

## **Oldest living sister celebrates 109 years**

Sister Mary Aidan Donaldson, oldest living Sister of Mercy in the world, celebrated her 109th birthday on Sunday, August 20, 2017, at Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama. She was honored with a Mass and special dinner attended by local sisters and a few close friends.

Sister Deborah Kennedy, community life coordinator at Convent of Mercy, attributes Sister Aidan's long vitality to the fact that "she has remained vitally interested in all of life around her. She took up painting in her 80s—had an art show and took orders for a number of her pictures. And she still remained active in some form of ministry throughout her 90s and early 100s."

An avid reader, Sister Aidan reads the newspaper regularly, as well as *America* magazine, the *National Catholic Reporter* and all Community communications. Sister Deborah said she greets convent visitors and tries to make sure they have everything they need. "She is ever concerned about other sisters in the dining room, and most mornings she dresses herself and makes her own bed if we do not get to her quick enough," Sister Deborah added.

Sister Aidan celebrated her 90-year Jubilee on March 25, 2017. Born in Ireland, she arrived in 1927 in Mobile, where she ministered in education for some 30 years before transitioning to pastoral ministry.