

ITEMS

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Defending rights

Larry Couch travels to Honduras to stand with the people and defend their human rights.

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Pope Francis visits a women's prison in Santiago, Chile, that has Good Shepherd ties.

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L-R: Sisters Silvia Romero, Madeleine Munday and Rosalie Nguyen enjoy opening night of the January art exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center in Ferguson.

WARMTH AND LIGHT

The January exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center, titled Warmth and Light, filled the space with a wide variety of expressions. The artists

Continued on next page



Green Corner

At our Assembly last October Good Shepherd Sisters in the Province of Mid-North America chose as a province commitment that we would mark the year 2018 as "The Year of Water." We would like to invite all readers of *Items of Interest* to join with us in this commitment. We chose to commit ourselves personally and as a community to a greater awareness of the gift of water. We will strive to conserve water and be open to

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PROVINCE NEWS

ZEAL



Above: An art patron studies one of Gary Lang's abstract paintings during opening night of the January exhibit Right: Artists Henry Chaney and Kathy Ann Duffin discuss Kathy Ann's watercolors.

Gallery, *Cont'd from p. 1*

whose works were on display are Artist Associates of the center and have shown their work there before. Upcoming shows in 2018 will introduce new visual and performing artists to the space, including children from North County Catholic Schools in February and residents from Ferguson in August.



Sr. Catherine Massei, business manager for Good Shepherd Arts Center, talks about the gallery exhibition "Warmth and Light" with an art patron.

Expressions of Gratitude

Dear Sisters,

God Bless you All! I hope this letter finds you well. Please keep us all in prayer. I would like to thank you all for your service to God, His Church, and His people. Your lives of consecration are very important to us all and help this world immensely; please never forget that. Thank you for being Sisters to all humanity.

David M. Mann, (USAF) Ret. and CSJA

Jeanette. A great issue of Items of Interest; appreciated the international information. Zeal for our world-wide mission always increases my zeal. Great job!!!!!!

Sister Dorothy Doyle, RGS

The Good Shepherd Arts Center is a wonderful space for artists to show our works as an expression of who we are and how we feel about life. I am grateful to know Sister Glynis and to be a part of her ministry.

Kathy Ann Duffin, artist

I'm grateful to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for seeing God's vision for the future, and for recognizing the zeal within me before I even knew that it existed. Please pray for me and my endeavors.

Carol Vickers

You Sisters taught me how to bake, how to function, how not to run, and how to love myself. You impacted my life in so many positive ways that I want to say thank you. You saved my life. I truly believe that. I was in a dark place with no tools to get out. You Good Shepherd Sisters gave me the tools and helped me out of that dark place. Thank you again.

Mildred Velazquez

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

A new home for a special statue

The treasured statue of St. Mary Magdalen from the Good Shepherd Sisters in Halethorpe, Maryland, has found a new home in the Mission Church of St. Margaret in nearby Bel Air, Maryland.

This is the only church in the Archdiocese of Baltimore with St. Mary Magdalen as its Patron. The statue went to the church with the prayers of the Good Shepherd Contemplatives Sisters. Their prayers will continue for many years to come, for all of the parishioners.

This beloved statue had traveled with the Sisters when they moved from their convent in Washington, D.C. to Halethorpe.

The Pastor of Ascension Church, Fr. John Williamson has been very helpful in finding homes for many of the religious items from the

convent. The following article regarding the statue appeared in a church Bulletin from St. Margaret Church:

"This past week we received a statue of St. Mary Magdalen from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Halethorpe. They are closing their convent and some of the religious articles are being given to local churches.

"Fr. John Williamson, a former Associate of mine from the Church of the Ascension, told me about the statue since we are the only Church in the Archdiocese who has St. Mary Magdalen as a patron.

"It is in the vestibule of the Mission. I hope you take time to see this statute and know how blessed we are to have it with us." (Msgr. Kevin Schenning)

It is unfortunate that we do not have a picture of this treasured statue. But here's a thought: Maybe someone took a photograph of the statue while it was in the convent. If that's the case and you have a photograph of the statue, or know somebody who does, please send it to Jeanette McDermott so that we can publish it in a future issue of Items of Interest.

