

*“Compelled by the example and word of Mary Frances Clarke in her sensitive response to critical human situations, we strive to seek out and attend to those in need whatever this may require of us.”*

—BVM Constitutions #15

## Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary! During the past year, the Office of Development has gone through a period of transition with former Director of Development Ann Sweeney assuming her new role as congregational secretary and Associate Director of Development Shirley Brown retiring. In May 2022, I began my duties as the new director.

My first encounter with BVMs was as a student at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. I transferred to Clarke my junior year and immediately felt at home. Professors knew me by name rather than student identification number.

They also took an active interest in my well-being and academic success. In addition to my studies, I provided campus tours, participated in leadership retreats, and served as a residence hall advisor.

After obtaining a master’s degree, my first full-time job was as director of annual funds at Clarke. I spent six wonderful years there before accepting a position with the Dubuque Catholic school system. For the past 17 years, I served as director of development for the local symphony orchestra.

When the opportunity presented itself to once again be part of the BVM community, I was at a point in my life when I had started to reflect on my own personal legacy. The more I learned about this position, the more I knew I belonged back with the BVMs.

I could not be any happier with my decision, which has enabled me to reconnect with some familiar faces as well as make new friends. Best of all, I am working with our donors to help realize the BVM core values of freedom, education, charity, and justice here in the United States and around the globe.

*BVM Perspective* acknowledges donors whose cumulative contributions or contributions over the past fiscal year made them a member of a Donors of Distinction giving circle. BVM Monthly Partners honors friends who contribute monthly. Mary Frances Clarke Society honors those whose lifetime giving reached \$10,000 or more. Mount Carmel Partners honors friends who show their generosity with gifts of \$1,000 or more during a fiscal year. Legacy Partners Society honors those whose commitment to the future of the BVM sisters is demonstrated through estate plans.

Beyond the Donors of Distinction named in this annual report, a full list of over 3,000 donors is available at [bvmsisters.org](http://bvmsisters.org). An electronic donor listing preserves resources and facilitates regular updates.

We appreciate your understanding as we make every effort to recognize all contributions during the fiscal year and to protect the privacy of donors who request anonymity. However, we are aware that mistakes can happen. If you notice your name is omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly identified, please accept our sincere apologies and advise the office of development of the inaccuracy.

Thank you again for all you offer of yourselves to the Sisters of Charity, BVM. We simply could not continue the work we do without your commitment, friendship, and prayers. Please know we are so incredibly grateful and will always keep you in our prayers!



**With deep gratitude,**

*Jean A. Tucker*

**Jean Tucker**  
Director of Development

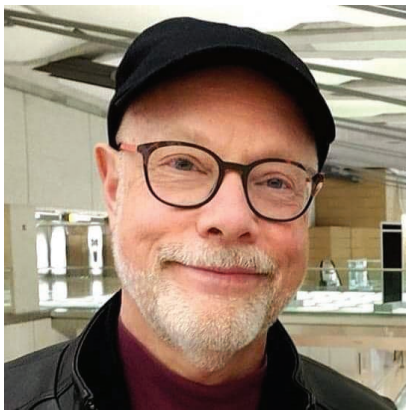
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The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is recognized as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, religious organization by the State of Iowa and the Federal Government.  
All financial information in this report has been reviewed by Eide Bailly LLP.

# BVM Perspective

2021–2022 Annual Report  
Office of BVM Development



## Donor profile: Joe O'Hare

### A Chance Meeting Becomes a Life-long Connection

by Kari Litscher

**Joe O'Hare met the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary over 50 years ago while visiting Chicago. During his stay, he took the opportunity to visit some of the city's parochial schools for a research project for his degree at LaSalle College in Philadelphia. He was examining how parochial schools offered a racially diverse environment for their students and provided neighborhood stability.**

Our Lady of Angels School on Chicago's west side was part of a neighborhood in transition at the time. Joe was interested in including the school in his research for a variety of reasons. He shares that he had possessed some knowledge of the BVMs prior to meeting them officially . . . "I was aware of their

reputation as outstanding educators and their involvement in social justice issues." What he didn't know at the time was that a meeting with Principal Bertilla Barrett, BVM would become a catalyst for life-long friendships and mutual support.

