

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

Video series launches

A new six-part video series reveals SME and the founding stories of Good Shepherd.

Page 6

CORA expands service

CORA Services expands its services after acquiring the Good Shepherd Mediation Program.

Page 13

A Companion's story

Veronica Brantz shares what it means to be a Companion of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Page 16

Rest in peace

We say goodbye to seven of our beloved Good Shepherd Sisters who have gone home to God.

Page 24



Timeline for Congregational Chapter.

GOING INTO THE DEEP WITH CHAPTER

By Jeanette McDermott, PMNA Communications Coordinator

The Congregational Chapter is a go! It is scheduled to take place from November 18 through December 5, 2021, at the Motherhouse in Angers, France, if COVID subsides. Preparation for Chapter will occur online through regional Zoom calls, resource gathering and sharing now through

Continued on next page



Green Corner

Every religion is based on the concept of community and necessitates houses of worship, places where people can gather. According to a study by Faith for Earth, these communities gather in more than 40 million buildings around the world. Responsible for 40% of energy consumption and nearly 30% of all related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, every year the building sector has a significant impact on the environment. So what would happen if these 40 million

Continued on p.18

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Chapter, *Cont'd from p. 1*

September. The Congregational Leadership Team will monitor reports of the coronavirus pandemic to determine whether travel to the Chapter is possible.

The Congregational Chapter deepens the work of the virtual Inter-Continental Assemblies (ICAs) that were held in 2020. The goal of the Congregational Chapter is to elect the new Congregational Leadership Team and to make decisions on a new governance model for the congregation.

Life Seekers process

The format of Chapter preparation will be very much like the virtual ICAs, with everyone welcome to participate. This includes all Mission Partners and learning groups; and like the ICAs, Life Seekers material will feed into the process. Maureen Jenkins and Brigid Lawlor, RGS, will again lead discussions on the governance model for the Congregation.

The Life Seekers Committee received more than 100 pages of recommendations for the three governance models that were discussed at the virtual ICAs. The committee has reviewed those materials and from them developed a second Theological Reflection, which will be available as an online resource on February 8.

Several appendices will serve as background reading for the Theological Reflection. For example, one appendix lists the key features strongly supported by the ICAs. Another appendix contains an article on the canonical issues to consider, and a third appendix reports on updated demographics.

The following process will lead to a comprehensive model that can guide the congregation into the future:

1. Each community (Sisters and lay partners invited by the community) will complete



"Into the deep" has been added to the Congregational Chapter theme "Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice."

- individual and then a communal reflection.
2. Each community sends its report by March 1, 2021, to the Unit Leader, who then synthesizes the reports into a single unit report.
3. Each Unit Leader participates in a Circle of Unit Leaders with invited guests to share each unit report and use them to complete a continental report. This takes place between March 15 and April 15, 2021.
4. The continental reports will be sent to the Life Seekers Committee by April 24, 2021.
5. The Chapter Planning Committee on governance will then organize intercontinental Zoom calls so that all continents can share their perspectives on the continental report.
6. The Life Seekers Committee will use the continental reports to prepare a single graphic, job descriptions and guidance for implementation.
7. Everyone will receive a draft of the continental report, and several focus groups will form to review the graphic. (Please

note that the three governance models presented at the virtual ICAs are now defunct after serving as a means of gleaning the key features desired.)

8. Contemplative Sisters will provide their input into the continental reports during the Congregational Chapter for Contemplative Sisters (CACS), which will take place at the Motherhouse from November 4-14, 2021.
9. A final draft of the continental report will be presented for approval at the Congregational Chapter.

"The experience of the virtual ICAs and the amount of feedback received from them has been very rewarding and hopeful for the Life Seekers," said Sr. Brigid Lawlor.

"We feel that the ICAs gave fantastic feedback and clear direction. We plan to create a model that has consistency across the continents and provides a lot of room for diversity. Details about it will come from the Theological Reflection," Sr. Brigid said.

Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Chapter, *Cont'd from p. 2*

Sister Madeleine Munday, Province Leader for Mid-North America, said, "I am excited about the transparency and inclusivity for the process, and I am thrilled that we can go forward with chapters at the congregational and province levels - pandemic notwithstanding."

Dedicated website

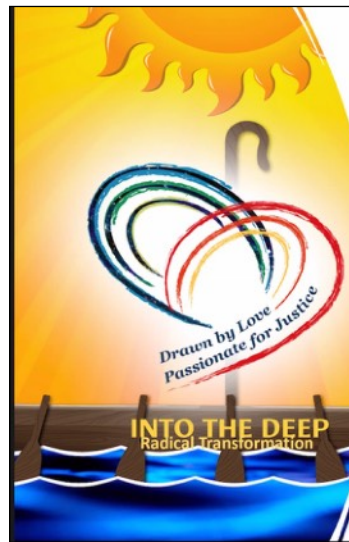
The Life Seekers process synchronizes with other processes that the Congregational Chapter Planning Committee is preparing, including a series of videos to help move the congregation "into the deep," following up on the work of the virtual ICAs and Life Seekers. All resources are available on a newly designed website and are easily accessible according to individual schedules. The URL for the website is <https://rgs.gssweb.org/chapter2021>.

Those engaged in the process for organizing the Congregational Chapter are the Congregational Chapter Planning Committee and facilitators, Congregational Leadership Team, Life Seekers Committee, and Communications.

PMNA Chapter

The Province of Mid-North America (PMNA) Chapter Planning Committee began meeting on January 11 to resume its work to schedule and design a province chapter to select the new Province Leadership Team. The province chapter will be held online. The province chapter must be completed by June. Dates remain to be scheduled.

Members of the Province Chapter Planning Committee are Sisters Patricia Marie Barnette, Barbara Beasley, Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, Mary Carol McClenon and Liz Schille. Maureen Jenkins facilitates the committee with advisor Sr. Brigid Lawlor.



Proposed Timeline

The resources and zoom gatherings will be staggered from late January 2021 to the end of September 2021.

January	Resource 1: Launch- Into the Deep
February	Resource 2: Into the Deep - Governance
March/	Resource 3: Into the Deep - Integrative Process of Transformation
April	Resource 4: Into the Deep - Integrated Chapter Agenda
May/June	Regional Zoom Gatherings
July /	Resource 5: Into the Deep - Discerning Congregational Leadership
August/	Resource 6: Into the Deep - Congregational Reports
September	vChapter of Affairs: Focusing Chapter Agenda Leading to Direction - 5 Cross Congregational Zoom Gatherings
November/	The CACS and Chapter of Affairs and Elections
December	

Significance of adding "Into the Deep" to Congregational theme

The Congregational theme "Drawn by Love Passionate for Justice" has been expanded to include the words "Into the Deep" rising above a moving body of water, with the sun shining overhead. The added imagery is included in the theme for the Congregational Chapter and refers to the Bible verses Luke 5:1-11.

According to the scripture, when God pursues the frustrated, four things occur. He shows how great is his power, how great is our need of His pardon, how crucial it is to adopt His purpose, and how vital it is to value Him above all else. The scripture goes like this:

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore.

Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When Jesus

had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him."

See related video on newly designed website for the Congregational Chapter at <http://bit.ly/2YdxCzo>

PROVINCE NEWS


ZEAL


Chapter, *Cont'd from p. 3*



Congregational Chapter materials accessible on dedicated website

Sister Monique Tarabeh, Congregation Communications Coordinator for Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, has designed a user-friendly and comprehensive website to provide easy access to the documents and videos needed for the Congregational Chapter.

A prominent section on the landing page allows people to register for the Chapter and upload their photographs and names so participants can get to know one another. The website is translated in seven languages to let participants feel welcome in their own language.

"Saint John Eudes and Saint Mary Euphrasia welcome people when they land on the website, inviting participants to go *into the deep* during this process," Sr. Monique said.

"I tried to keep the visuals simple and make the resources friendly to use so that everybody can enjoy the website," she said.

According to Sr. Monique, everyone will benefit from the website by finding the information they need in an easy-to-use format, such as a calendar of events and "Sacred Space" where Monica Brown and

Emmaus Productions offer beautiful videos for reflection and prayer. Monica is a familiar name to those who attended the virtual Inter-Continental Assemblies and witnessed her rich reflections, prayers and rituals.

The new website also has a dedicated space where participants can post personal reflections, greetings and photos of their journey throughout the months as they prepare for Chapter. The new website launched on January 31, 2021, at <https://rgs.gssweb.org/chapter2021>

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Webinars unpack Good Shepherd Position Papers

Winifred Doherty, RGS, led a series of webinars in 2020 on the Good Shepherd Position Papers. Theresa Symons, Director, Mission Development Office, Asia Pacific, supplemented the webinars with Powerpoint materials.

The purpose of the webinars was to unpack the Position Papers so that people can gain a deeper understanding of systemic advocacy and learn how the Position Papers can be integrated in Good Shepherd programs. The Powerpoint presentations and video recordings covered Good Shepherd's position on Migration, Human Trafficking, the Girl Child, Prostitution, Economic Justice, and Integral Ecology.

Each session in the webinar series is now available online for easy access. You can view the videos and Powerpoint presentations by clicking on hyperlinks contained in Sr. Winifred's blog posted on December 1, 2020. <https://gsijpoffice.com/>

Sister Winifred is the main NGO representative to the United Nations for the Congregation Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, more commonly known as Sisters of the Good Shepherd.



The webinar that Winifred Doherty, RGS, presented on Good Shepherd's position on Economic Justice was one of six webinars she hosted in 2020. The sessions are all available to review online as video recordings and Powerpoint presentations.

Announcements and News Tidbits

PMNA Communications Coordinator and Editor of Items of Interest has a new cell number. Please contact Jeanette McDermott at 314-399-4028.

Find the Good Shepherd Mission Effectiveness Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/3pKXoHy>

Save the dates for the 2021 virtual Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD), which will be held April 18-21. The theme of the event is *Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored*. EAD is for people of faith who are passionate about advocating for peace and justice. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2Y2XAoD>

You can read Pope Francis' newest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* in full at <http://bit.ly/2MgFwEU> The encyclical calls for more human fraternity and solidarity, and is a plea to reject wars. It focuses on contemporary social and economic problems, and proposes an ideal world of fraternity in which all countries can be part of a "larger human family."

U.S. Catholic social ministry leaders have organized an online event from February 6-9 that anyone can attend. Organized by the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, 10 USCCB departments, and 18 national Catholic organizations, the online gathering focuses on the theme "Make justice your aim: Rebuilding Together." Participants will pray and learn together on the disparities revealed by COVID-19 and new models of justice and solidarity. Visit <http://bit.ly/3oiwd4D> for more information.

Lenten Season starts February 17 and culminates in Easter on April 4.

MISSION & VALUES

ZEAL

Six-part video series about SME launches

By Lizzie Cody, Director of the Office of Mission Effectiveness

In telling a story to her community of Sisters one day, Saint Mary Euphrasia said, "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." (Conferences, chapter 65)

This plea from St. Mary Euphrasia is something that the Office of Mission Effectiveness takes to heart. First of all, our founding stories are fun! We have stories about what St. Mary Euphrasia was like when she was a child, how she developed into the person she became, the challenges she faced, and who her friends were.

