Marymount College alums Victor and Ann Bowman Warner pose amid the ruins at Machu Picchu, Peru (pages 844-45 in "1,000 Places to See Before You Die").

Unlikely author dreams of continuing adventure

Alumni UPDATE

Many authors claim they started writing stories as soon as they learned their ABCs. Not Ann Bowman Warner '62. She wrote only when it was required.

"So perhaps no one is more surprised than I am that I've now published two novels."

Those who knew Ann at Marymount are likely surprised as well since she majored in chemistry, and then, thanks to Sister Mary Grace Waring, was accepted into a graduate program at the University of Kansas.

Medicinal chemistry is so esoteric it draws blank looks from most people. "The design and synthesis of drugs," Ann explains, "therapeutic ones, of course."

Actually, Ann spent little time as a medicinal chemist and eventually came to see her degrees from Marymount and KU as simply proof she could stick with something until she learned what she needed to know — an insight she's drawn from for the last 40 years, as she transitioned from professor and scientist to novelist.

In 1968, Ann married fellow graduate student Victor Warner and they have one son.

They now live in Cincinnati after stints in Lawrence, Kan., Boston and Puerto Rico.

"The move to Puerto Rico was due to Vic's premature mid-life crisis, and although going there turned out to be one of the best decisions we ever made, I still look back and wonder how we had the courage to do it."

Ann and Vic continue to encounter new places as they work their way through the book, "1,000 Places to See Before You Die."

Australia, where Ann started school, is a favorite destination, and they've made several trips to

See **WRITING WELL,** page **19.**

Marymount comes alive with music, new condo development

January 2010

Dear Marymount Alumni,

Exciting things are taking place at Marymount. For one, Donnie Marrs, the architect who bought the Marymount Ad building and made the fourth- and fifth-floor tower areas into a home for his family, is in the process of turning the south wing of the building into condominiums. Maybe some of you who were resident students on third floor south would like to come back and live in a condo when you retire!!

SISTER LUCILLE HERMAN

Also, last Nov. 22, the Salina Municipal Band and the Salina Municipal Law Enforcement Band had a joint concert in the Marymount Fine Arts Theatre (now called the Finney Auditorium). It was wonderful to sit in that theater again and experience such a grand concert.

Jim Brown, Wendy Stein and Nancy Klostermeyer are in the Salina Municipal Band, so it was great to see familiar faces on the stage.

The Salina Municipal Law Enforcement Band is made up of some 40 middle school students from six surrounding counties. These students have been selected to excel in their music experience and have committed themselves to weekly rehearsals. We can probably look forward to continued excellent performances on that stage.

November, the month in which we remembered our beloved deceased, brought to mind many of our dear Marymount alumni, faculty and staff who have died this past year. It also made me realize that there are many who have died and of whom I am not aware. Some of you are very kind to inform me of deaths, and I ask that if you know or learn of the death of our alumni, please inform me. I will continue passing on this information by including their names on this page in The Messenger.

I have extra copies of the 2009 Reunion issues of The Register of the Salina Diocese and The Messenger of the Sisters of St. Joseph. If you are interested in having any, let me know and I will send them as long as the supply lasts.

Christmas and New Year's has come and gone, but the holiday season is still with us. I hope each of you had a blessed and happy Christmas and New Year, and may you continue to be blessed throughout 2010.

Sister Lucille Herman
Marymount Alumni Director

Marymount Alumni Office • P.O. Box 2485 • Salina KS 67402
Email: lcherman@yahoo.com • Phone: 785-823-8803

Eternal rest grant unto them, O God!

Members of the Marymount family we've lost

Sister Helen Urban, csj '55 Sept. 18, 2009
Sister Mary Keller, csj '56 Sept. 19, 2009
Lorraine Thiel Chaput Faculty '61 Oct. 25, 2009
Sister Eileen Farley, csj '64 Oct. 25, 2009
Clara Schieferecke '29A Nov. 7, 2009
Gretchen M. Geis '33A Nov. 17, 2009
Mona Vap Hanson '54A Nov. 26, 2009

Welcome to our home!

Friends, neighbors visit Motherhouse for annual Christmas event

The weather outside was frightful, but inside the Nazareth Motherhouse it was warm with friendship and hospitality as the Sisters of St. Joseph welcomed friends and neighbors to their second annual Christmas Open House Dec. 13.

