

# ITEMS

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

### SJE workshop a hit

*St. John Eudes workshop participants rave about what they learned.*

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### Rituals bring closure

*Sr. Mary Carol McClenon conducts rituals to put closure on GSS closing.*

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### Life is colorful

*Maria Droste Community lives a contemplative Intercultural Journey.*

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### Veterans honored

*Sr. Pauline Bilbrough experiences first hand the grace of an Honor Flight.*

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NAC Advisory Board members show off the ministry's new Green Door.

## GREEN DOOR PROJECT BEGINS

A new initiative is underway in the Province of Mid-North America that is inspiring Good Shepherd Sisters and ministries to paint their entry ways green, to model the green doors for apostolic ministries in Angers, France.

Continued on next page



## Cottonwood tree

There is a standing dead cottonwood tree (called a snag in forest ecology) at the front of the Province campus property near Natural Bridge Road.

Snags are important structural components in forest communities. They make up 10-20% of all trees present in old-growth tropical, temperate, and boreal forests. Last fall a tree maintenance crew removed the limbs and upper

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# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

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

National Advocacy Center (NAC) Advisory Board Member and Province Director of Operations Monte Abbott initiated the Green Door Project after being inspired while on Pilgrimage to the Motherhouse in April.

Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center is the first ministry to jump on the bandwagon. A paint crew of Good Shepherd Mission Partners set to work painting the door on the morning of June 22. That evening NAC Advisory Board members walked through the freshly painted green door as they arrived for a board meeting.

#### Archives initiative

The Green Door Project is an initiative of the Province of Mid-North America Archives Department and is part of the 2018 celebration of the Sisters' 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being in North America.



Larry Couch and Fran Eskin-Royer help paint NAC's entryway green.

Monte said the Green Door is a powerful symbol of the invitations that he hears in the charism of Mary Euphrasia – invitations to healing and refuge, wholeness and salvation, service and love.

"When I visited Angers as a Mission Partner pilgrim I touched the Green Door and, like earlier visitors, passed through it. My personal invitation was to draw closer to the Sisters and fellow Mission Partners. I hope the Green Door Project inspires the North America Good Shepherd family to grow in unity and to find meaning in what we share," Monte said.

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*I appreciate the symbolism and the meaningful connection of the Green Door.*

Sr. Brigid Lawlor

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NAC Staff Associate Fran Eskin-Royer was on Pilgrimage with Monte. She said, "I loved the idea of having a tangible connection to the Good Shepherd Motherhouse in Angers. The National Advocacy Center educates and lobbies around the social justice priorities of the Congregation and its agencies and ministries across the country and around the world. Painting the door green created for us a daily reminder of our roots and the work that began with the Congregation's foundress St. Mary Euphrasia."

#### Enthusiasm for the project

Sr. Brigid Lawlor, who founded NAC in 2001, said, "I loved the enthusiasm for the project by our



Monte Abbott is spearheading the Green Door Project as part of an Archives project to celebrate 175 years of Good Shepherd in North America.

recent pilgrims Monte and Fran. They inspired me! I appreciate the symbolism and the meaningful connection of the Green Door. St. Mary Euphrasia, Count de Neuville and all of the early missionaries who walked through the Green Door in Angers, France.

"People today can feel their spirit and rejoice in the same charism by walking through green doors of ministries and houses who participate in this new project," Sr. Brigid said.

*Continued on next page*



# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



## Green door *Cont'd from p. 2*

NAC Director Larry Couch said, "This is very exciting. The Green Door Project is a great way for Good Shepherd ministries in PMNA and



From left: NAC Advisory Board Member Monte Abbott, NAC Staff Associate Fran Eskin-Royer, NAC Director Larry Couch and NAC founder Sr. Brigid Lawlor.

around the world to connect with our heritage in France."

The goal of the Green Door Project is to inspire people to get Staff and Sisters involved in this project, and to share their efforts by taking pictures and posting them with the hashtag #GreenDoor on their social media platforms. Ideally, people would share their photos with Jeanette McDermott for *Items of Interest* and the Province Facebook page.

### Who will be next?

The Green Door was the portal for those who came to the Motherhouse, whether they were coming in or going out. Sisters, residents and Mission Partners all passed through the Green Door as they accepted the call to mission, sought safety, and shared gifts and resources.

Who will be the next Good Shepherd house or ministry to paint their door green? Contact Monte for

assistance with planning your event and for the Pantone color code used on the original Green Door.

"We will publish photos of your event in *Items of Interest* and post them on the province Facebook page. As Saint Mary Euphrasia might say, Go forth!



The Green Doors at the Motherhouse in Angers, France.



Meet our new Province Vocations Ambassadors (l-r) Jeanette McDermott, Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez and Theresa Nguyen.

## PMNA congratulates its first Vocations Ambassadors

The Province of Mid-North America sent three representatives to participate in the Vocation Ambassadors Program from June 9-12, 2017, in Notre Dame, Indiana. The participants were among 14 select teams of vocation ministers, communicators and single young adults (ages 20-30) who worked together and learned skills to develop a consistent message that vocations to religious life is a viable option in the Catholic Church. Participants used technology and newfound skills in social media to create a strategic communications plan to promote vocation life today. Congratulations to the three PMNA graduates of the program! They will use the plan they developed to reach out to young women ages 18-40.

# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



## Saint John Eudes: Love with His Great Heart

By Sharon O'Grady, RGS



The Saint John Eudes workshop with Sr. Marie-Françoise Le Brizaut marked the third year in a row that the Province of Mid-North America has had a formation session for Sisters and Laity. We come together at these annual sessions to spend time together for a few days and to go deeper into a specific aspect of our spirituality.

This year we invited Sister Marie-Françoise to share her knowledge of St John Eudes with us. Sister lives in Caen, France. She has been a member of the Congregation since 1961 and has held many leadership roles during her lifetime, including being the first Congregational Leader of Our Lady of Charity. She is especially gifted in understanding the spirituality of St John Eudes.

Sister Marie-Françoise was with us in St. Louis from June 25 -29. She

addressed Eudist spirituality under three headings: the formation of Jesus in us; the Heart of Jesus and Mary; and Christ as center of our lives. Under these headings we heard about his teaching on baptism and the Christian baptismal vows.

### Parallel expressions of Saint John Eudes

We learned that John Eudes believed profoundly that Jesus and Mary together had one heart, which expressed the passion of God's love for his people. Sister showed us how Eudist teachings on the Heart of Christ are comparable to those of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ. Sr. Marie-Françoise also offered parallel expressions of St John Eudes that are present in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* text.

A highlight of this year's workshop was the third anniversary

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***My own heart is not enough by which to love; I must love with the Great Heart of Jesus within me.***

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celebration of our reunification as Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. Sisters from the three provinces of North America attended the workshop.

Another highlight was the presence of Sister Frances Johnson, from the Congregational Leadership Team in Rome. Sr. Frances reported that within the next three years we will have 67 Sisters from different countries making perpetual vows.

### Participant responses

Good Shepherd Mission Partners had various responses to the workshop. Sister Agnes McCormick, from Central South Province, said she was motivated to attend the workshop so she could meet Sisters in the Province of Mid-North America and get to know them.

The force that drove Sr. Carol Pregno, Central South, to attend was her existing friendship with Sister Marie Françoise. Sr. Carol said, "I always feel renewed by the depth of Sr. Marie-Françoise's words."

PMNA Mission Partner Melinda Stricklen said the workshop section

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

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

on baptism was most meaningful to her. She said, "I was particularly inspired by the description of the three virtues of baptism: faith, hope and charity, which were described as energies of baptism."

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***Make space to  
joyfully and  
willingly be filled  
with God's great  
love for all so that  
suffering is nothing.***

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Sr. Liz Schille said, "We have been saying the *Hail Heart* prayer for years; however, Sr. Marie Francoise's words broke open for me new understanding and meaning in that prayer. I especially appreciated her description of patient love when she told us that things are never perfect, and that patient love keeps us from getting discouraged."

For Sr. Mary Catherine Massei, "There was enough content in these three days to spend the rest of my life meditating on the love of God in and through the Heart of Jesus."

In her own journey into understanding Christ in relationship to the universe, Sr. Janice Rushman said, "I have at times found myself struggling. In the conference on St. John Eudes and Teilhard de Chardin, Sister Marie Francoise compares the two priests' understanding of the Heart of Christ. This gave me a way of connecting our John Eudes legacy with what has meant so much to me in my life."

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***Oh Jesus, make my  
heart your  
sanctuary lamp  
always burning for  
love of you.***

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***Heart of Jesus and  
Mary, your love is a  
light in my heart.  
And the only thing I  
can give is my heart  
faithful and true.  
This is all I can do.***

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Sister Rose Mary Ha said she was grateful to have the opportunity to learn about the spirituality of St. John Eudes. She said, "I know very little about it and find that it enriches my contemplative religious life. I found the teaching on the Heart of Christ and how we can love with 'His Great Heart' helpful to me. I liked the expression, "Make mercy your lifestyle ... allow mercy to be imprinted on your heart."

Sr. Frances Altavilla said, "The

*Continued on next page*



*Sixty Good Shepherd Mission Partners enrolled in the 3-day workshop that featured the teachings of St. John Eudes.*

# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

### Eudes *Cont'd from p. 5*

workshop was more like a retreat for me. It was deep and expansive. My understanding of the sacred heart of Saint John Eudes became broader in this workshop. I was particularly enlivened by the statement, "It is not enough to love. We have to love with the heart of Jesus," Sr. Frances said.

Sr. Anita Kristofco beamed when she exclaimed, "I thought the workshop was awesome! It was very full and it rekindled the flame in my heart. I had learned about the sacred heart as a child, but hadn't really given it much thought throughout my years in religious life. After this workshop I truly feel more drawn to the heart of Jesus, and that is very exciting!"

Sr. Patricia Connelly said, "I found the workshop to be powerful and strengthening of our vocations. It has inspired me to go deeper into my relationship with God."

Workshop participants wrote personal mantras to help them reflect on and better appreciate the spirituality of St. John Eudes. Sr. Nora Pat O'Flannigan said, "It was remarkable how, when we shared our mantras aloud in the large group, all of them seemed to focus on the element of love."

Sr. Frances Robinson played a song by Jan Novotka at Mass that struck the heart chords of everyone and summed up the workshop:

#### **The Presence you are**

It's not what you do, but how you do it;

It's not what you see, but how you see;

It's not what you say, what you know or achieve;

But it's the presence, the presence you are.



**Top:** Participants settle into their seats after break. **Right:** Sisters LeeAnn Mackeprang (left) and Michaela Kim serve as sound technicians for the Saint John Eudes workshop.