Our founding stories inspire and ground us. For example, many Good Shepherds through the years have been inspired by the building of the tunnel connecting the Motherhouse to St. Nicholas Abbey. Knowing the story gives us strength to persevere in our own struggles.

In this same spirit of building pride for who we are as Good Shepherds, the Office of Mission Effectiveness has created and launched a six-part video series called "The Life and Mission of St. Mary Euphrasia." It is on the Mission Effectiveness YouTube channel at <http://bit.ly/2NpXzcp>

Roots of the video series

The video series is embedded in a training that Sr. Glynis McManamon developed in 1995 for the staff at Maryhurst in Louisville, Kentucky. The training was an all-day retreat called "Get Real Mary Euphrasia." I remember taking the training after I had been a youth counselor at Maryhurst for just a few months. I was hooked!

The video series also embodies the talks that Sr. Anne Josephine Carr has been presenting for the Angers Pilgrimages since 2001.

Melinda Stricklen, previous Director of Mission Effectiveness, took Sr. Anne Josephine Carr's stories and Sr. Glynis' trainings and adapted them for use at Maryhurst and other places, like orientation for the Good



From left: Patrick Boardman, Lizzie Cody and Courtney Lucas on set at Maryhurst as they record a video segment about Saint Mary Euphrasia.

Shepherd Volunteers. She and Barbara Beasley, RGS, worked tirelessly and consistently to keep the founding stories alive and relevant in order to connect Good Shepherds to St. Mary Euphrasia and one another. My goal is for this new video series to serve as one more step in connecting Good Shepherds to our founding stories.

Top priority

One of the top priorities for Mission Effectiveness is to make the founding stories accessible and applicable to all partners in mission.

Last fall at a conference, I was talking to Sr. Monique Tarabeh, the Congregational Communications Coordinator. I shared with her my dream of making the life and mission of St. Mary Euphrasia accessible to all of our people. Sister Monique volunteered to film and edit the videos and to get them translated into French and Spanish as well as English so that any Unit in our Congregation could learn from them.

Sadly, COVID-19 made it impossible for Sr. Monique to come to the United States to work on the project with me. Thankfully, we have many talented people in our Good Shepherd family and a wealth of resources. With the

Continued on next page

MISSION & VALUES



ZEAL

Video series, *Cont'd from p. 6*

backing of the Mid-North America Province Leadership Team, I went to Maryhurst for help, where it all started, and where commitment to Good Shepherd's mission and core values continues today.

Patrick Boardman, Director of Marketing and Communications at Maryhurst agreed to volunteer his time and expertise to film and edit. I wrote the scripts, keeping them conversational and short enough to be used in a staff meeting. Courtney Lucas, another partner in mission at Maryhurst, agreed to ask prompting questions.

We completed the filming in October at the home of another

Maryhurst partner in mission, Marsha Esarey. Each video runs 10-15 minutes and includes questions for connection and reflection.

The videos reveal stories of what Saint Mary Euphrasia (young Rose Virginie) was like as a teenager, how she came to be named Mary Euphrasia, her leadership and expansion of the global mission, and her legacy. And perhaps most importantly, what does that all have to do with us today?

My hope is that the video series, which includes a downloadable reflection booklet, will be used in a variety of contexts. Ideally, the

videos will be watched in a group setting so that participants can share their thoughts about the stories and reflection questions. They can be used for new employee orientation, Board formation, staff meetings, retreats, personal reflection, and/or small group reflections.

The videos vary in length between nine minutes and 19 minutes. You can find each of the six videos in the series on the Good Shepherd Mission Effectiveness YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlq2fROiCcJ-PKC19dPu7ldo4SjSFHiGg>

Connecting through monthly mission reflections

The North America Mission and Values Team (NAMVT) offers Good Shepherds a monthly opportunity to share their thoughts about the Good Shepherd mission. The monthly events are held online, with registration available through Eventbrite. The next Reflection takes place on February 9, 2021. Register at <http://bit.ly/3sIvAFo>, but hurry because registration closes on February 5. After registering on EventBrite, participants will receive the Zoom link through email.

Monthly mission Reflections are part of the 2021 virtual schedule for NAMVT. February's discussion will center on an excerpt from an article that Margaret Wheatley wrote. You can request a copy of the Wheatley article from Lizzie Cody at lcody@maryhurst.org

"Participants will need to print or gain access to the article, and come with an open heart to listen and share," said Lizzie.

"Saint Mary Euphrasia said that our strength is in our unity, and participating in these mission reflections is one more way for us to grow that unity. The North America Mission and Values Team wants Shepherds to have many different opportunities to connect around mission, core values, and topics of interest," Lizzie said.

Reflections are one-hour and take place on the second Tuesday of every month. Members of NAMVT take turns hosting. The host chooses the reading for that month, and typically participants talk about it in small groups. The events begin at

- 9 am Pacific
- 11 am Central
- 12 pm Eastern

Members of the North America Mission and Values Team are Lizzie Cody, Province of Mid-North America; Nadia Dias, Marymount, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Celia Ceballos, Good Shepherd Services, NYC; and



The next monthly reflection of the North America Mission and Values Team takes place through Zoom on February 9, 2021.

Nancy Fritsche-Eagan, Good Shepherd Services, NYC.

For more information about the monthly reflections, contact Lizzie at lcody@maryhurst.org

MISSION & VALUES

ZEAL

Good Shepherd ministries discuss racial equity

The Good Shepherd North America Mission and Values Team hosted a two-hour webinar on January 27 that brought five Good Shepherd agencies together to discuss what they are doing to address racial equity in their organizations and communities.

The Racial Equity Panel featured AnnMarie Schultz, Chief Executive Officer of CORA Services; Sister Glynis McManamon, Director of Good Shepherd Arts Center; Micah Jorrish, Vice President of External Affairs for Maryhurst; Chance Paupanakis, Marymount's liaison with the indigenous people of Canada; and Diana Noriega, Assistant Executive Director, Anti-Racism and Equity, Good

Shepherd Services New York City. Mission and Values Team member Celia Ceballos facilitated the panel.

Nadia Dias also serves on the Mission and Values Team. She opened the webinar with Land Acknowledgements, which recognize Indigenous people and their original territories. This newly popular form of recognition seeks to recognize the land in an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on. It redefines how people and communities place themselves in relation to First Peoples.

As facilitator, Celia introduced the webinar as a step Good Shepherds



are taking to improve social justice and racial equity. She asked the five panelists to share important lessons their ministries are learning while building an anti-racist and equitable culture in their organizations, and what impact their efforts are having.

Maryhurst, Louisville

Micah Jorrish responded by saying, "We began having intentional conversations about racism in 2017. We felt discomfort but pushed ourselves to talk about it. We dedicated resources to this work, and in 2020 kicked off a leadership campaign to determine how to build a system for an inclusive agency. We are now building strategies around listening and taking proactive measures to act on what we hear. This is infrastructure work that we are working humbly and with deep concern to remedy. We are working to find solutions and looking at processes by which we can make decisions and see where openings appear. Self-examination is at the core of change. If we can't examine the barriers that we have put up our whole lives, it will make it difficult to achieve racial equity. If we center ourselves in humility, we can more likely embrace the change. We have to constantly learn, constantly examine ourselves and our belief systems."



Clockwise: Diana Noriega, Celia Ceballos, Chance Paupanakis, Glynis McManamon, RGS; AnnMarie Schultz; and Micah Jorrish.

Continued on next page

MISSION & VALUES



ZEAL

Racial equity, *Cont'd from p. 8***Good Shepherd Arts Center, Ferguson**

Sister Glynis told her story through impactful artwork. She shared personal experiences of how art has transformed minds and hearts. She asked the question Why? Why do we treat some people differently than we treat others?



After George Floyd's death, Sister Glynis interpreted through art how Christ must have felt after losing one of his sheep.

She said, "When I do iconography I start with a color that is the color of mud. This mud color is the foundation for all skin tones when painting icons. With that as my basis, I try to imagine how the saints and how Jesus would most likely have looked in their own culture, and I paint from that premise. I try to see all people and have conversations in the same way, by finding that common ground. I try to work on myself and listen to other people's experiences and hear their stories. It's my job to listen and to better understand people, not to try to fix anybody,

invalidate their experiences, or feel shame about the historic past. We need a repeated emphasis on humility and openness. We need to ask God to enter into this process."

CORA Services, Philadelphia

AnnMarie Schultz said, "When we know people's stories, we fall in love with them. It is my job to grow and learn each day. CORA just recently started to dig into the work of diversity and inclusion so that we can meet the needs of our evolving community. In 2019 we realized that we had to be very intentional about racial equity. We developed a Spirit of Union Team to lead efforts in this work and pull us all together. We based the values of the team on Saint Mary Euphrasia's spirit of embracing all cultures. We are working on trainings in each of our disciplines, right down to the pictures children are seeing in the curriculum we use. We are pulling everything apart piece by piece to discern what harkens back to our mission and core values. We have a long journey ahead of us, but we are committed to this very intentional work. The journey is long. We didn't get to this place overnight, and it won't be fixed overnight. We need to approach this work with humility and never stop learning. We have to keep working at it and never stop."

Marymound, Winnipeg, Canada

Chance Paupanakis coordinates Marymound's land-based activities as part of reconciliation, truth and justice with the indigenous people of Canada. He said, "We need to be accountable to the people we serve, and to our Creator God. It is important for everyone to lean into the discomfort of these deep

conversations and change the language when talking to people who come to the table with a different worldview. We have to acknowledge the past and undo broken relationships and promises. We have to help others help themselves by asking, 'What has happened to you? How can I help?' And we need to ask, 'What is right with you' to determine their strength and resilience.

"We can't have these conversations without bringing all voices to the table. I see this work facing us as though it's a marathon. Some of us have already reached mile five, and some of us haven't left the starting block. We're all on different levels, and that's OK. If we can create change within our smaller circles, then society can follow. Look at Marymound. The agency is 111 years old, and yet it is very progressive."

Diana Noriega, Good Shepherd Services New York

Diana Noriega heads up the Anti-Racism and Equity Division of Good Shepherd Services, New York. She believes there is wisdom in approaching everything as a novice. "Entering conversations and tackling the work as a beginner helps us stay humble. Anti-racism work is messy work, and it's meant to be messy. All of our humanity is bound together in this process. We have to name really hard truths to change the system. We have to make room for people of color so they are in positions of leadership and represented at every level of life. We have to have courageous conversations and do the work internally and externally to break

Continued on next page

MISSION & VALUES



ZEAL



Racial equity, *Cont'd from p. 9*

down hierarchical structures. And we need to hold people accountable to a different way of showing up. We all benefit if we can connect with one another through love. With this as our base, Good Shepherd Services developed more equitable processes for hiring and forming committees. That was a big shift that has begun to alter the culture of GSS. If we say we are anti-racist, then we have to be committed to undoing racism."

What side will we stand on?

