

# ITEMS

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### No Room of Her Own

*A stage play brings together the stories of 15 women who share the experience of homelessness.*

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### Home to God

*Two Sisters have passed into the arms of God: Srs. Theresa Pulk and Clare Szlachetka.*

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## GOOD SHEPHERD NETWORKING

*Good Shepherd Volunteers (GSVs) toured the United Nations headquarters in New York City recently, where they were introduced to the work of the Good Shepherd International Peace and Justice Office. The GSVs also held a fundraising event in downtown New York City called "Food for Thought." The event focused on healthy eating on a limited budget.*

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*Good Shepherd Volunteers at their recent visit to the United Nations (l-r) Jenna Datoon (GSV staff), Noora Siddiqui, Courtney Kucera, Shannon Sullivan, Samantha Sanford, Ben Cook and Corrine Foote.*



### Lay staff recognized

*Meredith Reese, Vice President of Treatment Programs at Vista Maria, received a Best Practice Leadership Award from the Michigan Department of Human Services. Meredith was recognized for her leadership, commitment and approach to empowerment in leading the expansion of Vista Maria's therapeutic treatment program for adolescent female victims of Human Trafficking. Photo l-r: Director Maura Corrigan of the State of Michigan Department of Human Services, Meredith Reese, and Senator Bruce Caswell*

# PROVINCE MINISTRIES

## GSVs *Cont'd from p. 1*

The Good Shepherd Volunteers recently paid a visit to the United Nations for a guided tour through the headquarters in New York City. They learned about the history and structure of the UN and its iconic buildings and Council Chambers.

After the tour, the GSVs were introduced to the work of the Good Shepherd International Peace and Justice Office (GSIPJ Office). They met with Sr. Winifred Doherty and Sr. Clare Nolan of the GSIPJ Office team. It was an opportunity for the Good Shepherd Volunteers to engage in discussion about the social justice work the Good Shepherd Sisters are doing around the world in areas of human trafficking, poverty, advocacy for children and girls, and economic justice.

## Food for Thought

Good Shepherd Volunteers hosted a fundraiser in December in downtown New York City that focused on food. The event, titled "Food for Thought," included guest presenters who inspired, motivated and challenged guests to think about food in a new way.

Good Shepherd Volunteers places full-time volunteers in New York City and around the world to serve women and children who have been victims of poverty, violence and neglect. Volunteers work in a variety of fields such as education, youth counseling, foster care and domestic violence. During their year of service the volunteers live on a very modest



**Left photo:** Good Shepherd Volunteers Emily Cooper and Noora Siddiqui hold the Five Bean Soup Jars that were a gift to each guest and volunteer working the silent auction table.



**Right photo:** Good Shepherd Volunteers Mirian Albert and Corinne Foote work the welcome table at the Food for Thought event.



**Left photo:** Guest presenter Bryan Hynes, St. Joseph's Catholic Worker House, spoke about his program that provides fresh produce for the hungry in New York City.



**Right photo:** Guest presenter Leanne Brown, writer of the Good and Cheap cookbook, instructs guests about how families and individuals on budgets or food stamps can prepare healthy and satisfying meals.

stipend and learn to work within a tight food budget. The GSV alumni who have lived in simplicity over the years came up with the idea for the Food for Thought fundraiser.

"Living in voluntary simplicity, our volunteers must find resourceful ways to eat healthy and cheap. This teaches them about food justice in their communities," said Jenna Dato-on,

Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator for Good Shepherd Volunteers.

Guests at the event engaged in topics about food justice, seasonal food preserving and eating healthy on a budget. Volunteers, alumni, staff, presenters, sponsors and guests turned out in large numbers to make the event a huge success.

# PROVINCE MINISTRIES



## No Room of Her Own

### Women's Stories of Homelessness, Life, Death, and Resistance

A performing arts theatre in Portland, Oregon staged a play in January that brought together the stories of 15 women who share the common experience of homelessness.

The play -- *No Room of Her Own - Women's Stories of Homelessness, Life, Death, and Resistance* -- was adapted from a book by the same title. Desiree Hellegers, a former Board member of Rose Haven, authored the book and play.

Desiree collaborated with Circle Theatre Project to stage two readings of her play before audiences on January 23 and 24. The readings were part of Portland's Fertile Ground Festival of New Plays.

Drawing on interviews conducted in Seattle over the course of nearly two decades, the women's stories range across the United States. At least one of the featured women also spent time at Rose Haven. Enacted are memories of living in the South at the end of Jim Crow, of growing up gay and black in the Pacific Northwest in the 1960's and of



**Playwright and former Rose Haven board member Desiree Hellegers.**

surviving childhood abuse in Harlan, Kentucky in the 1970s.

