

# ITEMS

## O F I N T E R E S T

### Clarifying workshop

*A workshop clarifies the identity of Contemplative Sisters in an apostolic congregation.*

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*Three Sisters attend Fiat Retreat to meet with young women discerning religious life.*

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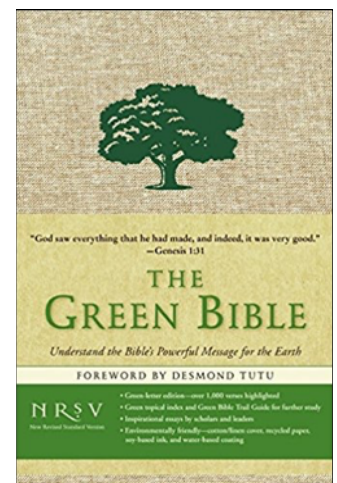


*Sr. Mirian Colala inspires Contemplative Sisters at Immaculate Heart Convent.*

## CONTEMPLATIVE VISITATION

Sr. Mirian Colala, link Sister with the Contemplatives in the Congregation, spent a morning with the Contemplative Sisters at Immaculate Heart Convent on July 11, 2017. The Sisters spoke about having the courage to

*Continued on next page*



## Green Corner

The Province core team Eco-Zeal for Mission would like to introduce two resources for our ongoing focus on the Care of God's creation. One is a study bible called *The Green Bible*. The other resource is a companion book titled *The Green Bible Devotional*. Some people are finding the books useful in seeing God's vision for creation, and as a tool for helping them engage in the

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# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

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

go forth as missionaries.

"We are missionaries here, right where we are. You can be in different countries as a missionary through your heart and prayers. We touch the entire world every day through our prayers," Sr. Mirian told the Sisters.

She also spoke about vocations for contemplative life and encouraged Sisters to pray for vocations.

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***We are missionaries here, right where we are. We touch the entire world every day through our prayers.***

Mirian Colala, CGS

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*Sr. Mirian Colala encouraged the Sisters to pray for vocations for the contemplative life, and to pray for our international Sisters.*

Sr. Mirian lit a candle. As she passed it around the circle of Sisters, she invited each Sister to think about one country they would like to name out loud and pray for.

"Good Shepherd is an international congregation. Our Sisters touch the lives of people all around the world. Some of them live and work in dangerous and challenging places. They need our daily prayers," Sr. Mirian said.

As the flickering candle circulated and changed hands, Sisters called out the countries France, Brazil, Mexico, Africa, Korea, Lebanon, Syria and Venezuela. Sr. Mirian spoke about the suffering that is taking place in some of these countries and shared a prayer from her office.

As she cradled the candle, Sr. Josephine Fritz said, "We better pray hard because it's going to take a miracle to fix some of the problems in Korea and other places in the world where our Sisters are missioned. I feel so sad that our Sisters in Korea are sandwiched between two communist countries, China and North Korea. They need our prayers."

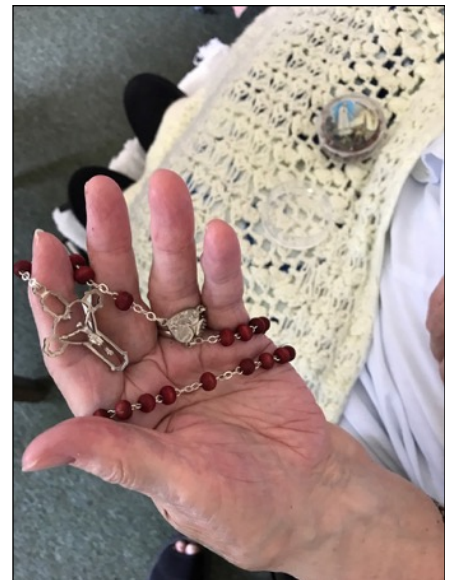
When the Sisters had completed the candle ceremony and their discussion about international missions, Sr. Mirian went around the circle once more and handed each Sister a five decade rosary. The fragrant rosaries had been crafted in Rome and were made from pressed rose petals. Pope Francis had blessed the rosaries.

Sr. Mirian then led the Sisters in singing the Happy Birthday song to

*Continued on next page*



*Sr. Mirian gave Sr. Sarah Tolento a hug after singing the birthday song to her in Spanish.*



*Sr. Mirian handed each Sister a hand-crafted rosary that was blessed by Pope Francis and made from scented rose petals. The rosaries were made in Rome and were received with delight.*



# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL



### Headline *Cont'd from p. 2*

honor Sr. Sarah Tolento on her 87th birthday. They sang the song to her in English, and then in Spanish.

"Our visit with Sr. Mirian was wonderful," said Sr. Dorothy Vogle. "We like to know where all of our Sisters are missioned and hear how they are doing so that we can pray for them," she said.

Sr. Josephine said, "Our time with Sr. Mirian was very informative. She refreshed our memories about the organization of the congregation. She inspired us."

Sr. Mirian expressed deep gratitude for being with the Sisters. She said, "I love everything about our contemplative lifestyle and our ministry of prayer. And I love each one of our Sisters. Being with them was a real blessing for me."

Sr. Mirian is traveling to each community of Contemplative Sisters in the Province and will complete her visits on September 7. She will attend courses in English as a Second Language in St. Louis before returning to Rome.



*Top: Sr. Mirian passed a lit candle around the circle of Sisters at Immaculate Heart and encouraged each Sister to name a country she would pray for while keeping our international Sisters in their hearts and daily prayers. Bottom: The Sisters posed after the visitation for a group photo with Sr. Mirian.*



*Sr. Mirian Colala*



# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL



## Power and energy flow from being partners in mission

By Barbara Beasley, RGS

Laity and Sisters from many countries of the Good Shepherd world met at the Motherhouse three years ago to set a direction and elect new leaders to steer the Congregation through the next six years. These representatives wrote a Direction Statement that addressed the Chapter meeting and the outcomes we wished to bring forth into positive action.

The Direction Statement outlined a process that would help us address and heal such global ills as poverty, human trafficking, forced migration, refugees, gender inequality, violence toward women and children and religious intolerance.

### Corporate responsibility

Recognizing our corporate responsibility to make a difference



*A flip chart demonstrates how integration is core to the three congregational committees, as well as to the offices of mission development, spirituality and justice and peace.*



*Committees report from around the congregation on trends that have been observed in various regions over the past five years. Topic areas include economic climate, social arena, ministries and community living.*

in confronting the sufferings of so many, the Chapter body reflected on the power and energy that flows from being partners in mission. The Congregational Team took up the mandate to put "feet" on the Direction Statement by calling together three Committees: Community for Mission, Formation and Good Shepherd Partnership.

### Working in Committees

This is how and why about 30 Good Shepherd Mission Partners went to Rome in June, 2016, and again in June, 2017. The three committee meetings are held simultaneously, with each committee meeting at the same time. We assemble as one group and then break into separate committees. The trips are allowing us to figure out how Good Shepherds can grow in community as life-long co-learners and partners in order for our mission to make a difference in the world.

*Community for mission* extends beyond the religious community. It involves growing and strengthening relationships among Sisters and Laity, whom we refer to as Good Shepherd Mission Partners. We support and nurture personal and communal development and commitment to our mission when we strengthen relationships.

*Formation* is about continuing education, life-long learning and co-learning. Again, it focuses on all Mission Partners. It, too, is broader than formation for religious.

