

**HCJ WINDING DOWN** 

It was with bittersweet emotion that HandCrafting Justice, Inc. (HCJ) Board of Directors announced that HCJ would be closing on January 31, 2016. The fair trade ministry of Sisters of the Good Shepherd in the USA Continued on next page

Continued on p. 17

more time she spent with the encyclical, the more she came to realize that the Pope's message related directly to her everyday life. "Yikes! That means it must begin with me,"

she said. "The thought of it can be a bit overwhelming! But

business and think about this

now I must get down to

1

seriously."

# HCJ Cont'd from p. 1

announced the news on January 14.

HandCrafting Justice began marketing women's handmade crafts in 1995. It started under the name Global Women's Exchange and was designed to help at-risk women served in Good Shepherd programs in the Global South lift themselves out of poverty through their handiwork.

From the beginning, HCJ has subscribed to <u>Fair Trade</u> principles which mirrored the code of conduct that HCJ and Sisters of the Good Shepherd had already adapted as a way forward with the producer partners. This would ensure that people who produce marketable goods are treated with dignity and respect, are paid and treated fairly and are never exploited.

HandCrafting Justice is a project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, an international religious congregation ministering in 73 countries on five continents. HCJ was headquartered in New York City. It was run as a nonprofit business, led by a professional board of directors with expertise in finance, retail, marketing and law. The professional commitment of the HCJ Board, staff and volunteers





Sisters of the Good Shepherd have been in Sri Lanka since 1869. It was in 2005 that HandCrafting Justice began working there with their incomegenerating projects.

has given HCJ focus and clear direction in the many years.

In the early days of the HandCrafting Justice ministry Sisters organized events and set up markets that would show the work of women's hands in Omaha, Columbus, Los Angeles, Silver Spring, Clark Summit, St. Paul, St. Louis and Baltimore. Sister Maureen was instrumental in incorporating HandCrafting Justice and having the nonprofit corporation certified as a Fair Trade organization.

Many Fair Trade organizations purchase their products from various certified sites based upon the desirability of their products. HandCrafting Justice has always purchased artisan crafts only from sites that are sponsored by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

"In this way, HandCrafting Justice has been able to provide economic empowerment and capacity building to accomplish positive

2

The work that we proudly initiated 20 years ago has resulted in over 6,000 women earning a living wage each day.

changes in the lives of artisans associated with Good Shepherd," said Sr. Maureen.

Providing economic opportunities to lift women out of poverty has been the mission of HandCrafting Justice since its inception. For 20 years HandCrafting Justice artisans have set prices for the goods themselves. HCJ has alway paid the artisans what they request, guaranteeing the amount for each item they make.

### HCJ Cont'd from p. 2

From toys and home décor to jewelry and handbags, 6,000 skilled artisans in 50 safe, clean worksites make more than 1,000 high-quality products for their local communities in 20 countries.

As things began to shift in the global economy over time, it became necessary for HandCrafting Justice to rethink its business plan. It was time to act when the cost of producing goods abroad and shipping them to the U.S. increased and the global economy spiraled downward.

#### **Developing local markets**

In 2013 HCJ and the Mission Development Office had a meeting with producers from Asia, Africa and South America to help the producers develop local markets and assure a viability of products for production. The outgrowth was to find ways to decrease the dependency on the Good Shepherd international markets and help artisans toward greater independence.



HandCrafting Justice helped secure funds that engaged the artisans in a two-year business empowerment program. From 2013 to 2015 producers in South America learned design work and business skills that helped them create contemporary designs at competitive prices. They also learned how to market their goods to local communities. In short, the artisans began to strengthen their own production sites and pivot toward a more sustainable and independent business model. Today, with the continued support of Sisters of the Good Shepherd in each respective country, HandCrafting Justice can step back and allow artisans to help themselves out of poverty.

"This has been our goal all along," said Sr. Maureen.

"From its very beginning HandCrafting Justice has sought to empower women and give them more control over their lives through the works they produce. Since HCJ has stepped back women can step up and work together to market the work of their hands. The artisans are becoming more sustainable day-by-day," Sr. Maureen said.

#### Wrapping up loose ends

HandCrafting Justice sold much of its remaining U.S. inventory in January through online discount sales. Buyers purchased what was left at cost and the remaining goods have been donated to charity. With the affirmation of the Good Shepherd Membership Board and the Board of Directors, the Attorney General will be asked to release any remaining funds to the Good Shepherd Mission Development



Office in Rome to continue the work of capacity building for women.

The HandCrafting Justice website has closed and has a statement thanking all of the benefactors who have supported HCJ over the years. The website also carries a statement notifying visitors that HandCrafting Justice is closed and the office is closed.

#### **Expressing gratitude**

In a final statement she made in her role as Director of HandCrafting Justice, Sr. Maureen said, "We are deeply grateful for the 20 years of support by so many dedicated individuals. HandCrafting Justice would not have been able to accomplish its mission without each of you!

"On behalf of all of the artisans in Asia, Africa and South America, we thank you. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are grateful for all the support over the past 20 years to assist women in helping themselves step out of poverty.

"This has been empowerment at its best! Thank you for your continued support as HCJ staff, volunteers, representatives, artisans and producers move through this process of letting go."

# HCJ customers in LA purchased with a purpose

Sister Anne Kelley and the Sisters and volunteers at the Los Angeles Shelter are renowned for the spectacular HandCrafting Justice markets they have hosted over the past 20 years. Before the stock market decline in 2008, it wasn't unusual for them to raise between \$15,000 and \$33,000 for HCJ in one weekend.