The actors reveal the formidable struggles unhoused women are forced to contend with on a daily basis in the U.S., from catastrophic health

issues to routine threats of physical and sexual assault.

The play also illuminates the work of unhoused and formerly unhoused activists involved in Seattle's WHEEL/Women in Black vigils to mark the deaths and honor the lives of hundreds of people who have died homeless in the city that spawned Microsoft, Starbucks and the WTO (World Trade Organization) protests.

"Each featured woman had an incredibly challenging life filled with childhood neglect, abuse and much sadness. They are amazing stories of survival," said Katie O'Brien, Community Outreach and Development Officer at Rose Haven.

"For me, one of the most impactful aspects of the evening was the presence of many of the women whose stories were being told. They signed books and, after watching this live performance for the first time, participated in a Q & A session. It made for a very powerful connection," Katie said.

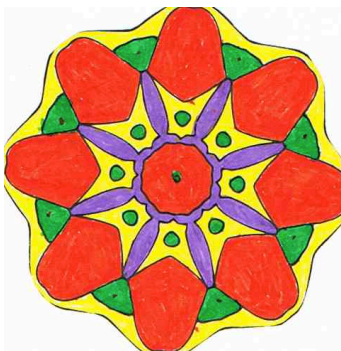
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# PROVINCE MINISTRIES

## Stories *Cont'd from p. 3*

Ms. Hellegers once served on the board at Rose Haven. She said the play is how she reconnected with the homeless women community. She now lives in Vancouver, Washington, where she is a professor in the English department at Washington State University.

*No Room of Her Own* will be in full production in late spring.



Sanskrit, Sr. Patricia, the presenter, invited participants to choose and color the mandalas as a way to get in touch with the spirituality of the 12-Steps in their own lives.

During the coming year, Good Shepherd Gracenter will sponsor two other one-day sessions on the 12-Steps for Women and one weekend-long retreat in the Redwoods after Thanksgiving.

“We are very excited about this new way to strengthen women in recovery beyond the walls of Good Shepherd Gracenter,” said Sr. Marguerite Bartling, executive director of Gracenter.

“I am thrilled that we can support not only the women who reside at the residence of Gracenter in their practice of the spirituality of the 12-Steps, but also support our graduates and women in recovery in San Francisco.

“The day offered the message that each woman can grow in her relationship with her Higher Power and that changes everything!” Sr. Marguerite said.

## Gracenter succeeds in new venture

“Fun, creativity and companionship” are words used by the residents of Good Shepherd Gracenter to describe the new collaborative venture of January 17, 2015.

Gracenter organized and sponsored *Exploring the Spirituality of the 12-Steps: A Day for Women* in collaboration with the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center, Sr. Patricia Galli, RSM and five other drug and alcohol programs for women. Nineteen women participated in the day, including six women from Gracenter.

Using the mandala, which means a “circle” in the Indian language of

## Matching funds for Rose Haven

Donations to Rose Haven are being matched dollar-for-dollar, thanks to the Maybelle Clark MacDonald Fund Challenge. To be eligible for the matching challenge, donations must be from new donors at the \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,500 level in support of Rose Haven’s Reigning Roses Walk to be held May 10. The donor challenge runs through May. Help spread the word!

## Good Shepherd Mediation Program wins grant to launch new program



Good Shepherd Mediation Program, Philadelphia’s only nonprofit community mediation center, received a grant from the JAMS Foundation to design and implement a series of conflict resolution education workshops for children with a parent who is incarcerated or returning from prison. The new project, dubbed CHIRP (Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents) will allow children to share their experience with others who are in a similar situation so they learn how to constructively communicate about and address conflict situations and practice these new communication skills with caretakers, parents and other supportive adults to enable better relationships.

## NEWS

## GSS Baltimore community to host retreat in May

Good Shepherd Services Community in Baltimore will host a three-day conference retreat by Rev. Joseph C. Henchey, CSS beginning in the evening of Saturday, May 16 and ending on Tuesday afternoon, May 19, 2015.

Fr. Henchey has been giving an annual retreat in Baltimore for many years.

This year's triduum theme is *Growth of Faith in the Light of Dei Verbum 8:*

*Contemplation, Study, Magisterium, and Experience.*

Sisters who plan to attend the retreat should arrive on Friday or on Saturday morning and not depart until Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to come earlier or stay longer.