Sr. Mary Joy Benson alerted us to this interesting story. If you hear of any stories or see photographs that are related to Good Shepherd that might be of interest to our readers, please submit your news tip and photographs to Jeanette McDermott at jmcdermott@gspmna.org

Mystery photo ... guess who and where?



Last month's mystery photo received two guesses: one person believes the Sister in the photo on the left is Sr. Sharon O'Grady. Another person believes it might be Sr. Christopher Mullan. Hmmmm, can anyone confirm or deny the Sister's identity? Are there any new guesses?

Moving right along, let's see who can help us figure out what this month's photograph is all about. It's an odd picture that shows Sisters in full habit standing on a bombed out airplane. This image conjures up a lot of imagination, but we are seekers of truth and don't want to leave anything to speculation. We really do hope to get some feedback from Sisters who might have a clue about what is

actually going on in this photograph. Who are the Sisters? Where was the picture taken? Was it taken during or after World War II? The Korean Conflict? Early Vietnam War? We have no information about this engaging photo in the Province archives. Does anybody have information that can help us improve our archival records? If so, please contact jmcdermott@gspmna.org.



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Vista Maria's push against commercial sex trade



Vista Maria President and CEO Angela Aufdemberge wrote an article about human trafficking for the social media platform *Linked-In* as a way to raise awareness about the issue during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January. She titled her article "Why I know so much about

the commercial sex trade and why you should too."

Vista Maria is a Detroit-based social services ministry that Sisters of the Good Shepherd founded in 1883. The agency is the longest continually operating nonprofit in Michigan and is one of only two organizations in the state

with a program specifically developed to treat child victims of human trafficking.

The Wings program

In 2014, Vista Maria launched a specialized program for survivors known as Wings. During this 18-month, trauma-informed treatment program, Vista Maria provides female child survivors of human trafficking with care, support, treatment and education to overcome their traumatic pasts.

"We developed the Wings program because the effects of being trafficked in the commercial sex trade are truly devastating and complex. The physical and emotional abuse can and often does exact a tragic toll on young girls. Victims experience post-traumatic stress disorder, attachment disorders, acute anxiety, depression and insomnia among other conditions. They require intensive specialized treatment and wraparound services to begin the healing process and ultimately realize their own worth."

Angela's article is in full at <http://bit.ly/2neM9rf>.

Announcements and News Tidbits

The Province's sacred arts ministry *Shepherding Images and Good Shepherd Gallery* has a new name and a new website. Soon it will be governed by a Board of Directors as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Good Shepherd Arts Center will remain at 252 S. Florissant Road in Ferguson, MO. The website is www.goodshepherdarts.org

Sr. Glynis McManamon has a new email address for emails that are related to her ministry Good Shepherd Arts Center. Her new email address is info@goodshepherdarts.org

The 2018 theme for the Office of Mission Effectiveness is the Core Value of Individual Worth. The Mission Effectiveness team will travel throughout the Province of Mid-North America this year to reflect on the theme with Good Shepherd Mission Partners.

Good Shepherd's National Advocacy Center has posted its priorities for 2018 on its website. With everyone's active participation, advocacy and prayers, NAC says it will achieve its eight priorities. Get engaged with the issues at www.gsadvocacy.org

February 14 marks the 18th anniversary of the merger of four provinces into the single Province of Mid-North America. This year marks the 175th anniversary of Good Shepherd Sisters serving the poor and marginalized in North America. Please send any celebration photos of either anniversary to *Items of Interest* for inclusion in the March issue.

Please note Sr. Olga Cristobal's new cell phone number: (415) 928-9408.

Deadline for the March issue of *Items of Interest* is February 20.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL



National Advocacy Center welcomes new Advisory Board members

The National Advocacy Center (NAC) of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd has welcomed seven new members to its Advisory Board. The board meets three times each year and assists NAC in its role as the legislative arm of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

- **Millicent Carvalho-Grevious** is a social worker for the state of Pennsylvania.
- **Sylvia Casaro Dietert** works for the AFL-CIO to create career pathways for those who are poor and unemployed.
- **Brigid Lawlor, RGS**, founded the National Advocacy Center in 2001 and returns after her many years in leadership.

