

## Impact Statement

Annalyse Lozoya, Grade 12

***New beginning***, 2024.

Oil on canvas board, 20 x 10 inches.

Moriarty High School, Edgewood, NM

Unsung Hero: Sister Matylda Getter

My chosen Unsung Hero, Matylda Getter, expressed what it means to be a true hero in the face of adversity she demonstrated great selflessness and bravery by dedicating her life to saving children during the holocaust. She provided false identities, smuggled them to safety and put her own life at risk to save hundreds of lives from the Nazi regiment. Her gallant acts inspired me to further explore her story and interpret it through art.

I used creative interpretation to fully understand and express Sister Matylda's character. I wanted to capture her heroism through symbolism, color, values and body language to convey her legacy and maternal emotions. The placement of Sister Matilda's arms around the distraught and frustrated children symbolizes her protective embrace. Matilda's facial expressions Reflect her determination to seek justice for the young children. The symbolism of the rosary tightly gripped in her hand, represents the devotion to her faith. sister Matilda's acts were driven by the Catholic religion the birth certificate grip tightly with the rosary show the process it took to free the rescued children during the war. The birth certificates provide new identities, and new lives, my artistic choices, amplify Matilda's heroic nature and evoke a sense of admiration for her heroism.

The creative interpretation I wanted to create for Sister Matilda was to make sure I captured the emotional depth and significance of her heroic acts. I used colors as one way to show this the background of my painting is black and White Houses to symbolize the children's old lives in their old neighborhood and the act of leaving the old life in the Warsaw ghetto behind. The children reach and cling to Matilda, seeking Hope in her embrace. One child sheds a single tear showing relief of being in her care as they transition to a new life. This child is reaching her arm up towards Matilda, symbolizing reaching for security. The other child in the painting, the boy, expresses a calmer feeling. Opposite emotions between the children reflect the complex emotions these children may have been during the process of seeking refuge and starting anew. Matilda's stern look is intentional; her stone look pierces through the viewer, her determination and Will to face the dangers surrounding the victims of the German Holocaust and Polish Resistance movement.

When sharing my artwork and creative interpretation to the community, I hope to convey the powerful story of Sister Matilda. I hope with my interpretation my community uses and emulates her as an example of selflessness and compassion. By displaying my artwork and paper in the school, staff showcase area teachers and staff members will have the opportunity appreciate the message conveyed to the art and reflect on the importance of her empathy and standing up for what is right in the face of injustice, I have also had the opportunity to share my artistic journey and the story with my peers in the classroom. I wish for the exposure on my classmates through this competition, so I am able to carry this message further.