

**Marist Missionary Sisters Archives**  
Region Administration Office, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary

Finding Aid for

***Half-Pint on Guadalcanal Manuscript Papers***

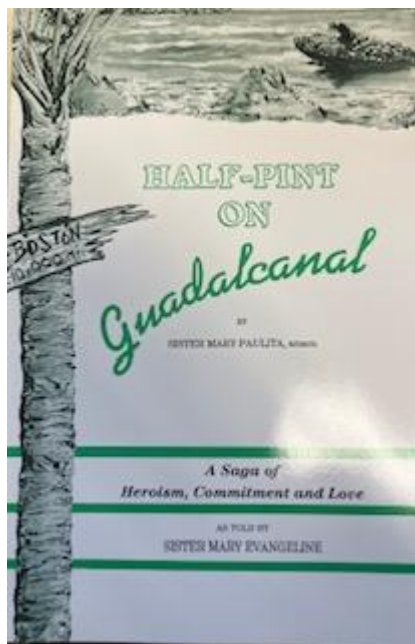


Figure 1 Cover Art, *Half-Pint on Guadalcanal*

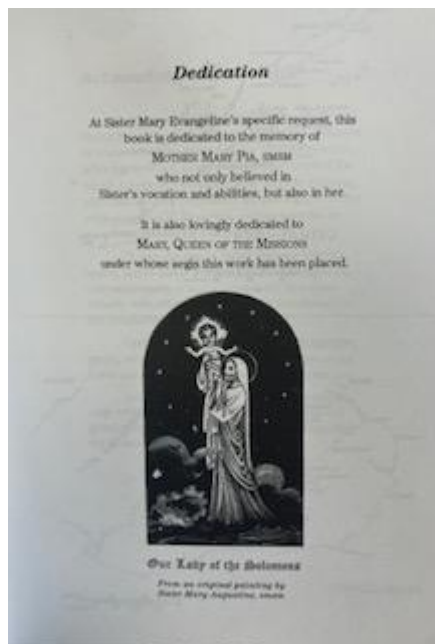


Figure 2 Dedication, with reproduction of *Our Lady of the Solomons* painting by Sister Mary Augustine, S.M.S.M.

Finding Aid prepared by: Lisa Jeanne Fluet, July 2025

**Summary Information**

Creator: Sister Mary Paulita Schneller, S.M.S.M., 1917-2009  
Title: *Half-Pint on Guadalcanal Manuscript Papers*  
Identifier: HPGM1:CIII(iv)  
Inclusive dates: 1992-1994  
Bulk dates: 1992-1994  
Abstract: Missionary Sister of the Society of Mary, author, biographer, teacher  
Size: 1 box, .50 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: Marist Missionary Sisters Archives  
Region Administration Office, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary  
349 Grove Street  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02453  
Email: [maristsistersarchives@gmail.com](mailto:maristsistersarchives@gmail.com)

### Administrative Information

**Provenance:** The source and donor of the *Half-Pint on Guadalcanal* Manuscript Papers was Sr. Mary Paulita Schneller, S.M.S.M. These papers are a part of the Marist Missionary Sisters Archives, which house the institutional and administrative records of the order in its North American province and global missions, as well as the personal papers of many members of the order, and others connected with it.

**Access:** Archival papers are available to registered visitors, readers, and researchers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [maristsistersarchives@gmail.com](mailto:maristsistersarchives@gmail.com), phone (781) 893-0149, or by postal mail to the address listed on page 1.

**Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to registered visitors, readers, and researchers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.

**Preferred Citation:** Item description, Marist Missionary Sisters Archives: *Half-Pint on Guadalcanal* Manuscript Papers, HPGM1-CIII(iv), [folder #], Region Administration Office, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, Waltham, Massachusetts.