Joe reflects on his first impression of Bertilla and remembers her as "welcoming, knowledgeable . . . with a great sense of dedication for her work."

Joe and Bertilla became fast friends and kept in touch over the years. Eight years after that initial meeting, Joe visited Bertilla at Holy Name Cathedral Convent in Chicago. There, he met BVM Virginia (Flocella) Hughes. Virginia was preparing to move to Washington, D.C., for religious education work. Since Joe is a D.C. native and has lived in the area most of his life, he became an important friend for Virginia as she

settled into her new location. Later, Joe was able to visit her during her retirement at Wright Hall, a BVM residence in Chicago.

Joe recalls, "The Wright Hall community was a pleasure to visit. I was also fortunate in getting to know BVMs Mary Johnetta Monahan and Dorothy (James Margaret) Hollahan. On one occasion, I attended Sunday Mass in the chapel. Some of the sisters came up to me afterward and said it was a nice addition to have a 'deep male voice added to the singing.'"

Throughout his life, Joe has been fortunate to make connections with many communities of religious women but says, "the BVMs are closest to my heart . . . I've been blessed by their friendship and support."

Joe has been giving back to the BVM mission and ministry for more

*Donor Profile continued on p. 24.*

*Donor Profile continued from p. 23.*

than 20 years. As a donor, Joe has made regular direct cash donations. He began looking for other ways to continue his support and started gifting stock shares.

“By transferring stock to the community, I could avoid taxes with any capital gains, if selling shares. At the same time, BVMs obtain full benefit from selling any stock they

receive. As a non-profit, they have no obligation for taxes either. The same will hold true for contributions from an IRA account, when required to start making withdrawals.”

Joe has also requested that memorial donations for family members be made to the BVMs.

Like many BVMs, Joe has had a career in education. Although he lives far from them, a connection to the life and mission is still strong as he feels his work “aligns with the

endeavors of the BVMs.”

One of the things Joe enjoys most about being a donor is sharing in the BVM ministries—including prayer—and being part of their long history of charity. “I like to say that I was not taught by BVMs in a classroom, but I was educated by their faithful witness and example.” ■

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**About the Author:** Kari Litscher is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity, BVM in Dubuque, Iowa.



**Roberta Lavin met the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 2010 when she interviewed for the Chair of Nursing and Health at Clarke University, in Dubuque, Iowa. She was living in the Washington, D.C., metro area and preparing to fly in for the meeting.**

A day before her flight, the airline called to inform her that the flight was cancelled due to the impending snowstorm which was predicted to drop several feet of snow. Acting quickly, Roberta was able to get on the last flight out that night.

On her way to the airport, she called BVM Joan (Ramone Mary) Lingen, Clarke University Provost at the time, and informed her of the situation. Joan replied, “No, you aren’t coming.” Roberta said, “I’m coming, but I have to come tonight, or I can’t get out.” Plans were set in motion.

## Donor Profile: Roberta Lavin

### A Heart for the BVMs

by Kari Litscher

With a quick layover in Chicago, she caught the last flight to Dubuque. When she landed, Joan and BVM Kate (Joseph Marie) Hendel were waiting. Roberta was amused that the sisters seemed to know everyone that disembarked the plane, and therefore “recognized” her. It seemed that everyone knew the sisters too, for they had parked right outside the terminal entrance without incident (a towable offence in D.C., Roberta notes).

The sisters brought Roberta to their home for dinner. BVMs Catherine (Catherine Michele) Dunn and Therese (Jeremy) Mackin joined them. Immediately Roberta felt at ease, welcomed, and knew she was with the right group of women. “After my day getting there, I would have accepted the job on the spot. We spent a couple of hours talking and then they drove me to my hotel . . . not the least bit bothered by the same snowstorm that had shut down Washington, D.C.”

Roberta served at Clarke University for three years. She says, “If we had been able to find my husband a job in Dubuque, I doubt we would have ever left. It was by far the best place I have ever worked and I’m sure

that is because of the living influence of the BVMs.”