Celia facilitated the closing of the webinar and wrapped up by asking participants to reflect internally on two questions: "What is one insight you have gained from this webinar?" "What side of history do you want to stand on?"

She said, "No one person can do anti-racism work alone, but

OPENING QUOTE



We are surrounded by racial inequity, as visible as the law, as hidden as our private thoughts. The question for each of us is:

What side of history will we stand on?

Racial hierarchy or racial equality

Saying you're not a racist is a claim that signifies neutrality: I am not a racist, but neither am I aggressively against racism. But there is no neutrality in the racism struggle. The opposite of "racist" isn't "not racist." It is "anti-racist."

Ibram Kendi (2019)

together we can be a force to be reckoned with."

Lizzie Cody and Nancy Fritsche Egan also assisted with the panel by managing the technology and time.

They both serve on the Mission and Values Team.

The recorded webinar is available online at <https://youtu.be/pH9P224Jcyg>

NAC Advisory Board Hosts Racial Justice Circle

The National Advocacy Center (NAC) held its second Racial Justice Circle on January 9 to facilitate healing and discuss ways to advance racial equity.

Dr. Millicent Carvalho-Grevious and Sheryl Wilson co-hosted the session. NAC staff participated, along with the NAC advisory board, Good Shepherd agency staff, and a member of the North America Mission and Values Team. Participants reflected on Good Shepherd values, pain caused by racism, and how we can advance racial justice.

"This was a precious opportunity for reflection and inner transformation," said Patricia Kelly, NAC intern and Good Shepherd Volunteer.

"I was reminded of our discussions from the Inter-Continental Assembly about building a global "learning" culture in the congregation. NAC's Racial Justice Circle reminded me that learning from the experiences of others is essential to the Good Shepherd value of promoting the dignity and human rights of all," Patricia said.

In an effort to foster change, NAC is making known H.R. 40. If passed, the bill would establish a Commission to address the injustices of slavery and explore options of atonement, including reparations.

"Through authentic conversations, personal transformation, and persistent advocacy, the National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the



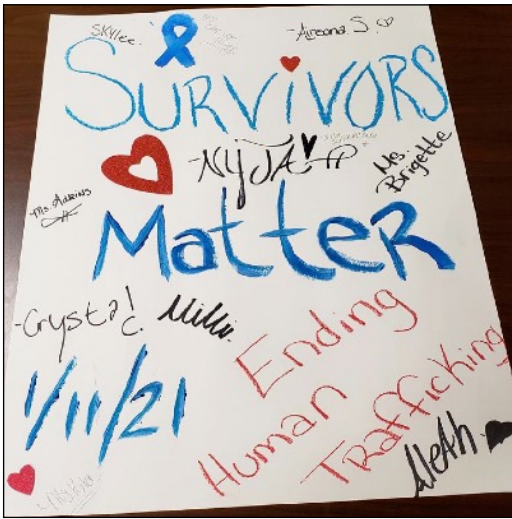
Good Shepherd looks forward to continuing the pursuit of racial justice as a community," Patricia said.

For more information on H.R. 40, see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/40/>

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



A Fearless heart

Residents in The Aaron and Helen L. DeRoy Freedom Center made posters in honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11. The Freedom Center is Michigan's first secure treatment site for young, female victims of human trafficking.

Located on Vista Maria's campus in Dearborn Heights, the nearly 14,000 square foot building houses up to 16 young victims at any given time, and offers emergency intake services for girls rescued in raid activities conducted by law enforcement.

Vista Maria is a sponsored ministry of Province of Mid-North America. It is a place for girls, youth and their families to realize a life beyond trauma and ignite a life of possibility. The agency is valiant in its commitment to keeping survivors safe and making them strong.

In January, for Human Trafficking Awareness Month, [Michigan Abolitionist Project](#) hosted a series of online sessions with local experts on topics related to human trafficking. One of the presentations showcased Meredith Reese, Chief Integrated Behavioral Health Officer at Vista Maria, who shared her knowledge on Emergency Intake and Treatment Housing for Victims.

Vista Maria's new brand and logo

Vista Maria rebranded itself a few months ago. The brand and new logo aim to connect with a new audience of clients, donors and volunteers and help bring focus, life and a cohesive feel that reflects its unique message. Vista Maria will rebrand its website, public image and promotional materials over the next 12-18 months.

Life beyond trauma

At Vista Maria, we are driven by courage, love and vision to help others realize a life beyond trauma and ignite a life of possibility. Our courageous action is driven by our boundless compassion for our young people and their families. Every day, Vista Maria brings strength and caring enough for everyone, so that one day each person can do the same for themselves and others.

We know that it takes a fearless heart to overcome the challenges of abuse and trauma to move forward. It takes unwavering courage, limitless love and the positive vision that Mary Euphrasia embodied.



Vista Maria began as a home for girls and women in need. It has evolved to encompass mental health services, education and after school care, foster care, adoption, independent living, secure care for the survivors of human trafficking, and advocacy for the welfare of children.

The Vista Maria campus is also home to two charter schools. One offers year-round middle and high school education to girls receiving treatment in its residential programs, and the other offers quality, alternative high school education to at-risk youth from the community with a focus on credit recovery high school graduation.

Gratitude

Maryhurst gives a nod of thanks to students at North Oldham High School who organized a donation drive of snacks, art supplies, and other gifts that youth in residence enjoy, such as pens to write out feelings and a plush toy to hug when feeling low.



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

CORA kicks off 50th anniversary year with online fundraiser

On January 28, CORA Services held its annual Champions for Children fundraiser and launched the agency's 50th anniversary year.

The online fundraiser included raffles and surprise guests who acknowledged some of CORA's most valued partners, clients and organizations who are dedicated to enriching the lives of children and families in the Philadelphia region.

This year's Classroom Champions were Jessica Grabon, Benjamin Rush High School Class of 2020; Harrison Mayall-Weiland, The Bridge Way School, Class of 2021; and Mariame Sissoko, Central High School, Class of 2020.

Civic Champions were Mary Charity Kohl, RGS, (1919-2001), Founder of CORA Services, and Sister Brigid Lawlor, Founder of Good Shepherd Mediation Program and CORA Board Member from 1991-2000.

This year's Corporate Champions were John J. Coyle with 4th-Henderson Group and Valentine A. Brown with Duane Morris, LLP.

The Henderson Group, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and Duane Morris, LLP, sponsored the fundraising event.

You can read more about this year's champions at <http://bit.ly/2KOWPl5>



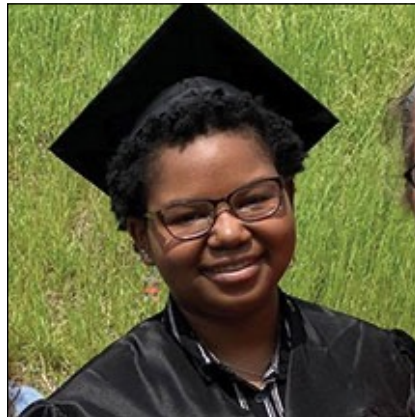
Mary Charity Kohl, RGS



Brigid Lawlor, RGS



Benjamin Rush



Mariame Sissoko



Jessica Grabon



John J. Coyle



Valentine A. Brown

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

CORA Services acquires Good Shepherd Mediation Program

CORA Services is one of Philadelphia's most comprehensive Family Resource Centers. The sponsored ministry of Sisters of the Good Shepherd expanded recently to include Philadelphia's highly recognized Good Shepherd Mediation Program (GSMP). Two high-reputation, well-functioning Good Shepherd agencies are combining into a single, stronger entity.

This combination brings two high-reputation, well-functioning Good Shepherd agencies into a single, stronger entity.

~ AnnMarie Schultz

Established in 1971, CORA has entered into its 50th anniversary year as a leading Philadelphia Family Resource Center, assisting children, youth and families who face obstacles that impede their development and productivity. CORA operates in clinical settings, schools, neighborhoods and homes. Services range from school-based academic support and counseling to occupational, physical and speech therapy. Case management, mental and behavioral health evaluations, intervention and treatment are also among CORA's many offerings.

The Good Shepherd Mediation Program was Philadelphia's only community mediation center. It had been operating since 1984 as a sponsored agency of Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Mid-North America. Prior to acquiring GSMP, CORA did not offer any mediation services.

Through this combination, CORA can extend mediation service and conflict resolution skills training to the thousands of clients and partner organizations the agency serves each year. Among the partnerships are Philadelphia Family Court, the Department of Human Services, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, School District of Philadelphia and the Office of the District Attorney.

Benefits of uniting

"Bringing these two trusted organizations together not only makes both agencies stronger, but also improves the quality of life of the people in the communities we serve," said AnnMarie Schultz, Chief Executive Officer of CORA Services.

"This can be inspiration for other nonprofits that could benefit from uniting, since it's possible to come together quickly and easily to contribute to solutions at a larger scale," she said.

CORA Good Shepherd Mediation Services (renamed from Good Shepherd Mediation Program) will maintain GSMP's training programs for mediators, attorneys, youth and adults in mediation, conflict resolution and restorative justice. This includes the virtual landlord tenant mediation program in the wake of evictions and housing insecurity during COVID-19.

In an effort to help curb evictions due to financial hardships incurred by the pandemic, the City of Philadelphia launched an Eviction Diversion Program on August 31, 2020. The program utilizes a special process to help tenants who have fallen behind in their rent and



AnnMarie Schultz is the Chief Executive Officer of CORA Services in Philadelphia.

landlords arrive at an agreement that works for both parties, without having to go to Court.

The City of Philadelphia has partnered with several nonprofits to ensure that tenants can apply for and receive the rental assistance they are eligible for. Through mediation, tenants and landlords can create a payment plan that is mutually beneficial. As a result, tenants can stay in their homes, and landlords can receive rent payments.

"Ideally, the mediation leads to some type of plan that both parties can agree to, but often it pays off even before that, just by helping the parties communicate better," said CORA Good Shepherd Mediation Services' Program Administrator Sue Wasserkrug.

Continued on next page

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

CORA and Mediation, *Cont'd from p. 13*

“Our mediation services are free, less stressful and more convenient than court. Mediation causes a lot less disruption in people’s lives. It can eliminate the need for landlords’ units to go empty and for the possibility that tenants might become homeless,” she said.

Equity and Inclusion

To further strengthen the combination of the two Good Shepherd agencies, CORA has hired Director of Equity and Inclusion Nyamal “Mal” Tutdeal – a newly created position. Mal was born in Gambella, Ethiopia, and resettled with her family in the United States 24 years ago. She holds a B.A. in Human Relations and M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University.

Mal has worked with various immigrants, migrants, refugees, indigenous communities, and women groups, both domestically and internationally. She is a notable international speaker and an advocate for displaced communities. She facilitates dialogue on conflict resolution, antiracist/race relations and peace-building.



CORA has hired Director of Equity and Inclusion Nyamal “Mal” Tutdeal to further strengthen the combination of CORA Services and Good Shepherd Mediation Program.

She is also a certified mediator and teaches mediation and conflict coaching.

