

Impact Statement

Julianna Hall, Grade 11.

Saviors Charm, 2023.

Mixed Media, 13 x 19 inches.

Fayetteville Manlius High School, Manlius, NY

Unsung Hero: Sister Matylda Getter

Throughout the late 1800s and the early 1900s, thousands of innocent Jewish children were forced into concentration camps within the middle east. To these children, all hope was lost, as the only reason they were being held captive was due to their religion. But for hundreds of children living in Warsaw, Poland, their lost savior was about to save them. Sister Matylda Getter, a Catholic Nun, went out of her way to rescue hundreds of Jewish children even though doing this could get her killed. Getter should be brought into the sunlight and be recognized due to her courageous acts of selflessness. First of all, she disregarded the religious boundary between these children and herself believing that it doesn't matter the religion of a child and that if they are in need of help, help them. She exemplifies ideologies of anti-racism which has been an everlasting problem throughout the world. She inspires me to look past the beliefs of other peers and to always offer a helping hand in desperate times. Along with that, my Great Grandmother was a survivor of the Holocaust escaping Germany as only a 14-year-old girl, having to live life knowing her parents were murdered during this time. Knowing that there were (few) people who acted in such ways that Getter did, gives me a sense of love knowing that if my Omi had been taken, she could have been saved. When portraying Getter, I made sure to create a sense of motherhood, as she acted in motherly ways. A young child reaches towards Getter, holding a Star of David necklace to further show that she is a Jewish child. This child has a twinkle in her eye realizing, "My angel in disguise is this loving young woman here to save me." By including words in the background such as Lord, help, mother, justice, innocence, sister, and savior, you can further feel the emotions shown by Getter and the Jewish child. To give this image a sense of "old-timeyness", merged within the words in the background is a representation of Poland during the late 1800s. My goal in creating this image was to bring this unsung hero into the light. Sister Matylda Getter was a brave young woman who went against the social norms to save innocent young children. She should be greatly recognized for her actions to show the world that we should always help somebody in need, even if they have different thoughts and beliefs than you. We are all human. I shared this project with some students within my photo class explaining Sister Matylda Getter's story making sure to exemplify how important actions like this are in the world. Telling her story to some of my teachers so that they could also reflect upon the courageous actions Getter had made. Learning Sister Matylda Getter's story helped me realize that there are still some people in the world willing to sacrifice themselves to rescue another person. More people should appreciate Sister Matylda Getter.