Contact Sr. Mary Carol McClenon to learn more about the conference retreat or to enroll. You can reach her at [sr.mary.carol@gssmaryland.org](mailto:sr.mary.carol@gssmaryland.org) or 410-247-2770, extension 404.



## Vocations Awareness for youth

The St. Louis Archdiocese conducted a vocations awareness event on January 27 and 28. Focus 11 was designed to strengthen Catholic identity and help foster personal awareness of God's plan for high school juniors and sixth grade students. Studies show that most consecrated persons initially thought about their vocation around the age of 11 and then again during their junior year of high school. Sr. Beth Garciano, vocations director for Good Shepherd contemplatives, attended Focus 11. She will report on the event in the next issue of Items of Interest.

## A call to go forth

Drawing on the teachings of Pope Francis, the theme of the 2015 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, February 7-10 in Washington, D.C. is *To Go Forth: Encountering Christ in the Heart of the World*. The gathering brings



2014 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

together Catholics from across the country who work in ministries at parishes, dioceses and college and university campuses. The gathering seeks to equip leaders and rising leaders in the Church to bring the voice of faith into the public arena. Larry Couch, Executive Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center, will attend the gathering to represent the Province of Mid-North America. For more information visit <http://www.usccb.org>.

### Get involved in NCSW

National Catholic Sisters Week runs next month from March 8-14. NCSW wants maximum participation, so please visit the "Get Involved" section of the NCSW website and plug in, create, connect and join the campaign. [www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/](http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/)

### Welcome Ryan Ambrozaitis

Vista Maria has appointed Ryan Ambrozaitis as its new Chief Development Officer. You can read more about Ryan's appointment in next month's issue of *Items of Interest*. In the meantime, we extend our congratulations to Ryan and welcome him to our Good Shepherd family.

### Prayer day against trafficking

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General have designated February 8 as the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. February 8 is the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave who in time was baptized and became a religious sister.

# THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

## Zeal is my life

By Sr. Elizabeth Garciano

I desire to own the words of St. Mary Euphrasia: "To be consumed with the compassion and zeal of Jesus the Good Shepherd."

My whole life is a life of gratitude and continuous responding to the gift and invitation from God, who constantly forms my heart. I am humbled to live my vowed life by responding to the needs of the Church and Congregation as a contemplative missionary.

Consecrated life is giving myself wholeheartedly with deep devotedness in serving my brothers and sisters. My sacrificial offering to God leads me to contemplate and be more aware of the world's reality.

Hopefully my hidden and silent life will have deeper impact and salvific effect for all who suffer violence, injustice, moral issues and natural calamities throughout the world. May I live the mission of reconciliation that Jesus the Good Shepherd has entrusted to me. May every breath I take be a prayer.



*Sr. Beth Garciano leads the recessional out of the province chapel after the Mass of Sr. Agnes Yamamoto's profession of contemplative vows last July.*

## A sign of hope

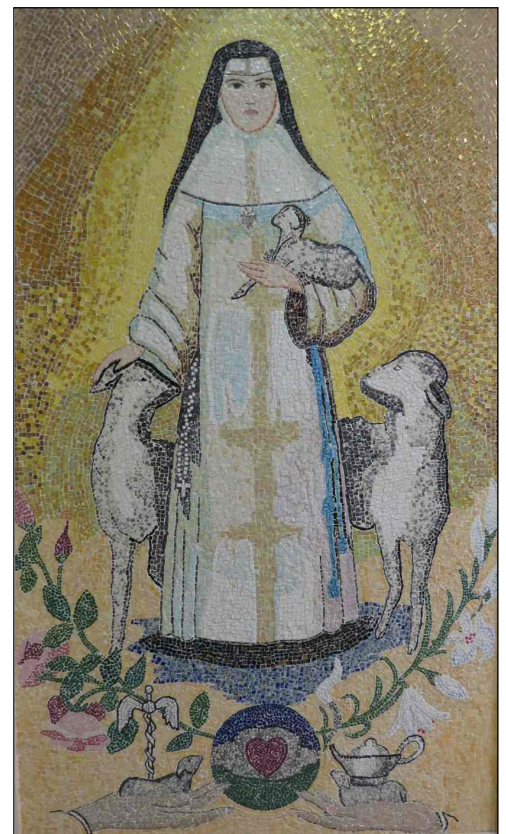
The theme of the February Prayer Network is *We are a sign of hope*. Sr. Fabiola Tabasco, justice and peace contact of the Colombo Venezuela Province, prepared the prayer. She said, "Around the world we live with human rights abuses, injustice, violence, hatred ... the world is convulsed by so many painful situations that take us away from the love of God. Let us remember some of these situations that cause us sadness and are a concern on the national and global levels that threaten life and peace." You can find the prayer on the Congregation website under the tab "Justice Peace." Look for the link to the Prayer Network in the left column.