### ***I love you Lord ... You are the Heart of my heart.***

*Marie-Françoise Le Brizaut is a scholar of Eudist spirituality and is co-postulator of the cause for the doctorate of Saint John Eudes. She joined Our Lady of Charity in 1961 and served a number of years with girls in residential units, teaching teenagers and performing leadership roles at general and provincial levels. She has co-authored two books on St. John Eudes.*





# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

## Sisters and Laity trained in CPR

Sr. Pauline Bilbrough, eight lay staff at Immaculate Heart Convent and two Laity at the Province Center took a basic course last month in CPR/AED (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator). The purpose of the training was to certify people in the workplace who might need to be called upon to save a life in an emergency situation. Kandi Klaves, an instructor from the Midwest's largest medical transportation provider, Abbott EMS, trained the group in CPR/AED and the Heimlich Maneuver for choke victims. Everyone who took the course passed the test and became certified.



Top: Abbott EMS instructor Kandi Klaves demonstrates the target area for chest compressions. Left: Participants practice mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and wait for instructions on how to administer CPR on a victim that has stopped breathing.

## Announcements & News Tidbits

The following are retractions for last month's issue of Items of Interest:

Sr. Anne Kelley wrote the story about the San Francisco community's 85th anniversary, not Sr. Marguerite Bartling.

We reported in the last issue that PMNA has two contemplative communities, when, in fact, there are three: Maria Droste, Cheltenham and Boutwells.

Sr. Kathleen Moore has a new email address:  
[mkathleen818@gmail.com](mailto:mkathleen818@gmail.com).

Please make the following changes to the new Photo Directory:

1. Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson was born in Alhambra, California.
2. Sr. Magdalena Oliva was born in Naga, Philippines.
3. Sr. Sarah Tolento was born in Lorain, Ohio.

4. Sr. Martha Cardenas made Profession on December 8, 1993.
5. First Profession for Susanne Hughes was May 17, 1951
6. Sr. Ann Dye was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

If you find additional errors in the Photo Directory, please send corrected information to [b.goldbeck@gspmna.org](mailto:b.goldbeck@gspmna.org) so we can correct the Province database.

## MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

# Good Shepherds make headline news

## NAC Director publicly slams Senate Health Care Bill

Religious leaders blasted the 142-page legislative Health Care Bill that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell unveiled June 22. The bill had been crafted behind closed doors and includes massive tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, while making excessively severe reductions to Medicaid.

Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center (NAC) Larry Couch was among the religious leaders who slammed the bill. Larry told HuffPost, "Learning about the proposed deep cuts in Medicaid passed by the House of Representatives, the American people looked to the Senate. Sadly, the Senate plan proposes even deeper cuts in Medicaid. This wanton disregard for human life must be stopped."

The vote has been delayed until after the July 4 recess, as Republicans struggled to marshal support for the bill.

POLITICS 06/22/2017 03:28 pm ET

## Religious Leaders Fiercely Criticize Health Care Bill

"This wanton disregard for human life must be stopped."



By Antonia Blumberg



Read the article at <http://bit.ly/2sZA8vI>.

## Carrying On the Tradition

By Gloria M. Proffman, GNPC Staff Writer

When Sister Charity Kohl founded CORA Services more than 45 years ago, many human service agencies were focused on residential programming for "bad kids" and "wayward women." Sister Charity did not believe residential programs were best for serving people in need. Instead, she believed that children and youth should stay in their communities and that agencies needed to support families within the context of their community, not by removing them from their surroundings. This, along with her focus on the "wellness model," was a radical notion at the time, but she persisted and opened a diagnostic center in Germantown to assess the needs of children under the age of 18 who were involved in the court system. Then, in 1971, she received funding for community based intervention. She planned to serve 300 children in the first year; she served more than 600. This was the beginning of CORA Services.

Over the past 15 years, AnnMarie Schultz has sought to carry on the vision of Sister Charity, starting as a program director and moving up the organization in positions focusing

on program advancement, helping to expand CORA's reach into Early Intervention childhood programs and services, Charter Schools, and public schools. In 2013 she became chief operating officer at a time when many top administrators who had been with the agency for 40 years were beginning to retire. With this transition, she worked to ensure a smooth leadership transition that would maintain the identity of the agency. One of the hallmarks of CORA is its focus on hiring people who "carry the mission" of the organization. That is, seeking employees who are not only qualified for the job, but who also have the caring and compassion that Sister Charity personified and that remains a core value for CORA today.

By all accounts, Schultz successfully helped CORA maintain a high quality of service while navigating changes in the external environment and internal staffing. So, when the former CEO announced that he would retire in June, 2016, Schultz was the logical successor. She is the first woman to serve as CEO of the agency since Sister Charity, and she maintains Charity's focus on putting

the right people in place and empowering them to succeed. She has focused on putting together a team that would lead a smooth transition and one that can play on each other's strengths. She believes in allowing her team to make decisions, to run with things, and even to fail. This, she says, allows for creativity. This approach allows her to focus on CORA's needs and how to best position the agency to support communities and families in an increasingly complex landscape. With a strong sense of mission and empowering leadership style, there's no doubt that Schultz will oversee continued growth for the agency and set the stage for its next 45 years and beyond.



AnnMarie Schultz



CORA, 8540 Verree Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19111

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## Chamber of Commerce magazine features CORA Director

Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce highlighted CORA Services Executive Director AnnMarie Schultz in its spring magazine. AnnMarie said, "I am genuinely honored to have been chosen to represent CORA as one of the profiled leaders and hope this opportunity will bring more attention to the great work that Team CORA accomplishes every day."

