

# ITEMS

## OF INTEREST

### Dawn's Place

*Sr. Claudia Palacio writes about her mission with a woman's safe house in Philadelphia.*

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### Move to end DV

*Good Shepherd Shelter Guild has bestowed its 2016 Champion Award to Meathead Movers.*

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### NAC trains youth

*Larry Couch trained a group of young men last month in social justice advocacy*

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### Reflecting on blessings

*Sr. Lalani Ekanayaka reflects on the many blessings she has received as a missionary to PMNA.*

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## A TIME TO ASSEMBLE

*Sisters from the Province of Mid-North America assembled in Belleville, Illinois, from November 8-11. Sister Caridad Tamayo said, "What a gift to know the heart of my sisters, burning with zeal for the mission."*

Continued on next page



## Green Corner

By Jeanette McDermott

I attended a symposium on climate change in St Louis on November 18. My original intent was to document Sr. Sharon O'Grady's participation in the event for *Items of Interest*. Sr. Sharon is a member of the Eco Zeal Team and had registered for the symposium "People and Climate Change: vulnerability, adaptation, social justice."

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# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

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

"The fellowship among one another was sometimes dark and gloomy, but we worked through the issues and now I can see the light!" said Sr. Caridad.

The Assembly energized and inspired transformation. Deep conversations, presentations, contemplative listening and feedback all led to important planning for the future.

"I have a sense of being a little shaken by the need to move forward on issues that have been sitting on the back burner for some time. We ... I ... knew the issues were there, and yet the urgency became more evident," said Sr. Liz Schille.



***Assembly offered varied opportunities that required differing skills like humility, openness and self awareness.***

~ Sr. Marilyn Atwell

Sr. Cathie Boerboom felt a similar spark. She said, "I am really encouraged by all of the energy I sensed among us to more deeply connect with and support each other in both our living arrangements and ministries."

A number of Sisters said they found special meaning in the small and large group discussions that took place at Assembly.

"Assembly offered varied opportunities that required differing skills like humility, openness and self awareness. I realized that I need to grow skills in



small table sharing. My strengths are more apparent in larger group table discussions," said Sr. Marilyn Atwell.

Other Sisters appreciated having time to really listen well to what others were saying.

*Continued on next page*





# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

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

"I appreciated the contemplative listening as part of the process," said Sr. Janice Rushman.

"I experienced it as bringing a sense of quiet and deeper reflection to our interactions. I hope we integrate this element into our future meetings," she said.

For some Sisters the fellowship of being together was an especially noteworthy experience.

"It was really nice and pleasant to see Sisters that I have not seen in years. It would be good to continue in depth discussion on issues with them," said Sr. Maria Sowerby.

Different Sisters were struck by different cords throughout Assembly. However, all Sisters seemed to share a sentiment that Sr. Stella Mangone expressed.

"For me Assembly was a spiritual experience; everyone shared from the heart. I was touched by the practice of love in the many different ways we communicated in prayer, interpersonal sharing and enjoying one another.



We reconnected and renewed one another for mission," Sr. Stella said.



# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

## Out of many, One

By Claudia Palacio, RGS

Dawn's Place is a safe house for women in Philadelphia. I started working there in January 2016. It is located in a former Euphrasia House and has a stained glass window of Mary Euphrasia in one of the rooms. I felt at home the moment I started my mission with the wonderful and courageous women there.

One of the first things I did when I began working at Dawn's Place was to introduce a Human Rights class. Knowledge is power. It is a tool that victims of violence can use to become survivors. As a part of the class, women at Dawn's Place visited the Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center (NAC) to start a dialogue about advocacy. I am grateful to the Province Sisters, NAC and our Sisters in the Silver Spring Community, Silvia and Caridad, who all opened their hearts to our group.

Here is an account of our experience with NAC from a resident at Dawn's Place:

Our experience going to Washington, DC, was absolutely amazing. When we arrived at the Good Shepherd Sisters' home in Silver Spring we were welcomed with big, loving smiles and open arms. We each had an opportunity to share with the Sisters who we are and talk a little about our lives. It felt really great to feel included in something so much bigger than ourselves.

