

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

Light out of darkness

Sister Christine Truong speaks from the heart about the trials facing the people she serves.

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Serving creatively

Good Shepherd ministries in Mid-North America rely on creativity during pandemic.

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Judy Lambeth retires

Maryhurst CEO Judy Lambeth has retired, after giving 46 years of service to Good Shepherd.

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Celebration of a life

We say goodbye to Sister Dorothy Renckens and celebrate her powerful life of prayer and ministry.

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The Circle of Provincial Leaders of North America were in St. Louis in 2017 for a series of meetings. From left: Sisters Maureen McGowan, New York/Toronto Province; Madeleine Munday, Province of Mid-North America; Francisca Aguillon, Central South Province; and Aline Bertrand, Montreal Province.

INTER-PROVINCE EVOLUTION

By Jeanette McDermott, PMNA Communications Coordinator

Something big is going on with Good Shepherd provinces in North America. Sister and Lay Mission Partners from the provinces of Mid-North America, New York/Toronto, and Central South are playing with creative

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Green Corner

Chapter 50 of Conferences and Instructions of Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier is all abuzz with bees. Her conferences are a record of spontaneous talks that she gave to novices on religious authority, poverty, civil life and other topics related to faith, scripture and God. Some of the pages contain delightful stories that demonstrate her love for nature. These are my personal favorites. Chapter 3 is about sunflowers. Chapter 50 is all about the bees.

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Inter-province, *Cont'd from p. 1*

ideas as they explore new ways to the future. The Montreal province is following its own planning process while staying informed of ours.

A new paradigm is shifting for orders of women religious around the world. The evolution of the future of Good Shepherd in North America is playing its role in the global emergence. Anticipation is in the air that it's time for massive change. What that change will be? Nobody knows yet. The provinces are exploring that together.

Risking together for mission

This time of emergence is a time of uncertainty, unpredictability, and risk-taking: *risking together for mission*. The only certainty right now is that the North American provinces have to cooperate to facilitate the new.

Relationships are at the heart of the matter. Order and disorder are always created simultaneously. Throughout the living world chaos is transformed into order. This will hold true for the North American provinces in the end.

Risk is another factor. Biblical Esther took a gamble on two choices: speak up for her people - the Jews — and die, or speak up for her people and spare them from genocide. She gambled the odds and took the risk. She and her people were spared.

Esther's Gamble

Esther's Gamble - as described in an article by its author Sr. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, has been at the heart of small group conversations across the provinces. Some small groups grew out of the international committee of Life Seekers that was charged with exploring new ways to move the Congregation into the



Sister Sharon Rose Authorson shows her zeal for Esther's Gamble in her small group breakout session on the inter-province Zoom call in July.

future. A key element of Life Seekers is to explore and develop structures throughout Good Shepherd that will reflect current and future needs and realities, all in service to freeing energy and resources for mission.

Life Seekers will report on their work during the virtual Intercontinental Assemblies (ICAs) from August through October 2020. The virtual ICA for North America (and Great Britain) will be September 21-25, 2020.

My current small group began with Life Seekers and continues biweekly. We meet on Zoom to strengthen relationships, ponder questions of importance, and to reflect together

on more effective ways to work for mission. Topics include *Esther's Gamble* and Province priorities from the Province Chapter Planning Committee.

Connecting and unifying ideas

Our calls are helping us unify and connect ideas to the complex situation of moving into the future. Our discussions tend to focus on how we find ways to free our lives to keep the charism, spirituality and mission alive in the context of dramatic change within the congregation and societies across the world, especially in light of COVID-19.

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Inter-province, *Cont'd from p. 2*

The meetings are helping to uncover new, innovative governance models to consider at the 2020 ICAs, province chapters, and 2021 Congregational Assembly for Contemplative Sisters (CACS), and the Congregational Chapter.

My small group discussions have included

- how we might educate Mission Partners on everything Sisters know intuitively through decades of living the charism;
- how we might share resources across provinces and units;
- what kind of opportunities are there for professional development (formation) in understanding current structures to help determine how to move forward creatively
- how to improve communications vehicles for better understanding the Congregation, including the missions of provinces and units across the globe.

Good Shepherd structure

As background, the Good Shepherd congregation functions with an elected leadership team and a body of vowed women committed to living in community and being faithful to their Constitutions and governance structures.

The elected leaders provide spiritual leadership and unity for the congregation's mission and the administration. Decisions impacting the entire congregation are discerned by delegates gathered at the chapter. The chapter is the highest governing body of the institute and elects its leaders.

The elected leaders are then accountable for implementing the decisions made and directions set by

the chapter. It is a model of governance that embodies servant leadership and shared authority. Now, bring this model down to the province level in North America. Visualize working with three different leadership teams that are responsible for the well-being of their respective provinces. Each created its own unique and autonomous community that reflects the spirit of a common beginning. Imagine having conversations about merging resources and possible entities.

Taking deep dives

A precedent for this was set years ago with the inter-province National Advocacy Center and Good Shepherd Volunteers. These initiatives make it easier to fathom additional ways to collaborate.

It's important that everyone engaged in the process have an open mind, open heart, and open will. Judgment, cynicism, and fear impede the process. Inter-province Zoom calls are providing space for Mission Partners (Sisters and Lay) to practice listening to one another, learning to see with "fresh eyes," taking deep dives into tough issues and working out complex questions that involve diverse perspectives.

The leadership of the three provinces in North America are open to an emerging future. They believe that it is possible to create new systems so that a new form can emerge to carry on the mission and charism of Good Shepherd.

Inter-province dialogue and conversation

Sister Mary Pellegrino, a Sister of St. Joseph of Baden, author of *Esther's Gamble*, and her colleagues at the consulting firm Plante Moran have

worked closely with the three province leaders to create an inter-province dialogue and conversation process, titled *Toward a Vision of the Future of Good Shepherd in North America*. This includes reflection and small group sharing on *Esther's Gamble* and on analysis of the tangible and social resources of each province.

The goal is for the process to help the provinces articulate a vision in North America. The role of Plante Moran is to analyze and present the information that is gathered in the process so that the provinces can use it to make decisions.

