



Connections

February 2022

Sister Yolanda Cruz begins the 2022 Spring Semester at the University of Dallas



In the "new normal," a perfect Christmas gift for **Sister Yolanda**, a teacher, came from her sister and brother-in-law.

It was a double monitor and a wonderful "standing desk setup" to reduce having to strain the eyes and to be able to alternate from sitting and standing as she prepares classes and teaches, as well as a Serta support chair to ease the strain.

Sister Yolanda teaches a full load in the continuing education department in the Neuhoff Institute of Ministry and Evangelization at the University of Dallas. The Institute offers a 4-year Catholic Biblical program and 3-year Certificates in Pastoral Ministry in the fields of Catechesis, Evangelization, Pastoral Care, Liturgy, and others, including diaconate formation.

This semester, Sr. Yolanda began teaching online because of the continued high risks of exposure to the COVID virus. Two of her classes this semester are scripture courses covering the Prophets. These are done synchronously, which means in real time via Zoom or on the UD Brightspace platform, and require three hours of Zoom presence in the evenings. The other two classes are online courses, and these are on the topic of Evangelization and Moral Theology.

Please keep all the students and teachers in your prayers, as everyone tries to continue to keep healthy and move forward in the most unusual "new normal."

Original Hebrew Scriptures Has Tribe of Learners

By Clarice Peninger, Oblate

Following a conversation with **Sister Cecile Faget** (deceased), who had been studying Hebrew with **Dr. Toni Craven**, I began to study Hebrew, thinking naively I would learn to read the original Hebrew Scriptures. Toni is a world-class scholar of Hebrew Bible from Brite Divinity at TCU.



That was in late 2014. A little later, **Oblate Reyna Castelan** joined us. Six years later, we were joined by **Alfie Wines**, a retired Methodist pastor, who had studied with Toni at TCU.

During these years, we have worked on Ruth, the first few chapters of Genesis, and are working now on Jeremiah. Along the way, we have learned so much about the background of the scripture passages from Toni Craven's great knowledge. We are incredibly fortunate.

What began as a way to keep our brains from turning to mush has become a gift of immeasurable worth!



The Lives She's Shared: Reflections

By Lucinda Maulsby

There are few of the Sisters still blessing this earth that will remember the Maulsby family.

I grew up on Orange St. and the five of us kids walked to school. We were raised around the Sisters and proudly called them 'Aunt Sister (fill in the blank).'

My parents brought all of us to Mass every Sunday; we were not in any 'parish' other than the Sisters'. OLV was always home to me.

I am a retired RN and worked in the old Infirmary, starting when Sister Saint Mark was killed in an auto accident. I took care of Mother Benita, Sister Joachim and so many more of the Sisters and their families. I also brought Hospice to the OLV Center.

I have been blessed to be a part of these lives as they transitioned into Heaven, but my heart aches and grieves in a very, very sad way for the ones we have lost in death. I am grateful Sister Devota Sweeney arranged for my father's funeral Mass to be held in the new chapel.

Have a blessed day and know that all of the Sisters are kept in my prayers.

Mayra Olvera - House Manager



When **Mayra Olvera** first began working at OLV 14 years ago, she had no idea how much the Sisters would become family to her; today, when asked how she would describe her relationship with SSMN, she said, "Sometimes, when you cannot see the way, they help us. They have become family."

As House Manager, Mayra is the "go-to" person for many things – from answering the phone to ordering supplies to helping Sr. Rosemary; she is the first kind and loving face people see when they walk through the doors.

Her relationship with the Sisters is one she treasures. "They have good hearts. They do not see me as a 'worker' but as part of them, as family. They care; they give you light when you are in a dark place."

Events

The Sisters are planning a Regional Assembly, which will gather all the Sisters of the Region at Our Lady of Victory on Friday morning, Feb. 18.

- The Sisters' plan to implement Pope Francis' call for a Church/Synod of Listening;
- Update on selling the OLV elementary school building and property; and
- Report from the Communications/Development Committee.

Sr. Mary Fulbright Has Cake Full of Candles (92)



We celebrated **Sr. Mary Fulbright's** 92nd birthday January 15th. In addition to the Sisters, long-time friend **Rita Cotterly**, **Jimmy Klein** (cousin), **Anna Fulbright** (Mary's sister-in-law) and nephew, **Phillip Fulbright**, from Waco, attended.



Sr. Mary and Rita Cotterly



The Sisters celebrated in gratitude for Sr. Mary's life as an SSMN and her many years of outstanding contributions to education.

She worked in the education office of the Diocese of Fort Worth and served as Superintendent of Schools from 1973 to 1982. She was appointed to the position by **Father Bob Wilson** and served under **Bishop Cassata**.

She later went on to work at the Community Services Development Center at the University of Texas at Arlington for 11 years, including the last few as Director. Sister was responsible for multiple community development projects throughout Fort Worth and Dallas.

Birthdays To Celebrate!

February:

02/06 Sister Yolanda Cruz

March:

03/02 Sister Inez Cruz
03/14 Sister Rita Claire



Our mission work continues in new ways

Sister Charles Marie, who spent 38 years as a missionary in Africa, has just begun teaching English to one of the French speaking Sisters in Rwanda. They connect through Zoom!



The Giving Season

We receive prayer requests from you daily; each Friday afternoon at 4:30 p.m., the Sisters dedicate a Holy Hour to pray for your intentions.

If you would like to learn more about being part of our mission and life's work to "do a little good", please contact development@ssmnwestern.org.

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