The highlight of the informal event was the drawing for a colorful quilt, which was donated to benefit the new Neighbor to Neighbor program. Sister Jane Guenette had the honor of drawing the winning name — Edna Flood of El Paso, Texas, who is the sister-in-law of Sister Kathleen Flood.

Throughout the two-hour Open House, visitors chatted, sampled homemade treats and wandered through the 107-year-old Motherhouse. Sisters were stationed throughout the public areas of the building to offer information about its history and answer any questions visitors might have.

In the auditorium, holiday music was provided on the piano by Sisters Janis Wagner, Beth Stover and Lucy Schneider. The event was organized by the sisters' Development Office.

TOP, AT LEFT: Sisters Mary Jean Assell, left, and Louise Vaughan greet guests in the second-floor foyer.

ABOVE: Sister Jane Guenette draws the winning entry for a donated quilt as Martha Bryant, executive director of development for the Sisters of St. Joseph, looks on and Sister Janice Koelzer peeks in from the doorway.

LEFT: Sister Dorothy Hoover, right, answers questions from Leon and Loleta Deaver about the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph during the Dec. 13 Christmas Open House.

FAR LEFT: Sister Lucy Schneider was one of three sisters who entertained with holiday music.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SISTERS IN BRAZIL

Talking about vocations

Sisters of St. Joseph in Teresina, Brazil, gathered for three days for a casual but important workshop on vocations. Those taking part (although they are not all pictured here) were Irmãs Antonieta Pierote, Fortunata Gomes de Oliveira, Luciene Maria de Carvalho, Joseleide da Silva Neves, Alexsandra da Silva and Lúcia Lima, and aspirant Veraluce Alves Rocha. INSET: One of the exercises focused on the deeper meaning of words, including *amizade* (friendship) and *alegria* (joy).

When the Brazilian Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia came together for a three-day workshop in early November, the language they spoke was Portuguese. But the words would be familiar to anyone speaking of religious life: Humility, confidence, courage, truth, hospitality, happiness, openness, sincerity, pardon and love — for God and for the dear neighbor.

Enneagram: Old idea focuses on human value

By SISTER PAT NEIHOUSE

Since 1984, I have worked with more than 4,000 people to help them better understand their human nature and experiences, their compulsions and their gifts, and to better combat their vices and work on their virtues, love themselves, their God and their neighbor.

The tool I use is the Enneagram, a study of nine types of personalities. I also give emphasis to Jesus Christ, the center of our lives and the way to live here and now and to return to our creator, God the Father at the moment of death, and to accept the help of the Holy Spirit throughout life.

Yet even after 25 years, I'm always asked when I will be giving another Enneagram course. Normally groups or communities invite between 20 and 35 participants (age 21 and older), and I go wherever they ask me to.

The Enneagram Structure

In the second half of this year I have given courses to the leaders in the Dirceu I section of Teresina; to the teachers in the Mother Cabrini School in Teresina; to the teachers in a school in Guaribas, Piauí, the far southern city of Piauí where our sisters work; and to the base community leaders of Coelho Neto, in the state of Maranhão.

Because of the demand, I also gave two courses at our own Guadalupe Center in Teresina.

The theory of the Enneagram is believed to have originated 3,000 to 3,500 years before Jesus Christ and was passed on orally and secretly by spiritual teachers. Throughout the years, after being written about by Russian philosopher Peter D. Ouspensky and others, it became and still is a very impressive tool to be used individually and in groups. When people discover themselves, and know how to work on their defects, they can truly find inner happiness.

My joy is in the fact that I can be a mediator for this discovery and happiness.

This work allows me to address Christian challenges and crises in today's world, as discussed in the Aparecida Documents (a collection of texts prepared by specialists in 2007 when Pope Benedict XVI was present with all of the bishops of Latin America and Caribbean in Aparecida, São Paulo, Brazil).

In particular, the documents call attention to the degradation of human life today, on the family level, on the social level and on the cultural level.

My objective is to focus on the human person and the importance of the human person's value.

The Enneagram allows me to do that. Its nine personality profiles are meant to help us know ourselves and to better understand the people in our lives, so each type serves as a customized road map for personal growth and spiritual development with the intended result of healthier relationships and the potential to develop a more authentic spirituality.

It is an old, old idea that remains ever new.