Read the story at <http://bit.ly/2oYjo5i>.

## GSMP makes Philadelphia Bar Reporter

Volunteer mediator Shelby Haverson wrote a Pro Bono Spotlight article about Good Shepherd Mediation Program for the Philadelphia Bar Reporter in June. The Bar Reporter is a publication of the Philadelphia Bar Association, which is the oldest Association of lawyers in the United States. Its organizers and early leaders included several of the nation's founders. Shelby has been a volunteer with GSMP since 2010. You can read her article at <http://bit.ly/2u7S7fe>.



# MINISTRY NEWS



## ZEAL

### Education for Girls in the House of Good Shepherd

A 2008 dissertation by PhD candidate Nancy Marie Phillips is now online as an eBook. The work is titled "Education for Girls in the House of the Good Shepherd in the United States from 1940-1980." This study revealed previously unknown data and opens the door for future research about girls' education in convent systems in the United States. You can read it at <http://bit.ly/2tbMKzs>.

### Good Shepherd Gallery hosts exhibit of St. Louis landmarks



Good Shepherd Gallery features the artwork of a St. Louis native from July 1 through 29 in a show titled *"The Spirit of St. Louis: Paintings of Natalie Rupp."* The opening reception is July 1 from 4-6 p.m. The exhibit showcases St. Louis landmarks, church architecture and other meaningful structures and religious subjects that are personal to Natalie. Natalie invites residents of St. Louis and beyond to "experience the glory of God as found in every aspect of creation, as they are immersed in a world that is intellectual, cultural and spiritual." Natalie has a studio space and conducts art classes for children and youth at Foundry Art Centre in St. Charles, Missouri.



### Vista Maria gets butterfly garden

Ford Motor Company volunteers created a beautiful butterfly garden at Vista Maria in June. The tranquil space is on its way to being a place of healing and solace for all who visit the Good Shepherd ministry.



### Volunteers keep the mission of Good Shepherd alive

Left: members of Girl Scout Troop 2236 recently donated handmade T-shirt bags filled with goodies for the girls at Maryhurst. Right: Volunteers, golfers and donors made CORA Services' 9th Annual CORA for Kids Golf Outing in June a success. The event drew 170 golfers and donations to help CORA help more kids.

# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Ritual ceremonies put closure on GSS Baltimore closing

By Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

I organized two ritual ceremonies for the Sisters and Laity of Good Shepherd Services (GSS) this past spring to help facilitate the process of grieving the loss of GSS.

The first Ritual of Blessing brought everyone together on the last day of April to help the large number of staff process closure of Good Shepherd Services. One month later, the most invested staff at GSS would be leaving. I wanted to provide some positive experience of reminiscence to honor the legacy they were a part of and had helped to create. So I designed the May ritual as a pilgrimage of remembrance and heritage.

The ritual in May had a completely different tone than the one in April. The April event included overt mention of grieving and working through anger and the questioning of God. The May ritual was more

about the camaraderie and faithfulness of critical and long-term Mission Partners.

### Poignant nostalgia

Poignant nostalgia characterized the general mood of the closing ritual. People expressed gratitude for the impact GSS has had on their

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***Then the best part came. I asked staff to tell funny stories about experiences at GSS. There was a lot of laughter mingled among the tears.***

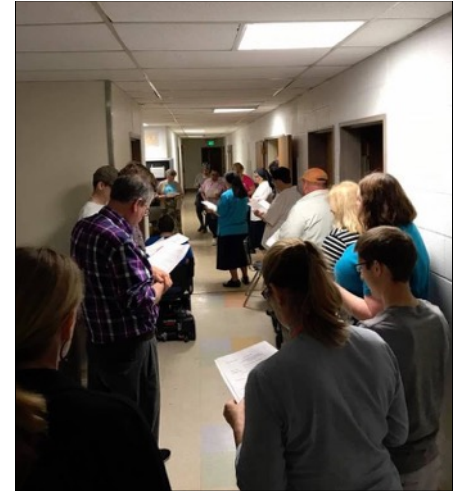
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personal and professional growth. They expressed sadness for the end of this chapter in their lives, and they expressed courage and the ability to go forward.

Sr. Regina Long told me that the closing ritual in May was like a funeral experience. She said, "We celebrated the life of GSS by remembering, mourning, giving thanks, sharing stories and receiving energy to move beyond the horizon to new life. In a word, the ritual ceremony gave us courage to go forward to save souls."

### Final walkthrough

Sisters and staff took a final walk through the building at 11 a.m., starting in the Sisters' dining room and entering every service department and major activity area. We made 16 stops. Someone read a



The ritual ceremony at GSS included 16 stops throughout the building. Good Shepherd Mission Partners read a quote from Saint Mary Euphrasia or scripture from the Bible at each stop.

quote by Saint Mary Euphrasia or Bible scripture at each stop. Following each reading everyone recited the response, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want," before proceeding to the next area.

Finally, everyone returned to the Sisters Dining Room for pizza, green salad and fruit salad. After lunch, staff who were not yet leaving the property received door prizes. The 14 staff whose last day was the same day of the ritual received a Good Shepherd statue or Shepherd's Cross. Good Shepherd Service's 41-year veteran Teresa Jones received the handmade quilt that had been made by the students in 2015 for the 150th anniversary of GSS.