"Even with the financial decline, we still had very loyal customers, and the parishes were calling **us** to schedule the next sale for the following year," Sr. Anne said. "We had a phenomenal team of Sisters and volunteers who pitched in to display the products beautifully and to create a market that was greatly rewarding for customers and highly successful for HCJ," she said.

Sister Anne's involvement in HandCrafting Justice began in 1995 when she was introduced to the products and became intrigued by the artisans who made them.

"It was either Sr. Elise Rausch or Sr. Elaine Basinger who brought some products to a meeting in St. Louis. I was immediately impressed by the quality, and most especially by the incredibly intricate cross-stitched tablecloths of the 12 days of Christmas from Madagascar. The quality of the work was unparalleled," Sr. Anne said.

Before she knew it, Sr. Anne was ordering products from Madagascar, Thailand, the Philippines and other countries where Sisters had lived and worked. She learned much from Sr. Rose Kern, who was also selling products, initially from Ethiopia where she had served, as well as other countries.



An artisan in Bangkok shows Sr. Anne Kelley one of the creations she made for HandCrafting Justice.

Sr. Anne's excitement for HandCrafting Justice was shared by the Sisters in the LA Community and soon involved committed and talented volunteers. The LA team hosted six large parish sales per year, along with some smaller sales, particularly around Christmas.

The purpose of the sales was to sell artisan products made by marginalized women in underdeveloped countries. The goal was to empower the women artisans through the money they earned from their crafts so they could lift themselves out of poverty and abusive situations.

The LA team named their endeavor "Working Wonders." The name symbolized the wonders that the artisans are, and that the women are *working*. So this is not a handout but an affirmation of their determination and hard work. It also spoke to the issue of providing dignified and empowered employment. The title also addressed the products themselves as being wonders. The tag line for the LA markets was "Purchase with a purpose" because it assured customers that through their purchases, the projects themselves were working wonders in bettering the lives for these talented women and their families.

The concept of HandCrafting Justice has always gone beyond Fair Trade principles. "As Good Shepherd Sisters, we try to look at the whole picture for each individual and so in most of our projects the Sisters try to provide

### Purchase Cont'd from p. 4

counseling, child care, health care, dignity and empowerment," said Sr. Anne.

In 2006, Sisters Regina Do and Anne Kelley visited Thailand, Macau and Hong Kong. In the artisan programs that they visited, they met the women who were making products for HandCrafting Justice. Sr. Anne remembers each artisan as a beautiful, unique and gracious woman who was supportive and generous with visitors and, more importantly, with coworkers. During the visits Sisters Regina and Anne heard the women's stories of bravery and determination that left them in awe.

#### **Captivating stories**

The LA team used the women's stories to captivate parishioners and build a loyal customer base in Los Angeles. The stories brought many customers to the sales and



Volunteers in Los Angeles worked wonders when it came to packing the many HCJ products and transporting them to market.



Early bird shoppers beat the crowd at a HCJ market in Los Angeles.

inspired them to return each year. As the customer base grew, Sr. Anne asked for more stories from the HCJ office in New York and from Sisters who had visited or lived in countries served by Good Shepherd. She put stories on display boards and on tables with products. Customers often asked for copies of the stories when they bought something.

Eventually the LA team was asked to join efforts with the New York office in an attempt to centralize HandCrafting Justice. Although they understand the reasons for closing the Handcrafting Justice office in the United States, the Sisters and volunteers in LA are sad to see it happen.

"HandCrafting Justice has been an exciting, tangible way to bring people into the world of these courageous and creative artisans and have them leave with a beautifully crafted reminder of that encounter and the knowledge that they have contributed to the solution," she said.

#### **Replicating ideas**

Some of the older and more developed projects have a head start in creating alternative sources



of income and empowerment. The LA team hopes that these ideas can be replicated or built upon in other locations. For example, Good Shepherd project locations in places such as Thailand, the Philippines and Kenya have been creating products for many years that can be sold domestically, as well as teaching cosmetology, computers, sewing and cooking.

In rural areas the programs provide agricultural training and help families start an agricultural business. In some cases, the women who make products for HCJ have also been able to earn enough money to buy a sewing machine or loom so they can work at home and create additional products that are in demand in their own countries.

### Purchase Cont'd from p. 5

"These sales and this precious mission were also a way to make people aware of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and our phenomenal worldwide ministry. We took vocation materials to every sale. Our Sisters and volunteers truly are Working Wonders and I am in awe of them and eternally grateful to each one!" said Sr. Anne.

Although the markets were hard work, the Sisters in Los Angeles say the work was born of love and has been life-giving for them and their staff, volunteers and customers.

One of the things they will miss most is hearing the customers say, "I've been waiting for you to come this year so I can buy my gifts from you first and purchase with a purpose."



Purchasing with a purpose at the HCJ markets in LA made people happy.

"Our thanks to all who have touched our hearts through HandCrafting Justice and taught us more than we can say. We now will sit back and watch God work some new wonders," said Sr. Anne.

### Don't throw it away!

Saint Mary Euphrasia had a passion for keeping Good Shepherd history. Conferences, Chapter 65: "A long time ago, while traveling with two of our Sisters, we broke the journey and stayed with a Community, where we were cordially welcomed. In the course of conversation. I asked one of the Sisters when this house was founded. She gave me an evasive answer. Then I asked: "What is your foundress's name?" She answered quite naively that she didn't know. I can't tell you what a poor impression that gave us. I would be deeply grieved if any of you found yourself in such a situation; and how much more if a certain spirit of carelessness and indifference crept into the Institute. I hope it will never come to that.