Larry Couch told us how advocacy and lobbying help get laws passed.



*Staff at Dawn's Place and Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center.*

The whole experience with NAC was educational and inspirational. After our "getting-to-know-you" session we had a beautiful lunch together. It was a blessing to share a meal with kind and special people.

The van ride to Washington, DC, was filled with laughter. We had a very special new recruit to join our group — Fran! She fit right in.

On our trip we saw the platform for the presidential inauguration ceremony being constructed at the State Capitol. It made me feel like I was a part of history. Sightseeing in DC opened my mind to what it means to live in America, and what it means to BE an American.

After the sightseeing tour was over we walked to the State Capitol's Visitor Center, where we were all assembled in a theater for an orientation video. When the video

ended the Sisters of Good Shepherd group was called to line up first. I felt like a rock star! Nobody else had a cool crew like us. Our tour guide showed us many different rooms and paintings and cherished pieces of history. Some were hundreds of years old.

We walked past the stairway that our newly elected President will walk when he is inaugurated. Just knowing how many Presidents stood right where we stood was a privilege. I felt honored. One thing I thought was interesting was the fact that the President and the First Lady are not allowed to walk into the State Capitol without an invitation, but civilians are allowed to walk through anytime.

We stood in the Rotunda, which was out-of-this-world gorgeous.

*Continued on next page*



# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

## Dawn's Place *Cont'd from p. 4*

The part I liked most was the statue on top of the dome, which is called Freedom. It is significant that Freedom is on top of the building. It makes a statement that "nothing stands taller than freedom." The statue is engraved with the Latin term, E pluribus unum, which the United States adopted as the

national motto meaning, "Out of many, One." That touched me and has a profound meaning for me. I am grateful to Dawn's Place, the Good Shepherd Sisters, NAC and everyone involved in making this trip possible so we could experience, first hand, the history of our nation.

After a long day of sightseeing, our van ride home was quiet enough for us to meditate, reminisce and recollect our day's experiences. The joy of being together, sharing memories, and feeding friendly squirrels out of my hand in Washington, DC, was pure happiness overload!

## A taste of autumn

By Marguerite Bartling, RGS

Gracenter's 2016 fundraiser "A Taste of Autumn" was a celebration of our 55th anniversary. Nearly 195 friends and supporters came together to honor remarkable individuals with stories of hope. With our deepest gratitude, we announce that we raised more than \$30,000 at the event. The amount raised is enough to fund the living costs for all of the women at Gracenter for over one month.

Those who attended the event enjoyed beautiful music from the Pro Musica string quartet. As part of our program, we honored Elyse Graham, Deputy Executive Director of Five Keys Charter School, and Steve Loveseth, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Healthy Partnerships, Inc. They were the recipients of our annual Amazing Grace awards for outstanding contributions in the area of public health and recovery.

Keynote speaker Tracy Creer is a Gracenter graduate and founder of Change to Come, a transitional house designed to help women with children in recovery. In her impassioned speech, Tracy described her journey to health and



*San Francisco Community from left: Sisters Liz Schille, Danielle Fung, Anne Kelley, Olga Cristobal, Jean Marie Fernandez and Marguerite Bartling.*

wellness, her challenges and victories, and her commitment to helping others.

### **The house that became a home**

This year's fundraiser was an uplifting celebration of the theme *The House that Became a Home*. As a tribute to the theme and our anniversary, we created a cookbook project – a compilation of recipes from the heart. The book contains stories from the current Gracenter residents, along with their favorite recipes. Sisters, staff and volunteers also contributed recipes for the community cookbook "Hands of Grace." The book includes an

introduction by Elizabeth Holland, a Good Shepherd Gracenter graduate and writer whose work was published in a recent anthology called "Eat, Pray, Love Made Me Do It." Elizabeth found a love of cooking, writing and life while she was living at Gracenter.