Making a difference

Patricia Kelly is a Good Shepherd Volunteer who is proud to advocate for women on Capitol Hill. While serving at the National Advocacy Center (NAC), she helps move the work of NAC forward by gathering information from Good Shepherd agencies to help identify high priority policy and legislative concerns, tracking key legislation through Congress, and assisting them in making legislative appointments. Learn more about NAC at gsadvocacy.org



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

News from the Front

Good Shepherd Arts Center held an online photography exhibit in January by Philip Deitch titled "News from the Front." The exhibit ran from January 2-31, 2021 and featured photographs documenting the coronavirus pandemic. Phillip also paid written tribute to the late Sister Antona Ebo, FSM, one of the "Sisters of Selma."

Philip's personal history as a civil rights activist and diversity trainer goes back to the eighth grade. He has volunteered his time, energy, and photographic services to social justice causes in addition to documenting diverse aspects of daily life. His photographic library of more than 250,000 images and videos are used by nonprofit and community-based organizations in various ways. You can view photos from the exhibit in the Good Shepherd Arts Center online archives at goodshepherdarts.org



A photograph from the "News from the Front" exhibit on display at the Good Shepherd Arts Center in January.

NAC Conference on Human Trafficking set for March 8 and 9

Can't usually attend conferences in Washington DC? Attend virtually! The National Advocacy Center (NAC) is hosting its third "Shine the Light" conference on human trafficking in March. This year, the conference is entirely virtual, and as always, is free of charge. The conference will be held over two afternoons on Monday and Tuesday, March 8 and 9, 2021.

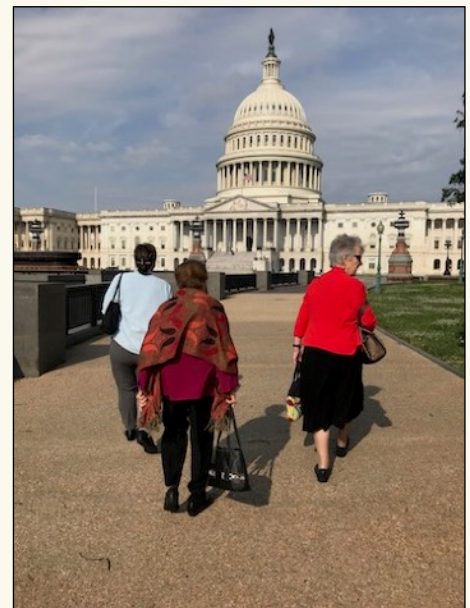
The theme for 2021 is Root Causes and Intersections on Human Trafficking, Exploring the Conditions and Vulnerabilities that Lead to Trafficking. Speakers include survivors, service providers, and other anti-trafficking experts. They will discuss labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

The first afternoon will run from 12:00 – 3:00 pm and includes a keynote and two panels. The second afternoon will be short and runs from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. It features a discussion on advocacy opportunities and a commissioning of participants.

Day two will also serve as a Call to Action Day, giving participants the opportunity to reach out to Congressional leaders and engage in other forms of advocacy to address the root causes of trafficking.

Sponsors of the event are US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, Leadership of Catholic Women Religious, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Justice Team, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services.

Register for the conference at <https://www.gsadvocacy.org/human-trafficking-conference.html>



Preparing to enter the Capitol building for the first NAC conference on human trafficking in 2019 are from left: Good Shepherd Sisters Mirjam Beike, Caridad Tamayo, and Winifred Doherty.

VOCATIONS STORY

ZEAL

A Good Shepherd pilgrim's journey

By Veronica Brantz, Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd

Looking at her figure lying in the glass coffin at the Motherhouse brought tears to my eyes. I admire her so much; she was an example for women at a time when women were not allowed to be examples. She had done and still does so much good for so many girls, women and men too.

Ever since 1965 when I first learned about Saint Mary Euphrasia, I believed her to be one of the greatest women to grace this earth. Fifty-three years later, in 2018, my dream had finally come true — that of visiting Angers, France, where Mary Euphrasia grew and developed the congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, better known as Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

When I learned that pilgrimages to Angers occurred regularly, I put that on my bucket list. The wish was granted in a very different way than I imagined. My daughter took the family to Normandy, France, on a business trip. Sister Nirmala Abeyasingha graciously hosted me for the day, and we toured the Good Shepherd Motherhouse. It was so moving to know that I was actually walking in the same places so many brave souls had walked before.

Humbled to be called

To see and touch the belongings of Mother Euphrasia was astounding. I felt so blessed to be a part of a movement called by God to work for the salvation of souls all over the world. I felt humbled to be called by the Lord to be a Companion of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Such a wonderful preparation the Sisters made for me!

It was also a great pleasure for me to meet Sisters from all over the world.



Motherhouse of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in Angers, France.

It made me realize that this order is truly global. Women come from all different cultures with the sole desire to model themselves after this great saint and seek the salvation of souls placed in their care.

As I toured the buildings, prayed in the chapels and stood by the Green Door, I felt overwhelmed.

My back-story

In 1965 I decided to explore what I perceived as a call to the Religious Life. But I did not want to become a Dominican teaching Sister, or a Franciscan nursing Sister. So what to do? I got a book from my high school library about the Religious Sisterhoods in existence at that time. There I found both the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge and the Sisters of the Good

Shepherd. I kept the information for a future time, as my parents refused to consent to me becoming a Sister.

Off to college I went, until my parents passed away. In 1968 I contacted the Vocation Directress, Sister Mary Our Lady of the Angels, and scheduled a weekend visit to the Good Shepherd convent on Gravois Street in Saint Louis.

Greeted by love and kindness

I must say that it was eerie driving up to that 1880s building in the dark with a full moon shining through the leafless trees. But I was greeted by loving, kind, happy women on the inside. And so began my journey with Good Shepherd.

For one summer I worked at the House of the Good Shepherd in

Continued on next page

VOCATIONS STORY

ZEAL

Pilgrim's journey, *Cont'd from p. 16*

Chicago, where I met Sister Mary Lourdes Langenfeld, Sister Pamela Marie Volland (Sister Bernadette at that time), and Sister Mary Ignatius. Being there felt so comfortable to me. I loved the work and the people. Consequently, along with two other women, I went by train from Chicago to the Novitiate in Los Angeles. In Los Angeles I met Sister Mary Carolyn McQuaid and Sister Mary Charlotte Kirst, among others.

Sadly, after a year I chose to return home, but I stayed in contact with the Sisters I had met in Chicago. For many years I pursued other avocations of marriage, family, and career. But I always stayed in contact with the Sisters. Being with them felt right.

Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd

In the early 2000s, Sister Pamela Volland told me about a small group of lay women who were associated with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. They were called the Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd. She thought I would enjoy being a part of this group.

We agreed that she would contact Sister Janice Rushman so that I could learn more. We met at the Good Shepherd convent in Omaha, Nebraska, where Sister Mary Ellen Dolan and Sister Mary Eileen Schiltz lived. After learning about the Companions, I felt comfortable pursuing it further.

Sister Eileen agreed to be my Mentor, which led to another great friendship until she died. We never know how long people will be a part of our lives.

It took a while for me to meet the Companions, as I did not have the means to travel to the retreats.



Veronica Brantz (center) flanked by two fellow Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd - Joan Clancy and Encarna Tumanguil - at an art opening at Good Shepherd Arts Center in Ferguson.

Finally, I met them at the Province Center in Saint Louis at their bi-annual meeting. I felt right at home with everyone.

I was privileged to make my first vow with the Companions after three years of association with them. Then, three years later, I made my final vow with Sisters Pamela, Lourdes, Carolyn, with many other Sisters and Companions in attendance.

Being a Companion all of these years has been a wonderful experience for me. Now I am commissioned with serving on the Triad Leadership Team, the three-member elected governing body of the Companions. I pray that I will be beneficial to the Companions in this role.

The Companions are an excellent organization for any woman who wants to live a vowed life of service, but is not called to consecrated religious life. Companions are tasked with spreading the Word of God in our own environment and living situations. Our works of charity are varied according to our own life styles. Good Shepherd Zeal leads our lives to our Eternal Savior.



Companions' symbol

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Green churches, *Cont'd from p. 1*

buildings were to be renovated, or if the next 40 million were to be built paying attention to their impact on the environment?

In response to this challenge, Faith for Earth has published guidelines for the construction and renovation of houses of worship respecting the environment.

The publication mentions the Living Chapel as a concrete example of a completely sustainable sacred space. Built from 100% recycled material and powered by renewable energy, the Living Chapel is characterized by a closed water cycle that feeds a vertical garden of 3,500 plants. The vertical garden functions as an incubator for young trees that are harvested for urban reforestation projects.

While the Living Chapel could be considered as a model far from the typical house of worship, Faith for Earth also lists several tips on how to green an already-existing house of worship or how to build a more traditional but still sustainable one.

The Living Chapel is a part of the Faith for Earth initiative, which unites concepts of nature, art, music and architecture to inspire people to join together in caring for our world. The initiative is part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is working to green the planet while promoting the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.

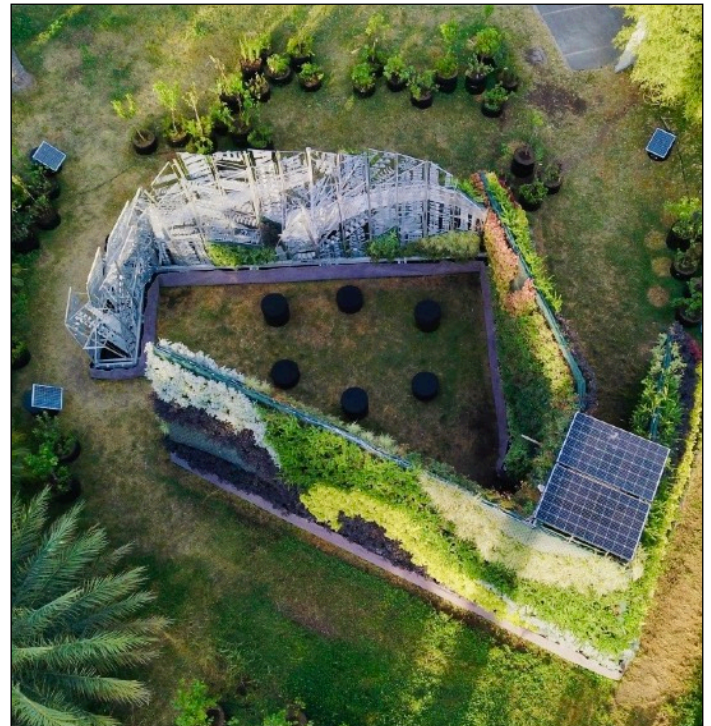
Faith for Earth centers on *Laudato Si*, the ecological encyclical Pope Francis wrote five years ago about Care of our Common Home (planet Earth).

A special anniversary year to mark five years of *Laudato Si* began May 24, 2020 and runs through May 24, 2021. Towards the conclusion of the anniversary year there will be an international conference, musical, and conferring of *Laudato Si* awards. Other special projects include a documentary film on *Laudato Si* and a *Laudato Si* tree planting initiative. There is also an initiative to fight plastic pollution and the formation of a *Laudato Si* Institutes Network.