- **Claudia Villarreal** is pursuing a Masters of Social Work at Catholic University, is fluent in Spanish and English and is strongly committed to working with those on the margin.
- **Brian Grevious** is a retired Philadelphia police officer, former employee of the Commonwealth's Department of Human Services, and current CEO for a certified disabled-veteran-owned business.
- **Annie Minguez** is director of Government and Community Relations for Good Shepherd Services in New York.
- **Carol Pregno, RGS**, is former provincial for the Central South Province of Good Shepherd.

"We said goodbye to some long-standing members of the Advisory Board who were truly dedicated to the Good Shepherd Sisters and their work. It's wonderful to have this new, diverse group step up to carry the mission forward.

"I am grateful to them, and to the current Advisory Board members who provide the structure and framework for what is to come," said National Advocacy Center Director Larry Couch.

Visit www.gsadvocacy.org to learn more about the National Advocacy Center. Review NAC's legislative sign-ons at <http://bit.ly/2nkcJ2Z>

Submitted by Fran Eskin-Royer

NAC Director part of delegation of human rights defenders in Honduras

During production of the February issue of *Items of Interest*, the Director of the National Advocacy Center (NAC) for Sisters of the Good Shepherd traveled to Honduras as part of a 50-plus member Emergency Interfaith Delegation. The purpose of the delegation was to accompany Honduran human rights defenders as they mobilized and demonstrated against the fraudulent presidential election in November.

Jesuit Fr. Ismael "Melo" Moreno, who has accompanied the Honduran people for more than 20 years, implored the international faith community to accompany the Honduran people, to witness the tyranny and to share what they see with the world.

NAC responded to Fr. Melo's call. Throughout the week-long demonstration, Larry kept a daily blog of his experiences in Honduras. You can read his posts and see the photographs he posted online at <http://www.gsadvocacy.org/larrys-blog>.

Before traveling to link up with the delegation, Larry said, "I leave for Honduras to be in solidarity with its people. I carry the love and compassion of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in North America. I hope to serve as a witness and to share what I witness with the Sisters and with Members of Congress upon my return."

Items of Interest will publish in its March issue a first-person account of Larry's involvement in the Emergency Interfaith Delegation to Honduras.



Photos from the blog of NAC Director Larry Couch.

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



Game nights with Sisters liven up Maria Hall

We have game night each week at Maria Hall, our new home in Danville, Pennsylvania. Recreation night lasts between 60-90 minutes and includes Wii Bowling and board and card games. Sr. Caroline D'Angelus has had a lot of practice playing Wii Bowling during home visits and is becoming a celebrity of the sport at Maria Hall. She is in the process of dethroning the previously-unchallenged bowling champ, Sr. Susan (age 94).

Sr. Caroline said she teased Sr. Susan and called her a 'Show Off' when Sr. Susan made her first strike in Wii Bowling. "And then I got four strikes in a row. I was in a state of shock. I've never bowled that well, in Wii or in reality, in my life before," said Sr. Caroline.

"Then it was Sr. Susan's turn to tease me. After my fourth strike, she turned to me and said, 'Show-Off!' I can't believe how many people were talking about it," said Sr. Caroline.

Between my own comings and goings and the bumps and grinds in the schedule, I have yet to actually attend a game night. Though I have played in Wii Bowling, I have immediately become the lowest scorer with a weird left hook that only sets in at the last second. My ball looks like a strike, strike, strike, strike, lurch left, hit one or two pins, or gutter. Quite amazing.

Submitted by Sr. Mary Carol McClenon



Sr. Caroline D'Angelus (foreground) is on a winning streak with Wii Bowling. With four consecutive strikes under her belt, she is about to unseat the 94-year-old reigning champion at Maria Hall.