Special thanks go to all of our sponsors, supporters, Board of Directors, staff, Sisters and residents. We could not have done it without them all. Thank you for believing in us and supporting our mission of helping women without resources overcome addiction.

# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Meathead Movers help Good Shepherd Shelter

Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles has named Meathead Movers its 2016 Champion. The Good Shepherd Shelter Guild bestowed the honor on the student athletic moving company at its gala on October 9th.

Meathead Movers has donated its services to the shelter for the past five years, after discovering the shelter online. Aaron Steed, president and CEO of Meathead Movers, said, "With the Sisters' great reputation and major need for the services we provide, we thought a partnership was a perfect fit. So we reached out to them."

### Gifting its services

"We know how hard it is to pack up someone's life and move it to a new location, but it's unimaginable to think about a woman and her children trying to pack up all their belongings and flee before the abuser returns home," Aaron said.

Neslie Akkol, Director of Good Shepherd Shelter Institutional Advancement, praises Aaron and his company.

"The support Meathead Movers gives our families is huge because most of our mothers cannot afford moving services."

"Aaron is a wonderful person. We are grateful to him. He not only offers his never-ending support, but calls his business owner friends into action to help us with services and products that we need," Neslie said.

Neslie describes the company as reliable, compassionate and progressive. Meathead Movers calls itself hard-working, philanthropic and honest.



Meathead Movers has gifted its services to domestic violence shelters since 2001, four years after its inception as a for-profit company.

Founders and brothers Aaron and Evan Steed manage a team of energetic student athletes who range primarily between the ages of 18-24. The company works with nine shelters across California and handles more than 10,000 local moves each year. Meathead Movers employs nearly 400 people, making

it the largest independent moving company in California.

Aaron and Evan believe in helping others. The brothers started the Twitter campaign #MoveToEndDV with a mission of encouraging 10,000 businesses worldwide to donate free products or services to shelters, victims and survivors of domestic violence, including businesses that sell lightly used furniture and provide coaching in financial literacy. Learn more at [www.meatheadmovers.com](http://www.meatheadmovers.com).





# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Good times roll at the GSS Baltimore Gala last month



Top: Wes "Panama" Watkins was the guest musician for the GSS gala on November 3rd.

Left: Sisters from the Baltimore and Silver Spring Communities gather for a group shot at the Good Shepherd Services gala.



Good Shepherd Services staff pitched in to keep things running smoothly and help make the gala a memorable affair. From left: Don Biles, Denise Lindley, Brie Kilgore, Francesca Siscenti and Holly Powell.



Good Shepherd Services Baltimore Chief Executive Officer Michele Wyman greeted guests and made them feel right at home while giving them the rundown on the latest developments at GSS. Michele is standing with Maryland's House of Delegates for District 12, Eric Ebersole (left) and Clarence K. Lam.



## MINISTRY NEWS

ZEAL

## Sisters join HGS for annual meeting and brunch



Good Shepherd Sisters attended the annual meeting for House of Good Shepherd on October 27 and its 109th Annual Branch and Live Auction on November 6. Each year the Women's Board hosts the memorable brunch, which traditionally raises more than a third of the annual HGS operating budget. The extravaganza this year included a live auction with one-of-a-kind prizes such as a trip to Umbria with lodging in a 17th century palazzo that includes a delectable welcoming dinner and winery tour. The Province of Mid-North America transferred their corporate leadership over HGS to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago on July 1, 2015.



## Sr. Lioba is bound for Los Angeles

Sr. Lioba Abe leaves the Province Center and St. Louis on December 8 to embark upon her new mission at the Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles, where she will teach the three-year-old children who attend the shelter's school. Sr. Lioba says she is very excited about teaching the children and living in Community with the Sisters in Los Angeles. She also says she is happy that there is a Japanese church downtown, just a short bus ride away in Little Tokyo, where she can attend Mass in Japanese and make confession with a Jesuit priest who is from Vietnam but speaks her native Japanese language.

