



Theological Reflections at our Motherhouse
PBVM NL Unit, St. John's, NL, Canada
Submitted by Lois Greene, pbvm
Looking back from September 2022

Theological Reflections were developed by Marlette Black, pbvm, our IPA Networker from 2004 - 2016. Early in that time period, a small group of Motherhouse Sisters, known as our “12 Charter Members” began Tuesday night study sessions in which they spent time with the *Theological Reflections* of Marlette. The group grew over time to include most of the Motherhouse Community, and we had to move to the Community Room from our smaller beginning space on St. Anne’s Corridor.



Marlette Black

Among my happiest memories of my time in leadership, are the Tuesday nights which I facilitated with this group. To watch women in their late 90’s and early 100’s sharing on social justice issues and making connections to their daily living, was a delight. I often went there tired from a day in the office and left refreshed and rejuvenated. These women had good humour, intelligence, and interest. Nano’s spirit was alive and well, and they showed it. We were so wonderfully engaged in our sharing that we never thought to take any photos of us!

Daniel O’Leary reminds us that being attentive, being contemplative, is something we become: *All we have to do is simply to be present to the music of what happens, to be attentive to the mountain behind the mountain. Contemplation is something we become, not something we do. It is a way of presence, of seeing, of always being amazed.* They were amazed and amazing women!

On one of Marlette’s visits to NL, she was seated with several in their 90’s at the breakfast table, where they told her all about the Tuesday evenings and how much they appreciated her reflections. I wish you could have seen her smile when she told me of the encounter!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



When these Theological Reflections from Marlette reached their end, we moved into the Millennium Goals of 2000 and later the Sustainable Development Goals of 2015. They shared their learnings, consulted the *SDG binders* which Sisters Cyprian, Casimir, and Doris in succession, “minded” for us, and were well prepared for Tuesday with insights, suggestions, and questions. After 2015 we melded the *Laudato ‘Si Goals* of Pope Francis with these, to give a combined picture of the cost of climate change particularly to those kept poor.

Today, I lead similar sessions on Zoom from Nano Nagle Birthplace, and always in my heart I carry my “Charter members” and their successors, who showed me often how Nano might think and act in this generation!