And then the best part came. I asked

*Continued on next page*



**Teresa Jones received the 150th anniversary quilt for GSS.**



# MINISTRY NEWS



## ZEAL

### Closing ritual *Cont'd from p. 10*

Staff to tell funny stories about their experiences at GSS. Teresa Jones kicked it off with a story from long ago and many others followed. Lots of people chimed in to flesh out the stories with extra details. There was a lot of laughter mingled among the tears.

Those who attended the ritual were all GSS Staff who remained in the building, convent staff who used to work for GSS, Donna Shaefer-Kick, Human Resources Coordinator for the Sisters at Baltimore, and 11 Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Since holding the ritual ceremonies in April and May many of the Staff have found other jobs. Those who have not are collecting unemployment and taking the summer off.

Youth at Good Shepherd Services went to different places; some returned to their families and some went into group homes. Some were admitted into other residential treatment centers and others into hospitals.

Some of the placements were good, and others were not so great. Still, we all felt relieved that each young person had a formal placement. Nobody ended up on the street or in an emergency shelter.

As for the Sisters, they are feeling a whole gamut of emotions with the closing of Good Shepherd Services. They are feeling sadness, and they are feeling anxiety about how long we will be able to stay in Baltimore and where we will be able to move to. They feel gratitude for all the great work that was done at GSS, and they feel a strong sense of faith that God is in charge of this and it is under His hand.



*Sisters give a final blessing to staff at the closing ritual of GSS in May.*



GSS staff in the finance department will work until they can close the books for 2017, which is anticipated to be around the end of August.

Security guards are in place to monitor the grounds and buildings until the property is sold.

## MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## 4th Annual Reigning Roses Walk Raises a record \$120,000 for Rose Haven

By Katie O'Brien, Rose Haven

The 4th Annual Reigning Roses Walk was a banner year in terms of the numbers. Nearly 500 people gathered on Sunday, May 14, 2017, in Northwest Portland for the most special Mother's Day ever. Supporters near and far contributed time, energy and financial support to achieve a record \$120,000 for Rose Haven.

### Walking in solidarity

"More than the numbers can express, this event allows people of diverse backgrounds to walk together each year on behalf of the growing number of women and children in our community who are experiencing poverty, the trauma of abuse and loss of home," said Rebekah Albert, Executive Director of Rose Haven.

Event participants delighted in a hosted reception with pastries, fruit and mimosas and enjoyed face

painting, balloon art, photo booth, raffle prizes and pampering. The spectacular Bre Gregg Band provided live entertainment.

Participants received a white umbrella sponsored by ShedRain before heading out on a 5k stroll in Northwest Portland. Stops along the way treated walkers to popcorn, beverages and other giveaways from local merchants who supported the event. At the end of the walk participants enjoyed more live entertainment from Torchsong Entertainment, as well as treats from various supporting restaurants.

### Signature event

The Reigning Roses Walk is a signature event for Rose Haven, a day shelter and community center in Portland, Oregon, which was founded by Sr. Cathie Boerboom, RGS. Rose Haven serves more than



*Let's all help Rose Haven win a \$10,000 grant from Advantis Community Fund. You can vote every day until July 7 at <http://bit.ly/1Bxoh6t>*

3,000 women and children annually who are homeless, abused and experiencing life challenges.

Proceeds from the event will support nearly 700 women and children for an entire year.

Rose Haven is so grateful to its sponsors and day of event in-kind donors for the delicious food, entertainment and libations. A grant from the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund matched up to \$25,000 in sponsor donations. Visit [rosehaven.org](http://rosehaven.org) for more information.



## COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL



## Life is colorful

By the Contemplative Sisters in the Maria Droste Community

Province Leader Sr. Madeleine Munday invited Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley and the Contemplative Sisters at the Maria Droste Convent to attend a workshop on May 6, 2017. The workshop was titled "Religious Communal Living as an Intercultural Journey."

The Religious Formation Conference sponsored the workshop sessions, which were held at Mercy Center in St. Louis. Fr. Pio Estepa, SVD, a Filipino priest, gave an impressive overview on the movement from "Multi-Cultural" to "Inter-Cultural."

We broadened our knowledge and understanding of religious communal living as an intercultural and intergenerational journey. Fr. Pio encouraged us to reflect on how we could go about such a journey with no road map and just an inner compass.

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*We live in a world of multiple and often complex systems of meaning, understanding and ways of being. At times it can feel as though different worlds are colliding and we are losing the ground under our feet.*

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This journey is inevitable and imperative in our times because of the impact of the globalization on the Church. The worldwide mission view is reversing and rerouting from North to South and East to West, becoming a multicultural and intercultural movement. The journey from Dreamer, Bloomer, Generation X and Generation Y is complex and challenging.

We live in a world of multiple and often complex systems of meaning, understanding and ways of being. At times it can feel as though different worlds are colliding and we are losing the ground under our feet. This is the reality in which Jesus calls us to be border-crossers.

We were asked to share a border/boundary that we have experienced or that we are aware others have experienced. We no longer felt like strangers to one another as we listened contemplatively to one another's reflections.

We heard commonalities and began to understand the meaning of what it is to integrate ourselves in a new environment. This will be an on-going process both missionaries and their receiving communities. What speaks to me individually? How do

*Continued on next page*

## COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



## Colorful *Cont'd from p. 13*

we sharpen communications skills? Everything must be based on a mutual trust. Many misunderstandings happen due to personalities and cultures. Is it personality or is it culture? We were told that there is a dominant culture and "others are guests."