*Good Shepherd Partnership* is the committee I am on, and the one I address in this article. Sisters Bridget Paily and Zelna Oosthuizen are our coordinators on the Congregational Leadership Team. The committee includes five Laity and two Sisters.

*Continued on next page*



# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

## Partners *Cont'd from p. 4*

We are Jason Furtado (India), Luz Marina Enriquez (Ecuador), Catherine Condon (Ireland), Sr. Florence Kisulu (Kenya, Africa), Nancy Fritche-Egan (NY, United States), Hubert Janssen (Netherlands) and myself.

Hubert does the ministry of a Community or Province leader. He said, "I am participating in leadership on different levels in the Congregation. I execute the tasks normally entrusted to the local leader of our Dutch community, and I participate in the leadership team for Belgium and Netherlands."

Nancy Egan is skilled in a range of group processes and serves on the Inter-province Planning Team. Each of the members has a gift that strengthens our committee.

### Plan of action

Our committee's plan of action is still unfolding. Our first step has been to assess how we are engaging all Good Shepherd Mission Partners in furthering the Congregation's

mission. We found that there is intense interest in developing Mission Partners in most areas of the Congregation. We also learned that both Laity and Sisters want to learn more about this topic.

This fall the committee will begin conducting interviews with Good Shepherd Mission Partners congregation-wide. The interviews will include information-gathering and planning for all three of the committees. The comments we receive will guide us as we create action plans that more strongly engage us all.

Being on the Mission Effectiveness Team with Melinda Stricklen and Lizzie Tschida has given me an experience of partnering at its best.



*While in Rome, Bob Interbartolo and Sr. Barbara Beasley lined up with thousands of others at St. Peter's Square on Pentecost Sunday, waiting to enter Mass at the Vatican, where Pope Francis presided.*

The goals of the international partnership committee fit well with Mission Effectiveness, as we take to heart St. Mary Euphrasia's words, "show (the mission) to the world in all its beauty."

## CATHOLIC HIPSTER

Reclaiming Catholic Cool, One Tweet At A Time...

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

The 2017 #ArchdioceseOfHip Winner is...

I have to say, the Archdiocese of St. Louis put this contest on the map this time around, and the faithful Catholics of the area worked hard to get those votes.

This year's Archdiocese of Hip was covered in blog posts, newspaper articles, and even got a request for an interview about the contest from the local NBC affiliate!

So, it should come as no surprise that after the 730 votes were counted, the STL brought home an award winning 64% of the vote!



We have to point out that Halifax brought the heat, though they most likely know nothing about heat to be honest, and took home a very honorable second place. Finish AHEAD of Los Angeles and Detroit.

But for now, it's St. Louis' time to shine as the hipster Catholics head and shoulders above the rest.

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## Catholic Cool

Communicators for St. Louis Sisters (CSLS) meet monthly to devise campaigns that promote what Catholic Sisters in St. Louis are doing to serve God by serving others in the St. Louis area. *Items of Interest* Editor Jeanette McDermott represents Sisters of the Good Shepherd as a member of the group. For the past two years CSLS has run a billboard campaign during National Catholic Sisters Week titled "We have faith in you, St. Louis." The billboard campaign won this year's Catholic Hipster online voting contest, elevating the Archdiocese of St. Louis to the #1 spot for Catholic Cool. We just never know how social media buzz about our work and core values will inspire and impact others. Read the small print that's on the image to the left at Catholic Hipster <http://bit.ly/2uGbkrW>.

## PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



# What it means to be Impelled by God's love

By Brigid Lawlor, RGS

Sister Jude Ellen Gumbieski, CGS, and I presented a workshop over the 4th of July weekend titled *"Contemplative Life in an Apostolic Congregation: What does it mean to be Impelled by God's Love?"*

We modeled the richness of both Good Shepherd lifestyles and held the event at the Contemplative Community in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. The workshop began on July 3 and ended with the liturgy and a festive meal on July 4. Province Leader Sr. Madeleine Munday and Province Contemplative Council Member Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson participated in the workshop with the local community. Sister Mary Carolyn McQuaid, Province Apostolic Council Member, also participated.

To start things off, we asked participants to put aside their assumptions of contemplative life and to hear "anew" their history, as well as to listen for what is "new." Our goal was to clarify the identity of contemplative Sisters in an apostolic congregation through the five lenses of the Essential Elements of Contemplative Life: Apostolic Incarnational Prayer, Community Life, Enclosure, Apostolic Zeal and Justice. While the Essential Elements of Contemplative Life have been in process since the 1990s, there is a continued call to ponder them deeply and reflect on how they are lived today.

## Apostolic Incarnational Prayer

We role-played a situation that visually demonstrated the meaning of Apostolic Incarnational Prayer. We also read our Constitution's



*The Cheltenham Contemplative Community with Sisters Madeleine Munday, Sharon Rose Authorson and Brigid Lawlor. Sister Beverly Hedgecoth is absent from the group because she had to catch a shuttle to the airport.*

Article Six on Mission and Spirit. After some reflection, Sisters noted that living in the moment, making each moment a moment of contemplation, and finding God dwelling within that moment and ourselves are key to this element.

## Community Life

Sister Jude Ellen noted that it is a great challenge, a personal experience, a struggle to constantly cultivate the values of contemplative life. I pointed out some differences between apostolic and contemplative life. Community

life frees Apostolic Sisters for mission and sustains our zeal. We organize our community life to foster apostolic mobility. Contemplative Sisters find that the structure of community life aids their prayer life. Our structures are, and should be, different.

## Enclosure

We spent time discussing how enclosure continues even outside of community. This helped participants understand what it means to have enclosure of the

*Continued on next page*



# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL



## Workshop *Cont'd from p. 6*

heart. During one of the theological reflections, a Contemplative Sister said, "I experience enclosure of the heart when I can call myself back to the silence of the moment and am able to relate to others with attention and compassion. When I re-focus on Jesus and his dwelling within me, I realize that God's people are with me too and I am never alone in my intimate moments with the Lord."

### Apostolic Zeal

We studied what the vow of zeal means for each lifestyle. Article 29 shows that work and prayer, while different, are not the most important aspects of zeal. The vow of zeal defines our relationship with one another as apostolic and contemplative members. This view of relationship demonstrated for the contemplative Sisters a respect for enclosure and concrete boundaries the different lifestyles have.

### Justice

We discussed the challenges Contemplative Sisters face when they increase their awareness of global realities and take concrete action to stand in solidarity with others to right wrongs. We

addressed the many questions contemplatives have about this issue and asked Apostolic Sisters to also reflect on how they promote justice in the world. It was clear that this essential element requires a clear discernment process.

### Further discussions

We reviewed Article One, which was passed 14 years ago in 2003. The Article is a reminder that we need to continue to clarify what it means to be a contemplative in an apostolic congregation. Sr. Jude Ellen and I stressed how important it is for Contemplative Sisters to communicate and consult with the leaders who make decisions that effect their way of life, notably the Province Leader and her Contemplative Council and the Congregational Leader and her Contemplative Council. This discussion generated questions about government as well as a sharing of general concerns.

We ended the workshop with a light-hearted quiz related to our history. The Sisters had a lovely celebration on the 4th of July to commemorate Independence Day in the United States. The Eucharistic

Liturgy included special readings, patriotic songs and prayers for the country, particularly for the impact our policies have on other nations. Sister Martha Cardenas, an immigrant from Nicaragua who became a US citizen shortly after her perpetual profession in 1993, led the recessional procession dressed as "Lady Liberty." The rest of us marched behind her, waving flags as we sang God Bless America. We ended the event with a traditional American-style fiesta that included hamburgers, hotdogs and corn on the cob.