Sister Pat Neihouse has lived and served in our mission in the state of Piauí, Brazil, for more than 46 years. She currently lives in Teresina, the capital of Piauí in northeastern Brazil.

SISTER ROSE DREILING

SISTER EVA MARIE VALE

Telling a little-known tale

Concordia exhibit connects five 'Orphan Train' riders

As the 19th century ended, five tiny orphan girls were loaded on trains in New York City bound for new families and new lives in the still-wide-open midsection of America.

The toddlers — none older than 2 — were not related; their only connection was that they were among the smallest victims of the poverty, mass immigration, inadequate housing and financial depression that plagued the teeming streets of New York.

They became connected in history as five among an estimated 200,000 orphaned, abandoned and homeless children who were placed on "Orphan Trains" in New York and shipped to adoptive families in towns along the railroad lines.

They remained connected in life as Orphan Train riders who entered religious life — two as Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.

Today they are connected in a new exhibit at the National Orphan Train Museum in Concordia. "From Orphan Trains to Convents: Five Stories of Religious Women" will be on display through the spring.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, and is dedicated to the preservation of the stories and artifacts of the Orphan Train Movement from 1854-1929.

The stories include those of the five little girls who were eventually to become Sisters Roberta Dreiling, Eva Marie Vale, Mary Delphine DuVal, Mary James Fabacher and Justina Bieganek.

Museum curator Muriel Anderson created an exhibit that includes their life stories as well as family mementos, religious items and personal keepsakes.

Those mementoes include an eighth-grade photo of Sister Mary Delphine DuVal, who was the earliest Orphan Train rider of the five. She was born in 1898 and put on a train to Little Rock, Ark., by the New York Foundling Hospital when she was 2, in 1900. She eventually joined the Sisters of Mercy in Little Rock and remained there until her death in 1990.

Genevieve Dreiling — who would become a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia and take the religious name of Sister Roberta — was born in 1899. She, too, was placed in the care of the New York Foundling Hospital and eventually put on a train west. She was barely 2 when she arrived in Victoria, Kan., to be adopted by a Catholic family there.

In 1917, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph and served in numerous missions until her death in 1995.

Gertrude Vale — who would also become a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia and would take the religious name of Sister Eva Marie — was born in 1900. She was barely over a year old when she was sent to a family in Schoenchen, Kan. She remained with that family until she was 9, when they decided to return her to the orphanage in New York.

But a priest in Tipton, Kan., stepped in and asked his housekeeper to care for the girl. A year later, the housekeeper's sister, who lived in Walker, Kan., adopted Gertrude into their family. She remained there until she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1921. Sister Eva Marie died at the Nazareth Motherhouse in 1982.

Sister Mary James Fabacher was born in 1907 and was sent on the Orphan Train to New Orleans in 1909. It was there that she eventually entered the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Sister Mary James died in 2006.

Sister Justina Bieganek was the last of the five to ride the Orphan Trains and the only one still surviving. She was born early in 1912 and was sent at the end of 1913, when she was not yet 2, to Little Falls, Minn., where she would eventually enter the Franciscan Sisters. Sister Justina celebrated her 80th anniversary as a Franciscan Sister in 2009, and will celebrate her 98th birthday this month.

Muriel Anderson, curator of the National Orphan Train Museum in Concordia, holds a silver and black rosary that is part of "From Orphan Trains to Convents."

To learn more about the Concordia museum and the Orphan Train Movement, go to orphantraindepot.com

Two New York City agencies tried different approaches to placing abandoned children

These five toddlers, like thousands of others, had become the wards of two aid organizations in New York City.

The earliest group was the Children's Aid Society, which was formed in 1853. Those in the care of Children's Aid would be taken in small groups of 10 to 40, under the supervision of at least one "western" agent, to selected stops along the rail line.

The second organization grew out of St. Peter's Convent, which served the oldest Roman Catholic parish in New York City. In 1869, the Sisters of Charity needed more space for abandoned children than their convent provided, so they opened the New York Foundling Hospital.

Instead of hired agents or local screening committees, the Foundling Hospital worked with priests along the railroad routes to match abandoned children with Catholic families.

When the Orphan Train Movement began in 1854, it was estimated that 30,000 abandoned children were living on the streets of New York City.