"What we are doing now is gathering data to turn into information that can steer conversations at province chapters and assemblies," said Sr. Madeleine Munday, PMNA Province Leader.

"What's important for us is that it all be connected - that our resources are connected to the conversations about vocation, mission, ministry, properties, and other tangible assets. Plante Moran provides a container so that as we do our work we can keep all of the data and information in mind as the process unfolds," said Sr. Madeleine.

Over time, the process will take hold and uncertainty and confusion will fade. Provinces will take action to shape a new presence for Good Shepherd in North America, and today's current state will evolve into the future. What is needed in the interim is faith, engagement, and an open heart.

"Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams, who looks inside awakens." ~ Carl Jung

PROVINCE NEWS



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Virtual Inter-Continental Assemblies begin with pre-sessions

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd has officially begun its virtual Intercontinental Assemblies (vICAs). There are eight of them based on geographic regions. Each vICA takes place on Zoom and lasts five days.

The first day sets context and deepens understanding of the radical transformation facing the congregation. Days 2- 4 explore Chapter topics. The final day is open to unfinished business and integration, and includes a closing ritual.

The vICAs play a critical role in preparing for the 2021 Congregational Chapter. They are grounded in the congregation's Chapter theme *Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice*, and the call to radical transformation.

The journey into the vICAs kicks off with the Congregation Chapter Planning Team's 75-minute pre-session video with handouts. These items will be sent to PMNA in the first week of August. A second 45-minute pre-session video will follow.

The first virtual Intercontinental Assembly begins on August 24 and the last one ends on October 16.

The Province of Mid-North America has 57 Lay and Sister participants registered for its vICA September 21-25. Donna Fyffe and Sr. Catherine Schneider, OSF (Oldenberg in Indiana), will co-facilitate the PMNA vICA and guide participants through processes of restructuring. Donna and Sr. Catherine have helped many congregations throughout the world work through the process of restructuring.

According to the planning team, the purpose of the pre-sessions is to prepare our hearts for engaging in the vICA sessions and to present an overview of the significant work to be done at the Intercontinental Assembly meetings.

"All of us together are making a new path by walking it," said Hilary Musgrave, who serves on the ritual committee for vICA.

In your Spirit gather us.
In your Spirit open our hearts.
In Your Spirit O God,
Guide and direct our path.

Screenshot from the vICA pre-session video

Announcements and News Tidbits

Important Dates

1. August 14 from 7-9 pm CST
Virtual Artful Trivia Fundraiser for Good Shepherd Arts Center
2. Sept 21-25 ICA for the four Good Shepherd provinces in North America, plus Great Britain
3. Oct 19-22 PMNA virtual pre-Chapter Assembly
4. Oct 26-29 PMNA Chapter

Two Sisters had their Jubilees without fanfare this spring, amidst the Coronavirus pandemic's sheltering in place restrictions. Sister Rose Henry Kern's 60th Jubilee was on March 19. Sister Mary Joelle Weid's 70th Jubilee was April 24. We send the Sisters love and prayerful blessings.

CORA Services reached its fundraising goal of \$100,000 for CORA vs. COVID, thanks to staff, volunteers, partners and community members who contributed to support the agency during this unique and challenging time.

Vista Maria exceeded its fundraising goal of \$100,000 for the 21st annual Vista Maria and Ford Motor Company purchasing golf outing. The event was held July 21. Two more golf fundraisers are scheduled in August.

Maryhurst's annual Journey of Hope luncheon this year will become 2020 Week of Hope with a series of online moments beginning September 28 and ending with a keynote video presentation on October 2.

PROVINCE NEWS

ZEAL



PMNA joined Catholic Sisters in St. Louis to promote a message of Oneness at the height of racial unrest following the death of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. The billboards were up for eight weeks throughout the metropolitan St. Louis area. A Global Sisters Report on systemic racism included a reference to the June 1st Good Shepherd statement for reconciliation, justice and peace by the three Good Shepherd provinces of North America, the National Advocacy Center, and the GS International Justice Peace Office. <https://bit.ly/39vwP10>



Brenda and Yarely are young "Dreamers" who say they symbolize DACA.

DACA preserved

Catholic bishops and immigration advocates praised the Supreme Court decision on June 18, 2020, to preserve Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA provides legal protections and work authorization to immigrants brought to the United States as children by their parents without legal documents. Sister Madeleine Munday, Province Leader for Mid-North America, and Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the Good Shepherd, are quoted in an article published by America, The Jesuit Review, about the Supreme Court decision. <https://bit.ly/2WOHn1n>. They are also quoted in the Catholic Courier, along with Sister Maureen McGowan, Province Leader for New York-Toronto. <https://bit.ly/2OPTknU>.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Even in darkness there is light

By Jeanette McDermott, PMNA Communications Coordinator

Sister Christine Truong, Executive Director of Good Shepherd Services, shared with me a great concern facing the community of Asians she serves in Atlanta. The serious problem weighs heavy on her heart, as local media don't report on the crimes and police don't respond for reasons upon which she can only speculate. The sensitive topic is difficult for Sr. Christine to voice for fear of being criticized and labeled a racist. And yet she said she needs to express the truth so that she may find support, increased prayers for her ministry, and peace of mind.

Soon after the Coronavirus spread around the world in early 2020, Sister Christine's work at Good Shepherd Services (GSS) Atlanta began to shift. Her mission of outreach to the Asian community took on added dimensions as children were kept from schools and day care and husbands were left without employment.

Applications for state and federal aid increased, domestic violence rose, and more and more GSS clients edged precipitously close to financial collapse. And then came July 4th and protests from Black Lives Matter (BLM).

Some protesters who took to the streets following the death of George Floyd burned and looted Vietnamese shops and businesses. They scrawled racist messages on Asian homes and businesses and chanted hate messages on residential streets where Asians live and in the commercial district where they work. A widow and her three children were tormented nightly by protesters for weeks on end,

according to Sr. Christine. They banged on her doors and windows, screaming obscenities and threats. They wrote crude messages on doors that the woman kept removing. Other Asian women were attacked and assaulted.

Sister Christine has arranged mental health counseling for some of the traumatized victims. She herself is feeling vulnerable and increasingly challenged by the incidents.