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*Part of the rationale for offering the workshop was to provide the Contemplative Korean Sisters who are living in the Province of Mid-North America with the same information that the Apostolic Korean Sisters received when Sisters Jude Ellen and Brigid provided the same workshop in Seoul, Korea, at the end of July. The Korean Contemplative Community will be re-founded in September, 2017, with the return of the Contemplative Korean Sisters to their country. Since 2014 they have had a three year immersion experience in contemplative communities in other cultures.*



Sisters Beverly Hedgecoth (left) and Rose Mary Ha.

## Sister Patricia Marie authors book

Sr. Patricia Marie Barnette has been working on a manuscript for a book on post-abortion healing. The Daughters of St. Paul Publishers offered her a contract, which she has signed!

"Now begins many months of editing to make the manuscript into a book. Please pray that this book will bring much healing to those who read it," Sr. Patricia Marie said.

It will be at least one year from now before the book is in print.



# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## My enthusiastic dive into an urban plunge in Chicago

Larry Couch, Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center

I went on a three-day Urban Plunge in Chicago recently with a group of Catholic Laity in an effort to seek ongoing understanding of the root causes of social injustice.

By listening to a range of presentations by social activists who work with and for people living in poverty and on the margin of society, I gained a deeper understanding of the causes of poverty.

For example, one group, the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice, discussed with us the “invisibility” factor of people who suffer from two types of discrimination.

The presenter cited a company that had a good record of hiring people of color and women. However, the company had not hired any black

women. The people of color were black men doing construction work and white women performing office work. The discrimination against black women went unrecorded and, therefore, was invisible.

We also reviewed Chicago’s practice of “steering” and “redlining” its districts to maintain segregated neighborhoods.

### Devotion to Social Justice

As a native Chicagoan, I had no illusions regarding the city’s history in terms of race relations. For years, Chicago was known as the Dixie of the North because of the extreme tension between black and white communities. Yet, while on this trip, I was reminded of my youth and the people I knew who devoted themselves to social justice. It was

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***We heard Adam, an African refugee, tell his harrowing tale of traveling thousands of miles to escape his violence-torn home.***

---

good to see that their work for justice continues.

The immersion trip brought us face-to-face with the legendary diocesan Priest Fr. Michael Pfleger, who has been the pastor at St. Sabina for more than 40 years.

Fr. Michael is an outspoken advocate for social justice who has a flare for the unique. He once encouraged his parishioners to buy time from prostitutes as a way of encouraging the women to use that free time to seek counseling and job training. Typically, Fr. Michael ensures that St. Sabina provides a wide range of social services to the community.

### A harrowing tale of escape

Our days were further enriched by a meeting with the staff from the Refugee Hospitality site, which Fr. Michael Gosch, CSV, administers. We heard Adam, an African refugee, tell his harrowing tale of traveling thousands of miles to escape his violence-torn country.

During lunch at the Arab American Action Network, the staff invited us to challenge anti-Muslim violence by not cooperating with registration

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Urban Plunge participants stand at the altar of St. Sabina, where the legendary Fr. Michael Pfleger, an ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago, has served for 40 years. Larry Couch is fourth from right.



# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Plunge *Cont'd from p. 8*

systems that seek to target or surveil Muslims. In addition, staff members urged us to financially support legal aid organizations that support Muslim communities.

### The sponsor

[Conference of Major Superiors of Men](#) (CMSM) sponsored the Urban Plunge. CMSM collaborates with religious groups and social justice organizations to fulfill its mission of service to leaders of religious institutes, monastic communities and societies of apostolic life.

Sadly, the organization that helped organize the plunge, the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice, will close its doors next year. Founded in 1974 by six congregations of religious men and women, its mission is to promote a world of right relationships in which all creation is seen as sacred and interconnected.

The decision to close the Center was made because of the decline in

vocations. In what the members described as a painful process, they decided that it was time to end their mission. The closing of the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center will be a loss for the Church and for the City of Chicago.

The Urban Plunge was a wonderful and enlightening experience. I had the opportunity to meet with leaders in the Chicago area who promote nonviolence and address the issues of poverty, racism, and Islamophobia. And I will always remember hearing Adam relate his story of fleeing violence in his home country and his ongoing search for a safe refuge.

### Take the plunge

I highly recommend this enlightening and inspiring urban mission experience. It's designed for students and adults, high school age and older. Learn more about it at <http://firstchristianchicago.org/urban-plunge/>.



*Larry Couch visits the chapel at the Quigley Center, current home of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Larry spent a year at the then Quigley Preparatory Seminary when he was 17 years old.*

## Four members rotate off NAC Advisory Board



*From left: Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center Larry Couch, Staff Associate Fran Eskin-Royer and Sr. Mary Thomas More Fahey, RGS (NY/Toronto Province).*

Four members rotated off of the Advisory Board for Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center at the quarterly Board meeting in June. They were Sr. Mary Thomas More Fahey, RGS, New York/Toronto Province, Michael Guignard, Timothy Scanlon and Pope Simmons. All four were founding Advisory Board members.

Sr. Thomas More was instrumental in helping with the development and writing of bylaws. Michael Guignard provided advice and assistance with regard to immigration-related issues. Tim Scanlon has been a social justice community activist whose priorities align with those of the Good Shepherd Sisters. Pope Simmons, who has a background in the mental health field, brought experience for fundraising. Each of the Board members received an engraved plaque in a gift bag.

"We have great respect, gratitude and love for these leaders and early supporters of NAC. We feel blessed that they dedicated themselves so graciously to our ministry," said NAC Director Larry Couch.

## MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Good Shepherd Gallery akin to aromatic nard

By Glynis McManamon, RGS

*This story runs in two parts. The final segment of the article will appear in the September issue of Items of Interest. The anecdotes are true; however, names in italics have been changed to protect identities.*

“When Jesus was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon the Leper, a woman entered carrying an alabaster jar of perfume made from expensive aromatic nard. Breaking the jar, she began to pour the perfume on Jesus’ head. Some were saying to themselves indignantly, “Why this extravagant waste of perfume? The jar could have been sold ... and the money given to the poor.”

They were infuriated with her. But Jesus said, “Why do you criticize her? She has done a beautiful thing.

The poor you will always have with you and you can be generous to them whenever you wish.” (Excerpts from Matthew 26:6-16)

### Extravagant waste?

A beautiful thing, a kindness, a waste of money. How I identify with this! The yearly operating costs for the Good Shepherd Gallery could put a lot of food on some poor family’s table. What is the point of this extravagant waste?

Ministries to the poor generally segregate the already marginalized from those who have economic and social advantages. A food pantry is usually staffed by the haves, and the have-nots line up to get their needs met. The same with a soup kitchen; the haves volunteer, or work for the charity. The have nots are queued up to get their meal.

Go to most any art gallery. Their objective is to sell art and expensive gifts, pay the bills and make a profit. When viewers come in, there is a bit less energy invested in those who demonstrate no interest in buying. With businesses in general, some keep their door locked, admitting only those they want to invite in, and keeping all others out. Many restaurants and small businesses post a sign that says, “No public restrooms” or “Restrooms are for paying customers only.” I can fully understand and empathize with such places. This is self-protective behavior in the face of aggressive panhandling, casual vandalism and property damage, and exposure to robbery and bodily harm.

