

January

1

World Day of Prayer for Peace

On this World Day of Prayer for Peace, may that Spirit of Peace accompany us and lead us to work for justice, which is at the root of peace.

Solemnity of Mary

As part of the Octave of the Nativity, which begins on Christmas, the Church honors Mary as the Mother of God. While saluting the mother of Jesus, we do not forget that she is also our mother. As we begin a new year, we honor Mary by keeping our hearts open to the divine.

2

Sadie Alexander (b. January 2, 1898; d. November 1, 1989)

In 1921, Alexander received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania marking her among one of the first African American women to earn a Ph.D. After getting married, she returned to school for her law degree. In 1927 she became the first African American woman to practice law in Pennsylvania and to be admitted to the state bar. She was also the first woman to hold an office in the National Bar Association. She fought against discrimination in Pennsylvania's restaurants, hotels, and theaters. In 1947 she was appointed to the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

3

Bella Savitzky Abzug (b. July 24, 1920; d. March 31, 1998)

A native of New York, Bella Savitzky was active and passionate about social justice at an early age. She graduated from Hunter College, where she was at the center of a circle of women who remained lifelong political activists for women, peace, and justice. She won a scholarship to Columbia University Law School, where she edited the *Law Review*. It was there she met her husband Martin Abzug, whom she married on June 4, 1944. They had two daughters. After law school, she began working for a firm that represented union locals. She found she was overlooked when she went into offices and decided to wear hats to get attention, which became her trademark. As a civil rights and labor attorney, she fought for justice and peace, equal rights, human dignity, environmental integrity and sustainable development. She was one of the few independent attorneys willing to take "Communist" cases during the McCarthyite era and also defended Willie McGee, a black Mississippian who was falsely accused of raping a white woman.

In 1961 Bella and her Hunter circle created Women Strike for Peace to lobby for a nuclear test ban treaty, and against the war in Indochina. She was elected to Congress from New York City at the age of 50 and was reelected for three terms, making her career as an advocate for women, the poor and those who were repressed. She cast her first vote for the Equal Rights Amendment. She played a major role in many national and international women's conferences and chaired the Women's Environment and Development Organization which helped transform the United Nation's agenda regarding women and their concerns for human rights, economic justice, population, development, and the environment.

4

Elizabeth Ann Seton (b. August 28, 1774; d. January 4, 1821)

Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in New York City and married William Magee Seton in 1794. She was widowed in 1803 with five children and thus began her conversion to Catholicism. In 1809 she helped found the first group of women religious in the United States, the Community of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Later, she also founded a school for poor children, which served as the beginning of the Catholic parochial school system in

the United States. In 1893, she was elected Superior of the Sisters of Charity, the first American religious society. In 1975 she was canonized as the first American-born person to be elevated to sainthood.

5

Sonia Sotomayor (b. June 25, 1954)

Sonia Sotomayor is the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in history of the United States.

She was born in the Bronx borough of New York to parents of Puerto Rican descent and went on to earn a B.A. in 1976 from Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the university's highest academic honor. She now serves on the board at Princeton. In 1979, she earned a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. She served as Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office from 1979–1984. She then litigated international commercial matters in New York City at Pavia & Harcourt. President George H.W. Bush nominated her for the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, and she served there from 1992–1998. She served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1998–2009. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed her to the Supreme Court.

Sonia Sotomayor was in the majority opinion on two landmark rulings in the Supreme Court, upholding the Affordable Care Act (*King v. Burwell*) in 2010 and legalizing same-sex marriage in 2015 (*Obergefell v. Hodges*). Her dissenting opinion on a ruling upholding Michigan's ban on Affirmative Action called for an open discussion of race and racism.

6

Charlotte Ray (b. January 13, 1850; d. January 4, 1911)

Charlotte Ray, daughter of an abolitionist, was the first African American woman to become a lawyer in the United States. She received her law degree from Howard University in 1872. Charlotte was also the first woman to be admitted to the District of Columbia's bar. Due to racism, Charlotte was unable to have an active practice. Instead, she taught public school and devoted her time to organizations working to advance the status of African Americans and women. She was a strong advocate of women's suffrage and was an inspiration for many future female lawyers.

7

Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes (b. January 7, 1844; d. April 16, 1879)

Bernadette Soubirous, a French peasant girl, is believed to have been granted 18 visions of the Blessed Virgin. For example, on February 11, 1858 Bernadette saw the figure of a young girl at the grotto of Massabielle, in Lourdes. Four years later, the Church acknowledged that the figure in the apparitions was "The Most Holy Virgin." In one of the later appearances, the apparition told Bernadette to dig for water with her hands. The spring she uncovered still flows at a rate of 27,000 gallons a day. People travel from all over the world to bathe in the spring and pray for healing. In 1866, Bernadette entered a convent where she lived simply until she died at age 35. She was canonized in 1933.

8

Fannie Bullock Workman (b. January 8, 1859; d. January 22, 1925)

Fannie Bullock Workman traveled the world with her husband as a pioneer, geographer, travel-writer, cartographer, and adventurer. Their mapmaking and detailed scientific observations in the Himalayas remain important resources. She set many women's altitude records, and at age 53 was still climbing to heights of 20,000 feet. Fannie was also a champion for women's rights, especially suffrage. On one expedition in the Himalayas, she carried a banner proclaiming "Votes for Women."

9

Rigoberta Menchú (b. January 9, 1959)

Rigoberta Menchú was born in a small Guatemalan village to a poor Quiche Indian family who lived on a plantation as laborers. At that time, native Indians had no rights as citizens, which made them vulnerable to the forced takeovers of the plantations. Menchú's family became active in protesting these conditions and one by one they were killed for their part in the protests. After her mother was killed, Menchú was persecuted and exiled to Mexico. At this time, she became an active leader in the defense of the rights of Indigenous People. During this time she wrote her autobiography, which led to international attention for the conflict between the Indians and the military government of Guatemala. In 1992, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and she used the cash prize of \$1.2 million to start a foundation in her father's name as a way to continue the fight for human rights. Because of her efforts, the United Nations declared 1993 as the International Year for the Indigenous Populations.

10

Gabriela Mistral (b. April 7, 1889; d. January 10, 1957)

Born Lucila Godoy Alcayaga to a dilettante poet in Chile in 1889, Mistral eventually became the first Latin America writer to win the Nobel Prize for literature. She also wrote poetry about nature and the poor, as well as being a teacher. Fear that her work officers would not like her poems drove her to write under a pen name, which she chose for her two favorite poets, Gabriele D'Annunzio and Frederic Mistral. Gabriela also represents the angel Gabriel, the bearer of good news, and Mistral is the Spanish word for wind.

In addition to being a writer and poet, Gabriela played an important role in the educational systems of both Chile and Mexico. She also was the Chilean consul in Naples, Madrid, and Lisbon. Later, she taught Spanish Literature at Columbia University, Middlebury College, Vassar College, and the University of Puerto Rico. She never married but adopted a child who later died. She later joined the lay order of Franciscans. Her tomb is inscribed with her own words, "What the soul is to the body, so is the artist to his people."

11

Baptism of the Lord

Remember all women brought out of Africa into slavery and baptized against their will.

12

Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU (b. 1958)

On November 2, 1989, while serving as a missionary in Antigua, Guatemala, Sister Dianna was kidnapped by the Guatemalan military. For 24 hours she was tortured and raped. Since then she has spoken about her ordeal and attempted to raise concern about the plight of victims of abduction and torture. In 1998, she founded the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), which provides support to survivors, especially those in the United States.

13

Anne Reynolds (b. January 13, 1934; d. March 9, 2004)

Reynolds raised eight children with her husband Ed. She became active in helping Catholic parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children by encouraging them to give their children unconditional love. Anne helped create conferences to educate youth, professionals, and the public, and worked with the Catholic Parents Network to assist parents. She wrote letters to publications and to pastors, assisted PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and was always available to speak with individuals. She cherished the clients she helped with Volunteer Counseling Service.

This quietly strong woman was featured in the National Catholic Reporter when she and Ed were forced to resign as Eucharistic Ministers because of a letter to the local press supporting Sr. Jeannine Gramick and Fr. Robert Nugent's ministry to gays and lesbians. Despite this deep hurt, she continued to be a woman who hoped for change in the Church.

14

Theresa Maxis Duchemin (unknown birth date; d. January 14, 1892)

Born Almaide Maxis Duchemin to Haitian parents, Theresa grew up in Baltimore as a boarder in a school run by Elizabeth Lange. In 1828, Theresa and Elizabeth founded the first order of Black sisters in the world, the Oblates of Providence. During this time, Theresa met Fr. Louis Florent Gillet, a Redemptorist who was seeking to establish a congregation in Monroe, Michigan to teach French immigrants. In 1845 she left the Oblates and went to Monroe to establish the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1855 Fr. Gillet left Monroe and Theresa lost the supportive presence of the Redemptorists. Finding few opportunities to expand the congregation in Michigan, she established a mission in St. Joseph, Pennsylvania. She was blocked by her bishop from opening another mission in Reading, PA. After much protesting, the congregation was ultimately split into two separate foundations. Theresa exiled herself and lived among the Grey Nuns of Ottawa for most of her life. She was able to return to the Pennsylvania motherhouse for the last few years of her life.

15

Etty Hillesum (b. January 15, 1914; d. November 30, 1943)

A young Dutch, Jewish woman who died in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943, Etty Hillesum was unknown to the world until the publications of her diaries in 1981. *An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941-1943*, reveals a person of uncommon sensitivity, insight, and spirituality who, despite the brutality and horrors surrounding her, maintained a sense of the goodness of God and of life.

Born in Middelburg, Netherlands, she obtained a law degree and did graduate work at the University of Amsterdam. In her writings she juxtaposes the reality of life under the Nazis with the beauty of nature or such things as a cup of chocolate or a Rilke poem. Hearing about the massacres in Poland, Etty says, "I am with the hungry, with the ill-treated and the dying every day, but I am also with the jasmine and the piece of sky beyond my window; there is room for everything in a single life. For belief in God and for a miserable end."

Of her own accord Etty joined a group of Jews going to a camp near Auschwitz. Before leaving, she entrusted her notebooks to friends who kept them until 1989 when they finally found a publisher. She, her parents, and her brother, a musical prodigy, were all killed in Auschwitz.

16

Catherine Booth (b. January 17, 1829; d. October 4, 1890)

Catherine Mumford was raised in Nottingham, England in a strict religious home. She was schooled at home due to health problems and spent a lot of time reading the Bible. Since she was considered to be an intellectual, she was asked to critique a young preacher named William Booth who was traveling through her town. They were engaged a short time later and endured a three year separation when he took a preaching post some distance from London. They married in 1855; however, Catherine's poor health and their growing family kept her from accompanying him on his preaching circuit. She raised eight children including a daughter with severe disabilities.

Catherine began working to change the status of women in the church through speaking engagements and writing. The money she earned was used for her husband's ministry to the poor. William left his ministry as a traveling preacher to start The Christian Mission in London which provided outreach to the poor of the East end who in turn became evangelists calling others to outdoor tent revivals. Catherine envisioned the ministry as an army whose aim was the salvation of the world. It was renamed The Salvation Army in 1878, complete with uniforms and organization similar to the military. Their children helped to spread the ministry to other parts of

the world including the United States. Catherine died of breast cancer in 1890 but William kept his ministry going and when he died 12 years later, the Salvation Army had 9,415 units.

17

Martha Cotera (b. January 17, 1938)

A feminist, librarian, and civil rights worker, Martha Cotera has made an enormous impact on the advancement of Mexican-American women. Following the first national Mexican-American feminist conference in 1970, Martha and her coworker Eve Chapa founded the Chicana Research and Learning Center in Austin, Texas. In addition to the co-founding of such an influential organization, Martha has also distinguished herself as a feminist author through the publication of her book *Profile of the Mexican American Woman*.

After becoming affiliated with the Raza Unida party, Martha served as a keynote speaker in its statewide conference in Austin, and actively supported public forums for its political candidates. Martha has provided testimony on women's issues and affirmative action, and has persuaded city officials to increase representation of Mexican Americans on local boards and commissions.

18

Coretta Scott King (b. April 27, 1927)

Born in Alabama during the Depression, Coretta Scott was forced to pick cotton to help her family financially, but resolved early to seek equality and to struggle for an education. In 1945 she attended Antioch College in Ohio on a scholarship studying education and music. She chose to concentrate on musical training upon graduation and continued her studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. There she met the young minister, Martin Luther King, Jr., whom she married. They moved to Montgomery, Alabama.

King raised four children before being thrust into the limelight when her husband was assassinated. Her speech on Solidarity Day in 1968 is often viewed as an example of her emergence from the shadow of her husband's memory. In it, she implored American women to "unite and form a solid block of woman power."

She remains a spokesperson on behalf of black causes and non-violence. She devotes much of her time to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change in Atlanta.

19

Mourning Dove (b. 1888; d. August 8, 1936)

Mourning Dove is the literary name chosen by Christine Quintasket who was born in Colville Confederate Tribes in 1888. Mourning Dove earned her living most of her adult life as a migrant worker, picking fruits and vegetables by day and writing in her camp tent at night. However she is known for being an ethnographer, orator, pamphleteer, teacher, and novelist. She believed that her description and analysis of Native American ways would ensure better treatment for her people. She is credited with authoring one of the earliest novels to be published by a Native American woman, *Cogewea, the Halfblood*, in 1927. Mourning Dove was also a public speaker on the welfare of Native American people in her region and was one of the first women elected to her tribal council. She died after a short life of hard work and illness at 48.

20

Pray for victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women. In fact, there are more cases of domestic violence than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. Studies suggest that more than 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually. Studies also suggest that men who witness domestic abuse as children are twice as likely to abuse their own families.

21

Sophia Louisa Jex-Blake (b. January 21, 1840; d. January 7, 1912)

Born the daughter of an ecclesiastical lawyer, at the age of 25 Jex-Blake moved to the United States to study medicine. Longing to qualify herself as a doctor in England, she attended medical school in Edinburgh. While there, she and other hopeful female doctors were prevented from attending lectures by objecting men and refused further admittance to the school. Because of this, she was unable to complete her courses and receive her degree.

She began a lawsuit. First she and the other female students were given permission to continue their education, and later in the higher courts it was declared that the matriculation of women was an illegal act in Britain. In 1874 she set up the London School of Medicine for Women and went on to receive her medical degree from the University of Bern, in Switzerland.

She continued to fight for the ability to become certified as a doctor in the United Kingdom, and for the right of women to study medicine, drafting bills and frequently contacting members of Parliament. Finally in 1876 the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons allowed women to attend classes and earn degrees, and all medical schools were forced to open their doors to women.

22

Hildegard Goss-Mayr (b. January 22, 1930)

Hildegard Goss-Mayr studied Philosophy in Vienna and New Haven. In 1958, she married Jean Goss (1912-1991), a French peace activist. Together they have two children, Myriam and Etienne. She and her husband worked for the reconciliation between Eastern and Western Europe in the 1950s. They were in Rome during the Second Vatican Council, lobbying for the recognition of conscientious objection by the Roman Catholic Church. In the 60s and the 70s, they lived and worked in South America, training groups in active nonviolence and helping create the Servicio Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ), a non-violent organization dedicated to the defense of political prisoners. They also trained a lot of other groups in active nonviolence in many countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. They participated in the preparation of the People Power Revolution in the Philippines in 1986.

Jean Goss and Hildegard Goss-Mayr shared several Peace Prizes, including the Bruno Kreisky Award in Austria in 1979 and the Pax Christi USA Pope Paul VI Teacher of Peace Award in 1986. In 1991 Hildegard Goss-Mayr also won the Niwano Peace Prize in Japan and in 2009, the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award from the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa. She is currently the honorary president of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

23

Mary Ward (b. January 23, 1585; d. January 30, 1645)

Born in Yorkshire, England, Mary Ward entered the convent of the Poor Clares but felt called to active, rather than contemplative life. In 1609, she founded a Catholic society for women, modeled on the Society of Jesus, called the Institute of Mary. The idea of uncloistered nuns was innovative for the times and was met with much resistance. After a time of suppression under Pope Urban VIII, her institute was fully restored in 1877 and became the model for the modern Catholic Women's Institute.

24

Maria Tallchief (b. January 24, 1925)

Maria was born in Fairfax, Oklahoma to a Scottish-Irish mother and an Osage father. At four years of age, she began to take dancing and piano lessons and excelled in both. Because of her talent, she went to New York to become a ballerina after graduating from high school. There she was hired by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo where she worked with George Balanchine, a famous Russian choreographer. After performing in a version of Stravinsky's Firebird, Maria became the prima ballerina for the American Ballet Theatre at the age

of 35. After retiring in 1965, she went on to be artistic director for the Chicago Lyric Opera Ballet. Later she founded the Chicago City Ballet and was its artistic director from 1981-1987.

25

Sandra Ware (b. April 27, 1954; d. January 25, 1997)

Sandra Ware founded Mary's Pence grantee Let's Start in St. Louis, which offers assistance to women after they are released from prison. A native of St. Louis, she grew up in Pruitt-Igo, the notorious public housing high rise now razed by the government that built it. Sandra spent 17 years in and out of the Missouri prison system. Poorly educated but intelligent and insightful, she was able to turn her life around with the help of Jackie Tobin, SSND and the other women of Let's Start and her husband Keith and their two small children, Najwa and Amir.

Against all odds, Sandra made a difference. Her life and hard-won wisdom profoundly affected the others involved in Let's Start. Role model, friend, inspiration, confidant, searcher of truth, challenger, sister—Sandra was all of these to the women who meet every Tuesday night at St. Vincent's Parish Center to support one another in their journey toward stability. Sandra knew she had been given a second chance at life after all her hard years of drugs and prisons. She used that gift to change her life and the life of others by working for alternative sentences for non-violent offenders. But cancer gave Sandra no third chance. Her 43 years were much too short for her husband, her children and for the women of Let's Start.

(Submitted by Sr. Regina Siegfried, a volunteer at Let's Start)

26

Angela Davis (b. January 26, 1944)

Angela Davis was an African-American political activist born in Birmingham, Alabama. She studied at home and abroad before becoming a doctoral candidate at the University of California. But because of her membership in the Communist party and her advocacy of racial black causes, she was eventually denied reappointment in 1970. During the 1960s and 70s, during which she spoke out for the cause of black prisoners, she grew close to a man named George Jackson, a revolutionary. After four people, including Jackson's brother, were killed at a trial with a gun registered in Angela's name, she was put on the FBI's ten most wanted criminals list under false charges of conspiracy, murder, and kidnapping. She went into hiding and was apprehended two months later. She was released on bail and eventually acquitted in 1972. This experience moved her to form the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

In 1991, Angela became a professor in the field of the history of consciousness, and was appointed a presidential chair in 1995 at the University of California. She has written five books, including an autobiography. Today, she is known around the world for her ongoing contributions to the movements for racial equality, women's rights, and world peace.

27

Angela Merici (b. March 21, 1474; d. January 27, 1540)

Orphaned with her sister at the age of 15, Angela Merici, moved to a small Italian town where her uncle lived. While there, her sister died without receiving the last sacraments. Distressed, Merici joined the Third Order of St. Francis to continue to pray for her sister's soul. When her uncle died, she returned to her hometown and dedicated her time to teaching girls from her home, which she had converted into a school. She sought to lead young girls in a Christian life amidst a decadent society. In her early sixties, Merici founded the Ursulines, a group of women who remained in their own homes but worked for the needy and met monthly for spiritual support. Her hope was to transform society through the renewal of family life and Christian education.

28

Honor all women theologians.

29

Kaye Ashe (b. January 29, 1930; d. February 15, 2014)

Kaye Ashe served as the first board president of Mary's Pence. A leader in justice and religious organizations, she challenged and encouraged those in the Catholic faith community and beyond to seek out common ground and fight against injustice. She was especially passionate about issues of sexism and racism as well as women's involvement in the Roman Catholic Church.

She made her first religious profession as a Sinsinawa Dominican on August 5, 1950. She earned a Ph.D. in Modern European History and French at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. She went on to teach and direct various programs at Rosary College (now Dominican University). As Prioress of her congregation from 1986 to 1994, she was a peaceful and joyful presence in the lives of all who knew her. She then taught at College of California from 1996 to 2006. In addition to teaching and ministering she published several books and lectured about societal change and women's history, spirituality, and leadership.

Strong in her feminism and her faith, and unrelenting in her demands for justice, she serves as a role model for women of all ages and all those who fight for equality.

30

Ritamary Bradley (b. January 30, 1916; d. March 20, 2000)

Ritamary Bradley was born in Iowa in 1916. At 17 she entered the Sisters of Humility of Mary of Ottumwa. After graduating college, she taught English at Marycrest College, all the while working during 14 summers for her M.A. and Ph.D. She explained her choice to specialize in Chaucer as "determined by the fact that women were barred from studying theology and it was only through back doors like medieval literature or general courses like Christian Wisdom that one could obtain a background in theology and philosophy".

Soon, Bradley was chosen as the editor of the Sister Formation Conference Bulletin, which became hugely successful. Unfortunately when the organization was shut down she was left poor and jobless. It didn't get the better of her however. Next, she helped to produce what would later be called *Mystics Quarterly*. Bradley continued to do work concerning women religious into her old age and is remembered for her faith and infectious enthusiasm.

31

Ludmila Javorova (b. January 31, 1932)

Born as the fifth of ten children into a fervent Catholic family, Javorova grew up in Brno, southeast of Prague. After her first religious retreat at the age of 15, she said she felt a flame burning deep within. Her family was deeply religious and Javorova continued her devotions, but her mother refused her request to enter a convent.

By 1948, Czechoslovakia was under communist control and began a relentless brutal persecution of the Roman Catholic Church as well as all other denominations. Religious life established itself underground and Javorova continued to flourish in her spiritual life. The underground church, known as Koinotes (a Greek word for tightly-knit group of believers) operated at great risk. Javorova joined with an ordained Catholic priest, Felix Davidek, to prepare a small group for ordination as underground priests.

Davidek conducted evening seminars for future priests and many others, including some women. Every seminar began with Mass followed by an analysis of the political situation of the world wide church. Ordained as a deacon, Javorova organized many aspects of the seminars, their setup and implementation, facilitating the sessions, and taking on issues of security. In 1967 Davidek was consecrated, in secret, as a bishop. On December 28, 1970, Bishop Davidek consecrated Javorova as a Roman Catholic priest. Following the rite of ordination, Javorova celebrated her first Mass.

Her ordination split Koinotes apart. She was forced to live her life as a priest in secret. Javorova experienced intense pain and loneliness as a result of this imposed silence about her priesthood, and she knew her priestly identity must remain permanent. Javorova, who never received permission to function as a priest in

public, suffered the rejection of other priests. Sometimes she concelebrated with other members of Koinotes who knew about her priesthood and supported her.

When the communist regime fell in 1989, it ended the need for underground church. The decades of war, fear, and secrecy that formed Javorova and fostered her vocation to the priesthood came to a close. Since then, Javorova has respected the right of the Vatican to refuse her faculties, but has never abandoned the reality of her ordained ministry.

February

1

The Kuna People of Panama

Many indigenous people of Latin American have had to fight for independence from oppressive governments and immigrants. The Kuna Indians of Panama, however, are known as an independent and well-organized tribe that has maintained control over their territory. Lead by a matriarchal society, the Kuna women have brought their people together through music, dance and the verbal arts. The strength of these women has helped maintain their culture and self-determination.

The Kuna women share the gift of their beautiful hand-embroidered *molas*, or tapestries. The sale of these items constitutes a major source of income as many women will leave the island to travel to Panama City where tourists are eager to buy their crafts. One of the challenges that the women face today is how to strike a balance between preserving their culture and living in a world that uses consumerism as the means that allows them to provide for their people.

2

Civil Rights Sit-Ins Begin, 1960

Remember the women who would not be moved.

3

Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, OSP (b. 1784; d. February 3, 1882)

A native of what is now Haiti, Elizabeth was part of a mass exodus from the Santo Domingo uprising in 1791. She established the first black, Catholic school in 1828 in Baltimore where, although it was legal to educate blacks, no public schooling was available. She worshipped in the Lower Chapel of St. Mary's Seminary located in Baltimore. It was there she first mentioned her desires to consecrate her life to God as a religious woman.

On July 2, 1828, she and three other black women (including Theresa Maxis Duchemin) met in a rowhouse in Baltimore to pronounce simple vows. When the ceremony was over, a new order of nuns was born in the Catholic Church – the Oblate Sisters of Providence – the first religious order of women of African descent in the world.

In 1840, the order was faced with the hardships of racism and poverty, when the Archbishop of Baltimore ordered the sisters to disband. Elizabeth refused. Instead, her determination allowed her to continue even when theologians in Rome were arguing that black people have no souls. Although the other original members abandoned the order Mother Elizabeth continued to educate black children and meet the needs of the black community until her death. The order survives to this day under the motto, "Providence Will Provide."

4

Betty Naomi Friedan (b. February 4, 1921; d. February 4, 2006)

American social reformer and feminist, Betty Friedan was educated at Smith College and the University of California. In 1963 she published *The Feminine Mystique*, attacking the popular idea that women are meant

only to be child-bearers and homemakers. In 1966, she helped found the National Organization for Women (NOW) and was its president until 1970. A year later she also helped found the National Women's Political Caucus. Later, she published two additional works, *The Second Stage* and *The Fountain of Age*, advocating for a "second stage" of feminism to respond to issues facing a new generation of women and positive roles for older citizens, respectively.

5

St. Agatha (Unknown birth date; d. 251)

Agatha was born in Catania, Sicily during the time of Roman persecutions. Legend has it that Agatha was a beautiful and wealthy Christian who caught the eyes of Magistrate Quinctianus, who was well known for persecution of Christians. She refused him and was thus beaten and tortured including the amputation of her breasts. Even so, her spirit did not break and she did not denounce her faith. She was then tortured by fire. At that time there was a violent earthquake. This was taken as a sign by her torturers who immediately fled. Sicilians still pray to St. Agatha when Mt. Etna threatens to erupt.

6

Tullia d'Aragona (b. 1510; d. 1556)

Tullia d'Aragona was raised to be an Italian courtesan. Trained in music and literature, she was known as a poet, author, and philosopher. After traveling throughout Italy and gaining a reputation as a woman of wit and great intelligence, she wrote 'Dialogue on the Infinity of Love,' the first book on the subject of the morality of love written by a woman. She wrote that love is linked to the better treatment of women and upheld the ideals of freedom of thought, speech, and equality for women and men.

7

Marian Anderson (b. February 7, 1897; d. April 8, 1993)

Marian Anderson was born into a poor black family in Philadelphia. She loved to sing from early on and clearly had a gift. But to become a professional opera singer, as she wanted, she had to face many obstacles. After high school, she applied to the Philadelphia Music Academy, which was at that time an all-white school. Anderson was turned down because she was black. Instead she studied privately with Giuseppe Boghetti. After many years of fighting against racial prejudice, Marian finally achieved her goal of becoming a famous opera singer. She was the first black woman to sing in concert in Washington, DC. The concert got rave reviews.

Anderson went on to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 and became a delegate for the United Nations. She was the first black woman to appear at the Metropolitan Opera House. She achieved many great things in her career, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 1978 and induction into the Woman Hall of Fame in 1973. She will be remembered by many as a strong confident black woman who fought discrimination, racism, and prejudice to achieve her dream.

(Submitted by Lauryn Flotte, age 12).

8

St. Josephine Bakhita (b. 1869; d. February 8, 1947)

Born in the Sudan, she was given the name Bakhita, meaning "fortunate," by kidnappers who sold her into slavery in the markets of El Obeid and Khartoum. She was bought by an Italian consul, Callisto Legnani, who treated her with love and respect. She followed the consul to Italy when the political situation forced him to leave and was given to the family of Augusto Michieli who entrusted her to the care of the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of Catechumens in Venice. She was baptized as Josephine on January 9, 1890 and in 1896 became a Daughter of Charity and was called Mother Moretta, "Our Black Mother." After her death in 1947, the fame of her holiness spread and many claimed to receive graces through her intercession. She was beatified on May 17, 1992 and Canonized on October 1, 2000.

9

Alice Walker (b. February 9, 1944)

Alice Walker was born in Georgia. When she was eight years old, she lost sight of one eye when she was shot in a BB gun accident. In high school, Alice was valedictorian of her class and that achievement, coupled with a “rehabilitation scholarship” made it possible for her to go to Spelman College. She later attended Sarah Lawrence College and traveled to Africa as an exchange student. She received the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize in 1983 for *The Color Purple*, which was made into a film. In addition to being an author, Alice Walker has been an involved activist for many causes including civil rights, women’s issues, anti-apartheid, and anti-nuclear weapons.

10

Saint Scholastica (b. 480; d. 543)

Nearly all that we know of the life of Saint Scholastica is contained in six paragraphs from the Dialogues of Pope Saint Gregory the Great, written about fifty years after her death. Tradition identifies Saint Scholastica as the founder of the Benedictine religious order for women. She and her twin brother, Saint Benedict, were children of a Roman nobleman. Benedict founded the Abbey of Monte Cassino and wrote a rule of life for monks still followed today. Scholastica decided she would be the first woman to live under the rule and established a convent nearby. She and Benedict would allow themselves one day a year to meet and talk about God. Legend has it that at their last meeting, Scholastica prayed for rain so her brother would have to stay an additional night. She died three days later. They are both buried at Monte Cassino.

11

Mokarrameh Ghanbari (b. 1928)

As a child, Ghanbari was always interested in designs and patterns. However, she worked as a seamstress, hairdresser, farmer, and midwife before finally becoming a painter at the age of 64. After going through pads of paper, she began to work on the front gate of her home. Despite early criticism that a woman (especially one with nine grown children) should not be painting images and stories taken from the Bible, local folk tales, the Qu’ran, and her life, Mokarrameh continued doggedly on. Since then, she has gained respect among her neighbors in Ghaem Shahr, Iran, as an artist and a farmer, and her paintings are rarely ever questioned.

Her paintings have brought visitors and documentary crews to her isolated village. She has entered and won contests and held exhibits of her work. She was chosen as woman of the year in 2001 by the Iranian Women's Studies Foundation.

12

Margaret Traxler (b. March 11, 1924; d. February 12, 2002)

Founding Mary’s Pence board member Sr. Margaret Ellen Traxler, SSND, was an educator and long-time human rights and social justice advocate. In the early 1980s, Margaret founded Maria Shelter and Casa Notre Dame in Chicago to provide safe housing, educational instruction, and job skill training for women recently released from prison. She also established numerous nationally acclaimed educational programs including Cabrini Schools in Chicago, Project Bridge in Cleveland, and Choice, which placed teachers with doctorates in African American colleges to enable the college’s faculty time for further study. The United Negro Colleges granted her an honorary doctorate of law for this service.

She promoted human rights by speaking worldwide, testifying to congress on the Equal Rights Amendment, and serving as an advisor to the World Council of Churches; United Farm Workers of California; and Native Americans at Wounded Knee, Pine Ridge, SD. Margaret founded the Inter-Religious Conference on Soviet Jewry, receiving Israel’s medal of honor from the late Golda Meir; the National Coalition of American

Nuns, the first feminist organization in the Catholic Church; the Institute of Women Today, which serves women in prison; and by serving as educational and executive director for the National Catholic Council for Interracial Justice.

Sister Margaret passed away February 12, 2002, at her order's provincial house in Mankato, Minnesota. It was Mardi Gras, a day of celebrating life. She dedicated her life to serving God through her human rights ministry. "There was no one to speak for them," she said. "I'm grateful to God for my call."

(By Karen Flotte, National Coordinator)

13

Rana Hussein (unknown birth and death dates)

Rana is a journalist in Jordan who helped to make the crime of mercy killings more public. Mercy killings occur when the men in a family kill their daughters, sisters, or mothers in order to preserve the honor of a family after the woman is accused of behaving in an unclean manner. Victims of rape and sexual assault are often murdered under the pretense of mercy killings, even though these women are the first victims of these crimes, not the family. After writing several reports on the mercy killings and calling for the public to speak out against them, Rana was accused of being anti-Islam, anti-Jordan, and anti-family. Queen Noor of Jordan joined her in her campaign for the end of violence against women, forcing the government to take action to prevent and end these atrocities.

14

Ruchira Gupta (b. January 7, 1964)

Ruchira Gupta, a well-known journalist and social worker, was on assignment in Nepal in 1994. When she realized that there were very few young women and girls around, she began asking questions. Eventually, Ruchira followed their trail to the brothels of Mumbai in India, to where they'd been sold, some as young as seven. Many of the women and girls had been sold into sexual slavery, or tricked by offers of jobs or marriage. After months of research, she began to film the documentary, 'The Selling of Innocents.'

After filming, she decided not to leave and instead set up the organization Apne Aap, which means 'self-help' in Hindi. Apne Aap is dedicated to helping exploited women and children gain their independence by putting them through school, giving them a place to stay, and encouraging education of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV and AIDS, as well as working to end the sex-trade industry.

15

Susan B. Anthony (b. February 15, 1820; d. March 13, 1906)

Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Massachusetts into a Quaker family with long activist traditions. She developed a sense of justice and moral zeal early in life. After teaching for fifteen years, she became active in the Temperance Movement. Because she was a woman, she was not allowed to speak at Temperance rallies. This experience, and her acquaintance with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, led her to join the women's rights movement in 1852. Soon after, she dedicated her life to woman's suffrage. Ignoring opposition and abuse, Anthony traveled, lectured, and canvassed across the nation. She also campaigned for the abolition of slavery, women's rights to their own property and earnings, and women's labor organizations. In 1900, Anthony persuaded the University of Rochester to admit women. She remained active until her death in 1906.

16

Mildred Fish Harnack (b. September 6, 1902; d. February 16, 1943)

Mildred was the only US woman executed for treason during World War II by Hitler's order. She was a Milwaukee native who, along with her German husband, joined the German resistance in order to assist with the escape of German Jews and political dissidents. For years they provided economic and military intelligence to

both Washington and Moscow. In 1942, a Russian spy revealed information about the Harnack's involvement in the resistance which led to their being arrested, tortured, and tried along with other members of the resistance. Mildred was guillotined in Berlin on February 16, 1943. Her death, courage, idealism, and self-sacrifice went largely unnoticed in the United States and were distorted and sanitized in the communist East. Only since the end of the Cold War have the long-sealed archives been opened so the complete story can be told.

17

Mary Breckinridge (b. February 17, 1881; d. May 15, 1965)

Mary was born in Tennessee although her family roots were in Kentucky, and she spent much of her childhood in Arkansas. She spent time in Czarist Russia where her father served under Grover Cleveland and was schooled at prestigious private schools in Switzerland and Connecticut. Mary became a widow at age 26 and both children from her second marriage died before age five. She turned her sorrow to action, committing herself to raise the status of childhood everywhere as a memorial to her own lost children. She became a registered nurse in New York and then a certified midwife in London, because the US did not have a midwife school at the time. She moved to Kentucky and in 1925 formed the Committee for Mothers and Babies. The group evolved into the Frontier Nursing Service in 1928, which started midwifery work in the rural parts of the state which had no physicians. For Breckinridge and her "horseback angels" no home was too remote. Their philosophy was: if the father could come for a nurse, the nurse would get to the mother.

18

Toni Morrison (b. February 18, 1931)

Toni Morrison is an American author and professor whose work is noted for "its spare poetic language, emotional intensity, and sensitive observation of life." She wrote her first novel in 1970, and continued to write books based around her black heritage. She won many literary honors, including the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. She also received the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature, becoming the first African-American to do so.

19

Judith F. Baca (1946 -)

The expansive and socially conscious murals of eminent Hispanic-American artist Judith Baca are said to both exemplify and enrich urban life. After having been raised in Los Angeles, Baca received a B.A from California State University at Northridge and was hired as a resident artist by the Cultural Affairs Division of the city of Los Angeles. Since then, Baca has founded the First City of Los Angeles mural program, as well as the Social and Public Art Recourse Center in Venice, California where she currently acts as Artistic Director.

Baca's most prominent piece, The Great Wall of Los Angeles, is a half-mile-long homage to the ethnic history of the state, describing the contributions of California's peoples from prehistoric times to the 1950s. Judith Baca's most recent mural addresses numerous contemporary issues of international importance, and is titled "The World Wall: A Vision of the Future Without Fear." The mural incorporates the work of artists from around the globe, including collaboration by artists from Palestine and Israel. Baca has received recognition from the California Community Foundation, the United States Senate, and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers. Baca was the recipient of the 2001 Education Award from the National Hispanic Heritage Awards, and is a founding faculty member of the new California State University, Monterey Bay.

20

Mary Coffin Starbuck (b. February 20, 1644; d. September 13, 1717)

Reverend Mary was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts two years after her parents arrived from England. She lived on Nantucket Island where her father led the colonization of the island. It was there she met and

married her husband, Nathaniel. At the age of 56, Mary converted from Puritanism to Quakerism. At this time, Mary and her eldest son helped make Quakerism the leading religion on the island. She became a minister, and ultimately so did her children and grandchildren. Known by the islanders as a judge among them and a most extraordinary woman, Mary participated in the practical duties and responsibilities of public gatherings and town meetings where she was listened to with respect. Her home became known as the “Parliament House” where both Quaker worship and political affairs were held.

21

Our Lady of Copacabana, Bolivia

The peninsula of Copacabana is located in Bolivia near the islands of the Sun and Moon, sacred sites of the Incas. It is here that the devotion to the “Most Blessed Virgin de la Candelaria, Our Lady of Copacabana” originated.