"Nightly shootings took place in the neighborhood where we are located. Asians were being targeted, and police were not responding to our calls for help.

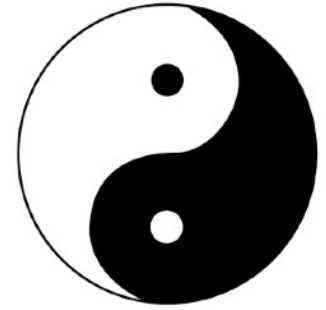
Racially motivated verbal attacks and physical assaults grew less frequent shortly after the 4th of July, and then began again from mid-to-late July. Things are quieting down again, but we don't know when the violence might start all over," Sr. Christine said.

Oppressed become oppressors

"None of us understands how people who want justice for themselves can be the ones who are hurting others. People come to GSS seeking safety that we cannot provide," said Sr. Christine.

"Good Shepherd Services is supposed to be a voice for the voiceless, but now we are staying silent out of fear. We can wear masks and social distance to protect ourselves against the coronavirus, but we don't know how to protect ourselves against the protesters," Sr. Christine said.

The attacks on Asians in Atlanta have not made local or national news, according to Sr. Christine. As



a result, the larger community doesn't realize the violence exists.

Clients leave Atlanta out of fear

To date, Sr. Christine said 46 Asian clients of GSS have left Atlanta out of fear of being harmed or killed by protesters. One client moved to the mountains of North Carolina to get as far away from people as possible. Many others who are staying are without jobs, without businesses they worked for decades to build successfully. Burned. Looted. Vandalized. Everything destroyed.

A hidden problem

"It feels like nobody is speaking out against these crimes. It is a hidden problem," said Sr. Christine. She said the police have done nothing to reduce the incidents of violence against the Asians, and the Asians are terrified to file complaints, fearing that protesters will retaliate and further threaten their lives or that the police will turn against them as immigrants.

"The shouting, screaming, shooting, burning, and looting were terrifying. It felt like I was living through the Communist takeover of Vietnam all over again," said Sr. Christine.

"Communism started in Vietnam with unlawful protests and demolishing monuments and statues. That is what is happening now in the United States. It is horrible, just horrible, to experience this," she said.

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MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Atlanta, *Cont'd from p. 6*

Most of the Asians being targeted are the most vulnerable of the Asian population that GSS serves. They are poor, uneducated, and new to the United States. They cannot speak English well enough to fight back and don't understand the system to seek intervention.

"When Asian people see me in the community they come to me and cry and cry because they are longing to see a non-hostile face," she said.

"All lives are sacred. We are all God's children. As long as we keep hating, this virus will spread. But it won't be the coronavirus. It is worse than that. It will be a virus of hate and violence that we won't be able to stop. We have got to start loving one another," Sr. Christine said.

Sobs of release

Sister Christine constantly checks herself and reflects on her emotions so she can focus clearly on the clients at Good Shepherd Services. "I rarely get angry," she said.

But during a recent Zoom call with Sisters in the Province, she crumbled. She said she had been burying her fear, hurt, confusion and anger over protesters, and in one moment during that call it all flooded over her.

"I have seen too much, heard too much, felt too much hatred against Asians without having an outlet to express my feelings about it. That Zoom call with my Sisters was safe enough for me to reveal my true feelings," she said.

Today 99 percent of the people that Good Shepherd Services assists are having problems. The need far exceeds the capacity of GSS to currently serve the Asian community. We cannot stand up to protesters without the real threat of

losing everything through retaliation. The Asian community we serve in Atlanta has turned upside down," Sr. Christine said.

Light in the darkness

In this dark picture of despair, Sr. Christine sees a glimmer of hope for the future. Sisters from throughout the province have reached out to her since her cathartic release, offering comfort, moral support and prayers.

In addition to their comforting displays of unity, one Asian business woman in another part of the city who has been unaffected by the chaos stepped forward to help GSS. And then another came forward, and recently a third.

Through their kindness a new project has emerged. The project in Vietnamese is called Lá lành đùm lá rách" (Good leaves protect torn leaves). It provides food and clothing to the most vulnerable Asian families affected by the disorder and financial challenges wrought by protesters and COVID. Asians helping Asians is the program's core. Two of the businesses involved are Buddhist.

"We are different religions and speak different Asian languages, but that is not important. Kindness is what matters," Sr. Christine said.

The project began in early July and is expanding rapidly as the three business owners ask others to help. Individuals are also responding, as evidenced by one young man, a client of Good Shepherd Services, who donated \$10 to help the poor. As word passes about the new program, others are beginning to donate to GSS.

"Giving is contagious. People work so hard for their money and still find time to comfort the poor.

"When we do good things for others we feel the benefits immediately. It proves that it is not only bad that happens. There are good people in the world. I can see that," she said.



Volunteer Hong Tran (l) and Sister Christine Truong prepare to deliver fresh vegetables to the Myanmar refugee community in Clarkston City, Georgia.



A new program led by Asian business women is called "Good leaves protect torn leaves." It helps GSS provide food and clothing to Asians in Atlanta who are affected by COVID19 and racial assaults against them. L-R: Martin Khai, Jennifer Ngo, Sr. Christine Truong, Công and Dzung.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Creativity enriches lives of young people

CORA Services is using creative approaches to help young people continue working on their counseling goals during the Coronavirus pandemic. Kara DeVoe, Family Intervention Counselor, believes artistic interventions help youth process emotions on a deeper level.

"I have always had a passion for bringing forms of art, music, and dance into my clinical approach to help clients find their voice through healthy physical outlets," said Kara.

One client, 14-year-old Miguel (in photo), likes to play guitar, which Kara channels into a positive emotional outlet. For example, in one therapeutic session she prompted him to think of various situations and asked him to play a song on the guitar that would produce a particular feeling connected to each circumstance. The two of them then discussed how the song Miguel played represented an emotional release for him.

"The music in therapy activity helped Miguel open up about deeper feelings regarding personal and family issues and described how the activity helped him elevate his mood. Music is what feelings sound like," Kara said.