### Gallery guests

At first glance, Good Shepherd Gallery is situated in a middle-class area. Yet there are homeless or otherwise disenfranchised individuals right here. Good Shepherd Gallery does not bar entrance to habitual panhandlers, does not prevent people from using the restrooms, and allows folks to view the art at leisure even though it is evident that most visitors are not planning to purchase anything.

*Lynda* is in a wheelchair, and *Andy* pushes that wheelchair up and down S. Florissant Road most days. They are extremely happy people. They do have an apartment. They are probably in their forties, and both have a developmental disability.

*Andy* and *Lynda* stopped by during an art opening and reception this spring. There was a crowd of people

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## MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Photographic perspective of Ferguson unrest

The events that unfolded in Ferguson over the police shooting of Mike Brown in August of 2014 sparked a media blitz that held us riveted to images of riots, fires, tear gas, military patrols and looting.

Media reports about Ferguson neglected to focus on the positive responses to the unrest — church and community group engagement, respectful dialogue, constructive protest, trainings in safety and rights education, and the genuine love that was expressed amid the struggle to make sense of what was tragic and incomprehensible.

### Good arises from tragedy

These positive responses to Ferguson form the context for Henry Chaney's photography exhibit *Change the Narrative*, which is on display at Good Shepherd Gallery from August 4 through August 31, 2017.

*Change the Narrative* utilizes images captured during the aftermath of Mike Brown's death up to the present day to illustrate good arising from the ashes of tragedy. In addition to focusing his lens on Ferguson, Chaney trains his eye on a number of settings to show us a multi-dimensional narrative of Black people.

Good Shepherd Gallery will host the opening reception on Friday, August 4, from 6-9 p.m. A gathering at the gallery will also take place on Wednesday, August 9, from 7-8:30 p.m. Pastor José Aguayo (Billy Graham Ministries



Sr. Mary Catherine Massei, business manager for Good Shepherd Gallery, reviews the photographs Henry Chaney (right) will exhibit in his upcoming show at Good Shepherd Gallery. The exhibit focuses on the positive responses to the 2014 unrest in Ferguson, Missouri.

and Police Chaplain) will lead prayer at the gathering and Henry Chaney will speak. A photo booth will allow guests to have their pictures taken.

*Submitted by Sr. Glynis McManamon*

## Aromatic nard *Cont'd from p. 10*

from Kirkwood, which is a bit upscale. *Andy* rolled *Lynda* in and they began hobnobbing with the guests. Sr. Mary Catherine and I don't even notice them at first, because they clearly belong. We had a wonderfully eclectic gathering of art lovers engaged in happy conversation.

*James* and *Alex* are adults. They met only recently, but they have a lot in common. *James* is almost twenty-one. He can't get a job, this in part due to his self-presentation. He does not dress in such a way as

to impress a potential employer. He does not wear a bridge, so his smile reveals no upper teeth. He confides in me that he is on heavy meds, lithium. He asks if I can hire him (I cannot). I pay him \$10 to wash the windows. He brings me a broken statue of St. Michael the Archangel. Someone gave him a quote of \$300 to repair it. It is made of plastic resin as far as I can tell. I ask him how much it is worth to him to have it repaired. He tells me \$100. I tell him he can work for it. He fails to show for a scheduled work session.

I keep messing around with the statue. At last *James* follows through. He accepts a tough job: clean the back room. It has not been cleaned or neatened for more than a year. He does an exceptional job. I tell him, "You know what it is worth to me to have that room cleaned up?" He shakes his head, and I say, "One hundred dollars." I give him the repaired St. Michael.

*The final segment of Sr. Glynis' story will appear in the September issue of Items of Interest.*

# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

## Grant pays for wheelchair van

Upsetting circumstances prompted Sr. Mary Carol McClenon to seek a wheelchair van for Sisters at St. Joseph Residence. It started when cancer returned to Sr. Patricia Touissaint and wracked her body with pain. Unable to walk, she needed a wheelchair van to transport her to a medical appointment. The \$500 rental van got Sr. Patricia to the appointment on time, but was 45 minutes late picking her up. She was drained by the time she got home. When Sr. Patricia needed to be transported for daily radiation treatments, the wheelchair van wasn't always available to rent.

The expense and unreliability of the wheelchair van had become a recurring source of frustration for meeting the needs of Sr. Patricia. Then, Sr. Marita Aumiller's brother died last winter and Sr. Marita could not attend the funeral because she didn't have the agility or stamina to pivot into a car.

"That was the last straw for me," said Sr. Mary Carol, Local Leader of St. Joseph Residence and the Baltimore Community.

"Sr. Marita's situation pushed me over the edge. I had to go in search of a wheelchair van for our aging Sisters," she said.

Sr. Mary Carol applied for a grant through an organization called SOAR (Support our Aging Religious). The agency read the compelling proposal asking for a wheelchair van and understood the need. SOAR donated

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*Sr. Marita Aumiller is grateful that the new wheelchair van at St. Joseph Residence will make it easier for Sisters to get where they need to go.*

## CORA teacher author of two children's books

Arlene Wray is an assistant teacher at the Early Years La Salle program at CORA Services in Philadelphia. She has published two books for children. The [Snorkkel Whalengton series](#) is a collection of short stories about kindness, bullying, honesty, caring and love. It also teaches children the importance of respecting others who have speech disorders. In 2013 Arlene published the first book with her daughter Amber, who enlivened the tales through her illustrations.

"The nice reviews I received from daycare centers and parents inspired me to continue the journey and write another book," Arlene said.

Her new children's book [Snorkkleen "Look At Me"](#) is written in both English and Spanish. The book illustrates how young toddler's can grow up to become positive professionals.

"I enjoy spending time with kids, family and friends as well as volunteering my time at a local food bank," Arlene said.

Arlene has been teaching preschool children at CORA since May 2015. She is originally from Jamaica, where she said she learned the value and importance of family and education.



# MINISTRY NEWS



## ZEAL



### Van *Cont'd from p. 12*

\$25,000 so Sisters of the Good Shepherd could purchase a used wheelchair van for St. Joseph Residence. The vehicle was delivered to the convent on July 20.

Having the van will help Sisters maintain dignity and quality of life.



*Sr. Claire Marie Doyle test rides the new wheelchair van.*

It will allow them to get to medical appointments more easily and stay engaged in life, according to Sr. Mary Carol.

Sr. Marita Aumiller, for example, has spent her religious life actively engaged in social services ministries. Countless characters from divergent paths have orbited her sphere. Her sociability suited her as a Group Mother to troubled girls, social services caseworker and Director of Social Services. When she worked in adoption programs, she developed warm personal relationships with the adoptive parents on the waiting list.

Sr. Marita has lived and worked in Maryland, South Carolina and Pennsylvania. When she retired from adoption work, Sr. Marita returned to Baltimore, where she pursued a ministry of pastoral visiting, phone calls and correspondence. In her aging years, she bounced back from a broken hip but failed to outwit the arthritis that was slowing her down. Sr. Marita

needed knee replacements but was unable to have the surgery because of cardiac concerns. She is 94 years old and now in a wheelchair full-time. Getting into a car had become laborious and painful for her, which had curbed her zeal for going anywhere.