22

Isabelle Beecher Hooker (b. February 22, 1822; d. January 25, 1907)

Isabelle Beecher, half-sister to Harriet Beecher Stowe, Catherine Beecher, and Henry Ward Beecher, grew up in Boston, Cincinnati, and Hartford. After attending Catherine Beecher’s Hartford Female Seminary, she married John Hooker, a distinguished lawyer. He read aloud to her from law books and she was horrified to learn about the lack of legal rights for women. She became involved in the woman’s rights movement and soon joined others in founding the New England Woman Suffrage Association where she played an important part in planning and sponsoring woman’s rights conventions in Connecticut. Beecher also supported a married women’s property bill, drafted by her husband and introduced into the legislature.

Although Victoria Woodhull submitted a suffrage petition to Congress which rivaled her own, Beecher was impressed with Woodhull and became her supporter even when Woodhull published accusations of adultery against her brother, Henry. Victoria Woodhull also introduced Beecher to Spiritualism, a popular practice of the time, and she became convinced that the spirits would give her a divine message to lead a matriarchal revolution. Beecher was still active in her 70s, supporting Olympia Brown’s efforts at national suffrage, rather than gaining the women’s vote state by state. She served on the board of lady managers at the Columbian Exhibition of 1893 and served as president of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association until 1905.

23

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (b. September 24, 1825; d. February 22, 1911)

Frances Watkins was born in Maryland, and orphaned at the age of three. She was raised by her aunt and uncle and went to school at the Academy for Negro Youth. At the age of 25, she went to teach at the Union Seminary in Ohio, becoming the first woman to do so, and two years later, she left for Pennsylvania, where she had another teaching position and began living in an Underground Railroad station. Frances learned how it worked, and soon became very distressed at the suffering of her people. She took action immediately, joining the State Anti-Slavery Society of Maine and publicly spoke out against race, class, and sexual discrimination all across Canada and the Northern United States. In her speeches she included poetry and prose she had written herself. After the Civil War ended and her husband passed away, Frances continued to travel and speak out publicly as well as form alliances with many feminists. In 1897, she became the Vice-President of the National Association of Colored Women. This teacher, lecturer, temperance worker, and poet continued to write and lecture until her death in 1911.

24

Mary Jane Seacole (b. 1805; d. May 14, 1881)

Mary Jane Grant was born in Jamaica, the daughter of a Scottish military officer and a Jamaican mulatto woman. She married Edward Seacole in 1836 but he died shortly after. When the Crimean War broke out, Seacole traveled to London to offer her skills as a nurse to the British War Office but they refused. She was so intent on helping tend to the wounded that she applied to the wife of the Secretary of War who was recruiting nurses for the war effort. They also denied her an interview because she was black.

Seacole was so concerned about the soldiers that she independently established a British Hotel at her own expense in order to provide a comfortable setting for the sick and convalescing officers. Often she went to the battlefield and attended to the wounded there. After the war she declared bankruptcy, but her story was carried by the British press and money was raised to help pay off her debt. She was also awarded the Crimean medal, the French Legion of Honour, and a Turkish medal. Her autobiography, *The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*, was published in 1856.

25

Alicia Dickerson Montemayor (b. August 6, 1902; d. May 13, 1989)

Alicia was a Latin American activist, feminist, wife, mother, and business woman. In order to get her degree, she attended night school, a rare act for a woman. She joined the LULAC (League of United American Citizens) when it was still a very male-oriented society. In 1936, Alicia chartered a council in Laredo, composed of mainly working class women. She encouraged the women to vote, become active in their communities, attend citizenship classes, and told them to aspire to work away from the home.

Because of this local prominence, she became the first woman elected to a national office that had not been designated for a woman. She was also the first woman to serve as an associate editor of the LULAC News. Alicia promoted the involvement of youth and women within LULAC and helped to advance their standing within the organization.

26

Mabel Keaton Staupers (b. February 27, 1890; d. November 29, 1989)

Born Mabel Doyle in Barbados, West Indies, she immigrated to the United States with her parents when she was thirteen. Mabel was dedicated to improving the status of African-American nurses after graduating with honors in 1917 from Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, DC. It was at that time that Staupers was confronted with the prejudice and discrimination affecting the lives of African-Americans. This discrimination led to segregated training schools and nursing organizations. In 1934, she accepted a position as the first paid executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. It was during her twelve-year tenure that membership was increased, a citizen advisory committee was established, and the racial barriers that kept African-American nurses from serving in the Armed Forces Nurse Corps were broken down.

27

Rosa Perea (b. April 3, 1952; d. February 27, 1992)

Rosa was born deaf and developed diabetes at age 11. The diabetes was responsible for her blindness at age 29 and kidney failure two years later. During these years, despite her illnesses and disabilities, Rosa completed her education. She then worked for the Education Commission in Washington and as a VISTA volunteer in San Antonio where she acted as a peer counselor for blind-deaf children. With the help of Advocacy, Inc, an organization that works for the rights of disabled Texans, Rosa filed a federal complaint in 1984 against an airline policy which prevented her from flying without a traveling companion. In 1987, the US Department of Transportation ruled that the airlines' refusal to fly unescorted people who are both blind and deaf was discriminatory and violated federal law. The ruling made it possible to have deaf-blind persons considered on an individual basis for flying. In time, Rosa became a Company Club member through her frequent flights from her home in Lubbock, Texas to Austin and San Antonio to represent deaf-blind persons on various committees.

Perea worked for the rights of people with disabilities until her death at age 39. When asked through her translator and sister Palmira Perea-Hay to describe her feelings, she said, “I have been very lucky in my life. I have a supportive family, close friends, and my faith in God. I have always kept going. Certainly I have felt frustrated at times; that’s normal. The key is to be assertive and to fight and to keep going and going.”

28

Lydia Allen (unknown birth and death dates)

In the 1980s when an influx of AIDS cases in the United States had the population terrified, Lydia Allen was pregnant with her first child. After a blood transfusion during the pregnancy, Allen discovered that she had acquired AIDS through infected blood, and decided to devote her life to helping others with the disease. As AIDS ravished her family and caused the death of her second son, Allan was ostracized by her church and was made the target of others’ ignorance towards the disease. To help protect other families dealing with similar tribulations, she opened Lydia’s House, a day-care center for children affected by AIDS. Years after her death, Lydia’s House still caters to the needs of parents and children with AIDS and offers comfort to those who are in need.

29

Augusta Savage (b. February 29, 1892; d. March 26, 1962)

Born in Green Cove Springs, Florida, Augusta knew at an early age that she wanted to be a sculptor. Her father, a Methodist minister, forbade her to make “graven images.” Refusing to give up her calling, she moved to Florida and then New York believing that more artistic opportunities would be available up north.

Once in New York, she opened a studio to provide education in the arts to adults and in 1937 became the first director of the Harlem Community Arts Center, a WPA funded project. There she was part of a center for African-American artists, including Jacob Lawrence. Her work consists mostly of busts of everyday people, and she was one of the first sculptors to depict distinctive African-American physical features. Because she could not afford to have her clay work cast in bronze, few of her works have survived.

She fought against racist hiring practices in the WPA and for the elimination of other barriers preventing blacks from realizing their potential as artists. After 1945 and until her death in 1961, she sculpted less and concentrated on teaching art to children and adults in New York.

March

1

Margaret Randall (b. December 6, 1936)

Margaret Randall has written over 80 books about feminist, social, and political topics. She lived in Latin America for 23 years and in 1984 was not allowed to return home to the United States because of her writings. She fought for her First Amendment rights for five years, finally winning her case and was allowed to return to the US. She is a poet, a photographer, an oral historian, and a social activist.

2

Nawal El Saadawi (b. 1931)

Nawal El Saadawi is an Egyptian doctor, feminist, sociologist and author. Her work has been banned in several Middle Eastern countries, including Egypt, and she has been imprisoned for her writings and teachings. Her writings tend to focus on Arab women's legal status, their psyche, and their sexuality. In 1981, Saadawi began Egypt's first legal feminist organization, Arab Women's Solidarity Association. The government

dissolved this alliance and gave away their funds. Nevertheless, Dr. El Saadawi has gone on to form other organizations and continued to write for the feminist cause.

3

Katherine Drexel (b. November 26, 1858; d. March 3, 1955)

Born in Philadelphia in 1858 to a wealthy banking family, Drexel was the heiress to a great family fortune and a society woman. However, her greatest aspiration was to live her life as a contemplative in prayer and penance. Around 1888 she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. In her years as Mother Superior, Drexel founded numerous orphanages and hospitals for the poor, countless Catholic missions, schools for Native Americans, and schools for African Americans including Xavier University in New Orleans, the first black, Catholic college.

Drexel was a one-woman charitable foundation who, in her lifetime as a nun, embraced personal poverty, yet gave away about \$20 million for staffing or building schools for African and Native Americans. She donated more than \$1 million for the support of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, and pledged \$100,000 yearly for the support of Indian schools. She is regarded as a saint by the Sisters of her order. At the time of her death in 1955 at age 97, she left 62 schools and 600 Sisters to carry on the work she began. The apostolic process for her sainthood was initiated in 1980 and she was beatified in 1988.

4

Young Shin (unknown birth date)

Young Shin is an immigrant from Korea who helped to form Asian Immigrant Women Advocates, after graduating law school. AIWA helps women who work as hotel room cleaners, seamstresses, waitresses, electronic assemblers, janitors, and nursing home attendants, helping them to defend their rights, their wages and teaching them English to further their independence. She has been recognized as a pioneer and a leader in her work. She continues to act as the executive director.

5

Catharine A. MacKinnon (b. October 6, 1946)

Catharine MacKinnon graduated in the top 2% of her class from Smith College and went on to earn a J.D. and Ph.D. from Yale University. While studying at Yale Law School she received a National Science Foundation Fellowship. She has devoted her career and attention to cases that focus on harassment, pornography, and international work. MacKinnon is outspoken about sex discrimination and sexual harassment. She was interviewed for the documentary *Inside Deep Throat* which explores the effects of pornography on American society. She also authored the book *Sexual Harassment of Working Women: A Case of Sex Discrimination* which is the eighth most cited American legal book. MacKinnon is currently a professor at the University of Michigan Law School.

6

Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova (b. March 6, 1937)

Valentina was born in Maslennikova in western Russia. She went to work in a textile mill when she was 18, became interested in parachuting as a hobby and made more than 125 jumps before volunteering for space-flight training. She was also trained as an airplane pilot before becoming the first woman to travel in space. In the spacecraft Bostok 6, she made 45 revolutions around the earth from June 16 to June 19, 1963. She then parachuted from the spacecraft after reentering the earth's atmosphere. It was this feat that earned her the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

7

Perpetua and Felicity (2nd Century)

Perpetua, born in 181, was a prosperous married noblewoman and mother of a small son. Felicity (Felicitas) however, was a pregnant slave girl. While awaiting baptism, they, along with others, were put under house arrest in Carthage, North Africa for violating a prohibition against conversion to Christianity. After they were baptized while under house arrest, they were tried, imprisoned, and sentenced to die by the Emperor Septimus Severus. While awaiting their fate, Felicity gave birth to a daughter who was adopted by Christian friends. Perpetua experienced remarkable visions in which she vanquished Satan. Her fearsome faith gave her strength to reject her father's plea to renounce her conversion in order to save her life.

In 203 their companions were mauled and killed by wild beasts. Perpetua and Felicity were attacked and severely wounded by a crazed cow. Severus then had them executed by gladiator's swords. The heroic deaths of these martyrs, documented by contemporaries, are of significance to historians because of their authenticity. Perpetua and Felicity are revered as Confessors of the Faith. Felicity is considered a patroness for barren women while the emblem for Perpetua in art is the cow. Both are mentioned in the first Eucharistic Prayer of the Roman Rite.

8

Zahra Rahnavard (b. October 31, 1945)

Zahra Rahnavard, a prominent figure in Iran, earned her Master's degree at the Arts faculty at Tehran University. She also has a master and doctorate in political science from Azad University. She married Mir Hossein Mousavi in the late 1960s. In the 1970s fled to the United States with her husband after a close friend of hers was arrested. Rahnavard returned to Iran shortly before the 1979 revolution and was instrumental in helping develop many of the new political and cultural programs. From 1997- 2005 she was the advisor to the former president, Mohammad Khatami and was also the chancellor of Az-Zahra University, Iran's only all-female institution of higher education. She was the first woman to hold her position since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

When her husband ran for president, Rahnavard often stood beside him at the podium and even attended rallies by herself. Up until then, no other presidential candidate's wife had been seen with him in the public eye. Though her husband lost, she continues to fight against inequality for women. She says that the only way a nation can survive is to give women the freedom to make decisions for themselves. Currently, Rahnavard is under house arrest for leading a peaceful mass demonstration of support for the Arab Spring in Iran. She remains one of the top leaders of the opposition group The Green Path of Hope.

International Women's Day

This holiday originated in the United States but is now celebrated throughout the world. In the summer of 1909, many women garment workers in New York began to strike in protest of unfair working conditions. By November other workers walked off their jobs in protest. In time 30,000 people had joined and the strike had spread to Philadelphia. The companies did give in on some points, like lowering the work week to 52 from 59 hours. A few years later, an international women's conference established this day to honor the garment worker's victory. Today the day has special meaning for women in developing nations. In some countries, working women are honored with gifts and flowers.

9

Catherine of Bologna (b. September 8, 1413; d. March 9, 1463)

Born Caterina de Vigri to a noble Bolognese family, Catherine was educated at the Court of Margaret d'Este of Ferrara. After her father's death, she became a third order Franciscan in Ferrara. In 1456, Catherine founded the Convent of Poor Clares and remained abbess until her death. During her life she experienced visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus. Her supernatural gifts and sanctity brought her considerable fame. Her spiritual writings, extremely popular in Italy until the end of the 18th century, included verses in honor of Jesus and Mary. Her chief work "Le Arme Necessarie Alla Bataglia Spirituale" was written in

1438 and was translated “The Spiritual Armour” by A.J. McDougall in 1926. Her illuminated breviary and paintings hang in Italian museums. She was canonized in 1712 and is the patroness of artists.

10

Harriet Tubman (b.1820; d. March 10, 1913)

African American abolitionist, Araminta Ross was born in Bucktown, Maryland and was known by her mother’s name, Harriet. She married a freed slave named John Tubman in 1844. In 1849, without her husband, she escaped to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad. Her route to freedom was neither underground nor railroad. The routes taken by slaves were known as lines. Stopping places were stations. Those who aided were conductors. Slaves were charges, packages, or freight. And northern philanthropists, abolitionists, freed blacks and former slaves were the railroad.

In defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Harriet Tubman made 19 trips during the 1850s to the south to rescue hundreds of slaves. In 1857, she led her parents to freedom and settled them in Auburn, New York. Rewards for her capture amounted to \$40,000 but she was never caught. In late 1850, she met John Brown and became active in the women’s rights movement. During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman was a scout, spy, and nurse for the Union Army in South Carolina. She returned to Auburn after the war and helped to raise money for black schools. In 1908, the Harriet Tubman Home for elderly and needy blacks was established. Harriet passed away in 1913 and a U.S. postage stamp was issued in her honor in 1978.

11

Hallie Quinn Brown (b. March 10, 1849; d. September 16, 1949)

Hallie Quinn Brown is known as an educator, a reformer and social activist, and a lecturer. She was the child of two well-educated parents who were both former slaves who had been active in the Underground Railroad. Beginning as a public school teacher and working to improve literacy levels, she became the dean of women at Tuskegee of Institute in Alabama, where she worked with Booker T. Washington. Brown helped to promote the Colored Woman’s League, which became the National Association of Colored Women, and set up a scholarship fund so other African American women could pursue education. She fought for the full citizenship of women, for civil rights, and she protested segregation.

12

Mechthild of Madgeburg (b.1207; d. 1282)

Born in Saxony to noble parents, Mechthild was well educated. At age 20, Mechthild joined the Beguines, an order of pious women not under vow, who could retain property, remain independent, and participate in communal life devoted to prayer and works of mercy. This lay Catholic sisterhood, founded in the 13th century, began in the Low Countries and spread to France, Germany and other areas of Europe. It experienced a revival in Belgium during the 17th century and some Beguines remain in the Netherlands today.

Mechthild’s mystical experiences are recorded in “The Overflowing Light of the Godhead.” In 1270, she fled from enemies she had made because she had rebuked the laxity in the church. She went to a Cistercian convent in Helfta where she led a long and fruitful life until her death in 1282. A prayer-meditation from St. Mechthild’s writings: “His divinity is never foreign to me. For always and without fetters I feel it in every one of my limbs...”

13

Mary Elizabeth Bowser (b. 1840; unknown date of death)

Born a slave, Mary Elizabeth Bowser was freed after her master’s death in 1851, and devoted her life to assisting the Union cause. Bowser’s name is most well known in history as following that of Elizabeth Van Lew, her co-conspirer and the daughter of her late master. An active abolitionist, Van Lew arranged Bowser’s

education. After being tutored in Philadelphia, Bowser returned to work as a household servant to the Van Lews.

At the start of the civil war, Elizabeth Van Lew hired out Bowser to the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. By eavesdropping on Davis's dinner conversations, Bowser would gather military information in order to aid the Grant administration. Each night Bowser would repeat verbatim the military plans discussed by Davis and his colleagues to Van Lew, who also acted as a spy for Ulysses S. Grant. Unfortunately, little is known of the details of Bower's life after the Civil War, as her diaries were inadvertently discarded in the 1950s.

14

Fannie Lou Hamer (b. October 6, 1917; d. March 14, 1977)

Fannie Lou Hamer, known as the woman who was "sick and tired of being sick and tired," was born in Montgomery County, Mississippi. She was the youngest of 19 children born to sharecroppers, and her grandparents had been slaves. When she was 44, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) came to her town to hold a voter registration meeting, and it was there she first learned that African-Americans had the constitutional right to vote. When a call went out for volunteers to go to the courthouse to vote, Hamer's hand was the first to go up. She and others were jailed and beaten by police, and Hamer lost her job on the plantation where she was a sharecropper. She also began to receive death threats. Undeterred, Hamer became a SNCC Field Secretary and traveled around the country speaking and registering voters.

Hamer also co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). In 1964, the MFDP challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention and Hamer spoke during a televised proceeding about illegal tests, taxes, and intimidation that kept blacks from voting. As a result, two delegates of the MFDP were allowed to speak at the convention and the other members were seated as honorable guests. She was an inspirational figure to many involved in the struggle for civil rights.

15

Anna Marie Dengel (b. March 16, 1892; d. April 1980)

Anna Marie Dengel was born in Steeg, Austria. In her late teens, she heard that women and children were dying needlessly in other parts of the world where local custom would not allow men to treat them. She became a doctor and eventually founded the Medical Mission Sisters in the 1920s. Canon Law at that time prohibited sister-doctors until the mid-1930s because the Vatican determined studying medicine, especially obstetrics, was a threat to sisters' vows of "chastity." In the same way, sister-nurses were officially prohibited from working in maternity ward.

The Medical Mission Sisters had to be designated a "pious union," rather than a congregation, because the women in it were fully-trained doctors and nurses. Anna lobbied for years, and was finally successful in achieving the change. Her work paved the way for others such as Mother Teresa who trained with her in India. At her death in 1980, the Medical Mission Sisters were ministering to the needy on five continents.

(Excerpts from Peggy Thompson)

16

Myrlie Evers-Williams (b. 1933)

Civil rights leader Myrlie Evers-Williams worked with her husband in the NAACP, fighting against segregation and discrimination in the state of Mississippi. The couple's lives were constantly in danger as they organized such protests as the boycott of stores owned by bigoted whites. Though Evers-Williams' husband, the civil-rights pioneer Medgar Evers, was assassinated in 1963, she continued to work for racial equality. Only four years after her husband's death, Evers-Williams coauthored a novel, then became the first woman of African-American descent to serve on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

Having worked relentlessly for thirty years to see that her husband's murderer was not allowed to walk free, Evers-Williams succeeded when in 1994 Byron De La Beckwith was sentenced to life in prison. In 1995 she became the first woman to have been elected to chair the NAACP.

17

Saint Brigid (b. 450; d. 525)

Brigid was born near Kildare in Ireland, to a Christian slave. After gaining freedom, she founded the first convent in Ireland and dedicated her life to caring for the poor. Her life influenced the growth of the church in Ireland and she was buried near St. Patrick and St. Columba in honor of her holiness. Many are familiar with St. Brigid's crosses, which are made of straw. She is also known as St. Bride.

18

Golda Meir (b. May 3, 1898; d. December 8, 1978)

While Meir spent most of her childhood in the United States, it was when she moved to Palestine at age twenty six that Meir was able to become active in the issues she wanted to fight for. When in high school in Wisconsin, Meir had joined a Zionist group known as 'Poalei Zion', or Workers of Zion. In 1921 Meir immigrated to Palestine with her husband, later moving to Tel Aviv where Meir became an official at the Histadrut Trade Union. During the course of only two years Meir worked as an emissary in the United States, served as a secretary of the Hechalutz women's organization and became secretary of the Histadrut's Action Committee.

It was in 1946 when Meir's political career took off, when she replaced Moshe Sharett as administrative head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department, the primary Jewish liaison with the British. When Meir was then elected to the Executive of the Jewish Agency she was considered the state's prominent spokesperson, and was instrumental in fundraising in the United States to assist in paying the costs of the Israeli War of Independence.

Two years later Meir was appointed as Israel's Ambassador to the Soviet Union, then served as Minister of Labor and National Insurance, and then Foreign Minister. While holding the latter position, Meir was instrumental in securing extensive mutual relations with Latin American countries as well as creating relations with emerging independent countries in Africa. After serving as Foreign Minister, the seventy one year old Meir was appointed as Prime Minister, the third female in international history to hold the position.

19

Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez (b. March 19, 1771; d. March 2, 1829)

Born in Mexico into the Creole elite, Josefa Ortiz Giron became committed to the cause of Mexican independence from Spain. Her husband, Miguel, also became a closet supporter of the separatist cause. Fearing an independence war, the authorities ordered Miguel to lock up his own wife because of her stance. Ortiz de Dominguez secretly sent out a warning, making it possible for hidden rebel leaders to escape and later initiate the rising against Spain. She was arrested and confined to the Santa Clara convent where she remained until the end of the war in 1821. After her death, she was buried in Santa Catalina but later her remains were shipped to her home city, Queretaro. She was then honored by the state congress as *benemerita* (meritorious). A statue of her can be found in Mexico City.

20

Captain Mary Mills (b. 1912; d. February 2, 2010)

Captain Mary Mills, a certified nurse and midwife, spent more than twenty-six years with the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) before returning to the United States in 1976. Twenty of those years were spent abroad, establishing clinics, nursing schools, sanitation programs, and small pox and malaria eradication programs in Liberia, Chad, Lebanon, Cambodia, and South Vietnam. She has received national

awards and citations, including a Distinguished Service Award from the USPHS and the Rockefeller Public Service Award from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Captain Mills was the first woman ever to receive the Rockefeller Award, the highest privately supported honor for a career civil servant. Mills was known as “Aunt Mary” to the countless people she helped throughout her career as a nurse and midwife.

The Smithsonian Institution, which featured her portrait as part of the Harmon Foundation’s collection of notable African Americans, hailed her as “one of the finest ambassadors for America’s nurses.” Her portrait hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, in company with the likes of George Washington Carver and Thurgood Marshall.

21

Belle Sherwin (b. March 20, 1869; d. July 9, 1955)

Born to Frances Mary Smith and Henry Alden Sherwin, founder of the Sherwin-Williams Company, Belle Sherwin graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wellesley College with a B.S degree, and then attended Oxford University to study history. Sherwin was later granted three honorary degrees from Western Reserve University, Denison University, and Oberlin College. The tenacity that Sherwin exhibited in her studies was reflected in her numerous accomplishments later in her life, which she devoted to furthering the advancement of the human race.

After studying at Oxford, Sherwin went on to teach history at a private school for girls in Boston. Four years later in 1900, Sherwin left her job as a teacher and became the first President of the Consumers League of Ohio, a position that would foreshadow several other roles of leadership Sherwin would soon come to hold. Preceding World War I, Sherwin was an active participant in various social welfare organizations, including the Visiting Nurses Association, the Federation for Charity and Philanthropy, and the Council for Social Agencies.

After World War I and following her involvement in the aforementioned organizations, Sherwin became the director of the Cleveland Welfare Federation and the Vice President of the National League of Women Voters. After her term as Vice President, Sherwin was elected President of the group. This position helped to solidify Belle Sherwin’s reputation as a dedicated suffragist leader. In addition to holding such a venerable title Sherwin also became a board member of the National Urban League.

22

Dorothy Stratton (b. March 24, 1899; d. 2006)

Dorothy Stratton was an educator, naval officer, public official, and the executive director of the Girl Scouts of America. She worked as the dean of women and a professor of psychology at Purdue University.

Stratton served on the admissions board of the Women's Auxiliary Board and enlisted in Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES) which worked with the Navy. She helped to develop the Coast Guard Women's Reserve Corps and became its director.

After leaving the military with the rank of captain, Dorothy chose to serve as the executive director of the Girl Scouts of America from 1950 to 1960. She also served as a member of the President's Commission on the Handicapped and a consultant to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare until her retirement.

23

Florence Ellinwood Allen (b. March 23, 1884; d. September 12, 1966)

After a career in music that was cut short by injury, Allen studied politics and law. She worked as a lawyer for Legal Aid and woman’s suffrage in Ohio. In 1920, she became the first female elected as a judge of the court of common pleas and in 1922, she was the first female elected to the Ohio Supreme Court. In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her to the US Court of Appeals, Six Circuit making her the first female appointed to any federal bench of general jurisdiction. She went on to serve as the chief judge of that

court before retiring in 1959. She is also known for her human rights work through the International Bar Association.

24

Esther

Born with the name Hadassah, she is the eponymous heroine of the Biblical Book of Esther. According to the Bible, Esther was a Jewish queen of the Persian king Ahasuerus. While Ahasuerus was traditionally identified with Xerxes I during the time of the Achaemenid empire, many historians now believe that Esther was the queen of Persia under a later king of Persia, during the time of the Sassanid empire. Her story is the basis for the celebration of Purim in Jewish tradition.

25

Margaret Chase Smith (b. December 14, 1897; d. May 29, 1995)

Margaret Chase Smith was a Republican Senator from Maine and one of the most successful politicians in Maine's history. She was the first woman to be elected to both the U.S. House and the Senate and the first woman from Maine to serve in either. She was also the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for the U.S. Presidency at a major party's convention (1964 Republican Convention, won by Barry Goldwater). She was a moderate Republican, included with those known as Rockefeller Republicans. When she left office, Smith had the record as the longest-serving female senator in United States history, ranking 11th in seniority among the members of the Senate, a distinction that was not surpassed until January 5, 2011, when Senator Barbara Mikulski was sworn in for a fifth term.

26

Emma Sepulveda (unknown birth date)

Emma Sepulveda was born in Argentina and raised in Chile. She fled with her family to the United States after Augusto Pinochet took over the Chilean government. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in languages and literatures from the University of California at Davis. Sepulveda has dedicated the past 25 years to working with Arpilleristas, the Chilean women's movement, and she also founded the nonprofit organization Latinos for Political Education. Additionally, she has authored over 17 novels, works of poetry, non-fiction, literary criticism, and photography.

27

Julia Alvarez (b. March 27, 1950)

Julia Alvarez is a well-known author from the Dominican Republic who fled with her family to the United States when she was ten because of her father's involvement in a political rebellion. She is the author of several books that detail the struggle of immigrating to America and trying to adjust to a new culture and life. She and her husband also started an organic coffee farm in the Dominican Republic, on what was originally thought to be "used up" land. They teach the workers around them sustainable methods of farming. They also started a school on the land to teach both children and adults to read and write.

28

Asma Jahangir (b. January 27, 1952)

Since earning her law degree in 1978, Jahangir has been crusading for human rights in Pakistan as a leading lawyer and advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Currently, she is the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan. Over the years she has represented thousands of seemingly hopeless cases for persecuted religious minorities, women, and children. She also helped to form the first law firm for women

in Pakistan and the Women's Active Forum, which protests the mistreatment of women and minorities in Pakistan.

From August 2004-July 2010, she was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Now she is the chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, an independent body of lawyers and activists.

29

Pearl Bailey (b. March 29, 1918; d. August 17, 1990)

Pearl Bailey began her career as a singer and an actress. At 67, she graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in theology, as well as an honorary doctorate. She became well known for her humanitarian work around the world and for advocating for liberty for all. In 1975 Pearl became the United States Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations, and in 1988 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

30

Kathy Kelly (b. December 10, 1952)

Kathy Kelly is an author, pacifist, and peace activist in the US and abroad. In 1996 Kathy Kelly helped found Voices in the Wilderness to lead a campaign against the sanctions in Iraq. Currently she is a co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. She has been arrested several times both at home and abroad, and has spent time in jail for her beliefs.

31

Marjorie Agosin (b. 1955)

Marjorie Agosin is recognized as a premier Latin American voice in writing and for human rights activism. She is descended from Austrian and Russian Jews who perished in the Holocaust, and was born and lived in Chile until she was 16 years old. At that point she moved to the United States to escape a military coup. Agosin has won numerous awards for her human rights work including the United Nations Leadership Award for Human Rights and awards for her work as a Latina writer.

April

1

Wangari Maathai (b. April 1, 1940; d. September 25, 2011)

Founder of the Green Belt Movement and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Maathai is known for dedicating her life to the struggle for democracy, human rights, and environmental conservation. She was born in Nyeri, Kenya and, despite the odds, earned a M.S. in Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in Anatomy at the University of Nairobi. She was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree. She was also the first woman in the region to attain the positions of chair of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and associate professor.

She published four books and was featured in many more, and was also the subject of a documentary called *Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathai*. She was active in the National Council of Women of Kenya from 1976 to 1987. During this time she introduced the idea of community-based tree planting that eventually grew into the Green Belt Movement. The Green Belt Movement focuses on poverty reduction and environmental conservation through tree planting.

After winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, Maathai was appointed Goodwill Ambassador to the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem. In 2006 she founded the Nobel Women's Initiative with her sisters. In 2009 she was named a UN Messenger of Peace and in 2010 she founded the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and

Economic Studies. The Wangari Maathai Institute continues to bring together academic researchers and members of the Green Belt Movement to find solutions for resource-based conflicts.

2

Barbara Caine (b. April 2, 1948)

Barbara Caine has written extensively on feminism and its impact upon social change. She analyzes the concept of "female tradition" and women's place in history. Caine is also known for her studies of the connection and conflict between calling for legal and social rights and one's sexual and personal freedom. Caine works as a Professor at the School of Historical Studies in Monash University in Australia. She travels and speaks on many of the issues that face women today, from sexual violence to studies of gender in Islam.

3

Dorothea Dix (b. April 4, 1802; d. July 17, 1887)

Dorothea Dix was born in Hampden, Massachusetts and despite ill health, opened a school in Boston in 1821 and taught there until 1835. In 1841 she was asked to teach a Sunday school class in the East Cambridge Jail. There she was horrified to see that mentally ill persons were jailed alongside criminals. Her investigation of the treatment of the mentally ill shocked her so much that she wrote an account for the Massachusetts State Legislature. Her report resulted in the establishment of state hospitals and treatment for the insane. Dorothea then turned her attention to the treatment of the mentally ill in neighboring states. Within the next few decades, fifteen other states built special mental hospitals. Until the end of her life, she worked for improvements in the rest of the nation, as well as Canada and Europe. Her work for the mentally ill was a first and crucial step in acknowledging the fact that mental illness exists and is not demonic possession nor evil behavior. When she died, she was widely acclaimed as a social reformer.

4

Maya Angelou (b. April 4, 1928; d. May 28, 2014)

Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis as Marguerite Johnson. She spent most of her childhood between Stamps, Arkansas, where she lived with her grandmother and St. Louis, Missouri where her mother lived. She attended public schools in California and Arkansas and studied dance with Martha Graham and drama with Frank Silvera. Her grandmother instilled pride and confidence in her but her self-image was shattered when, at age 8, her mother's boyfriend raped her. Maya was so devastated by this attack that she didn't speak for five years. By the time she was 16, she regained her self-esteem and was busy caring for her newborn son. She decided to begin speaking again. Her experiences during her first 16 years are chronicled in the first volume of her autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." This work also highlights the social and political tensions of the 1930's.

The next four volumes of Angelou's autobiography continue to trace her spiritual, psychological, and political odyssey. She became a prominent figure in American literature and had extraordinary experiences as she involved herself in the Civil Rights and the Feminist movements both in the United States and Africa, where she spent four years in Ghana. This time is covered in her fifth volume in which she becomes aware not only of her African roots but also of the fact that she is distinctly American.

Most critics praise her prose more than her poetry, and her autobiographical works have a special place in African-American tradition. She recited her poem "On the Pulse of the Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration. This poem calls for recognition of the human failing pervading American history and a renewed national commitment to unity and social improvement.

5

Pandita Ramabai (b. April 23, 1858; d. April 5, 1922)

Pandita Ramabai was born in Western India and raised in a very orthodox Hindu family steeped in Sanskrit. After a stay in England, she converted to Christianity and subsequently became deeply involved in a feminist campaign in the United States to raise funds for residential schools for widows in India. She was fluent in seven languages and translated the Bible into Marathi, her mother tongue. Sanskrit scholars at Calcutta University were so impressed with her knowledge and ability, that they conferred on her the title of “Saraswati,” the Hindu goddess of knowledge, and “Pandita,” which means a learned person.

In 1882, Ramabai established the Arya Mahila Samaj for the cause of furthering women’s education in Pune and other parts of Western India. These homes were for fostering the cause of women’s emancipation and education. In 1889, she founded Sharada Sadan, a school which grew into the umbrella organization known as Pandita Ramabai Mukta Mission.

The book, *Pandita Ramabai Through Her Own Words*, is a collection of her own writings and follows her life as an influential writer, campaigner, and public lecturer. Her works continue today as a tribute to Jesus Christ, whom she faithfully followed until her death.

6

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (b. April 5, 1947)

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was sworn in as the second woman president of the Philippines and served from 2001-2010. She was faced with many problems, including corruption and high level of poverty.

Macapagal worked in many different government positions before winning the presidency. She began her public career working in the Department of Trade and Industry. She was elected Senator in 1992 and 1995. It was during that time that she wrote 55 laws on economic and social reform including: providing assistance to women-run micro and cottage businesses, declaring sexual harassment unlawful, increasing penalties for wife-beating, institutionalizing a National Strategy for Poverty, and mandatory employment of women.

7

Joyce Banda (b. April 12, 1950)

Joyce Banda is an influential advocate for improving the quality of life of women by devoting her energy to teach them how to become economically self-reliant. After having extremely frustrating experiences as a secretary, she became inspired to found the NABW, the National Association of Business Women. She worked to give women in need access to credit, training, information, markets, and appropriate technology. Because of Banda's work, NABW has mobilized 15,000 women, given out \$2 million in loans, and trained 12,000 women to run their own businesses across the country. She has also done much of the same work in Malawi, Africa, her native country. She empowers women to move up the economic ladder, primarily in the lime, soap, and timber industries and benefit themselves and their communities.

In 1997, she received, along with the President of Mozambique, the Africa Prize for Leadership. She also founded the Joyce Banda Foundation for Better Girls' Education, attempting to change the astonishing illiteracy rate of 70% in Malawi. Banda has received the Special Honor Award, the 100 Heroines Award, and was named 1998 Woman of the Year. Currently, she is the Chairperson of the Malawi Housing Corporation, and serves on the boards of the Malawi Entrepreneurs Development Institute (MEDI) and the Malawi Polytechnic Board of Governors.

8

Diana Fletcher (b. 1838; unknown death date)

Daughter of Seminole parents, Fletcher learned traditional Kiowa crafts from her elders, including: sewing, tanning buffalo hides, making teepees, and basket-weaving. Among a fast fading culture, Fletcher preserved with pride the customs she had been taught. Because of American society’s prejudice and hostility towards diversity, there was a dominating force attempting to compel Black Indians to reject their heritage. In the midst of such ignorance, Fletcher maintained the knowledge about her heritage that enabled her to pass on

valuable information about her experiences to younger generations. By maintaining the stories and traditions of her people, Fletcher helped them to gain a place in American history.

9

Catherine Sawbridge Macaulay Graham (b. April 2, 1731; d. June 22, 1791)

Also known as Catharine Macaulay, she is the first well-recognized female English historian. She was a strong voice in politics and advocated for female suffrage. She also called for equal education for both sexes and wanted women to be educated so they could succeed in a man's world, such as she had. Macaulay Graham argued against perceptions held by many that women were "mentally deficient" by stating if women had the equal education of men, there would be no such claim.

10

Dolores Huerta (b. April 10, 1930)

Dolores Huerta was born in New Mexico. As a classroom teacher, she became frustrated seeing the poverty and poor treatment of the farm workers' families in her town. After seven years of organizing voter registration drives, arguing for Spanish-speaking police officers and hospital workers, and doing other community work, she was recruited to join the newly formed United Farm Workers union in its efforts to improve working conditions for farm workers. For over 30 years, she has served the organization as its vice president, as the union's chief lobbyist in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., as a labor contract negotiator, and as a key political decision maker.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez and Dolores formed the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). On September 16, 1965 over 5,000 grape workers walked off their jobs in what is now known as the famous "Delano Grape Strike," which lasted five years. Dolores spoke out early and often against toxic pesticides that threaten farm workers, consumers, and the environment. These early UFWOC agreements required growers to stop using such dangerous pesticides as DDT and Parathyon. A similar boycott she led in the mid-1970s resulted in the enactment of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first law of its kind in the United States, which granted farm workers the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions. In 1975 Dolores' lobbying resulted in the Immigration Act of 1985.