Handwritten letters can hold the key to important historic information.

"My dear daughters, everything must be written down. I cannot over emphasize the need for all our convents to keep their annals carefully. The annual circulars will



Mark Rothman is serving as Interim Director of Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles while Executive Director Mandy Gibson recovers from an automobile accident. The March issue of Items of Interest will contain the full story.

### Throw Cont'd from p. 6

be useful in following our history, they will be a new song which will rise from all our 'tribes' to the glory of God."

Archives are a gift of one generation to another. They preserve the past and enable us to know our origins. While they are places of human memory and nourishment, they are also places of knowledge and power. They provide researchers, historians and others access to information for the good of society.



As Sisters move and programs change the Archive evolves and becomes the home for many of the new stories.





Photographs are powerhouses of archival information and knowledge if documented properly.

Documents, photographs, letters and other materials placed in the Archive acquire special significance and play a crucial role in affecting society's collective understanding of its past. But the artifacts themselves are meaningless without information about the context in which they were created and used.

Province Operations Director and Archivist Monte Abbott said, "Story is crucial to our construction of meaning. It's the story, or context of an artifact that makes it important, not the artifact itself."

An artifact that is preserved along with rich information about how it was used will allow future generations insight into how we lived, worked and ministered. Monte says it's possible that one day the Province archives could be housed in a public institute, where people may not know the meaning of a Catholic artifact.

"Can you imagine if someone dumped St. Mary Euphrasia's letters into a trash can because storage space was limited and nobody knew the importance of her letters?" Monte asks.

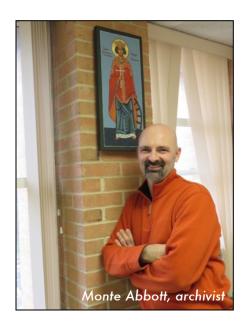
"In order to help me select materials for the Archive, when I receive an artifact from someone I need to learn a bit of the history of it. For example, who is in the photograph, who took it, what's going on in the photo, where was it taken and why? I need to know something of the circumstances surrounding a letter, a journal entry or book," he said.

"It's crucial that I give meaning for all of the province artifacts we keep so that our history is not lost or our purpose forgotten," he said.

When delivering items to the Archive, it is imperative to include the following:

- 1. Your name and phone number.
- 2. The date you delivered the item to the Archive.
- 3. Location where you found the item.
- 4. Any descriptive information you know (who, what, when, where, why?)

Monte will followup with a phone call to the person who delivered the materials. If you have any questions, contact Monte at 314-381-3400 or <u>mabbott@gspmna.org</u>.



### MINISTRY NEWS

### Knitting new skills

Some of the girls at Maryhurst in Louisville, Kentucky, learned to finger knit and crochet in January. The newfound skill has come in handy for the girls during winter cold spells. According to Maryhurst program staff, these useful skills are also intended to help the girls exercise their minds and focus their thoughts in creative ways to build a stronger, more peaceful foundation for their future. Knitting is one of many activities at Maryhurst that are intended to help young people who have been traumatized by abuse and neglect.











### Foundation of respect

Rose Haven is a day shelter where women on Portland's streets come to get a break, find new opportunities and be surrounded in conditions that make them feel safe and happy. Activities for Rose Have guests run the gamut from foot massages and health checkups to Bingo, mindfulness meditation and good old-fashioned conversation with other women. The shelter has an open door

8



policy and accepts any woman in any condition who needs help. Rose Haven is built upon a foundation of trust and mutual respect, where personal healing and healthy choice making begin.

"Words alone cannot express the deepness of my thanks and gratitude for your loving compassion and constant faith and support," said Rose Haven guest Julie.

Learn more about Rose Haven on the ministry's website at <u>http://rosehaven.org</u> or on its <u>facebook page</u>.

# MINISTRY NEWS

### GSS staff undeterred by blizzard

Winter storm Jonas kicked off January 21 and blanketed the Mid-Atlantic region with snow and ice. Undeterred by the conditions, staff at Good Shepherd Services Baltimore took rotating shifts, staying at the center around-the-clock to handle routine and emergency operations. Here's what Sr. Mary Carol McClenon had to say about the Can-Do spirit of GSS staff during Jonas' visit.

Well, the amusing thing we could say is that we had not only one Hotbed in the Convent, but two "Hot Beds." Our rooms #47 and #48 were slept in by six staff at St. Joseph Residence. Verna Gaskins and Barbara DeArmas spent Friday and Saturday nights, then vacated them for Yvette Banks and Tylisha Roberts-Bey on Sunday night, who then flipped them over again for Marty Gaskins and Cheryl Nelson on Monday night.



A view of the GSS roads after snow removal.

Five of the men in the Facilities Department slept at GSS the whole

weekend, as did seven of the dietary staff. Some of our dietary staff are old-timers and have been doing this for years. They have their own special "campsite" in the staff dining room, and even keep their cots and blankets stored in their own cupboard. They sleep over not only for blizzards, but also for ice storms and hurricanes. And they have a good time doing it. This year the three senior dietary staff indoctrinated four of the newer employees into their department tradition.

### Memorable welcome mat



Sister Patricia Marie Barnette submitted these photos to Items of Interest. They show the welcome mat that was laid out to greet her when she moved in January to her new home in Silver Spring, Maryland.

### CORA relaunches Lifeline

After 30 years of service to pregnant teens and young adult parents-to-be, CORA Services' Lifeline program took a brief hiatus last summer to redefine its objectives.