"I feel very blessed to be chosen for this mission and look forward to the new experience," Sr. Lioba said.





# MINISTRY NEWS



## Good Shepherd T-shirts are all the rage

Vista Maria staff received T-shirts during Heritage

Week as a thank you for living the Good Shepherd values daily. The front of the shirt has the Vista Maria logo, while the back displays the four core values of Good Shepherd: Individual Worth, Zeal, Mercy and Reconciliation. Vista Maria staff donned their natty shirts and waited on campus to greet participants of the Good Shepherd Gathering when they came to tour Vista Maria in September. Sporting the trendy T-shirt in the top photos are Valentina Wilson, Janet Jones, Yolanda Pompey, Teresa Heal and Vickie Tyler.

Cool T-shirts with pithy slogans have become a hallmark of Good Shepherd Services (GSS) Baltimore. This year's GSS Staff Appreciation theme and T-Shirt was *Extraordinary people doing amazing things*. "It's wonderful," said Sr. Mary Carol McClenon. "Everybody is getting more and more jealous of our excellent T-Shirts!"

Sr Mary Carol wore her T-shirt to the Assembly in Belleville last month, causing quite a stir as Sisters clamored to learn how they might score a nifty shirt.

Got an awesome ministry T-shirt? Submit your photo!



## Announcements & News Tidbits

Vista Maria and Holy Cross Services, one of the largest private nonprofit human services agencies in Michigan, are entering into a partnership. Through the arrangement, Vista Maria will grow to become one of the largest providers of Foster Care services in Wayne County, Michigan. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/1Gi1BTu>

The Spirituality Center in Angers, France, is offering 10-day spiritual experiences at the Motherhouse in 2017. Dates are April 18- 29 and June 13-24. Deadline to register for either retreat is February 8, 2017. Contact Melinda Stricklen for details at [mstricklen@maryhurst.org](mailto:mstricklen@maryhurst.org).

A series of 16 videos form an online campaign to heighten awareness about human trafficking. The videos are based on the publication "I Have a Voice: Trafficked Women - In Their Own Words. You can visit the site through December 10 for daily videos highlighting the women's stories. <https://vimeo.com/192318576>

# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Training youth in advocacy work

Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center (NAC) Larry Couch recently trained a group of high school students in advocacy work. The young men attend Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda, Maryland.

The meeting with the students came about through Matt Cuff, a member of the NAC Advisory Board. Matt serves as a Policy Associate for the Jesuit Conference. Last year, Matt asked Larry and several other people to serve as an advocacy trainer at the Ignatian Family Teach In.

### Passionate about the issues

Each year the Jesuits bring in from their schools hundreds of high school and college students to train them in advocacy and to brief them on particular social justice issues.

The students then go to Capitol Hill to meet with legislators and their staff members. This year the issues were immigration and criminal justice reform. Larry said he found the students to be better versed in issues of immigration and criminal justice reform than he expected.



*Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center Larry Couch prepares high school students from Georgetown Preparatory School to meet with legislators and their staff to advocate for immigration reform and criminal justice reform.*

"A couple of the young men were immigrants themselves: one from Taiwan and one from China. Others had visited our southern border and met with immigrants. They were passionate about the issues and were prepared to meet with their legislators," Larry said.

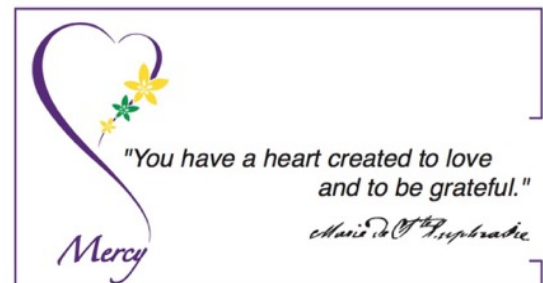
Larry prepared the students for their legislative visits through role playing exercises, where he played the legislator and they presented their issues. He said training youth in advocacy is important

because they are the future leaders in the field of social justice. Larry's training session with youth from Georgetown Preparatory School and previously with students from the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart were done at the school's request.