Career exploration through creativity

CORA also helps middle school students in early career exploration so they may become proactive in preparing for an eventual career. Through facilitated discussions and a career interests survey, staff help students critically evaluate how their interests, values and skills may connect to a career. They also equip students with profiles on selected careers and a roadmap to develop their own personalized career path that links their interests, aspirations, skills and education. The youth enjoy hands-on work experiences at self-guided physical and virtual workstations.

One 8th grade student participated in a writing activity that resulted in a moving short story that reflects her personal feelings and experiences.

CORA Services is rooted in the tradition of care and compassion. Its mission is to assist children, youth and families who are experiencing emotional, academic and social challenges. Learn more at <https://www.coraservices.org>



Kitty and Sister Mary Carol McClenon visit at the convent in Danville, Pennsylvania, while maintaining proper social distance.

Compassion in Catville

Her name is Kitty, or I should say "was" -- she breathed her last on Friday. This photo was from Wednesday. She was 19 years old. Kitty is one of Sister Irene Marie's domesticated barn cats on the convent property. There is also a feral colony here, and Irene feeds them as well as her barn cats, some of whom are indoor/outdoor and a few of whom are indoor only. There are now seven barn cats, but this number is a big secret, known only to the initiates. I do what we call Quadruped Therapy nearly every day. Yesterday one of the older Sisters saw me in the dining room in jeans and sweatshirt. I had just come back from a hike in the park, but she assumed, not illogically: "I know where you've been. You were in Catville!" They know me well.

Written by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

MINISTRY NEWS

ZEAL

MESS
FEST

Summer campers at CORA Services are having a blast at YouthCOR's Mess Fest. Kids from kindergarten through 5th grade are surrounded with science experiments, art activities and good old fashioned fun. The camp runs through August 14.

GSV makes masks

Good Shepherd Volunteers (GSV) are making specially designed face masks to protect against COVID19. Volunteer Madi Thomas designed the masks when she became inspired by the idea that "we're like sheep in a flock and, that by wearing a mask, we are able to protect our flock." Also, she said wearing a mask is an act of "just love," which is the GSV motto. Proceeds from the sale of the masks benefit GSV. 117 have sold so far. Buy yours at <https://bit.ly/2OVl6zu>



MINISTRY NEWS

ZEAL

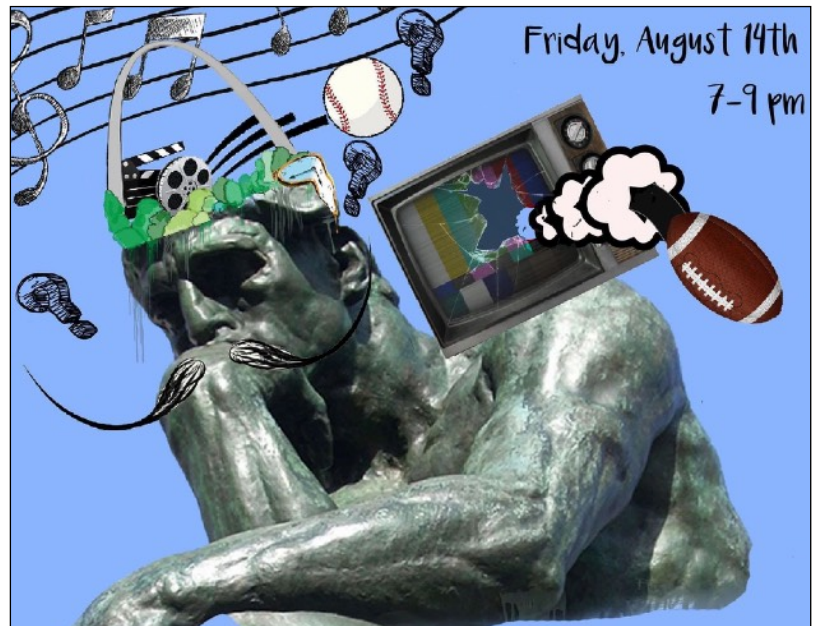

Left: Congratulations to Vista Maria's class of 2020. The 10 graduates from Clara B. Ford Academy are stepping out, ready to make their mark in the world.



Right: Vista Maria received a \$25,000 check in July from Northville High School's Indian American Student Association. Youth in the high school association donated money they raised from their annual Desi Tashan dance competition. The generosity of these remarkable young people will impact and transform lives of Detroit's vulnerable youth for many years to come. Desi Tashan has donated more than \$85,000 to Vista Maria over the past six years. The goal of Northville High School's Indian American Student Association is to preserve and cherish Indian culture and beliefs. They do this through dances, fundraisers and community engagement. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2WRoqQu>



Good Shepherd Mediation Program (GSMP) held a webinar on July 28 to help people understand how conflict and harm affect older adults and how to handle the situations when they occur. Just as everything else in our lives has been shifting and changing these last few months, the way we understand and enact justice is different too, says GSMP. Restorative Justice is a way of dealing with conflict and harm that puts the power back in the hands of the people who are most affected.



Don't miss it! Artful Trivia Night. Friday, August 14, 7-9 pm (CST) The venue is virtual (Zoom); the fun will be real. Proceeds benefit Good Shepherd Arts Center. Tickets purchased for the March 14 Trivia Night will be honored. Register now <https://bit.ly/2Ehvj7c>

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Online art exhibits

The Great Pause

Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) held an online art exhibit of creative works born of confinement during the initial stages of sheltering in place with the coronavirus pandemic. The director of GSAC Sr. Glynis McManamon said, "There has been a lot of creative activity during this odd time of suspended animation with COVID-19." The online show exhibited in June.



Rufus Ferguson "Big Blue Nose or The existential pain of the consciousness of death." Mixed media on window



Sarah Syrup "Quarantine." Acrylic on canvas

Creative Response: the Art of First Responders

GSAC offered another virtual exhibit in July, featuring artwork by Ferguson Police Officer Darrell Dunn and the late Lt. John J. McManamon, Cleveland Fire Department. "We see them every day – in fire trucks, patrol cars, ambulances, on the news. It's easy to see the uniform, but sometimes a challenge to see the whole person who wears it. We share the creative output of two first responders to give a glimpse into a richness that deserves

Continued on next page



Darrell Dunn "A Night of Jazz."