The program relaunched in January with greater focus on helping pregnant teenagers and young parents learn child-rearing skills so they are better able to support themselves and their children. Services include day care, help with substance abuse, counseling, career guidance and educational and speech assistance. Lifeline services are offered at agency locations, schools, community sites, and in the home.

Lifeline has also developed new collaborations and technologies to increase CORA's access to material goods that young parents need. For example, Lifeline launched a diaper donation drive during the Christmas holidays using the Amazon Wishlist. The successful online drive allowed CORA Service to replenish its diaper bank for young parents in the Lifeline Program.

Learn more about CORA at <u>www.coraservices.org</u>.

### MINISTRY NEWS

### Hope, Care and Protection

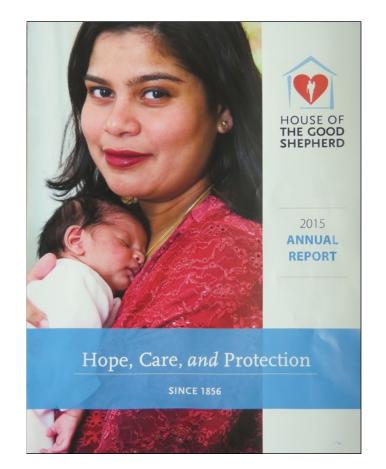
Imagine a woman fleeing for fear of losing her life with her children in tow and ... No place to go ... No money ... No support.

This is how the 2015 annual report for Chicago House of the Good Shepherd (HGS) begins. The report, titled "Hope, Care, and Protection Since 1856" carries statistics for domestic violence and reveals the state of affairs facing women in Chicago who experience it. The report also includes HGS financials and a narrative that explains how HGS helps residents meet their goals for breaking the cycle of domestic violence in their lives. Sister Jean Kielty, SH, makes an inspired statement as Program Director.

Of special significance to readers of *Items of Interest*, the annual report carries a timeline of the history of House of the Good Shepherd. The history begins in 1859 when four Sisters of the Good Shepherd arrive in Chicago from St. Louis, Missouri. Interesting milestones unfold for the next 159 years.

In 1907 the Good Shepherd Women's Board was established. In 1911 Sisters of the Good Shepherd launched the Technical School for Girls of Color with 25 girls in need. In 1951 Eunice Shriver Kennedy worked as a social worker at House of the Good Shepherd. In 1980 House of the Good Shepherd changed its mission to help battered women and children. In 2013 HGS launched an adult learning center to help mothers develop a resume and learn budgeting, conduct job searches and become empowered to find safe, affordable housing for themselves and their children. The annual report's timeline ends with House of the Good Shepherd joining Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"It does my heart good to read the annual report for House of the Good Shepherd, knowing that Sr. Jean



Kielty and Catholic Charities are carrying forward the mission of HGS and legacy of Sisters of the Good Shepherd," said Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid.

Sr. Mary Carolyn serves on the leadership team for Province of Mid-North America and facilitated the transfer of House of Good Shepherd from Sisters of the Good Shepherd to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. On July 1, 2015, House of the Good Shepherd joined Catholic Charities.

### CORA dives into 2016

CORA Services has begun its 45th year in service with a list of organizational priorities or "resolutions" and renewed commitment to providing innovative programs and services to better serve the Philadelphia community.

"As we launch this anniversary year, we are planning two upcoming events with the community that we are very excited about," said Ann Marie Schultz, CEO of CORA Services.

The first event is the Family Fun Festival on April 23. The second event is the 8th Annual Golf for Kids Outing on June 27. Stay tuned for details of the events on the Province website. CORA is also close to receiving a \$5,000 grant from The Rite Aid Foundation through the KidCents Program. To help, sign up for the wellness+ Plenti program and designate CORA as your charity of choice. You must register by January 31st.

### JUBILEE OF MERCY



Good Shepherd Gracenter helps women break free from drug and alcohol addiction by providing long-term transitional housing with an individualized 12-Step Recovery plan. Many women graduate from Gracenter and lead healthy and meaningful lives. Regina "Gina" Duncan, a graduate of Gracenter, was recently hired as the ministry's Resident Assistant. This is her story of recovery, relapse and renewal.

#### Gina, what would you say was the defining moment in your life when you realized you needed to seek help to recover from your addiction?

The defining moment when I realized that I needed help for my addiction was the night that I had a premonition of my son who had joined a gang being killed. I was so intoxicated I believed he was dead and promised my husband if he found him alive I would go to rehab.

#### How long had you struggled with your addiction before seeking intervention?

I began using drugs in September 2006 and used them nearly everyday until August 2009 when I entered Gracenter.

#### How did you learn about Gracenter and know to seek help there?

I learned about Gracenter through the Treatment Access Program in San Francisco, which is a service of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. I was in detox at Joe Healy in order to safely go through alcohol withdrawal.

### When did you come to Gracenter?

I entered Gracenter on August 7, 2009. At the time Gracenter was an intensive program, not a transitional program like it is now. The age limit at the time was 35 and I was 36. An exception was made, and I was very grateful to be able to recover in such a beautiful environment.

### When did you graduate from the program at Gracenter?

I left the program around November 2009 after completing three months of intensive treatment.

#### What were some of the most significant highlights of the program for you? What stands out most for you?

The program was very spiritual. I liked being around the nuns and having access to a prayer room where I could pray and read my Bible every morning. I also liked having a counselor who was able to help me with issues that I never discussed with anyone before. We did some cool art therapy classes where I was able to find healing.

#### Were there any scary moments when you felt that you wouldn't be able to overcome the addiction? If so, how did you deal with those fears? If not, how did you account for your level of serenity and trust?