## Attention Province Sleuths!

PMNA archivist Monte Abbott found this lovely mosaic of St. Mary Euphrasia in the basement of the province center. Does anybody know who created the mosaic or where the mosaic originated? If you know something about this work of art please contact Monte at [mabbott@gspmna.org](mailto:mabbott@gspmna.org).

### Retraction

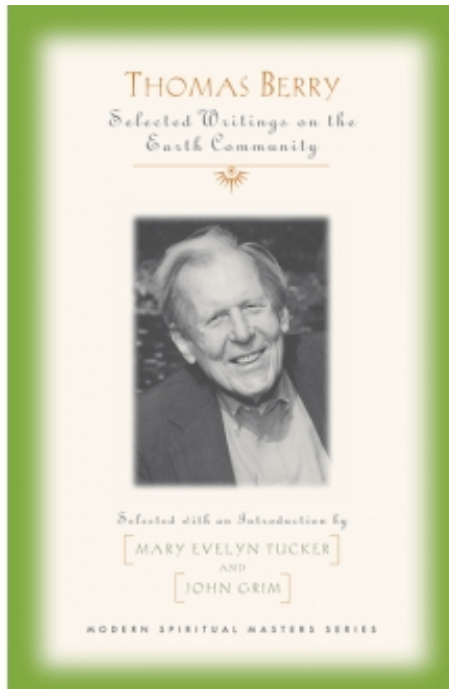
Last month's *Items of Interest* included a statement that Malta was governed by Italy. We have it on good authority from Sr. Annunciata that Malta is an independent republic and has never belonged to Italy. Rather, for quite some time, it was attached to the Kingdom of Naples, which was a separate State from the rest of Italy.



# SACRED EARTH

## Book Review: The Selected Writings on The Earth Community

by Sr. Sharon O'Grady



A new book *The Selected Writings on Earth Community* is noteworthy at this time of our province life, as our many congregational documents call us to focus on eco spirituality and the care of creation. The book commemorates the hundredth anniversary of the author, Thomas Berry. He would have been 100 years old last November if he were still alive (He died in 2009).

Thomas Berry was a Passionist priest who taught at Fordham University. He wrote six books all expressing his prophetic sense of the sacredness of creation and witnessing to St Thomas Aquinas's words in the Summa that Divine Revelation comes to us through two scriptures: the scripture of the natural world and the scripture recorded in the

Bible. Saint Thomas would go on to say that all of reality participates in God's being.

The selected readings comprise excerpts from Berry's books and lectures. It is a rich compendium of his thinking. His vision is knocking on the door of our industrial culture, and our rampant consumerism. He pulls the earth community and all of cosmology out of a merely intellectual scientific study into the very mystery of God.

Berry describes creation as sacred and sees the universe as the supreme manifestation of the sacred. There is a seeming mysticism in his approach to creation -- "What is needed is a new spiritual, even mystical communion with Earth ... We have used everything ... As an industrialized culture we are used to seeing the world as a source of natural resources that fulfills our material needs without end and we have lost sight...."

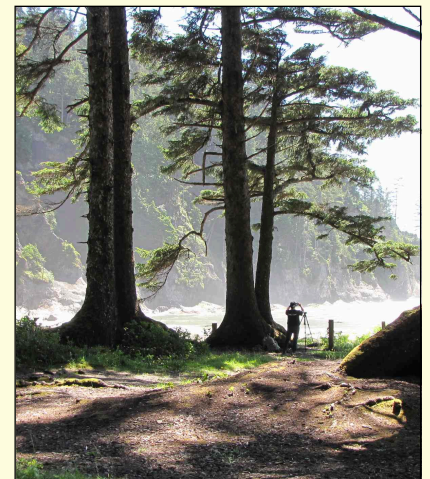
As early as the 1970's Berry was already spotlighting environmental devastation in his lectures and in his writings. While conserving resources was a concern, his intention went deeper. "There is now a single issue before us: survival. Not merely physical survival, but survival in a world of fulfillment, survival in a living world, where the violets bloom in the springtime, where the stars shine down in all their mystery, survival in a world of meaning."