A *Laudato Si* Action Platform will launch when the anniversary year ends. It will address seven areas of interest for a period of seven years. These areas are families, dioceses, schools, universities, hospitals, businesses and religious orders. They will be asked to make a 7-year journey in the spirit of *Laudato Si* to ultimately become *Laudato Si* dioceses or schools.



Buddhist temples often embody the beauty and benefits of nature for sustainability.



Renewable energy powers the Living Chapel in Rome. The chapel features recycled materials and a closed water system that feeds a vertical garden.

Learn more about the Anniversary year at <https://bit.ly/3cMnKSD>, the Faith for Earth initiative at <https://bit.ly/2Zi5jkK>, and the Living Chapel at <https://bit.ly/3g9huGw>

See related story on pages 19-20 of the May-June 2020 issue of Items of Interest at <https://bit.ly/3i24ioa>

JUSTICE PEACE



ZEAL



World Day of Social Justice

February 20 marks the annual World Day of Social Justice. The United Nations General Assembly declared in 2007 that February 20 was to be celebrated annually as the day to promote achieving improved and fair outcomes for all.

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly recognizes that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations.

Catholic Social Teaching

The Catholic Church has a history of social teaching that goes back centuries and provides a compelling challenge for living responsibly and building a just society. Several key themes are at the heart of Catholic social tradition:

1. *Life and Dignity of the Human Person:* The Catholic Church proclaims that every person is

precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

2. *Call to Family, Community, and Participation:* The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.

3. *Rights and Responsibilities:* The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met to one another, our families, and to the larger society.

4. *Preferential Option for the Poor:* A basic moral test is how a society's most vulnerable members are faring. Catholic tradition instructs putting the needs of poor and vulnerable people first.

5. *The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:* Work is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.

6. *Solidarity:* At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."

7. *Care for God's Creation:* Care for the earth is a moral and ethical requirement of the Catholic faith.

January 1 marked World Day of Peace

In his message for the 54th World Day of Peace on January 1, Pope Francis appealed to the international community and every individual to foster a culture of care. The Holy Father called for "a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance."

Pope Francis began his message noting how COVID-19 has aggravated interrelated crises such as climate, food, the economy and migration, causing great sorrow and suffering to many. The Pope said the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed that all of us, fragile and disoriented, are in the same boat. He said, "All of us are called to row together, since no one reaches salvation by themselves."

Alongside the pandemic, the Pope also noted a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake. These and other events of



Pope Francis attends a peace ceremony in Rome.

2020, he said, have underscored the importance of caring for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. Read his message in full at <http://bit.ly/3a7J9W3>

COVID-19

ZEAL

On the front lines of violence against girls and women during COVID-19

As coronavirus lockdowns continue to sweep across the world, the fallout for girls has come fast and hard. Measures meant to stem the spread of COVID by restricting movement has escalated gender-based violence against girls. Sexual assaults have been on the rise during the pandemic. Young women are stuck at home, sometimes with their attackers. As COVID reached refugee camps throughout the world, the need for safe spaces and services for women victims of domestic violence became even more urgent.

The coronavirus pandemic is a human crisis that risks reversing decades of progress made in women's rights and equality. Last year's United Nation's initiative "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence" (November 25 – December 10) brought forth rallying cries to bridge funding gaps, ensure essential services for survivors of violence, focus on prevention and



Dina Smailova is an unwavering advocate for justice for sexual violence survivors in Kazakhstan. Money from the sale of flower bouquets is donated to a fund that provides free legal support to survivors of gender violence.



Sarah Nyajuok Guk is a South Sudanese refugee living at Kakuma camp in Kenya, where she works as a gender-based violence counselor.

collect data needed to adapt and improve life-saving services for women and girls.

Since the onset of the pandemic, women across the globe have been working on the front lines to stop the escalating violence against women and girls, and to recover and rebuild after COVID-19. Here's what these women are demanding:

- "Enforce an adequate criminal justice response."
- "Listen to women facing intersecting forms of discrimination."
- "Increase the number of women in leadership."
- "Listen to girls, unlock the opportunities."
- "Create more partnerships to empower women."

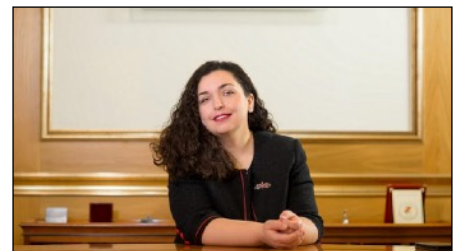
Most girls don't grow up in a world of opportunity. They build one. The number of teen girls at the forefront of progress for gender equality and social justice has been steadily increasing. An entire generation of

teenage girls is speaking up and out to end the violence against them. Read the stories of five remarkable young women who are finished waiting for change to come their way. They are bringing about the change themselves. <https://features.unicef.org/teen-girl-activist/>

Compiled from internet reports from UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. <http://bit.ly/396tKpG>



Oumou Kalsoum Diop uses her camera to help young women and girls speak out against sexual violence and other issues that they face in Dakar, Senegal.



Vjosa Osmani is the first woman assembly president in Kosovo and has been praised for her leadership during the COVID crisis in her country.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Sisters make final vows

Two former international students who came to the Mid-North America Province Center while learning English as a second language made final vows recently in their home countries.

Sister Magdalen Bui pronounced her vows on December 16, 2020, in East Asia Province, Vietnam Sector. She came to St. Louis from the East Asia, Vietnam Sector on July 19, 2017, and returned to her Province on May 30, 2018. Sister Emilie Mane Ngom made final vows in Senegal on December 19, 2020. She came to St. Louis from the West Africa Province on April 2, 2018, and returned to Senegal in July, 2019. Both Sisters were Temporary Vowed Sisters during their stay in the United States.

Sister Virginia Gordon served as Directress of



Magdalen Bui (right) and her biological sister Myriam Theresa Bui took their final vows together on December 16, 2020.

Good Shepherd International Students at ELS (English Language School) for both of them. She was also the liaison with ELS concerning their studies and all related matters. Sister Virginia said, "It was a delight to work with Magdalen and Emilie. In our studies together we not only covered matters pertaining to English, but also Congregational heritage encompassing our spirituality and charism. We accomplished this through dialogue and sharing, as well as grappling with the English language," said Sr. Virginia.

"It was through this dialogue that I learned about the cultures of Vietnam and Senegal and how the Good Shepherd heritage and charism are expressed in their native languages of Vietnamese and French. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with these Temporary Vowed Sisters and feel blessed to have



Three Good Shepherd Sisters took final vows in Vinh Long, South Vietnam, on December 16, 2020.

continued our relationship since they left the United States," Sr. Virginia said.

As Magdalen and Emilie progressed in English, Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid began helping them prepare for final vows.

Continued on next page



L-R: Emilie Mane Ngom with Sr. Magdalena Franciscus, who traveled from Rome to receive Emilie's vows.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Final vows, *Cont'd from p. 21*

Magdalen Bui

Sister Magdalen made final vows with two other Good Shepherd Sisters in Vinh Long, the place where Good Shepherd Sisters first located when they started missions again in Vietnam after being forced to leave the country during the Vietnam Conflict.

Magdalen expected to take her final vows on March 19, 2020, but the coronavirus pandemic emerged and the ceremony was postponed. Two other Sisters were scheduled to take their final vows on December 16, one of whom was Magdalen's older sibling Myriam Theresa Bui; the other was Maria Angela Van. Magdalen was asked to join their ceremony.

"Thanks be to God for all His graces towards me and my family for allowing my sister and me to pronounce our final vows on the same day," Sr. Magdalen said.

"I am grateful for all of the people who have accompanied me in religious life and for all of the experiences in my formation, including the people and experience in the Province of Mid-North America.

"I feel deep joy and the love of the Congregation, Sisters, family members, friends and those who know me and prayed for me. This day will always be such a great memory for me to remember. Gratitude is printed in my heart," Sr. Magdalen said.

The Vietnam sector is in transition at the moment with the transfer of new leadership; consequently, Sr. Magdalen will follow a study program as her main mission this year and support the community to the best of her ability.

Emilie Mane Ngom

Sister Emilie made final vows in the church Saint Andre in Mbour, Senegal. Nearly 300 friends and family attended the ceremony on December 19, 2020.

As is customary on a wedding day in Senegal, Emilie wore red beads to symbolize her new status as the bride of Christ. In Senegalese culture, the beads are a gift to the bride from her family and signify fidelity in a marriage; in Emilie's case, fidelity is to God and God's Word. The beads also showcase the joy the bride and her family feel for the celebratory day.

"My family is my strength. They sustain and pray for me. They all cried during the celebration because they were deeply touched by it. My family kept saying to me that they were so proud of me," Sr. Emilie said.



Emilie Mane Ngom recites her final vows as Fr. Abbe Olivier holds a microphone so she could be heard. Sr. Magdalena Franciscus (left) receives her vows.

Emilie went on to say, "For nine years I have been learning to let Jesus live in me and teach me how to express his love and tenderness. I feel loved by Jesus and was grateful to be able to say 'Yes' to Him forever when I took my final vows. I am so happy to be a member of this big Good Shepherd family with our great and passionate charism," she said.

Emilie will now enroll in the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal's capital city Dakar, where she will study psychology.



L-R: Magdalen and Emilie during their time in St. Louis.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Papal Nuncio to Philippines no stranger to Sister Olga

US Archbishop Charles J. Brown is the new papal ambassador (nuncio) to the Philippines. The New York native had been the Vatican's diplomatic representative in Albania from March 2017 through September 2020. It was during his last year serving as Nuncio in Albania that he and Sister Olga Cristobal, RGS, met.

Sister Olga had been missioned to Tirana for three years under the Province of Germany and Albania. During her years of service (October 2014 until October 2017), she ministered to Filipino migrants and women who were being trafficked for labor. She conducted arts activities at a center for children with Down syndrome and nurtured babies who were isolated on a hospital ward while awaiting adoption. She also volunteered for parish duties in Tirana.

Sister Olga and other Good Shepherd Sisters met Archbishop Brown when he visited them in Tirana and Korce, the two communities where Good Shepherd Sisters serve in Albania. He praised the Sisters for their tireless efforts in fighting human trafficking and bringing dignity to the Roma people who are poor, underserved and marginalized in Albania.

"Archbishop Brown has great concern for the poor and marginalized, the way Pope Francis does," Sr. Olga said.

"What I experienced and observed in Albania about Archbishop Brown was his pastoral excellence. He visited all dioceses and many parishes and religious communities. He nurtured good relations with heads of other religions and fostered ecumenism," Sr. Olga said.



Top: Archbishop Charles J. Brown admires a tropical view as the newly appointed Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines.