Playing with beach balls

Who says you need sun and surf and a sandy beach to enjoy playing with a beach ball? Activities Director Andrea Roper and Local Leader Sr. Mary Carol McClenon (center in photo) bring beach ball fun to the Sisters at St. Joseph Residence in Baltimore. Sr. Jane Elligan belts out a hearty laugh after snatching the beach ball from the air and securing it onto her lap. Sr. JoAnne Getzendanner looks on, wondering if she will be expected to scramble for the ball next. Sisters Jane, JoAnne and Anne Marie Solomon are the remaining Sisters in Baltimore. They will join the Danville Community when beds become available.

COMMUNITY LIFE



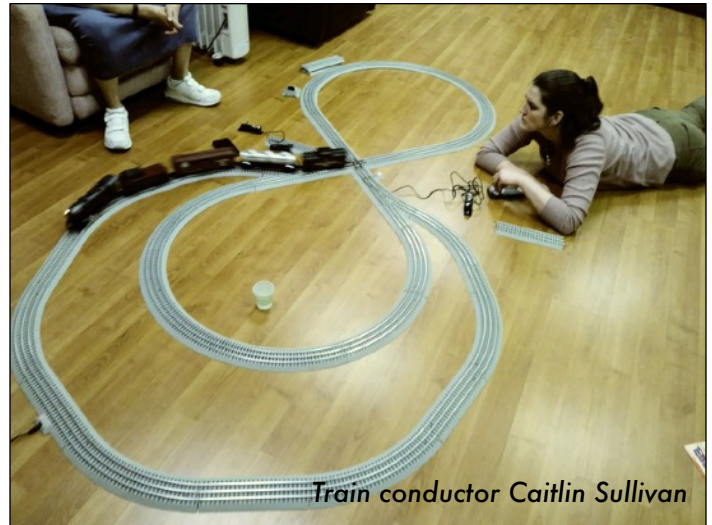
ZEAL

Bringing back the train

By Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

We set up our Lionel train set at St. Joseph Residence for Christmas and then put it away after the holiday. It wasn't long before I began missing it. Caitlin Sullivan, our CNA who had never had a train before, was hooked on the idea of bringing it back and sprung into action to help set it up. She has since become our train conductor.

The train has a history. Our Contemplative Community of Sisters had a train set when they were a separate community. In 2015 they were idly mourning its loss as Christmas approached. A gentleman and regular benefactor had just sent a generous donation of around \$200 to the Sisters. I bought a starter train set with the money. A Lionel O Gauge Pennsylvania Flyer. I wrote to the donor and thanked him for his gift and told him how I had spent the money, hoping that he wouldn't think it was a frivolous purchase. The gentleman was charmed and sent me another check to buy more train cars. So, I upgraded the train set at the beginning of 2016. When he sent his Christmas donation this year, he reminded me to get more equipment for the train set. This time I bought



Train conductor Caitlin Sullivan

more train tracks and a couple of switches. Now we have enough to make creative layouts.

Since we only have three Sisters left in Baltimore there is room to leave the track out and lots of evening down time for Caitlin and me to play with the train. Lee and Dawn play with it too. We have to remain childlike to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Living witness of Christ

By Elizabeth Garciano, CGS

Celebrating Consecrated Life is a Call. When we entered the convent we vowed to serve God and to reflect deeply on what it is to be a "Disciple," a living witness of Christ continuing the life He showed us.

St. Mary Magdalen, the Apostle of Apostles, believed and soaked her whole spirit, mind and body in the presence of the Resurrected Jesus. She responded and chose to live a "Eucharistic Life," a life totally in union with God. We witness her great love of Jesus when she earnestly seeks Him at the Holy Garden. Creation was awakened by this mystery.

As we celebrate the month of Consecrated life (February 2 is World Day for Consecrated Life),

we Contemplative Sisters are being called to seek Him tirelessly and to commit ourselves to live "Impelled by God's Love" more intensely and intimately with everyone and with all creation. Always contemplating, always with Jesus in community life, always with a big heart.

To deepen our intense thirst for God, we recognize creation as an icon of the face of God. We are challenged on how to become the container of the divinity of God. We believe that our Incarnational Prayer is interconnected with every element of the Universe. (Congregational Directives 2014)

During this time I invite each of you to ponder and reflect on the call of

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si, Care for our Common Home*.