As a final thought, Larry said that in training the students he was again reminded that NAC needs a long term plan for engaging young people in Good Shepherd's legislative work.

## A Culture of Mercy

Director of the Office for Mission Effectiveness Melinda Stricklen says it has been an amazing year sharing in conversations with Good Shepherd Mission Partners around the country. "We were able to take a deep dive into our Core Value of Mercy, coming to terms with what Mercy is and what it is not. In our travels to our Good Shepherd programs throughout 2016, we gave witness to the living of this value," Melinda said.





## JUBILEES



ZEAL

## Sr. Caridad celebrates 60th Jubilee while on retreat

Sr. Caridad Tamayo made retreat on November 21 to renew her vows in quiet solitude. She is 60 years professed in the Good Shepherd Congregation.

"I wanted to be alone with my God and tell Him thank you for giving me the grace to be faithful to your love," Sr. Caridad said.

### Fidelity to God

"The Lord has always been everything in my life. Because of my fidelity to God I have been able to be a Gospel witness to those in need of a better life. I thank God for the gift of being 23 years in the United States working with the poor, the needy and the voiceless," she said.

The mission of Sr. Caridad's life has been to serve the sick and vulnerable of the community. She is a steady volunteer at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she

provides language interpretation for patients who speak Spanish.

Sr. Caridad makes daily rounds to patient care units. She views this as an opportunity to get to know patients and to bring God's spirit to those who are ill or alone. Working alongside a patient's medical team, she also participates in the difficult task of explaining to patients, who are approaching the end of their life, that there is nothing more to be done.

### Seeking God in the voiceless

Sr. Caridad said she has learned much from the immigrant patients whom she serves.

"They give me the grace to accompany them in their journey through illness, disease and their final stages of life," she said.

"After 60 years of seeking God in the voiceless, I am able to be a voice for



*Caridad Tamayo, RGS*

immigrants. For sure, my heart is burning to live this Good Shepherd mission until my last breath," Sr. Caridad said.



## Sr. Regina celebrates Jubilee in Community

Sr. Mary Regina Long will celebrate her 60th Jubilee with Sisters in the Baltimore Community on Thursday, December 8th. Sr. Regina made her first vows on December 8, 1956. She has requested a low-key "family" affair. Her celebration will begin with Mass at 5 p.m., followed by a festive supper with her Community. Her biological sister Anne Nevin and her husband will participate in the celebration, as will the Sisters from our Silver Spring Community and some special connections from St. Joseph Residence.

*Left: Sr. Regina shares hugs and a round of smiles with alumna from Good Shepherd Services Baltimore at last month's gala.*

## COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



## Blessings I have received as a missionary in the U.S.

By Lalani Ekanayaka, CGS

I leave St. Louis on December 5th to return to my province in Sr. Lanka. I have been with the Province of Mid-North America for three years and have received many blessings. When I think of them all, I realize that there are too many to count. So I would like to share those that are most significant to me.

First, I thank God who chose me as a missionary. Living in an international community helped me to discover my true self. I learned patience and new skills in the altar bread room and chapel, where Sr. Madge taught me the work of a sacristan. The Sisters asked me to play the organ for the regular Masses and liturgy of hours. This allowed me to improve my music skills.

### Accepting my limitations

I am so grateful for the Sisters in my Community who encouraged me to be creative by making greeting cards and taking an icon painting class where Sr. Glynis guided me so patiently. Through the icon painting I learned how to accept my limitations with humility and how to face the challenges with patience and trust in God's graces.

I was privileged to participate in the Contemplative Day May 24, 2015 that the Archdiocese of St. Louis organized for the Year of Consecrated Life. And I am especially grateful for each Sister in my Community. Their presence blessed my missionary life and helped me to grow in my vocation. The Community house and beautiful and peaceful surroundings always allowed me to feel the love and silent presence of God.