Sister Olga was born and raised in the Philippine Islands. She believes Archbishop Brown will fit right in with the Filipino people and readily embrace the cultural lifestyle. He has a retreat house next to the Good Shepherd convent in Tagaytay City. He journeyed to the convent the day after Christmas to visit the Sisters. They welcomed the Apostolic Nuncio, offered their hospitality, and gave him a tour of the retreat house.

Sister Olga is happy that Archbishop Brown is in her native country as a papal ambassador. She said, "Archbishop Brown is very simple and humble. He shows interest in everyone. He loves to sing, and he has a good voice. He even sang with me during my farewell "despedida" party with the Filipino migrants in Tirana when I left Albania in 2017."

Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Charles J. Brown Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines on September 28, 2020.



Archbishop Brown visited with Good Shepherd Sisters l-r: Cordis Ganslmeier, Mirjam Beike, and Olga Cristobal while serving as Nuncio to Albania.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Juliana Devoy, RGS

February 7, 1937 – December 14, 2020

Sister Juliana (Suzanne) Devoy was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, in 1937. She was the second child in a family of seven children. Her family moved frequently around the U.S. with her father who was in the Air Force. Sister Juliana took First Communion in Texas, went to boarding school in Minnesota, attended high school in Hawaii, and finished her secondary education in northern California.

She found her calling by chance after reading a pamphlet that had been passed around by girls at her high school during Vocation Month in March. She felt drawn by the brochure photographs of girls the Good Shepherd Sisters helped and the photos of Sisters in prayer. She knew immediately after reading the pamphlet that her calling was to be a missionary to China.

Although the decision would distance herself from her family in Nebraska, she said embarking on a mission to improve the lives of others in distant parts of the world "was a matter of love for God."

Just after high school, on September 12, 1954, she entered the novitiate with Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Los Angeles, which, at the time, was the novitiate for foreign missions.

She made her first vows in Los Angeles in 1957. In 1959, she went to the Motherhouse in Angers, France, to prepare for her Final Vows, which she made there in 1960. She returned to Los Angeles to finish undergraduate studies. In 1963, at age 26, she was missioned to Hong Kong, where she began



Sister Juliana Devoy

working with adolescents in need and studied Cantonese. In 1967, Sister was sent to St. Louis University in St. Louis where she obtained her Masters Degree in Social Work, graduating in 1969. She returned to Hong Kong.

It is such a joy to have been an instrument of God to touch so many lives.

With the exception of a few periods back in the United States and serving short stints in Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea and Myanmar, she remained in China for more than 50 years, mostly in Hong Kong and Macao - always working to improve women's lives.

Good Shepherd Crisis Centre

Sister Juliana settled in Macao in 1989 and in 1990 founded the Good Shepherd Crisis Centre, a local shelter for women in crisis. Her concept was to run a home rather than an institution, with the center offering free accommodation and food to women and their children who needed help.

Sister Juliana led efforts at the Good Shepherd Crisis Centre to assist and welcome a wide range of women and girls — from teenage pregnant girls to victims of domestic violence and under-age trafficking victims. She considered her time in Macao as the greatest period of her missionary life.

Sister Juliana was known for her considerable work and public

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sr. Juliana, *Cont'd from p. 24*

defense on women's rights and in aid of domestic violence victims. Her efforts in the fight against human trafficking and domestic violence are synonymous with her name in Macao.

Philanthropic awards

She received a philanthropic merit medal in 1997 and a Medal of Altruistic Merit from the Macao government in 2012. In 2013, the Good Shepherd Crisis Centre received a Business Award for the Non-Profit Organization category.

In June of 2016, a government-drafted bill to prevent and combat domestic violence was finally passed into law. This was a piece of legislation that Sr. Juliana had demanded for years. It was one of her greatest achievements.

She organized a public walk to celebrate the victory. About 100 people participated, including university professors, Consulate members, local families, social workers and some women who were once domestic violence victims. Sister Juliana said, "Usually people march to protest against the

government for something they believe is wrong or unjust. We believe justice requires that we give the government credit when it does something good," Sr. Juliana said.

Sister Juliana drew her inspiration from mentors, remembering, in particular, one Sister she met during her one-year stay at the Motherhouse in Angers, France, before taking her final vows. She said, "At the time, I was 22 years old, and Sister was about 60 years old, but she treated me as an equal."

That experience left a profound mark on Sr. Juliana, who treated everyone with the same respect and care and sought to help others attain it for themselves.

Instrument of God

Sr. Juliana said in her 60th anniversary year as a Good Shepherd Sister, "My heart is so full of gratitude for this wonderful gift of my vocation that like the psalmist I want to 'sing the mercies of the Lord forever.'"

"It is such a joy to have been an instrument of God to touch so many lives. Since I'm celebrating my 60 years as a Sister I've been telling everyone I meet that I can truly never thank God enough for this wonderful gift of my Good Shepherd vocation!"

Sr. Juliana took up the mantle to improve Macao's adoption laws in her final years of life. Leadership and staff of the organizations in Macao say they will continue her work. You can watch a video dedicated to Sr. Juliana at <http://bit.ly/35TvMaG>

Story compiled by Editor from various online reports about Sr. Juliana Devoy.

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

Sunday, February 7, 2021

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.

This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed, symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

"This then is the consecrated life: praise which gives joy to God's people, prophetic vision that reveals what counts. Consecrated life is not about survival, it is not about preparing ourselves for *ars bene moriendi*: this is the temptation of our days, in the face of declining vocations.

No, it is not about survival, but new life. It is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus"

Pope Francis,
February 2, 2019



Sister Juliana Devoy (center) in a victory walk after passage of a law in Macao protecting women from domestic violence.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Marie Dolores Beck, RGS

May 3, 1935 – January 5, 2021

Margaret Patricia Beck was born and raised in Washington, D.C., the second of four children in a close-knit traditional Catholic family. Known as Pat by her siblings, she attended Saint Gabriel's parish school and the Academy of the Holy Names.

In contrast to her school-time life in the big city, she enjoyed summers at her grandparents' home in southern Maryland with cows, chickens, and all the diversions of life in the country. Her sisters remember her as being very active and always enjoying people.

From the age of six when her father died suddenly, Pat began to develop her innate aptitude for domestic management. Her mother elected to offer home daycare to children, including Pat's cousins, as a way to bring in income without having to leave her own children. Pat became one of the chief helpers in this work. As she matured, she was actively mentoring her younger sister Paula and doing much of the cooking for the family.

Pat and her older sister Mary Lou always took their Catholic faith very seriously. Only one year apart in age, both were discerning vocations to Religious Life while in high school. Mary Lou entered the Sisters of the Holy Names immediately upon graduation, but Pat did not wish to become a teacher.

How did she come to know the Sisters of the Good Shepherd? Pat and Mary Lou helped clean the church every Saturday. Their parish priest, Fr. Coyne, often took them along for a ride when he went to

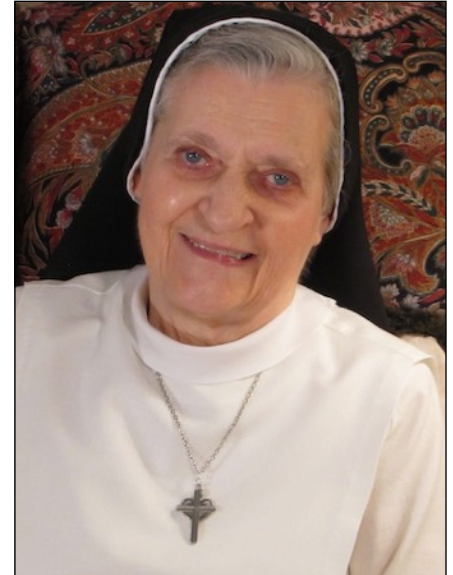
Georgetown to pick up altar breads from the Good Shepherd Convent.

The Good Shepherd residential work with girls seemed to be an excellent fit, and she was also attracted by the Fourth Vow of Zeal for the Salvation of Souls. She originally planned to enter immediately after high school, but stayed home for six months to assist her brother Frank while he recovered from back surgery. Her willingness to sacrifice her own preferences to the needs of others was characteristic and enduring.

Her willingness to sacrifice her own preferences to the needs of others was characteristic and enduring.

Pat entered Good Shepherd at the "Mount Street" House in Baltimore, where she received the name of Sister Marie Dolores. With only a few exceptions – a brief stint as an Assistant Group Leader in Washington, D.C., a period of service in Rome to help with preparation for a General Chapter, assuming responsibility for closing the house in Batesburg, South Carolina in 1968, and a mission to Phoenix for reasons of health – Sr. Marie Dolores served her long active apostolic life in Baltimore. She attended college at Loyola for two years, studying nutrition.

Her unusual ability as a "super-taster" was put to good use while



Sister Marie Dolores Beck

she was in charge of the kitchen. She was a meticulous planner in whatever capacity she served. When Good Shepherd Center was opened in 1970, Marie Dolores was a key figure in working out the intricate logistics of the move from Calverton Road. She served as the first Superior of the new Retirement/Infirmary Community of St. Joseph Residence in Halethorpe, and then became the chief Receptionist at Good Shepherd Center, a position which she ably filled for many years.

Sister Marie Dolores managed to combine a demand for precision with a warm outreach to every person who entered the house. In addition to her graciousness towards visitors, her presence at the front desk had a palpably calming effect on the staff and girls at Good

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Marie Dolores, *Con't from p. 26*

Shepherd Center. She had a gift for forming and maintaining relationships, and continued to reach out regularly by letter and phone to innumerable people even many years after her retirement.

Sister did not enjoy good health. She experienced severe chronic pain from orthopedic problems and rheumatoid arthritis, but she pushed herself to continue to work, taking on many tasks around the convent.

She was curious about everything, observant and eager to learn. She never put herself forward but was often like an invisible glue, holding things together behind the scenes. She excelled at clerical detail and maintained detailed lists of Christmas card addresses, "old girls," benefactors, former staff, the convent car book, death anniversaries and the like.

Her perseverance and determination to continue to find ways to serve her local community were admirable, but as her health declined, she struggled with not being able to "do" as much as she thought she ought to. She found it challenging to find satisfaction mainly in "being," but consciously offered up her many sufferings to

support the children we served and the souls in purgatory.

She was bitterly angry at the State of Maryland for decisions which led to the closing of Good Shepherd Services in 2017. Characteristic of her Zeal, she did not complain about losing her own home and comfort, but worried and prayed continuously for the safety of the children in need who could no longer receive care in Baltimore.

Along with most of the Sisters from the Halethorpe community, Marie Dolores was missioned to Maria Hall in Danville, PA where she enjoyed learning about the traditions of the other Congregations who shared the convent housing. She became a role model for Sisters who were struggling with physical challenges, and was a great favorite among the staff, who affectionately called her "Sister Cricket" because of the way her walker squeaked.

After a number of falls and injuries when it became evident that she would soon require skilled care, she made the difficult decision to transfer to Immaculate Heart Community at Mason Pointe. She had not had time to adjust to the new situation before the Pandemic

complicated everyone's lives, but she continued to try to reach out to others by telephone. She contracted pneumonia from COVID-19 and had the consolation of receiving the Sacraments and speaking to her family on the phone before a peaceful passing over into the arms of the Good Shepherd.