- In community life, how do we live justice and peace in our relationship with each other and our interconnectedness with creation?
- How do we help and respond to the needs of this dysfunctional world in which we live?
- How can you find concrete actions personally and communally on how to integrate "Impelled by God's Love?"

As we walk through the valleys and fields of life, let us be open to the inrushing of grace, when you least expect it. And when it comes, give up anything that holds it back.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Water *Cont'd from p. 1*

finding ways to prevent pollution of this precious gift. The province team Eco-Zeal for Mission gives us some ideas to prime the pump:

- Pray in gratitude for water and for wisdom as you use water each day;
- Shorten showers; use water-saving shower heads and water faucets; avoid buying water in plastic bottles;
- Capture rain water runoff in rain barrels or large pots to use on garden and house plants;
- Study your utility bill and see what it reveals about your water usage each month;
- Think about and incorporate into your daily routine creative ways for reducing water consumption;
- Consider donating money that you save by conserving water to some of our mission areas that don't have access to clean water; your donations could help them build systems to obtain fresh water.

Water: Sacred and Wounded

After deciding at Assembly that we would make water a province commitment, we sent a prayer that was focused on water to all of the Sisters. Our slogan is *Water: Sacred and Wounded*. The prayer included time for discussion about ways we can conserve water in our personal and communal lives. A Sister asked the question, "What help is my little pittance?" In response, we offer the following:

In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis calls us to conversion – conversion of our world view and conversion to a sustainable lifestyle. We are called to see creation in a different way, a way that reverences life, and the Source of life. This change of thinking has scientific, sociological, ecological, economic and cultural implications. At the heart of it all are the dimensions of spirituality and ethics.

Pope Francis offers a spiritual dimension to care of creation in his encyclical *Laudato Si*. He writes, "Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection. Soil, water, mountains, everything is, as it were, a caress of God." (84) "

Misuse of God's gift to us

Pope Francis tells us that Earth is not merely a source of raw materials for consumption, but a sacred icon of God's beauty which moves us to awe and contemplation. On the one hand, we humans love the beauty of Earth. On the other hand, we carry within us the stance that Earth is abundant in resources that belong to us and us alone to use as we will.

Each action to save water can be a prayer.

We are called to face the fact that we have misused what we have been given. Our misuse has led to a destructiveness that Pope Francis vividly describes in *Laudato Si*: "This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her in our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her... earth, herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor." (2)

Pope Francis asks us to take notice, stating in his encyclical, "We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society." (27)

There are countless stories of creation's resources running out.

We all know them. For example, the water crisis effects the gardens that women plant in Guatemala to feed their families. The families can no longer live sustainably because the combination of drought and extreme weather has wrought havoc on their ability to farm. The water crisis adds extreme hardship on women and children in Africa who spend 40 billion hours annually collecting water. While taking on this backbreaking effort, they're also subjected to harassment and sexual assault along the way in unprotected areas. Stories like these fill the news.

Bringing us into deeper solidarity

So, how do we take Earth's reality into our hearts and take action in our daily lives? Maybe our first step is to simply realize that every single one of us can take at least one small action to conserve water. Even the smallest act can bring us into deeper solidarity with those in need. And that is the heart of our Good Shepherd charism.

Every decision to save water in small ways moves us toward living more sustainable lives. And each action to save water can be a prayer. Our decisions and actions offer example to others. They open us and reveal other ways in which we can reach beyond our comfort zone and privileged first-world lifestyle.

We are made different by our actions, and we begin to see things in a new way. As Saint Thérèse of Lisieux showed throughout her lifetime, a pittance has ultimate value.

Let us together be grateful for God's wonderful gift of sacred water, and let us find ways to heal its wounds and protect it.

Submitted by Sisters Virginia Gordon and Sharon O'Grady, members of the province team Eco-Zeal for Mission

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

M. Roberta Kienstra, RGS

April 14, 1914 – January 18, 2018

Gladys Marie was the fifth of seven children born to Herman and Teresa Kienstra. They were natives of St. Louis, Missouri, and had settled in the community of Ferguson to raise their growing family.