Dolores Huerta still works long hours for the union she co-founded and nurtured. In 1984, the California State Senate bestowed upon her the Outstanding Labor Leader Award. In 1993 Dolores was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. That same year she received the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award; and the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, and the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award. She is also the recipient of the Consumers' Union Trumpeter's Award. In 1998 she was one of three Ms. Magazine's, "Women of the Year", and the Ladies Home Journal's, "100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century". Aside from currently serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the United Farm Workers, she is the Vice-President for the Coalition for Labor Union Women, the Vice-President of the California AFL-CIO, and is a board member for the Fund for the Feminist Majority which advocates for the political and equal rights for women. Furthermore, she is the mother of 11 children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

11

Rosalyn Yalow (b. July 19, 1921; d. May 30, 2011)

Rosalyn Yalow was born in New York City in 1921. She graduated from Hunter College in New York at the age of 20, and then began graduate school as the only woman among 400 grad students. Yalow received her Ph.D. in nuclear physics in 1945 from the University of Illinois. She is responsible for one of the biggest scientific discoveries of the past century: radioimmunoassay, which has improved many aspects of the medical field, including blood analysis and the treatment of diabetes. She had a 22-year partnership with Dr. Solomon A. Berson, who died April 11th, 1972. In 1977, she received the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine. She

was the first woman to accomplish this. Despite the fact that she was a minority in her field, she was one of the nation's most valued physicists.

12

Clara Barton (b. December 25, 1821; d. April 12, 1912)

Clarissa Harlow Barton was born in North Oxford, Massachusetts and educated at home. Eventually, she began to tutor the poor children in town. Becoming dissatisfied with her life and her prospects for the future, she enrolled in the Clinton Liberal Institute in New York to further her own education. After graduation, she resumed her teaching duties in the first public school in New Jersey, but resigned from the profession completely in 1854. She suffered from chronic depression and suicidal thoughts. Looking for a change, she moved to Washington, DC to work in the Patent Office. After Fort Sumter was fired upon and hundreds of troops came to the city she began to bring food to the soldiers and wagons of supplies into the battlefield, working tirelessly under battle. She cooked, fed and bandaged the wounded as the bullets flew around her. When the Civil War came to an end she devoted herself to work with prisoners of war and identifying the dead.

During the late 1860's she went to Switzerland to recover from nervous prostration, and was introduced to the Red Cross. In May 1877, she received permission to promote the Red Cross in the United States. On March 16, 1882, Congress supported the Treaty of Geneva, which protects victims of war including wounded and sick soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians in conflict areas. After controversy about the organization's lack of accountability, Barton resigned her post as President on May 4, 1904 and retired to her Glen Echo, Maryland home until her death.

13

Julian of Norwich (b. November 8, 1342; d. 1416)

Julian of Norwich was an anchoress who lived in St. Julian's church in Norwich, England. When she was 30 years old she became gravely ill and while convalescing had the experience of six ecstatic visions. She recorded these twenty years later in her Revelations, the source of much of our knowledge of her. Julian was granted knowledge of God's Love as courteous, homey, and intensely personal. She attempted to convey this understanding in the *Image of a Mother and Child*.

Once while contemplating a hazel nut she saw all of god's creation in it. Julian's writings are for those who "deliberately choose god in this life for love." She was particularly concerned with the "little and simple" and the name of her first edition of Revelations was "Comfortable Words for Christ's Lovers." One of her favorite sayings was: "All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well."

14

Anne Sullivan (b. April 14, 1866; d. October 20, 1936)

Johanna "Anne" Sullivan was born in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts to Irish immigrants. After the death of her mother, Anne, who suffered from trachoma, was sent to live in the state poorhouse for the next four years. In 1880, Anne entered the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind in Boston. After several eye operations, Anne quickly progressed in school and graduated as valedictorian of her class. Anne was then asked to travel to Tuscomb, Alabama, to become the teacher of a deaf-blind child, Helen Keller.

Anne acted as Helen's educator for the next thirteen years, beginning with spelling words into Helen's hand and working through the years to prepare Helen for higher education. In 1900, Anne accompanied Helen to Radcliffe college where Helen was the first deaf-blind individual to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree. During their years at Radcliffe, Anne met John Albert Macy, the editor of Helen's autobiography, *The Story of My Life*. After falling in love, Anne and John were wed on May 2, 1905. Their marriage was not a perfect one, and by the end of 1914, it was considered to be over, even though they never officially divorced. John Albert Macy died in 1932.

Anne spent the next period of her life living in Forest Hills, New York in a household she established with Helen. In 1924, both women began to work for the American Foundation for the Blind as advocates, counselors, and fundraisers. Her biography, *Anne Sullivan Macy* was published in 1933. On October 20, 1936, at the age of 70, Anne died in Forest Hills. Her ashes were placed in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, after a funeral in New York City. Anne was the first female to be offered this distinction.

15

Corrie Ten Boom (b. April 15, 1892; d. April 15, 1983)

Corrie Ten Boom was born in the Netherlands to a family devoted to the Dutch Reformed Church. Her parents operated a small jewelry store in a narrow house in the heart of the Jewish section of Amsterdam and made many friends among the Jewish population. When Holland surrendered to the Nazis, Ten Boom was living in Haarlem with her father and her older sister Betsie. As the Jewish people were being driven out of their homes, she became involved with the Dutch underground to rescue Jews. Her home became the center of the Underground ring that reached throughout Holland. Dozens of people, reports, and appeals went in and out of the watch shop daily. She was dealing with hundreds of stolen ration cards each month to feed the Jews who were hiding all over Holland.

On February 28, 1944, the family was informed on and arrested by the Gestapo. Jewish visitors hidden in a secret room in their home were eventually able to escape. Ten Boom's father died of illness within 10 days but she and her sister were sent to the concentration camp, Ravensbruck. Each evening in Barracks 28, they had inspirational prayer meetings attended by people of all faiths. Ten Boom's sister, never strong, grew steadily weaker and died on December 16, 1944. Due to a clerical error, Corrie was released one week before all the women her age were killed in Ravensbruck. She began traveling and telling the story of her family and what she and her sister had learned in the concentration camp.

After the war was over she was able to obtain a home for former inmates of the camps to come and heal from their experiences. Ten Boom continued to travel worldwide, telling her story until her death in Orange, California.

16

Joan Sawyer (b. April 17, 1932; d. December 14, 1983)

Joan Sawyer was born in Antrim, Ireland and entered the Missionary Sisters of St. Columban in Belfast. She became an American citizen and earned a degree in social work from Mundelein College in Chicago. In 1977 she transferred to Lima, Peru and worked as a chaplain to the prisoners of Lurigancho Prison. She became known for her fearless kindness to the prisoners and their families. During a prison riot, she and several other sisters were taken hostage. After negotiations, the prisoners and their hostages left the prison and were met with a barrage of bullets from the military. Sr. Joan and the prisoners were killed while the other hostages escaped.

17

Jo Ann Gibson Robinson (b. April 17, 1912; d. August 29, 1992)

After receiving her PhD from Columbia, Robinson began working as a college professor. She was the President of the Woman's Political Council in Montgomery, Alabama, a group of African-American activists. They were the ones who initially started the bus boycotts and began the protests for greater civil rights. She helped to organize the first meetings advocating for African Americans to take a bigger stance in resistance and improving their lives and their communities. Robinson chose to stay out of the limelight to protect her job as a professor, but continued to offer quiet leadership, becoming an unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement.

18

Dr. Mary Walker (b. November 26, 1832; d. February 21, 1919)

Mary Walker grew up in rural New York and graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1855. When she married her husband, Albert Miller, she chose to keep her last name, a shocking decision during a time when women were considered little more than property. Dr. Mary Walker was a humanitarian devoted to the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the Civil War, often at the risk of her own life. A patriot, dedicated and loyal to her country, she successfully fought against the sex discrimination of her time. Her personal achievements, as much as her vocal support, significantly contributed to the struggle for women's rights, and she was the only woman ever to be awarded the Medal of Honor for her efforts as a surgeon and spy during the Civil War. She forced the men around her to accept her and view her in a new light, as an equal.

19

Betty Greene (b. 1920; d. April 19, 1997)

Betty was a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots during World War II, a time when many people felt a woman's place was not in the military. Because of a staffing shortage, women were admitted to the Air Force. After proving her capability as a pilot in the service, Betty founded the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship in 1945. She was then asked by the Wycliffe Bible Translators to help them in Mexico with their jungle camp program. This was the start of her 15 years of faithful service that saw her taking assignments to Peru, East Africa, Sudan and many other countries.

After retiring from flying, she located to Fullerton, California to represent the mission, recruit new pilots and work as prayer secretary. Later she moved back to Washington to be with her family. There she died from Alzheimer's disease.

20

Maria Varela (b.1950; d. April 21, 1981)

Noted photographer Maria Varela has been recognized as one of the first and few Mexican-Americans to devote herself to the supporting of a movement for African-Americans. Having documented the civil rights struggle for the past three decades, Varela's poignant work has been included in museums such as the Smithsonian as well as in books and galleries. In 1962, Varela joined the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) where she was assigned to teach literacy in Selma, Alabama. Varela became deeply interested in the rich African American culture of the area, and lacking photographs depicting black people taking leadership to change their communities, Varela began photographing such subjects for the inspiration of her students. Dissatisfied with existing literacy materials, Varela began to create photo books that proved useful in training community leaders as well as in teaching literacy.

21

Nina Simone (b. February 21, 1933; d. April 21, 2003)

Nina Simone was born, the sixth of seven children into a poor family in Tryon, North Carolina. At the age of four, she was recognized as being a piano prodigy. She attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York, a feat rarely heard of for African American women, and began recording music in the late 1950s. She sang jazz, protest songs, blues, show tunes, African tribal chants, and original songs.

Simone was deeply involved in the Civil Rights movement and was associated with radicals like Malcolm X and the black playwright Lorraine Hansberry. Many of her songs were used as civil rights anthems and therefore were rarely played on the radio. Known as 'the High Priestess of Soul', she made it her mission to bring social and political causes to the attention of her fans.

22

Loretta C. Argrett (b. 1937)

After receiving a bachelor of science in chemistry from Howard University, Loretta Argrett worked as a researcher with the National Institute of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Walter Reed

Institute of Research. Seeking a change from the isolation of the laboratory, she returned to school, earned a doctorate of law from Harvard University and then embarked on the career that would lead her to the Department of Justice. Argrett became the first African American staff member of the US Congress Joint Committee on Taxation. In 1993, she became the highest-ranking African American woman in the history of the Department of Justice when she was confirmed as Assistant US Attorney General. Argrett managed more than five hundred employees and a budget in excess of \$65 million. Before she left the Department of Justice in 2000, Argrett received several awards and commendations, including the prestigious Edmund J Randolph Award. A member of the bar for nearly twenty-five years, Loretta Argrett was a partner at a Washington law firm before returning to the Harvard School of Law as a professor of law.

23

Maria Teresa Tula (April 23, 1951)

Maria Teresa Tula is the leader of the Co-Madres (Mothers of the Disappeared), an organization formed in 1977 in El Salvador to work for the release of the fathers, brothers, and sons held in El Salvador's prisons for fighting for human rights. The Co-Madres group is rooted in liberation theology. They would have press conferences and announce when someone was taken into prison, publishing their charges. Tula's husband was assassinated by the police and she was forced to flee to the United States while pregnant with her fifth child. She has since been kidnapped; tortured psychologically, emotionally, and physically; and imprisoned numerous times. Still she continues to fight this injustice.

24

Willa Cather (b. December 7, 1873; d. April 24, 1947)

Willa Sibert Cather was born in Back Creek Valley, Virginia. In 1884, the Cathers moved to Red Cloud, Nebraska where she began to attend school. While her primary interest was science, she displayed a talent for acting and participated in amateur theatricals. Around age 13, she adopted the outward appearance and manner of a male. There are those who feel that this was an outward manifestation of her blanket rejection of the strictures placed upon females in the 19th century.

Cather entered the University of Nebraska in 1891 where she excelled in language and literature. In college she was published often in the university's publications, and by the time she graduated, she was a full time reporter and critic for the *Nebraska State Journal*. After graduation, in 1895, Willa moved to Pittsburgh to assume editorship of a women's magazine and began publishing her work *April Twilight* in 1903. She continued writing while teaching, and moved to New York City in 1906 to become managing editor of *McClure's* magazine.

Willa's work for the magazine brought her national recognition. Her first volume of short stories was published in 1905. Shortly after, she relinquished her position in order to devote all of her time to writing fiction. Cather found her "quiet center of life" in childhood memories and used them along with other incidents of her life to create her successful novels. She wrote from the time of her retirement from *McClure's* in 1912 to her death caused by a cerebral hemorrhage in 1947.

25

Martha George (b. April 28, 1892; d. January 7, 1987)

Martha George was a Suquamish leader of modern times. While acting as a 'modern' woman in some ways, she taught her students and family traditional Suquamish skills of living off the land. She carried these traditions through a long line of 83 descendants. George acted as the tribal chairperson from the late 1920s to 1940s. Later in the 1960s, she contributed to tribal research by founding the Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington with her own money. One of her words of wisdom to others was "You want to leave things as they are and just take what you need. Don't be wasteful. That's what the elders taught."

26

Amy Biehl (b. April 26, 1967; d. August 25, 1993)

Amy Biehl was class valedictorian at Newport Harbor High School and graduated from Stanford with honors. Her undergraduate thesis at Stanford was described by an advisor as “in the top 10% of all honors theses,” and is still requested for reading by political scientists and government and United Nations officials.

Biehl was murdered while completing a 10-month course of study as a Fulbright exchange scholar in South Africa, working on voter education and a study on the status of women in the emerging democracy. Amy was scheduled to return home to begin her doctoral studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey when, on August 25, 1993, a group of youths pelted her car with stones and forced it to stop. Amy was beaten and stabbed to death.

“Change in this country is only going to come about through black women: when they support one another and stand together and say, ‘We’ve had enough,’” explained Rolene Miller, a social worker in the “Mosaic” program centered in Guguletu Township, only about a mile away from where Biehl was murdered. The four militants were convicted of Amy’s murder only after three women poignantly defied threats and came forward to testify when nobody else dared to do so. Amy’s spirit clearly lives on in the townships of South Africa.

27

Mary Wollstonecraft (b. April 27, 1759; d. September 10, 1797)

Mary Wollstonecraft was born in London. With her sister and some close friends, she began a private school when she was in her early twenties. Becoming friends with the Rational Dissenters who were located nearby, she was influenced by many of their thoughts and ideas. She is known for her feminist works such as *Thoughts on the Education of Girls* and especially *A Vindication on the Rights of Woman*, which was against slavery, games laws, and advocated the better treatment of the poor as well as female suffrage. *A Vindication on the Rights of Woman* is considered one of the first feminist works and is still widely read today.

28

Saint Catherine of Siena (b. March 25, 1347; d. April 29, 1380)

Catherine was born in Siena, Italy, the last of twenty-five children. At age six she had a vision of Christ, at seven she took a vow of virginity, at twelve she cut off her hair to avoid a marriage planned by her parents, and at fifteen she became the first unmarried woman to enter the Third Order of St. Dominic. As a Tertiary, she tended the sick, served those who were poor and labored for the conversion of sinners.

On Shrove Tuesday, 1366 Our Lady took Catherine to Jesus to whom she was betrothed. From that time on she suffered terrible physical pain and often went for long intervals with practically no food except the Blessed Sacrament. Many people came to her because she was filled with great practical wisdom and spiritual insight.

In 1370, she set herself to heal the wounded of her native land, which was ravaged by civil war and many factions. Above all she implored Pope Gregory X to leave Avignon and return to Rome, which he did on January 17, 1377. For this she was named the patron of Rome. When the great schism broke out, Catherine returned to Rome in November 1378 where she supported the cause of the real Pope. She begged Christ to allow her to endure punishment for the sins of the people of the world for the unity and reconciliation of the Church. After much suffering, Catherine passed away.

29

Wise Women of Mary’s Pence

On this day we remember all the women who helped to birth and nurture Mary’s Pence, especially our board members and former staff members, whom we call our Wise Women.

30

Sima Urale (b. 1967)

Sima Urale was born in Samoa and immigrated with her family to New Zealand in 1974, when she was seven. She began her career in film as an actress but grew tired of movies that conflicted with her views. She also objected to the lack of stories about her culture and nationality, as a Samoan and a native of the Pacific Islands. She is now known for making witty movies that advocate feminism and racial equality. She is considered a pioneer in telling Pacific stories and exploring social issues through film.

May

1

Anna Marie Jarvis (b. May 1, 1864; d. November 24, 1948)

Anna Marie Jarvis was born in Webster, West Virginia. Her mother was instrumental in developing Mother's Friendship Day, a movement of healing borne of the Civil War. Since West Virginians fought on both sides in the conflict, there was tension when the surviving soldiers returned home. Mrs. Jarvis was hoping to promote peace and friendship between people of differing political beliefs when she organized the first event in 1865. It was successful and became an annual event for several years.

After her own mother's death in 1905, Anna led a campaign to establish a national mother's day beginning with a tribute to her own mother on May 12, the 2nd anniversary of her death. By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. In 1914, President Wilson established Mother's Day as a national holiday on the second Sunday of May.

2

Nannie Helen Burroughs (b. May 2, 1879; d. May 20, 1961)

Nannie Helen Burroughs was born in Orange, Virginia and was brought at age five to Washington, D.C. by her widowed mother so she would receive a better education. At the M Street High School, she excelled under the guidance of dedicated teachers like Mary Church Terrell (see Sept. 24), and graduated with honors. At the time, African-American women were basically limited to two employment options: domestic service or teaching. Burroughs was denied a position as a domestic science teacher by the board of education. Her goal became to offer black women professional training that might help them earn a higher salary and afford better living conditions. She dreamed of one day opening her own school to "give all sorts of girls a fair chance".

She moved to Philadelphia and became Associate Editor of a Baptist newspaper, *The Christian Banner*. Later, she returned to Washington and took a job as a janitor, and then a bookkeeper before accepting a position in Louisville, Kentucky as a secretary for the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention. Later that year at the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention in Richmond, Nannie argued for the right of women to participate equally in the missionary activities. As a result of her speech, the Women's Convention, auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, was organized.

After many years, she was able to convince the National Baptist Convention and Women's Convention to endorse the establishment of the National Training School for Women and Girls. In 1964, the school she founded was renamed the Nannie Burroughs School. And, in 1975, in recognition of her courage and wisdom in espousing education for black women against the consensus of society, Mayor Walter E. Washington proclaimed May 10th Nannie Helen Burroughs Day in the District of Columbia.

3

Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland (The Black Madonna)

The Queen and Protector of Poland, is the name given to Our Lady of Czestochowa for the part she has played in the history of Poland. A painting of our Lady of Czestochowa was discovered by St. Helen in Jerusalem.

After taking the painting back to Constantinople, her son Constantine the Great built a chapel for it, and there it remained for five centuries. During that time, many miracles were attributed to the painting. Once when the city was under attack, the chapel caught fire. The only thing that was not destroyed was the painting of Mary and Jesus. However, the heat and soot from the fire darkened the olive features of Mary and Jesus, hence the name “Black Madonna.”

The painting was then given to a Ruthenian nobleman who brought it to Kiev and placed it in the Royal Palacea of Belz where it remained for 579 years. After an invasion where the painting was pierced, Prince Opolski decided to move it to one of his castles. As the painting was being moved, the horses that were pulling the cart stopped very close to the town of Czestochowa and would not go on. The decision to place the painting in a nearby chapel was made after Mary appeared to the prince in a vision and told him this was to be Her new home.

Jasna Gora, the monastery where the picture rested, became a fortress and focal point of Polish nationalism after every time the monastery was attacked by its enemies, the enemies would be defeated. Many believed this was because of the power of the Black Madonna.

4

Yom Hashoah

Six years after survivors of the Holocaust were liberated from concentration camps, the government of Israel declared Yom Hashoah as a remembrance of those who perished during the Holocaust. In Israel, the day is spent in somber, inward contemplation and remembrance, and usually includes the participation of those who have survived the Holocaust. Often, six candles are lit in honor of the six million Jews who died in concentration camps.

5

Barbara Ford (unknown birth date; d. May 5, 2001)

Barbara Ford was born in Mount Kisco, New York and grew up in the Bronx. She entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul after high school and took the name Sr. John Regina. Ford received a history degree from the College of Mount St. Vincent and taught in New York and the Bahamas. After receiving a nursing degree from St. Clare’s Hospital School of Nursing in Manhattan, she first went to Guatemala in 1978 joining a medical team working with the poor to recover from several earthquakes. She stayed there for six years before returning to New York to work as a nursing instructor for three years.

In 1989 she returned to Guatemala to offer mental health programs to the Mayan people of Guatemala who were deeply scarred by 36 years of civil war. When she came to them she was distressed by their hopelessness, the ravages of fear engraved on their faces, their insomnia, depression, alcoholism. She mourned with them the loss of so many wisdom figures who knew the way back to wholeness, but who were among the dead and ‘disappeared.’ Together with Sr. Virginia Searing, Ford gave them time to confront their pain, words to express their loss and grief, and rituals to move them beyond the injustices to a place of forgiveness and reconciliation. She went with them as they excavated mass graves, looking for closure. She interviewed them to give them voices. No longer silent, thousands of their stories gathered in a report entitled *Nunca Más*, which means never again. She taught them to continue the healing on their own, using their own cultural wisdom and practices.

Sister Bobbie, as she was known, was murdered in an apparent carjacking. However, many believe it was a political execution. The bishop of Quiche himself tearfully accompanied her body back to her mother and Sisters in New York, promising, “Sister Barbara will remain alive in the thankful memory of the people of Quiche, and her example will continue animating. We make a commitment to keep burning brightly the light which she lit.”

Mary’s Pence provided a grant in 2001 to hire three indigenous women to work with Sr. Virginia in continuing the work she and Sr. Bobbie began.

6

Mary McLeod Bethune (b. July 10, 1875; d. May 18, 1955)

Mary Bethune was born on July 10, 1875 to former slaves in Mayesville, South Carolina. Between cotton-picking seasons, she gained an education and won a scholarship to a seminary. She graduated from Moody Bible Institute and later taught in mission schools. In 1904, she founded Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Girls at Daytona Beach, Florida. In 1923, the institute merged with Cookman Institute for men to form Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune served as the president of the college until 1942. In 1935, she founded the National Council of Negro Women.

President Roosevelt appointed Mary Bethune to head the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, which she directed from 1936 to 1943. During World War II, she served as special assistant to the secretary of war for the selection of officer candidates for the Women's Army Corps. She was also a special advisor to the president on minority affairs and a vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. For her public services, Mary Bethune received the Spingarn Medal (1935), the Francis A. Drexel Award (1936), the Thomas Jefferson Award (1942), and the Italian Medal of Honour and Merit (1949). She died in Daytona Beach, Florida.

7

Marie Louise Trichet (b. May 7, 1684; d. April 28, 1759)

Born in Poitiers, France, Marie-Louise was still young when she met Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, a young priest with a widespread reputation among youth as a preacher and confessor, who had been assigned as a chaplain to the local hospital. Marie-Louise offered her services to the hospital, and against her parents' judgement, went to live in the hospital as a "poor person" at the age of 19. For ten years she wore the habit given to her by Montfort, and fulfilled her duty as a nurse among the poor, sick and plague victims. Montfort left Poitiers, and Marie-Louise was left alone. She was joined by her first companion, Catherine Brunet, in 1714 and the first community of the Daughters of Wisdom in La Rochelle was founded the next year. For 43 years, Marie-Louise served as Superior of the order, which was dedicated to serving the poor. On May 16, 1993, Marie-Louise de Jesus was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

8

Our Lady of Lujan, Argentina

The Virgin of Lujan is a small statue that was made in Brazil and sent to Argentina in May, 1630. According to tradition, the ox-drawn wagon delivering the statue drove by the Lujan River near the home of Don Rosendo Oramas. The oxen refused to cross the river. The oxen were exchanged and the wagon unloaded, yet the oxen still refused to cross the river. Then it was noticed that there were two boxes still in the wagon. Each box contained a different image of the Virgin, one the Immaculate and the other Virgin and Child. When they removed the image of the Immaculate Mary, the oxen began to move immediately. Witnesses understood that Our Lady wished to stay in Lujan. The image was taken to the home of Don Rosendo who built a primitive chapel for it where the image was venerated for 40 years. A larger shrine was completed in 1685 and the final sanctuary was built in the 19th century. The image was crowned canonically in 1887 and in 1930 Pope Pius XII gave the sanctuary the title of Basilica.

9

Septima Poinsette Clark (b. May 3, 1898; d. Dec. 15, 1987)

Septima Poinsette Clark, born in 1898, was a vibrant member of the Civil Rights Movement. She first became aware of community activism while trying to encourage adult literacy in Johns Island, off the coast of South Carolina. Clark gained further knowledge about activism while crusading to be allowed to teach in public schools, which African Americans were not allowed to do at the time. She joined the NAACP and the South

Carolina Council on Human Relations. She also developed the concept of a citizenship school, which was designed to teach members of the African American community about voting and about their government. Clark continued to work for the community and for civil rights until her death. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. credited her for influencing his thoughts and his philosophy.

10

Maggie Kuhn (b. August 3, 1905; d. April 22, 1995)

Margaret Eliza Kuhn was born in Buffalo, New York. In 1933, at the age of sixteen, she graduated from West High School in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Western Reserve University in Cleveland at a time when women were given only two career options, nursing and teaching, and it was expected that any career could be interrupted early for marriage. In 1926, Kuhn graduated from Western Reserve with honors. In 1930, she became head of the Professional Department of Business Girls at the Young Women's Christian Association in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. She believed the Y had the ability to empower the individual and to change society.

In 1941, the beginning of WW II, Kuhn became the program coordinator and editor for the YWCA's USO division. She believed that women found a new freedom and earning power when they were hired to build aircrafts. From 1948 until her retirement, Margaret worked with many social agencies that took progressive stands on the social problems of society.

When she reached retirement age, she was distressed because she did not want to stop working. In 1970, at the age of 65, she met with a group of five of her friends to address the problems of retirees. This was the beginning of the Consultation of Older and Younger Adults for Social Change which later changed their name to the Gray Panthers in 1972. The Gray Panthers quickly gained public notoriety and grew as a national organization. Their mission was consciousness-raising. Instead of sexism, they were discovering "ageism"- the segregation, stereotyping and stigmatizing of people on the basis of age. Over the years, the Gray Panthers have been involved in grassroots activities that confront public and governmental policies against the elderly.

11

Mercedes Juan Lopez (b. 1933)

Born into a family of Mexican tenant farmers, Mercedes was brought up working in the fields and working with her mother, who was a midwife and healer. In 1963, Mercedes immigrated to the United States with her children searching for a better way of life. She worked with her husband in the vineyards and orchards of California and cared for others' children as well as her own.

Lopez continues to work to keep the Mexican culture alive among immigrants, creating beautiful piñatas, sewing traditional costumes, showing the children at local schools the art of paper cutting, as well as teaching them traditional songs, and making recipes that she learned as a child. She teaches the children in hopes that the Mexican culture will continue through them. Lopez is also known in her community for her work as a folk artist.

12

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (b. June 9, 1836; d. December 17, 1917)

Born in England to a family with 10 children, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was refused admission to medical school because she was a woman. Instead, she studied privately, doing dissections in her own bedroom. In 1865, she was granted a license to practice medicine and in 1870 earned her MD from Paris University.

Anderson was the first and only woman member of the British Medical Association from 1873 to 1892. As a British physician, she pioneered admission of women into the medical profession. She was also linked to women's suffrage and in 1908 became the first woman mayor in England.

13

Katharine Hepburn (b. May 12, 1907; d. June 29, 2003)

Katharine Hepburn was a film, stage, and television actress. She received four Academy Awards for Best Actress and was named by the American Film Institute as the greatest female star in Hollywood history. Yet Hepburn was famous for shunning the publicity that accompanied fame. She refused to conform to societal expectations of women. She was outspoken, assertive, and athletic, even wearing pants before it was fashionable. Because of her independent lifestyle and characters she portrayed onscreen, Hepburn became known as the ultimate “modern woman” and is an important cultural figure in the United States.

14

Marjory Stoneman Douglas (b. April 7, 1890; d. May 14, 1998)

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Marjory Douglass went on to Wellesley College. After graduation she moved to Miami to work for the *Miami Herald*. She then became the first woman to join the Navy to fight in World War One. Douglas then began writing columns fighting for women's rights, social justice, and conservation of the environment. She worked hard to support these causes, even before they became well-known and recognized by the public as worthy causes. In 1947 she published the book *The Everglades: River of Grass*.

Douglas’s book told countless readers of the beauty of the Everglades and became well known for fighting to preserve the fragile ecosystem. In 1970, Marjory founded Friends of the Everglades in order to allow those who fought for conservation to be heard. Marjory died at the age of 108, still writing and advocating for the causes she believed in; her ashes were scattered in the Everglades. On October 7, 2000 Douglas was posthumously inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, as an example to generations of conservationists.

15

Digna Ochoa (b. May 15, 1964; d. October 19, 2001)

Digna Ochoa was a leading Mexican human rights lawyer who took on some of Mexico's most controversial cases, such as working in the defense of anti-logging activists Rodolfo Monteil and Teodoro Caberra. After receiving numerous death threats and being kidnapped several times for her continued work, Ochoa was found dead in her office on October 19, 2001. Since then the people of Mexico and other citizens around the world have called for Mexico to end impunity and to stop the abuse of those working for human rights.

16

Margaret Anna Cusack (b. May 6, 1829; d. June 5, 1899)

Margaret Anna Cusack was born in Dublin, Ireland to Anglo-Irish aristocrats and raised an Anglican. Her father was a doctor who served the poor, an example Cusack followed throughout her life. She was educated by tutors from an early age, and when her parents separated, she continued her education at a boarding school in England where her mother relocated.

At the time, Cusack was attracted to the Oxford Movement within the Anglican church which promoted a ritual and belief close to Catholicism. She read social and political philosophers like John Locke and Thomas Carlyle, whose works helped shape her own convictions. Cusack became engaged, but while she was in Ireland to share the happy news with her father, her fiancé died of fever. Overcome by depression, she became absorbed in the reading of religious books. On the advice of Reverend Edward B. Pusey, an Anglican who promoted the Oxford Movement, she entered a religious order in London. However, change in the administration of this Anglican convent, coupled with religious doubts, led Cusack to renew her interest in Catholicism. She left the convent and was subsequently received into the Catholic Church on July 2, 1858.

Following her conversion, she decided to join a Catholic order, and after a short trial in an English convent, she joined the Poor Clares in Ireland. Encouraged to continue her literary efforts, Cusack, now known as Sister Mary Frances Clare, became a well-known and prolific author. Moved by the terrible poverty in Ireland, she organized a famine relief fund in 1879 and addressed the issue of land reform as a structural cure for the famine in articles and letters to the press. Irish emigrants spread her fame, but a letter posted anonymously from London threatened her with assassination if she continued her writing and assistance to the poor.

Cusack then transferred her efforts to establish an industrial training school to prepare women for emigration and a religious congregation whose rule would be directed to this purpose. Cusack's works were founded on a conviction that there could be no peace without justice. This justice was denied the poor, especially women who were poor. In 1883, Cusack received permission from the Vatican to found the Sisters of Peace. Within a few months, she moved to the United States to establish residences for immigrants. The church authorities of New York refused to allow her to begin work within the diocese, and so she established a working women's residence and employment agency in Jersey City. Her aim was to establish a chain of residences for immigrant girls where they might find help in getting jobs and protection from exploitation and unhealthy living conditions. She also proposed setting up a training school for the blind and began traveling the eastern seaboard to solicit funds.

She continued to write and she was asked for a commentary of the land theory of Henry George, a mayoral candidate in New York City in 1886. In it she critiqued Reverend Edward McGlynn, a staunch supporter of George. This led to a decisive encounter between Cusack and church authorities. She came to see herself as an obstacle to the growth of the congregation she had founded, and so she left it. Despite personal failure, she retained confidence in her vision and in the women who joined her: "I believe, however, that it [my mission here] will be an immense success, for I leave it in the hands of Sisters who are capable of making it such. And I hope the interest, which will be revived when the injustice with which I have been treated is known, will help to establish the Sisters firmly in their great work."

Cusack had guided her congregation to incorporation in New Jersey, where they continue to serve. Her education theories, ethical demands on public policy, and concern for women's rights made her a woman ahead of her time. In 1891, she returned to England and was welcomed back into the Anglican Church.

17

Teresa Czervionke (March 28, 1916 - May 15, 2007)

Teresa Czervionke was educated at Ss. Peter and Paul's School in Mankato, Good Counsel Academy, and Mankato State Teachers College in Minnesota. She came to Freeport in 1939 to work as a secretary and receptionist for the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Philip L. Kennedy, administrator of St. Vincent's Orphanage-St. Joseph's Home for the Aged. Czervionke left to raise her family but then returned to work for over 20 more years until her retirement in 1981. She helped set up the first Girl Scout Troop at St. Vincent's Home and continued to help for many years to follow.

18

Ida B. Wells Barnett (b. July 16, 1864; d. March 25, 1931)

Ida B. Wells was born as the oldest of eight children in Holly Springs, Mississippi. After completing studies at Rust College she became a teacher in Memphis Tennessee. During that time she became editor and co-owner of a local black paper called *The Free Speech and Headlight*. She wrote editorials attacking the evils of lynching, which put her life in danger. She took her cause to England for a time, but eventually returned to Chicago where she founded the first civic organization for African-American women. Prior to her marriage in 1895 she published *A Red Record*, which chronicled lynching in America.

At the start of the 20th century when lynching and race riots gripped the nation, Wells Barnett helped found the "Committee of 40" which evolved into the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People, the oldest civil rights organization in the country. She worked hard for civil rights until her death in 1931.

19

Lorraine Hansberry (b. May 19, 1930; d. January 12, 1965)

Playwright Lorraine Hansberry is quoted as saying that “all art is ultimately social,” an opinion clearly demonstrated in her own works, many of which illustrate the plight of the oppressed. Hansberry is one of the most eminent female playwrights of the twentieth century.

Hansberry’s first work, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959), became the first drama written by a black woman to be produced on Broadway, and was presented with the New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award as the best play of the year. The inspiration for much of her work stemmed from her youth; Hansberry’s father won an anti-segregation case before the Illinois Supreme Court, inspiring the events that occurred in *A Raisin in the Sun*. When she was eight years old, Hansberry’s family moved into a white neighborhood, where they were assaulted by a racist mob in front of their new home. As a protest to segregation laws in the area, Hansberry’s parents sent her to public school. Hansberry’s childhood experiences of discrimination made her aware at a young age of the gravity of such ignorance, and greatly influenced her later work.

Once she decided to become a writer, Lorraine Hansberry left college to live in New York, where she met authors like Langston Hughes, a line from one of whose poems Hansberry used as the title of *A Raisin in the Sun*. After her widely successful debut, Hansberry wrote her next play depicting the trials of a young Jewish man: *The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window*. That play opened on Broadway in 1964, one year before Hansberry’s death from cancer. Hansberry’s career was cut short, however, several of her unfinished manuscripts and collections of her writings have been published.

20

Rose Hawthorne (b. May 20, 1851; d. July 9, 1926)

Also known as Mother Alphonsa, Rose Hawthorne is most known for having founded the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima, later renamed the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer. The daughter of author Nathaniel Hawthorne, she also had literary leanings, eventually publishing a book of poetry called *Along the Shore*. During this period of her life, Hawthorne befriended poet Emma Lazarus, who was afflicted with cancer. Hawthorne was deeply affected by her friend’s illness, and after separating from an alcoholic husband, Hawthorne trained as a nurse to cancer victims, opening a refuge for cancer patients in New York.

At the age of forty-nine, Hawthorne made her vows as a Dominican nun and soon after founded the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima. One year later in 1901, Hawthorne opened the Rosary Hill Home in New York, remaining there until her death. Today, Hawthorne’s order has seven homes, and provides free hospice care to those in need.

21

Mitsuye Endo (unknown birth and death dates)

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1942, 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent were sent to internment camps. Mitsuye Endo, an American citizen, had been granted leave clearance by the War Relocation Authority, but the Western Defense Command would not allow her to re-enter the restricted zone. She took her case to the Supreme Court in 1944 which ruled that a loyal American citizen could not be held in a relocation camp against her will. Endo was granted an unconditional release by the War Relocation Authority.

22

Judy Chicago (b. July 20, 1939)

Judy Chicago, a feminist artist and writer, is best known as the creator of “The Dinner Party,” a mixed media piece of art with place-settings for 39 notable women, from ancient goddesses to Georgia O’Keefe. Amid

controversy for the piece, which used essentialism images, she raised questions in mainstream society about gender roles. She began the Feminist Art Program at the California Institute of the Arts. She has also concentrated her art on issues ranging from childbirth to masculinity to the Holocaust.

23

Concha Ortiz Y Pino de Kleven (b. May 23, 1912; d. September 30, 2006)

Having been raised primarily by a grandmother whose various humanitarian services incorporated culture and compassion, Concha Ortiz y Pino de Kleven was influenced at a young age by the importance of charity. Concha helped her grandmother in aiding the poor, orphans, the sick and elderly, and was taught to have little concern for material possessions. After completing high school, Concha founded a vocational school whose purpose was to revive forgotten New Mexican skills such as tanning, weaving, and woodworking.

Since the 17th century, Concha's family had been active in politics, and so after campaigning in 1937, Concha became the sixth generation of her family to serve in the New Mexico Legislature. After being re-elected twice, Concha was elected as the first woman in the United States to serve as Majority Whip in a State legislature. Included in her efforts during her political career were presenting legislation to equalize funding in state schools, a bill to teach Spanish in New Mexico's public schools, and the School of Inter-American Affairs at the University of New Mexico.

After serving as Chairwoman of the Institutions for Higher Learning, Concha earned her degree from the University of New Mexico. Since then, Concha has continued to be active in civic affairs, serving in numerous national and state boards.