Lt. John J. McManamon
"Cleveland Fire Dept." Design
for Silkscreen



Lt. John J. McManamon
"Cream Pitcher." Watercolor
on newsprint



Darrell Dunn "Queen B."

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Arts, *Cont'd from p. 11*

attention,” said Sr. Glynis.

Officer Dunn is a serious artist with a prodigious output. His paintings are alive with color and emotion. The late Lt. McManamon cartooned, sketched and painted his whole life. Here he gets a long deserved viewing of his work,” Sr. Glynis said.

Lt. McManamon is the late father of Sr. Glynis McManamon. Funds he



Sister Glynis McManamon has had a presence in Ferguson as Director of Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) since 2015, when Sisters of the Good Shepherd opened the center to be a presence of peace in a troubled city following the police shooting of Michael Brown. Here she works on her painting "Bless the Universe" for a community art project called Painting for Peace. The mission of GSAC is to exhibit art and offer experiences that affirm human dignity, uplift hearts and link creativity with spirituality.

left to her helped start and maintain the arts center, combined with the support of Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Mid-North America and the New York/Toronto Province.

A virtual Artist Talk and Reception with Officer Dunn took place on Zoom Saturday, July 25, from 2-4 p.m. You can stroll through the virtual gallery to visit the exhibit at <https://bit.ly/3jAmRjH>

Good Shepherd Arts Center has had its doors closed to the public since sheltering in place began with the Coronavirus pandemic early this year. It will not reopen in Ferguson as a public arts center and gallery space. Instead, GSAC will continue as an online gallery with a shift in programming. Items of Interest will report more about the future of the arts center in the September-October issue.

Items of Interest deadlines

- September 21 (September-October issue)
- November 18 (November-December issue)

Instructions

- Keep articles to 500 words or less
- supply captions for all photographs
- Send contributions by deadline to jmcdermott@gspmna.org

Maryhurst CEO retires



Longtime Chief Executive Officer of Maryhurst Judy Lambeth retired on June 26, after more than four decades of service to the agency and Good Shepherd. Maryhurst celebrated Judy and her leadership during a week-long tribute on its Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/MaryhurstInc> Read her Q&A beginning on the next page.



Judy in the early years at Maryhurst.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL

Q&A

Judy Lambeth retired from Maryhurst on June 26, 2020, after 46 years of service to the agency and Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Judy took time from summer vacation to summarize her life's work at Maryhurst.

How did you come to work at Maryhurst?

I began working at Maryhurst in September 1974 as a clinical intern when I was 24 years old. I am originally from Atlanta and left home to get a bachelor's degree in psychology from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. From there I went to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, for religious education in social work and obtained a Master of Religious Education degree. I then attended the University of Louisville's Kent School of Social Work and graduated in 1980 with a Master of Social Work degree.

What attracted you as a young woman early on to the field of social work?

I had worked in the inner city of Indianapolis after college from 1972-74 and knew I was called to do faith-based social work helping people.

What was it about Maryhurst that enticed you?

When I was in Indianapolis I started a girls club; I loved working with teenage girls who were challenging. It was the Mission of Maryhurst and the values of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd that kept me at Maryhurst for 46 years. I never had any doubts about

working at Maryhurst and loved every minute of it.

What were your work assignments at Maryhurst?

After working at Maryhurst as an intern for 10 months I was hired on as a therapist. I worked as a therapist for about 11 years and then in 1986 became Associate Executive Director. In January 1990 I became CEO of Maryhurst and remained in that position until I retired on June 26.

How did working at Maryhurst match your vocations call?

My vocation is a faith vocation. Maryhurst was a perfect fit because of the values of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. When I initially started at Maryhurst, I had no idea I would stay for 46 years. After my internship, the needs of Maryhurst dovetailed with my calling and skills. The fit was an answer to my Call.

What was your most memorable experience at Maryhurst or Good Shepherd?

Being a part of and watching our girls in the residential programs overcome adversities! And going to to the Motherhouse in Angers.

You often spoke of the great gift of community at Maryhurst when speaking of your colleagues. What did you mean by this?

It's how our co-workers rally around the core values and the mission of Maryhurst and Good Shepherd. Our team wants to make a difference. The mission and core values bond us; we are focused on



Judy Lambeth

the same thing. This gives us the courage to persevere through whatever it takes – the good times and the bad times.

Was there any particular defining moment at Maryhurst that characterized your life's purpose?

No, not one defining moment. It was a lifetime, a career time of defining moments.

As CEO, how did you raise awareness about Maryhurst and educate the community about girls/youth in need?

This was my focus as CEO. Maryhurst is well known in Louisville and known in the state for taking the most traumatized girls in Kentucky. We have expanded to serve more than 350

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Q&A *Con't from p 13*

children (boys and girls) and families through community-based services. I had the privilege to serve in state leadership for child welfare. I was on state government committees and in leadership for our state's Children's Alliance. These opportunities helped me influence state policies for child welfare and influence services for children across our state.

What gifts were you able to bring to Maryhurst?

Leadership, perseverance, courage to overcome the challenges, and struggles – the operational, financial challenges of the agency as well as continuing to rise to address the ever increasing challenges of the children in order to serve those with the greatest needs.

You have touched many lives in a way that seems to have fulfilled your life's purpose. How would you sum up your many years at Maryhurst?

Theologian F. Buechner said (paraphrased) that God's will for our life is where our deepest joy and the world's great need intersect. That for me is what Maryhurst has been, and is, for my life.

The Senate of the General Assembly of Kentucky honored you upon retirement from Maryhurst and thanked you for your service on behalf of Kentucky's children and families. How did this make you feel?

To be recognized by state legislators whom I have worked with for years

advocating for children was a great, great honor.

How would you define your relationship with Sisters of the Good Shepherd?

I have loved every minute working for and with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. There are many relationships with Sisters that will remain very, very special to me.

You initiated a campaign to erect an historic marker for Good Shepherd in Louisville, near the site of the original Maryhurst building. What motivated you to do this?

It was 2018, Maryhurst's 175th anniversary for serving in Louisville.

What legacy do you hope to have left at Maryhurst? What will you miss most?

Leading in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd is the legacy I hope I left behind. What I will miss most about Maryhurst are the people I worked with and seeing the difference we make in the lives of children and families.