Addiction is a very scary illness, since you never know when you could fall into using again. I dealt with my fears by never giving up. I learned to have faith in God and trust Him in the process, along with using practical steps to remain sober. For example, I used prayer, a twelve step program, a sponsor, a therapist and an accountability partner.

### What sets Gracenter apart and makes it a special place?

God is in that place. The Gracenter lives up to its name and vision of being a place where "a woman's recovery begins with grace." It is a very healthy and well run place. The case manager Sandra has a heart of gold and genuinely cares for the women. It is easier to ask for help when someone is truly invested in your well being.



Regina "Gina" Duncan

#### What parts of the program did you find most useful and beneficial to your own personal needs?

Gracenter is a beautiful place, it is very pleasing to the eyes and there is a warm and peaceful feeling there. It is rare to have a place to heal where you have your own room. That was important since I had suffered a lot of trauma.

### JUBILEE OF MERCY

# Q&A Cont'd from p. 11

#### How did you feel about the experience of living in a community of women at Gracenter?

There were ups and downs living with other women, but the benefits far outweigh the challenges. This was the first time I had openly shared with others about my very personal struggles, and it made me feel less alone and less crazy.

#### How did you get the job on staff at Gracenter? Can you explain the circumstances that led to you getting hired?

Sandra, the case manager, was always very approachable and her story always inspired me. I kept in touch with her after I graduated. My stepdaughter Linda was writing a college paper and I referred her to Sandra for an interview. Linda worked at Gracenter and when she moved to Atlanta about six months ago she asked me if I was interested in having her job. I gave Sandra a call. I believe that in all my failures and weakness I have now found my life's calling to help women get free and stay free from addiction.

#### What does the job entail?

I was hired as a Resident Assistant in August 2015 to supervise the women at Gracenter and help make sure the place runs smoothly.

#### How will your own recovery at Gracenter allow you to help other women who come to Gracenter to heal?

I believe in the power of my testimony. In my new position at Gracenter I can tell women that they can make it through no matter what! It keeps me humble to remember where I came from. Addicts understand each other. Most days I share little bits and pieces of my story and encourage them to keep moving forward,

#### Sharing our stories and points of view are a part of who we are as human beings. Why do you feel that it's important to tell your story of recovery, and for others to hear it?

Telling my story makes me human and being transparent removes the shame and stigma from addiction. Also, when people ask I share my faith in Jesus since He saved me through His love, mercy and grace.

# What kind of support did you receive during your recovery process?

My family is very supportive and happy for me. My stronger supporter, after Jesus, is my husband Frank who has been my rock during the entire process. He loved and cared for me through tremendous trials. I'm surprised our marriage survived. He showed me unconditional love and loyalty.

#### How important was it for you to have Frank and others support you during your recovery at Gracenter?

It was important because it's hard to be alone.

### How important is it for you to continue to have support?

It is vital that I have a support team in place so that I will not relapse.

#### What has your life looked like since you graduated from Gracenter in 2009?

I have been doing various volunteer jobs at non profit organizations, mostly in Christian churches. I have volunteered in a hospital and have become a mentor to women. Also, I have been attending Bible College to pursue a BA degree, with the hope of becoming a chaplain.

#### What else would you like to share with readers that we haven't already discussed?

Between the time I left Gracenter until now, my son Eric was murdered in San Francisco. After his death I relapsed and entered into a women's discipleship program where my life was restored again. I called Sandra when Eric died and she was a friend to me. Gracenter was willing to open the doors for me to return in 2013 for help, but God led me in another direction. It was good for me to leave the city for help. It took a lot for me to come back to San Francisco after what had happened with Eric.

The reason I share this part of my story is because it's important for people to find hope and to know that even in recovery there are failures; but they are not final. God never gives up on us and we shouldn't give up on ourselves and each other. Sometimes it takes a tragedy to break us so we can be made new. This is what happened to me. I wish I had a very simple story to say I recovered right away, but I had trials and ups and downs.

Gracenter is still helping me more than I am helping them. Being there is a healing and safe place for me. I am so grateful to be able to serve the women there and see Sister Marguerite and Sandra work so hard in a labor of love. They do so much for the women. It's refreshing to work in a place where people are truly merciful and care deeply to the extent of investing their lives. I am happy to share my heart. It has been quite a journey and I am very grateful to be alive and living to share it.

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZE

# Marjorie Hamilton, RGS

August 26, 1922 - January 6, 2016

Sr. Marjorie Hamilton wrote her memoirs several years ago and gave them to Sr. Pauline Bilbrough, Local Leader at Immaculate Heart Convent. Sr. Pauline used the memoirs to collect information for Sr. Marjorie's obituary. Sr. Therese Mott typed the gathered notes and submitted the obituary to Items of Interest for publication.

Sister Marjorie was born August 26, 1922. She was the second of four children (three girls and a boy) born to Gifford and Dorothy Swift Hamilton. All of the children were baptized and raised Catholic.

When Sr. Marjorie was in the eleventh grade she attended a retreat given by a Redemptorist priest. In an opening remark, the priest said that it was possible someone at the retreat would have a vocation to be a priest or Sister.

"Wow! Instantly that got through to me, and I realized with my whole being that I was hearing such a call. There was no doubt in my mind," said Sr. Marjorie.

She kept this realization quiet in her heart, not telling anyone until after high school. During a parish mission she told the priest of her desire. He introduced her to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and spoke eloquently of their work with young girls. On August 29, 1942, Sr. Marjorie entered the Good Shepherd Convent in St. Paul.