24

Virgin of the Papantla (Mexico)

According to legend, four hundred years ago, in Mexico, the Totonaca Indians were visited by Franciscan priests who came to Papantla to teach about Christianity. The priests suggested to the people that they create an image of the Virgin Mary out of a straight young tree. They found a tree and then saw an image of the virgin, which the woodworkers carved in the tree. She had a dark face, like the indigenous people, and wore a wide blue skirt, the color of the morning sky. On her head was a crown of jungle flowers and about her shoulders a white lacy shawl like the Totonaca women wear.

The woodcarvers put her in the church of Tecolutla and named her The Blue Virgin of Tecolutla. By some miracle, the statue was transported to the church of Papantla. It was taken back to the original church but during the night, Mary is said to have stepped down from her pedestal and walked back to Papantla. This happened several times. Even though guards from both cities were watching her, none saw how she was moved. Finally, the two groups agreed not to have war, and the people of Papanthla paid for the statue.

25

Forugh Farrokhzad (b. January 5, 1935; d. February 13, 1967)

Forugh Farrokhzad is considered to be the first Iranian poet to write from a woman's perspective. She gained recognition for simple, fluid verses and subject matter. Farrokhzad rebelled against traditional social values and the traditional style of poetry by daring to express the hidden feelings and emotions of Iranian women. As she grew as a poet Farrokhzad began to try to understand society within her poetry, while still concentrating upon the sacredness of womanhood and the ugliness of social injustice that faced so many women. Sadly she died in a car accident at the age of 32, while at the height of her creative power.

26

Mary Ellen Butcher (b. May 26, 1935)

Mary Ellen Butcher was born in Ottumwa, Iowa and received her B.A. degree from Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois, in 1958 and her PhD. from Catholic University in 1969. Butcher was a trustee of Rosary

College from 1977-1985 and served in that capacity at Providence College, Rhode Island, in 1990. She was on the Board of Directors of the Washington Area Community Investment Fund in 1988, a board member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in New York City in 1989, and is a member of the American Economic Association.

Butcher has held various positions including assistant professor of finance at Providence College from 1985-88, general finance officer for the Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, Dominicans from 1977-85, and administrator at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota from 1971-74. She has contributed articles to many professional journals.

27

Rachel Carson (May 27, 1907 - April 14, 1964)

Rachel Carson was born on a farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Pennsylvania College for Women, earned a Masters in Marine Biology at Johns Hopkins, taught Zoology at the University of Maryland, and eventually took a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While there, she wrote three books about the sea which gave her the financial independence to quit her government job and write her famous book, *Silent Spring*.

Silent Spring exposed the dark side of science. It showed that DDT and other chemicals used to enhance agricultural productivity were poisoning lakes, rivers, oceans, and people. On Earth Day, we remember her part in turning the tide of public opinion so that the destruction of nature was no longer considered progress. When *Silent Spring* was published in 1962, the pesticide industry tried to have it suppressed and challenged its findings. Carson's work has been credited with helping in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, fostering a national consciousness about the environment, and introducing the term ecosystem into our lexicon. Carson died of cancer two years later. It may have been caused by exposure to the environmental carcinogens she studied.

28

Julia Ward Howe (b. May 27, 1819; d. October 17, 1910)

Born in New York City, Howe is known as an American author and reformer. She was the writer of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, which became the anthem of the Civil War. She also published poetry, plays and travel books, as well as other articles. Both she and her husband were active in abolitionism and other reforms. After the war, she founded both the New England Woman's Club and the Association for the Advancement of Women. Later she became the leader of the American branch of the Woman's International Peace Association. Howe was also the first woman to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

29

Jehan Sadat (b. 1933)

A dedicated activist for peace and women's rights, and wife of former leader of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, Jehan Sadat has had an undeniable effect on women's rights in Egypt. By encouraging Egyptian women to attend college and pursue trades, Sadat has broken down barriers for the women of her country and assured their education and wellbeing. Even after the assassination of her husband, Sadat continued preaching peace and equality within her country.

In a society dominated by men, Sadat is viewed as an iconoclast, unafraid to break social boundaries for the good of women. In addition to her feminist work, Sadat has also founded a city for handicapped veterans of war, and has helped to found the first modern medical hospital in the Mediterranean area. Sadat has published her autobiography, *A Woman of Egypt*, in which she illustrates the trials she has had to overcome as a female living in a male-dominated society.

During her husband's life, Sadat used her status as spouse of the country's leader to further the causes she felt were worthwhile. In addition to reforming the restrictive divorce laws victimizing women, Sadat also

was instrumental in founding village cooperatives for peasant women. After attending university as a mother, Sadat encouraged other married women to do so as well. Sadat was the first wife of a Muslim leader to travel outside her country, devote herself to her people, and to have her picture in the newspaper. She is a recipient of the Living Legacy Award, and was also awarded the Human Service Award from the University of Kansas.

30

Joan of Arc (b. 1412; d. May 30, 1431)

When Joan of Arc was born into a family of French farmers, the English and French had been at war for over 100 years. Joan worked the farm and never learned to read or write. When she was 12, she began to hear the voices of saints who told her she would be the one to save France. At age 17 she convinced a captain to take her to Charles, the son of the dead king who was afraid to take up the crown. She convinced Charles to fight for the cause and she was able to rally the French troops to free the city of Orleans. Under her leadership, the French defeated the English in four more battles. Within 6 months, the English withdrew and Charles was crowned king with Joan's encouragement. About a year later, Joan was captured by the English and imprisoned for witchcraft. They burned her at the stake in the marketplace of Rouen. She was not yet 20 years old.

31

Elizabeth Blackwell (b. February 3, 1821; d. May 31, 1910)

Born near Bristol, England, Elizabeth Blackwell moved with her family to New York City when she was 11 years old. Subsequently, the family moved to Jersey City, New Jersey and then to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1838. Her father died shortly after. To support the family, Blackwell, her mother, and sisters opened a private school. She later taught in Kentucky but decided to pursue a career in medicine in order to leave teaching and avoid marriage. She studied privately before applying to medical schools in the northeast. Blackwell was rejected by every school until Geneva College in New York accepted her as a student in 1848. Despite hostility toward her, she graduated and was the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States.

After graduation she continued her studies in England and France and studied midwifery. An eye infection ultimately left her blind in one eye and ended her plans to become a surgeon. She returned to New York in 1851 but could not find any institution that would hire her. Blackwell wrote papers and lectured on the importance of good hygiene and eventually won support from the Society of Friends who began referring patients. She was unable to rent space for a clinic, and so bought a home in a rundown part of New York City. Four years later it became the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. In 1858 she again returned to England and was the first woman to be placed on the Medical Registry of the United Kingdom.

After her return to New York in 1859, her plans to open a women's medical college were delayed until 1868. A year later she returned to England where she remained for the rest of her life. There she helped establish the National Health Society and served as a professor of gynecology at the London School of Medicine for Women. She died in 1910, having never recovered from a fall she experienced three years prior.

June

1

Helen Keller (b. 1880; d. 1968)

Helen Keller was the daughter of a newspaper editor and his wife. In the year 1882, Helen suffered a devastating fever which left her blind and deaf at the age of 19 months. She was extremely intelligent, sensitive, and determined, and by the age of six she had learned to communicate with her family by simple gestures. But by this time she was also frustrated and half wild. Anne Sullivan came into her life in 1887 and became her teacher, friend, and lifelong companion. Through sign language, Anne broke into the silent dark world and with six months Helen knew 625 words.

In 1888 they entered the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston. Ann continued throughout Helen's life to be her interpreter and confidante. In 1904 Helen graduated from Radcliffe College with honors. While there, she published her first book, *The Story of My Life*. Helen was a suffragette, socialist and fighter for equal rights for women. She established the American Foundation for the Blind in 1932 and became the Vice President of the Royal National Institute of the Blind in the United Kingdom. A world traveler, Helen met with heads of state, religious leaders, and common people. She touched many lives both in person and through the example of her zest for life.

2

Hanan Ashrawi (b. October 8, 1946)

Hanan Ashrawi earned her Bachelor and Master's English at American University of Beirut and her Ph.D. in Medieval and Comparative Literature at the University of Virginia. During the First Intifada, an unarmed uprising against Israeli occupation, Ashrawi became an important leader. She then served as the official spokesperson for the Palestinian Delegation to the Middle East Peace Process. Ashrawi has been elected several times to the Palestinian Legislative Council and was the first woman elected to the Palestinian National Council. She serves on the advisory boards of numerous local and international organizations including the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the International Human Rights Council.

3

Josephine Baker (b. June 3, 1906; d. April 12, 1975)

Josephine Baker was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the oldest of four children. In 1923, she appeared on Broadway in chorus lines. Soon she became renowned for her jazz singing, dancing, exotic costumes, and, most importantly, for overcoming the color barrier in front of her at that time. Naturalized as a French citizen, Baker did undercover work for the French Resistance during World War II by smuggling secret messages on her music sheets. She was highly decorated for it. As a civil rights activist, she refused to perform for segregated audiences. She also adopted twelve children from around the world whom she called her "Rainbow Tribe." She died in Paris after a large party thrown in her honor.

4

Marian Wright Edelman (b. June 6, 1939)

Marian Wright Edelman's father was a Baptist minister who taught his family that "Christianity requires service in the world." He influenced young Marian to set up places for African American children to play when playgrounds became segregated, thereby helping to bind the community together.

Edelman became active in the civil rights movement and worked to register African Americans to vote in Mississippi. She was the first African American woman appointed to the Mississippi State Bar and worked to reestablish the Head Start funds and to establish funding for other programs that provided health care, educational services, and food to poor families and children. Marian was the founder and current president of the Children's Defense Fund.

5

Kady, daughter of Ann

Kady was a lesbian peace activist who was arrested several times for protests for peace and nuclear disarmament. She chose to drop her father's surname and instead called herself "Kady, daughter of Ann." She kept journals and used her artwork to document her political and spiritual journey throughout the 1970s and 1980s. She is known as a self-supporting, often uncelebrated, but still exceptional feminist.

6

Ann Manganaro, SL, MD (unknown birth and death dates)

"I finally understand the wounds," Sr. Ann told a friend at the time of her death.

"Your wounds?" the friend asked, referring to the mastectomy Sr. Ann underwent when she was first found to have cancer.

"No," she replied.

"The wounds of El Salvador?" the friend persisted. Sr. Ann had often performed emergency surgery in that country during its civil war.

"No," she answered. "I mean the wounds of humanity, the wounds of us all."

Ann Manganaro was a woman of the Gospels. As we know from the resurrection narratives, St. Thomas was scandalized by the terrible reality of Jesus' wounds — they blocked his faith and his hope. It was for that reason that, when the risen Lord came to him, Jesus said only, "Enter the wounds."

Like St. Thomas, we are all called to acknowledge not only the wounds of the Lord but also the wounds of our own humanity. We must not repress the memory of what we truly are. We must love our wounds. If we love them, they will never disgrace or degrade us. They will be our glory.

As a teaching resident physician, Sr. Ann had spent a good deal of her time in the neonatal intensive care unit with Tamika, a tiny, family-less girl who had been born prematurely. When Tamika died, six weeks after she was born, only Sr. Ann, the funeral director, and I attended the wake. I was desolated and angry. "This poor baby," I complained. "She had no family, no real funeral; she never had a day unplugged from tubes and shunts, never a day of breathing on her own. Her life was meaningless."

But Ann disagreed. "You are forgetting that Tamika had the power to evoke my love."

*Wounded Humanity and Catholic Health Care
Some Contemporary Thinkers Have Forgotten What "Healing" Really Means
By Rev. John Kavanaugh, SJ*

7

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn (b. August 7, 1890; d. September 5, 1964)

Born on August 7, 1890, in Concord, New Hampshire, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was the daughter of working-class socialists. While still in grammar school, she was active in local socialist clubs, and in 1906, she joined the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). She left high school in 1907 to devote herself full-time to organizing the IWW. She took part in the IWW's "free speech" campaigns in a variety of cities and was arrested several times. In the East she helped organize the Lawrence, Massachusetts textile strike of 1912 and the Patterson, New Jersey strike of 1913. Flynn raised relief and legal defense funds for the Mesabi iron miners' strike in Minnesota in 1916. In 1918 she helped establish the Workers' Liberty Defense Union. In 1920 she was a founder of the American Civil Liberties Union, and in 1927-1930 she was chairman of International Labor Defense. In the post-World War I years she was mainly engaged in legal defense of labor and political agitators and undocumented immigrants who were threatened with deportation for their political views. Despite her ill health, she joined the Communist party and became a tireless writer and organizer, gaining a reputation as a rousing platform speaker. She continued to voice her beliefs until her death in 1964.

8

Mother Magdalen Taylor (b. January 20, 1832; d. June 9, 1900)

Frances Margaret Taylor, founder of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, first became involved in humanitarian work in 1854, when she joined Florence Nightingale's Lady Volunteer Nurses in the Crimean War. Taylor's experiences of the agony of war as well as her contact with the Sisters of Mercy led her to convert to Catholicism while still at the Front. After the war, Taylor dedicated her life to helping the poor in England. After failing to find a community of Sisters who shared her vision, Taylor decided to found her own organization, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

Mother Magdalen directed her energies to the poor in London, whom she believed to be most inadequately cared for. Taylor wished to help transform the squalid conditions of the poor to a higher standard of living, so the oppressed could gain a sense of value and potential. Through her writings, Taylor encouraged others to help the needy, and since her death, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God have established numerous international ministries in the United States, Italy, Kenya, Venezuela, Britain, and Ireland.

9

Anne O'Hara Graff (b. 1951; d. 1996)

Anne O'Hara Graff, originally from Chicago, earned her doctorate in theology from the divinity school at the University of Chicago. Her thesis was on decision-making in the Catholic Church. She also contributed frequently to U.S. Catholic newspapers. She taught theology first at Loyola University and then at Seattle University. She also edited a book, *In the Embrace of God: Feminist Approaches to Theological Anthropology* in 1995, the year before she died from ovarian cancer.

10

Equal Pay Act enacted, 1963

Signed into law by John F. Kennedy as part of the New Frontier program, the Equal Pay Act amends the Fair Labor Standards Act. The goal of the act is to abolish wage disparity based on sex.

11

Jeanette Rankin (b. June 11, 1880; d. May 18, 1973)

Jeanette Rankin was born near Missoula, Montana. Educated in the public schools, she graduated from the University of Montana in 1902 and studied at the School of Philanthropy in New York City. She then undertook social work in Seattle, Washington. In 1909 and subsequent years Rankin worked for women's suffrage in Washington, California, and Montana. She traveled to New Zealand in 1915 and gained first-hand knowledge of social conditions by working as a seamstress.

In 1916, Rankin became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; however, she was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican Senate nomination. She engaged in social work for the next three decades and was re-elected to the House in 1940. She did not seek re-election in 1942. In her last 30 years, she was a rancher, a lecturer, and a lobbyist for peace and women's rights.

Rankin supported the cause of peace throughout her life. She voted against America's entry into World Wars I and II, and she was the only member of Congress to oppose the declaration of war on Japan. She died in Carmel, California.

12

Anne Frank (b. June 12, 1929; d. March 1945)

Anne was born a Jew in Frankfurt, Germany. During the time of Nazi persecution, her family resettled in Amsterdam where Anne lived like any Dutch girl, even after life began to change under German occupation. When her older sister was ordered to report for deportation in 1942, the Frank family went into hiding in a secret annex with another Jewish family. They stayed there for two years, keeping quiet by day and stirring only at night. In 1944, a Dutch informer led the Gestapo to the annex, and all eight Jews in hiding were sent to Westerbork and eventually to Auschwitz in Poland.

Anne's diary of her time in hiding was published as *The Diary of a Young Girl*. It is noted for its recording of the era with intelligence and wit. Anne is said to be a source of inspiration to those around her until her death in Auschwitz before her 16th birthday.

13

Gloria Rolando (b. April 4, 1953)

A native of Cuba, Rolando's heritage has acted as a major influence to her work. A precocious student, Rolando received her pre-university diploma at the age of eighteen, majoring in Science and Literature, with a minor in Music. After attending the University of Havana, Rolando began working at the Cuban Institute of Art and Film Industry, where she has remained for two decades. In the span of her twenty-year career, Rolando has written and directed numerous films and documentaries. Rolando's work largely focuses on the cultural aspects of the Caribbean, as well as the African cultures present in Cuba. Rolando has developed the independent film group *Imagines del Caribe*. Her latest film concerns the 1912 massacre of the Independents of Color.

14

Alicia Partnoy (b. 1955)

Between 1976 and 1979, thousands of Argentine students and workers were kidnapped, tortured and killed by the Argentinean military as part of a coup d'état. On January 12, 1977, Alicia Partnoy was taken from her home where she stayed with her 18 month old daughter, and brought to a concentration camp called *La Escuelita* (The Little School). For three months she lived blindfolded in inhumane conditions and was repeatedly beaten and molested. Yet she managed to survive.

After being released she fled to the United States and wrote her memoir *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival*. Partnoy has also testified in front of the United Nations and other human rights organizations. Currently, she resides in Los Angeles with her daughter and husband and teaches at Loyola Marymount University.

15

Evelyn Underhill (b. December 6, 1875; d. June 15, 1941)

Born an only child in Wolverhampton, England, Evelyn Underhill was educated at King's College for Women in London. She began writing at 16 and published her first book of humorous verse in 1902. Around the time of her marriage to Hubert Moore in 1907, she converted to the Christian faith. Several years later she met Baron Friederich von Hugel who was her spiritual advisor until his death in 1925.

She embarked on a life of religious writing and became an outstanding spiritual writer, lecturer, retreat leader and spiritual advisor. Although Evelyn worked in the naval intelligence department for the Admiralty in Africa from 1914 to 1918, by 1939 she had become a Christian Pacifist and joined the Anglican fellowship. She is remembered as an incarnationalist who was interested in every aspect of life and a great lover of souls.

16

Margaret Bondfield (b. March 17, 1873; d. June 16, 1953)

Margaret Bondfield was born in Somerset, England in 1873, and at 14 years old left home to become a shop apprentice in Brighton. There she met many woman radicals, especially women's rights advocates who had a large impact on her. Bondfield was elected to the Shop Assistants' Union District Council in 1894. She then published her idea that the ideal marriage was one in which both partners work and share equal responsibility. In 1908, she resigned from the Shop Assistants' Union and joined the Women's Labor League and the Women's Co-operative Guild. Bondfield worked to make maternity benefit the property of the mother, supported only full suffrage for women, and was the first woman ever to have a place in the British Cabinet. For the rest of her life, she continued her interest in and support of social causes, always emphasizing women's rights.

17

Marita Bonner (b. June 16, 1898; d. December 6, 1971)

Educated in public schools in Massachusetts and then at Radcliffe College, Marita Bonner began writing short stories, plays, and essays from 1924 to 1941. She commented on social situations and issues ranging from sexism, to racism, to poverty, to the vulnerability of black women. Bonner became known as an influential figure in the Harlem Renaissance. She is the author of the famous essay "To Be Young, A Woman, and Colored," in which she examined what it was like to be a "race woman" in the 1920s and the obstacles that were put in her path purely because she was a woman and an African American. She asked her fellow African American women to gain knowledge and use that knowledge to teach others in order to ultimately conquer this double inequality.

18

Fay Bennett Watts (unknown birth and death dates)

Known professionally as Fay Bennett, she held posts at the National Sharecroppers Fund from 1952 through 1974, directing attention to rural poverty. In the 1950s she helped form the National Council for Agricultural Life and Labor, an alliance of dozens of national organizations that sought to spotlight the difficulties facing migrant farm workers to generate laws to protect them. During the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, she served on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Areas Development for the Department of Agriculture.

19

Patria Jimenez (b. 1957)

In 1997, Patria Jimenez was the first openly gay person to be voted into the Mexican legislature, as well as the first in Latin America. In a country where the majority of the government is male-oriented and homosexuality is widely condemned, her election into office is thought of by many as a first step for the representation of Mexico's gay minority. Jimenez has begun to tackle issues that have previously been pointedly ignored: AIDS activism, safe sex, and the rights of gay and lesbian people.

20

Neda Agha-Soltan (b. January 23, 1983; d. June 20, 2009)

Footage of the death of Neda Agha-Soltan, a Persian woman, drew international attention after she was killed during the 2009 Iranian election protests. Her death was captured on video by bystanders and broadcast over the Internet. The video became a rallying point for the opposition. It was described as "probably the most widely witnessed death in human history." Agha-Soltan has been referred to as the "voice of Iran". Her death became iconic in the struggle of Iranian protesters against the disputed election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

21

Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron

Miriam was the older sister of Moses and Aaron who became known as 'the Prophetess.' She watched over Moses in the bushes and brought her mother to act as a nurse when he was rescued. When she criticized Moses for his interracial marriage, her punishment was leprosy. After she begged Moses' forgiveness, she was cured. Miriam was highly revered among her contemporaries and was sought out for her direction and advice.

22

Anne Morrow Lindbergh (b. June 22, 1906; d. February 7, 2001)

Anne Morrow Lindbergh was an American author, aviator, and the spouse of fellow aviator Charles Lindbergh. She was an acclaimed author whose books and articles spanned the genres of poetry to non-fiction, touching upon topics as diverse as youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment; as well

as the role of women in the 20th Century. Lindbergh's *Gift from the Sea* stands as a seminal work in feminist literature.

23

Wilma Rudolph (b. June 23, 1940; d. November 12, 1994)

The twentieth of twenty-two children, Rudolph was tutored at home as a young child because of a physical handicap that left her legs and feet weak and deformed. Plagued in her early years by several illnesses including measles, mumps, scarlet fever, chicken pox, and double pneumonia, Rudolph's athletic prospects were poor. However, against all odds, Rudolph was able to overcome her disabilities, rising to become one of the most renowned women in sports history.

In junior high Rudolph joined her school basketball team, sitting out every game for three years. When Rudolph was finally allowed to play, her skills were recognized by Tennessee State University's track coach and she was granted a full scholarship to the University. She decided to compete in international track events in place of her first year at college so when she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Education, she had already won several titles.

In 1960, Wilma became the first woman from the United States to win three gold medals in the Olympics, winning the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, and running with the winning 400-meter relay team. Rudolph's numerous awards include the James E. Sullivan Award for Good Sportsmanship, European Sportswriters' Sportsman of the Year, and the Christopher Columbus Award for Most Outstanding International Sports Personality. Rudolph was the first woman in history to receive the aforementioned awards.

In addition to the gender barriers defied by Rudolph, her victories also overcame racial obstacles. Her victory parade was the first racially integrated event ever held in her hometown, and the banquet in her honor was the first time in the town's history that blacks and whites had gathered together for the same event. Rudolph's accomplishments thus span several categories, making her a champion of civil rights, athletics, and physical disabilities, and women's rights.

24

Zora Neale Hurston (b. January 7, 1891; d. January 28, 1960)

Born in Alabama, Zora Neale Hurston's family moved to the all-black town Eatonville, Florida when she was a small child. As a teenager, Hurston left home to work with a traveling theatre company but eventually finished high school in Baltimore. She attended Howard University, supporting herself as a manicurist, before being published in New York magazine and moving to New York City. While there, she became part of the New Negro movement, also known as the Harlem Renaissance, and met many other notable African American writers. As an assistant to Fanny Hurst, she began taking classes at Barnard College where she studied anthropology under the renowned scholar Franz Boas.

In her later years, Hurston traveled through the South interviewing storytellers and Hoodoo doctors, all of whom would feed her writings. Her most powerful novel is considered *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the story of a woman who defines the parameters of her life and loves in opposition to the small-town mores of Eatonville. Hurston died in 1960 in a welfare home in Florida and was buried in an unmarked grave, but was rediscovered a few years later as the most prolific African-American writer. In 1973 a grave marker was placed in the field where she lay which reads: "A Genius of the South."

25

Women in Black

Women in Black is an organization of women who stand in vigil around the world, protesting war and violence without saying a word. They stand in silence to reflect upon themselves and the plight of women around the world who suffer rape, those who were tortured and killed in concentration camps, women and the family of all those who disappear and are killed, and those whose homes have been destroyed.

Women in Black began in 1988 in Israel by women protesting the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Since then Women in Black has made its mark in such countries as England, Spain, Italy, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Germany and in former Yugoslavia. Since September 11, Women in Black has been protesting in the United States.

26

Pearl S. Buck (b. June 26, 1892; d. March 6, 1973)

Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, also known by her Chinese name Sai Zhenzhu, was the daughter of Southern Presbyterian missionaries stationed in China. Brought to China when she was three months old, Buck remained there for most of the next forty years of her life where her work was greatly influenced by the surrounding culture. During her lifetime Buck authored such classics as *The Good Earth* and *The Big Wave*, both of which were centered on Chinese life.

From childhood Buck spoke both English and Chinese, feeling a great connection with the traditions of China. After attending Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Virginia, Buck returned to China shortly following graduation, where she met her husband John Lossing Buck. Following the birth of their first child, Buck had to undergo a hysterectomy, and adopted another infant.

Buck's second novel, *The Good Earth*, was the best-selling book of 1931 and 1932 and won her a Pulitzer Prize in literature. It was adapted into a major motion picture in 1937. The following year, Buck became the first American woman to win a Nobel Prize in literature, going on to publish over seventy novels before her death.

After moving permanently to the United States, Buck became a civil rights activist as well as an advocate for women's rights. After adopting five children, Buck established the Welcome House, the first international, inter-racial adoption agency. In addition to her astonishing accomplishments, the author also founded the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, providing sponsorship funding for thousands of children in Asian countries.

27

Jovita Idár (b. September 7, 1885; d. June 15, 1946)

The "Heroine of La Raza" was born in Loreda, Texas one of eight children. At 18, she earned a teaching certificate and began to teach Mexican children, but was frustrated by the conditions in which she had to teach. She became a journalist and activist, writing weekly articles for equal education and an end to the extreme discrimination against Mexican children in public school in her father's newspaper *La Crónica*.

Jovita wrote graphic descriptions of the lynchings of a Mexican child by the Texas Rangers and the burning at the stake of 20-year-old Antonio Rodriguez. In 1911 her newspaper called for the formation of *La Gran Liga Mexicanista de Beneficencia y Protection* so the community would work together. She sponsored the *Primer Congreso Mexicanista* to protect Mexican-Americans against racist and brutal acts. From this movement came the feminist organization *Liga Femenil Mexicanista*. Jovita and other women formed their own schools and allowed Mexican children to attend for free.

After crossing the border to serve as a nurse in the Cruz Blanca, she wrote an article criticizing Woodrow Wilson's deployment of troops to the border. Shortly after, her printing presses were destroyed by the Texas Rangers. But she stood her ground. After marrying, she moved to San Antonio where she organized *El Club Democrata* within the Democratic Party, and established a bi-lingual kindergarten. She continued to work as a writer and educator until her death.

28

Marjorie Tuite, OP (b. 1922; d. June 28, 1986)

Sister Majorie Tuite was a social activist and an advocate of women's rights in the Catholic Church. In 1942 she became a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus. She also served as director of the national Ecumenical Action for Church Women United. In her later years, Sr. Tuite traveled

extensively in Central America and in 1984 served as a delegate to the First Human Congress on Human Rights. Her opposition to US policy in Central America and her advocacy on women's rights brought her into conflict with church hierarchy. At one time she was threatened with expulsion for being among 24 American nuns who signed a newspaper advertisement calling for dialogue with the church on the abortion issue. A native New Yorker, she was a graduate of Fordham University, earned a master's degree from Manhattanville College and a doctorate from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Chicago. She died in New York.

29

Shamita Dasgupta (b. 1949)

Shamita Dasgupta is an Asian-Indian scholar, activist, wife, and mother. She is most known for her active participation in the 1960s civil rights and women's liberation movements. Dasgupta was born in India and came to the United States to study and to learn how to help those on the fringe of society. Ultimately, she earned a degree in psychiatry. She co-founded a group called Manavi, which means "primal woman" in Sanskrit. Manavi is dedicated to empowering South Asian women and encouraging self-reliance. She especially dedicated time to the issue of domestic violence and offers supportive services.

In addition to being a full-time community worker she is a part time teacher. She has also written extensively about ethnicity, gender, immigration, and violence against women.

30

Lena Horne (b. June 30, 1917; d. May 9, 2010)

Lena Horne was one of the first premier African American entertainers. She began performing as a dancer and singer at the age of 16, and at 21 had her first Hollywood role. In a time when most African American actors and actresses were given roles as substandard characters, such as maids and chauffeurs, Horne was being allowed roles that influenced the plot. She eventually became the highest paid African American actor of the 1940s. During the McCarthy scandal she was blacklisted because of her sympathies with other blacklisted actors and screenwriters and for her work as a civil rights activist. During the 1960s she worked with the National Council for Negro Women and began performing again.

July

1

Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe (b. June 14, 1811; d. July 1, 1896)

Harriet Elizabeth Beecher was educated at the Litchfield Academy for Young Women in Hartford Connecticut, which was founded by her sister, Catherine. Her father was Lyman Beecher who was considered by some to be one of the most powerful Calvinist preachers of his generation. And her half-sister was Isabelle Beecher Hooker (see Feb. 22). In 1836 she married Calvin Ellis Stowe and after the death of her son, she found comfort in Christianity.

After the Fugitive Slave Act was passed in 1850, she became concerned with the plight of fugitive slaves. In 1852 Beecher Stowe published the novel for which she is most famous, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, characterized as anti-slavery fiction. Before appearing in book form, it was published serially to great success. As a book it sold more than 300,000 copies during the first year alone. It was also staged frequently for many years. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was so influential in the abolitionist cause that Abraham Lincoln is reported to have said when he met Harriet, "So you are the little woman who started the big war." She went on to write other books about slavery and New England and was also interested in related causes such as temperance and women's suffrage.

2

Christine Hakim (b. December 25, 1957)

Christine Hakim is one of Indonesia's best known and beloved actresses. She worked in both film and TV and chose to portray, among other roles, the mother of street children and an Acehnese rebel. She is also known for her activism work. She created the Christine Hakim Foundation which promotes public education about autism. The foundation also supplies milk for undernourished children, helps to rebuild schools, and provides grants to teachers.

3

Angela Eunjin Oh (b. 1955)

Trial attorney Angela Eunjin Oh has been recognized by several organizations as an outstanding spokeswoman for racial issues. As a lecturer and writer on subjects regarding racial diversity in American culture, Oh has established herself as a strong voice in advocating racial harmony. After spending eleven years as a partner at a Los Angeles law firm, Oh was appointed by President Clinton to the President's Initiative on Race. She also served as a commissioner on the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission. Today, Oh remains active in such organizations as the Advisory Councils for Washington Mutual Bank and the Korean Youth and Community Center.

4

Doña Maria del Carmen Calvillo (b. 1765; d. 1856)

Before the American Southwest came under the control of the United States, Hispanic women owned farms and ranches in the area, exercising many rights not to be known to American women for several decades. In Texas alone, over sixty land grants were given directly to women, without passing through the finance books of husbands or fathers.

Owner of a large ranch in Wilson County, Doña Maria del Carmen Calvillo possessed the same talents as many men on the frontier including roping and shooting expertly. Calvillo came into possession of the land after her father's death and under her management, El Rancho de las Cabras flourished. Calvillo built an extensive irrigation system, granary and sugar mill on the ranch, and with many native people as neighbors, Calvillo helped to maintain a peace between the tribes by sharing cattle and grain with those in need.

5

Anna Arnold Hedgeman (b. July 5, 1889; d. January 17, 1990)

Anna was a politician, feminist and civil rights activist. She was the first black woman to graduate from Hamline University, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Hedgeman went on to teach English and History at Rust College where she experienced segregation for the first time. She then worked as the executive director of the YWCA before she became the executive secretary of the National Council for Permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission. Hedgeman was also a National Organization of Women founder and the first African-American woman to serve in the mayoral cabinet in New York City (1954-1958). She recruited over 40,000 people for the 1963 march on Washington, D.C. She also authored two books and had a number of articles published. She passed away in Harlem in 1990.

6

Maria Goretti (b. October 16, 1890; d. June 24, 1950) *Pray for victims of sexual abuse*

The daughter of humble sharecroppers, Maria and her family moved to the little town of Ferriere, Italy in 1899 in search of work. Desperately seeking to support his family, Luigi Goretti arranged with Signor Serenelli, to have their families share a home. Luigi Goretti soon thereafter died of malaria leaving his family to live with the Serenellis. Alessandro Serenelli, the son, propositioned Maria on several occasions and sexually

harassed. On July 5, 1902, he would be denied no longer. As she once again rebuffed his sexual advance, Alessandro stabbed Maria 14 times.

Doctors tried to save Maria's life, but after 20 hours of suffering during which she forgave and prayed for Alessandro, Maria died the next day. Almost fifty years later on June 24, 1950, Pope Pius XII stood on the steps of St. Peter's in Rome and pronounced Maria Goretti a Saint and Martyr of the Universal Church. He proposed her as the Patroness of Modern Youth – she is the youngest canonized saint – and set July 6th as her Feast Day. Her mother and her murderer attended the canonization ceremony together.

7

Luisa Moreno (b. August 30, 1907; d. November 4, 1992)

Luisa Moreno was born in Guatemala to an upper middle class family. She studied at the College of the Holy Name in Oakland, California. In the 1930s she began organizing Hispanic garment factory workers in Spanish Harlem in New York City and cigar workers in Florida. Later she traveled throughout the Southwest serving as an editor of a CIO newspaper and organizing agricultural workers. By the end of the 1930s, Moreno concentrated her work on Hispanic-American civil rights, founding the Congress of Spanish-speaking people in 1938. The first conference was to take place that year in Albuquerque, but the House Un-American Activities Committee accused the group of being Communist sympathizers. The meeting was postponed and later held in Los Angeles. At one time, the Congress had membership of about 70,000 and constituted the first Hispanic-American civil rights organization. Eventually the organization fizzled out and Moreno was forced to flee to Mexico when she was suspected of being a communist. Later she went to Cuba where she took part in the early days of the Revolution, before returning to Mexico. After suffering from illness, her brother brought her to her native home, Guatemala, where she died in 1992.

8

Priscilla (Prisca)

Priscilla is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles along with her husband Aquila. It is interesting to note that four of the six times they are referred to, Priscilla is mentioned before her husband. She was not simply the wife of a disciple, but rather a disciple herself. The exact date of her birth and death are unknown. It is clear that she lived in Rome in the first century before being forced to leave when the Emperor Claudius (41-54 C.E.) ordered all Jews out of the city. She and Aquila went to Corinth where they met Paul who came and stayed with them while he instructed them in the faith.

Paul was so impressed with them that he asked them to go with him when he left Corinth. When they arrived in Ephesus, Paul left them there, no doubt believing that they were well enough grounded in the faith that they could carry on his work. In Ephesus they instructed Apollos who knew of John the Baptist but not Jesus. They completed his instruction and when Apollos moved on to Greece, they wrote to their friends and relatives in Greece asking them to receive him. Priscilla seems to have been noted not only for her instructional methods but also for her care of the needs of those she helped convert.

9

Alice Paul (b. January 11, 1885; d. July 9, 1977)

Alice Paul was born in Morrestown, New Jersey and was educated at Swarthmore College and Pennsylvania University, where she earned her Master's in Sociology. While in London for her doctoral studies, she joined the suffragist movement. Her activities led to her being jailed three times. Paul returned home in 1910 and became involved in the movement in the United States. She helped found the Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage and organized huge demonstrations and daily picketing of the White House. During one of these, Paul was arrested and imprisoned for seven months. After going on a hunger strike, she was released. She founded the Women's Party and lobbied for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which she authored.

10

1st meeting of National Women's Political Caucus

On July 10, 1971, the first meeting of the National Women's Political Caucus was held, with more than 320 women from 26 states in attendance. The National Women's Political Caucus was formed to increase the number and influence of women involved in all aspects of politics, from judges to delegates to officials. The NWPC helps women win prominent roles in the government on state and national levels. Today there are 1,656 women serving on the state level and 72 women in Congress.

11

Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson (b. December 22, 1912; d. July 11, 2007)

Claudia Taylor was born near Karnack, Texas, in a country mansion. She received the nickname "Lady Bird" from her nurse when she was 2. Her mother died when she was 5 so she was raised by her aunt, nurse, and father. Not long after she graduated from the University of Texas with degrees in history and journalism, Lady Bird met Lyndon Johnson, whom she married within 10 weeks. She stood by his side in all his efforts to establish himself as a politician, and even put \$10,000 of the inheritance from her mother's death towards Lyndon's campaign so he could afford to run for congressman in his home district, which he won.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Lyndon volunteered for service in the Navy, Lady Bird was left with little income to run her husband's Congressional office. She ingeniously invested the rest of her inheritance in a bankrupt radio station and turned it around to become highly profitable. Once Lyndon returned to Washington, Lady Bird gave birth to two daughters in 1944 and 1947. She stayed by his side day and night when he suffered a heart attack, and spoke during his campaign for Vice-President with John F. Kennedy. When Lyndon passed the Civil Rights Act as president, Lady Bird changed the minds of many furious southerners who disagreed with him.

After her husband's death in 1973, Lady Bird devoted her time to her family, but still remained active in causes that she supported: the National Wildflower Research Center, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and the National Geographic Society. She wrote a book, *White House Diary*, in which she gave her view of and showed her contributions to her husband's administration. To this day, she is viewed as a strong and devoted woman, wife, and mother who contributed greatly to the United States.