Since leaving, Roberta and her husband have faithfully been monthly donors. She says, “I like donating to people that I love and I think influenced my life in a positive way. I suspect if I had gone to school at Clarke as an undergraduate, I would have wanted to be a BVM.”

The Lavins have also included the BVMs as a beneficiary of their life insurance policy. “I have no children and my husband always said we should leave our money to places that make the world more beautiful. I think the BVMs make the world a more beautiful and kinder place.”

Roberta reflects on her time in Dubuque and with the BVMs, recalling, “I loved walking up to the Motherhouse and sitting on the balcony, watching the Mississippi River with that group of inspirational women. They are amazing role models for what it means to be an academic, a Catholic, and a woman. My heart is with them every day.” ■

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**About the author:** Kari Litscher is a communications specialist for Sisters of Charity, BVM in Dubuque, Iowa.





SDN members gather to bid a farewell to Shirley Brown, associate director of development and to welcome Jean Tucker, director of development.

## BVM Sisters Development Network



Jean (Jean Allan) Beste



Mary Anne (Leslie) Bradish



Alice (Alissio) Caulfield



Mary Lois Dolphin



Mary Jean (St. Christopher) Ferry



Maureen Patrice Fury



Marie (David Therese) Greaney



Mary A. Healey



Florence (Floretta) Heflin



Marjorie (Herberdette) Heidkamp



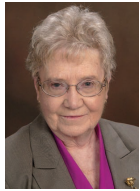
Katherine (St. Wilma) Keating



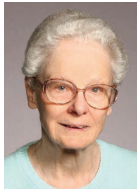
Joanne Marie (Michael Mary) Lucid



Marcelia Maglinte



Bernadette (Lucinus) McManigal



Judith Terese McNulty



Julie O'Neill



Diane (Malia) Rapozo



Margaret (Paul Joseph) Sannasardo



Vicki (Marie Stephen) Smurlo



Mary (Valerie) Waddell

### The BVM Sisters Development Network

(SDN) serves as a key connection between benefactors and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Founded in 1987 with an original group of 11 sisters, today SDN has 20 active participants, nine of whom have been corresponding with donors for more than five years. The sisters who joined SDN in fiscal year 2021–2022 are Marcelia Maglinte, Judith Terese McNulty, and Bernadette Schwach (now deceased).

Connections between Sisters of Charity, BVM and donors are long-standing and deep. In fact, many of the donors are former students of BVMs. To maintain these unique bonds which are based in shared values and respect for the BVM mission, SDN members frequently communicate with donors through letters, phone calls, and email.

This past spring, the group gathered to bid a fond farewell and express their gratitude to Shirley Brown, associate director of development. After a dozen years of dedicated service to the BVM community, especially SDN, Shirley retired at the beginning of June. Director of Development Jean Tucker is now serving as the coordinator for SDN. She is hopeful that some BVMs moving to Mount Carmel Bluffs in Dubuque in 2023 will decide to join this important and fulfilling outreach ministry. ■

### In memory

The BVM Congregation would like to say a special "Thank you" to our SDN sisters who passed away recently.

Thank you Joyce and Bernadette for your tireless efforts to support the BVM mission.



Joyce (Petrine) Cox  
1931–2022



Bernadette Marie (David Ann) Schwach  
1930–2022

# Fundraising Activities

Fiscal Year: 2021–2022

## Total Raised

Fall Appeal  
\$163,663

Giving Tuesday  
\$28,020

Great Give Day  
\$25,056

Birdies for Charity  
\$84,637

*Thank you for joining us. Thank you for sharing our values. Thank you for supporting our mission!*

*Giving Tuesday, "Together We Give," was held on Nov. 30, 2021. The one-day event is a global generosity movement created in 2012 with a simple idea to dedicate a day that encourages people to donate to one or more charitable organizations to transform their communities and the world.*

*The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque established Great Give Day in 2014 to celebrate and support local non-profit organizations and to build a stronger community.*

## Fall Appeal and Giving Tuesday

The 2021 Fall Appeal and Giving Tuesday both focused on ministries tending to the most vulnerable throughout the world. Financial contributions received from our donors promoted global collaborations that helped realize the BVM mission to "seek out and attend to those in need" and assisted BVMs actively working in Ecuador and Ghana.

