

The latest issue (Vol. 23, No. 3) of *The MAST Journal* was recently published. Editor Eloise Rosenblatt, RSM reports that the issue entitled “Concerns of Pope Francis,” reflects the general enthusiasm for the papacy and inspiration of Pope Francis.

Doris Gottemoeller, R.S.M., offers an overview and summary of the teachings of Pope Francis, summarized in 10 themes.

Elizabeth Julian, R.S.M., writing from New Zealand, offered the text of her recent talk, “Mercy: The Beating Heart of the Bible,” which she presented as part of an interfaith panel which featured representatives of Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions.

Marilyn King, R.S.M., inspired by *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) takes up an urgent personal question: How do I stay hopeful, committed to service of God’s people, trying to speak in a joyful voice “in loving dialogue with others” ---when the weight of the world’s pain feels so heavy?

Sharon Kerrigan, R.S.M. takes up the subject of “Mercy in the Thinking of Walter Kasper and Pope Francis” in which she outlines similarities in the theological perspective of the German theologian and the Argentinean Pope.

Marie Michelle Donnelly, R.S.M., memorializes celebrations all over the world as the Year of Consecrated ended, coinciding with the Synod on the Family, a timing which links those two distinct vocations in the Church.

Margretta Dwyer, R.S.M, a clinical psychologist and academic, deals with sexual offenders within the family talks candidly about the reality that sexual abuse is a family issue, not just an ecclesial scandal.

Sarah Ducey, R.S.M. and her ministerial partner **Mary Malik, Ph.D.** co-author an article, “It Commenced with Two” which records the ministerial history of founding Mercy Family Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mary C. Sullivan, R.S.M. in “ ‘Getting Up Again’ for the Revolution of Tenderness and Love,” calls attention to Pope Francis’ focus on the words “tender,” and “tenderness” in his recent writings.

Victoria Vondenberger, R.S.M., is a canon lawyer and Director of the Tribunal in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, provides *MAST Journal* readers a description of Pope Francis’ dramatic intervention in the process by which canon lawyers handle requests for annulments by divorced Catholics in tribunals all over the world. Appended at the end of her article for *MAST Journal* is an article she wrote for her diocesan newspaper on justice and mercy.

Mary Scullion, R.S.M, and **Will O'Brien** close this issue with an article on “Devotion of Pope Francis: Our Lady Undoer of Knots,” a first person account of how a committee of the World Meeting on Families convened in 2014, in anticipation of the Pope’s visit to Philadelphia in 2015.

As usual the issue provides *discussion questions* for those who want to use the essays for communal reflection with sisters, associates, companions or partners in ministry.

The MAST Journal is published three times a year by the Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology. To subscribe please contact Julia Upton, RSM at uptonj@stjohns.edu or subscribe online on our website at <http://mastrsm.org>.