"Thank God for SOAR," said Sr. Mary Carol. Sr. Patricia can travel to doctor's appointments comfortably now and Sr. Marita is once again looking forward to outings."

The Sisters are preparing to leave Baltimore, where Good Shepherd has served the community for more than 150 years. Having the wheelchair van will allow Sr. Marita to ride with the other Sisters as they explore places they might call home. For the socially engaged Sister, that will mean much more than looking at a brochure. It will mean empowerment.

"You never know what's going to happen," said Sr. Marita.

"Just stay open," she said.

## Mission meetup

Kathleen Codey (right) is the Independent Living Supervisor at Maryhurst in Louisville, Kentucky. She went to Baltimore for a meeting on how to end youth homelessness on July 26. Kathleen wanted to meet with some of the Sisters in the Baltimore Community while she was in the area and was able to spend some time with Sisters Patricia Connelly and Gayle Lwanga Crumbley. The Sisters took Kathleen to a popular neighborhood ice cream parlor, where the women shared stories about Good Shepherd mission, Maryhurst and life in general.

"It was wonderful meeting with the Sisters. I learned a lot about different programs that Sisters of the Good Shepherd have spearheaded in the past. It was really an awesome experience," Kathleen said.



## COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL



## Chicago Mission Partners reunite

Three retired Mission Partners who worked at House of Good Shepherd Chicago (HGS) paid a summertime visit to Sisters at Immaculate Heart Convent. Jennifer Christy, Pat Meneghini and Sr. Mary Catherine Connolly, SLW, drove from Chicago to St. Louis to see the Sisters they had worked with. The two-day reunion was a charmed time. Conversation was still buzzing about the visit long after the women left and returned to Chicago.

### Road trip

During lunch one February afternoon Pat suggested to Jennifer and Mary Catherine that they take a road trip to St. Louis to see the Sisters at Immaculate Heart. The idea took root instantly.

"I don't know why we waited so long to do it," Pat said. "We love these Sisters and had a long history of working and playing together. Even our husbands are friends and know the Sisters."

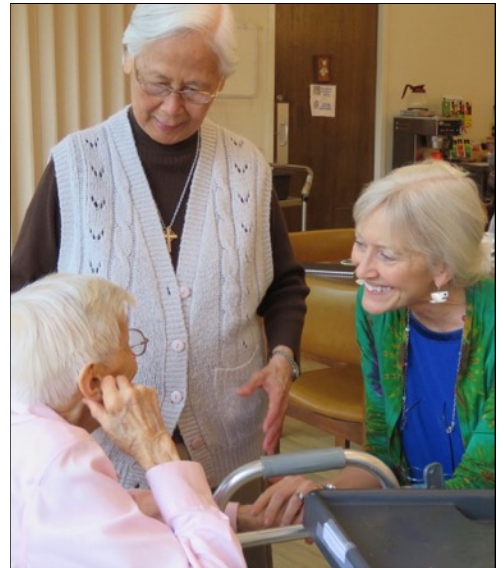
Among the many tales the women and Sisters shared were stories of how the Good Shepherd Mission Effectiveness program shaped the positive culture at House of Good Shepherd.

### Love, patience and caring

Jennifer said, "The Mission Effectiveness office brought enthusiasm and creativity to our staff retreats, gatherings and the Angers Pilgrimages. The program helped Lay Staff learn about, engage with and commit to the Good Shepherd Mission. This commitment enriched the programs at House of Good Shepherd and created a sense of teamwork and mutual support."

"I learned love, patience and the art of real caring from the Sisters at House of Good Shepherd. Seeing how Sisters and Staff treated one another made the women feel supported," Jennifer said.

*Continued on next page*



*Sisters at Immaculate Heart Convent and retired Mission Partners from House of Good Shepherd catch up on one another's lives and reminisce about their shared experiences at HGS during a visit in June. Bottom photo from left: Jennifer Christy, Pat Meneghini and Sr. Mary Catherine Connolly, SLW.*



# COMMUNITY LIFE



## ZEAL

### Reunion *Cont'd from p. 14*

According to Sr. Dorothy Renckens, the philosophy of St. Mary Euphrasia took hold at House of Good Shepherd. "It was a wonderful place to be," she said.

The three retired Mission Partners had a combined total of 49 years working with House of Good Shepherd. Sisters also had a long history of service there.

Sr. Fidelis Lubos worked at HGS for 11 years. Sr. Dorothy Renckens was there for 12 years. Sr. Stanislaus DePolonia spent 10 years at House of Good Shepherd, and Sr. Michael Maguire was there, on and off, for 10 years.

#### Bringing healing

Sr. Sharon O'Grady had been assigned to HGS three times and was the last remaining Sister to leave before it turned over to Catholic Charities. She said, "People built up a lot of trust for one another at House of Good Shepherd over the years. Everyone focused on bringing healing to the women."

Sr. Mary Catherine said, "I always felt like we treated the women and children with respect. In keeping with their dignity, we tried to help them move into the future with the help they needed to succeed. It was a gift and a blessing to be at House of Good Shepherd."

Sr. Stanislaus summed up the shared feelings when she said, "There was a real family spirit there. We were close to one another."

After spending two nights at Immaculate Heart Convent and



*Jennifer Christy shares family photos from her cell phone.*

spending some time sightseeing in St. Louis, the women left and returned home to Chicago.

"We had a truly wonderful visit and loved seeing the Sisters again. We had such fun reminiscing with them. We're coming back," Jennifer said.

## Baltimore Community bids farewell to two Mission Partners

The Baltimore and St. Joseph Residence Communities had a small retirement party for Marlene Milnor, who had served in the St. Joseph Residence dietary department for about 14 years. Marlene insisted adamantly that she wanted no party or recognition whatsoever. We calmly took that for what it was worth (= zero!) and focused on the Sisters' needs for expressions of gratitude and closure. So we had coffee and cookies with Marlene in the dining room. It was a surprise for Marlene, because on the schedule for the Sisters it just said

"Coffee and Cookies, 9 a.m." — just like a regular activities announcement.

We were able to augment the gathering a little bit because it was also the last day of work for Lisa Courtney, who served in the GSS Finance Department for 12 years. All the members of the Finance team joined Lisa with the Sisters and Marlene. Marlene promises to come back periodically to do the dining room decorations.

*Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS*



*Marlene Milnor (left) with Sisters Frances Altavilla and Dolores Kalina.*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

# Mary Nora Dennehy, RGS

September, 14, 1933 – July 17, 2017

Nora Mary Dennehy was a first generation Irish-American Philadelphia girl who was born on September 14, 1933. Both of her parents emigrated from Ireland. They met and married after arriving in the United States. Sr. Nora enjoyed her strong Catholic family life, which included two brothers and one sister.

Nora said she always knew that she was her father's favorite child. When she asked her mother why her dad favored her, her mother replied, "Because you listen to him."

Her family had a good time at the funeral luncheon debating whether she really was the father's favorite. They had not heard her express that opinion and were surprised by it; however, she had told me that story many times.

Nora was always very verbal. She was a great talker and listener and excellent reader from an early age. She especially liked to read newspaper headlines out loud to see what others thought about them. She was interested in everything.

Sr. Nora graduated from St. Hubert's High School in Philadelphia. After high school, she worked for one year while attending college at night. She had to take three buses to get home from campus. This dedication to education was a hallmark of her entire life.