BVMs everywhere engage in loving acts of charity as they volunteer to help others, work on mission projects for the poor, and collaborate with numerous organizations and religious congregations who serve in places they no longer can.

Our generous benefactors perpetuate the BVM mission to be witnesses of God's steadfast love through outreach to ministries that share our core values of freedom, education, charity, and justice.

BVMs take a spin in the new golf cart purchased with proceeds from the Birdies for Charity event held during the John Deere Classic.

## Great Give Day

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque annually presents Great Give Day. This is the ninth year the BVM Congregation has participated. Held on May 18, 2022, the day once again reflected a remarkable spirit of generosity. We are incredibly grateful to our benefactors who contributed through financial gifts and in so many other ways to support BVMs.

Since 1833, the BVM sisters have attended to those in need. We continue to serve as educators, pastoral care providers, counselors, advocates for social justice, ministry partners, and whatever critical human situations require of us. With your help, we can share the heart of the BVM mission for years to come. This is the Heart of BVM.





## Birdies for Charity

The 2022 John Deere Classic golf tournament took place June 29–July 3 at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill.

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was once again a proud sponsor of the event. The tournament's immensely popular Birdies for Charity program enables individuals, companies, and foundations to pledge a lump sum donation to a charity of their choice with 100% of each pledge collected going to the designated charity. In addition, a Bonus Fund, consisting of tournament revenues, direct donations, a John Deere matching grant, and proceeds from special events are then split among the charities.

This year's funds were designated for the purchase of a golf cart to transport sisters from their residences at Mount Carmel Bluffs in Dubuque, Iowa, to the nearby BVM cemetery and a utility vehicle to assist staff doing maintenance work in the cemetery.



*Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our donors, along with contributions from the BVMs, thousands of people benefited around the world.*

## Ministry Partnership Grants

Over 50 organizations received BVM Ministry Partnership Grants during fiscal year 2021–22 with awards to 20 new organizations, 32 organizations previously funded, and one BVM-administered organization.

Projects served the marginalized, oppressed, and poor in the United States and nine other countries.

These grants helped women break the cycle of poverty and violence through job placement programs and basic needs assistance for food, shelter, transportation, and utilities; built partnerships with those serving deaf youth, refugees, farm workers, and incarcerated individuals; provided access to nutritious meals at community sites, mobile food pantries, and weekend backpack programs; and supported doctor consultations, food kits, medical care, and the distribution of medication for those suffering from illness.

## Hunger Fund Grants

More than 20 community-based organizations and religious congregations in 16 countries outside the United States received BVM Hunger Fund Grants to help alleviate hunger through assistance in areas of basic human needs. These grants provided food supplies for children, the elderly, and families; repaired damage done to water supplies following two devastating hurricanes; purchased materials, chicks, and chicken feed; bought seeds and watering cans to grow crops; and funded a program to teach families how to grow productive vegetable gardens and raise goats.

*Ministry Partnership Grant and Hunger Fund Grant recipients will continue to be featured in Salt.*

# Donors at a Glance



*Thank you for your generous support and friendship.*

The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and those we serve are truly blessed that you have joined us in our mission. It is with sincere gratitude that we present this accounting from the Office of Development.

**Total receipts for the fiscal year, Sept. 1, 2021–Aug. 31, 2022, were \$4,613,426 with a total of 5,822 gifts from 3,006 donors.**



**76**  
average age

**24**  
youngest

**106**  
oldest

**347**  
new donors

**124**  
monthly donors



**Ways to Support Us:**

- Cash Gifts
- Stock/Property Gifts
- IRA/Retirement Asset Gifts
- Monthly Giving
- Planned/Estate Gifts

Learn more:  
[bvmsisters.org/ways-to-support-us](https://bvmsisters.org/ways-to-support-us)



**For more information, contact the Office of Development at:**  
563-585-2854  
[development@bvmsisters.org](mailto:development@bvmsisters.org)