How do we transform this belief? Perhaps it begins with everyday simple living: appreciating other cultures, traditions, language, interactions with one another and even food preferences. We, at Maria Droste, are wholeheartedly investing our hearts and lives to this Journey of Transformation as an international community!

*The Maria Droste Contemplative Community represents cultures of the United States, South Korea, Philippine Islands and Japan. As part of their ongoing journey to better understand one another individually and culturally, the community creates art projects that incorporate reflections and prayers, personal affirmations toward one another and writing in one another's language. Members of the Maria Droste Community are counterclockwise l-r: Srs. Elizabeth Garciano, Agnes Yamamoto, Sharon Rose Authorson, Magdalena Oliva and Rose Mary Ha.*



**Fr. Don Kirchner, Redemptorist Missionary, conducted a retreat at Immaculate Heart Convent in June.**

## Prayer is greatest act of love

Father Don Kirchner, Redemptorist Missionary - Denver Province, conducted a retreat the week of June 5 for Sisters at Immaculate Heart Convent. The topic of the workshop was prayer. Fr. Don told the Sisters that "Prayer can be one of the greatest acts of love. However you want to pray is beautiful to the Lord."

Each year Local Leader Sr. Pauline Bilbrough arranges for priests from different orders to conduct retreats for the Sisters. She said, "We like to share in the richness of the various charisms in the Church. We have had a Jesuit, Franciscan, Oblates of Mary Immaculate and Divine Word Father in the recent past."

The Redemptorist Missionaries are dedicated to missionary work around the world. Fr. Don is leaving for Brazil in a few weeks and asks for prayers.



# COMMUNITY LIFE



## ZEAL

### FUNtastic day at Immaculate Heart

Sisters and Staff at Immaculate Heart had a good time getting silly last month while celebrating National Days recognized in June: Yoyo Day, Sunglasses Day, Pink Day and Ice Cream Soda Day. They also wore great big smiles and got in the spirit of Independence Day! When asked how they enjoyed the celebration, Sisters said:

“It was tantalizing joy!” said Sr. Dorothy Renckens.

“The event was hilarious. We exercised our bellies from laughing so hard and our bodies by tossing a basketball into a hoop,” said Sr. Rosalinda Sobremisana.

“It was amazing how staff got us old folks moving,” said Sr. Christopher Mullan.

“The event was spectacular!” said Sr. Mary Ellen McGrath.

“It was a blast,” said Sr. Michael Maguire.

Shirley Norful, the receptionist at Immaculate Heart Convent, searches google each month to see what National Days are being recognized for that month and decides with Local Leader Sr. Pauline Bilbrough which days the Sisters might most enjoy celebrating. Then she sets the wheels in motion and starts planning the parties.

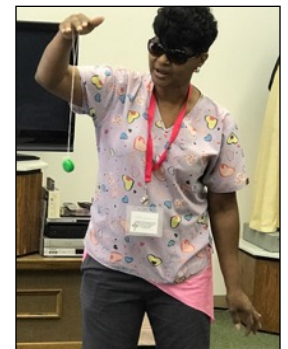
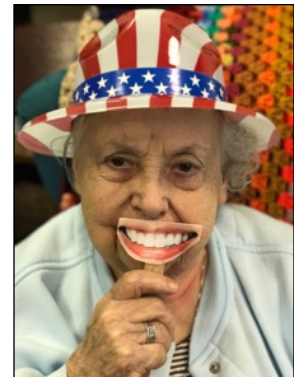
Sr. Pauline thought the party in June exceeded everyone’s expectations. She said, “The National Day parties keep getting better and the Sisters keep looking forward to enjoying them.”

Noted spiritual author and retreat master of the early 20th century Blessed Columba Marmion, OSB, once remarked that, “Joy is the echo of God’s life in us.” Shirley said that bringing joy to the Sisters at Immaculate Heart is what she loves best about her job.

“So, when we called the event Fun Day, it seems that was the right thing to call it,” Shirley said.

Activities coordinator, driver and aid for Immaculate Heart Diane Byrd agreed.

“This National Days celebration was great. It really was a FUNtastic day!” Diane said.



*The celebration at Immaculate Heart Convent in June recognized National Pink Day, National Ice Cream Soda Day, National Yoyo Day and National Smile Month. How many Sisters at Immaculate Heart Convent can you identify wearing their biggest, brightest smile?*



## COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



## Sr. Josephine marks milestone with 75th Jubilee

Sr. Mary Josephine Fritz reached a milestone on June 29 with the anniversary of her 75th Jubilee. She celebrated the milestone with her community at Immaculate Heart Convent with the simple grace and humility that characterizes who she is. She enjoyed the morning Mass and looks forward to a special dinner that kitchen staff will prepare for her on July 2, ending with apple pie à la mode! Sr. Josephine began religious life in 1942 as an Apostolic Sister in the Cincinnati Province. She spent a number of years in Guam, serving women and children who were affected by domestic violence. After 45 years of apostolic ministry, Sr. Josephine felt a calling to the contemplative life and became a Contemplative Sister of the Good Shepherd on November 21, 1987. Sr. Josephine derives great pleasure from crocheting baby blankets for unwed mothers and receiving children's visits from St. Ann Elementary School.



## Sr. Maxi Holy Spirit celebrates memorable 60th Jubilee

Sister Maxi Holy Spirit celebrated her 60th Jubilee in the company of both Baltimore Communities and relatives. The Sisters ate lunch together, shared in the richness of delicious desserts and watched as Sr. Maxi opened her

Jubilee gifts of a papal blessing, half-pound of Baltimore's finest Rheb's candy and, most notably, a Good Shepherd Services black T-shirt with the logo on the front and the words "Simply the Best" on the back.