12

Mary Eliza Mahoney (b. April 16, 1845; d. January 4, 1926)

Mary Eliza was America's first black professional nurse. While Mahoney was not only outstanding in her professional career, she made numerous contributions to local and national professional organizations. Her training at the New England Hospital for Women and Children consisted of a rigorous 16-month program which only three persons completed. One of her accomplishments was the presentation of the welcome address at the first conference of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN). Later in 1936, the NACGN established the Mary Mahoney Award in recognition of her outstanding example to nurses of all races. Even today, Mahoney is honored as the Mary Mahoney Award is presented in recognition of significant contributions in interracial relationships.

13

Satya Rani Chadha (unknown birth date)

Satya Rani Chadha is the leading voice for the anti-dowry movement in India. Up until the 1980s, dowry deaths – deaths in which betrothed or married women would be burned by their husbands or in-laws – were often passed off as simple kitchen accidents. In 1979, Chadha's 20 year old daughter, Sashi Bala, was apparently cooking when the kerosene stove burst into flames and killed her. She was six months pregnant at

the time. Chadha, however, knew it was a dowry killing and approached the Supreme Court seeking justice for her daughter's murder. However, under the law at the time, the husband was neither arrested nor prosecuted.

Upon leaving the courthouse Chadha united with another mother whose daughter was also murdered in a dowry killing. Together they started a shelter for women who were fighting against the dowry laws. Eventually the government passed a law that tightened restrictions against dowry deaths and made it so the husband and his close family members could be found guilty.

In 1980, Chadha refilled claims of murder against her daughter's husband. He was found guilty but let out on bail after two months. When the case was finally ready to be tried in March 2013 he was nowhere to be found. Still she continued to fight, even showing up at a conference for lawyers and judges with actual dowry victims.

"I got justice for so many girls but I couldn't get justice for my daughter" she told a reporter. "They will find him won't they? I will get justice, won't I?"

14

Kateri Tekakwitha (b. 1656; d. April 17, 1680)

Kateri Tekakwitha was born in Osserneon, New York, the daughter of a Christian Algonquin woman captured by the Iroquois and married to a non-Christian Mohawk chief. During a smallpox epidemic, both her parents died and she herself was left with a scarred face and poor eyesight. The Jesuit missionary Jacques de Lamberville converted and baptized her in 1676. Because of her faith, as well as her physical disfigurement, she was abused and shunned by relatives. She escaped this life by fleeing through 200 miles of wilderness to the Christian Native American village of Sault-Sainte-Marie. She devoted herself to prayer and austerities and in 1679 took a vow of chastity. She died the following year and soon after her grave became a site of pilgrimage where miracles were attributed to her intercession. She is the first Native American to be proposed for canonization and was beatified on June 22, 1980 by Pope John Paul II. She is also known as Lily of the Mohawks and has been named as patron of ecologists and environmentalists, as well as of exiled persons and those who are ridiculed for their piety.

15

Violette Neatley Anderson (b. July 16, 1882; d. 1937)

After graduating from the Chicago Law School, Neatley Anderson set up a private practice and became the first African American woman to practice law in the United States Eastern Court Division and the first female city prosecutor in Chicago. After five years of working in Chicago, on January 29, 1926, she became the first African-American woman lawyer admitted to the United States Supreme Court Bar, but never argued a case in front of them. She was also very active in politics and she played a critical role in passing the Bankhead-Jones Act, which donated public lands to many states and territories as designated spaces for agriculture and mechanic arts.

16

Our Lady of Carmel, Chile

Our Lady of Carmel, is the title under which Mary is honored as the patron of Chile. That devotion was brought by Spanish missionaries in the early years of the Spanish conquest. Carmelite fathers served in Latin America along with Franciscans, Dominicans, and Jesuits. Mt. Carmel was the site in Israel where the prophet Elias experienced God in a special way. Much later, in the fourth century, St. Helena, queen and mother of Constantine, constructed a basilica there in honor of Elijah. The basilica was destroyed by the Persians, but St. Berthold, an Italian priest monk, settled with ten former Crusaders on Mt. Carmel, living in caves as hermits. In 1190 the Christian hermits built a chapel to Mary beginning the devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. From there Carmelites spread all over Europe, eventually including nuns. In 1562 St. Teresa of Avila initiated her

reform of Carmel. During the following years, the Carmelites and their devotion to Our Lady were carried to the Western Hemisphere.

17

Hannah Szenes (b. July 17, 1921; d. November 7, 1944)

Hannah was born in Budapest, Hungary, in a time and place when anti-Semitism was rapidly growing and life was becoming harder for Jewish families like hers. Her father died at a young age, and her mother tried to shield her daughter from discrimination and downplay the role of religion in her family's everyday life in order to protect her. However, Szenes was proud of her heritage, and at age 17, she decided to become a Zionist. Her goal of visiting Palestine was bigger than anything else in her life. At 18, Hannah left on her own for the seaport of Haifa.

There, Szenes passed through the Agricultural School with the highest marks she could earn and joined a kibbutz, but she still felt empty and guilty that her people were suffering while she lived in safety. When she learned of a rescue mission going behind the enemy lines of Hungary to rescue shot-down Allied pilots and other Jews, Szenes immediately volunteered. She passed the training with flying colors and even convinced her instructor to join. After over a year of waiting for permission to leave, Szenes team of six parachuted into Yugoslavia, near the border, only to find out that Hungary was totally occupied by the Nazis and it would be certain death to cross.

After two months, Szenes could not be held back any longer. She persuaded two of her teammates and three Hungarian refugees to cross the border, dodging German units along the way. After much wandering, they were captured and brought to SS Headquarters in Budapest to be tortured and interrogated. Eventually Szenes' physical torture stopped, and she became well known and admired in the jail among guards and prisoners alike. Reportedly, the courtroom judge of her case took it upon himself to have her killed before he fled from Hungary in 1944.

Szenes is recognized today as a great woman and part of the only mission that went into Nazi-occupied territory to save Jews. She left behind a diary and poems, which Israeli schoolchildren recite every day. She once wrote: "There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind."

18

Morenci-Clifton Picket Line

In 1983, the miners of Morenci and Clifton, Arizona went on strike against the Phelps-Dodge Corporation, asking for better wages and standing equal to other miners. They were on strike for 18 months, many losing their homes and most old friends. Many of those holding the line were women, the wives of other strikers, or miners themselves, some who had been working in the copper mines since World War II, when the mine was run predominantly by women.

19

Mary Ann Bickerdyke (b. July 18, 1817; d. November 8, 1901)

Mary Ann Ball was born in Ohio where she attended Oberlin College and later studied nursing. In 1847 she married widower Robert Bickerdyke, who died in 1859. Thereafter she supported herself through the practice of what was called "botanic" medicine. During the early days of the Civil War she volunteered to care for and distribute supplies to the wounded men. She was appalled by the unsanitary conditions of field hospitals and set about cleaning, organizing, and improving them. She insisted on better help for the wounded, at times having incompetent physicians and officers dismissed. When patients were not brought in, Mary Ann sometimes ventured into battlefields to search for the wounded. Her work attracted the attention of both Grant and Sherman who appreciated and supported her work. After the war, she spent the rest of her life working for

the homeless, the friendless, and especially for veterans from New York to San Francisco. She died in Bunker Hill, Kansas.

20

Eulalia Arrila de Perez (b. 1773; d. 1878)

Eulalia managed an early mission in the northern frontier of Mexico, called mission San Gabriel. She directed the amount of supplies coming in and out of the mission and ran the main kitchen. She also directed the women who worked at the mission making such goods as wine, olive oil, and assisting them in carding wool, spinning, weaving, sewing, and threshing wheat. Eulalia was respected for her ability as a healer and midwife, in addition to helping the mission to run smoothly and efficiently, while still raising a family of her own after being widowed. As she grew older, she was given a home and two small ranchos in appreciation for her hard work in helping San Gabriel run smoothly and productively.

21

Hortense Sparks Ward (b. July 21, 1872; d. December 5, 1944)

Hortense Sparks grew up in Texas and attended a convent school as a young girl. She went on to become a teacher and then, after moving to another town with her new husband, a court reporter. After their divorce she remarried to William Henry Ward, an attorney. She was the first woman admitted to the Texas state bar and she began to practice law with her husband. She also became well known for the pamphlets and newspaper articles she wrote advocating women's rights and suffrage. In 1918 she led a successful campaign to allow women the right to vote in the Texas primaries. Later that year she became the first woman in her county to register to vote. Ward also worked for social reform, helping to push forth the Married Woman's Property Act, working toward a 54 hour work week for women, and creating a Women's Division in the Department of Labor.

22

Mary of Magdala

Mary of Magdala also known as Mary Magdalene, is often confused with the unnamed sinful woman in Luke's gospel who wept for her sins and allowed her tears to fall on Jesus' feet. In actuality, the seven demons reported to have gone out of her probably referred to some kind of illness, rather than the sins of a prostitute, as has been taught. What is known of Mary from the Gospels is that she traveled with Jesus in Galilee and along with other women supported his mission. She was with Jesus to the end, standing at the foot of the cross with Jesus' mother and a few other women. Mary of Magdala is the only woman mentioned in all four Gospels as seeing Jesus shortly after his Resurrection. She is the one to whom Jesus spoke, "Woman, why are you weeping?" and then turned her tears to joy by revealing himself to her. She was sent to tell the apostles that Jesus was alive, and for that reason she has been called the "apostle to the apostles." Today she could be considered the patron of those who have an undeserved bad reputation.

23

Nancy Mairs (b. July 23, 1943)

A poet and essayist, Nancy Mairs studied at Dartmouth's School of Criticism and Theory and has taught at the University of Arizona, UCLA, and the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference. Mairs has published numerous works of fiction, in addition to two books of poetry and six collections of essays. Her expansive education includes earning a M.F.A in creative writing and a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Arizona, where she taught writing and literature.

As a victim of disabling multiple sclerosis, much of Mairs work centers on her physical handicaps. Mairs's frank confrontation of the disease provides an honesty that is vital to her work. In her book *Waist-High in the World: A Life among the Nondisabled*, Mairs confronts not only the disease but also such controversial issues as

assisted suicide and abortion. Having lived thirty years before developing multiple sclerosis, she is able to comment through experience on how the non-disabled view, and sometimes fear, the handicapped.

24

Amelia Earhart (b. July 24, 1897; d. July 2, 1938)

Amelia Earhart was born in Kansas into an insecure family life that forced her to become strong and independent. After graduating from Chicago's Hyde Park High School in 1916 she started looking to do things that were unusual for women to do at that time. When she took her first plane ride at 23, she knew she wanted to be a pilot and spent every cent she earned and every bit of free time learning to fly. When she married George Palmer Putnam in 1931 she made him promise not to interfere with her career as a pilot.

Amelia became the first woman to fly the Atlantic, as a passenger in 1928 and solo in 1932. She flew from Honolulu to California in 1935. Two years later she attempted an around-the-world flight with Frederick Noonan as navigator. Their plane disappeared somewhere in the Pacific, presumably low on fuel and was lost. Amelia was a great celebrity in her day, establishing a personable and vivacious female counterpart to the popular Charles Lindbergh. Besides her own flying, she helped established an airline, engaged in business ventures, and through her extensive writing, interested others – especially women – in flying.

25

Mev Puleo (b. 1964; d. 1996)

Mev Puleo, an American photojournalist and social change activist confronting a world of injustice, poverty, and violence. From witnessing homelessness in the United States to struggles for social change in Haiti, El Salvador, and Brazil, Puleo used photography and interviews to be a bridge between poverty and affluence, the developed and developing countries. Puleo's familiarity with suffering, however, was dramatically intensified when she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at the age of thirty-one. She died twenty-one months later.

26

Anne, Mother of Mary, Grandmother of Jesus

Anne is not mentioned in the Scriptures, but her story is told in the Protoevangelium of James. According to his tale, Anne was married to Joachim and both of them were grieved because they had no children. Anne prayed for a child, as had Sarah and Hannah, devout women before her. Angels appeared to Anne and foretold the birth of a daughter. Anne sang with joy at the birth of Mary and vowed to present her in the temple to the Lord, which she did when Mary was two years old. The story of childless parents praying for a child and promising to give the child to the Lord is common. What is significant here is that the child was a girl, and the only case of a daughter being so celebrated. But Mary was no ordinary person, and Anne no ordinary grandmother.

27

Linda Richards (July 27, 1841-April 16, 1930)

Linda Richards was born into a poor family in Vermont, and from her earliest years found great joy in caring for the sick and the weak. She visited hospitals and saw how those who worked with the sick were frequently ignorant and careless. Her heroine was Florence Nightingale and she wanted training to become like her. A woman doctor, Susan Dimock, opened the first school for nurses in her small hospital in Boston and Linda was the first graduate in 1873.

Linda later became the night superintendent at Bellevue Hospital in New York City where she worked to improve the conditions and services of the attendants. She wanted cleanliness and order, professional

accounting of patient records and medications, but she was especially concerned with taking care of the social, spiritual and psychological needs of the patients as well as their physical needs.

Linda met Florence Nightingale in England and studied her nursing methods before spending five years working in Japan training the first Japanese nurses. When she returned to the United States she spent many years developing the concept of home nursing for patients who stayed in their own homes. She died in Massachusetts in a nursing home.

28

Mary Luke Tobin S.L. (b. May 16, 1908; d. August 24, 2006)

Born Ruth Marie Tobin, she attended public schools in Denver and then managed a dance studio while attending Loretto Heights College. She eventually became the Superior General of the Sisters of Loretto and then the president of the congregation from 1958-1970. She then went to Rome as one of only 15 women auditors invited to attend the Second Vatican Council, and the only American woman of the three women religious permitted to participate on the Council's planning commissions. She focused her ministry in Denver but also traveled the world on peace missions. Sister Mary Luke Tobin was also a political activist. She supported women's ordination to the priesthood and helped the United Farm Workers take on the Blue Diamond Cole Company. She also demonstrated her opposition of nuclear proliferation by taking part in nonviolent actions at Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Mary Luke Tobin was a founding board member of Mary's Pence.

29

Martha of Bethany

Martha was one of the trinity of good friends of Jesus, along with her sister, Mary, and her brother, Lazarus. The three had a house in Bethany where Jesus often went to get respite from his ministry. From the stories in the Gospels, we learn that Martha was the busy one preparing supper in the kitchen while her sister Mary was the more contemplative one sitting at the feet of Jesus. Martha felt confident enough to complain to Jesus about it. Another time, when Lazarus had died, Jesus chose not to come when summoned but arrived after Lazarus had been in the grave three days. In this case both sisters complained to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lazarus would not have died." Martha has become the patron of all those who do kitchen or house work.

30

Antonia Hernandez (b. 1948)

As former President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Antonia Hernández has been a spokeswoman for thirty five million Latin Americans in the United States.

Born on a communal ranch in Mexico, as a young girl Hernández immigrated to the United States with her family. Hernández's parents moved the family to Los Angeles, where they felt Antonia and her five siblings would receive better educational opportunities. After graduating from high school, Hernández attended UCLA where she received an undergraduate degree in history, her teaching certificate, and her law degree. In 1979 Hernández was the first Latin American woman to serve on a staff counsel to the U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and in 1980 she advocated bilingual voting assistance so as to empower Latin Americans with the ability to participate as voters.

It was in 1981 that Hernández began her work with MALDEF, to which she continues to contribute today. Under her leadership, MALDEF ensured political representation for Latin Americans, and furthered educational opportunities for children of undocumented immigrants. Today Hernández speaks for National Public Radio's Latino USA program, and acts as a voice for Latin Americans. She has received numerous honors and awards, including the League of Women Voters Leadership Award as well as the ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award

31

Azar Nafisi (b. December 1, 1955)

In 1980, when she lost her job teaching English at Tehran University in Iran because she refused to wear a veil over her face, Azar Nafisi started a book club for her former women students. They would meet at her house, remove their veils, and read works of Western authors, using the books as a means to discuss the political, social and economic boundaries of their country.

She is the author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, a memoir based upon these experiences. She now lives in Washington D.C. and works to present a true voice of an educated woman who lived in Iran under their totalitarian regime. She also tours using books to discuss and help develop democracy and recognition of human rights in the Muslim world, with the Dialogue Project.

August

1

Linda Chavez-Thompson (b. August 3, 1944)

Born in Lubbock, Texas, Linda was the daughter of sharecroppers. She and her seven siblings would work daily in the cotton fields for thirty cents an hour. At the age of twenty, she married and went to work cleaning houses. Five years later, in 1967, she joined the Laborers' International Union, and served as a secretary, translator, and union representative for Hispanic American Members. In 1971, she began work for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and was responsible for advancing legislative, political action and education programs as well as conducting every level of grievance procedures for membership representation within the AFSCME organization. In 1995, Linda was elected executive vice-president of the AFL-CIO.

2

Our Lady of Angels, Costa Rica

In the city of Cartago, Costa Rica, as in many other colonial towns, whites segregated themselves from Indians and mestizos. Any who were not purely white were barred from entering the city, and a stone cross marker was the boundary. On August 2, 1635, the feast of the Holy Angels, Juana Pereira, a poor mestizo woman, discovered a small image of the Virgin carved on a dark stone in the footpath. She picked it up and took it home, but it disappeared and returned to the same rock where it was found. This happened five times, with the statue disappearing from cupboards, chests, and even the parish tabernacle. The people took this as a sign that Our Lady wanted a center of worship on that spot, where she could comfort the poor and humble. "La Negrita" as she is affectionately called by the people of Costa Rica, was solemnly crowned in 1926 and in 1935 Pope Pius XI declared the beautiful shrine of the Queen of Angels a basilica.

3

Flannery O'Connor (b. March 25, 1925; d. August 3, 1964)

Flannery O'Connor was born in Savannah, Georgia but moved to her mother's family estate after her father died when she was 15. She attended college in Georgia but moved north to become a writer. Several of her short stories and a novel were soon published. At the age of 26 she was diagnosed with lupus, a slowly progressing degenerative disease. She returned home where she was cared for by her mother until she died at the age of 39. During her illness she wrote daily and produced some of her best known short stories and a novel *Wise Blood*. Her correspondence reveals a devout Catholic intellect. At root, she saw being Catholic as about action, not intellect. She writes, "You will have found Christ when you are concerned with other people's sufferings and not your own."

4

Isabel Allende (b. August 2, 1942)

Born in Peru and raised in Chile, Bolivia, Europe, and the Middle East, Allende's childhood was flavored with the cultures of numerous places. The daughter of a diplomat, Allende became accustomed to constant traveling and attended numerous American schools overseas. After completing her secondary education in Chile, Allende worked with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization in Santiago, and later in Belgium. Allende worked as a journalist in Chile until a military coup led her to flee to Venezuela, where she discovered her grandfather was close to death. Upon hearing the news, Allende began writing a long letter reassuring him that he would always live on through her memories. This work eventually grew into Allende's internationally acclaimed novel *The House of the Spirits*, which went on to be produced as a motion picture in 1993.

Since the success of her first novel, Allende has moved to San Rafael, California, where she obtained United States citizenship in 2003. Allende has authored several other works of fiction and memoirs. Her 1999 bestseller *Daughter of Fortune* was chosen to be read in Oprah's Book Club, and her novel *Portrait in Sepia* has gained Allende international acclaim.

5

Mary McKillop (b. January 15, 1842; d. August 8, 1909)

Mary McKillop was born in Melbourne, Australia to Scottish parents. She worked as a shop girl, governess, and teacher to support her family, but yearned for a penitential form of religious life. In 1866, with the encouragement and guidance of Father Tenison-Woods, she founded the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph to educate poor children. However, Tenison-Woods came into conflict with the clergy over educational matters and as a result, McKillop was excommunicated by Bishop Shiel of Adelaide for alleged insubordination. The excommunication was lifted six months later.

McKillop was elected Superior-General and worked tirelessly for the education of the children of the poor, especially in the bush. She founded numerous schools, convents, and charitable institutions throughout Australia. But McKillop soon came into conflict again with the Roman Catholic Church establishment by insisting on an egalitarian rather than hierarchical organization. Bishop Reynolds told her to leave his diocese and McKillop transferred the Headquarters of the Josephites to Sydney. She suffered a stroke in 1901 and though she maintained her mental faculties, she was an invalid until her death in 1909.

In 1973, Mother Mary became the first Australian to be formally proposed to Rome as a candidate for canonization, and she was beautified by Pope John Paul II in the 1990s. The Order of the Josephites now works throughout Australia, New Zealand, and Peru.

6

Susie King Taylor (b. August 6, 1848; d. October 6, 1912)

Born into slavery, Taylor was denied a formal education. Instead, she learned how to read and write from other slaves in secret. When she was freed from slavery at the age of fourteen, Taylor helped to further the literacy of her peers by teaching them what she had learned as a child. After her husband joined an all-black army, Taylor became the first African American nurse in the Civil War. Without any medical training, Taylor saved countless lives during the War, working on the battlefield for four years. Taylor's literacy in addition to her self-taught nursing skills made her incredibly useful on the Front. During her time spent on the battlefield, Taylor learned how to assemble and use a musket, and was prepared and willing to fight if need be. After the war, Taylor was instrumental in organizing a branch of the Women's Relief Corps.

7

Lydia Villa-Komaroff (b. August 7, 1947)

Lydia Villa Komaroff was born to two teachers and is the eldest of six siblings. By the age of nine she knew she wanted to be a scientist and today is one of the most prominent geneticists. She started out studying chemistry at the University of Washington, Seattle, but then switched to molecular biology. She then attended Goucher College in Maryland and after that attended MIT. Her dissertation was on protein translation in the polio virus. Villa-Komaroff is only the third Mexican-American woman to receive a doctorate in the sciences. In 1973, she became a founding member of the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. Villa Komaroff then went on to Harvard to complete her post-doctoral research. She continued doing research and teaching at Harvard, and was featured in a documentary entitled *DNA Detective*. Currently, Villa-Komaroff works as the Chief Scientific Officer at CytonomeST and serves on a number of boards and committees that promote women in science.

8

Maureen Gallagher, OP

Maureen Gallagher was one of the original founders of Mary's Pence in 1987. She got the idea at a prayer meeting in the Chicago home of Patricia Crowley, where the extraordinary contributions of Catholic women doing the work of the church among the forgotten poor of the Americas were being discussed. Two women who were present shared frustration about not getting a grant they requested from the diocese to fund their active and successful prison ministry, while a priest had received a substantial amount to start a new program for men. Judge Sheila Murphy stated, "What we need is a Mary's Pence," a play on Peter's Pence, the Pope's annual church collection.

Maureen Gallagher, who was present at the meeting, describes a mystical experience she had while cleaning her house the following weekend. As she vacuumed, she prayed out her frustration, imagining all the bishops and cardinals who refused to help women in ministry meeting God. Each one was asked by God, "Why did you do nothing to help women minister?" and then vanished. Then Maureen found herself before God, who asked her, "What did you do to help women minister?" Maureen said, "I'm a woman, I couldn't do anything." God asked again, "What did you do?" Maureen then knew Mary's Pence needed to be formed and that she would be the one to do it.

With a grant from the Congregation of St. Agnes, she gathered a founding board and started a fund to give women access to money for seeding or growing ministry projects, especially with economically disadvantaged women and children. Named for Mary of Nazareth, Mary of Bethany, and Mary of Magdala, Mary's Pence seeks to embody the example of ministry practiced by the women at the foot of the cross, who dared to remain when the other disciples had fled.

9

Edith Stein (b. October 12, 1891; d. August 9, 1942)

Edith Stein's recent canonization as a martyr of the Catholic Church has been controversial. The question has been raised of whether she was killed at Auschwitz because she was a Jew or because she was Christian. Edith was born in Germany in 1891 into a large Orthodox Jewish family. She studied under and then became the assistant of Edmund Husserl, the primary representative of the phenomenological school of philosophy, which emphasizes the material world as the bearer of the sacred. An avowed atheist, she later converted to Catholicism at the age of 30 after reading the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila. Her conversion did not save her from dismissal from her university teaching post ten years later under Nazi rules.

Twelve years after her baptism, at the age of 42, she joined the Carmelites and took the name Teresa Benedicta a Cruce (Blessed by the Cross). To protect her from the Nazis, her community moved her from Germany to Holland. When the Dutch bishops denounced Nazi treatment of Jews, Dutch Jewish-Christians, including Edith and one of her sisters, were rounded up and transported to the death camps. Edith died in Auschwitz a mere seven days after her arrest. She went calmly and willingly to her death, at one with and for her fellow Jews.

10

St. Cunegunda

St. Cunegunda was the daughter of Sigefride, the first Count of Luxemburg, and Hadeswige. She married the Duke of Bavaria, Henry, when he was crowned emperor. They never had any children, but the older belief that they had an intentionally celibate marriage is no longer considered true.

Legend has it that Cunegunda's reputation was called into question, worrying even her husband. To prove her innocence, she walked barefoot across a bed of red-hot plowshares, and suffered no harm. Henry founded a monastery and cathedral of Bamberg. Cunegunda established, on her own, a convent at Kaufungen as an act of thanks for recovery from a serious illness.

St. Henry died in 1024. On the first anniversary of his death, Cunegunda invited a number of prelates to attend the dedication of the church at Kaufungen. After the singing of the Gospel, the empress offered at the altar a relic of the True Cross. Then she took off her imperial cloak and donned the habit of a nun. The bishop replaced her crown with a veil. As a nun, Cunegunda changed her mode of life completely. She would not allow herself or others to recall that she had formerly been a queen. She chose for her tasks the lowliest duties of the convent and cast her lot with the poor. Her daily schedule was one of reading, prayer, and visitation of the sick. When she died, she was laid to rest next to Henry in the cathedral church that both had built. She was solemnly canonized by Innocent III in 1200.

11

Clare of Assisi (b. July 16, 1194; d. August 11, 1253)

Clare, whose father died when she was very young, was the daughter of a countess. After hearing Saint Francis of Assisi preach in the streets, she confided to him her desire to live for God. The two became close friends. On Palm Sunday 1212, the bishop presented her with a palm, which she took as a sign. Clare and her cousin Pacifica ran away from her mother's palace during the night. She eventually took the veil of religious profession from Francis at the Church of Our Lady of the Angels in Assisi. Clare founded the Order of Poor Clares at San Damiano, and led it for 40 years. As foundress she was the first woman to write a monastic rule. Wherever the Franciscans established themselves throughout Europe, so also did the Poor Clares. Clare's mother and sisters later joined the order. Today there are still thousands of members.

Clare loved music and well-composed sermons. She was humble, merciful, charming, optimistic, and chivalrous, often getting up late at night to tuck in her sisters who'd kicked off their covers. She meditated daily on the Passion. When she learned of the Franciscan martyrs in Morocco in 1212 she tried to go there to give her own life for God but was restrained. Once when her convent was about to be attacked, she displayed the Sacrament in a monstrance at the convent gates and prayed before it; the attackers left. Toward the end of her life, when she was too ill to attend Mass, an image of the service would display on the wall of her cell; thus her patronage of television. She was ever the close friend and spiritual student of Francis. She was canonized on September 26, 1255 by Pope Alexander IV.

12

Dr. Alexa Canady (b. November 7, 1950)

Dr. Alexa Canady was the first female African American neurosurgeon. She is now retired from being the chief of neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. In addition to contributing time and research to medical areas from pediatric neurosurgery to spinal cord tumors she has assisted in the development of neurosurgery equipment. She also devotes time to changing the perception of African American patients and practitioners and the presumptions associated with both, due to a lack of research.

13

Maude Dominica Mary Petre (b. 4 August 1863; d. 16 December 1942)

Maude Dominica Mary Petre was a British Roman Catholic nun, writer, and critic involved in the Modernist controversy. Petre was born in Margaretting, Essex, England to an old recusant family on her father's side; her mother was a convert. She was a granddaughter of the thirteenth Baron Petre and the fourth Earl of Wicklow and educated privately, including a year in Rome studying scholasticism. In 1890 she joined the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, a religious order that allowed members to live in their own homes and wear street clothing instead of habits. In 1896, she was named a local superior and in 1900 was named provincial. Also in 1900, she began a friendship with the Jesuit priest George Tyrrell, who introduced her to a circle of questioning Catholic intellectuals such as Alfred Loisy, Henri Bremond and Friedrich von Hügel. When Tyrrell was expelled from the Jesuits in 1906, Petre opened her house to him and gave him a stipend.

In 1907, when Petre's book, *Catholicism and Independence: Being Studies in Spiritual Liberty*, was published, Petre was refused permission to renew her vows in the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. Peter Amigo, the then-Bishop of Southwark, refused Petre the sacraments in his diocese shortly thereafter. She dealt with this by worshipping regularly in another diocese. Petre spent the remainder of her life writing books and essays about various topics, such as a biography of her ancestor, the ninth Baron Petre, a study of Modernism, an account of Tyrrell and von Hügel's friendship, as well as a posthumously published study of Loisy. Her autobiography *My Way of Faith* was published in 1937. She died in London at the age of 79.

14

Irene Fitzgibbon, SC (b. May 12, 1823; d. August 14, 1896)

Catherine FitzGibbon was born in London, England, but at the age of nine immigrated to Brooklyn, New York, with her parents. In 1850, she joined the community of the Sisters of Charity at Mount St. Vincent, New York. During her novitiate, she taught at St. Peter's parish school. At that time no public provision was made to take care of abandoned infants who were sent to the municipal charity institutions to be looked after by paupers. Many babies were left at the doors of the sisters' schools and houses. Sister Irene suggested the establishment of a foundling asylum, such as existed in Europe. In 1869, Irene was assigned to carry out her idea. After visiting several cities, she organized a woman's society, which helped her to find a house large enough to house the children.

In 1869, "The Foundling Asylum" was incorporated. In 1891 the name was changed to "The New York Foundling Hospital". Since it opened, 50,000 children have been placed in good homes throughout the country. Homeless and destitute mothers are provided for in addition to caring for the children.

15

Edna Ferber (b. August 15, 1885; d. April 16, 1968)

Edna Ferber was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After graduating from high school in Appleton in 1904, she became the first female journalist for the Appleton *Wisconsin Daily Crescent*. She later worked for the *Milwaukee Journal* and the *Chicago Tribune*. During World War II, she served as a civilian correspondent for the United States Army Air Corps.

Ferber wrote and discarded her first novel in 1911. Her mother retrieved it and sent it to a publisher. Between then and 1968, the year of her death, Ferber wrote 12 more novels, 11 short stories, and 8 plays. Many of the latter were in collaboration with George S. Kaufman. *Showboat*, *Cimarron*, and *Giant* are some of the plays that were made into motion pictures.

All of Edna Ferber's stories depict American life in some way or another. She wrote about the lives of hardworking people on farms, on a Mississippi showboat, and in Texas, Oklahoma, and Alaska. At the time of her death from cancer in 1968, she was working on a novel about Native Americans. Ferber's greatest achievement was winning the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1924 for her novel *So Big*. She was also awarded a Literary Degree from both Columbia University and Adelphi College.

16

Marilyn Waring (b. October 7, 1952)

A New Zealand feminist and activist, Marilyn Waring was, at twenty three, the youngest member of the New Zealand Parliament in 1975. She worked there until 1984, standing her ground on hot issues despite a falling out with the prime minister. Waring made a political name for herself when she withdrew her support from her party and became the decisive vote on the decision to keep New Zealand nuclear weapon-free. Her action led to bringing down the government and a snap election – an election called when the Prime Minister dissolves the legislature midway through a government's mandate.

Since leaving Parliament, Waring has remained active in feminism and "female human rights," especially working with refugees. She also works to support eco-feminism. She authored a book entitled *If Women Counted* and has had a documentary made on her life.

17

Raissa Maritain (b. 1883; d. 1960)

Raissa Maritain was born into a modest but pious Jewish family in Russia. When she was just two, her father moved the family to the Ukraine. As a child she was deeply influenced by the Jewish religion and especially by her grandfather who promoted his faith in a loving and joyous manner. When she ten, the family moved again to France in order to avoid religious persecution. The exile, however, resulted in a loss of faith. Maritain studied at the Sorbonne, where she met another young philosopher, Jacques Maritain, whom she married in 1904. Distressed by their professors' inability to find truth, the couple eventually converted to Roman Catholicism in 1906.

18

Sojourner Truth (b. 1797; d. November 26, 1883)

Sojourner Truth was, among many things, an abolitionist, an orator, a suffragette, and a religious leader. Born Isabella Baumfree in 1797 in Ulster County, New York, she changed her name to Sojourner Truth in 1843 after a religious experience.

Sojourner's early years were spent in slavery on several area estates where she was treated poorly. While waiting for a New York State law abolishing slavery to come into effect in 1827, she married and had five children. Upon discovering in 1826 that her master did not intend to free her, she ran away leaving her family behind. When one of her children was illegally sold to a southern plantation owner, she set a precedent by being the first black person to sue and win a lawsuit against a white man. She won two other important legal milestones as a black: in 1828 she sued and won a slander case against a white couple and, after the Civil War, brought a suit against a streetcar conductor who refused to let her ride, winning the right for blacks to use the Washington, D. C. streetcars.

After 1829, while working in New York City as a domestic to support herself, she became involved in religious activities. In 1843 she traveled throughout New England preaching, ending the year by joining the Northampton Association, a group interested in promoting equality, where she met Frederick Douglass and other social reformers. These associations were a springboard for her involvement in civil rights and women's issues. Her most famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" was given in 1851 in Akron, Ohio, at a women's rights convention in response to a clergyman who was heckling the speakers.

Although illiterate, to help support herself she dictated her life story to a friend, publishing it in 1850 as *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*. Harriet Beecher Stowe promoted the book by writing about it in the *Atlantic Monthly*. During the 1850-60s Sojourner was involved in helping freed blacks and slaves and, after the war, petitioned to have lands set aside in the West for their use. Throughout the 1870s she lectured on civil and women's rights issues. She died in 1883 at her home in Battle Creek, Michigan.

19

Simone Weil (b. March 3, 1909; d. August 24, 1943)

Simone was born in Paris where she obtained a university degree in philosophy. She taught in four different public girls' schools in as many years, being dismissed at least once for refusing to teach the rote

learning the school required. She was drawn to political activity on behalf of workers, and demonstrated with the unemployed and marched with miners. She took a leave from her teaching post and went to work operating a power press, then a stamping press, and finally a milling machine. She came away from her experience with a belief that workers were badly abused.

Her health, always frail, began to deteriorate and she suffered debilitating migraines. At 22, her life took a religious turn when she took a restorative trip to Assisi and felt the pull of God. Seeing the peril they were in as Jews, Simone and her family fled to New York in 1942. From the moment she arrived, she was intent on returning to France to be a part of the Resistance movement. Four months after arriving in the US, she sailed for England to work with the Free French movement. But after only five months, she was hospitalized with tuberculosis. Perhaps because of an ascetic bent, or in solidarity with the ordinary French citizen under Nazi occupation, she failed to eat the food needed for her recovery. She died at the age of 42. She left behind letters and notebooks that were published posthumously. Her political and religious writings show her as an intellectual who refused to be detached from the working people. Her vocation, she said, was “to move among men of every class and complexion, mixing with them and sharing their life and outlook...”

20

Carolee Schneemann (b. October 12, 1939)

Prolific multimedia artist Carolee Schneemann is most well known for her controversial artwork that is said to break down boundaries of sexuality and gender. Schneemann’s far-from-conventional work has gained her international acclaim, and her paintings, photographs, and performance art pieces are displayed in countless galleries and museums. A recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, from the College Art Association, Schneemann has taught at several prominent institutions including New York University and Bard College.

Schneemann is said to be most inspired by the relationship between the artist and the observer, as well as the limitations imposed by suppressive stereotypes and gender roles. With her innovative methods and brutally honest depictions of women in particular, Schneemann has redefined the definition of art. Carolee Schneemann has published numerous books, her most recent being *Imaging Her Erotics*, from MIT Press.

21

Alice Garg (b. 1942)

Though Alice was born into a wealthy family in India, she has made a mission of trying to eradicate the caste system and gender discrimination. She has set up an orphanage and is a prominent figure in her community as a crusader against the abortion of female fetuses and the practice of sati, in which women burn themselves alive on their husband's funeral pyres. She helps women who are victims of or affected by rape, sexual and physical exploitation, violence, discrimination, lack of dowries and divorce.

Alice has continued to work, despite hate crusades against her, the arrest of many of her fellow workers and their physical torture, and being forced to go underground for a time because of trumped up charges of embezzlement, rape, and murder.

22

Queenship of the Virgin Mary

23

Rose of Lima (b. April 20, 1586; d. August 24, 1617)

Born in 1586 in Lima, Peru, Rose decided at a young age to devote her life to God and not to marry. This dashed the hopes of her parents who hoped to secure the financial well-being of their large family by marrying Rose to one of her many wealthy suitors. Despite family pressure, she held fast but supplemented the family income through her sewing. She is reported to have engaged in a number of severe penitential practices even as a child, such as wearing heavy chains under her clothing that cut into her flesh. At her insistence her

parents eventually built her a separated tiny dwelling in their backyard where she lived alone and prayed. She is reputed to have had extraordinary mystical gifts.

Because of her extreme penitential practices, for a long time it was not clear to the Church whether she was a holy woman or a person with serious psychological problems. However, to this day, local people approach her dwelling with written petitions and prayers. She was the first canonized saint of the Americas and is the patron saint of South America and the Philippines.

24

Clara Maass (b. June 28, 1876; d. August 24, 1901)

Born in East Orange, New Jersey, Clara Maas graduated from nursing school at 19. Three years later, she volunteered to serve as a contract nurse with the U.S. Army Medical Department during the Spanish-American War. Over the next two years, she served in Georgia, Florida and Cuba. There she witnessed firsthand the ravages of yellow fever, an acutely infectious disease caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes.

When her tour of duty was up, Maas volunteered again, serving first in the Philippines and then in Cuba. While in Cuba, she became involved in a controversy over the cause of yellow fever. She had volunteered to be part of a yellow fever immunization experiment to determine whether the tropical fever was caused by city filth or a mosquito bite. The theory was that volunteers bitten by a mosquito under controlled conditions would develop a mild case of yellow fever and would thereafter be immune. She survived the first experiment and several months later volunteered again. Unexpectedly, after being bitten, Clara developed a serious case of yellow fever and died ten days later at the age of 25.