Continued destruction of the environment diminishes a God given means to realize spiritual potential. And more than that, the spiritual vision that Berry proposes integrates the cross and cosmology, social justice and eco-justice. The suffering of Christ and the suffering of planet Earth are one.

Berry's biography is at the beginning of the book and includes the

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Sr. Joan Spiering submitted one of her favorite prayers to share with readers of *Items of Interest*. The prayer is from the Chinook Psalter.



**May all I say and all I think  
be in harmony with thee,  
God within me,  
God beyond me,  
Maker of the trees.**

# SACRED EARTH

## Book review *Cont'd from p. 7*

evolution of his thinking. The biography also describes the key influences of Thomas Aquinas (Berry took his name at ordination) and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

Each chapter in the book begins with an introduction into a particular aspect of his writings and is followed by a number of selections that develop them. The selections are short and interesting.

Thomas Berry's legacy continues through a foundation he established before he died. Hundreds gather for a yearly conference that takes place at the Yale Divinity School. *Living Cosmology: Christian Responses to Journey of the Universe* was this year's title.

The details of this conference can be found in the December 5<sup>th</sup> Issue of National Catholic Reporter. One concern the conference addressed is ongoing education. Videos from the conference will be made available online. Orbis Books will be publishing the panelists' papers. There is also a website with a curriculum that can be downloaded free of charge at [www.journeyoftheuniverse.org](http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org).

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*Please contact Jeanette McDermott if you are interested in reviewing books and/or films about spirituality for Items of Interest and the province website. You can contact Jeanette at [jmcdermott@gspmna.org](mailto:jmcdermott@gspmna.org).*



**Sr. Sharon O'Grady lives in the Chicago community.**

## Film documents devastating impact of gender inequality

*A Path Appears* follows Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn and a group of dedicated actor/advocates to Colombia, Haiti, Kenya, and throughout the United States. They uncover the harshest forms of gender inequality, the devastating impact of poverty and the ripple effects that follow: including sex trafficking, teen-pregnancy, gender-based violence, child slavery and the effective solutions being forged to combat them. The three-part series takes viewers on a journey to the roots of vulnerability. The aim of the series is to lead audiences to a deeper understanding of these critical issues and the proven methods of bringing about change.

**Episode One:** Sex Trafficking in the USA premiered January 26 and is still being screened on some local channels. This episode introduces survivors of sex trafficking in Nashville, Boston, and Chicago, and illuminates the widespread existence of crimes happening in our own backyards.



*Video clip from the film A Path Appears.*

**Episode Two:** Breaking the Cycle of Poverty premieres February 2. Travel from West Virginia to Haiti and Colombia for stories of children and women breaking free from a life of poverty and abuse.

**Episode Three:** Violence and Solutions premieres February 9. Explore the work of organizations combating domestic violence in the U.S., and one providing a Kenyan slum's most at-risk young girls with a path to opportunity.

Check for local screenings of the film at <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/getinvolved.html>.



# OBITUARIES

## Sr. Theresa Pulk

March 20, 1931 - January 21, 2015

*Sister Theresa Pulk gave a hand-written account of her vowed life to Jeanette McDermott, the province communications coordinator, at the last assembly, with permission to use the story in Items of Interest or on the province website whenever it seemed best to do so. Sr. Theresa Pulk went home to God just before 9 p.m. on January 21st. She had experienced difficulty with her heart for some time. This issue of Items of Interest seems the perfect time to publish excerpts from Sr. Theresa's story, expressed in her own words.*

This is the story of my vowed life. So, just sit back and relax. It starts about 60 years ago. Now I never wanted to be a Sister. When I made my First Communion in the year of 1939 the priest came over to see us all (42 of us in the home for children). He asked the boys, "Who wants to be a priest?" They all put up their hands.

When he asked the girls, "Who wants to be a Sister," the girls put up their hands. Except me. Father came to my desk and asked me, "Do you want to be a Sister?" I shook my head no.

Sometimes things don't turn out the way you want it to be. I think Father went to the rectory and asked the priests to pray for me because I didn't want to become a Sister.

In June of 1950 I made a retreat and it came to me then that I wanted to become a Sister Magdalen. I entered July 13th. It was a Friday. I entered in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In September I went to Cincinnati for three years, where 12 of us received the Holy Habit on July 22, 1951. In my heart I heard the words of Jesus say, "Come to me."