What else would you like to say about your experience at Maryhurst?

I have loved being a part of making a difference in the lives of children and adolescents who need hope and healing from the trauma that they have experienced from abuse. I have had the great gift and opportunity to help change the trajectory of the most marginalized children in the state.

Is there anything Saint Mary Euphrasia said in her lifetime that inspires you today?

"You have a sacred, precious jewel confided to you. It is our holy institute you carry in your arms, in your person. Show it to the world, to everyone, in all its beauty. Our institute was founded through love. We have all been drawn to it through love. It is love which keeps us here."

What plans do you have now that you are retired?

I will continue to do work with some of our donors at Maryhurst and will volunteer in any capacity where they need me. I plan to travel and spend more time with family. I will be volunteering at my church. Many members of the Good Shepherd family have become my family and friends and we are in touch on an ongoing basis.

Who will succeed you as CEO of Maryhurst?

Paula Garner has a deep devotion to the values and mission and her many talents and skills for leadership made her the best candidate to succeed me as CEO.

The mission of Maryhurst is to serve children and families in Kentucky who have the greatest needs for hope and healing. Maryhurst is a multi-service continuum of care. The agency provides residential treatment for adolescent girls who have experienced the most significant childhood trauma, most from abuse and neglect. Maryhurst's community services provide therapeutic care to children, adults, and families through counseling and support services to keep or return children safely to their homes.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL

Road to Justice series

Racism no more

By Larry Couch, Director of National Advocacy Center

This is the second story in an occasional series of articles focusing on social justice issues that the National Advocacy Center addresses as part of its ongoing mission.

How can we confront racial injustice? We intentionally do what we can – individually, as community and as the National Advocacy Center. With all the discussion on racism, I have to ask what can I contribute to the discussion?

Not that free of racism

At best, I can relate my story as an 80-year old white man in America. The first memory that comes to mind was when I was working for the Office of Economic Opportunity in Chicago. A colleague, Bennett Stewart, the son of an alderman by the same name, was active in the Black Power movement. In a conversation with him, he said in an exasperated tone, “Larry, if everyone was like you we wouldn’t have a problem.”

It’s a remark I have always cherished. Unfortunately it’s not entirely true. I am not that free of racism. Even if I were, hundreds of years of racism has left its mark on our society and our world.

Addressing institutional racism

What I have learned recently is the importance of addressing institutional racism intentionally. I have come to realize the importance of consciously seeking diversity in my place of work and in the organizations with which I am affiliated.

Before I would have shied away from such an approach, as it would have seemed artificial and manipulative. It’s as though people of color have no inherent value in

themselves but is simply a way of announcing, “Now we have diversity. We have satisfied all legal responsibilities.”

Today, I have a greater awareness of the need to free ourselves of personal racism and institutional racism. We have need of both. If I am a racist and staff my office with people of color, in the long run it is not going to work. I may have met legal requirements, but I am still not able to relate to people on an equal basis.

On the other hand, if somehow I was totally free of racism but ignorant of institutional racism then I am only contributing to the problem.

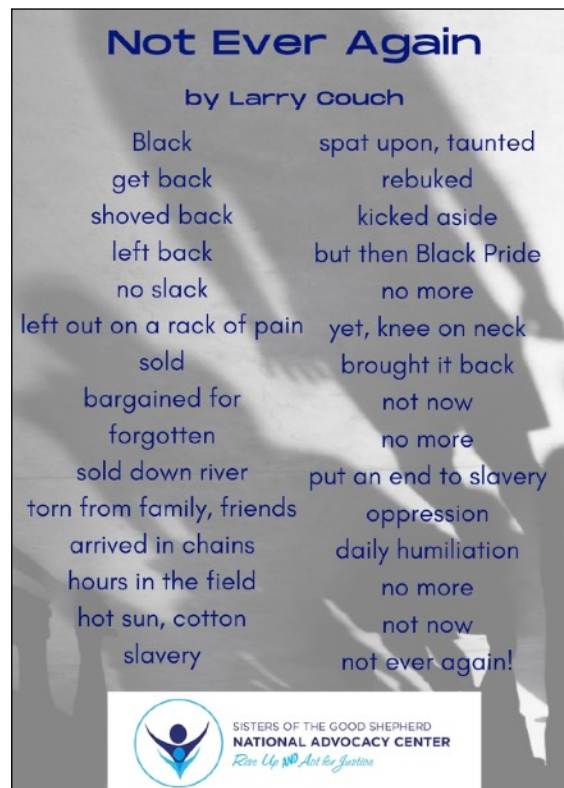
So where do I go from here? Certainly as an advocate, I will continue to advocate for social and economic justice for all people. I will continue to seek diversity in situations where I have influence. Personally I will continue to enjoy the company and friendship of people of color.

NAC Actions

At the National Advocacy Center, we are intentionally seeking to diversify our board of advisors. We continue to strengthen our good relationships with other advocacy groups of color. And we seek out issues and legislation that will lighten or loosen the chains of injustice.

Please help us by joining the NAC action alert network and responding to our alerts. If you wish to join our network, please send me an email to let me know at NacDirector@gsadvocacy.org

You can read the first article in the Road to Justice series, which addresses President Trump’s anti-immigrant policies, on the PMNA website at <https://bit.ly/39j6fbu>



Larry Couch wrote this poem while reflecting on racism when writing this article.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Bees, *Cont'd from p. 1*

In late spring and early summer, as a bee colony becomes overcrowded, a third of the hive stays behind and rears a new queen, while a swarm of thousands departs with the old queen to produce a daughter colony. How symbolic is that of the way Saint Mary Euphrasia spread the houses and ministries of Good Shepherd throughout the world? Here's how she borrowed from the bees to impart messages to novices, and how those same words apply to us today in our lives and as Good Shepherd Mission Partners.

Beehives are the symbol of order and union in a community

"My dear daughters, when I look at you, all so busy and eager at your different tasks, when I think of your zeal, your obedience and the beautiful unity reigning among you, the Mother House seems to me like a beehive where you emulate each other at work and which by your solicitude will, one day, I hope become a large, secure establishment in which future generations will take refuge, using what you will have prepared, being nourished on the fruit of your labors and carrying on the work traced by your example."