Sr. Nora entered Good Shepherd at Germantown, Philadelphia, on her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and initially worked in the residential program there. Shortly after her first profession in 1955, she became Director of Social Services at Claver School and then was missioned to Lourdesmont, where she again served as Director of Social Services.

She made her final vows in 1958. She served as a young Formation Director during the tumultuous years of the Second Vatican Council, then continued her career in residential treatment as Director of Social Services at Fox Chase and Administrator at Lourdesmont. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology in 1970 from Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

## **Dedicated to education**

During a difficult time in the Province, Sr. Mary Nora was unexpectedly elected Provincial Superior (1970-1976). Her administration was characterized by strong investment in education for the Sisters. Many of the



*Mary Nora Dennehy, RGS*

Sisters completed their undergraduate degrees or pursued graduate studies during this time. Sr. Nora modeled her dedication to education by obtaining a Master's Degree in Education in Counseling from American University in 1973.

In 1978, she was missioned to CORA Services in Fox Chase, Philadelphia, where she worked as a psychologist. She founded the Lifeline Program and served as its director for 14 years. Here she did pre-natal and post-natal work with young mothers to give them the skills and resources needed to bring their babies to safe delivery and healthy early childhood. Nora involved the young fathers in this process at a time when there was little emphasis on the role of men in Pro-Life work.

*Continued on next page*



## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

ZEAL

**Nora** *Cont'd from p. 16*

Sr. Nora earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from Temple University in 1980. She became an international traveler as a speaker and master trainer in the TeenSTAR program. STAR is an acronym for Sexuality Teaching in the context of Adult Responsibility.

**Missioned to Baltimore**

She was sent to St. Joseph Residence in Baltimore in April of 2012, following several serious falls and hospitalizations. She recovered in Baltimore from a bout of pneumonia and was later transferred to the Good Shepherd Services Community in Baltimore for active retirement. In 2014 she was missioned to St. Joseph Residence.

Sr. Nora resisted retirement and was encouraged to think of her ministry as "assisting with socialization and activities for the elder Sisters." She continued to crochet baby blankets and scarves and maintained a correspondence and telephone ministry with former clients until the last year or so of her life.

After a lifetime of hard-driving professional accomplishments with a reputation for being "a tough cookie," Sr. Nora's final year was marked by increasing docility and gratefulness. As her health and memory failed, she enjoyed sitting quietly holding hands with Sisters and Staff.

Her final journey was triggered by a bout of chest congestion with a very brief and peaceful dying process. The Sisters and Staff had been taking turns sitting with her. Nurse Lynn detected a definite change at around 5:40 p.m. on Monday, July 17, and felt that death was imminent. During the four or five



minutes that it took for Lynn to summons me, Sr. Mary Nora Dennehy had quietly completed her 83-year earthly journey. She will be remembered for her exceptional smile, her gracious hospitality, keen intellect and loving zeal.

*Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS*

**Tribute from Congregational Leader Sr. Ellen Kelly**

Dear Sisters,

I send my prayerful gratitude for the life of Sr. Nora and my sympathy to all who loved her. She was the first Good Shepherd Sister with whom I had written contact. Later I visited her at Fox Chase after having met the Sisters in New Jersey. Nora was very encouraging and spoke so loving of the work with the girls, which impressed me. May she be enjoying the embrace of the God who called her to life.

United in prayer,  
Ellen Kelly, RGS

**Announcements**

Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center welcomes four new members to its Advisory Board: Sylvia Casaro Dietert, Brigid Lawlor, RGS, Claudia Villareal and Millicent Carvalho-Grevious.

Thanks to the Good Shepherd family for voting for Rose Haven in an online grant contest. Your votes allowed Rose Haven to win a \$10,000 grant from Advantis Credit Union Community Fund.

Please make the following changes to the Photo Directory: Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley was born in Hamilton Air Force Base, California.

First Profession for Sr. Laetitia Hughes was March 19, 1958.

Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd are gathering in St. Louis in August. Look for a story about their biennial meeting in the September issue of *Items of Interest*.

[mkathleen818@gmail.com](mailto:mkathleen818@gmail.com) is the correct email address for Sr. Kathleen Moore.

You can read and download the most recent issue of *Embrace the World* at <http://bit.ly/2tuhk3R>

Sr Alena Bernert has moved to St Margaret Hall in Cincinnati.

Sr. María Janina, NSCBP, is asking for prayers that God shows mercy upon the Venezuelan people and restores stability to their country.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

# Virginia Ann “Ginny” Hinks, RGS

June, 3, 1921 – July 19, 2017

*Sr. Virginia “Ginny” Hinks wrote her biography a number of years ago. The following is how she recounted her life.*

On June 3, 1921, I was born to Marguerite Moloney and Stacy Hinks in Detroit, Michigan, where we lived until I was five years old. Then we moved to Dearborn, where I lived until I joined the Good Shepherd convent in 1952.

I had an older brother, Robert (Bob), and an older sister Betty. When I was five, my mother had twin girls, Mary Jane and Shirley. My mom and dad were two very different individuals but were wonderful people and excellent parents. Mom was an Irish Catholic who had great faith. Dad, was, well, he never was sure exactly what he was, but I often saw him kneel beside the bed before he crawled in.

A few years before he died, Dad called me and said, “Well kid, I thought you’d like to know that the Catholics finally got me.” My father had converted to Catholicism and made his First Communion the following Sunday.

Bob left home in 1938 to join the Jesuits. He was ordained in 1950. In 1940 Betty married Joseph Flanagan. They had three children. Mary Jane and Shirley joined the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary after high school graduation.

## **My Fiat to Jesus**

When I was about 15 I came across the Suscipe prayer of St. Ignatius and just fell in love with it. I said it every day with great devotion and longing. The prayer remained on my dresser for 15 years, until I



Virginia “Ginny” Hinks, RGS

entered Good Shepherd in St. Paul in 1952, when I was 30 years old.

I guess I had said my Fiat to Jesus without realizing it. I felt the hand of God was upon me and with me. This finally dawned on me after making a retreat one weekend. In that experience I felt that Jesus was calling me to follow him. Driving home I said to him, “I will follow, but you will have to show me where to go.”

Sometime later that summer I took a trip out west to the Grand Canyon with some friends. We stopped at the good Shepherd convent in Omaha on the way home, where I had a cousin whom I had never seen. She was Sister Divine Shepherd and was Mistress of the Magdalens. I was most impressed. Several months later I decided to enter religious life.

On February 2, 1952, Mom, Sr Divine Shepherd and I arrived at the Good Shepherd Convent in St. Paul, where I entered. I was given the name of Angela Marie, and I was first missioned in Seattle, where I later spent 20 years. I also lived in Portland, Omaha, Spokane, Denver and St. Paul.

## **My centering prayer**

I worked 22 years with our girls and held about every job you could imagine and some you couldn’t. I gathered a great amount of knowledge and always wanted to learn more. I still seek every new experience I can.

In 2006 I was greatly in need of a change of life. Sr. Barbara Beasley, then Provincial, invited me to come to St. Louis and check out the Sarah Community. This facility consists of three houses: Naomi House for independent living, Veronica House for assisted living and Anna House for total care.

I found living there to be a very life-giving experience. I had many friends and Martina, my beautiful Burmese cat, and I often visited them, especially on birthdays and special occasions. We also greeted new residents and welcomed them.

I thank my dear Lord that I was granted many gifts and talents, which I was happy to share with others along my life’s journey. My faith and these gifts often sustained me along the way during my hardships and struggles. It is clear to me that God’s loving hand has guided me. I am so gifted to live constantly in the presence of God.