By the time the last Orphan Train delivered children to waiting families in 1929, this period of mass relocation of children was widely recognized as the beginning of documented foster care in America.

Center to open in spring

CONTINUED from page **1**.

Helton, Eric McDaniel, Bob Kearn, Renn Allsman and Greg Gallagher.

And the sisters have thrown themselves into the effort. Not only have sisters donated money when possible, they have also joined every volunteer work crew so far.

When it opens this spring, Neighbor to Neighbor will offer a wide array of programs and services to women and women with young children. Sisters Jean, Pat and Ramona envision it as a resource and education center as well as a place to meet and connect with other women in the community.

The sisters expect that the services offered will include nutrition and parenting classes, workshops on healthy living, personal counseling and information on what help is available through other agencies.

Sister Ramona noted that services and volunteer opportunities will be added and developed as the need for them is identified.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Project updates are available at http://csjkansas.org

Sister Esther Pineda organized a work crew from Salina's Justice and Peace Center to spend three days installing insulation at the new center.

The partnership for Neighbor to Neighbor includes the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia and ... *

Molly Abraham
Anonymous
Donna and Dave Antrim
Jeronimo Aguirre
John Aguirre
Dana Lou Barrett
Karen and James Barron
Marty Bates
Irene and William Beck
Merrill Hicklin and JD Befort
Sister Jean Befort
Velma and Ernest Befort
Sheila Bennen
Annette and Richard Benoit
Janet and Richard Berger
Richard Blackwell
Meredythe and Ronald Bolda
Carla and James Bollinger
Eli Boucher
Emily Brito
Barb Brugger
Martha Bryant, PhD
Nancy Bryant
Sister Christella Buser
Pam Campbell
Mary Cannestra
Sister Julie Christensen
Roxanne and Craig Cogil
Community Foundation for Cloud County
Karon and Kent Cornett
Sharon Corpstein
Jane and Don Creten
Margaret and George Curran
Kimberly and Thomas Custer
Susan Custer
Barbara and John Damko
Mary and James Decremer
Dolores and Levi Deneault
Paula and Allen Dinkel
Joan and Mike Dolan
Margaret Dolan
Virginia Dreiling
Mary Edell
Kennan Edwards
Judy and David Edwards
Sister Pat Eichner
Elizabeth Pagan Eidok and Walter Eidok
Shirley Eilers
Catherine and Thomas Fagot
Anita and Larry Farrell
Ellen and Joe Farrell
Cecelia Feehan
Carol Feingold
Mary Ann Finch
Joseph M Fischer, DDS
Shelly and John Fischer, DDS
Kathy and Pete Fitzgibbons
Sister Edwardine Flavin
Sister Rosabel Flax
Dalton Forshee
Jovita and Kenneth Foster
Ann Frack
Funk Pharmacy
G.L. Huyett
Lisa and Todd Gabel
Mary Ellen and Jerry Gallagher
Annette and Greg Gallagher
Sister Carmel Garcia
Delaney Gibson
Phil Gilliland
Louann Gottschalk
Theresa and Don Gottschalk
Greater Salina Community Foundation
Sister Cecelia Green
Barbara and Don Gruenbacher
Christy Hasch
Heavenly Bits
Les Hemphill
Amy Hereford
Sister Lucille Herman
Mary Jo and Richard Hooley
Patricia Ann and Francis J Houlihan
Margaret and Philip Howe
Mr. and Mrs. Jack O Hubbard
Caroline and Herman Jacobs
Loretta Jacobson
Gene Johnson
Bianca and Bruce Johnson
Jason Jones
William H Josephson, Esq
Kansas Health Foundation
Dee and David Kennedy
Betty Koch
Jill Kocher
Joyce and Paul Koehn
Ralph Kresin
Margaret Krokora
Laura Lamberg
The Rev. Don Larmore
Penny Larson
Mary Ellen and Thomas Lavin
Mae LeDuc
Lynon Lee
Helen and Ron Legleiter
Alma and Bill Ljungdahl
Rowan Ljungdahl
Anne Mary Locher, OSU
Shirley and Milton Lott
June Schoen Luebcke
Doris and Thomas Lugo
Manna House of Prayer
Beth McBride
Sister Pat McLennon
Cynthia Medina
Darlene Medina
Diane Medina
Sister Ramona Medina
Margaret Thull and Marie Miner
The Rev. Sandra and Dick Moore
Marilyn Morel
The Rev. Jerome L Morgan
Nancy and William Morse
Pearl Musenbrock
Nancy and Dallas Nading
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Nelson
Mary Novak
Margaret Ogas
Harvey Olson
Ms. Lorna Reynolds
Marcela Ortega
Charles Osweiler
Our Lady's Altar Society of Concordia
Sue and Gary Padgett
Steve and Ken Palmquist
Polly and Stephen Pearce
Devin Pearson
Kale Pearson
Jana and George Phariss
Sister Esther Pineda
Elizabeth Pochop
Joseph Polizzotto
Geralyn Price
Martha Ramirez
Sonja Reed
Dorothy R Reinert
Jerry Richard
Linda Richards
Marcia Riklis
Heide K Rogers
Anthony Roscigno
Andrea and Shawn Roth
Gwen Runge
Elise and James Russell
Salina Central Care, PA
Sauganash Woman's Club Foundation
Susan Schemmel
Donna Schneweis
Dot and George Schroeder
Doreen and Tom Shea
Dawn and Anthony Silvestri
Lisa Simpson
Loretta Mick Simpson
Judy and Larry Sorenson
Savannah Spillers
Rosie Spindler
St. Ignatius Loyola Church
Mark Stahl
Lorene and Bob Steimel
Janie Stein
Anne and Joe Steinbock
Sister Judy Stephens
Mary Stover
Sunflower Foundation
Joyce and Lore Swenson
Madlyn and Dale Swenson
Lynn Thornburn
Margaret and John Thull
Bev and Russ Valdez
Mary Jane and Joseph Valdez
Patty Valiquette
Tracy and Brandon Vering
Mark and Paula Voss and Family
Maureen and Dennis Wade
Jean Ann Walton
Mary L Ward
Jerry Newton and David Weinberg
Mike Wentz
Kathleen P Wiles
Julia Williams
Katharine and Ron Yarnell