The Sisters who attended her Wake Service noted her almost mischievous little smile and interpreted it as saying, "I'm home! I'm waiting for you." She is buried in the Sisters of the Good Shepherd plot at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sr. Marie Dolores is survived by her sister Sr. Mary Frances Beck, her brother Frank, her sister Paula Nolan, by their children and grandchildren, and by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd throughout the world.

She will be greatly missed, but it is a delight to think of her now free of pain and once again able to be very active. We can be sure that she will continue to be interested in all of the little details of our lives from her wonderful vantage point in the Court of the Good Shepherd.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

Catholic Sisters Week

Each year for one week, from March 8-14, Catholic Sisters Week shines a light on the spirituality, mission and community-building of women religious in an effort to expand and support their gospel witness and grow the service networks they have seeded; to share their spirituality, charisms, and community, and to encourage young women to

consider a vocation to religious life. Catholic Sisters Week also supports Sisters' pastoral, teaching and prophetic works, and focuses on the new world they call into being. The next issue of *Items of Interest* will report more on Catholic Sisters Week. In the meantime, you can learn about this celebratory week at <https://catholicsistersweek.org/>

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Mary Michael Maguire, RGS

November 25, 1929 – January 11, 2021

On November 25, 1929, the “Maguire Clan” in County Meath, Ireland, welcomed Elizabeth Maguire. This brought much joy to her mother and father, Elizabeth and Michael, and her two brothers Patrick and William.

Raised in a very devout Catholic family, she was steeped in the faith and was very familiar with the Church, the sacraments, the beauty of the Mass and developed a great love for the Eucharist. Surrounded all her life with a large close-knit extended family she has been very loved and well involved in the joys and sorrows of her Irish clan.

As a young girl, Elizabeth came to the United States to live with a cousin in California. Invited by a friend at work to attend a weekend retreat because she didn’t want to go alone, Elizabeth went and met a Redemptorist Priest who encouraged her to consider a religious vocation. He told her about the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. After prayerful reflection, Elizabeth followed the priest’s encouragement and entered the Community Novitiate for the Missions in Los Angeles, where she was professed in 1951 and became Sister Mary Michael.

The Los Angeles Novitiate was for the Missions and Sister Michael brought her gifts and spirit of love and compassion to the Home Missions in Los Angeles, St. Louis, San Francisco, Chicago, Memphis,

Pennsylvania and, early on, a couple of years back home in Ireland directing a shelter for working women in Limerick. Over the years, Sister Michael had been a quiet and prayerful presence in many communities.

She was a vigorous shepherd in the apostolates of the Sisters, where she ministered with at-risk teenagers, women in crisis, prisoners, and ex-prisoners in transition.

“Sister Michael was one of the nuns who shepherded me into Sisters of the Good Shepherd. I will always remember her. And she drove really fast!” Trish Fortner said.

“I knew Sister Michael for many years. She was a treasure,” said Brad Pendley.

Judy Stivers said, “I was very fortunate to work with Sr. Michael when she was in Memphis. I learned so much from her.”

Judy Neri said, “Sister Michael served tirelessly and with pure love. Heaven was surely waiting to welcome her. Wonderful memories.”

Sister Michael was a spiritual guide and friend to other Sisters, benefactors, lay staff, neighbors and persons formerly in her care. She is survived in Ireland by two sisters-in-law and 70 nieces and nephews who adored her and lovingly called her “Auntie Betty.”

She was born into eternal life on January 11, 2021. We already miss her lovely brogue,



Sister Michael Maguire was a high-spirited Sister with a green thumb and gorgeous Irish lilt.

engaging and witty Irish charm and deep faith in gods’ providence in all things.

Sister Michael is being sorely missed on both sides of the Atlantic.

Submitted by Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Mary JoAnne Getzendanner, RGS

April 12, 1930 – January 12, 2021

Joan Aubrey Getzendanner was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the youngest of three children in a close-knit devout Catholic family. From an early age, she knew that she wanted to become a Sister of the Good Shepherd, and she manifested her attraction to children on the margins of society.

Joan's brother Joe, five years older than she, obtained his driver's license at age 16. He promptly found himself regularly implored by his little sister to take her for a drive up to the orphanage, where they would invite a few residents for an outing and home to their family for dinner. Her powers of persuasion were legendary.

Joan came to the Good Shepherd community on Mount Street in Baltimore at the age of 18, as soon as she had graduated from high school. Upon entering the Novitiate, she was given the name Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit. Although she later changed back to a variant of her baptismal name, she always retained her devotion to the Holy Spirit and celebrated her Feast Day on Pentecost.

Sister JoAnne had a partner, Sr. Mary Susanne, during her initial formation. Seldom, if ever, could one find a pair so completely opposite in personality style, interests, and general approach to life and spirituality. Their openness to and genuine appreciation for each other's gifts enabled them to get along harmoniously despite their extreme differences. What an example for dealing with the tensions of society in our times! Sister JoAnne practiced this



Sister Joanne Getzendanner

approach to others throughout her long life.

The English word flamboyant, defined as "tending to attract attention because of exuberance,

Blazing with exuberant affection, love and zeal, a bright light to those around her ...

Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

confidence, and stylishness," often carries a slightly pejorative overtone, but it is derived from a French root which simply means "blazing." Blazing with exuberant affection, love and zeal, a bright light to those around her, a woman who became a lifelong friend of anyone she ever met – Sr. JoAnne could well be described as

flamboyant in the best senses of the word.

Larger-than-life personality

With a larger-than-life personality, people were attracted to her and she became well-known wherever she lived and in whatever ministry she served. In fact, even her photograph in a book describing the various Religious Orders in the United States served to attract a young woman who had never heard of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to enter the Congregation based on the joy she perceived in Sister JoAnne's countenance.

Sister JoAnne attended the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore. She was missioned to various Good Shepherd residential programs, often teaching typing and business. Later she served the Congregation at the Generalate in Rome. She was appointed to local leadership in a number of communities. She oversaw the building renovations in Philadelphia that enabled the Fox Chase convent to become a site for Marriage Encounter retreats.

One of Sister's favorite missions was Guam, where she directed the Alee Domestic Violence Shelter. Upon her return to the mainland, she obtained a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, but she also had a natural affinity for fundraising and development.

As a young Sister in Baltimore, she had been dispatched to local businesses to solicit donations for the annual bazaar. In short order, one of the business owners called the Provincial, promising to give

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sr. JoAnne, *Cont'd from p. 29*

whatever she requested and imploring in return, "But don't send that Sister with the brown eyes again; I can't say 'No' to her and she will ruin me!"

Sister JoAnne exhibited this gift again when the National Religious



Sister Joanne on Clothing Day.

Retirement Fund was instituted in the 1980's. Explaining the need for financial assistance for elder Religious, she had the congregation at her parish church in tears and garnered \$10,000 in a single collection.

There are innumerable stories of donations she inspired and her ongoing relationships with benefactors and former clients.

Sister JoAnne completed her active ministry career at Lourdesmont in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. In 2001, health issues led her to the St. Joseph Residence retirement/infirmity community in Baltimore. The onset of dementia never diminished her graciousness and popularity with staff and visitors.

When the Baltimore program closed in 2018, she was missioned to Emmanuel Nursing Center in Danville, Pennsylvania. She was a great favorite there and was known for her effusive expressions of gratitude for help received.

Heavenly chorus

Along with many other residents at Emmanuel, Sister JoAnne contracted COVID-19 in December of 2020. She had a relatively mild case and had recovered.

Deeply devout all her life, she was eager to join her Shepherd in heaven. She passed over peacefully in her sleep on January 12, 2021. She is survived by her brother Joe and loving nieces and nephews.

Although her singing voice sounded like a croak, Sr. JoAnne loved music passionately. It is a delight to envision her, having transcended her earthly limitations, conducting the heavenly chorus.

We can be sure each time one of us crosses over into eternity, she will be greeting us with her characteristic, "Welcome home, Darling! Where have you been all this time?"

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

Gratitude expressed

My father was born to one of the girls helped by the House of the Good Shepherd. She was 16 and had lost her mother at 5 years of age. Growing up with her brother and a single father in the Red Lake northern Minnesota iron district, they moved from town to town for hard labor jobs. Without your assistance my family may not exist. Thank you for your goodness and mission.

~ Denise

I just found out that my mom stayed at the Good Shepherd House in St. Paul in 1948-49 when she was pregnant with my half brother. Both are now deceased. I wish my mom would have told me more about it. I should have been more willing to listen when she said someone could write an interesting story of her life. I must not have been ready to listen at the time. I am now taking time to listen to her 97

year-old sister. Thanks to the Good Shepherd Sisters who helped her be an awesome mom.
~ Rosanne

I am one of the girls who benefited from the Home of the Good Shepherd and the wonderful staff who ran the place. I lived at the St. Paul home for two years, 1966-1967. That place was awesome!
~ Nancy

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Joelle Weid, RGS

September 5, 1923 – January 16, 2021

The miracle baby Mary Josephine was born September 5, 1923, in Denver, Colorado, to Joseph and Mary Ellen Weid. Her parents had previously lost her four infant brothers due to the RH blood factor. This little girl was born at seven months and was not expected to live.

Her family quickly baptized her conditionally and later baptized her at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Denver. Her aunt, Sister Mary Bonaventure, a Good Shepherd Sister in Los Angeles, consecrated her to Mary and prayed devoutly for her throughout her childhood years. Mary Josephine thrived.

When she graduated from high school, Mary Josephine attended business college for secretarial training. Finding that quite uninteresting, she studied to be a radio operator for the airlines in Kansas City, Missouri.

She went to work for Capitol Airlines in Washington, D. C., where she relayed information on flight coordinates and weather conditions to pilots preparing for flights in World War II. Dating pilots and exploring the nation's capital proved exciting, but after a year Mary Josephine realized this was not permanently fulfilling.

She returned home to Denver and decided to explore a call to the religious life as her aunt Sister Bonaventure had. A trip to visit a group of Carmelite Sisters ended quickly when she couldn't find an entrance through the surrounding wall. Deciding this was not what God wanted for her, she applied to the Good Shepherd Sisters in St. Paul and Los Angeles.

On receiving from St. Paul a sheaf of papers to complete and a single sheet to answer from Los Angeles, her decision was easily made. In August of 1947 she entered the Los Angeles novitiate and made her profession of vows in 1950. She received the name Sr. Mary Catherine.

She attended Mount St. Mary's College and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education with a credential in secondary teaching.

Shortly after making her vowed profession, the Provincial of Australia and the Superior General visited the Los Angeles community, which had been started for missionary work abroad. A newly established community in Australia needed more Sisters. Los Angeles had 23 young Sisters and could spare a few.

Teaching assignments

Mother Thomas Aquinas Lee asked for two Sisters to join the newly formed community in Australia. And so it was that Sr. Mary Catherine (who later changed her name to Mary Joelle) headed halfway around the world to Australia, via Christ Church, New Zealand, as a new teaching principal in a school of 200 students. She won three scholarships for her students for higher education.

