 1933. She grew up in a loving family, centered around St. George Parish. Johanna Marie had an older sister, Julie, who left home for the convent in 1948, and a younger brother, Frank.

Early on, Johanna Marie became acquainted with the Sisters of St. Casimir, having experienced them as teachers from kindergarten (at St. George School) through high school (at St. Casimir Academy). They helped her to appreciate her faith and to develop a love for learning. Then, one day when she came home from high school, she informed her Mom that she wanted to be a Sister. Her Mom said, "Go ahead and follow your dream."

On February 2, 1950, Johanna Marie entered the community. She received the name Sister M. Agnetta upon her reception into the novitiate on August 2 of 1950. Sister M. Agnetta made her first vows on August 15, 1952. Thus began her life of ministry and service in three states – California, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

She was well prepared for her ministries in education, having received her B.S. in Education from Marywood College in Scranton, Pa., and going on to receive her M.Ed. from Loyola University in Chicago, Ill. and her M.A. in Spanish from Villanova University in Villanova, Pa. Additionally, Sister Johanna traveled in Mexico, Spain, and Argentina, for education/ministry experiences and learning first-hand about diverse cultures, which she used for class enrichment.

In the schools where Sister Johanna ministered, she is remembered as an excellent teacher and a wonderful person, who helped her students to find the right path in life. She began her ministry as a primary grade teacher, then moved on to junior high. During her last year in elementary education, she was principal of Providence of God School in Chicago.

In 1977, Sister Johanna was assigned to Villa Joseph Marie High School in Holland, Pa., where she served over the next 11 years as assistant principal, Spanish teacher (Spanish I, II, III, IV, and V), and Music Appreciation

teacher. She added to overall school life by working with Student Council, the Junior Class, National Honor Society, Glee Club, and school musicals. She helped create new Ring Day traditions and, with Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius, hosted the first Thanksgiving Feast, prepared in the foods lab and served in the auditorium/gym. In 2019, Sister Johanna was inducted into Villa's Wall of Fame, a well-deserved honor.

Sister Johanna was reassigned to Chicago in 1988 so that she could be with Sister Julie, who was seriously ill, and to care for her elderly mother. She ministered at Holy Cross Hospital as receptionist and taught music at Immaculate Conception School. In 1990, she began her ministry at Maria High School as Director of Student Services and teacher of Spanish III and IV, until retiring in 1999.

She introduced a special Christmas song to both Maria and Villa Joseph Marie: *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. She led the entire student body, each section singing their line with appropriate actions. Even in retirement, she made annual guest appearances to lead this song. The young women looked forward to it each year and "raised the roof" with their joyful singing.

Besides being fluent in Spanish, Sister Johanna spoke Lithuanian, which proved helpful while she was secretary and receptionist at Nativity BVM parish in Chicago after she retired from Maria. She was a long-time member of the Knights of Lithuania and worked on their *Vytis* magazine.

Sister Johanna was always learning and giving of herself. In 2010 she began dialysis treatments, which put limitations on her. She then embarked on the ministry of prayer and presence, first in the SSC infirmary until 2014, then at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Franciscan Village. Because of her increasing health needs, she later moved to Mother Theresa Home where she ministered, until God called her home, by visiting residents and engaging them in conversation.

In 2012, when Sister Johanna celebrated her 60th anniversary as a Sister of St. Casimir, she reflected: "Whenever my own vocation/journey comes to an end, all I hope for is to hear God's words, 'Well done good and faithful servant.'" She heard those words clearly on the morning of February 13, 2022. Her dream had been fulfilled as she entered the loving embrace of our God!

At Journey's End — *Eternal Days Beginning*

Sister M. Concetta Petrauskas, SSC
JUNE 17, 1920 – MARCH 14, 2022



Frank and Anna (Kwedder) Petrauskas welcomed Emily Ann (Sister Concetta) into their family on June 17, 1920, in Shenandoah, Pa. She grew up in a very religious family in St. George Parish, Shenandoah, where she was baptized, made her first communion, and was confirmed. She grew up with a younger brother, Albin, and a

younger sister, Veronica (Vera), who was born almost 10 years after Emily.