Will you add your name as a donor or volunteer in 2010?

* We are missing the names of a few of our earliest volunteers. Please let the Development Office (785-243-2113 ext. 1225 or mbryant@csjkansas.org) know if you've been part of Neighbor to Neighbor. We want to recognize your support.

8 Associates now serve Silver City

The number of CSJ Associates who help serve through St. Mary's Spirituality Center has doubled with the commitment ceremony of four Silver City, N.M., women.

In a ceremony that focused on all the service Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia and their Associates provide in the Silver City area, the four were formally welcomed into the congregation.

They are Doris Lugo, Jovita Foster, Margaret M. Ogas and Vickie Ogas.

Four longtime CSJ Associates — Jerry Richard, Jayme Schwantes, Dave Schwantes and Oralia C. Rede — also renewed their commitment to the Sisters of St. Joseph during the ceremony Oct. 30.

Sister Marcia Allen, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, attended the ceremony and potluck dinner at Marian Hall, next to St. Mary's Center. She thanked the Associates for their efforts in a wide range of ministries and for their commitment to the community.

In addition to operating St. Mary's Spirituality Center, sisters and associates are active volunteers throughout the community, working in conjunction with The Volunteer Center, El Refugio, Single Sock, and many other service projects.

Sister Marcia and other members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia Leadership Council — Anna Marie Broxterman, Jean Rosemarynoski and Mary Jo Thummel — were visiting Sisters Rita Plante and Rosemary Farrell, who live and work in Silver City.

DORIS LUGO

JOVITA FOSTER

MARGARET M. OGAS

VICKIE OGAS

JERRY RICHARD

DAVE SCHWANTES

JAYME SCHWANTES

ORALIA C. REDE

For more information on CSJ Associates, go to http://csjkansas.org/index.php/join-us/associates/why/

CSJ Associates are Christian men and women who seek participation in a faith community through sharing and communal prayer. They recognize the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia in their own hearts and seek a closer association with the sisters and others.

Design a sabbatical the fits your life, meets your needs

Are you looking for a quiet, peaceful, comfortable space for a week, a month, or more? Are you working on a graduate degree or needing space for a writer's sabbatical? Or perhaps you're just low on spiritual energy and need to recharge?

Let the sisters at Manna House of Prayer in Concordia help you design your personal sabbatical.