Sister Joelle left Australia after eight years and returned to the United States for her first stateside mission in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She taught high school for seven years in Tulsa. G. K. Warren of the Gulf Oil Company donated money for two new cottage residences for the girls during her tenure in Tulsa.



Sister Joelle Weid

These happy years were followed by a six-month mission to the halfway house for women prisoners in New Orleans, where she helped the prisoners find jobs. She was then transferred to San Francisco where she worked in prison ministry and for Birthright, teaching the pro-life program "It's OK to say NO" in public and parochial schools.

Sister Mary Joelle spent the next seven years in Memphis tutoring students, and then serving as principal. Sister's last active mission was in Chicago, where she remained for 17 years doing bookkeeping and aftercare for the women in the House of Good Shepherd shelter. In the Learning Center there she prepared the

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sr. Joelle, *Cont'd from p. 31*

women to take the GED (General Educational Development) exam. She loved the work and the city of Chicago.

In August 2009 Sr. Mary Joelle came to the Immaculate Heart Convent, as the steps at House of Good Shepherd had become too difficult for her to manage. Sister

had been a quiet prayerful presence in Community at Immaculate Heart and later at Mason Pointe Care Center.

Sister Mary Joelle was an avid reader. She loved to hear and tell jokes and found peace in the community horarium of prayer and play. She kept in close touch with

her sister-in-law Belva and niece Elena, who will miss her greatly.

"Indeed, You love truth in the heart. Then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom." Psalm 51

Submitted by Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

Immaculata Lupin, RGS

July 28, 1929 – January 22, 2021

This is my Life Story:

Through the merciful love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am a religious of the Good Shepherd. I was born in Houston, Texas, on July 28, 1929, daughter of Louis and Anna Berthelsen Lupin.

I entered religious life in St. Louis on March 20, 1955. I was privileged to have served in St. Louis, Houston, Tulsa, St. Louis Provincial House, New Orleans, and Immaculate Heart Convent in St. Louis. I have ministered to teenagers, prisoners, and the elderly. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all who have companioned me throughout my life, and for their love, kindnesses and support.

Thank you – each one.

Submitted by Sr. Immaculata Lupin through a letter she left behind asking that she be remembered in her own few and simple words.



Sister Immaculata Lupin



Mystery Photo

Does anyone have the back-story to this photograph? We are always looking to add captions to photographs so we can flesh out stories in the province archives. If you know what this outing was all about, when it took place, and who went along for the adventure, please send your comments to the Editor of *Items of Interest* at jmcdermott@gspmna.org

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Magdalena of the Precious Blood Oliva, RGS

May 25, 1929 – January 25, 2021

Sr. Magdalena “Madge” Oliva, was born in Naga City, Philippines, on May 25, 1929. Her parents Matias and Eudisia Oliva were devout Catholics. God blessed their marriage with 12 children. Three of their daughters were consecrated to God: Trinidad Oliva, OSB; Mary Soledad Oliva, OP; and Magdalena Oliva, Contemplative Sister of the Good Shepherd.

We all shortened Sister Magdalena of the Precious Blood’s name and called her “Madge.” She made her first profession on July 22, 1964, and made final vows on October 15, 1970, in the Philippines. Since 1982 she had been in leadership positions for different communities.

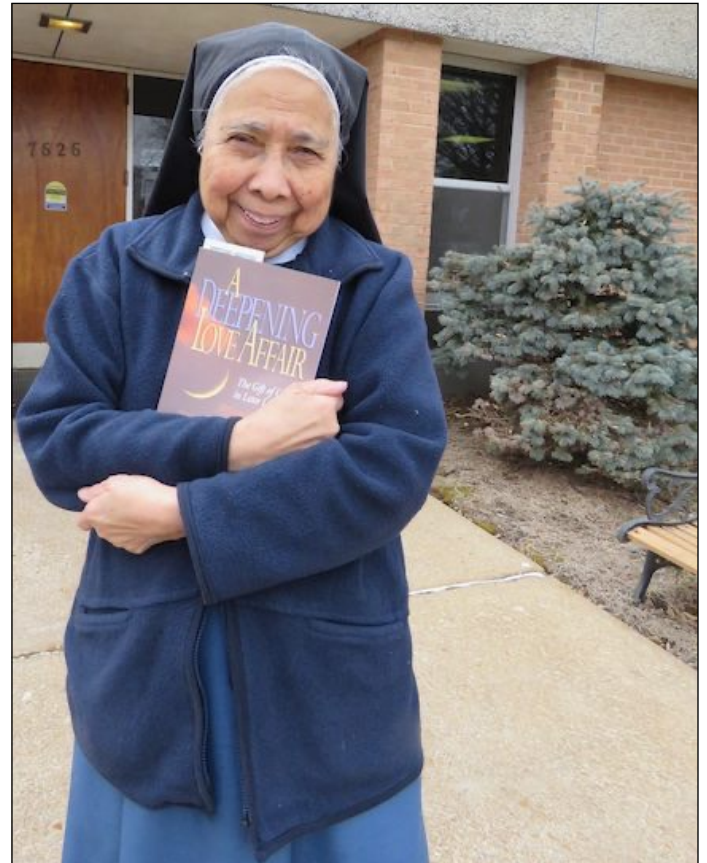
As a Contemplative Sister, Madge spent her time in prayer with her community of Contemplative Sisters in the Philippines. God had more plans for her and called her again at the age of 71. With a brave and courageous spirit she answered the call to be missioned in Austria, far from her own native land. Sister Madge said of that calling, “With the grace of God I can give up everything in order to follow the will of God.”

I was missioned to Austria with Sr. Madge, along with another Sister from the Philippines. Our Unit Leader Sister Lydia Eborra and her council, together with all of the Sisters in our community in the Philippines, sent us off to Austria with blessings and farewells in the summer of 2000.

On August 4, 2000, we three Filipino Contemplative Sisters arrived at the airport in Innsbruck, Austria. Good Shepherd Sisters welcomed us with broad smiles, beautiful flowers, and lovely voices singing the Magnificat. We were so grateful for their generous spirits and hospitality of the Sisters. They helped us learn the language and understand the Austrian culture.

Jesuit priests accompanied our spiritual journey and brought their studies of theology and doctrine to us so that we could learn together. One of the priests who accompanied us was Fr. Richard Lopez, SJ, a priest from India.

Years went by and 13 years passed. After living in community in Austria, God once again called Sr. Madge and me. This time we were to be missioned in the United States, in St. Louis. This is where Sr. Madge remained in community with other Contemplative and Apostolic



Sister Magdalena “Madge” Oliva

Good Shepherd Sisters until her death on January 25, 2021.

I was missioned with Sr. Madge for 20 years and witnessed how true she was in living out her vows, especially the vows of obedience and zeal. She followed diligently what her province and local leaders said. According to Sr. Madge, obedience was the only sure way of not making a mistake. This is how she displayed her humility and simplicity all through her life.

On Sunday, January 24, while praying in the chapel at the Central South Province where I am currently missioned, I had a spiritual conversation with Sr. Madge and a blessing of “letting go.” The following day she died. I found a true friend in Sr. Madge, a treasure to behold

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sr. Madge, *Cont'd from p. 33*

all through my life here on Earth and in heaven above. Let the perpetual Light shine on Sr. Madge's soul, and may she rest in peace.

Submitted by Contemplative Sister Elizabeth Garciano, RGS

Memories of Sr. Madge

When I entered the Sister Magdalens in Los Angeles, we were the Mission Province. We received many young women from the Philippines and felt a part of the ministries there.

The Contemplatives were founded in 1954 in Los Angeles. I entered two years later. I can't remember the exact year that we were told the Contemplatives were founded in the Philippines. I believe it was in the 1960's. I was chosen to place the little cross on our map signifying their beginning.

Each of us in the Los Angeles Contemplative Community became pen pals with one of the young Sisters in the Philippine Islands. My pen pal was Sr. Magdalena of the Precious Blood, or "Madge," as she liked to be called.

We wrote to each other all through the years and finally met in person during a Pilgrimage to the Motherhouse in Angers, France, in 1998. It was a wonderful celebration of finally meeting face-to-face. From that moment on, we shared our lives in an even deeper way, never dreaming that we might one day live in community together.

When the Austrian mission closed in 2013, Sisters Madge and Elizabeth Garciano were missioned to Marygrove, where I lived in community with Contemplative

Sisters in Florissant, Missouri, a suburb in St. Louis County.

My role model

Sister Madge was always a prayerful presence, quietly living her vocation of prayer and sacrifices. She was a role model to me of what a Contemplative Sister truly was. She and I shared freely from our hearts. We could speak of our prayer, of suffering, of ordinary happenings in community that caused us pain or made us laugh. Many times when something occurred, we didn't even have to say a word; a glance between the two of us spoke volumes!

Sister Madge's holiness was authentic. She was not a little nun who kept her hands folded in prayer.

Sharon Rose Authorson, RGS

Sister Madge's holiness was authentic. She was not a little nun who kept her hands folded in prayer. She loved the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team and knew every player by name. She would yell at the television screen like any other devoted baseball fan when any of the players didn't produce the way she thought they should.

We shared a full range of emotions together while watching the Cardinals, DVD movies, and Jeopardy. I will miss all of the funny ways we shared our special friendship. At this time I do not know what I will do without the blessing of our sharing together. We were a support to each other, and our friendship had lasted for nearly



Sister Madge making one of the many rosaries she loved to design and craft by hand.

60 years. I have the rosary Sr. Madge made for me, and I will pray it every day, holding it close to my heart. I hope she will continue to walk with me, as I will never forget my friend of many years.

Submitted by Contemplative Sister Sharon Rose Authorson, RGS

Items of Interest is a bi-monthly publication of the Province of Mid-North America. The next issue of the newsletter will be distributed on April 1, 2021. Deadline for submissions is March 22, 2021. Please submit your stories and photographs to the Editor, Jeanette McDermott, at jmcdermott@gspmna.org

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Leadership Team	No travel	COVID-19 sheltering in place; leadership team meets by Zoom 2-3 times each month.
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Dec 1- Mar 24	Visit with family and GS Sisters, Singapore

**Month of the Holy Family**

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. The special devotion to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph began in the 17th century almost simultaneously in Canada and France.

Devotion soon spread, and in 1893 Pope Leo XIII expressed his approval of a feast under this

title. The feast of the Holy Family was inserted in the general Calendar of the Roman rite by Benedict XV in 1921. In the words of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."



Artist: Glynis McManamon, RGS

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"Refuse to be beaten by any difficulty. When your soul is in darkness, wait patiently for the light."

St. Mary Euphrasia,
Conferences p. 193

Contact us

Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Province of Mid-North America
7654 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-381-3400; 314-381-7102 fax
www.sistersofthegoodshepherd.com

Jeanette McDermott, communications coordinator
314-620-9158
jmcdermott@gspmna.org

Follow us on facebook & Twitter

www.facebook.com/Sistersofthegoodshepherd
@GoodShepherdRGS (twitter)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