*Continued on next page*



# CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZEAL

## Ginny *Cont'd from p. 18*

I know that my Suscipe and my centering prayer keep me mindful of Jesus' presence and closeness to me during each day and each night.

### One of a kind

Sr. Ginny had a knack for making the ordinary extraordinary. She expressed her creativity in a number of ways, most notably through needlework and singing. She also produced the Province's first photo directory "Lord's Jewels," in 2005.

Sr. Ginny's expressive needlepoint exhibited a soft and tender quality that reflected her sensitive and caring nature. Even the cats she stitched look angelic.

She also had a dramatic flair for fashion and since high school had made all of her own clothing. She delighted in shopping for brightly colored fabrics and accessories. She also enjoyed applying her sewing skills to outfit Sisters in habits before Vatican II.

At the age of five Sr. Ginny showed promise for her vocal talent. She took voice lessons for about 20 years and sang God's praises with the utmost exuberance. Sr. Virginia Gordon said, "Ginny had a wonderful voice. None of us could follow her pitch, but we sure appreciated her zeal for singing."

Sr. Ginny was highly spirited and unique. Sr. Dorothy Renckens, who made first professed vows with her, summed up the general consensus among Sisters when she said, "Ginny was a character. She always stood out. All I can say is Heaven hasn't been the same since Ginny got there."

Sr. Pauline Bilbrough, Local Leader at Immaculate Heart Convent,



*Sr. Dorothy Renckens made first professed vows with Sr. Ginny. She reflects on Sr. Ginny's life before attending her wake at Immaculate Heart Convent in July.*

found Sr. Ginny's zest for life remarkable.

"In the almost four years she lived at Immaculate Heart, Sr. Ginny continued to learn by keeping up on national and world affairs. Her vision and hearing impairments didn't interfere with her listening to books on tape, doing study courses from The Great Courses, enjoying football games and being as involved in Community activities and prayer as she was able. Sister shared her love for life with everyone. She was clever, funny and joyful. She will be missed by us all," Sr. Pauline said.

Sister Ginny went home to our Good Shepherd at 2:10 a.m. on July 19, 2017. She died very peacefully at age 96.



*One of Sr. Ginny Hink's masterful needlepoint tapestries.*

## SPOTLIGHT



ZEAL



## Evelyn Williams, the face of DeNeuille Learning Center

*This month Items of Interest spotlights Ms. Evelyn Williams, the longest serving staff member of DeNeuille Learning Center (DLC). The part-time receptionist just turned 90 years old. "Everybody loves Ms. Evelyn. She's a little spitfire," said Lori Bramlett, Executive Director of DeNeuille.*



**Ms. Evelyn Williams is the first face people see when they enter DeNeuille Learning Center.**

### **How did you discover DeNeuille Learning Center?**

I saw a newspaper advertisement for computer classes back in 1998, when the school was first starting. The classes were free because they were just trying to get students, so my friend and I took the computer classes together. I liked what they were trying to accomplish by helping refugees, so I started volunteering once a week. Sister Lakshmie drove me home at night.

### **What is your job at DLC?**

I work part-time as the receptionist. I try to answer people's questions and give them

information and brochures. I like to encourage women when they walk through the door. I also help guide drivers into our parking lot when we have special events. If drivers don't park their cars properly, then there won't be enough room for everyone to park.

### **You helped Sr. Lakshmie promote DeNeuille in the early days, before people knew about it, didn't you?**

Yes, I did. I live in the Midtown neighborhood in Memphis. Sr. Lakshmie would pick me up from home and the two of us would drive around Memphis distributing flyers to churches. Women also heard about DeNeuille through the newspaper, like I did. We don't use the newspaper so much anymore. People hear about us through our website and social media nowadays. When I ride the bus people ask me where I work and I tell them about the school.

### **You are known to tell funny stories about the colorful years you have spent at DLC. Does any particular story come to mind that you can share with our readers?**

A man once donated a 100-pound sack of flour to the center. Sister Lakshmie never liked to throw anything away, so some other girls and I divided all of that flour into plastic bags and distributed the bags of flour to all of the students at DLC. Flour dust was flying everywhere and by the time we finished we looked like Lucy and Ethel [from the TV series *I Love Lucy*] covered in white powder. There were a lot of laughs that day.

### **You have been at DeNeuille nearly 20 years. What has kept you here?**

My favorite thing about working here is the fellowship and getting to meet new people. I'm a widow and I live alone, so I really enjoy working as the receptionist here. I love being around people and meeting people from all over the world. Over the years we've served women that have spoken more than 22 languages. I love working here. I love the work and I love the people. We haven't had a school in Memphis, in the longest time that I can recall, that helps particular ladies the way DeNeuille does.

*Sr. Lakshmie Napagoda founded DeNeuille Learning Center in April 1998 and served as Founding Director for 15 years. Lori Bramlett succeeded Sr. Lakshmie and became the center's first Executive Director in 2013.*





# GREEN CORNER



## ZEAL

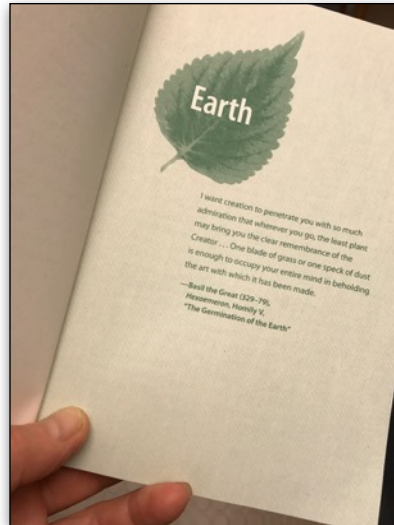


## Green Bible *Cont'd from p. 1*

work of healing and sustaining creation. The Green Bible highlights in green ink those scriptural passages that pertain to creation, environment and care of the earth. It also includes inspirational essays by Pope John Paul II, theologian Ellen Davis and others. Its aim is to open new avenues of understanding of Earth stewardship as a fundamental feature of Christian life. The book is taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible, published in 1989.

### Green Bible Devotional

*The Green Bible Devotional* focuses on the green-letter passages in *The Green Bible* and uses them as a starting point to lead readers into 60 daily devotionals that provide a biblical understanding of Earth stewardship. The devotional gives depth to the issue of environmental



**A page from *The Green Bible Devotional***

awareness and is organized by six concerns: clean water, clean air, responsible use of land, protection

for animals, health for all humanity and our role as stewards of God's good earth and protectors of creation.

Structured by these themes, each devotional begins with a green-letter passage of scripture followed by a meditation and a prayer. Here is an example of what you will find in *The Green Bible Devotional*:

*"I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you the clear remembrance of the Creator ... One blade of grass or one speck of dust is enough to occupy your entire mind in beholding the art with which it has been made."*

~ Basil the Great (329-79)  
Hexameron, Homily V,  
"The Germination of the Earth"

## Guess Who?

Last month's Guess Who photograph was so popular that we wanted to run another mystery photo in this issue of Items of Interest. There's a debate about last month's archival photo. Some say it's Sr. Dorothy Doyle; others say it's a Sister who left the convent before taking final vows. So, while last month's photo mystery remains unsolved, who can help us obtain archival data on the photo to the right?