Anyone who has ever observed bees has watched them go out into the world in search of prime forage sites to gather pollen to carry back to the hive, where they work strategically to produce the sweet honey of life that will feed the community and keep it alive. Bees teach us that we can go further and accomplish great abundance when we work together. Could we take lessons from the bees on how to tend our community, our family, and the world around us? Could we learn to transform the world we encounter into sweetness to share?



Photo: Jeanette McDermott

Saint Mary Euphrasia sometimes borrowed from nature to enliven her talks to Novices. She especially liked analogies to sunflowers and bees.

Bees seem unable to survive without working or obeying

"Bees have the instinct to share the work among themselves, helping each other in a wonderful orderliness and without confusion. Each bee has its purpose and is engaged for the general good, keeping nothing for herself."

Bees model activity and show us how to give back to the world after taking from it. They remind us to redirect our thoughts back to simple ideas. Am I compassionate, and living in harmony with others? Am I contributing to a dynamic and peaceful community?

After all of my hard work, am I making time to enjoy the rewards (the nectar) of my efforts? The structure of bee hives can lead us to think about how we operate within our own homes and work

environments. How do we organize for purpose? How do we gain fulfillment?

Does anyone lack courage or energy?

"Do you know what the older bees do to test the young ones who will soon have wings? To make sure that they will be strong and capable of helping, they enclose them in their cells where they were born and leave them. Those who lack courage or energy, stay there and die. But the others, stronger, work so hard with heads and little feet that they succeed in breaking open the waxen cover and emerging. Then the older ones surround them, teach them how to fly and collect nectar. When the test is passed successfully, the hive keeps a feast."

Continued on next page

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Bees, *Cont'd from p. 16*

"When the time comes for bees to emigrate, the ones destined for the new colony take care to prepare provisions, go over it carefully, clean it and begin working eagerly, observing the same foresight, the same diligence, the same activity, keeping the same rules, the same laws of the hive from which they came and where they were reared."

Think about this in terms of our holidays, especially Thanksgiving, when multiple generations often travel far distances to gather and retell stories, weaving connections between past and present. Children absorb these tales and they become part of their identity. Communities, families and friendships are strengthened by tradition as part of their ongoing legacies. How can we strive for unity? How can we reach out to others and strengthen our bonds with one another?

The Lord showed me numerous swarms

"While in prayer, the Lord showed me numerous swarms leaving this Mother House, and already colonies of new bees await the signal to leave. This going forth will mark the beginning of a sacrificial road. While waiting, pray; and until you are told the destination to which obedience will lead you, lay up stores for the journey; draw plenty of honey from prayer, be faithful to the advice given you, learn the rules and observances of the Mother House, which you must cherish like your homeland, and you should observe its teachings all your lives."

One of the strengths of honeybees is that they share the same goal: enriching the colony. The waggle dance is a special figure-eight ritual



Bees put the hive first. Always. Their colonies are perfectly organized social structures. Each individual bee carries out a different task, and all tasks are synchronized with one another. Humans have created the illusion of individualism. Although the clothes we wear and food we eat come from others, we act as though we are self-sufficient. Bees remind us otherwise.

they perform in the hive to tell the other bees where it has found nectar and to get them to help collect resources for the hive. The waggle dance gives other bees information about the direction and distance to flowers that have nectar or pollen, or both. The dance also tells them where they can find water. This combined knowledge and brain power helps the bees find high quality food sources and, when swarming, suitable living quarters.

People, like bees, are nurtured when we help make decisions in matters of shared interest. The more we fashion our own democracies after the honeybees, the less resistance we will encounter and better off we'll all be. When people are treated as equals, we are more likely to take a broad and deep look at our options and work together for the common good.

Love endures to the end (I Corinthians 13:7)

"My dear daughters, we are living in the finest days of the Institute!

You must keep intact its spirit by your fidelity and renew its youth continually, working for the greater perfection of the Mother House, which is, as it were, the origin of new hives."

Any beekeeper will tell you, honeybees are not hostile. They love one another, in their own primal insect way. If you're calm, they're calm too. They pick up on that and trust. Sometimes, when checking a hive, a beekeeper can accidentally poke a hole in the honeycomb. Instantly, a bee comes to repair the comb. There's something beautiful about this gesture, how quick they are to notice damage and fix it.

"Every creature is the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. It truly is love that moves the sun to shine on all. We must love all that God loves and respect their place in life."

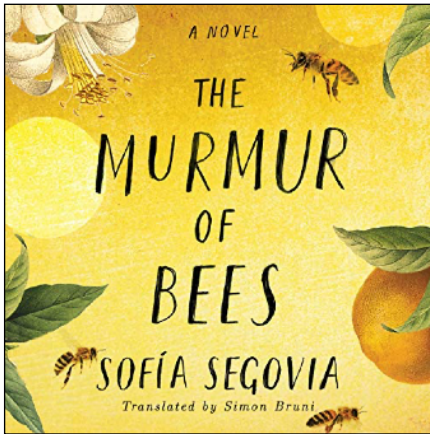
~ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*

Written by Jeanette McDermott

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



The Murmur of Bees

The astonishing novel *The Murmur of Bees* is from a beguiling voice in Mexican fiction - her first to be translated into English. It is about a mysterious child with the power to change a family's history in a country on the verge of revolution.

The much-loved work by Sofía Segovia is in sync with Saint Mary Euphrasia's observation of bees and the furtive dance of the pollinators we have enjoyed witnessing all summer. It also parallels a time in history that is similar to what we are facing in the era of the Coronavirus pandemic. For these

reasons, it seems a good book to recommend. Here's how the story goes:

From the day that old Nana Reja found a baby abandoned under a bridge, the life of a small Mexican town forever changed.

Disfigured and covered in a blanket of bees, little Simonopio is for some locals the stuff of superstition, a child kissed by the devil. But he is welcomed by landowners Francisco and Beatriz Morales, who adopt him and care for him as if he were their own.

As he grows up, Simonopio becomes a cause for wonder to the Morales family, because when the uncannily gifted child closes his eyes, he can see what no one else can--visions of all that's yet to come, both beautiful and dangerous.