July 22, 1951 was a very hot day. It was the day I received the Holy Habit and a new name. Sometimes you would get the name you asked

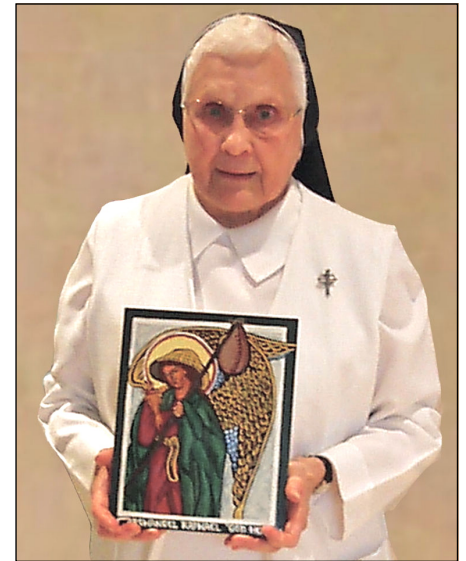
for, and sometimes you didn't. We were asked to give three names. I wrote Maria Goretti, Maria Goretti and Maria Goretti. After retreat in 1951 during Holy Mass I received the name Magdalen of St. Maria Goretti.

The next two years were spent studying our Founder and Foundress, St. John Eudes and St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier. We also focused on the study of our vows. Our work was hand sewing, gardening and food canning. Later we did machine sewing.

God gave me many graces. On July 22, 1953 I took my vows. I wanted to be like St. Mary Magdalen, who was at the foot of the cross of Jesus. I wanted to make my vows at the foot of the Holy Cross. I was happy that day. My family came: Mother, Step-father, my sister Evelyn and two-year-old brother John Cameron, who I had never seen because he was born after I had entered the convent.

At the communion rail I signed my name to the vows. And these I will take to heaven with me (They are my ticket to heaven).

The day after taking vows I went back to Grand Rapids, Michigan. When I entered the convent, being a contemplative, I thought I would



**Sr. Theresa Pulk often attended icon-making workshops with Sr. Glynis McManamon. She gave away the icons she created, except for this one of Archangel Raphael, the venerated saint of healing.**

always remain in Grand Rapids. As time passed that all changed. I left it all in God's hands. He knows best. Being a young professed, I thought deep down that I knew it all. How wrong I was! As a young Sister I had a lot to learn. As life goes on I still have a lot to learn.

I learned to drive a car at age 66. And I taught myself how to use the computer. I have taken some courses which help me to see my vocation in the light of today.

*Continued on next page*

## OBITUARIES

### Sr. Theresa Pulk *Cont'd from p. 9*

I have a little humor to tell. One of my cousins, who was about three years old, came and sat on my lap. All of a sudden he jumped off and ran to his mother saying, "She got them, she got them." His mother asked him what he was talking about and he said, "Mama, she got ears!"

Little ones say some really great things, and I love them for that.

After more than 60 years of religious life I've learned that life is what you make of it. But the love of Jesus, Mary and the riches of the Sacraments are what give us the many graces we need.

Before I close I want to thank my family, my Sisters in religion and all who have helped me along the way, both here and in the life to come. May Jesus bless each one in a very special way now and always. You all are in my daily prayers. God bless you always.

*Written by Sister Theresa Pulk*

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*Sr. Theresa Pulk was born March 20, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan and entered the novitiate in Cincinnati. She was professed in 1953 and sent to Grand Rapids, where she worked in the sewing department for 44*

*years. She supervised the department for 17 of those years. The sewing department closed in 1993, when she was sent to Dearborn Heights, Michigan, to work in the altar bread department and serve as driver. She became Superior of the infirmary at Independence, Ohio in 1999. The infirmary was closed in 2003.*

*Sr. Theresa was missioned to Baltimore before later moving to the contemplative community in St. Louis. Sister slipped away peacefully and unexpectedly at Immaculate Heart Convent on January 21.*

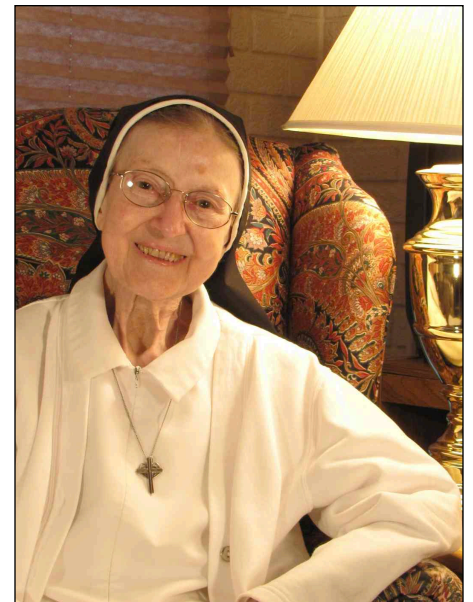
### Sr. Clare of the Holy Family Szlachetka