The shirt was the 2015 Staff Appreciation T-shirt. Every time Maxi saw me wearing it, she had begged me to give it to her. So I knew what she would really like for her Jubilee! She was delighted with it. In fact, she wanted to put the shirt on over her dress for Mass. With difficulty, I persuaded her not to.

Maxi's older sister Louise DeSa was visiting with us in May from California, which prompted us to celebrate Sr. Maxi's Jubilee early. Sr. Mary Regina Long ordered a lovely corsage for Maxi, which she was excited to receive. She wore it the whole day of her celebration. Debbie Mezewski, who is one of Sr. Maxi's favorite staff people, pinned the corsage onto her lapel.

Sr. Maxi's niece Tonina Helderman and her husband John came down on the train from New York to be a part of the celebration, which also included community Mass at 5 pm, followed by dinner at G & M's, a relatively famous Baltimore restaurant that is known for its seafood (crab cakes are a Maryland specialty). Maxi was very alert all day, very excited and very grateful.

*Submitted by Sr. Mary Carol McClenon*



*l to r: Family members John Helderman, Tonina Helderman and Louise DeSa celebrate Sr. Maxi's Jubilee at a Baltimore restaurant with Sr. Mary Carol McClenon and Sr. Maxi Holy Spirit.*



# GREEN CORNER



## ZEAL

### Cottonwood tree *Cont'd from p. 1*

portion of the dead tree trunk and prepared a large area around the snag to be planted with native grasses and flowers.

Community members, students from St. Ann's school and a couple of troops of Girls Scouts joined Good Shepherd Mission Partners for the planting event on a sunny Saturday last September.

After a winter rest, the flowers and grasses have begun pouring their energy into creating deep root systems. According to Monte, flowers will be more prominent next year. "But we have already seen roundleaf groundsel and wild petunia blooms. Tiny orange flower buds have just appeared on the butterfly milkweed," he said.

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*I remember that day in September when so many children arrived to help us plant the native grasses and flowers around the trunk of the dead cottonwood tree.*

Sr. Sharon O'Grady

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*Girl Scouts, elementary school children and community members helped Good Shepherd Sister Mission Partners plant native wildflowers on the Province campus last September.*

The dead tree trunk continues to give life and home to a variety of organisms including insect larvae and woodpeckers. Large sheets of bark are accumulating around the base of the trunk where they provide shelter for frogs and beetles.

Several types of mushrooms are sprouting on the trunk and emerging from the ground in lines that radiate out from the tree. These fungi are composting the tree's decaying wood and roots and will eventually transform them into a rich loam soil.

#### Circle of life

Monte Abbott, Province Director of Operations, is a Master Gardener. He monitors the plantings and removes invasive weeds routinely. Monte is preparing interpretive

signage to help visitors to the site better understand the ecosystem.

Sr. Sharon O'Grady serves on the Province Eco Zeal Team. She said, "I remember that day in September

*Continued on next page*



*Wild petunias are among the native wildflowers growing at the base of the cottonwood snag.*



*l-r: Srs. Mary Joy Benson, Chris Hock and Lioba Abe study a pokeweed plant at the site.*

# GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



## Cottonwood tree *Cont'd from p. 17*

when so many children arrived to help us plant the native grasses and flowers around the trunk of the dead cottonwood tree. The children as a whole were respectful and gentle with the plants."

### Natural beauty

Sr. Sharon believes Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's teachings sum up the tree and the circle of life around it: *Even the humblest and lowliest of God's created world comprise the most fundamental elements of life and the most precious aspects of natural beauty.*

Sr. Sharon said she feels proud of the dead cottonwood tree and wildflowers each time she passes by. "This small ecosystem expresses respect for the cycles of life and is a model for us. Like the cottonwood tree, we, in death, remain connected with the whole of life that continues to give life," Sr. Sharon said.

"God is in it all," said Sr. Janice Rushman.

You can read the original story about the wildflower plantings in the [October 2016 issue of Items of Interest](#) or on the [Province website](#).



The EcoZeal Team organized a walking field trip to the wildflower site during a scheduled break of the Saint John Eudes workshop. The field trip with Province Director of Operations Monte Abbott inspired lively dialogue about earth stewardship and creation spirituality.



## Guess Who?

This archival photo from 1957 states Carthage – Cincinnati novices after investiture. The Sister on the right in the group photo and below is identified as Jean Doyle of Joliet, Illinois. Who could this be? Who are the other Sisters? Can anybody fill in the blanks and help us complete the archival record?





# SISTER STORY



ZEAL

## Witnessing an Honor Flight

By Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

*Humorist Will Rogers once said, "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they walk by."*

*This is the situation Sr. Pauline Bilbrough found herself in when she wound up as a passenger on an Honor Flight. In tribute to the nation's upcoming 4th of July celebration, she felt it fitting to tell her story in the July issue of Items of Interest.*

Last September I was on a Southwest Airlines flight to Baltimore, sitting amidst a sea of red, white and blue. I had been booked on the same flight with 51 military veterans who were on an Honor Flight.

The Honor Flight included 39 veterans from World War II, nine veterans of the Korean Conflict and three Vietnam War veterans.