After two years initial formation Sister began her graduate studies, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with a social science major. She graduated with honors Summa cum Laude. After graduation she went to Dubuque, Iowa, to serve in our residential program for girls.

Sister took final vows on August 19, 1948, and was assigned as principal of our school in St. Paul.



In 1965, after I became provincial, changes encouraged by the ecumenical council were becoming reality.

In 1952 Sister went to St. Louis University for two years and lived on campus with Sisters of many other communities, which she found invaluable in learning about various schools of study. As a member of the Social Work School, Sr. Marjorie's first field placement was at the Catholic Charities Department of Children, primarily with children in foster care and group care. Her second placement was at the Public Welfare Office. After graduation in May 1954, she went to work at Catholic Charities in Denver.

In the fall of 1954, Sister became Local Leader of the Community in Helena, Montana. In addition to managing the house and its service to teenage girls, she was asked by Catholic Charities to be their representative at a home for unwed mothers.

After her time in Helena, Sister became Local Leader of the St. Paul Community, where she led fundraising efforts to replace deteriorating buildings with new ones. It was during this process that Sister first learned about doing work on archives for Religious Congregations. At the end of six years as Local Leader, Sister was appointed Provincial of the St. Paul Province.

#### Vatican II

"In 1965, after I became provincial, changes encouraged by the ecumenical council were becoming reality. This was an exciting time in church life and religious life. There was much to be learned," Sr. Marjorie said.

Sister learned by reading about changing emphases in theology, recent scripture studies and articles

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZE

### Sr. Marjorie Cont'd from p. 13

on changes in religious life and religious formation.

This was a very turbulent and painful time and everyone felt the Post Vatican II impact. Sister Marjorie steered the St. Paul Province through large numbers of Sisters leaving religious life and the closing of programs and houses. Through prayer and trust in Providence, she weathered it all rather well.

Sister was also given responsibility to oversee the renewal process for all of the contemplative Sisters in the U.S. as their name and governmental structures were adapted to the changing times. Her efforts resulted in greater autonomy for the contemplative Sisters and mutuality with the active apostolic sisters.

Sister Marjorie then went to Rome and started the Congregation's first Communications Office. While there, she adapted to a new language, new culture and exposure to the new and developing theology, spirituality and many other changes in Religious Life.

She also helped write new Constitutions that reflected the original charism of Good Shepherd's foundation and fidelity to the spirit of Saint John Eudes and Saint Mary Euphrasia. Over the course of her active apostolic life, Sr. Marjorie participated in revising the Good Shepherd Constitutions four times.

Sister Marjorie kept herself abreast of theology updates and the impact of the many changes after Vatican II, as well as the changes in the social welfare arena. She also attended many of the intercongregational meetings, which were rich in content. She worked closely with the Congregational Justice and Peace Commission and began preparations for the Beatification of Sister Maria Droste zu Vischering.

From 1967 to 1985 Sister was back in St. Paul, where she worked for Catholic Charities as a caseworker in a program for pregnant women. She also counseled juveniles and worked for the Ramsey County Family Court on domestic abuse cases. She became very active in the local parish and held open prayer sessions at the convent.

Sister Marjorie worked with Sister Rose Virginie Warnig between 1987 and 1996. They co-authored six Congregational booklets, five of which were published.

Sister then became Local Leader in Spokane, Washington, and worked with victims of domestic violence for the YWCA. She went back to St. Paul as Province Secretary and began working on a team to prepare the merge of four provinces into what became the Province of Mid-North America.

In 2000 Sister Marjorie worked with four Sisters, one from each former province, to begin gathering, consolidating and organizing archive material. She left St. Paul and came to St. Louis, where she served eight years as Province Archivist.

Sister then went back to St. Paul until her health forced a final return to St. Louis, where she took up residence at Immaculate Heart Convent. Sister Marjorie wrote in her memoirs, "Life has become more a matter of each present moment. I am grateful for my religious call, and I am grateful for my family and all of my life's experiences. I am grateful that a time will come, perhaps soon, when I receive my final summons. I praise God for everything."

Sister Marjorie died very peacefully on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2016. She has been a tremendous gift to our Community and our Congregation.

### **Province archives**



Sr. Marjorie Hamilton accomplished deeds in her lifetime that will benefit the Congregation and Province for many years to come. One of her longlasting achievements was the creation of an Archive to contain histories of the four provinces that merged in 2000 to become the Province of Mid-North America. Today Monte Abbott carries on the archival work that Sr. Marjorie began. He needs our help to ensure that important records are preserved for future generations and are able to be interpreted by researchers to benefit all members of society.

See story on page 6

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZE

# Anna Jo Wallette, RGS

December 28, 1926 - January 4, 2015



Sr. Anna Joseph Wallette was born on December 28, 1926, to William and Katherine Schmitzler Wallette in Cleveland, Ohio. Her twin brother was stillborn, leaving her an only child.

Sister Anna Jo made her first profession of vows in August, 1954. She held many jobs in her religious life, including bookkeeper, formation director and social worker. She served as director of intake, day treatment and campus ministry, and also served as an educator and administrator at Maryhurst in Louisville, Kentucky, where she was Superior of the Community.

Sister served at Our Lady of the Highlands, Fort Thomas, Kentucky; Maryhurst, Louisville, Kentucky; Villa Maria, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Rosemont, Columbus, Ohio; and Vista Maria, Detroit. She served these missions always with a positive outlook and joyful spirit. Sister Anna Jo was very loyal to her Community and friends. She gave of herself with a large heart and burning zeal.