25

Sumi Sevilla Haur (b. August 25, 1939)

Sumi Sevilla Haur is a film, television, and theater actress who became involved in labor movements addressing the lack of opportunities and roles for Asians and Pacific Islanders. She co-founded the Screen Actors Guild's Ethnic Employment Opportunities Committee in 1971, which worked to put an affirmative action clause within contracts. Haur has also been a board member of the Screen Actors Guild since 1974 and has served multiple times as the national recording secretary and first vice president. In 1995, Haur started her six-year term as national vice president of the AFL-CIO and became the first Asian American to serve on their executive council. Currently, she serves as president of the Association of Asian Pacific American Artists, executive board member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, and co-chair of the Rainbow Coalition Commission on Fairness in the Media.

26

Women's Equality Day

27

Monica (b. 323; d. 387)

What we know about Monica comes from her son, St. Augustine of Hippo who wrote about her in his Confessions. She was born in North Africa into a mixed marriage. Though a Christian, her husband was a pagan until shortly before his death. In addition to Augustine, who was born when Monica was 31, she had at least two other children, but she followed Augustine wherever he went. Monica and her husband considered education to be important and scraped money together for Augustine. To Monica's displeasure, Augustine entered into a 15-year liaison and had a son. Perhaps even more upsetting, he refused to become a Christian.

When Augustine left Africa with his mistress and son to teach in Milan, Italy, Monica followed. She banished the mistress and tried to arrange a socially advantageous marriage for her son. He found another mistress instead. Finally, Augustine became a Christian and at the same time renounced marriage and career. Monica died the same year that Augustine was baptized.

28

Lydia (Acts 16.14-15,40)

Lydia, an early apostolic church leader became the leader of the house-church in Philippi. She was obviously a business woman in the purple dye trade and of some financial means. When Paul arrives in Philippi she is already a "God-fearer", indicating that she is a Gentile. She is quickly moved by Paul's preaching, which led her and members of her household to be baptized. Afterwards she made her home available to Paul and other Christians.

29

Tz'u-hsi (November 29, 1835- November 15, 1908)

Tz'u-hsi started her adult life as a minor concubine to the Emperor of China. When she gave birth to his only son, she gained more power and prestige. When the Emperor died in 1861, she became a co-regent for her son, along with the Emperor's wife. During her rule, the government regained the power and prestige of earlier times, foreign languages were taught in schools, the military was patterned after Western forces and brought into the current day, and the Taiping and Nien Rebellions were stopped.

After her son died, Tz'u-hsi had her young nephew appointed Emperor and took the role of co-regent for him also, and in 1881, became the main ruler of China. When the nephew, Kuang-hsu achieved maturity, she retired to the countryside but continued to retain power, and worked to stage a military coup. She won, and regained power for a period of time. Her power slowly diminished until the Boxer Rebellion at which time, she was forced to flee and sign a peace treaty. She spent the rest of her life trying to eliminate corruption in China.

30

Blessed Jeanne Jugan (b. October 25, 1792; d. August 30, 1879)

Born in Cancalle, France, Jeanne Jugan's father drowned when she was young and her mother was left to care for eight children. Jeanne went to work for the Viscountess de la Choue, where she was sensitized to economic injustice. She began a very peaceful but insistent ministry to the poor, the unwelcome, and the elderly. The "throwaways" of society were her way to see Christ personified again and again through giving them simple comforts. One of her constant maxims was: "Little Sisters, take care of the aged, for in them you are caring for Christ Himself."

She worked full time to support herself and others through charity and began to attract other young women. A house was opened where they taught catechism and assisted the poor. Her first adoption of the "invalid" was Anne Chauvin an elderly widow who was blind. In 1842, the women added more rules to their way of life and officially chose the name "Servants of the Poor." Jeanne wrote a simple rule for them and herself. Putting aside personal pride, the Little Sisters went door to door every day, asking for food, clothing, and money. Jugan was beatified October 3, 1982.

31

Maria Elena Zavala (b. May 24, 1924; d. July 6, 2004)

As a Mexican American woman, Dr. Zavala overcame many common stereotypes in her pursuit of knowledge in the field of biology. As a professor at California State University, Zavala held an undergraduate degree from Pomona College and earned her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of California, Berkeley.

Zavala's countless accomplishments include serving as director of the MARC/MBRS and Bridges to the Doctorate Program – Minority Access to Research Careers, a program designed to offer mentorship, financial support and research experience to minority students. Zavala was named by Hispanic Banner as one of the one hundred most influential Hispanics in the United States, and was the first female president of SACNAS, the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. Under her direction, SACNAS received the 2002 National Science Board Public Service Award for institutions increasing public

understanding of science and engineering. Dr. Zavala served on numerous national panels, and in 2003 received Local Hero for Education Award from KCET Public Television and Union Bank of California.

September

1

Ela Bhatt (b. September 7, 1933)

Ela Bhatt, a lawyer and a social worker, began SEWA, the Self-Employed Women's Association in India. The word *sewa* means service in Indian. It is now the largest labor union organization in India, working to represent those with even the most menial of jobs, such as rolling cigarettes or selling fruit. SEWA has established itself as a negotiation power and has fought to gain these women security through health, maternity, and death schemes. In 1974, SEWA established a bank in which women can deposit their savings or take out loans, helping to keep them independent from money-lenders and officials who abuse their positions and the populace's faith in them. Bhatt was nominated to the Parliament and served there from 1986 to 1989. She makes a conscious effort to lead her life as an example, living simply and aware of others. She remains a community leader.

2

Annie “Bessie” (b. September 3, 1891; d. September 25, 1995) **and Sarah “Sadie” Delany** (b. September 19, 1889; d. January 25, 1999)

Born of a schoolteacher and America's first elected Black Episcopal bishop, the Delany sisters were able to enjoy educational privileges denied to many African American students. While their father became the vice principal of St. Augustine's College, their mother helped to run the school as well. Thus, the sisters and their eight siblings all received college educations in an era where most African American students were considered lucky to receive high school diplomas.

Having faced racial adversity from a young age, the sisters were not passive about their dislike of the restrictive Jim Crow laws. Bessie Delany, the more rebellious of the sisters, often defied segregation laws; in one case drinking out of a public ladle specifically for Caucasians. After finishing college, the sisters moved to New York City, where Sadie became a science teacher in public schools and Bessie opened an office for dentistry in Harlem.

In 1957 Bessie and Sadie defied another racial limitation by moving to a white suburban neighborhood in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

3

Mother Teresa of Calcutta (b. August 26, 1910; d. September 5, 1997)

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born to Albanian parents in Skopje in 1910. At the age of 18, she entered the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Loretto in Ireland. She trained in Dublin and in Darjiling (Darjeeling), India, before taking her religious vows in 1937. She took the name Teresa from Saint Teresa of Lisieux, the patron saint of foreign missionaries. While serving as principal of a Roman Catholic high school in Calcutta, Mother Teresa was moved by the presence of the sick and dying on the city's streets. In 1948 she was granted permission to leave her post at the convent and begin a ministry among the sick.

In 1950 Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity. In addition to the three basic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, a fourth vow is taken pledging service to the poor, whom Mother Teresa described as the embodiment of Christ. In 1952 they opened the Nirmal Hriday (Pure Heart) Home for Dying Destitutes in Calcutta, India, eventually extending their work to many other parts of the world. In recognition of her efforts, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She was forced to scale back her activities in 1990 because of declining health. In 1997, Sister Nirmala was chosen to succeed her as leader of

the Missionaries of Charity and Mother Teresa died later that year. *Mother Teresa: In My Own Words*, a collection of her anecdotes and quotations, was published in 1996.

4

Gertrud Heinzelmann (b. June 17, 1914; d. September 4, 1999)

Born in Switzerland, Gertrud Heinzelmann was a pioneer in the struggle for equal political rights for the ordination of women in the church. She studied law and politics at Zurich University, although she would have studied theology had it been possible for women at the time. She was active in securing the vote for Swiss women and for women's equality in the Catholic Church. She wrote and published a petition to the Preparatory Commission of Vatican II, a worldwide first, which provided support for women having equal access to the diaconate and priesthood, although it opened her up to much abuse. She continued to write and publish on needed reforms. In her last article she asked, "How many generations of women must become old or die before real progress will take place concerning women in the Roman Catholic Church?"

5

Give Us Bread & Roses, the 1912 Textile Workers Strike

Lawrence, Massachusetts is the site of the 1912 Textile Workers Strike. Europeans first settled in the area in 1640. The site of the city was purchased in 1845 by a group of Boston industrialists headed by the American businessman and Congressman Abbott Lawrence, the community's namesake. The industrialists intended to establish textile mills near a source of abundant waterpower. However, working conditions in factories were unsafe and in 1860 a factory collapsed and killed 88 workers.

In 1912 the "Bread and Roses" strike, one of the major labor actions of American history, began when textile mill owners increased the speed of factory looms and lowered wages for thousands of women and child workers. The state's National Guard and private and city police were sent in against 23,000 strikers for two months, resulting in numerous deaths and mass arrests. When police and militia assaulted a group of women and children, public outcry helped force mill owners to capitulate. The striking workers won wage increases for themselves and thousands of workers in New England mills.

6

Jane Addams (b. September 6, 1860; d. May 21, 1935)

Jane Addams won worldwide recognition in the first third of the twentieth century as a pioneer social worker in America, as a feminist, and as an internationalist. Jane Addams, one of the first generation of women to attend college, was born in Cedarville, Illinois and educated at Rockford Female Seminary and Women's Medical College and in Europe. At the age of twenty-seven, during a second tour to Europe with her friend Ellen G. Starr, she visited a settlement house, Toynbee Hall in London's East End. This visit encouraged her to found a similar house in an underprivileged area of Chicago. In 1889 she and Miss Starr established Hull House.

By its second year of existence, Hull House was host to two thousand people every week. There were kindergarten classes in the morning, club meetings for older children in the afternoon, and for adults in the evening more clubs or courses in what became virtually a night school.

Addams played a prominent part in the formation of the National Progressive Party in 1912 and of the Woman's Peace Party, of which she became chairperson in 1915. She was elected president of the International Congress of Women at The Hague, Netherlands in and president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which was established by The Hague congress. Addams also received the first honorary degree ever awarded to a woman by Yale University. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, sharing the award with the American educator Nicholas Murray Butler.

Her works include *Democracy and Social Ethics* (1902), *Newer Ideals of Peace* (1907), *Twenty Years at Hull House* (1910), and *The Second Twenty Years at Hull House* (1930).

7

Kiran Bedi (b. June 9, 1949)

Kiran Bedi is recognized as a revolutionary in Asia. She was the first woman to graduate from the Indian Police Academy where her reputation became synonymous with fairness. She also worked as Special Secretary to the Lt. Governor of Delhi. Bedi is known for her courage and her unwillingness to back down from her beliefs, despite coming frequently into conflict with the establishment and her superiors. She was awarded the Asian Nobel Prize in 1994 for her work championing human rights and everyone's ability, regardless of their position in life, to work for positive changes.

Bedi is perhaps the most well known for her work in the Asia Pacific's largest security prison, Tihar Prison in Delhi. Tihar Prison was known for its corruption, flourishing drug trade within the prison walls, and its basic denial of human rights to the 8,500 prisoners. Bedi chose to take a hands-on approach at the prison. She visited and talked to prisoners, set up a system for them to voice their complaints, and improved sanitation and nutrition. She also instituted literacy programs and encouraged prayer and meditation. Bedi has become a role model for women, showing them that it is possible to hold onto one's morals and work hard and still rise into places of power and prestige despite gender stereotyping and difficult circumstances.

8

Birth of Mary

This feast is connected with the basilica constructed in the fifth century on the site of the pool at Bethesda. This is the supposed home of Ann and Joachim and where the basilica of St. Ann stands today. The feast was introduced by Pope Sergius I around 701. There are apocryphal accounts of Mary's birth, such as the gospel of pseudo-Matthew and another by St. Jerome. This feast opens the liturgical year in the East and was celebrated with an octave by Pope Innocent IV and with a vigil under Pope Gregory XI.

9

Louise Thompson Patterson (b. September 9, 1901; d. August 27, 1999)

Louise Thompson was born in Chicago but after enduring a severe case of measles, she and her mother headed for a warmer climate, settling in Berkley, California. She became one of the first African American women to attend and graduate from the University of Berkley. After graduation, Louise realized that racial and gender discrimination made it difficult for an African American woman to get a well-paying job, regardless of higher education.

She eventually became a teacher at the Hampton Institute in Virginia, joining the political protests there. Louise's political activities began to focus upon the Harlem Renaissance. She became involved with political work in Europe, including joining in on an anti-Semitism conference in Paris, which aimed to decrease anti-Semitism in Europe, prior to the start of World War Two. As she aged, Louise remained active in political and social causes before dying at the age of 97.

10

Lillian Wald (b. March 10, 1867; d. September 1, 1940)

In 1889, Lillian Wald met a young nurse who impressed her so much that she decided to study nursing at New York City Hospital. She graduated and, at the age of 22, entered Women's Medical College studying to become a doctor. At the same time, she volunteered to provide nursing services to the immigrants and the poor living on New York's Lower East Side. Visiting pregnant women, the elderly, and the disabled in their homes, Wald came to the conclusion that there was a crisis in need of immediate redress. She dropped out of medical school and moved into a house on Henry Street in order to live among those who so desperately needed help. In 1893, she organized the Henry Street Settlement, otherwise known as the Visiting Nurse Society (VNS) of New York. The VNS program became the model for similar entities across America and the world.

Wald went on to help organize other public health nursing programs in universities and for organizations, including the American Red Cross. She was the first president of the National Organization of Public Health Nurses, a professional group she helped to create. Recognizing that the urban poor had great needs beyond health care, Wald expanded Henry Street services to include social services, especially those benefiting children. She led the charge to abolish child labor, and helped secure the creation of the federal Children's Bureau in 1912. She lobbied successfully to change the divorce laws so the abandoned spouse in a marriage could receive compensation in the form of alimony. She helped form the Women's Trade Union League to protect women and prevent their having to work in "sweatshop" conditions.

Another of Wald's major achievements was persuading Columbia University to appoint the first professor of nursing at a U.S. college or university. Until that time, nursing had been taught in hospitals and consisted largely of supervised work experience. Thanks to Wald, most nursing education now takes place in universities, augmented by practical experience in a teaching hospital. By the time she reached her fifties, Wald began to receive some of the recognition that she deserved. In 1922, she was named in the New York Times as one of the twelve greatest living American women. Ten years later, in 1932, she was chosen by historian J. Addams as one of the top twelve American women leaders in the past century. In 1936, she received the Lincoln Medallion and was proclaimed the Outstanding Citizen of New York.

11

Remember Worldwide Victims of Terrorism

12

Ngoan Le

A refugee from Vietnam, Ngoan Le is the founder of the Asian American Institute in Chicago and was the first Executive Director of the Vietnamese Association of Illinois. She is working to help the homeless and provide complete housing for all in a ten year plan.

13

Antonia Pantoja (b. September 13, 1922; d. May 24, 2004)

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, her early childhood was marked by hunger, want, and disease. After receiving a Normal School Diploma, she taught school in Puerto Rico before moving to New York City in 1944. There she worked in a factory and involved herself in union organizing and workers' rights. While a graduate student at Columbia in 1953, she founded the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs (PRACA), a social service organization that also championed leadership development and women's issues. In 1958, she established the Puerto Rican Forum and in 1961 founded ASPIRA, a national organization dedicated to education and leadership formation of youth.

In 1970, Pantoja founded the Puerto Rican Research and Resource Center and established Universidad Boricua, the first and only Puerto Rican controlled bilingual university. In 1985, Pantoja returned to Puerto Rico to launch PRODUCIR, which serves the poor in rural areas by creating its own cottage industries to generate employment, and a credit union to provide economic stability. In 1997, she became the first Hispanic woman to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

14

Catherine of Genoa (b. April 5, 1447; d. September 14, 1510)

The daughter of a noble Ligurian family, St. Catherine was the youngest child of James Fieschi and Francesca di Negro. She tried to enter the convent when she was 13, but was turned away due to her young age. She was married at 16 to Giuliano Adorno, her social equal. The couple led the life expected of people of their class for about ten years. A mystical experience reawakened Catherine's earlier faith, and she eventually inspired her husband, who later became a Franciscan tertiary, to reform his life. In 1479, the couple moved into

the Pammatone hospital, of which Catherine became the director in 1490. She nearly died of the plague in 1493 and resigned her post three years later because of ill health. Two years after Giuliano's death, Catherine met Don Cattaneo Marabotto, her spiritual director. During the last nine years of her life, she had several mystical visions and was quite ill. The two works for which she is known, *Spiritual Dialogues* and the *Treatise on Purgatory*, were originally published in 1551 as her Life and Doctrine. These are based on records of her teachings, and some doubt her authorship for this reason. Benedict XIV canonized her in 1737.

Adapted from Karen Rae Keck

15

Shirley Graham du Bois (b. November 11, 1896; d. March 27, 1977)

Shirley Graham was born on a farm that was a former stop on the Underground Railroad and had been run by her grandfather, a former slave. She wrote biographies of famous African-Americans and worked as the Head of the Fine Arts Department at Tennessee State College, while becoming renowned as a playwright and dramatist. The second wife of W.E.B. du Bois, she joined him in advocating civil rights and social reform. After his death in 1963, Shirley moved from Ghana (where she and her husband had been living) to Cairo, where she lived for many years after being denied entrance back into United States because of her and her husband's work.

16

Mary Beth Edelson (b. 1935)

Mary Beth Edelson is a feminist artist dedicated to exploring the idea behind the feminine identity, using posters, graphics, photography and sculpture. She has dedicated over 30 years to this work, gaining influence in the world of art and feminist activism. She began the Goddess movement in the 1970s and has created works of art aimed at increasing the awareness of women artists in history.

17

Hildegard of Bingen (b. September 16, 1098; d. September 17, 1179)

In 1098 Hildegard was the tenth child born to a noble family in Bermersheim near Alzey. At age eight she was sent to live in a convent of which she became abbess at age 38. In one of her numerous visions she received the order to found a convent in the place where St. Rupert had lived. Together with eighteen nuns she moved to the new abbey at the Rupertsberg near Bingen in 1150. Because of the always growing number of sisters Hildegard had to set up another convent. She found a possibility in a vacant monastery in Eibingen on the other side of the Rhine. In 1165 she bought and restored it.

Hildegard was one of the most important personalities of the Middle Ages. Besides religious subjects which she treated in her book *Scivias*, she dealt with the description of nature and naturopathy and wrote important books about these topics. She wrote numerous spiritual songs, as well as the moral play, *Ordo virtutum*. It is astonishing that she undertook several journeys in spite of her weakness in order to preach, to reform monasteries, and to persuade priests and laymen to a Christian life.

18

Helen Zia (b. 1952)

Helen Zia is an award winning Chinese American journalist and scholar, who has been an activist for women's rights and social justice for many years. She has testified before the U.S Commission on Civil Rights on the racial impact of the news media and was a delegate of the 1995 UN World Congress on Women in Beijing. She advocates diversity in the media and works for the end of anti-Asian violence. She is also an activist on behalf of women's and gay rights. Zia authored the book *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*, which Bill Clinton quoted in two separate speeches during his time as president.

19

LaDonna Harris (b. February 26, 1931)

LaDonna was born on a Comanche allotment in Oklahoma to a Comanche mother and Irish-American father. Her parents split up shortly after her birth and she was reared by her mother's parents with a traditional Comanche upbringing. She married Fred Harris in 1949. He served in the Oklahoma State Senate in the early 1960s, and as a senator's wife, LaDonna worked to improve the lives of Native Americans in her state. In 1965 she organized a meeting of 60 tribal representatives to discuss ways to overcome poverty and discrimination. In 1970 she founded and later became president of Americans for Indian Opportunity, an intertribal force in the economic development of Indian communities. LaDonna has served in many federal positions.

20

Billie Jean King (b. November 22, 1943)

King, an avid softball player as a child, was pressured by her father to begin playing tennis once she turned eleven, as he thought her favorite sport to be unladylike. King took an instant liking to tennis, and began competing in tournaments. By age sixteen, King was ranked nineteenth in the country and was under the tutelage of tennis legend Alice Marble. Under Marble's instruction King soon rose to the fourth ranking. In 1961 King won her first Wimbledon title, going on to win seven more times, as well as winning the U.S Open in 1967, 1971, 1972, and 1974. King also had several wins in the Australian Open and French Open.

She soon rose to celebrity status as she became an icon for women's athletics. Her fame culminated in 1973, when she challenged male tennis player Bobby Riggs. Riggs, having made numerous remarks about the inferiority of female athletes to male athletes, was viewed as being sexist and chauvinistic, and so the match between them became known as "The Battle of the Sexes." When King beat Riggs in the most-viewed tennis match in history, she was quoted to say, "This is the culmination of a lifetime in the sport. Tennis has always been reserved for the rich, the whites, the males—and I've always been pledged to change all that."

After her victory over Riggs, King went on to help found The Women's Tennis Association, which was instrumental in the U.S Open granting equal prizes for men and women. King was also a founder of the Women's Sports Foundation and of Women Sports Magazine. In 1973, after King defeated Riggs in such a highly publicized match, Sports Illustrated Magazine did not name a Sportsman of the Year, but instead awarded King the title of Sportswoman of the Year.

21

Pray for World Peace

22

Phua Xiong (unknown birth and death dates)

Phua Xiong came to America with her family when she was five years old, seeking refuge from the Communist soldiers of Laos, where she was born. She is now one of America's three women Hmong physicians and treats Southeast Asian and other minority groups, taking care to make no distinction between her patients' social and racial backgrounds. She went against traditional Hmong practice and didn't get married until she was in her twenties, and decided not to become a housewife or solely a mother, but a doctor instead.

23

Mary Church Terrell (b. September 23, 1863; d. July 24, 1954)

Mary Eliza Church was born in Memphis, Tennessee to former slaves who became the first black, Memphis millionaires. Mary Church married Robert Terrell in 1891, a young lawyer, and they raised three children. She was a tireless activist for women's rights and a prolific writer. Terrell had been galvanized into action after the lynching of her childhood friend Thomas Moss, and dedicated her life to social justice. She was

involved for many years in the women's suffrage movement and was a founder of the Colored Women's League, and later, the NAACP. Her biography, *A Colored Woman in a White World*, was a compilation of her journals and writing about social ills over many years.

24

Sr. Dorothy Stang S.N.D., (b. July 7, 1931; d. February 12, 2005)

Sister Dorothy Stang was an American-born, Brazilian member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She worked as an advocate for the rural poor by helping them learn how to farm as well as protecting them from criminal gangs. Sr. Stang was murdered in Anapu, a city in the state of Pará, in the Amazon Basin of Brazil as she walked to a community meeting. Two men stopped her on the path, asking if she had any weapons on her. She replied that her only weapon was her Bible. They shot her six times. She had been outspoken in her efforts on behalf of the poor and the environment, and had previously received death threats from loggers and landowners. The two men were charged, tried, and found guilty.

25

Yuri Kochiyama (b. May 19, 1921; d. June 1, 2014)

While growing up, Yuri Kochiyama, like many other Japanese-Americans, was imprisoned in an internment camp during World War Two. While there, she recognized the parallels between African American and Japanese American segregation. Upon being released from the camp, she moved to Harlem with her family and began working with grassroots organizations to create safer streets and to foster grassroots education. She joined the Organization for Afro-American Unity and continued to work for dignity and equality for all people and races.

26

Mary Brave Bird (aka Mary Crow Dog) (b. September 26, 1954; d. February 14, 2013)

Mary Brave Bird was born in 1953, on the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota. She grew up fatherless in a one room cabin without running water or electricity. She rebelled against the aimless drinking, punishing missionary school, narrow structures for women, and the violence and hopelessness of reservation life. Mary Brave Bird joined the new movement of tribal pride among the Native American communities in the sixties and seventies and married Leonard Crow Dog, the movement's chief medicine man. It was during this time that she wrote *Lakota Women* which documented the life of Native Americans and their struggles. It is also a deeply moving account of a woman's struggle to survive in a hostile world.

27

Liu Sola (b. 1955)

Liu Sola was born in Beijing to a high ranking family who were once members of the revolutionary army before they were sentenced to work as farmers for twenty years for "re-education." She is known by China's "lost generation" (those born during or after China's Cultural Revolution, similar to the poets, intellectuals, writers, artists and others who sought a bohemian refuge in Paris after World War One) as a best-selling musician and writer and one of their premier voices. Liu is recognized by the international community as one of the most important artists of our time and for her work promoting a more tolerant art community in Asia and especially China.

28

Ada Deer (b. 1935)

Ada Deer of the Menominee tribe is best known for leading the fight for federal recognition for her tribe. The government passed an act terminating her tribe in 1953, which plunged the tribe into poverty. In

1970, Deer and others created Determination of Rights and Unity for Menominee Shareholders (DRUMS). After 3 years of hard lobbying, their land was restored. In 1993, Deer became the first woman Assistant Secretary of the Interior in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

29

Gabriela Silang (b. March 19, 1731; d. September 29, 1763)

During the Spanish occupation of the Philippines, a number of armed protests for freedom, or *alzamientos*, took place. These were triggered by tribute collection, forced labor and other abuses by Spanish officials. The Great Rebellion was led by Diego Silang who was murdered as a result on May 28, 1763. His wife, Maria Josefa Gabriela Silang, carried on the fight until she also lost her life for the cause on September 29, 1763.

30

Ruth Cheney Streeter (b. October 2, 1895; d. September 30, 1990)

On July 30, 1942, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed; Ruth Streeter was the first Director. She served on the Women's Reserve from February 13, 1943 until she resigned on December 7, 1945. The purpose of the Women's Reserve was to take many of the positions that men held, in order to free them for combat duty. Ruth worked to strengthen her position and to put women Marines on the same ground as their male counterparts, and to help them gain respect for the jobs they did. She became the highest-ranking woman officer in the United States Marines in World War Two and the first woman to hold the rank of major in the Marine Corps.

After the war, Ruth returned to her native Morristown, New Jersey and remained active in her community, including becoming a member of the New Jersey Constitutional Convention and serving as the first woman president of the Morris County Welfare Board.

October

1

Therese of Lisieux, OCD (b. January 2, 1873; d. September 30, 1897)

Thérèse Martin was born in a simple house in the rue de Saint Blaise, Alençon, France. Her mother's death in 1877 caused the family to move to Lisieux, where their aunt was living. The Martin sisters were all to enter the Carmelite convent at Lisieux, Thérèse at the age of fifteen. As Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus, she lived a hidden life. Terese did nothing spectacular in the convent, and the possibility of moving with others to the foundation of Carmel at Hanoi in Vietnam was prevented by the onset of the tuberculosis.

She is known for her 'Little Way' – the faithful following of the Carmelite rule in the spirit of a continuous search for the gift of charity. She died in 1897 at the age of 24, and would probably have remained unknown were it not for her writing *The Story of a Soul*, which was edited by one of her sisters. The phenomenal success of this work established it as a kind of fifth gospel. Therese described her life as "a little way of spiritual childhood." She lived each day with unshakable confidence in God's love and the assurance that what matters in life is "not great deeds, but great love."

"My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death," she said; "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." She has been acclaimed the "greatest saint of modern times." Everywhere in the world people continue to claim her intercession by the appearance of roses. She was canonized in 1925.

2

Kathe Kollwitz (b. July 8, 1867; d. April 22, 1945)

Kathe Kollwitz was a German painter, printmaker, and sculptor whose work offered an eloquent and often searing account of the human condition in the first half of the 20th century. Her empathy for the less fortunate, expressed most famously through the graphic means of drawing, etching, lithography, and woodcut, embraced the victims of poverty, hunger, and war. Initially her work was grounded in Naturalism, and later took on Expressionistic qualities.

3

Penny Lernoux (b. January 6, 1940; d. October 9, 1989)

Penny Lernoux was for many years the Latin American correspondent of the National Catholic Reporter and a writer for many other periodicals. She won a wider audience with her book *Cry of the People* (1980), a study of U.S. government support of murderous regimes in El Salvador, Nicaragua and other Latin American countries. Her 1984 book, *In Banks We Trust*, acutely explored the political origins of the 1980s debt crisis in international banking. Lernoux was in the middle of writing *Hearts on Fire: The Story of the Maryknoll Sisters* when she succumbed to cancer. The book was completed by her editor Arthur Jones and Robert Ellsberg using her outlines and interview notes. Penny was honored posthumously with the Lippard Award for Distinguished Service to Religious Journalism in 1990. The Americas Resource Center in Minneapolis has a library with her name.

4

Dr. Kek Galabru (b. October 4, 1942)

Dr. Kek Galabru became a doctor in 1968, in France and immediately began working in underprivileged countries such as Brazil, Angola and Cambodia. Dr. Galabru has supported and stood for human rights in Cambodia for many years. She started the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), and worked with the UN to ensure a better government. She and the LICADHO have worked to stop child prostitution and child labor and have helped to improve the conditions in the prisons and have provided medical care for any and all who need it in Cambodia. They provide food and representation for those serving sentences or the wrongly accused. LICADHO continues to monitor and watch for abuses of human rights.

5

Maya Lin (b. Oct. 10, 1959)

Maya Lin is known as the architect who designed the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial when she was only 21 years old. She ignored controversy and negative feedback regarding her heritage and the aesthetics of her design to create one of America's most well-known attractions. Since then she has developed other monuments as well.

6

Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt (b. 1933; d. October 6, 2013)

Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt was a founding board member of Mary's Pence. She was a strong advocate for women's rights and especially the women's ordination movement. She was also a national leader of the Sageing Guild in support of elders. Muschal-Reinhardt was always an advocate and supporter of poor and marginalized persons, and above all her family came first.

7

Our Lady of the Rosary, Guatemala

According to popular tradition, the Virgin Mary traveled through America and the Child fell asleep when they reached Guatemala, which is where they stayed. The image of Our Lady of the Rosary, made of pure silver, dates back to 1592. Her devotees claim that the coloring of her face changes whenever there is a conflict or some national misfortune is imminent. In 1821 the leaders of the independence movement proclaimed her patroness of the new nation, and they took an oath before her image that they would not rest until they freed Guatemala.

The Virgin of the Rosary was solemnly declared "Queen of Guatemala" in 1833 and was crowned canonically on January 26, 1934 in a huge ceremony in the principal plaza of Guatemala in front of the cathedral. The ceremony had to be held in the open because there was no church large enough to hold the multitude that had gathered. The crown, which Archbishop Luis Durou placed on the head of the blessed image is a valuable silver jewel with which the people of Guatemala wanted to show their devotion and enthusiasm for their patroness. The church and convent of St. Dominic, current shrine of the Virgin of the Rosary, was begun in 1788 and completed in 1808. October, the month dedicated to the rosary, is the most popular and important religious happening for the Guatemalan people and nation.

8

Vilma Martinez (b. October 17, 1943)

Hispanic civil rights activist Vilma Martinez battled racial prejudice her entire life. People often told her she was not capable of accomplishing her dreams because of her ethnicity. However, Martinez's determination and perseverance to overcome stereotypes while helping others has resulted in a success many thought her incapable of as a female minority.

When she was only twenty nine, Martinez transformed a small civil rights organization into a nationally recognized political force. Under her leadership, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund gained the authority to end educational segregation for Latin American students and to advocate the expansion of the Voting Rights Act to include protection for Mexican Americans. Martinez has formed numerous youth programs, and began a nationwide program urging Latin Americans to participate in the census. Martinez served as President of the University Of California Board Of Regents, and continues today to litigate in state and federal courts in issues of employment and commercial discrimination.

9

Mary Josephine Rogers (b. October 27, 1882; d. October 9, 1955)

Mary Josephine Rogers was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and attended Smith College, where she specialized in zoology. While at Smith, she organized a Mission Study Club for the Catholic students. From 1908, when she returned to Boston from Smith, until 1912, she devoted all her spare time to assisting Father James Walsh in the work of mission education. In 1911, Father Walsh and Father Thomas Frederick Price were commissioned by the Bishops of the United States to begin a seminary to train American young men for the foreign missions, which would be known as Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

Rogers was chosen to direct a small group of women under Father Walsh's guidance: The Foreign Mission Sisters of St. Dominic, generally called the Maryknoll Sisters. At the first General Chapter in 1925, she was elected Mother General. Mother Mary Joseph served until her retirement in 1946. At that time, the Congregation numbered 733 and the Sisters were working in the Orient and Latin America, as well as with ethnic and racial groups in the United States. Reverence and esteem for Mother Mary Joseph extended far beyond the community she founded as is evidenced by the honorary degrees bestowed on her.

The Maryknoll Sisters became a Pontifical Institute in 1954 and the name of the Congregation was changed to Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic.

10

Aparna Basnyat (unknown birth date)

Aparna Basnyat was born in Nepal but traveled throughout the world and the United States with her family, because of her father's work with the United Nations. While attending college at Tufts University, she spent her summers in Nepal interviewing women and girls who had been sold as sexual slaves. After returning to the United States, she presented her research frequently and helped to bring about international focus to the issue of forced prostitution and how a newly developing nation can protect its vulnerable citizens.

11

Eleanor Roosevelt (b. October 11, 1884; d. November 7, 1962)

Eleanor Roosevelt was the daughter of Anna and Elliott Roosevelt, the younger brother of President Teddy Roosevelt. She was born in New York City and lost both parents at a young age. Her grandmother sent her to boarding school in England where she was transformed from a shy girl into a lady of social grace. After her return to America, she was introduced to her distant cousin, Franklin Roosevelt and they were married in 1903. They had six children, one of whom died in infancy.

Franklin was a New York state senator before becoming the Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913. Eleanor became first lady in 1933 and was the first president's wife to hold press conferences of her own, give radio broadcasts, lecture, and write a syndicated column, which she titled "My Way." After her husband died in 1945, she served as the American spokesperson of the newly formed United Nations. She is known as the most influential first lady of the 20th Century and a tireless advocate for human rights.

12

Our Lady Aparecida, Brazil

In October of 1717, the Count of Assumar was passing through Guarantingueta, a small city in the Paraiba river valley. The people of Guarantingueta decided to hold a great feast of fish to honor the Count. They fished however, without catching anything. Among the fishermen were three men who always prayed to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, "Mother of God and our Mother, we need to find fish!" one of them is said to have prayed. A short time later, they netted the body of a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and then the head. They wrapped it in some cloths and continued to fish. From this moment on, the net became very full with fish. This was the first miracle of Our Lady Aparecida.

It is not known how the small statue came to rest at the bottom of the river, but its artist is known, Frei Agostino de Jesus, a "carioca" monk from Sao Paulo who created artistic clay sculptures. The image was made around 1650. In 1930 Pope Pius XII proclaimed Our Lady Aparecida principal patroness of Brazil. Her feast on October 12 is a national holiday. Pope John Paul II visited the Virgin Aparecida in her much frequented sanctuary and gave it the title of Basilica. A few days before the visit, someone got hold of the statue and threw it forcibly on the floor. Although the frail image was broken into many pieces, the loving and careful work of several artists put it together again and the Virgin, Aparecida returned to her niche in the Basilica.

13

Mary Williams (b. February 18, 1874; d. October 22, 1962)

After graduating from Wellesley College in 1897, Mary Williams began to work as a research economist for the Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston, in her native state of Massachusetts. She continued to work in a variety of public service roles including Superintendent of the Women's Parole Department, Secretary of the Commission on Minimum Wage Legislation for Massachusetts, and Zone Chief of the American Red Cross's Bureau of Refugees in France.

In 1928, Eleanor Roosevelt pleaded for William's help in organizing women within the Democratic Party. After that, she became close politically and socially to the Roosevelt family. In 1933, she was appointed director of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee and then the director of the General

Advisory Committee of the Women's Division. Williams continued to head women's rights campaigns within the party and fought for equal rights in politics and society, regardless of gender.

14

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz (b. November 12, 1651; d. April 17, 1695)

Raised by her maternal grandfather who taught her to read and write, Sor Juana was sent to live in Mexico City when her grandfather died. In 1664 she was presented at court and became a lady in waiting. However, she desired to live alone and continue her studies and at age 19 went to live with the Discalced Carmelites. However, a year and a half later, she took her vows at the convent of San Jeronimo, an order known for its leniency. Her convent cell became an intellectual center, a site for salons among the city's elite. Sor Juana wrote music and poetry and avoided theological topics until 1690. At that time she defended women's biblical and theological rights to an education and wrote about the benefits to society when women are educated, especially by older women. She was silenced by the archbishop and wrote no more public essays.

15

Teresa of Avila (b. March 28, 1515; d. October 4, 1582)

Also known as St. Teresa of Jesus, Teresa was a mystic with a gift of deep prayer. She was born in Spain during the time of the Reformation in Germany. As a young woman, she was more interested in romance novels and fashion than in religion. She chose at age 21 to enter the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation, which was much like a social club for women. After 20 years of visitors, gossip, games, and feasting, Teresa realized that she longed for a life of prayer, silence, and fasting. She asked and received permission to found a community of discalced, shoeless, sisters who wore simple sandals and shared chores. In her convent in Avila, Spain, she was said to pray so intensely, she would float in the air.

When the Carmelite Father General visited her convent, he was so impressed, he asked Theresa to establish discalced houses for men. This is how she met John of the Cross, a man who shared her passion for prayer and simplicity. Teresa wrote a great deal and her books about the spiritual life are considered classics. For her scholarship, she is considered a doctor of the church, the first woman to be given the title. Mary's Pence traditionally announces the annual grantees on her feast day.