Tragically, her father died suddenly when Gladys was only four years old. Fortunately, he had a very good insurance policy which enabled her beautiful and pious mother to maintain her household and provide for her children. When faced with adversity Sister Roberta remembered her mother gathering the children around her to pray.



Sr. Roberta as an adolescent.

After graduating from high school, Gladys completed two years of nurses training. At age 19, while attending a clothing ceremony at the Good Shepherd Convent on Gravois Avenue, she felt moved to become a Sister of the Good Shepherd. She was drawn to the life of prayer, and of working with the neglected and at-risk girls who were in the Good Shepherd programs. Gladys entered the Novitiate on February 8, 1933, and was given her religious name, Sr. M. Roberta, when she received the habit at her clothing ceremony.

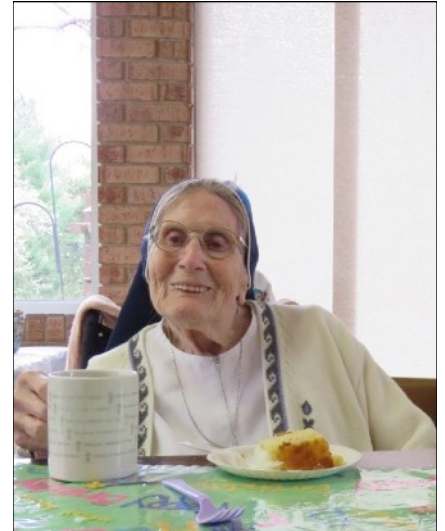
It was in Sister's nature to have good order and to keep the girls happy in their chores. She worked 10 years with the teenagers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and then returned to St. Louis to use her nursing skills in a program for older women.

From there she worked with teenagers in Houston, Texas, and Phoenix, Arizona, where she managed group homes for girls and one for young boys. Good order was her trademark through all of this.

Sister then went Las Vegas, Nevada, and worked as bookkeeper, relief house mother and counselor in a local high school. She treasured voluntary holy hours of prayer and sharing with the youth, watching them grow as they deepened their love for God.

Sister then went to New Orleans to help open the halfway house for women prisoners as they prepared for release and a smooth transition from prison life.

Next Sister became Sacristan for the Immaculate Heart Convent in



Sr. Roberta at Immaculate Heart Convent on her 102nd birthday.

Normandy, Missouri, where she used her nursing skills to care for others when the end of their life was nearing. She stayed devoted and vigilant, bringing peace and serenity to all whose lives she touched.

Sister Roberta had been very close to her family, and they to her. She watched her family grow over the years and always kept them and their special intentions in her prayers. She enjoyed many happy times with her family and was pleased with how they love and support one another.

Sr. Roberta was a personal embodiment of the Good Shepherd vow of zeal. Since her 100th birthday three years ago, she had tried daily to wait patiently for her "special intention." We will all miss Sr. Roberta and her cheerful smile.

Submitted by Sr. Pauline Bilbrough

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

ZEAL

M. Stanislaus de Polonia, RGS

April 14, 1935 – January 15, 2018

Wilhelmina was the eldest of 14 children born to Estanisalo and Blandina de Polonia in Tugogarao City, the Philippines. Ten of her brothers and sisters died young during World War II. Two of her brothers served in the Philippine Army. They were killed in an explosion and received the Purple Heart. Another brother was killed in a bomb blast close to their home as he tried to help someone to safety.

Three of her sisters still live in the Philippines and were teachers. Sister was also a teacher and had her first degree in Home Economics from the University of the Philippines, later receiving a Master of Arts degree in Guidance and Counseling.

Called to be a missionary

Sister entered Good Shepherd in 1957 in Los Angeles, California. At the time, this was the Novitiate for women who wanted to serve in the Missions. She was given the name Stanislaus.

After her profession, Sister returned to the Philippines to work in several ministries, including as a Counselor at St. Brigid's School. She returned to the United States in 1984 and worked with the women and children in the Chicago domestic violence shelter.

