

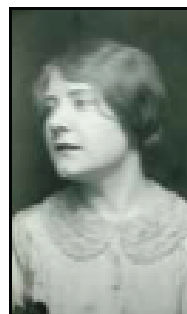
# Celebrating Our Centenarians

Text by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC | Photos courtesy of the Western Province Archives

One hundred years ago... Most of us were, as some Sisters put it, "a gleam in the eye of God". For three of our Sisters, however, it was the beginning of their first year on earth.

## Sr. DeLourdes Bragg

Matchwood, MI - On December 31, 1910, Evelyn Bragg was born. Her family would grow to include one brother and three sisters. When the family moved to Chicago, Evelyn was 13 years old. She attended Thorpe Public School. After graduation from 8th grade she was sent to Josephinum High School. Evelyn entered the Community on August 6, 1929 and received the habit and her new name, Sr. DeLourdes, on June 29, 1930.



She began her teaching career in St. Louis as a first grade teacher. As with many other SCC teachers, she gained experience and was assigned to teach higher grades as the years went by.

After a year of teaching at Mallinckrodt High School in Wilmette, Sr. DeLourdes was sent to Iowa, then to Minnesota, to teach art in the high schools. During her teaching years, she also took classes at the Chicago Art Institute, Loyola University and DePaul University in Chicago, the College of St. Francis in Joliet, IL,

At the age of 19 she wrote: "While at the Josephinum I made a retreat from May 17-19, 1928. During this retreat I decided to enter the convent. It was a very difficult task to ask my dear mother, who had sacrificed so much for me. When I did, however, she consented very readily. I obtained permission from Mother Edward on June 2, 1929 and I entered on August 6, 1929."



Three of Sr. Marina's sisters entered religious congregations: Standing L-R: Mary Anna (Sr. M. Dorothea, PHJC), Antoinette (Sr. M. Bernard, PHJC) and Regina (Sr. Agnette, SCC). Seated: Sr. Marina.

the Minneapolis School of Art, and Mankato State University in Mankato, MN.

Sr. DeLourdes returned to Wilmette in 1985; she taught art classes at Mallinckrodt College and, later, at Loyola University's Mallinckrodt Campus. When she retired from teaching in 1999 she continued to instruct a twice-weekly painting group in the basement of Sacred Heart Convent - an activity she continues to this day.

## Sr. Marina Bengal

"I, Margaret Bengal, was born in Westphalia, MI, on July 27, 1911..." begins the autobiography of a young woman who would later be known as Sr. Marina Bengal. Young Margaret and her eight sisters and three brothers attended St. Mary School - conducted by the Sisters of Christian Charity.

On July 19, 1928, Margaret entered the convent and a year later, on June 29, 1929, received the name Sr. Marina. She continued her studies until 1934 when

she was sent to Detroit to teach first grade. During her years as an elementary school teacher, Sr. Marina was sent to Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota. In 1971 she was assigned the duties of superior in addition to teaching in the upper elementary grades.

Returning to Wilmette in 1975 from a brief stint in New Orleans, Sr. Marina began a new ministry: supervisor of maintenance at the motherhouse.

Sr. Marina is best known in the community as an excellent seamstress. From 1983 until complete retirement in 2007 she made countless veils, skirts and blouses, and gave new life to many used fabric items.

## Sr. M. Teresilda Daleiden

Marie Daleiden was born on the 6th of September, 1911. A lifelong resident of Chicago (her grandfather founded the John P. Daleiden Co.), Marie and her siblings (she had six brothers and three sisters) attended St. Gregory School. After graduating 8th grade, Marie was sent to Josephinum High School. Sister recalls one of her best memories: "In my first year of high school the Josephinum had the privilege of being represented and taking part in singing the Pontifical High Mass at the Chicago Stadium on 'Higher Education Day' during the Eucharistic Congress in 1926." A few weeks after graduation day came one brother's wedding, another brother's ordination to the diaconship, and the investing of her older sister Margaret (Sr. M. Lawrentia) as a Sister of Christian Charity. Marie was deeply impressed by the investing ceremonies, but hid her feelings until she was

certain of what she would do. In August 1929 she asked for admittance into the community. Marie became a novice on June 29, 1930, and received the name Sr. M. Teresilda.

After teaching in Ohio, Sr. M. Teresilda was sent to Chicago, then to St. Louis. In 1943 she was sent to teach English, Spanish and religion at Mallinckrodt High School. In 1950 she began a new ministry as principal, assigned first to Josephinum High School, then to schools in Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri.

Returning to Wilmette in 1985, Sr. M. Teresilda taught English as a Second Language at Mallinckrodt College. When Sister retired from the classroom in 1999 she continued her love of teaching by tutoring a student for two years. ✚



L-R: Sr. M. Lawrentia and Sr. M. Teresilda Daleiden

## Celebrating SCC Style

A 100th birthday calls for a big celebration. In addition to the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent (where the three centenarians reside), family members, former students and friends were at each party.

**Right:** Sr. DeLourdes looks over her gifts and cards. In her hand is a glass of pink champagne - a treat from one of her students. [photo by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC]

**Middle:** Sr. Marina beams as she opens a greeting from the SCCs in Rome. [photo by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC]

**Far Right:** Sr. M. Teresilda and her niece, Sr. Joan Clare Cooney, pose for a photo near the birthday cake. [photo by Sr. Janice Boyer, SCC]