16

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins (b. 1844; d. October 16, 1891)

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins was known as a Native American Educator, lecturer, tribal leader and writer. Her writings described the Northern Paiute way of life and how they were impacted by the white settlers. She was involved in both the Paiute War of 1860 and the Bannock War of 1878. First she attempted the role of peacemaker after she lost several family members during the war. Later the US Army used her skills as an interpreter and scout. After leading a group of Paiutes, including her father, to safety during the Bannock War, she was awarded tribal honors for bravery.

In 1879 and the early 1880s Sarah toured San Francisco and the East Coast, giving lectures that protested the official government policy toward Native Americans. She was promised that the land would be returned to her tribe but the promises were never fulfilled. Hopkins later returned to Nevada to found a Paiute school, but her attempts were cut short through lack of finances and ill health.

17

Mae C. Jemison (b. October 17, 1956)

While Jemison has numerous impressive accomplishments to her name, she is most well known for being the first female African American astronaut and the first female African American in space. Long before her training as an astronaut, Jemison studied at Stanford University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. After leaving Stanford, Jemison attended Cornell University where she studied

medicine, and received a Doctor of Medicine degree. During this period of her life, Jemison traveled to Cuba, Kenya and Thailand where she acted as a doctor to those in need.

After providing medical care to people in the aforementioned areas, Jemison joined the Peace Corps, where she was stationed in Sierra Leone and Liberia as a Peace Corps medical officer. While serving as medical officer, Jemison acted as supervisor to the pharmacy, laboratory and medical staff, as well as writing self-care manuals and providing medical care. During this time Jemison also was active in researching vaccines for the Center for Disease Control.

Following her return from the Peace Corps, Jemison applied to NASA for acceptance into their astronaut training program, and was one of fifteen chosen out of two thousand applicants. After successfully completing her training, Jemison participated in a mission that conducted experiments in life sciences, making her the first African American woman to go into space. Throughout her life, Jemison had been an advocate for African Americans and their roles in researching modern technology.

18

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro (b. October 18, 1929)

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was born in Rivas, Nicaragua into a comfortable middle class family. She was educated for a few years in the United States, but returned home when her father died suddenly. She never finished her education. In 1950 she married Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, an editor at his family's newspaper, *La Prensa*, which was critical of the Somoza dictatorship. Cardenal was assassinated on January 10, 1978 in Managua. His death was attributed to Somoza and sparked 18 months of civil war.

In 1990, the Sandinista government agreed to hold elections. At that time, Chamorro was chosen as the presidential candidate of the National Opposition Union. Her campaign pledge was to end the military draft and seek national reconciliation. From 1990-1997, Chamorro was the president of Nicaragua. She was known for her ability to raise significant aid grants from 17 countries including the United States to help salvage the waning economy. However, she continued to face opposition from both the Sandinistas and the United States-backed Contras. Chamorro was succeeded by Arnoldo Aleman in 1996.

19

Ellen Malcolm (b. February 2, 1947)

In 1985, Ellen Malcolm founded EMILY'S List, which stands for Early Money is Like Yeast (it makes the dough rise), a grassroots organization that gives financial support to Democratic women candidates, helping them to create strong campaigns. EMILY'S List has become the means behind many minority women being elected into state and national offices.

Malcolm was the press secretary for the National Women's Political Caucus and she joined the Carter White House staff. She was active in public service in Washington, DC for thirty years. She has been named one of the most influential women in America and one of America's most important women.

20

Mary Joel Kolmer, Shirley Kolmer, Kathleen McGuire, Agnes Mueller, Barbara Ann Muttra

The following account is from the testimony before the House International Relations Committee on March 14, 2001 by Stephanie Mertens, Coordinator, Peace and Justice Office of the order of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ to which all five belonged.

Sister Shirley Kolmer, 61, was a leader, a person of vision. She loved and taught math in grade, high, and university in the US and in Liberia. She was a jovial spirit. Part of her ministry in the US included being friend and companion to young women in the US preparing to enter religious life. Sister also served as provincial of the order. She challenged all Adorers to be women of prayer and to work for justice.

Sister Joel, 58, was an educator, a person with a great smile, a sparkle in her eye, and hearty laughter. She was artistic, creative. She taught religion and did parish ministry. She was in charge of candidates from Liberia for the order.

Sister Barbara Ann Muttra, 69, was a nurse with a great love for the infants. She was compassionate, energetic, and very active. She collected medicines and food for the poor. She cared for babies. She helped Liberian mothers learn child care. She founded clinics.

Sister Agnes Mueller, 62, loved to read and discover ideas. She was a nurse and religious educator. She was especially concerned about helping women. She was doing literacy programs with the people.

Sister Kathleen McGuire, 54, had a very great sense of hospitality. She helped the child soldiers of Liberia cope with the trauma of war. During her work for justice in the US she organized Sanctuary ministry to help refugees fleeing to the US for safety from violence in Guatemala.

The five women lived in a convent in Gardnersville. For some months it had been clear that the deteriorating situation posed grave danger to the sisters. The sisters, fully conscious of the danger, resolved to stay in order to serve the people who had nowhere to go. The sisters remained in harm's way for the sake of charity and solidarity with the people. It was not long after their deaths that it became clear that they were truly "Martyrs of Charity", a term first used by John Paul II on November 1, 1992 at his noon address.

I will now describe the events that led to their deaths. The night of October 20, a security guard at the convent said he was worried about his family. Two of the sisters, Barbara Ann and Joel, agreed to drive him home. On the way they picked up two ECOMOG soldiers. The sisters did not return from the trip and the other sisters feared the worst. Later it was learned that the two sisters had been killed.

On October 21, the sisters and the young women with them, packed some belongings into a car with a view to moving into Monrovia, but they were afraid to leave because of the intense shooting all day. On October 23, at about 5:00 p.m., NPFL soldiers arrived. Five of them entered the Convent grounds under the command of C.O. Mosquito. He ordered everybody out of the Convent. Mosquito said he was going to kill all the white people. Sister Shirley begged him not to kill the Sisters. Sister Kathleen went towards the gate in order to open it. As she did so, Mosquito shot her in the forearm. She fell and he then shot her fatally in the neck.

Sister Shirley was ordered to bring the car keys and any money she had. She entered the convent and came back with the keys and the Liberian Dollars which she offered to Mosquito. He took the keys and demanded American dollars. She told him she had none. All were then ordered outside the fence where Sisters Shirley and Agnes were told to step to one side from the others. At that point another soldier, Black Devil, fatally shot Agnes and Shirley. They died instantly.

Here in the states the first alert that the sisters were in imminent danger came on October 28, 1992. Their deaths were confirmed by Church and State Department Officials on October 31, 1992. On All Saints Day November 1, 1992, the Adorers Convent Mass in Ruma, Illinois was for all of the martyred Sisters. On November 5, 1992 a Mass honoring the five sisters, was held at the diocesan Cathedral with over 2000 people present.

21

St. Ursula (Martyr, Third Century) (unknown birth date; d. 383 AD)

There are many legends of St. Ursula and her companions. Most portray her as a young British princess who, with 11,000 companions, sailed up the Rhine River to make a pilgrimage to Rome. They left their ships near Cologne and when they returned from Rome, they were martyred by the Huns, who had captured the city. The story was popular in the Middle Ages and St. Ursula came to be seen as a leader of all women and a rousing teacher. When Angela Merici founded the first order of religious women dedicated to teaching children, she named the new community the Ursulines after St. Ursula.

22

Reverend Barbara C. Harris (unknown birth date)

Since her ordination as a priest in 1980, Bishop Harris has served as an advocate for several organizations both within and separate from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Throughout her early career, Harris exhibited outstanding leadership ability. Before her ordination, she attended the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism, and then became president of Joseph V. Baker Associates Incorporated, a national public relations firm. Following her involvement in the latter organization, Harris was named manager of community and urban affairs at the Sun Company, later becoming a senior staff consultant at the company's headquarters. A few years later, Harris was ordained a priest, serving as priest-in-charge of St. Augustine of Hippo Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania and later serving as chaplain to the Philadelphia County prisons. In 1984 Harris was named executive director of the Episcopal Church Publishing Company.

It was in September of 1988 that Harris was elected assisting bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, and the following year that she was consecrated a bishop. Harris was the first female consecrated a bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion. As Bishop, Harris was a member of numerous community organizations, including the Union of Black Episcopalians, and the Episcopal Urban Caucus, where she served as president. Harris represented the Episcopal Church while serving as a board member of the Prisoner Visitation and Support Committee, as well as of the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns. Harris retired as bishop in 2002, and holds several honors from colleges and universities, including Yale and Church Divinity School of the Pacific. In 2003 she began serving as assistant bishop to Bishop John B. Chane in the Diocese of Washington.

23

Shahla Sherkat (b. 1942)

Shahla Sherkat is the founder and publisher of *Zanan*, a magazine read by both women and men in Iran that consistently walks the fine line between being outspoken and still staying on the Iranian government's good side. Her magazine explores topics including domestic abuse and reform politics. When the magazine began advocating that women's dress codes should be encouraged but not mandatory Sherkat was arrested.

Shahla started *Zanan* in the early 1990s. While many other controversial publications have been banned or shut down, *Zanan* still hangs on despite its coverage of touchy issues, possibly because it has been credited with encouraging women to vote and because the staff adhere to the strict dress codes. She encourages readers to work for a positive change in their society and to be active in their culture and government.

24

Irena Sendler (b. February 15, 1910; d. May 12, 2008)

Née Krzyżanowska, commonly referred to as Irena Sendlerowa, was a Polish Catholic social worker who served in the Polish Underground and the Żegota resistance organization in German-occupied Warsaw during World War II. Assisted by some two dozen other Żegota members, Sendler saved 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw Ghetto, providing them with false documents, and sheltering them in individual and group children's homes outside the Ghetto.

25

Carrie Chapman Catt (b. January 9, 1859; d. March 9, 1947)

American suffragist and peace advocate, Carrie Chapman Catt was raised in Wisconsin and graduated from Iowa State College, becoming a Superintendent of Schools. Carrie began working for the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890 and became its president in 1900. She led the campaign to win women's suffrage by means of an amendment to the Constitution in 1920, when the amendment was ratified. After World War I, Carrie spent most of her time working for pacifism and disarmament.

26

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (b. November 12, 1815; d. October 26, 1902)

Elizabeth was born in Johnstown, New York to an affluent family. She learned early that her parents preferred boys, so she strove for the same achievements as her brothers. She convinced her father to allow her to attend the Troy Female Seminary in New York, one of the few female academies with an education equal to males. She returned from the academy to work in her father's law office and was so disturbed about legal discrimination against women that she set about to change the laws. Stanton also became involved in the abolitionist movement and married Henry Stanton, a progressive reformer.

In 1833, Stanton traveled with her husband to the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London where she met Lucretia Mott. When the two were refused recognition as legitimate delegates because they were women, they vowed to hold a women's rights convention back home. Eight years later, in Seneca Falls, New York, five women gathered and drafted a women's bill of rights calling for social equality including suffrage.

In 1851 Elizabeth met Susan B. Anthony, a gifted organizer. Together they did much for women's rights. After the abolition of slavery, the suffragist movement lost much of the abolitionist support. Elizabeth and Susan formed the National Woman Suffrage Association, with Elizabeth as president, and began publishing the *Revolution*, a women's rights newspaper. The goal was social, economic and political reform that would change the way women were viewed by society. In 1881, the two women published the *History of Woman Suffrage* and formed the National American Suffrage Association to solidify a movement that was becoming too fractured. After Elizabeth published *The Women's Bible*, a study of sexism in the Old Testament, many of her colleagues condemned her. She died long before the vote was given to women in 1920, but many of her progressive ideas were still being realized in the latter part of the 20th century—husbands and wives equally caring for their children, coed education, and condemnation of organized religion's hostility toward women.

27

Maxine Hong Kingston (b. October 27, 1940)

Maxine Hong Kingston was born to Chinese immigrants and has become a literary voice speaking out against American racism and Chinese American sexism and the conflicting cultural voice thrust upon her as a child. She is one of the first Asian American authors to achieve prominence in the literary world and name recognition in America by combining her nonfiction with elements of fiction and fantasy. Her works are taught and used in schools and colleges around the United States and world.

28

Abigail Adams (b. November 22, 1744| d. October 28, 1818)

Abigail Smith was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Although she was not formally educated, she was an avid reader, an interest which endeared her to John Adams, a young lawyer whom she married in 1764. Together they had five children whom she raised alone as her husband traveled extensively as delegate to the Continental Congress, envoy abroad, and elected official under the Constitution. Her extensive writings to her husband detail the lives of the women left behind to struggle during the Revolution. In 1784 Abigail joined her husband in Paris and later served with dignity and tact when he was the first United States Minister to Great Britain. John served as first vice president and then president under wilderness conditions which did not deter Abigail's official entertaining. While her husband was drafting the laws of the new republic she exhorted him, "Don't forget the ladies."

29

Catherine Hoffman

Catherine is the director of the Cambridge, Massachusetts Peace Commission and founder of the Youth Peace and Justice Corps.

30

Rebecca Rouse (b. October 30, 1799; d. December 23, 1887)

Known as "the founder of women's work in Cleveland", Rebecca Rouse was devoted to serving families and children through various organizations. An active humanitarian, Rouse began her work as a member of the Ladies Tract Society where she visited each home in her village to be of assistance to those in need. Soon after, Rouse joined the First Baptist Society. She then founded and became the first president of the family-based organization, the Martha Washington & Dorcas Society. Rouse's involvement in such family organizations continued when she served as director of Beech Brook, an organization dedicated to saving women from becoming involved in prostitution.

Rouse's numerous accomplishments include being one of the founding members of the Cleveland Ladies Temperance Union as well as President of the Soldiers' Aid Society. While serving in the latter, Rouse was responsible for distributing medicinal and living provisions to Civil War soldiers. The efforts of this remarkable woman were honored in a bronze panel as a component of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Cleveland's Public Square.

31

Juliette Gordon Low (b. October 31, 1860; d. January 17, 1927)

Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon was born to a prominent Savannah family on the eve of the Civil War. She was named for her grandmother but nicknamed Daisy. She married Willy Low at age 26, and after the service got a piece of rice thrown into her ear. She already had hearing loss in her other ear and became almost totally deaf, when her eardrum was punctured having the rice removed. She moved to England with her husband but the marriage failed and they agreed to divorce. Willy died before the divorce was finalized. During her time in England Daisy met General Sir Robert Baden-Powell who founded the Boy Scouts. She worked with his sister in forming the Girl Guides for the six thousand girls who registered when the Boy Scouts began.

Low returned to the United States to start the Girl Scouts. She personally worked to establish a firm foundation for the organization, fundraising for the program's needs and spending time at camps. She died of cancer in Savannah. She was buried in her Girl Scout uniform with a folded telegram in her pocket which she had received while she was ill. It read, "You are not only the first Girl Scout, you are the best Girl Scout of them all."

November

1

Olympe de Gouges (b. May 7, 1748; d. November 3, 1793)

Despite lacking a formal education, she was a well-known playwright and journalist in France who gained recognition as a feminist and a political writer. Olympe wrote 'The Rights of Women', which asked for women to be given the right to vote, hold office, have public employment, speak in public on political topics, own and control property, be educated, serve in the military, receive public honors, have power in the home and the church. She famously said, "a woman has the right to mount the scaffold. She must possess equally the right to mount the speaker's platform." Although she supported the French Revolution but not the wide spread bloodshed, Olympe was guillotined among so many others.

2

All Souls' Day/Día de los Muertos

Pray for all those who have gone before us.

3

Anne Knight (b. November 2, 1786; d. November 4, 1862)

Born in Chelmsford, England in 1781, abolitionist and suffragette Anne Knight was raised in a family with a social conscience. Her pacifist parents belonged to the Society of Friends and were active in the anti-slavery and temperance movements in the country at that period. Knight became very active in the Quaker abolitionist efforts, holding meetings and distributing literature pertaining to the cause. She founded a local branch of the Women's Anti-Slavery Society in her town, and then went on to travel to London and France giving lectures about the evils of slavery. Her efforts were later recognized when a village for freed Jamaican slaves was named Knightsville in her honor.

Anne took up the cause of universal suffrage when she became outraged at the treatment of women at the World Antislavery Convention held in London in 1840. The behavior of the men at the conference moved her to campaign for equal rights for women. She is believed to have published in 1847 the first leaflet addressing women's suffrage. Her efforts were in conflict with some leaders at the time who felt that class struggle was a more important issue. Pursuing her cause, Knight established what is thought to be the first association for women's suffrage which held its first meeting in Sheffield in February of 1851. She died near Strasbourg, France in 1862.

4

Janemarie Luecke, OSB (April 24, 1924)

Janemarie Luecke is one of the original founders of Mary's Pence. She was born on a farm in Okeene, Oklahoma and entered the Benedictine Order in 1943. She received her B.A. degree from Benedictine Heights College in Tulsa in 1948, her M.A. from Marquette University in 1956, and in 1964 she earned her Ph.D. from Notre Dame University.

Having taught English, journalism, music, and Latin in various parochial high schools, Luecke moved on in 1956 to become a professor of English and journalism at Benedictine Heights College, also serving there as public relations director and academic dean up to 1961. Later, she taught at Oklahoma State University where in 1976 she acted as the coordinator of the graduate program. In 1974 she was the visiting professor of English at Chapman College and a reader of Chaucer at the Huntington Library. A member or chair of many national and international groups on literature or religious studies, she has served on the state board of directors for the American Civil Liberties Union (1966-77) and acted as Oklahoma state chair for women's rights in 1972-73. Luecke is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Outstanding Woman award from Oklahoma State University Association of Women Students in 1971 and being named one of "eighty women in the 80s" by Oklahoma Governor George Nigh in 1981. A poet and writer, Luecke is the author of several books.

5

Margaret Lucas Cavendish (b. 1623; d. December 15, 1674)

The Duchess of Newcastle and the first aristocratic woman to defend her sex publicly through writing, Margaret Lucas Cavendish became well known throughout her time for her ideas and accomplishments. She began writing as a young child, longing to be known for her wit and beauty, starting with books with over 50 pages. At least twenty-two works are credited to Cavendish, from science-fiction, to a biography, to orations, to plays, and poems. Her writings were focused mainly with feminist thoughts and analysis like arguing against women's exclusion from public institutions and disputing society's view of women as being inferior.

6

Jeanne Chezard de Matel (b. November 6, 1596; d. September 11, 1670)

Jeanne Chezard de Matel was a French gentlewoman of the high bourgeoisie who helped found the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 2, 1625 in France. John M. Lozano, C.M.F. in his

book *Jeanne de Matel and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word*, tells us that Jeanne had numerous and constant mystical and paramystical experiences which she narrated in a considerable series of writings. Although her first community existed in Lyons from 1627, it was not until 1639 that she was able to establish her first canonically founded monastery, and that was at Avignon. At her death the foundress had established four monasteries. With the coming of the French revolution, however, the religious had to abandon their communities. But in 1816, after the Restoration, the first of the new monasteries was founded in Azerables, France. Later, six additional monasteries were established throughout France.

A group of nuns from France founded the first American monastery in Brownsville, Texas. From there they extended to Victoria in 1866, to Corpus Christi in 1871, and to Houston 1873. In 1896 the sisters crossed the border and established the first Mexican community in Villahermosa, Tobasco. In 1866 three young Frenchwomen, prepared for their work by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, came to Galveston, Texas, where they laid the beginnings of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, founded by Bishop Dubuis. This was a new order of a different character – an Apostolic Congregation of simple vows – which, by will of its founder, was to follow in the line of the spirituality of Jeanne de Matel.

7

Marie Curie (b. November 7, 1867; d. July 4, 1934)

Maria Sklodowska was born in Warsaw, Poland where she showed intellectual promise in a country that offered few opportunities. She went to Paris in 1891 where she devoted herself to physics and chemistry with several well-known physicists including Pierre Curie. They married in 1895 and continued their scientific work while raising two daughters. Curie was recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics along with her husband and Henry Becquerel in 1903. When her husband died in 1906 Marie was determined to continue their work alone. She did so with great success and was the first woman appointed to the Sorbonne. She was also eventually awarded her second Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911 honoring her work in radioactive substances and their medical applications. This laid the foundation for much future work, some of which she herself accomplished along with her second husband, Frederic Joliot whom she married in 1926. She died of leukemia caused by radiation.

8

Frances Anne (Fanny) Kemble (b. November 27, 1809; d. January 15, 1893)

Though Kemble was enamored with literature from a young age, she became an actress on the British stage so as to save her family from financial ruin. Though she did not hold a passion for acting, Kemble's talent as an actress was undeniable as she enraptured audiences with the force of her personality. Unlike many of the modest and quiet women of her time, Kemble was unashamed of her numerous talents, and displayed her gifts as a writer, musician, and actress openly. Kemble was described by many as being a passionate and independent woman, qualities that captured audiences unaccustomed to such females.

Kemble's independence was seen in her marriage to Pierce Butler, who believed that Kemble would allow herself to be ruled by him in marriage. As an abolitionist, Kemble strongly disagreed with her husband's opinions favoring slaveholding, and refused to submit herself to his will. Once married, Kemble ended her career as an actress to live in the luxurious lifestyle that Butler offered. Unaware that Butler had inherited from his grandfather both wealth and the largest number of slaves in the nation, Kemble's antislavery views fueled many arguments with her husband once she discovered the source of his wealth. The couple soon moved to a plantation, where Kemble recorded the details of her life in letters, which she published as her *Journal of a Resident on a Georgian Plantation*. The work is considered to be the most detailed depiction of plantation slavery recorded by a white abolitionist.

After a painful divorce from her husband, Kemble resumed life on the stage by performing highly acclaimed readings of Shakespeare's plays. She spent the rest of her life traveling as a successful actress and accomplished author.

9

Diana Hayes (unknown birth dates)

Diana L. Hayes is a Professor of Systematic Theology in the Department of Theology at Georgetown. Her areas of specialization are Womanist Theology, Black Theology, U.S. Liberation Theologies, Contextual Theologies, Religion and Public Life, and African American and Womanist Spirituality. Dr. Hayes is the first African American woman to receive the Pontifical Doctor of Sacred Theology degree from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium and has also received three honorary doctorates. She is the author of 6 books and over 50 articles.

10

Lynda Van Devanter (b. 1947; d. November 15, 2002)

As an advocate and spokeswoman for veterans of the Vietnam War, Lynda Van Devanter's death in 2002 was greatly mourned by the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). The president of the VVA said of Van Devanter that "She was a valued friend, a devoted colleague, an accomplished nurse, and a loving mother and wife." After serving as a U.S Army nurse in Pleiku, Van Devanter founded the Vietnam Veterans of America, and initiated and served as administrative head of the VVA's Women's Project. At this time Devanter also began organizing national seminars for veterans, while serving as a counselor as well. Four years after founding the VVA, Van Devanter wrote her acclaimed memoir *Home Before Morning*, helping to present to Americans stories of the women who served in the Vietnam War. In 1987, The VVA honored Van Devanter with its Excellence in the Arts Award, and in 2002 she received from the organization the VVA Commendation Medal.

11

Catherine McAuley (b. September 29, 1778; d. 1841)

Catherine McAuley was born in Dublin in 1778. Despite Catholics being held in contempt at the time, her father, James, achieved some wealth and a position that he used to help the poor. Both parents died while Catherine was young, leaving their children to be raised by distant relatives who had no use for Catholicism. However, Catherine managed to keep her faith and never forgot the example set by her father.

A childless couple who befriended Catherine left her a sizable fortune when she was forty. In the 1820s she used the money to erect a building in Dublin in which to educate children and teach marketable skills to young women from the countryside. Her concept was to create a group of women social workers who would contribute money to help finance the project and support themselves in their work.

Because it was frowned upon for women to live on their own, the Dublin archbishop suggested Catherine establish a religious community. Rome gave permission for an uncloistered order so the women could work among the poor. On December 12, 1831, Catherine and two companions took perpetual vows becoming the first Sisters of Mercy. Many women were quick to join the new group, which was the first order to leave its convent to visit the sick and poor. In ten years, Catherine established twelve other convents in Ireland and two in England, the first to be built there since the Reformation.

12

Mary Astell (b. November 12, 1666; d. May 11, 1731)

Mary Astell was the first self-avowed feminist writer in English and one of the first female philosophers. Although she was not born into wealth or even a family that allowed her to expand her mind, she read constantly and managed to find company with a group of educated and wealthy women who were also interested in changing the status of women. Astell suggested the development of a commune for women to live, study, learn, and teach each other. She wrote *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies and Some Reflections upon Marriage* which asked for women to look for careers outside motherhood and the nunnery.

13

Juliana Dogbadzi

According to the Ghanaian custom known as Trokosi, young virgin girls are enslaved in religious shrines as atonement for crimes of their family members. At the age of seven, Juliana Dogbadzi was sent to work as a slave in one such shrine. There she was starved and raped and ultimately gave birth to two children. At 23 years old she escaped and began working to ban the practice of Trokosi. Because of her efforts, Trokosi is now banned in Ghana and she is working to have the practice recognized and then banned in other countries.

14

Celina (b. February 27, 1973; d. November 16, 1989) **and Julia Ramos** (b. March 5, 1947; d. November 16, 1989)

On November 16, 1989, six Jesuits were murdered by the Salvadoran military on the campus of the University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador, El Salvador. Their housekeeper, also known as Elba Ramos, and her daughter Celina Marisela Ramos, were murdered there as well. The Jesuits were labeled subversives by the Salvadoran Government for speaking out against the oppressive socioeconomic structure of Salvadoran society. Their assassinations were ordered for their unwavering defense of the poor.

Celina and Julia were two of over 70,000 victims who died in El Salvador's civil war which raged in the 1980s and early 1990s. The vast majority of these victims were civilians killed by El Salvador's armed forces and paramilitary death squads. The death of the Jesuits brought international outrage and condemnation upon the Salvadoran Government and pressured them to negotiate an end to their country's civil war.

15

Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace

The Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace movement started in Liberia in a successful effort to bring the Second Liberian Civil War to an end. It was organized by Leymah Gbowee and began with thousands of local women singing and praying in a fish market. The non-violent demonstrations lasted for months before they were ultimately successful.

16

Rose Phillipine Duchesne (b. August 29, 1769; d. November 18, 1852)

Rose Phillipine Duchesne was born in Grenoble in France where her parents were prosperous merchants. As a young woman she joined an order of sisters, but all convents and monasteries were closed shortly after because of the French Revolution. Duchesne went home and took care of neglected children and the sick and dying. When the war was over, she and a group of sisters from her former convent joined a new religious order, the Society of the Sacred Heart. At the age of 49 Duchesne was sent to the United States with five other sisters to assist the archbishop of St. Louis with religious instruction.

In St. Charles, Duchesne founded a convent in a log cabin and started a free school for girls. Despite many setbacks she also started schools in Mississippi and Louisiana. In her work with settlers, she fought prejudice against African Americans. When she was 71 she went with those who opened a mission for Potawatomi Indians at Sugar Creek, Kansas. She prayed so much that Native Americans called her "the woman who prays always." Duchesne is one of the newest saints on the calendar; she was canonized in 1988.

17

Winson Hudson (b. November 17, 1916; d. April 24, 2004)

Civil Rights pioneer Winson Hudson dedicated her life to African-American suffrage and to school integration. Along with members of her community, Hudson helped to challenge the enforcement of the

“separate but equal” provision of *Brown vs. Board of Education*, in addition to establishing the Leake County division of the NAACP in 1961.

When local banks began penalizing African Americans who were involved in activities relating to civil rights, Hudson testified before the U.S Civil Rights Commission after inviting the Farmers Housing Administration to survey the situation. Hudson’s determined action illustrated her unwavering advocacy for equality and justice. Winson Hudson was a member of the NAACP and served as co-chairman of the Leake County Democratic Party for over two decades.

18

Wilma Mankiller (b. November 18, 1945; d. April 6, 2010)

Wilma Mankiller was the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation – the second largest Native American tribe – and the first chief elected under the Cherokee constitution. Prior to her election, chiefs were appointed by the U. S. government. Mankiller became active in Native American causes during the 1960s in San Francisco. Her great-grandfather had been forcibly relocated during the Trail of Tears, and during the takeover of Alcatraz by the “All Tribes” group, she decided she needed to work for her people. “When Alcatraz occurred, I became aware of what needed to be done to let the rest of the world know that Indians had rights, too,” she stated in her autobiography. She was Deputy Chief of the Cherokee people in 1983 and in 1985 became principal chief.

19

Mother of Divine Providence, Puerto Rico

The name and worship of Our Lady of the Divine Providence originated in Italy in the XIII century. It was a very popular devotion that later passed to Spain, where a shrine was built in Tarragona, Catalonia. When Gil Esteve Tomas, a Catalan, was named bishop of Puerto Rico, he brought with him this devotion. The original image was a beautiful oil painting in which the Virgin is shown with the Divine Child sleeping peacefully in her arms. The image that Don Gil Esteve ordered was carved in Barcelona according to the prevailing taste. Pope Paul VI, by a decree signed on November 19, 1969, declared Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence principal patroness of the island of Puerto Rico. In this document it was also decreed that the Virgin's solemnity be transferred from January 2 to November 19, the day that the island was discovered. The intention was to join together the two great loves of the Puerto Ricans. The oldest carving, which dates from 1853, was the one chosen to be solemnly crowned during the meeting of the Latin American Bishops Council that took place in San Juan de Puerto Rico on November 5, 1976. On the eve of this event, the image was vilely burnt in the Parish of Little St. Therese in Santurce. And in this condition, the image was crowned. The burnt statue was sent to Spain to be restored and is presently awaiting the construction of the projected Grand National sanctuary, where it will be placed.

20

Nora Kizer Bell (b. 1942; d. January 24, 2004)

Nora Kizer Bell was hired as the President of Hollins University, a women’s university, in March 2002 and started the job four months later. She arrived after a tumultuous period for the university. Bell was an outspoken advocate of single-sex education, and she also embarked on a campaign to raise the national profile of Hollins. Her efforts were rewarded, with improved ratings and more applications.

Bell, a native of Charleston, West Virginia, received a bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, a master's from the University of South Carolina and a doctorate from the University of North Carolina. Bell taught at the University of South Carolina for 16 years and was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Texas for five years. She was president of Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia before going to Hollins.

21

Presentation of Mary

Our Lady of the Presentation of Quinche is a handsome wood sculpture carved in the sixteenth century by Don Diego de Robles, an extraordinary artist who is also credited with other popular and venerated images of Mary. History tells us that those who had ordered the image couldn't or wouldn't pay the sculptor for it, and he traded it to the Oyacachi Indians for some large cedar boards he needed. At a later time, popular fancy enriched the facts with the legend that the Virgin had appeared earlier to the Indians in a cave and had promised to deliver them from the dangerous bears which devoured the children. The Indian chiefs were astonished when they saw Diego Robles arrive carrying the image of the Virgin, whom they recognized as having the same features as the Lady who had appeared to them in the cave and had spoken to them. The statue remained under the care of the Indians fifteen years, when the bishop of the place ordered it moved to the village of Quinche from which it finally took its name in 1604.

The image is a fine carving in cedar wood, measuring sixty-two centimeters in height. The handsome sculpture is hidden by large brocade garments, covered with jewels and embroidered with gold and silver threads, which only allow the serene dark face to be seen. The Virgin holds a scepter in her right hand and with the left hand she holds the Child, who lifts a hand in blessing and in the other hand displays a gold globe crowned with a cross. The pedestal at her feet and the large half-moon, both of pure silver, and the heavy crowns made of gold and precious stones which adorn the heads of Jesus and Mary, evidence the generosity of the people of Ecuador who like to see their patroness resplendent, dressed with the best finery. The face of the Child Jesus has features resembling those of the mestizo children of those mountains. Mestizo is also the color of the mother, synthesis of the Inca and Spanish souls. She has a delicate oval face with a slender nose, thin lips and a small mouth; her slanted eyes and her sad gaze with half closed eyelids give her a unique gentleness. This is why she is so popular in Ecuador, especially among the Indians who affectionately refer to their protector in heaven as *La Pequehita*, meaning 'the little one'.

The image was crowned in 1943 and her feast is celebrated each year on November 21. The present shrine was declared a National Sanctuary in 1985.

22

Saint Cecilia (unknown birth and death dates)

Cecilia was a young Roman woman who lived during the third century. Very devout, she did penance and offered herself and her virginity to God. When she was given in marriage to a young man named Valerian, she told him an angel guarded over her, allowing no one to touch her. She promised he would be able to see the angel if he believed in the one God and was baptized. Valerian was baptized and later, upon returning to Cecilia, saw the angel holding two crowns of lilies and roses, which he placed upon the heads of the young couple.

Cecilia began preaching and converting people which brought her to the attention of the Roman authorities who had her arrested. They condemned her to be suffocated in the baths. The fires were built up but Cecilia was unaffected by the heat. An executioner was then sent to cut off her head but after striking three blows she was still alive. She lived for three days preaching and praying with her converts before dying.

Although an interesting tale, contemporary sources give no evidence that Cecilia was executed or even existed. The story first appeared in the fourth century as a Greek romance but the facts given are not corroborated by history. In 821 Pope Paschal I dreamed where the bodies of Cecilia and Valerian were located in the catacombs. He had the remains moved to the church of St. Cecilia in Rome where he founded a monastery in their honor. Cecilia is known as the patroness of music because legend has it that she sang to God in her heart.

23

Our Lady of Peace, El Salvador

Tradition has it that sometime in 1682 some merchants found an abandoned box on the shore of Salvador's Mar del Sur. They were unable to open the box and decided to take it to the City of San Miguel where they would find out how to open it. They tied the box on a donkey's back and undertook the long and dangerous journey to the city where they arrived on November 21, meaning to inform the local authorities of their find. But when they went by the parish church (now a cathedral), the donkey laid down on the ground. They were then able to open the box and were surprised to find that it contained a lovely image of Our Lady holding the Child.

The origin of this image is still a mystery as it never was known for whom the box was intended, or how it came to reach the beaches of Salvador. It is said that a hard and bloody struggle was going on between the inhabitants of the region, but when they heard of the marvelous discovery in the abandoned box, they put down their weapons and immediately ceased fighting. It is also told that during the 1833 fratricidal struggles, when everyone expected a blood bath, the victorious side – instead of taking reprisals – had the blessed image placed in the atrium of the parish church. At the feet of Our Lady, a solemn vow was made to keep no grudges and to erase all hatred from the hearts so that peace would bring about brotherhood and reconciliation. This is why the image was given the beautiful title of Our Lady of Peace, whose liturgical celebration is held on November 21 in memory of its arrival at San Miguel.

The statute is a dressed wood carving with the national shield of El Salvador embroidered on the front of the image's white robe. The image holds a gold palm leaf in memory of the eruption of the Chaparrastique volcano, which threatened to destroy the city with burning lava. The frightened dwellers of San Miguel brought out the statute of Our Lady of Peace to the principal door of the cathedral, and at that precise moment the force of the lava changed direction, moving away from the city. In the exact place where the lava changed direction there's a town called Milagro de la Paz (Miracle of Peace).

On the day this happened, September 21, 1787, everyone saw in the sky a white palm leaf formed by clouds that seemed to sprout from the crater of the volcano. Considering that this was a sign of the Virgin's protection, her faithful decided to place in her hand a gold palm like the one they had seen in the sky. Benedict XV authorized the crowning of the image which took place on November 21, 1921. The goldsmith who made the Virgin's crown used 650 grams of gold and many precious stones, among which was a huge emerald surrounded by diamonds. The new shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Peace was completed in 1953.

24

Las Mariposas

The Mirabals were four sisters who grew up in a city on the Dominican Republic called Salcedo during the era of the dictator Rafael Trujillo. Three of them – Minerva, Patria, and Maria Teresa – were killed by Trujillo's followers for their involvement in efforts to overthrow the fascist government. The surviving sister, Bélgica, more commonly known as Dedé, lives in Salcedo, tending the museum in Ojo de Agua that commemorates her sisters. The Mirabal sisters, now national heroines of the Dominican Republic, have been immortalized in poem, fiction, art, and even an international day dedicated to them.

25

Gregoria Ortega and Gloria Gallardo (unknown birth dates)

Gregoria Ortega, OLVM, and Gloria Gallardo, SHG, are the founders of Las Hermanas, a national organization for Hispanic Catholic women both lay and religious. The two women began in 1970 to solicit names of Mexican-American women from dioceses around the country. Fifty women arrived in Houston in April 1971 and agreed to form Las Hermanas and set forth the guidelines that would determine its national agenda for the next 20 years. The guidelines included establishing a clearinghouse for information to increase communication about the needs of the community, working for social change, training members in leadership and exerting pressure on hierarchy to achieve goals. The first national meeting was held in Santa Fe in November 1971. Las Hermanas were strongly committed to the base community concept giving support to the United Farm workers in national boycotts and demonstrations. Between 1972 and 1988 the national office was

moved with the national team members, but in 1988 the national board of directors chose San Antonio as the permanent site.

26

Emma Goldman (b. June 27, 1869; d. May 14, 1940)

Emma Goldman was born in a Jewish ghetto in Russia, where her family ran a small inn. She was sent to America to live with her sister, earning meager wages as a seamstress. Eventually she became an influential and well-known anarchist of her day. Goldman was an early advocate of free speech, birth control, women's equality and independence, and union organization. Her criticism of mandatory conscription of young men into the military during World War I led to a two-year imprisonment, followed by her deportation in 1919. Until her death in 1940, she continued to participate in the social and political movements of her age, from the Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War. Emma stands as a major figure in the history of American radicalism and feminism.