Manna House provides nourishment for body and soul. Settle into a contemplative space, rich with both solitude and the opportunity for serious conversation, as desired. Enjoy the hospitality of a community of sisters, a leisurely paced rural environment, ample time for personal rest, nutritious home-cooked meals, a spiritual library, and the availability of daily liturgy.

For information, or to begin planning your sabbatical, call Manna House at 785-243-4428 or send an email to retreatcenter@mannahouse.org.

A community? A movement? Now we're both

CONTINUED from page **2**.

a "social movement organization" (to borrow the phrase from sociologist Patricia Wittberg).

In fact, author Mary Cresp titled her description of the worldwide Communities of St. Joseph "The Joseph Movement."

She describes us as flexible, tensile, adaptable, as finding strength and unity in diversity. Easily responsive to need, we move to where we can most effectively respond to what it is that people and earth need. And we accomplish this through attention to what is happening locally and globally.

Ours is a pragmatic approach — counseling services, spiritual direction, food distribution, rent and medicine subsidies, child care, education in schools or parish or civic programs, public free clinics, immigration reform, justice advocacy, energy conservation, organization of civic forums, advocacy for public policy that addresses life issues, and many other services to meet specific needs.

Today, we are diversely engaged in our world. We understand ourselves as one with the world, not removed from it. We suffer its pain and we are glad participators in its triumphs. We partner with others who share our dreams to create projects that we can turn over to them and then move on to new partnerships.

All of this makes us look very different than the religious community of the 1940s and '50s when we were at the height of our institutionalized form.

So, in this second decade of the 21st century, Rome asks: What has become of you?!

We respond: We have become who we are meant to be in our contemporary world — a religious movement that answers a call to be completely given to what God desires, a self-giving community of love. We do this in our limited human way, but we do it with our whole heart.

For the latest updates on the apostolic visitation, go to http://csjkansas.org/index.php/visitation/

Sister Francis Joseph Hoover: Dec. 16, 1912-Dec. 17, 2009

Eulogist: Sister Lucy Schneider
Vigil: Dec. 20, 2009, at the Motherhouse in Concordia

In the wisdom of God, Sister Francis Joseph Hoover made her way to the next life from Mount Joseph Senior Village Dec. 17, 2009, the day after her 97th birthday.

Interestingly, providentially, Dec. 17 was the first day of the Church's O Antiphons. The day's antiphon? *"O Sapientia, O Wisdom, O Holy Word of God"!*

These seven O Antiphons — prayers invoking the God-beyond-all-names with titles to be found for God, nevertheless, in the Old Testament — capture very well Sister Francis Joseph's lifelong desire for union with God, her Savior. Now, we trust, on the other side of death, she sings in wonder and great joy, "O Sapientia, O Wisdom O Holy Word of God!"

With presumed permission from Sister and from all of you here, I propose to use liturgical and literary license to weave, loosely — very loosely — the other O Antiphons into this account of the life of this very simple, yet complex and prayerful person. The Antiphons correspond to phases of her life and of our own at a deep level,

Born in Greenleaf, Kan., to John Anthony and Anna Burke Hoover, she was born again in baptism, Eucharist and confirmation at St. Michael's Church, Kimeo, just 3½ miles from the Hoover family farm.

"O Adonai, O Lord and Leader, come and redeem us with outstretched arm, for you are the giver of all life, human and divine!"

Helen Louise Hoover was the filling in the sandwich of seven siblings in the Hoover family. As No. 4, Helen followed Marie, Francis and Leo and preceded Margaret, Ed and Joseph.

"O Radix Jesse, O Flower of Jesse's stem, come to deliver us and do not delay." In later years she had a passion for preserving the genealogy of her family. The impressive family genealogical book was dedicated to her.

In a life review written in 1983, she demonstrates her way with words. The Hoover children grew up in a time of dust, drought and depression. And she also remembers the "cold climb up the long sloping hill facing northeast in the wintertime, going to country school;" the "kindly and good relative," a great-aunt who shared the Hoover home and who, Helen sensed, had "a personal contact with God;" the "early desire to be a sister, though I knew little about sisters."

Like so many other good parents of that era, John and Anna Hoover were determined their children would have the opportunity for a Catholic education. Knowing they couldn't

Homecomings

afford to send all their children to boarding school — they had done this for the eldest, Marie, at Nazareth Academy and Marymount — they moved where Catholic education was to be found: First to Junction City and then to Manhattan.