She had barely entered through the door at Rosemont when she was called upon to assist Sr. Rose Henry Kern with an avalanche of work. The enrollment of day students was on, and along with that a constant flow of high-level activity for Sr. Rose Henry, including no fewer than 10 meetings to approve new day students and an endless stream of phone calls to parents, students and caseworkers.

Feeling overwhelmed and unable to meet the monumental task at hand, Sr. Rose Henry called upon the newly arrived Sr. Anna Jo to make all of the phone calls. Sister Anna Jo responded enthusiastically. In gratitude, Sr. Rose cried on the spot and hugged her.

Sister Anna Jo eventually guided the elected students who ran the Rose Level System, which was the student voice on Campus. She brought out the best in each girl, helping them be leaders on campus. God was Sister's constant companion 24/7. He worked through her, blessing all who came in contact with her.

#### Sr. Anna Jo's Eulogy by Cameron Hosner

I have had the great privilege of having Sr. Anna in my life for nearly 18 years. When writing about such an extraordinary force of "Good Shepherding," it is hard to know where to begin, so let me start at our beginning. I came to Vista Maria during December of 1997, having been recruited as the agency's Executive Director. I met Sr. Anna as I was vetted for the post and on my first week on the job. She was a fireball of zeal, a role model of Christ's love in action with an enormous passion for the work.

When I arrived she was heading up Vista Maria's Campus Ministry program and serving as a Sister in residence, vigilantly assuring that Vista Maria's programs, Board and staff affairs as well as overall culture, truly held fast to the heart of the shepherd. Over the next 12 vears, she sustained this vital role as the "true north" of Good Shepherding at Vista Maria. She partnered with me, the Board and staff as an essential catalyst to transform Vista Maria into a marvelous village of hope for the highest risk challenged girls in Michigan's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System.

During this transformational period at Vista Maria, Sr. Anna served on various key board and agency committees and work groups. She worked with staff to sustain a 24 hours a day/7 days a week ministry on campus to the children and families in our care. Her tireless efforts led to restoring thousands of lives. Today her legacy continues with the ongoing expansion of the "Village of Hope," once a dream and now a blooming reality.

Beyond our working relationship, over time Sr. Anna became an extended family member to my wife

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZEAL

### Sr. Anna Jo Cont'd from p. 15

Gail, our sons and me. Sr. Anna had shared with me that she was an only child and noted on many occasions that she had no close remaining relatives. To this I was always proud to say that she has been adopted by love into our family forever (despite that my family has Scottish roots and hers were French and German).

Through our years of friendship, I came to learn of Sr. Anna's love of hockey and appreciation for Labatt's Beer (from her family's Canadian origin), music and singing, mashed potatoes and gravy, spicy foods and hot sauce (on everything) and most importantly work with the agency's severely traumatized children. Sr. Anna's unconditional love and acceptance of the girls in care often times led to their recovery when no one else seemed to be able to reach them.

To me, Sr. Anna is the embodiment of "Good Shepherding" and a deeply loved member of my family. What a gift from God she is to all of us and will always remain so in our



hearts and minds. I know that at the end of her journey here on earth, God will have said to her, "Well done my faithful servant" before taking her into his eternal Kingdom.

Sister Anna Jo died at Pelletier Hall on the afternoon of January 4, 2016. Several Sisters were praying in her room when she passed into the loving arms of God.

Submitted by Sr. Dolores Kalina

### Pope Francis' message for Lent

In his <u>message for Lent</u>, Pope Francis has called on Catholics to use the Lenten season to listen to God's word and practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

He said, "In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I asked that the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy.

"God's mercy transforms hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbor and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

"These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit ... On such things will we be judged."

### GREEN CORNER

## It must begin with me

By Michele Wyman, Executive Director of Good Shepherd Services Baltimore

After reading Sister Virginia's article last month in the *Items of Interest* Green Corner, I was prompted to read a bit about the Pope's most recent encyclical.

I thought I had a pretty good grasp of the document's message. That is, until I began to go beyond the captions found on the Internet and actually read the encyclical itself.

I was enlightened to learn that Laudato Si is more than an urging to appreciate our environment or a call to preserve resources for future generations. Each time I read a portion of the encyclical I took away another message. I soon found myself reflecting on similarities between Pope Francis' message and what I do in my day-to-day life.

With the beginning of each year comes the New Year's resolutions. Should we or shouldn't we? Articles capture our attention that tell us how to lose weight, reduce debt, improve time management. Despite good intentions, the truth is that most resolutions are forgotten within 60 days and our attempts to change are long abandoned.

In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis tells us that the time has come for each of us to take account of our lifestyle and resolve to change. However, rather than being prompted by a new calendar year, he asks us to be grateful for the gift of the universe and calls us to reflect upon our lifestyles of consumption.

#### Moderation as a lifestyle

Soon we will enter the season of Lent, a period of sacrifice and denial. Not unlike those New Year's resolutions, commitment to Lenten sacrifice or "giving things up" sometimes wanes and we choose to adopt a less challenging path for "forty days."

Rather than short-term sacrifice, *Laudato Si* instructs us to pursue moderation as a lifestyle and encourages us to develop the capacity to be happy with little.

I've always thought of "less is more" as a decorating technique rather than a lifestyle. But to focus on lifestyle change is a concept addressed by the Pope. Religious scholars remind us that the Pope's

I soon found myself reflecting on similarities between Pope Francis' message and what I do in my day-to-day life.

message is more than a call to conserve natural resources and consume less in order to avoid environmental catastrophe. We are told the principal subject is the human need to care for the most vulnerable, as well as a call to care for God's creation. And that call to care for God's creation is based upon the belief that each gift of creation is an expression of God's love.