I will not forget the beautiful Sisters who passed into God's arms while I was living with them in Community. Sister Frances Marie, Sister Theresa Pulk and Sister Delores. I still feel their presence moving around our Community house.

### Relishing the Jubilee Year of Mercy

I feel so blessed to have participated in the Province Assemblies and Chapter. I always felt supported and encouraged, especially during times of reflections and sharing. I am grateful for the many people I have met and for the workshops I attended with Sr. Rekha and Sr. Lynn. I was privileged to follow the sessions on CARE and to have the support of Sisters who helped me while I struggled with the English language.

The extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy was a highlight, with the activities that took place in our Maria Droste chapel as a pilgrimage site. I will never forget the

pilgrimage my Community took to Farmington, Missouri, on September 7, 2016, as guests of St. Joseph Parish. This was the most significant day for me because the pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was on my Baptismal anniversary.



Finally, I am grateful for being given the opportunity to join the Integration Team's Eco Zeal for Mission. Being in the group has enhanced my learning and given me many new ways to think about things.

The gathering in Belleville from November 8-11 was my last Assembly with the Province of Mid-North America. I will no longer be here with you as a physical presence, but I will always be with you in spirit. I will stay joined with the Sisters and Mission Partners of the Province through my prayers.

I have received many more blessings, but there isn't enough space to name them all. Thank you for the many gifts and blessings!





## GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



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

As it turned out, Sr. Sharon woke up ill the morning of the event and wasn't able to attend. I was already there and decided to stay to see what I might learn.

Chancellor of Washington University Mark Wrighton set the tone for the symposium when he said in his opening remarks that "Climate change is the most important issue of the century."

The mayor of Alton, Illinois, Brant Walker, spoke passionately about the two most dangerous vulnerabilities to climate change: food (agriculture) and water. Adaptation to climate change is closely linked to these issues and their role in sustainable development, he said.

Climate change experts predict that warming temperatures, changes in precipitation and runoff, and sea level rise will continue to affect water supply and quality. Potential effects include increased flooding and drought, water quality impairment, and salt water intrusion to coastal water supplies. Changes to our water resources affect many sectors, including energy production, infrastructure, human health, agriculture and ecosystems.

One group of panelists at the symposium spoke about gender and water stress from a feminist political ecology point of view. Their stories centered around water insecurity in developing countries and U.S. desert cities like Phoenix, Arizona. Hearing dramatic real-life tales of having to scuffle for water made me feel fortunate to be living in a city where I have clean and abundant water accessible to me at

any time by simply turning a faucet handle, at least for now.

Panelists who examined social inequality in the desert metropolis spoke of water brokering networks that are burgeoning in some cities in Southeast Asia. They addressed the inequalities of the networks and talked about how they are designed to support people who have money and how the water networks fail those who are poor.

I heard countless stories of how we humans have changed, and are continuing to change, the environment in unprecedented ways. Pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, mining and fracking impact the lives of people worldwide. These changes threaten basic needs and livelihoods, emotional and physical health, financial security and overall mental wellbeing.

Several presenters addressed how land change is affecting the mental health of indigenous people who no longer feel connected to themselves, their culture and their community when their native land is altered or taken from them for such things as mining, fracking and development. The feelings of disenfranchisement can lead to substance abuse and suicide.

The symposium's final session focused on the innovation, design and delivery of social policy for climate change. We learned about policy implications for two marginalized societies in Uganda. We listened to a speaker from Singapore address social policy for justice in urban development, and we heard stories about unlikely

heroes in underserved Baltimore and Detroit.

By the end of the symposium we were left pondering a number of questions, such as

- Who is most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, and why?
- What adaptations are in place to safeguard people and animals, and what new adaptation efforts will be required?
- Which social policy solutions are most critical and achievable in the next 10 years?

Washington University hosted the event through its Center for Social Development at the Brown School of Social Work. More than 200 people registered for the symposium.