April 22, 1930 – January 16, 2015

We have another Saint in heaven! On Friday night, January 16<sup>th</sup> at around 11:00 p.m., our dear Contemplative Sr. Clare of the Holy Family made her last transition into the arms of the Good Shepherd. Sr. Clare was known as the Sister with nine lives because of her history of bouncing back from serious illnesses. Heart and lung issues had previously led Sister to death's door and she was enrolled in Hospice Care on two separate occasions but she still had work to do here on earth. Despite her frailty and crippling arthritis, Clare conducted an extensive telephone and correspondence ministry among her family and friends, and she served as a wisdom figure and presence of special peace within the St. Joseph Residence community. She had seemed to be on the upswing after a bout of the flu, but then contracted bronchitis and did not have the stamina to get through it. Her actual dying process was swift – less than twelve hours.

Two Sisters were sitting and singing to her when she peacefully stopped breathing to follow the directive in the Christmas Carol Silent Night, to "sleep in heavenly peace."

Little Clara was enrolled in the Preservation Class at Mount Street in Baltimore. From an early age she had a strong sense of her vocation, and she entered the Sisters Magdalen in 1948. We could fill a whole page listing her many ministries and accomplishments but will note in particular that Sr. Clare was a dedicated musician who played the organ in her



**Sr. Clare Szlachetka**

*Continued on next page*

## OBITUARIES

### Sr. Clare *Cont'd from p. 10*

communities and that she was among the first group of Contemplative Sisters to assume Local Leadership.

In addition to serving as Local Superior for a number of terms in several Contemplative communities, she also served on the Major Council and, after the adoption of Article One, on the Province Leadership Team. She was affectionately called "The Professor" because of her intellectual interests and her other-worldly (not to say absent-minded!) traits. Her nickname of "Lady Clare" also derived from this ethereal quality; she was sometimes described as "floating along" like a great lady effortlessly

making a formal entrance. Numerous Sisters comment that she was "a model Religious." While honoring tradition she also looked to the future and was one of the foundresses of our first small Contemplative Community in Springfield, Illinois.

There was something very special about Sr. Clare's presence. Various described as charismatic, radiant, and transparent, Clare became the center of attention without attempting to do so. People were powerfully attracted to her and, through her, to God. We will miss her very much, even as we trust that she will continue to help us and to attract souls to the Good Shepherd.

*Submitted by Sr. Mary Carol McClenon*

### Scaffolding kills Good Shepherd graduate

Six million people attended Pope Francis's outdoor Mass on Sunday, January 19 in Manila, the capital and second largest city of the Philippines. The day before, he said another outdoor Mass on another island in Tacloban City, while a typhoon was raging. One of the young worshippers was called home to God following this Mass.

Kristel Mae (Maymay) Cleofe Padasas was killed by a piece of scaffolding that fell from a construction site after the Holy Father's Mass. She was pronounced "dead on arrival" at the hospital. Kristel was 27 years old. She had traveled 128 kilometers to volunteer with Catholic Relief Services for the papal event. No one else was injured by the scaffolding.

"Out of millions who wanted to serve the Lord and see Pope Francis, it was her that God picked out," said Kristel's grandfather.

Kristel spent her four years of high school in St. Bridget, a school that is run by Good Shepherd Sisters in the impoverished mountainous town of Buhi. Buhi is a desperately poor town where, before the school was built, many young girls were recruited to bars for prostitution. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd built the school in the early 1960s to improve the lives of girls

living in Buhi. Imelda Marcos, the wife of former President Ferdinand Marcos, gave the Sisters money to build one of the school buildings.



Kristel went on to attain a degree in Psychology and dedicated her life to serving the Church. Locals say her spirit of service must have been inherited from her grandfather, who helped the Good Shepherd Sisters establish the economic ministries of St. Bridget. Kristel's motto in her high school years was, "What matters in this life is not how happy you are; it is how happy others are because of you."

Sr. Maryanne Terrenal, RGS, now retired from teaching, was one of the pioneers of St. Bridget School. She said, "Kristel, has made us all in St. Bridget School very proud and happy because of her example of love and service. God chose her to go home to Heaven on the day she worshipped with Pope Francis. What a beautiful way to die."

Kristen's funeral Mass was held January 27. A message from Pope Francis was read during the Mass.

# NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

## NAC prepares for 2015 lobbying efforts

By Larry Couch, Executive Director of National Advocacy Center

We anticipate many legislative battles over the federal budget during the coming months. Speaking on your behalf, the National Advocacy Center will continue to lobby for programs serving people living in poverty and on the margin of society. With your help in responding to our advocacy alerts, we will continue to actively support a federal budget in accord with the following principles:

### ► **A Catholic Framework for Economic Life.**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops lists the following principles:

1. The economy exists for the person, not the person for the economy.
2. All economic life should be shaped by moral principles. Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how they protect or undermine the life and dignity of the human person, support the family and serve the common good.
3. A fundamental moral measure of any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are faring.
4. All people have a right to life and to secure the basic necessities of life (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security).
5. All people have the right to economic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefits, to decent working conditions as well as to organize and join unions or other associations.
6. All people, to the extent they are able, have a corresponding duty to work, a responsibility to provide the needs of their families and an obligation to contribute to the broader society.
7. In economic life, free markets have both clear advantages and limits; government has essential responsibilities and limitations; voluntary groups have irreplaceable roles, but cannot substitute for the proper working of the market and the just policies of the state.
8. Society has a moral obligation, including governmental action where necessary, to assure opportunity, meet basic human needs, and pursue justice in economic life.
9. Workers, owners, managers, stockholders and consumers are moral agents in economic life. By our choices, initiative, creativity and investment, we enhance or diminish economic opportunity, community life and social justice.
10. The global economy has moral dimensions and human consequences. Decisions on investment, trade, aid and development should protect human life and promote human rights, especially for those most in need wherever they might live on this globe.

### ► **The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit**

are two programs of which we will give high priority.

1. The Earned Income Tax Credit is a federal tax credit for low- and moderate-income working people that encourages and rewards work and offsets federal payroll and income taxes.
2. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) helps working families offset the cost of raising children. It is worth up to \$1,000 per eligible child (under age 17 at the end of the tax year).

### **NAC Priorities for 2015**

1. Human Trafficking
2. Anti-poverty programs and initiatives
3. Economic equality for women in the workplace
4. Domestic Violence
5. Comprehensive Immigration Reform
6. Criminal Justice Reform
7. Housing and Homelessness
8. Global Economic Justice and Peace
9. Environment

The Constitution of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd states that "Our commitment to reconciliation demands that we promote justice and peace."

For more information visit [www.gsadvocacy.org](http://www.gsadvocacy.org).

# LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE

Name	Dates	Location
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Feb. 14-16 Feb. 17 Feb. 22 - Mar. 2	Visit with Sisters at Regina Residence, Orange County, CA Council of Women Religious, Archdiocese San Francisco PLT in St. Louis and Apostolic Council
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	Feb. 21-28	Contemplative Council and PLT in St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Johnson	Feb. 19 Feb. 21-27	Visit with Sisters at Fort Thomas Contemplative Council and PLT in St. Louis
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Feb. 22 - Mar. 4	PLT in St. Louis and Apostolic Council
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Feb. 21 - Mar. 2	PLT in St. Louis and Apostolic Council
Sr. Marie Maurer	Feb. 23-28	PLT in St. Louis and Apostolic Council
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Feb. 13-16 Feb. 23-28	Days of Prayer PLT in St. Louis and Apostolic Council
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Feb. 7-15 Feb. 10 Feb. 22-28	Visitation at Pelletier Hall, Ft. Thomas Board meeting at DeNeuille Learning Center, Memphis Contemplative Council, PLT and Apostolic Council in St. Louis

## Members of leadership team attend LCWR retreat

LCWR offered a five-day retreat for women religious leaders to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious life leadership today. The days included input and stories from sacred scripture, a quiet space for reflection, variety of ritual and prayer experiences and opportunities for individual spiritual direction. The retreat was a time of contemplative listening and responding on the themes facilitated by Sr. Mary Ann Zollman, BVM and Sr. Annemarie Sanders, IHM. Participants also gathered in wisdom circles to listen deeply to what was being shared and to hold it in a contemplative gaze to Holy Mystery present in and through them. The retreat took place at the Bethany Retreat Center in Tampa, Florida January 11-16.



*From l-r: Srs. Jean Marie Fernandez, Dolores Kalina, Marie Maurer, Maureen Johnson, Beverly Hedgecoth and Maureen Kunz.*

# PROVINCE CONTACT



*Everyone must do their best because together, with one mind, we must contribute to the good of the community/mission.*

Saint Mary Euphrasia

## Contact us

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

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