27

Dorothy Day (b. November 8, 1897; d. November 29, 1980)

Dorothy Day's life was a journey from atheism to Catholicism and a life among the poor and disenfranchised, which often put her at odds with the Church she loved. Born in Brooklyn, she lived most of her childhood in Chicago where she attended the University of Illinois and was introduced to socialist ideas. Returning to New York she wrote for various socialist newspapers and worked as a nurse. Although not raised in a religious family, she was probably first touched by faith after being jailed for taking part in a suffragette demonstration at the White House in 1917, when, out of boredom, she began reading the Bible.

The birth of her daughter, Tamar, in 1927 led to her conversion to Catholicism, which alienated her from both the child's father, Forster Batterham, and many of her intellectual friends. At the urging of Peter Maurin, a former Christian Brother, she started the controversial Catholic Worker newspaper in 1933 which promoted the Catholic socialist ideals Day held. With Maurin she co-founded Catholic Worker communities throughout the country which helped the poor. A firm pacifist, Dorothy challenged the Church on the issue of war, going to Rome in 1965 for the Second Vatican Council's discussion of war and peace, where, through her efforts and those of other demonstrators, the Church acknowledged the right of conscientious objection to war. Day also helped Cesar Chavez and the United Farm workers in their strikes, which led to another short prison sentence for her.

In 1972 Notre Dame University awarded Day its Laetare Medal for "comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable." She died at a New York homeless shelter. Three years after her death she was cited in a pastoral letter of the American bishops as having had "a profound effect upon the life of the Church in the United States."

28

Mary Edwards Walker (b. November 26, 1832; d. February 21, 1919)

Mary Walker was a woman who accomplished many things in her lifetime. Although she had a medical degree, at various times she worked as a teacher, journalist, nurse, government employee, inventor and writer. She may even have been a Union spy during the Civil War. Walker was the first woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for her "meritorious services" during the war, although it was revoked in 1917, later to be reinstated by President Jimmy Carter.

Walker was born in 1832 in Oswego, New York to free-thinking parents who encouraged their children to seek professional careers. After a brief stint at teaching school, she enrolled in the Syracuse Medical College, receiving her degree in 1855. Prejudice against women physicians made it difficult for her to maintain a

practice. She applied for a surgeon's commission in the Union Army, working as a volunteer nurse until her request was granted in 1864, the first woman to be given such a commission.

Walker became involved in women's rights issues very early. She was a strong proponent of dress reform for women, first adopting the "bloomer" style, later wearing only men's clothes, which often got her arrested. After the war she became actively involved in the suffrage movement lecturing around the country and testifying before Congress. Believing the Constitution already gave her the right to vote, she did not support a separate amendment for women's suffrage which put her at odds with the movement's leaders who feared her position would jeopardize their cause.

Her eccentricity increased with age alienating her from the movement's mainstream. On a trip to Washington she fell on the Capitol steps. She never fully recovered from the injuries and, alone and poor, died in Oswego two years later in 1919.

29

Shirley Chisholm (b. November 30, 1924; d. January 1, 2005)

Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected into Congress in 1968. She spoke for civil rights, women's rights, rights for the poor, increases in federal funding for education and was a vocal opponent of the draft and the Vietnam War. She co-founded the National Organization of Women (NOW). In 1972 she made a bid for the Democratic Presidential Nomination but lost to Senator George McGovern.

30

Elizabeth Kenny (b. September 20, 1880; d. November 30, 1952)

Born in New South Wales, Elizabeth Kenny graduated from college in 1902 and was a nurse in the bush country districts of Queensland, Australia from 1911-1914. During these years, she developed a treatment for polio that consisted of stimulating affected muscles using hot, moist packs and passive exercise, then active exercise. She established a clinic in Townsville, Queensland in 1933 and, despite opposition, saw her method finally accepted in 1939. She lectured in the United States and gained the support of the American Medical Association. In 1942 she established the Kenny Institute in Minneapolis to teach her method.

December

1

Rosa Parks (b. February 4, 1913; d. October 24, 2005)

Born Rosa McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama, she spent her childhood with her mother and brother on her maternal grandparent's farm. They had been slaves, but they owned 18 acres. Her grandmother told Parks stories of what life had been like during the Civil War, while her grandfather, Sylvester, harbored an intense hatred of white people because of his mistreatment. He kept a double-barreled shotgun handy. They lived in a community where the Ku Klux Klan was very active. Parks' mother was a teacher who knew how important education was for her daughter. When Parks was 11 she lived in Montgomery with her Aunt Fanny and went to Miss White's School for Black Girls. At age 16, she had to leave school and return home to care for Grandma Rose who was very ill and died a month later. Then her mother became ill. Both Parks and her brother had to drop out of school to get jobs and help with the family expenses.

In 1932, she married Raymond Parks who was active and vocal in the struggle for the rights of African-Americans. With his support, she returned to Alabama State Teacher's College and received her high school diploma in 1933 at the age of 20. Parks silently protested segregation by avoiding segregated facilities. She climbed the stairs instead of riding in a "colored" elevator. She went thirsty rather than drink from a "colored" drinking fountain. Although Raymond was a member of the NAACP, initially he thought it would be too dangerous for her to join. In 1940 when Parks saw a picture of a school friend of hers who had joined, she

decided to go to a meeting. As the lone female at the meeting, she suddenly found herself elected to the office of secretary. Parks was too timid to say no. She remained secretary for 12 years. The demanding work gave her an opportunity to use her education and to channel her energy toward a cause to which she was truly dedicated.

On March 2, 1955, Parks participated in a workshop at the Highlander folk School in Tennessee. The school's educational philosophy rested on the belief that as a group, economically and politically oppressed individuals—whether they be poor whites of Appalachia or southern blacks—possessed all the knowledge they needed to solve their own problems. This 10-day workshop was one of the most important experiences of Rosa's life. It empowered her to take social action. On December 2, 1955, Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white person. She was arrested and fined \$14, which she never paid. Although another woman had been arrested prior to her, she was not a sympathetic figure. The NAACP had been looking for someone to stand up who had an impeccable background.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a brand-new pastor in Montgomery and his tremendous influence was felt immediately. Everything seemed to come together at just the right time. Parks says what she did was spontaneous, but it was the result of a lifetime of silent protest. King rallied the common folk to support a bus boycott for one year in Montgomery. It nearly bankrupted the bus system. Parks, Dr. King, and others were arrested and threatened and King's home was bombed. However, on November 13, 1956, the US Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was against the law. Parks and Ray were subjected to further threats and harassment and finally moved to Detroit in the spring of 1956. Ever since that time, she has continued to be a social activist marching and speaking publicly. Many have named her the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement.

2

Jean Donovan, Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel

Jean Donovan was born in 1953 of Irish-German heritage. Her upper-middle class family was well established in Connecticut. She and her brother lived in a sheltered world in a close-knit Catholic family. After college graduation, Jean got an executive position with the largest accounting firm in the nation. Soon, she had her own automobile, an apartment overlooking a lake and her own Harley Davidson motorcycle. She dearly loved to shock friends and acquaintances as she weaved in and out of traffic on her way to and from her downtown office. Gregarious and fun-loving, it seemed as if Jean had achieved the good life at a very early age.

While in college, Jean had spent a year in Ireland where she met Fr. Michael Crowley, the parish priest in a large working-class district. During their long talks, he opened her eyes to a whole new world of poverty, need, and loneliness. Eventually she realized that she needed to change her life. In 1977, Jean told her parents that she was going to quit her job and spend two years as a lay missionary in El Salvador. Much as her parents and her brother tried to dissuade her, she felt that God was calling her. She was trained at the Maryknoll Center in New York and went to Guatemala for language training. On August 10, 1979, she moved to El Salvador, a place teeming with civil unrest.

Sister Dorothy Kazel became her guide and friend when Jean first arrived. They were alike in many ways: both cared deeply about people; both had unlimited energy and an apparently fearless, spontaneous openness to new challenges and both had an absolute commitment to stand and fight for their convictions. Dorothy was slim, athletic and very pretty. Her youthful appearance belied her age and the fact that she had spent 19 years as an Ursuline nun—eight of them working in El Salvador. She became the older sister Jean had never had.

In the midst of all the turmoil and anxiety in El Salvador, a remarkable new presence appeared in Jean's life, Archbishop Oscar Romero. He validated everything she had thought or felt about the Catholic Church and gave renewed strength and purpose to her efforts to help the poor of El Salvador. Immediately after Romero's death, Maryknoll sister Ita Ford decided to leave Chile where she had worked for many years and go to El Salvador. Ford was physically slight and delicate, driven by nervous energy. Full of Irish charm and humor, she was also a natural leader and had a sophisticated intellectual grasp of the world around her. Sister Carla Piette came with her. Their presence brought a fresh infusion of energy and spirit into the small, beleaguered community of American missionaries. After Romero's death, Ita was a new role model for Jean. One stormy

night while Ita and Carla were driving a refugee to safety, a flash flood hit their truck. Carla pushed Ita out of the window to safety, but Carla was drowned. Maryknoll then sent Sister Maura Clarke to be Ita's new companion.

Maura had spent most of her life working in Nicaragua. She was older than the rest at 49, slight and a little stooped. However, Maura's Irish smile generated a kind of wondrous, inexhaustible goodness. Although Jean was disappointed that she could not work directly with Ita, she accepted her position, along with Dorothy, as the backup team to their work. There was so much killing going on at this point that women and children were fleeing from their homes, and the missionaries were exhausted trying to move them and supply them with food. Dorothy and Jean had a white Toyota van. They nicknamed themselves the Rescue Squad.

In 1980, all four of the women had made trips out of the country, visiting family and friends, but all chose to return to help the poor and to give them hope in a desperate situation. They knew they might be killed, but perhaps they held onto the myth that Americans were exempt from the killing. On December 2, 1980, the four women were reported missing. Their burned-out van was located. Then their grave was discovered. The women had been raped and shot, execution style, in the back of the head. Their American families fought for justice for many years afterward. Five men who were members of the Salvadoran National Guard were eventually accused. However, there was a lot of cover up and our government continued to support the military who were responsible, not only for these killings but for the murders of thousands of Salvadoran peasants who threatened the comfortable lifestyle of the ruling class.

3

Patsy Mink (b. December 6, 1927; d. September 28, 2002)

As the first woman of Asian descent to serve in the U.S. Congress, Mink devoted her life to furthering educational equity, serving twelve terms in the House of Representatives. In 1972 Mink was one of the two women instrumental in passing Title IX, which required all schools that received federal funding to develop sports teams for women that were equally funded as those for men. On the thirtieth anniversary of Title IX, Mink was named a NOW Woman of Vision for her contributions to athletic equity in schools. During the last decade of her political career, Mink concentrated on equal opportunities for underprivileged families, focusing on poor women in particular. Mink devoted her time to advocating policies that addressed the difficulties of rising from poverty. The year before her death, Mink was successful in assuring support from the House of Representatives for her legislation to provide additional education to impoverished families so as to support self-sufficiency. Mink's death in 2002 was greatly mourned, and she is remembered for having devoted her forty years in politics to furthering sex equity and acting as a strong political voice for women.

4

Edith Cavell (b. December 4, 1865; d. October 12, 1915)

Edith was born in Britain to a strict Victorian family, where she learned early the virtues of sacrifice and prayer. Helping others became so ingrained that later in life she could refuse help to no one. She never married and had few friends but dedicated her life to nursing. First she worked as a governess for a family in Brussels and then she went into nurses training. In 1907 she opened a nurse training school in Belgium, the Berkendael Institute, and by 1911 she was training nursing for three hospitals, 24 schools and 13 kindergartens in Belgium. She was a brisk, businesslike, rather straight-laced woman whose sense of duty bordered on the fanatical. She demanded the highest standards from her pupils.

In August 1914, Edith was spending a short holiday with her mother in Norwich when she heard news of the German invasion of Belgium. "I am needed more than ever," she said and immediately left for the continent. Her mother never saw her again. When the Germans occupied Brussels, all 60 British nurses were ordered home but somehow Edith remained behind. German nurses arrived to replace the British nurses and together with all the remaining Belgian girls, were sent out to hospitals in the city as required. On a wet, dismal night in November, two British soldiers in disguise were guided through the streets of Brussels by a patriotic

Belgian civilian, Herman Capiiau. He took them to Edith Cavell who treated the wounded soldiers and hid them in the hospital.

With the help of her staff, Cavell hid and cared for more than 200 British, French and Belgian soldiers during the next 12 months. Before long it became widely known that Cavell was harboring British and French troops under her roof, despite an order from the German authorities that anyone sheltering Allied troops would be shot. In August 1915 Germans raided a home of a member of the escape organization and found several incriminating letters with Edith's name in them. Although she was warned, she said, "I expect to be arrested. Escape for me is futile and unthinkable." She was arrested and accused of harboring enemy soldiers. She was tried by a military court in Brussels and sentenced her to death along with four Belgians. Two firing squads of eight men each carried out the execution on October 12, 1915. Within days, Edith Cavell became a worldwide martyr and the Germans were universally described as "murdering monsters." Her shooting was a serious blunder for Germany.

As a result of her execution, Allied morale was strengthened and recruitment doubled for eight weeks after her death was announced. A statue of her stands in London, commemorating her humanity and loyalty to Britain.

By Diane Bader, June 2001

5

Alabama Bus Boycott (1955)

Remember the women who walked.

6

Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ (b. December 6, 1941)

Feminist theologian and Sister of St. Joseph of Brentwood, Johnson has written several works of contemporary theology, many of which seek to include feminist narratives into predominant narratives of Catholic theology. She has not shied away from criticizing the institutional structure when actions taken are exclusive or harmful. For her theology and courageous outspokenness for inclusivity, she has been criticized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican's Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith. She is most well-known for her book *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. Johnson received her PhD in theology from Catholic University of America where she taught for ten years. She is currently a Distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University, and is the recipient of fourteen honorary degrees.

In 2014 Johnson accepted the 2014 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award. During the speech she called for a reconciling approach between women religious and the Catholic Church hierarchy, stating the need to move beyond the Vatican's investigation into LCWR with this robust call to meet the real needs of the times: "When the needs of the suffering world are so vast; when the moral authority of the hierarchy is hemorrhaging due to financial scandals and to many bishops' horrific dereliction of duty in covering up sexual abuse of children, a cover-up which continues in some quarters to this day; when thousands are drifting away from the church; when the liberating gospel of God's abounding kindness needs to be heard and enacted everywhere: the waste of time and energy on this investigation is unconscionable."

7

Dr. Cynthia Maung (b. December 6, 1959)

Dr. Cynthia Maung has gained a reputation as more than a doctor, working on the border of Burma and Thailand. She gives medical care to any who ask for it and works with thousands of refugees, and organizes teams of medics to venture into the jungles of Burma to give medical care to those isolated from hospitals and doctors, who rely on midwives. She has refused to look for safe asylum in other countries, preferring to dedicate herself to her work on the border, saving countless lives.

8

Mother Mary Aloysia Hardey (b. December 8, 1809; d. June 17, 1886)

Unlike many young women at the time, Hardey was certain from a young age that she wanted to devote her life to one cause. When she was only twenty-six, Hardey was named superior of a girl's school in Louisiana. Having attended a school conducted by the Society of the Sacred Heart, Hardey had entered the novitiate there and took her final vows when she was twenty-four. When she was sent to the order's convent in Louisiana, Hardey directed a girl's school for five years before establishing her order's first convent in the East. In 1842 she became superior of the New York convent, whose school became the College of the Sacred Heart, and later Manhattanville College.

In 1844 Mother Aloysia was named mother provincial for the entire eastern North America region, including schools in Quebec. Over the course of her twenty-seven years in office, Hardey established sixteen houses for the Society of the Sacred Heart ranging from Nova Scotia to Cuba. During the Civil War, she also directed houses in the West that were cut off from their ordinary superior, and in 1871 Mother Aloysia was named assistant general of the Society of the Sacred Heart with responsibility for the houses in the British Empire as well as those in North America.

Immaculate Conception

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception holds that Mary was free from original sin from the moment of her conception. In 1476, Pope Sixtus IV approved a feast day. The doctrine was widely questioned, but in 1661, Pope Alexander VII forbade any attacks on the doctrine. Interest in the doctrine waned until the early 19th century when St. Catherine Laboure claimed to have a vision of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception standing on a globe, light emanating from her hands spread out toward the earth. A voice commanded Catherine to have a medal struck depicting the vision. Pope Gregory did not accede to these demands.

The situation changed with the succession of Pope Pius IX. He initiated proceedings leading to a definition. With 56 of the 603 bishops dissenting, a papal bull in 1854 declared that "the most Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin, (that this) is revealed by God, and therefore firmly and constantly to be believed by all the faithful." The dogma was positively received by most Catholics, but it created a storm of protest from Protestants and Orthodox alike. After the definition, other Marian apparitions were reported. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception teaches that Mary was exempt in a unique and exceptional way from the normal and the usual impact of sin because she was given a greater degree of grace.

By Diane Bader, June 2001

9

Ruby Dee (b. October 27, 1922; d. June 11, 2014)

Ruby Dee was born Ruby Ann Wallace in Cleveland. She was the first black woman to play lead roles at the American Shakespeare Festival. She was a close friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and has been an activist for many years, even suing in court for black voting rights. Dee became a master of ceremonies of the 1963 March on Washington. She was arrested for protesting the murder of a Guinean immigrant. She has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild, and the National Medal of Arts in 1995. She was voted into the NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame.

10

Emily Dickinson (b. December 10, 1830; d. May 15, 1886)

This famous American poet was born Elizabeth Dickinson in Amherst, Massachusetts, into a strict puritanical family who were prominent in the town. Her grandfather founded Amherst College and her father was trustee of the college as well as a state senator and US congressman. Although her father was a prominent politician, she was reclusive, and much about her is unknown. She never married, and after turning 30, seldom

saw anyone other than her immediate family. She is known to have scorned many of the conventions of the times, choosing her “own society” of friends, dressing all in white, and writing in an unconventional style on topics unusual for women. During the Civil War, Emily was most prolific as a poet. In all she wrote about 1,800 poems although only a handful were published in her lifetime. She suffered from eye problems, which slowed her writing in her later years, and she died of kidney disease.

International Human Rights Day

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the full text of which appears below. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

11

Marie-Marguerite d’Youville (b. October 15, 1701; d. December 23, 1771)

Marie-Marguerite d’Youville was a French Canadian widow who founded the religious order the Order of Sisters of Charity of Montreal, which helped the poor in their community. They were commonly known as the ‘Les Grises’ which directly translates to ‘the grey women’ but in slang means ‘the drunk women.’ They were subject to mockery because their work went against social traditions. Today they are known as the Grey Nuns of Montreal. She was canonized by Pope John-Paul II of the Roman Catholic Church in 1990.

12

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico

In 1531, a “Lady from Heaven” appeared to a poor Aztec Indian, Juan Diego, at Tepayac, a hill northwest of Mexico City with a message of love, compassion and a promise of universal help and protection. She instructed him to have the bishop build a temple on the site. The bishop did not believe Juan until after the third apparition when the Lady presented Juan with roses blooming out of season and instructed him to take them to the bishop. Juan wrapped the roses in his *tilma* made of rough cactus cloth and when he unwrapped them for the bishop, the roses scattered on the floor and the image of Mary was on the *tilma*.

Just ten years before, in 1521, the capital city of the Aztec Empire had fallen under Spanish forces. For centuries, the Aztecs had professed a polytheistic and human sacrificing religion. It is believed they offered annually at least 20,000 captives—women, children, and men—to their serpent god Quetzalcoatl. The origin of the Spanish name, Guadalupe, came about because of the translation of the Aztec word, *Coathaxopeuh*. In Spanish, *coa* means serpent, *tha* means the and *xopeuh* means to crush or stamp out. In less than 20 years, 9 million of the native inhabitants were converted to Christianity. Our Lady of Guadalupe had crushed Quetzalcoatl, the serpent-god!

In 1946, Pope Pius XII declared our Lady of Guadalupe the Patroness of the Americas. An estimated ten million visitors a year travel to her Basilica in Mexico City.

By Diane Bader, June 2001

13

Ella Baker (b. December 13, 1903; d. December 13, 1986)

Ella Baker was born in Norfolk, Virginia and developed a sense of social justice early in life. She grew up in North Carolina. Her grandmother was a slave and told Baker stories of her life including how she had been whipped for refusing to marry a man chosen by her owner. Baker studied at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC, and as a student challenged unfair policies. She graduated as valedictorian in 1927 and moved to New York City. There she joined social activist organizations including the Young Negroes Cooperative League and several women’s groups.

In 1940 Baker became involved with the NAACP and worked first as a field secretary and then as director of branches. She resigned from the staff in 1946 but stayed active especially in the fight to desegregate NYC public schools.

In 1957, Baker moved to Atlanta to organize Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She also ran a voter registration campaign, the Crusade for Citizenship. She left SCLC after the Greensboro sit-ins and went to Shaw University to help the student leaders of the sit-ins held there in April 1960. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was established and she continued to take part as a quiet leader encouraging the young activists. Baker died in New York City.

14

Catherine de Hueck Doherty (b. August 15, 1896; d. December 14, 1985)

Born in Russia, Catherine married Baron de Hueck as a girl of 15. During World War I, while her husband fought at the front, the young Baroness served as a nurse. Soon after the war, she fled Russia with her husband and infant son as the Russian proletarian revolution targeted aristocrats. Settling in Canada, the Baroness rebuilt the family finances by lecturing on her escape from Russia. She and her husband later separated and at the age of 34, she left her comfortable life and founded Friendship House, an interracial residence for the poor in Toronto. Seven years later, she opened a second Friendship House in Harlem, New York. Others followed elsewhere in the United States.

De Hueck Doherty firmly believed that alleviating poverty and racial injustice was the surest way for the Church to combat the godless Communism, which was "made by hypocritical Christians, Catholics included, who render to Christ lip service only." Her life of voluntary poverty inspired many to follow in her footsteps.

At 47 she remarried a reporter who, like Thomas Merton, had volunteered at Friendship House in Harlem. Together they established Madonna House, a center for prayer and spirituality in rural Canada. She died at the age of 89.

15

Senal Sarihan (unknown birth date)

Senal Sarihan was imprisoned and tortured for three years, from 1971 to 1974, for writing pro-union articles under Turkey's then military regime. She then studied for her law degree and became a Turkish civil rights lawyer, making a career out of defending those with cases whom others won't represent, from fighting for intellectuals and human rights advocates to her many cases involving sexual assault, death in detention, and assault in police custody.

She is the founder of the Contemporary Lawyers Association and the Contemporary Women's Association, rallying women to speak for their rights and demanding attention from Turkey's law makers and government for the rights of women, children, and those who cannot speak for themselves.

16

Margaret Mead (b. December 16, 1901; d. November 15, 1978)

Internationally renowned anthropologist, Margaret Mead was a pioneer for women in the world of scientific reasoning and study. Most celebrated for introducing generations to a unique perspective on the cultures of people who would have otherwise been overlooked by members of the field of anthropology. Mead researched the cultures of those in such places as New Guinea, Samoa, and Bali, going on to author over twenty books based upon her experiences. Mead served as president of several major scientific organizations, including the American Anthropological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Mead frequently testified on social issues before the United States Congress and other government agencies, and was posthumously honored with a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

17

Amy Carmichael (b. December 16, 1867; d. January 18, 1951)

Amy Carmichael was born in North Ireland to a large family. When she was 18, her father died, causing much financial difficulty and her family to move to Belfast. There she realized that she wanted to live her life for Jesus Christ, and decided to become a missionary. At the age of 24, she traveled to Japan and spent a year there before her health began to fail and she was forced to return. Her initial reaction to missionary life was disappointment that her fellow missionaries seemed no better than ordinary people. But because of her determination to live a pure life before God, she then went to Ceylon, and returned yet again to care for a sick family friend.

She returned to the missionary field once more, going to Dohnavur, India, where she would spend her next 55 years. She saved many children from the “secret” Hindu practice of temple prostitution. She founded an organization called the Dohnavur Fellowship, which was actively involved in the rescue, care, feeding, and education of hundreds to children. Soon, she became known as *Amma*, meaning mother in the Tamil language. Amy adopted Indian dress and never married, though she was not under any vows. Although a serious fall left her crippled, Amy continued to help her “children” and write books for the last 20 years of her life. She passed away in Dohnavur in 1951 at the age of eighty-three.

18

Clara Hale (b. April 1, 1905; d. December 18, 1992)

Clara Hale also known as Mother Hale, was an African-American humanitarian who founded the Hale House Center, a home for unwanted children and children who were born addicted to drugs.

Clara married shortly after high school and had two children, Nathan and Lorraine. In 1938, her husband died from cancer, and Hale struggled to support her children through the Great Depression. In an attempt to stay home with her children and be as big a part of their lives as possible, Hale opened her own home daycare. The children that she cared for found her home to be such a caring and loving environment they did not want to go home at the end of the day. Most began to stay full time only seeing their mothers on the weekends. Her home became a daycare for other struggling parents, which later led her to become a foster parent.

Although Hale originally opened her house as a way of making a living, it eventually led her to find her life calling. In 1969, when Clara Hale's biological daughter, Lorraine, brought a mother and child who were addicted to drugs to Hale's home, she decided to take in children who were born addicted to their mother's drug habits. At this point she was 65. A few years later, Hale purchased a larger building and in 1975 she was able to attain a license for child-care. The building officially became Hale House.

She would raise the children as if they were her own and once they were healthy she would help to find families interested in adoption. Hale took it upon herself to make sure the families were a correct fit and even in some cases turned families down if she thought they could not provide a good enough home for the child. She eventually helped over 1,000 drug addicted babies and young children who were born addicted to drugs, children born with HIV, and children whose parents had died of AIDS.

After her death in 1992, Hale's work was continued by her daughter. Although the younger Hale left Hale House in 2001, the house continues to operate.

19

Sacagawea (c. 1787 to 1812 or 1884)

Born Grass Maiden, she was a Shoshone who was captured by the Hidatsa tribe as a teenager and renamed Sacagawea (Bird Woman). She was married off to a French-Canadian fur trader and learned English and French. Soon after her marriage, she happened to meet Lewis and Clark as they embarked on their expedition to the Pacific Ocean. The two men engaged her husband to help them navigate the unfamiliar territory. They needed Sacagawea as well because she could speak Shoshone language and could help them get horses from the Shoshone to cross the Rocky Mountains. Sacagawea traveled the 4,000-mile round trip with her husband and newborn infant, enduring much danger and hardship.

In the spring of 1806, they returned east after a successful expedition and went back to live in their log cabin in a Mandan Village. Clark offered to take her child back to St. Louis and raise him there. She initially refused, but when he was about 6, she did send him to live with Clark who provided him with an excellent education. Contrary to popular belief, Sacagawea was neither a guide nor an interpreter. Most of the West was new to her too. Scholars are not sure when Sacagawea died. One of the two Native American wives of Charbonneau died in 1812 and was thought to be Sacajawea; however, an old Native American woman who died on a reservation in 1884 also claimed to be Sacagawea and displayed considerable knowledge of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Of the many memorials to Sacagawea, the most famous is a statue in Washington Park in Portland, Oregon.

By Diane Bade, June 2001

20

Madam C.J. Walker (b. December 23, 1867; d. May 25, 1919)

Madam C.J. Walker was born Sarah Breedlove in Delta, Louisiana. Her parents were ex-slaves, and she was their first child born into freedom. However, both of her parents died before she was eight, making her childhood extremely difficult. She married Moses McWilliams at age fourteen so she would have a home, and she had a daughter at age eighteen. When Moses died soon after, Sarah had to support her family by working as a washerwoman.

In 1905, Sarah had the idea to start her own cosmetics business. She developed her own products and hair care system for African-American women, including her own shampoo, massage, ointment, and method of hair straightening, which had been much more difficult until then. When her business began to succeed, she decided to move from St. Louis to Denver, Colorado, where she married her second husband, C.J. Walker, and, although they divorced six years later, she kept the name that became famous. She demonstrated, sold products door to door, and hired women to do this for her so she could concentrate on instruction and manufacture in her company.

After she built a plant in Indianapolis, her business boomed, and she became the first female African-American millionaire and a generous donor to black charities, active in black philanthropic work, provider of thousands of jobs, advocate of social and humanitarian efforts, and more. She encouraged black women to respect themselves when others didn't, and worked hard for her cause until her death in 1919.

21

Emma Tenayuca (b. December 21, 1916; d. July 23, 1999)

Emma Tenayuca was born in San Antonio, Texas and after graduation from high school, took a job as an elevator operator. She joined the labor movement after becoming aware of the struggles of working people. In 1937, Emma had become the general secretary for ten chapters of the Workers Alliance in San Antonio.

In protest of very unhealthy working conditions, and after their wages were cut in half, 12,000 pecan shellers decided to strike. Emma was asked to be their representative. The strike was marked by police brutality and violence. Finally, Emma had to leave and move to San Francisco where she taught for many years. She retired in 1982 and died in 1999.

22

Frances Xavier Cabrini (b. July 15, 1850; d. December 22, 1919)

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in Lombardi, Italy in 1850, one of thirteen children. At eighteen, she desired to become a Nun, but poor health stood in her way. She helped her parents until their death, and then worked on a farm with her brothers and sisters. One day, a priest asked her to teach in a girls' school and she stayed for six years. At the request of her Bishop, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor children in schools and hospitals. Then, at the urging of Pope Leo XII, she came to the United States with six nuns in 1889 to work among the Italian immigrants.

Filled with a deep trust in God and endowed with a wonderful administrative ability, she soon founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages in this strange land and saw them flourish in the aid of Italian immigrants and children. At the time of her death, her institute included houses in England, France, Spain, the United States, and South America. In 1946, she became the first citizen of the United States to be canonized when she was elevated to sainthood by Pope Pius XII

23

Sr. Mary Antoinette (b. December 23, 1912; d. November 19, 1964)

Born Ann Lucy Donniacuo, Sr. Mary Antoinette, at the age of 27, made her profession as a member of the Daughters of Wisdom. Due to her parents' wishes, she resisted asking for a mission assignment for years. Eventually, though, she had to follow her heart and was sent to a mission to Zomba, Malawi in Africa in 1952.

Mary returned to the U.S. in 1958 after spending six years on her first mission. In 1961, she was sent on her next mission back to Africa in Isangi, Congo, on the Congo River. In Isangi, she worked in a school, an orphanage and a hospital. During the time she spent there, Congo went through a period of transition and violence. Even though she knew it was dangerous, Mary stayed, the only American left in the Congo. In October 1964, Isangi was captured by the Congolese rebels. She was beaten and thrown in the Congo River, dying a martyr at the age of 52.

24

Hortense Powdermaker (b. December 24, 1900; d. June 15, 1970)

While attending Goucher College in Maryland, Hortense Powdermaker became interested in the labor movement. There she got her start in fieldwork as a labor organizer. While attending the London School of Economics and Social Studies, Powdermaker took a class in social anthropology and found her calling. Cultural anthropology is the study of human cultures and society, especially religion, politics, social structure, art and language.

She researched first in Lesu, a village in Papa New Guinea. Then she moved to Mississippi and studied the split within a community there between blacks and whites. She later published a book named *Freedom* which was based upon her studies, which is considered to be one of the first modern anthropological studies on culture and community. She then moved on to studying Hollywood with the thesis that the type and the content of movies produced there is the result of the environment in which they are conceived. By using interviews and surveys she performed her last anthropological study in Northern Rhodesia, studying the influence of cultural change along with individual change.

25

Mary Births Jesus

Mary is a blessed embarrassment
To a harassed world

For she is great in more ways than one
And we wonder how she managed

To contain the salvific secret
Seeing all that she had seen and heard.

How absurd, say all the knowing,
Unknown as we are to such magnificence.

What guidance, what star, what manger
Can cradle our indifference?

An offense against our apathy
This pathetic refugee mother.

But what other birth will ever be able
To make us strong and stable with shalom –

Home again in the world God made.
Home with Mary's – and Joseph's—aid.

Wonder Woman

Mary the wonder woman
In whose womb
The galaxies are knit
And God emerges
As a peasant child
Whose word and wounds
Doom all the powers of darkness.

*Poems by Thomas John Carlisle
From Beginning with Mary, 1986*

26

Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, Colombia

Our Lady of Chiquinquirá is best known for a phenomenon that occurred in the 16th century. The Spanish artist Alonso de Narvaez painted an image that depicted the Blessed Virgin standing on a crescent moon, holding the infant Jesus. The beautiful painting was placed in an archaic chapel, where leaks in the roof in addition to the humidity destroyed the artwork. In 1585, a pious woman by the name of Maria Ramos attempted to restore the painting, and spent hours praying in front of it each day. On December 26 of the following year, the ruined painting had miraculously been restored. The worn paint had become brighter, and the many tears and holes in it had self-sealed. For the following three hundred years the painting hung unprotected, never again fading or tearing. In 1919, the image was canonically crowned, and the sanctuary in which it hung, that of Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, declared a Basilica.

27

Eve Ensler (b. 1957)

Eve Ensler is the founder of V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls that campaigns and helps women in countries all around the world. She is also the author of the play *The Vagina Monologues*, a series of vignettes based off of true interviews she did with women of a variety of ages. The play is about self-love and women's empowerment. Ensler's most recent initiative is the City of Joy in Bukavu, eastern Congo – a revolutionary community where women survivors of rape can come to recover from their experiences and learn how to be leaders. Ensler is a uniquely irresistible and powerful speaker and woman.

28

Arundhati Roy (b. November 24, 1961)

Arunhati Roy, author of the novel *The God of Small Things*, which has won the Booker Prize, is also a well renowned screen writer. Since the publication of her novel, she has spoken for human rights around the world and written for its cause, becoming an award winning political journalist, speaking out against nuclear weapons, the war in Iraq and the falsehoods of the war on terrorism. She also campaigns for equal rights and social justice throughout the world.

29

Thea Bowman (b. Dec 29, 1937; d. March 30, 1990)

Born in Yazoo City, Mississippi, Bertha Bowman was the granddaughter of a slave, but both her parents had college degrees. Her father was a physician and her mother was a teacher. She converted to Catholicism in her early teen after her parents sent her to Holy Child Jesus High School, a recently opened school in Canton, Ohio founded by the Wisconsin-based Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. She joined the Franciscan community at age 15, professed her first vows in 1958 and her final vows in 1963. She took the name Thea and became the only black woman in the order. Bowman received a doctorate in English literature and linguistics from the Catholic University of America in 1972.

“She was one of the most remarkable women of our time,” said Auxiliary Bishop Joseph a. Francis of Newark, NJ, a longtime friend. Although she struggled with debilitating bone cancer, Bowman continued to give lectures and workshops. She drew capacity crowds wherever she went. Dressed in gracefully flowing African clothes and wearing a turban, she often had a Gospel pianist join her in her workshops. She filled the room with song and humor and the vibrancy of her personality. She was a prophet in her time constantly challenging the white church to wake up and be inclusive.

Bowman died of bone cancer on March 30, 1989, but she left behind for the church a vivid moment bursting with promise for the future. She gave a stunningly powerful talk before the US bishops in South Orange, NJ just eight months before she died. She began with a simple question, “What does it mean to be black and Catholic” her answer was a piercing rendition of the song, “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child.” She told the room full of bishops, if you are really serious about what you have said in your documents, than you accept me as a “fully functioning” member of your church, with all of my African heritage in tow. She spoke of how the church had hurt her and how it had healed her. On and on she went, even though she was three ways marginalized: she was black, she was a woman, and she was dying of bone cancer. This nun, prohibited by church law from preaching in church, preached up an earthy, elegant storm. This motherless child poured out on this auditorium of prelates a mother’s deepest and best instincts. This daughter of the slave tradition freed them, at least momentarily, from the shackles of propriety, of churchy pecking orders and of fussy respectability. In compliance, the bishops, archbishops and cardinal all stood, joined hands and swayed as they sang the civil rights anthem together, “We Shall Overcome.” Many openly wept. Sister Bowman, exhausted, aching yet exhilarated, then sat back down in her wheelchair and began making her way out of the auditorium. Suddenly, the bishops began to follow her and all lined up to meet her. No one cared what was next on the meeting agenda. No one questioned that a woman, a black woman at that, would hold such sway or speak with such powerful truths to the leaders of the Catholic Church. Afterward, shivering and exhausted beneath several layers of blankets, she told reporters that “pain is a constant” but she quickly added, quoting from an old spiritual, “I keep so busy serving my master, I ain’t got time to die.”

*By Diane Bader, June 2001
(who was fortunate enough to attend one of Thea’s
never-to-be-forgotten workshops in San Francisco.)*

30

Pray for Families Living in Poverty

On this feast day we remember all the innocent victims of the world, and their mothers who mourn them in every age. The story of the Innocents comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew in which the magi visit Herod, the king of Judea in search of the newborn king. Herod then orders the death of all male infants in Bethlehem as the holy family flees to safety after Joseph is warned in a dream. The prophet Jeremiah is quoted to describe the sorrow of the mothers of Bethlehem. “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation. It is Rachel weeping for her children, she will not be consoled, because they are no more.”

31

Sr. Marie Augusta Neal (b. 1921; d. February 25, 2004)

Sr. Marie influenced and radicalized many throughout her life. She worked as a teacher at Harvard Divinity School and Emmanuel College and studied of change among U.S Catholic women religious. She also authored many books on social and economic equality and change as part of her work to increase global justice. Sr. Neal inspired generations of social activists, including Sr. Helen Prejean, the anti-death penalty activist who wrote the book *Dead Man Walking*; Mary E. Hunt, the feminist theologian and cofounder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual; and Kip Tiernan who founded Rosie's Place, a woman's shelter in Boston, and the Poor People's United Fund.

After the Second Vatican Council, Sr. Marie helped to shape the new direction of liberation theology and the work of women religious. She advocated giving back to the poor and becoming socially and politically aware, to translate Jesus' message of helping others, and being active in one's community in everyday life.