Emily appreciated Vera's beautiful voice, and they sang together at Masses. Emily encouraged Vera to pursue her gift, which she did – performing in operas and musicals, but eventually relinquishing opera when she began raising a family. Both Sister Concetta and Vera developed a very close relationship over the years. Family was always important to Sister M. Concetta.

Seeds of her vocation were sown early on and were nurtured by her family, especially her mother, who taught Emily to pray and encouraged her to share her faith with children in the parish by teaching them their prayers in Sunday school.

After viewing the movie *The White Sister* and hearing her pastor talk about the Lithuanian heritage and good works of the Sisters of St. Casimir, Emily knew that this was the community for her. She applied to enter the Congregation, but was not able to join because her father had died in a mining accident and she was needed as the breadwinner for the family. After her mother had remarried, Emily entered the convent and was welcomed into the Congregation on August 14, 1940.

On August 15, 1943, Sister M. Concetta made her first vows. Thus began her life of ministry and service within the Church, which took her to four states: Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. She was well prepared for her ministries in education, having received her B.S.

in Education and her M.S. in Counselor Education from Marywood College in Scranton, Pa.

Sister M. Concetta was a gracious and creative teacher, well-liked by her students. Her first 13 years as an educator were in teaching the primary grades, first at Providence of God School in the Pilsen area of Chicago, then at St. Joseph School in Scranton, Pa, then at All Saints School in the Roseland area of Chicago, followed by a return to St Joseph. From 1956 to 1962, she was assigned to teach business education classes at Maria High School in Chicago. She maintained relationships with former students from Maria throughout her life.

After Maria, Sister Concetta had various assignments in Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Ohio, but she held a special place in her heart for the young women she taught and counseled at Villa Joseph Marie High School in Holland, Pa, from 1974 to 2007. During those 33 years, she made lasting friendships with colleagues and was able to encourage her students to develop their gifts and talents.

Sister M. Concetta was a life-long learner; in her retirement years she learned new computer skills, communicated through emails, and learned how to use Facebook. She would have enjoyed all the positive Facebook postings about her when her passing became known.

In 2003, Sister M. Concetta celebrated her 60th anniversary as a Sister of St. Casimir. In her reflection on that occasion, she wrote: "Whenever my own vocation/journey comes to an end, all I hope for is to hear God's words, 'Well done good and faithful servant'."

In 2018, when Sister M. Concetta celebrated her 75th anniversary, she ended her reflection with these words: "I joyfully await God's loving hand...I will be hopefully welcomed into God's loving embrace."

Sister M. Concetta celebrated her 100th birthday in 2020 "COVID-style." She was greeted through her window while sitting at the window in her room.

After a life well-lived, Sister M. Concetta felt God's loving embrace and heard God say to her: "Well done, good and faithful servant."



*Eternal rest,
grant unto them,
O Lord,
and let
perpetual light shine
upon them.
Amen*

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The following is the welcome
that greets you when you enter the
Legacy Room of the Sisters of St. Casimir.
We invite you to visit the St. Casimir Center
at 2601 West Marquette Road.
The Legacy Room is open.
Please email dcyvas@ssc2601.com
or call 773.349.8064
to schedule a tour.

You are standing on holy ground. The story you are about to experience is that of the Sisters of St. Casimir: their founding, the ways they have embraced their mission to foster the life of faith, and how they responded with generosity and compassion to the needs of their time. It is our hope that, as you journey through this exhibit, you will be inspired by the spirit of love and dedication of the Sisters and their foundress, Mother Maria Kaupas, and will express this inspiration in the unique living of your own life. May the dream and the journey of faith and service continue through you.

Our story begins in the heart of a courageous young woman from Lithuania, who came to the United States and discovered her life's purpose.

The Sisters of St. Casimir