Sr. Stan always had a special gift of working with the babies and toddlers. In 1992 she served as Local Coordinator of the St. Louis Community. She returned to the Philippines at the death of her mother. She again returned to St. Louis in 1999 and was sent to New Orleans, Louisiana, to serve in the



after school program for Vietnamese and African American middle school students.

She was also the Sacristan for the Community of Sisters in New Orleans. She befriended a number of women in the parish and reached out to the elderly in a nursing home.

A Sister who loved people

The Good Shepherd Community in New Orleans was disbanded after hurricane Katrina in 2005. Sister Stan was then missioned to Chicago, where she cared lovingly for the little ones in the Day Care Center at House of Good Shepherd. She enjoyed sharing stories about the children's antics and sweet personalities. Sr. Stan also served as Sacristan in Chicago and helped at the center's reception desk.

Sr. Stan loved people and was interested in everyone. She was always very aware of what was happening in the lives of staff at House of Good Shepherd and remembered them in her prayers.

Sister eventually left Chicago and went to Los Angeles in 2016, where she worked with the babies and toddlers in the Good Shepherd Domestic Violence Center.

Sister Stan had maintained close contact with her family over the years and stayed in especially close touch with her nephew Joel and his family in Indiana. Her gentle and caring manner endeared her to so many with whom she maintained lively correspondence right up until her death.

Sister came to Immaculate Heart Convent in 2017 for medical care from ailments that were difficult to diagnose and treat and, therefore, caused her much suffering. She took us all by surprise when she died suddenly of liver failure, after a brief stay in the hospital.

Sister Stanislaus was a lady through and through. She was a quiet and prayerful presence. We will miss her greatly. May she rest in peace.

Submitted by Sr. Pauline Bilbrough

If you know anyone who is not receiving *Items of Interest* and would like to receive the newsletter, please send an email asking to be placed on the email distribution list to jmcdermott@gspmna.org

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

Pope Francis visits prison with Good Shepherd ties

Last month Pope Francis visited the women's prison of San Joaquín in Santiago Chile. Sister Nelly Leon Correa, RGS, is head of the chaplaincy of the prison. She told the Pontiff upon his arrival that "All of us here — of many religions — wanted to be here, because we recognize in you a man of good, peace and justice."

Approximately 500 inmates greeted the pope and welcomed him with a hymn. Sister Nelly led the choir during practices and on the day of the pope's visit. She said, "The first verse is beautiful. It goes, 'I am a trapped bird with a hidden pain and with my broken wings. I receive you, pope.'"

Other verses declare that "God looks at me through your gaze. It illuminates my beauty. Today I trust in myself again, the sadness disappears, another day of life, one less day of sentence. Your visit is my joy, shepherd with smell of the sheep."

Losing freedom is not the same as losing dignity

In addressing the women, Pope Francis said, "Losing our freedom does not mean losing our dreams and hopes. Losing our freedom is not the same thing as losing our dignity. That is why we need to reject all those petty clichés that tell us we can't change, that it's not worth trying, that nothing will make a difference."

Speaking to an audience that included the pope and Chile's President Michelle Bachelet, Sr. Nelly said that poverty is put in prison in Chile. Ninety percent of the women who are imprisoned in Santiago suffered abandonment by their parents and come from very poor sectors. Sr. Nelly has reported to the media on many occasions that there is inequality in who gets punished in Chile, stating that television looks for the morbid, but does not deliver this hard information.

Sister Nelly has distinguished herself as an advocate of vulnerable women. Her most pressing goal is to ensure that female prisoners are safe and treated with dignity. To stem violence that may arise, she and her team of nearly 40 workers (three Sisters from other Orders and 34 non-consecrated women) have begun working with prison guards to provide protected spaces for inmates who have mental health concerns.

Sr. Nelly also created the foundation Levantate Mujer (Woman Standing Up) to better support women in



The Pope's visit to the prison in Santiago took place in the prison's gym, with the place covered by hundreds of colorful strings of papers. Women prisoners made the streamers, which carried quotes from speeches that Pope Francis has delivered in prisons around the world.

prison. The foundation has started a collaboration with students in their last year of law at the Catholic University to help inmates who need legal aid but cannot afford to pay for a lawyer.