The veterans were headed for Baltimore's famed Fort McHenry, where they would then travel on to Washington, DC, to visit national monuments and memorials and be recognized for their service.

When the plane taxied into the gate at the Baltimore airport, two fire trucks made a fountain of water over each side of the plane, forming an arch of water to welcome the veterans. A drum and bugle corps greeted them with music. It was the most touching and beautiful experience I think I have ever witnessed. I felt so proud to be on that flight with our veterans. I had flown to Baltimore for my vacation. Being on the Honor Flight was an awesome and truly amazing way to begin it.



*The United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial) is one of many monuments veterans visit as a part of their Honor Flight to Washington, DC.*

The sole mission of the non-profit Honor Flight Network is to honor America's veterans for their sacrifices. The organization transports veterans to Washington, DC, where they visit and reflect at their memorials.

Because many war veterans are elderly, the Honor Flight Network prioritizes flights for veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Experienced trip leaders lead the operation and secure wheelchairs and oxygen when needed. The national network has provided Honor Flights to more than 150,000 veterans.



*Sr. LeeAnn Mackeprang holds the icon she created while living in St. Louis for three months.*

## Reflecting on my St. Louis experience

By LeeAnn Mackeprang, CGS

I went to live at Maria Droste Contemplative Community from February 4 through April 22, 2017, so that I could reflect on different areas of my life and become more inward and reflective without being distracted by daily activities in familiar surroundings. The experience felt fantastic! The Sisters in the Maria Droste Community are loving, kind and caring. They accepted me for who I am and made me feel welcome. Their hospitality is great. Plus, it was nice being close to the Province Center and Immaculate Heart Convent, where I attended Mass in their chapel. There is something

*Continued on next page*

# SISTER STORY



ZEAL

## Icon *Cont'd from p. 19*

profound about being on a campus with three convents.

Part of what I wanted to do while living in St. Louis was go deeper into artistic expressions. Sr. Beth Garciano gave me a coloring book of mandalas to get started. Now I use the mandalas in my spiritual practice for personal growth.

I also did something that I think is pretty extraordinary for me. I created an icon of Archangel Michael. I drew the icon during a class with Sr. Glynis at her art studio in Ferguson.

### **Gaining confidence in myself**

I didn't really set any intention when I enrolled in the class. I was shaky and nervous. I had never done an icon painting before and felt intimidated by the process. Sr. Glynis encouraged me to relax, focus and take my time. Her words soothed me and helped me gain confidence in myself.

There were six people in the icon painting class when I started. It felt good to know that I wasn't alone in trying something new. I felt supported by working on my icon in the company of others.

I also drew comfort from the art that hangs on the walls in Sr. Glynis' gallery. Seeing lots of color and artwork on the walls and feeling the energy of the studio and gallery helped me to eventually relax and stay focused on what I was doing.

The icon spoke to me as I painted it and continued speaking to me after I had finished. As much as I love the icon of Archangel Micael, I don't believe I was meant to keep it. I gave it to my parents as a gift in April when they came to Cheltenham to see me. It felt like

the right thing to do. When I first began the icon class my mother called the convent to talk with me. Sr. Sharon Rose had answered the phone and told my mom that I was painting an icon as part of an art class. During the whole process of creating the icon I had thoughts of my mom calling me. It just seemed like the icon was meant for her.

I believe there is more art talent in me that needs to be drawn out. I have no idea how I will do that right now, but I feel like it's leading me somewhere.

I would actually like to make another icon. I want to create the face of God. The Baltimore Community has an image of God hanging in the corridor. God's eyes follow you as you move around the room. I want to be challenged to

create an icon with eyes like that. Sr. Glynis is offering an icon retreat from August 12-19.

### **Challenging myself**

I want to be challenged to know my soul through the expression of art. I believe art can help me discover who I am as a Sister of the Good Shepherd.

Archangel Michael is concerned about the world, the people and healing that needs to take place. To get to know a person's soul and to move forward in life, you need to do healing that is from the past. This world needs help. For me, painting an icon allows me to bring something of beauty and healing into the world. I hope to keep painting icons and get to know myself better in the process.



*Sr. LeeAnn works on an icon of Archangel Michael at Shepherding Images Studio and Good Shepherd Gallery in Ferguson, Missouri.*



## LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	July 2-5	Presentations on contemplative life, Cheltenham
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	July 9-12	NRVC Behavioral Assessment, Chicago
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	July 1-4	Presentations on contemplative life, Cheltenham
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	July 1-7 July 8-18 July 19-22 July 25-Aug 2	Work in Baltimore Vacation Visit Sisters, Oak Park Heights Retreat
Sr. Maureen Kunz	July 1-4 July 11 July 24-28	Travel layover, St. Louis Visit Central South Province, Carrollton Jury duty
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	July 2-3 July 4-6 July 18	Presentations on contemplative life, Cheltenham Work in Baltimore Board of Directors meeting, Good Shepherd Shelter LA
Sr. Madeleine Munday	July 1 July 2-3 July 4-5 July 6-15 July 23-29	Travel layover, Baltimore Community Presentations on contemplative life, Cheltenham Travel layover, Baltimore Community Retreat Travel layover, Baltimore Community

**Happy 4th of July weekend!**

Sr. Virginia "Ginny" Hinks, RGS



# PROVINCE CONTACT

**ZEAL**


Sr. Ann Joseph Dye, CGS

*"We must fill our souls to the brim with the [mission], always be united among ourselves." Conferences p. 74*

*Saint Mary Euphrasia*

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