### Biography

Sister Mary Paulita Schneller, S.M.S.M. (1917-2009), born Julia Schneller in New York City, entered the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary convent in Bedford, MA on August 2, 1944. She made her first profession with the Marist Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary on February 2, 1947 and her perpetual vows on February 2, 1953 in Suva, Fiji. On December 8, 1951, she departed for her assigned mission to Fiji, working in the leprosarium at Makogai until its closure in 1965. In 1966 she travelled to New Zealand for further studies and obtained her Master of Arts Degree in Education and English Literature, eventually returning to teach at Corpus Christi Teachers' College in Suva, Fiji. She also spent a short time in Peru as Assistant Provincial/Councillor to the Provincial. In 1983 she went to Washington, D.C. and served as Secretary to the Director of the US Catholic Mission Association. Later she helped in various home mission projects, and as moderator of *Alofa Malia*, until July 2006 when she retired to the Marillac Residence in Wellesley Hills, and died in 2009. In addition to *Half-Pint on Guadalcanal* (1993), her memoir of Sr. Mary Evangeline Bernard, she also wrote and published *A Jill of All Trades: The Life and Experiences of Sr. Mary Leclerc, S.M.S.M.* (1984), and *From Galway to the World: One Missionary's Journey* (1997), focused on the life of Sr. Mary Zita Butler.

The subject of Sr. Mary Paulita Schneller's memoir, Sr. Mary Evangeline Bernard, S.M.S.M. (1902-1990), born Marie Laura Bernard at Skinner's Pond, Tignish, Prince Edward Island of Acadian heritage, entered the convent at Isabella Street in Boston, Massachusetts in 1922 and professed her vows in 1925 in Lyons, France. She was missioned to the Solomon Islands and arrived at Visale, Guadalcanal in 1929. In 1932, she was assigned to live with and guide the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, a new congregation formed of local women, and remained in the Solomon Islands until the Second World War reached Guadalcanal in 1942. She and other missionaries were eventually evacuated, and she returned in 1945—to serve for the next 35 years at mission stations in

Malaita, Guadalcanal, and Wainoni Bay, for a total of 53 years in the Solomon Islands. She retired to Waltham, Massachusetts in 1983, and died in 1990.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The *Half-Pint on Guadalcanal* Manuscript Papers is a collection of manuscript, proofs, editors' notes, correspondence, illustrations, and art that led to the finalization and publication of Sr. Mary Paulita Schneller's memoir of Sr. Mary Evangeline Bernard, *Half-Pint on Guadalcanal: A Saga of Heroism, Commitment and Love*. The collection is organized in 1 box, .50 linear feet, with folder-level detail regarding all items.

### Processing Notes

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Original envelopes of all correspondence were preserved. Photocopies were made of cover art pencil sketches and included with original sketches.

### Further Sources

Schneller, Sister Mary Paulita, S.M.S.M., *Half-pint on Guadalcanal: a saga of heroism, commitment, and love as told by Sister Mary Evangeline*, Waltham, Massachusetts: Marist Missionary Sisters, 1993.

### Contents List

Box	Folder	Contents
HPGM1-CIII(iv)	1	Copyright application and correspondence regarding appropriate attribution of copyright, 1993-1994
HPGM1-CIII(iv)	2	Typed manuscript, with editor's corrections and notes, 1992-1993
HPGM1-CIII(iv)	3	Galley proofs, <i>Half-Pint on Guadalcanal</i> , with editor's corrections and correspondence, 1993
HPGM1-CIII(iv)	4	Galley proofs, cover and spine art, <i>Half-Pint on Guadalcanal</i> , with correspondence regarding source of cover art from <i>Marist Missions</i>
HPGM1-CIII(iv)	5	Original illustrations included in <i>Half-Pint on Guadalcanal</i> , arranged in the order in which they appear, with corresponding page numbers
HPGM1-CIII(iv)	6	Additional illustrations associated with preparation of final text of <i>Half-Pint on Guadalcanal</i> —not included in publication, and correspondence regarding the illustrations, 1993

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HPGM1-CIII(iv)	7	Correspondence, sources, and samples regarding options for cover art and cover typeface, <i>Half-Pint on Guadalcanal</i> , 1993
HPGM1-CIII(iv)	8	Pencil sketches (originals and photocopies), additional cover art options for <i>Half-Pint on Guadalcanal</i> , attributed to Sr. Sylvia, 1993