The foundation also helps take care of the practical needs of the prisoners, such as keeping in contact with their families and coordinating campaigns to get hygienic supplies and clothes for the women. In Chile, the prisons are only responsible for providing inmates with shelter and food. Because most of the women prisoners are poor, their visitors have no means to help them. The foundation also maintains a temporary shelter for women inmates who have nowhere to go when they are released to freedom.

Building community among armed guards

Sr. Nelly also works on building a spiritual community among the prison's Catholic armed guards as another way to help improve the living conditions of women prisoners.

"We now have a beautiful chapel for the exclusive use of Catholic pastoral care. We have Mass and confession every Sunday, and we celebrate all of the liturgical celebrations," Sr. Nelly said.

Sr. Nelly made her vows in 1986. She started in girls' homes and was later sent to the Valparaíso prison where she was transferred to her current position.

ACROSS BORDERS



3-day Justice Peace workshop held in Kenya

Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office completed a three-day workshop in Ngong, Kenya, on January 13, 2018. Twelve Temporary Professed Sisters and their Formator, Sr. Teresa, attended the workshop. Sr. Catherine, the Community Leader in Ngong, and four Novices also attended. Sr. Winifred Doherty,

Good Shepherd Representative for the United Nations, served as a resource for the workshop, along with Donatus Lili, NGO Regional Designate for RIMOA, and Michael Owino, Coordinator of the Mission Development Office East Central Africa.

Sr. Winifred said the workshop, “was an experience of teamwork and integration of Justice Peace with ministry against a backdrop of spirituality.”

Sr. Winifred has posted an article about the workshop on her blog at <http://bit.ly/2s1xO7p>



Workshop participants display the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Good Shepherd Sisters and Mission Partners join Women's March

The Women's March held on January 20, 2018, was a reprise protest march on the anniversary of the 2017 march, with coordinated mass rallies that attracted hundreds of thousands of participants across the globe. Good Shepherd made its presence known and voices heard at the Women's March in New York. Sisters Maureen McGowan and Mirjam Beike and Mission Partners Nancy Fritsche Eagan and Celia Ceballos marched to help the movement endure.

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	Feb 2 Feb 19	PLT/Integration Team Meeting, St. Louis Meeting with Hoffman Resource Group, St. Louis
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Feb 1-8 Feb 27	PLT/Integration Team Meetings, St. Louis Meeting with Council of Women Religious, San Francisco
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	Feb 10	Relocating to Danville
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Feb 1-11 Feb 12-18 Feb 19-28	PLT/Integration Team Meetings, St. Louis Cincinnati, Ohio Baltimore (dates subject to change)
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Feb 1-8	PLT/Integration Team Meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Feb 1-7 Feb 5 Feb 19 Feb 22-25 Feb 26-28	PLT/Integration Team Meetings, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board Meeting, St. Louis Meeting with Hoffman Resource Group, St. Louis Board Retreat for Good Shepherd Shelter, Los Angeles Christian Brothers Trustee Summit, Orlando
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Feb 1-7 Feb 5 Feb 13 Feb 19 Feb 22-26 Feb 27-Mar 3	PLT/Integration Team Meetings, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board Meeting, St. Louis DeNeuille Learning Center Board Meeting, Memphis Meeting with Hoffman Resource Group, St. Louis Board Retreat for Good Shepherd Shelter, Los Angeles Boutwells Landing & Travel to Danville

February 2

World Day for Consecrated Life

In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd each year. The Feast is also known as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed to symbolize Christ as the light of the world. So, too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. Sister Elizabeth Garciano, CGS, has written a reflection piece in response to World Day for Consecrated Life. You can read her article on page 7 in this issue of *Items of Interest*.

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL


"Example speaks louder than words and often achieves astounding results."

Saint Mary Euphrasia
Conference p. 467

*Province Center cook Sonya Trogler recycles
plastic wrap to keep it out of the landfill.*

Contact us

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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