### Sisters of Earth presentations now on YouTube

The August issue of *Items of Interest* reported on the Sisters of Earth Conference that several Good Shepherd Sisters attended. The conference focused on the impact of extractive industries on the lands, waters, flora, fauna and indigenous peoples who live there. The presentations are now available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCusg2Xzb8n_EMi78sECxNGA) at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCusg2Xzb8n\\_EMi78sECxNGA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCusg2Xzb8n_EMi78sECxNGA)

## GREEN CORNER

ZEAL

## Art show exhibits God's creative diversity

Good Shepherd Gallery launched its fourth art show of the year on its first birthday, Saturday, November 26th. The show, titled "God's Creative Diversity," opened to the public with a cake cutting ceremony.

The show features watercolors of animals by artist Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP. Sr. Elizabeth maintains that, as humans, we are required to do all that we can to promote safe habitat for the rest of God's wonders with whom we share the planet. Her body of work is a testament to that belief.

Fr. Joe Olickan, a novice with Oblates Mary Immaculate (OMI), came to the show with other novices from different Catholic orders in the area. They are part of a group called the Intercommunity Novitiate. The novices have a free day once a month; they decided to make the art opening their outing for November.

"OMI novices are looking at biodiversity through our spiritual teachings. We have studied *Laudato Si* and have completed an

Eco Literacy program. This art show fits right in with our teachings on Creation," Fr. Joe said.

Sr. Sharon O'Grady, RGS, said, "Sr. Elizabeth's paintings show us how whole and diverse and alive Creation is."

Sr. Ana Gonzalez, a novice with Dominican Sisters of Peace, said, "Sr. Elizabeth paints beautiful watercolors and is also good with clay, wood and mosaics. She makes the best pies too. She is an artist in the full extension of the word."

One of the guests attending the art opening bought Sr. Elizabeth's watercolor of river otters. Vivian Resch said, "This painting is my friend's favorite one in the exhibit. I bought it for him as a present for Christmas, New Years, Easter, everything!"

Vivian didn't know it at the time she bought the painting, but the river otters also happen to be the artist's favorite painting.

Sr. Glynis McManamon, founder of Good Shepherd Gallery, said, "Sr. Elizabeth's work is filled with life and light. Her animals come alive, and they are precious. I feel grateful that in just one year we have had four exhibits that have been rich and varied."

God's Creative Diversity is on display at Good Shepherd Gallery through December 10. The gallery is located at 252 S. Florissant Road, Ferguson, MO.

For hours and information about the gallery visit [www.shepherdimages.com](http://www.shepherdimages.com).



Sr. Elizabeth Slenker (left) talks about her river otter painting with a guest at the art opening.

From top: Sr. Glynis McManamon blows out the candle on the gallery's first anniversary cake; Sisters from Maria Droste Contemplative Community admire a painting; Sr. Elizabeth Slenker relaxes.



## LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	Dec 14	Province Center Staff Party
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Dec 3-10	Province Financial Advisory Board Meeting & Dinner Apostolic Council meetings
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Dec 3-13	Province Financial Advisory Board Meeting & Dinner Apostolic Council meetings
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Dec 2-12	Province Financial Advisory Board Meeting & Dinner Apostolic Council meetings
Sr. Marie Maurer	Dec 5-9 Dec 14	Apostolic Council meetings Province Center Staff Party
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Dec 5 Dec 5-9 Dec 14	Province Financial Advisory Board Meeting & Dinner Apostolic Council meetings Province Center Staff Party
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Dec 5 Dec 5-9 Dec 26-31	Province Financial Advisory Board Meeting & Dinner Apostolic Council meetings Detente

May this wonderful time of the year  
sparkle with moments of magic,  
fill your hearts with love and joyous laughter  
and bring you peace  
through the sweet remembrance of Baby Jesus.  
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas that touches  
your heart and home in a special way.



## PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



*"Rejoice ... the holy Virgin, in becoming Mother of God, became our mother also."*

Saint Mary Euphrasia

### Contact us

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### ITEMS OF INTEREST

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