So often we are stilled by the beauty of a sunset, the majesty of a bald eagle in flight, the sight of new life *Continued on next page* 



Laudato Si is more than an urging for us to appreciate the environment or to preserve resources for future generations. The encyclical is a call for each of us to change our lifestyle, from one of consumption to one of moderation.



### GREEN CORNER

### Begin with me Cont'd from p.17

peeking through the charred remains of a forest fire, the glory of a towering oak adorned in resplendent autumn color.

What a different dimension is added when these experiences are thought of as expressions of God's love! Certainly I have always appreciated nature as God's creation, but rarely thought of it as words of love.

#### Earth and humanity

Cardinal Peter Turkson, a member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, (the council responsible for drafting the encyclical) says the Pope addresses two major subjects in *Laudato Si*. First is Earth, the way we have abused it and the need we have to take care of it and preserve it.

The second subject relates to humanity, part of which is still suffering and needy. So we are called to care for the most vulnerable (a call to which all Good Shepherd folk have responded through our work) as well as a call to take care of God's Creation.

Pope Francis addresses how to get there by acknowledging the needed change in politics and economic policy. But it is "we human beings who, above all, need to change."

Yikes! That means it must begin with me. The thought of it can become a bit overwhelming! But now I must get down to business and think about this seriously.

#### **Over indulgence**

I must admit that I feel remorse when I reflect upon my over indulgences during the holidays, as evidenced by my preference for elastic waistbands these days. Or, that recent purchase of new bedding at Pottery Barn fed by the notion of excess (it was a "buy more, save more" sale). Oh, and those black pants I recently bought. I know I have multiple pairs but a girl can never have too many pairs of black pants, right? Oh my, I have a lot of work to do!

When I need to calm myself and gain perspective, I rely on God's grace to help me find the way. I know that prayer always keeps me looking into the future with hope rather than backward with despair.

So, imagine my joy when I discovered that Pope Francis ends the encyclical by proposing two prayers! I look to the first of these prayers and am immediately drawn to it and feel a need to share. But before I do, I want also to share another thought. Those of us who live in the Mid-Atlantic region are in the midst of preparing for one of the biggest snowstorms ever to hit our area. The blizzard is on its way as I finish writing this article in my Baltimore office. The latest weather update says the snowstorm has already begun in Washington, D.C.

As I bring these musings to an end, I want to share what I am gratefully anticipating this evening... the hushed quiet of falling snow, glistening under the moonlight, dressing the trees in a mantle of white. For me, God's love will be shining through it all!

See the sidebar on the next page for an ending prayer in Laudato Si, "Our Prayer for the Earth."



The hushed quiet of fallen snow.

18

FEBRUARY 2016

### GREEN CORNER



In 2010 three Good Shepherd Sisters began a journey that changed forever the lives of thousands of miners working inside copper and cobalt mines in the mineral-rich Democratic Republic of the Congo. The mined materials are used to make vital components for computers and mobile phones. Very little of the multi-billion dollar mining trade reaches the people of the region, resulting in widespread poverty, chronic hunger and disease.

A new documentary *Maisha: A New Life Outside the Mines* shows the fascinating work of the three Sisters and how they used community-based participatory decision making models to create a sense of right, dignity and voice that resulted in education, economic opportunity and food sovereignty for the region.

The film screens at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on February 4. The screening is a side event that is being held within the context of the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development entitled "Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World." Sister Clare Nolan, Training Facilitator for the Good Shepherd Congregation, will moderate the screening and post film discussion. The event is being hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations, The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, and The NGO Mining Working Group.



Good Shepherd International Foundation funded the production of *Maisha*. The U.S. Embassy to the Holy See sponsored the film. You can watch the documentary at <u>www.maishafilm.com</u>. Sr. Clare wrote an article for <u>Global Sisters</u> <u>Report</u>, titled *A parable for today -Introducing Maisha: A New Life Outside the Mines*.

#### Our prayer for the earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen.

(ending prayer in Laudato Si)

ZEAT

### LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	Sabbatical	Sabbatical
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Feb 2-7 Feb 13 Feb 16 Feb 27 - Mar 8	Apostolic Council meetings, St. Louis Gracenter Restorative Justice training, San Francisco Council of Women Religious, San Francisco Meetings in St. Louis
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Feb 2-8 Feb 27 Feb 28	Apostolic Council meetings, St. Louis LCWR/NRVC event with Mary Johnson, Seattle PLT meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Marie Maurer	Feb 3-7 Feb 29	Apostolic Council meetings, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board, St. Louis
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Feb 3-7 Feb 8-12 Feb 13-28 Feb 16 Feb 29	Apostolic Council meetings, St. Louis Good Shepherd Shelter, Los Angeles Care for Loretta Good Shepherd Shelter Board meeting, Los Angeles Financial Advisory Board, St. Louis
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Feb 3-7 Feb 9 Feb 11 Feb 13 Feb 16 Feb 24 Feb 29	Apostolic Council meetings, St. Louis Board meeting, DeNeuville Learning Center, Memphis Advisory Board meeting, NAC, Silver Spring Gracenter Restorative Justice training, San Francisco Good Shepherd Shelter Board meeting, Los Angeles Michaella Kim's Renewal of Vows, Cheltenham Financial Advisory Board, St. Louis

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FEBRUARY 2016

# PROVINCE CONTACT



"Having endured suffering and trials, you will better understand the sorrows of others."

Saint Mary Euphrasia

#### Contact us

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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