- Who is this Sister?
- Where was this photograph taken?
- When was the photograph taken/What year?
- What was happening when the photo was taken?
- Who else might have been in the room when the photographer snapped the image?



## VOCATIONS



ZEAL



## Fiat Retreat 2017

Sister Carmen Flores and Elizabeth Garciano attended the first group of a Fiat Retreat from the Diocese of Baltimore this summer. Sr. Patricia Marie Barnette joined them in the second group from the Diocese of Harrisburg. The retreat took place at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, from June 29 to July 7.

"We set up our table when we arrived. The retreat was designed so that the young people could visit the tables between retreat activities. This was when we were able to talk with and get to know the young people. I was really impressed by these young women. They were so attentive and quiet. They were also funny, so we had an amazing time," said Sr. Carmen.

Sr. Elizabeth said, "I really appreciated the experience of reaching out to the young women who desire to live religious life. The girls who attended the Fiat Retreat showed the faith it takes to follow the call of Jesus. It gives me hope that their particular calling will become clearer as they continue their journey to find the will of God in their lives."

"It was truly a blessing to be at the Harrisburg Fiat Days. I was inspired by the young women who are searching so beautifully for the will of God in their lives. They gave me so much encouragement just by their presence, their reflections and faith," said Sr. Patricia Marie.

Sr. Elizabeth said she especially enjoyed the presentation on the "love story of Jesus" in our lives, the importance of the Sacraments, the instructions on how to pray the Divine Office, the silent adoration during the exposition of the Blessed



*Sr. Carmen Flores (2nd from left) sits among participants of Fiat Days 2017.*

Sacrament and meditating on the Word of God. She said she was also deeply touched by Sisters from different congregations who spoke about their spirituality and charism.

Sr. Elizabeth was invited to share her views on the contemplative dimension in the Church. As she shared her vocation story, she said it became alive for her all over again. "My endless gratitude to God for the beauty of my consecrated life will always remain in my soul, body and spirit as I continue my own conversion and inner transformation and my commitment to serve the people of God and all creation," she said.

To see more photos of Fiat Days 2017 visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/154517391392282/>



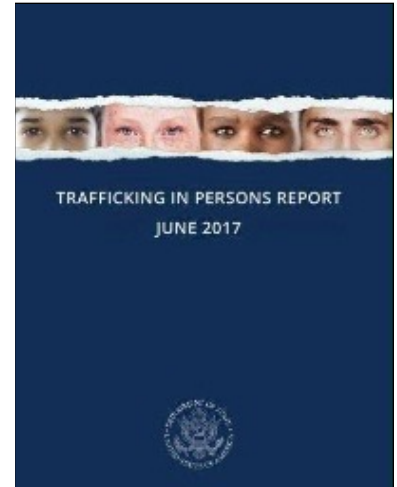


# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**ZEAL**

## VICTIM STORIES

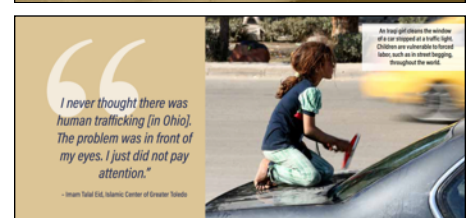
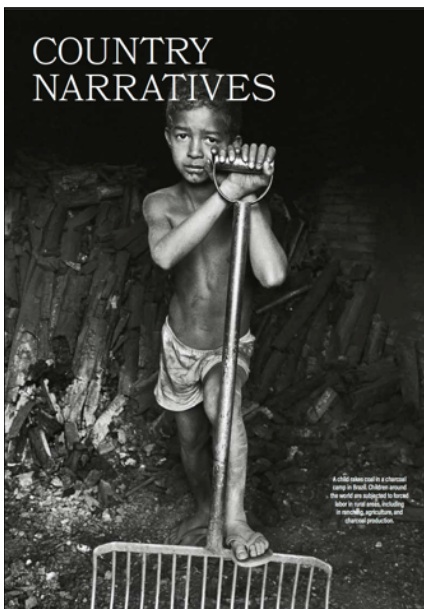
The victims' testimonies included in this Report are meant to be illustrative and to characterize the many forms of trafficking and the wide variety of places in which they occur. They do not reflect all forms of human trafficking and could take place almost anywhere in the world. Many of the victims' names have been changed in this Report. Most photographs are not images of confirmed trafficking victims. They illustrate the myriad forms of exploitation that comprise human trafficking and the variety of situations in which trafficking victims are found.



The U.S. State Department has published its 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report. The document highlights the successes achieved in combatting human trafficking worldwide and the challenges that remain.

This year's Report focuses on the responsibility of governments to criminalize human trafficking and hold offenders accountable. Its intent is to help governments identify threats so law enforcement agencies can respond effectively and gain insight into where human trafficking remains most severe. The Report also aims to equip local and sub-national law enforcement agencies to better assist in efforts to target and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

Download the Report at <http://bit.ly/2sinEKs>



## SYRIA | LEBANON

Maya was 22 when she fled her home country of Syria due to conflict in the region. She was promised a job working in a factory in Lebanon, but when she arrived she was forced into commercial sex along with more than 70 other Syrian women. They endured severe physical and psychological violence. Eventually, police raided the apartment units the women lived in and arrested 10 men and eight women who had been part of the sex trafficking scheme.

Children around the world are bought and sold for sex, labor and forced begging in rural areas and on city streets. They are used in war-torn nations as human shields, suicide bombers and executioners. They live in horrifying conditions. They are alone and afraid and need our help and prayers.

## LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	August 8-12	LCWR Assembly, Orlando
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	August 7-12	LCWR Assembly, Orlando
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	August 2-6 August 8-31	Companions meeting, St. Louis Working in Baltimore
Sr. Maureen Kunz	August 4-7  August 7-12 August 12-22	Farewell blessing of Good Shepherd Court, Toronto & visit with Sisters in Toronto Catholic Health Association/LCWR Assembly, Orlando Vacation
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	August 4-6  August 7-12 August 21-29	Farewell blessing of Good Shepherd Court, Toronto & visit with Sisters in Toronto LCWR Assembly, Orlando Retreat, St. Louis
Sr. Madeleine Munday	August 8-11	LCWR Assembly, Orlando

## World Day of Prayer for Creation

September 1 was proclaimed World Day of Prayer for Creation by the Orthodox Church in 1989. Many other Christian churches have joined in the celebration since then, including Pope Francis in 2015. The day was later extended to be a month-long Season of Creation, ending on October 4 on the Feast of St. Francis. The Province core team Eco-Zeal for Mission will share more about this celebration in the September issue of Items of Interest.

### *Image on right*

Sr. Virginia Ann "Ginny" Hinks spent much of her life stitching masterful needlepoint tapestries. Needlework was one of her greatest pastimes and passions before she lost sight in her eyes. Earth Angel is among her beautiful collection of tapestries. Sr. Ginny died peacefully on July 19, 2017. A recounting of her life begins on page 19.





## PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL

*"Live in sweet peace, union, zeal and trust."**Saint Mary Euphrasia***Contact us**

Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
Province of Mid-North America  
7654 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63121

314-381-3400; 314-381-7102 fax  
[www.sistersofthegoodshepherd.com](http://www.sistersofthegoodshepherd.com)

Jeanette McDermott, communications coordinator  
314-381-3400, ext. 28  
[jmcdermott@gspmna.org](mailto:jmcdermott@gspmna.org)

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**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
Province of Mid-North America  
7654 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63121