"O Clavis David — O Key of David, break down all walls of ignorance, intellectual death and open us to knowledge, understanding and wisdom."

So St. Xavier's, Junction City, and Sacred Heart Academy, Manhattan, became Helen's keys to knowledge and wisdom from the seventh through 12th grades. She found her teachers to be excellent in the classroom and down-to-earth besides. They included Sisters Crescentia, Nicholas, Aquinas, Stanislaus, Domitilla and Joseph Marie.

What did Helen gain? A love of Shakespeare and other classical authors; Crescentia-inspired acquaintance with the birds native to Manhattan, thanks to tramps through old cemeteries and woods; shared laughter with Sister Stanislaus, when her parrot mimicked her perfectly.

"O Oriens, O Radiant Dawn — shine on those who enter — even the then-dark halls of Nazareth as a postulant!" (Pardon the revision.)

In February 1937, Helen came to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. Other who entered then would become Sisters Concepta, Rachel, Francis Ellen, Consuela (who left the community) and Lucienne, now the survivor. Helen became Sister Francis Joseph — and stayed Sister Francis Joseph until her death. Of course, she later welcomed being called Frannie Jo. Her first vows were pronounced on Aug. 15, 1938, and perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1941.

Leoville, Silver City, New Almelo, Collyer, Chicago, Salina, Abilene, Leawood, Grand Island: Thus reads the litany of school missions where Sister Francis Joseph taught. In Abilene she was also principal. She had unique and honest things to say about each of those missions. An example: The school building in New Almelo was "a bit primitive. We had a pot-bellied stove and it wasn't unusual for a snake to slither out of the walls. The new school had not yet been built." Her pupils included Donna Otter in New Almelo and Mary Fran Simons in Silver City.

Ever one to profit from new experiences, Frannie Jo loved whatever opportunities for travel came along as well as educational degrees — first at Marymount College (where she earned a bachelor's degree by way of the multiple summer school route) and later at the University of Detroit, for a master's degree. In Detroit, Sister Francis Joseph was especially moved by the racial unrest and injustices of the time.

"O Rex Gentium — O King of all the Nations, come and save the creatures you fashioned from the dust."

She writes of a major change in her spiritual life when she was teaching in Grand Island. She says, "Prayer, scripture reading, etc., were a constant joy to me. I did not have to work at it." The next year she made an Ignatian 30-day retreat, which integrated her various spiritual experiences, as her life's unfolding shows.

Four years of service at the newly established Manna House of Prayer — first in Clyde and then in Concordia — followed. These years she described as "blessed" as well as "sometimes difficult," words that could describe many a ministry, yes?

Moving back to Grand Island in 1979, Frannie Jo gradually found out how to live in retirement and gave herself to a variety of volunteer ministries from 1979 to 1993, at which time she moved to the Motherhouse.

Her life at Mount Joseph from 2004 until her death was marked by a friendly smile and regular attendance at daily Mass in the chapel. Sisters and staff alike enjoyed greeting, and being greeted by, Frannie Jo. Her life was a perpetual invitation for the Lord to come. She said the same in her life review, which begins, "Loving Father, I thank you for the gift of life!" and ends with the words, "Yes, I am ready to go whenever the Lord calls."

And now, the final O Antiphon of the seven:

"O Emmanuel, God with us. Come and save us Lord our God."

We sing in this celebration of your life, Frannie Jo, for you, for us, for all of God's creations. "O come, o come, Emmanuel," the gift that gives — forever! Thanks be to God!

Sister Eileen Farley: Sept. 23, 1932-Oct. 25, 2009

Eulogist: Sister Mary Fran Simons
Vigil: Oct. 28, 2009, at the Motherhouse in Concordia

Soon after I heard of Eileen's death and learning of the intense suffering of her last days, there rose up within me these words:

Arise, my beloved, and come
For the winter has passed,
The rains are over and gone.
The flowers appear. Summer has come.

Eileen's great desire has come to fulfillment. Her deep passion and generous, loving heart has been freed to give and receive full expression.

Sister Eileen Farley died Oct. 25, 2009. She was 77 years old and a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia for 56 years. She was born in Fowler, Kan., on Sept. 23, 1932, to James and Anna Murphy Farley, the eighth of nine children, and was baptized Eileen Agnes. Eileen entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in September 1952 and pronounced her final vows on March 19, 1957.

Eileen was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and three sisters. She is survived by her sister, Betty Wygant of Grand Junction, Colo., her sister-in-law, Mary Farley of Hutchinson, Kan., and her many nieces and nephews.

Eileen was a woman who never lost the sense of her own humanity. She loved watching tennis matches on TV, playing bridge, dancing, laughing and a good story.

Eileen was authentic. What you see is what you get: delight — that beautiful twinkle in her eye, the sweet smile and hearty laugh. Sadness, anger or hurt — these, too, could be seen and heard. I, and I suspect others, sometimes might not like what or how Eileen expressed her thoughts and feelings, but if listened to closely, almost always there was more than a kernel of truth in it and something I did not want to see or deal with.

Homecomings

Eileen was a woman who was lured by a love and drawn by a dream to become a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia. For more than 50 years, Eileen lived as a Sister of St. Joseph. In one of her commitment statements she wrote,

I ask the Congregation to accept my commitment to struggle with the Holy Spirit of love to live out the Heritage Statement of our Founder, Jean-Pierre Medaille, especially to move always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction in humility, in sincere charity always in a spirit of gentleness, peace, and joy.

True to the ideal of a Sister of St. Joseph, Eileen always was doing seemingly little tasks in a hidden manner. Her faithful visiting and caring for her mother at Mt. Joseph for many years, the respectful and loving way she visited our Sisters who are there now manifested her awareness of the power and grace of presence.

Ministry and service were her driving force. From teaching little ones, caring for the aging as a nurse aide to taking on the structures of society, Eileen was always in a mode of service.

But most of all, Eileen loved us, her biological family, and us, her chosen family of religious women. The shaping of human history and her own personal culture and history limited the expression of this love, just as it does for each of us, but her strong passionate love is now free of those limitations. We welcome you, Eileen, into the company of our family and friends who have gone before us into the eternal presence of God and we trust your continued care and blessing of us.

And so we pray: Arise, Beloved one of God, come. For see, the winter is passed, the rains are over and gone. The flowers appear. Summer has come.

Budding novelist discovers 'writing well takes time and effort'

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South America — Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru — opportunities to put their meager Spanish skills to use.

It's been said everyone has a book in them. Ann thought she'd fulfilled that particular life step during her years in academia.

But one morning she awoke to the image of a woman walking along the shoreline of a fjord.

"I was hooked. Who was she and what was she doing there?" To find out, Ann began writing, ending up with 100,000 "amazing, riveting words... well, that's what I thought at first."

She's since heard it called first book infatuation and admits she had it bad. Infatuation faded as Ann discovered, "like painting or playing a musical instrument, writing well takes time and effort. And getting published requires the ability to shake off a lot of rejection."

So, do her years at Marymount contribute to her writing?

"Absolutely. I think every author creates from a unique sensibility that is an amalgam of all her experiences. Marymount and the friends I made there helped shape my approach to life and to creativity."

She was unable to attend this year's Marymount All-School reunion in July, but Ann did manage a weekend in Kansas City in September catching up with five classmates.

The weekend was further proof, "not that it was needed," that Marymount friendships last a lifetime.

Members of the Class of '66, left to right: Angie Moreno Badillo, Mary E. Trim Finocchario, Maureen Lane Gant, Ann Bowman Warner, Marcia Alcon Mavec and Dorothy Vervynck Fiete.

For more information about Ann and her two novels, go to www.annwarner.net

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All the news that didn't fit

Snapshots of events at the Motherhouse and Manna House of Prayer

TOP LEFT: Snow cloaked the Motherhouse from Dec. 7 on, with a total snowfall in Concordia for the month of 23.2 inches.

ABOVE: One of the youngest shoppers at the Annual Christmas Craft Sale Nov. 28 at the Motherhouse tries to decide between a Santa that stands and a Santa that hangs on the tree.

RIGHT: A meticulously detailed Victorian Christmas village — in miniature — decorated the entry way to the Sacred Heart Chapel, thanks to a donation by a Georgia couple and the hard work of Sisters Cecelia Green and Janis Wagner.

LEFT: Sarah Appelhans, one of five young women who served as "consultants" during the Sisters of St. Joseph annual assembly in November, speaks to the sisters during an informal Q&A session about vocations.