Followed by his protective swarm of bees and living to deliver his adoptive family from threats--both human and those of nature--Simonopio's purpose in Linares will, in time, be divined.

Set against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution and the devastating influenza of 1918, *The Murmur of Bees* captures both the fate of a country in flux and the destiny of one family that has put their love, faith, and future in the unbelievable.

Become a Laudato Si' Animator

Laudato Si' Animators are champions for change. Through a free six-week online training program, animators learn about the core teachings of *Laudato Si* and the root causes and consequences of climate change. Most importantly, animators learn how to lead locally and take action. The training course runs from July 29 - September 2. It's not too late to enroll. Learn more at <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/animators/>

Join the monthly Laudato Si Prayer Services

Starting in August, the Global Catholic Climate Movement will come together for monthly prayer services to prepare for the Season of Creation, the time for prayer and action for our common home. The services will feature stories and perspectives from one region each month, helping us connect to realities on the ground. The online series begins on Friday, August 7 and continues on each first Friday of August. Register here <https://bit.ly/2CDJLpU>

Trees

Outside my bedroom window I see the trees that have been here a long time. I have prayed with them through the seasons. I have watched the dying of leaves, the falling off and covering the ground of dead leaves. I've paid attention to the lessons of the bare and brown. This Spring I watched the gradual coming to life of new leaves and noticed the many bare branches, with no apparent life. However, I have seen a bird sitting on the thinnest and most dead of all the limbs of the tree. She sings her little heart out ... she sings not caring who hears. This morning the music was so loud and lasted for a long time and then to my wonder she flew down to our feeder and her song continued. I know that down deep the roots of the trees spread and connect. They talk to each other, not with our words but with their own language. They are interconnected ... and it is an image for Good Shepherd around the globe.

Virginia Gordon, RGS



CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Dorothy Renckens, RGS

July 14, 1932 – June 23, 2020

Dorothy Anne was the third of four children born to John and Laura Renckens. According to Sister Dorothy, her mother seemed proud to tell the story that she was born on the 14th of July when it was hotter than 100 degrees in the shade, and she weighed in at over ten pounds — more than the combined weight of the Dionne quintuplets, who were quite a phenomenon at the time, and off to a good start in life.

As a child there were six other girls around the same age who often played together. One of them returned from a trip to Chicago with her uncle with six little red sheep pins. The girls formed a club and named it the Society of Sheep, S.O.S. club. This began a very early association with sheep in Dorothy's life.

Sister Dorothy came from a close-knit and loving family. She had many nieces and nephews who were very involved with their aunt over the years. She stayed involved in their lives and prayed them through their joys and sorrows.

Finding Good Shepherd

Dorothy first heard of the Good Shepherd Sisters when she was in the 8th grade and read an article in the Catholic Paper about the order and its work with young people. She knew counseling was her calling because it so happened that she was trying to help two classmates from getting into trouble.

Dorothy wrote for information and learned she had to be at least 16 to join the order. Eventually that day came. Her mother knew someone who had entered the Sisters of the



Dorothy Renckens, RGS

Good Shepherd and arranged for Dorothy to visit the Sisters.

Disappointment and setbacks

The visit proved disappointing because the Provincial told Dorothy that it would be best for her to wait and finish high school first. She was to graduate in June, so she made plans to enter on June 21st. God, however, had other plans. A month before her departure date a doctor diagnosed Dorothy with rheumatic fever and ordered her to bed rest.

The pastor of her parish would bring her Holy Communion each week and give her guidance and support. One day, when she was particularly discontent with her situation, he asked her, "Do you want to save souls your way or God's way?" She learned the lesson and often recalled this moment many times throughout her life.

The Good Shepherd Sisters were very kind and understanding. They kept Dorothy in their prayers. Finally, one year later, she had improved enough for the doctor to release her from his care. She entered the congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd on the eve of the Feast of the Divine Heart and enjoyed many very healthy years.

Apostolic Life

The setbacks and challenges in Dorothy's early life were a great preparation for the many challenges to come in her apostolic life. Her genuine love and compassion for others enabled her to use her many talents in the service of God's sheep throughout the years with young women, the Sisters and her lay partners in ministry.

Sister Dorothy had been missioned to St. Paul, Omaha, St. Louis, Denver, Hawaii, and Chicago. Her natural abilities in child care and social work benefited Good Shepherd residential treatment centers for teenagers, step-down programs for women in recovery, a program for single pregnant women, and her years in convent leadership and formation roles.

Sister Dorothy was always noted for her gentleness and kindness while encouraging each person to develop their full potential. Her powerful life of prayer and her gift of ministry of the pen helped her maintain many meaningful and loving relationships.

We are grateful for Sisters' extended family, the staff with whom she

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sister Dorothy, *Cont'd from p. 19*

ministered, the many faithful volunteers and benefactors who assisted with our programs and all who love and cared for her. We can be sure of her intercessory prayer with our loving Shepherd. May she rest in eternal peace.

Submitted by Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

Lizzie Cody remembers Sister Dorothy

When I was around 6 months pregnant with Joshua in 2011, Mission Effectiveness went to House of the Good Shepherd in Chicago where Sr. Dorothy was Executive Director. She gave me my very first baby shower gift, which was a light blue stuffed elephant holding a white and blue polka dot blanket. This blanket became my son Joshua's "Blankey." He is now 8 years old and still won't go to bed without her (he calls Blankey "her.") I will always, always remember Sr. Dorothy for that thoughtful gift and the important role she played in Joshua's life.



Joshua Tschida with the blanket Sr. Dorothy Renckens gave to his mother Lizzie Cody as a baby shower gift before he was born.

Mystery Photo

It has been a good long while since we included a Mystery Photo in *Items of Interest*. Mostly because the Editor hasn't had access to the province archives or archivist since we all began sheltering in place after the Coronavirus pandemic swept the world and took us all by surprise this past winter. This issue is an appropriate time to include one since mystery seems to be the continual order of the day during COVID-19, and because I discovered this gem hiding on my hard drive.

Who is this Sister with the young dog on her lap? Where was this photo taken, and when? The archives don't say, and we would like to know.

Bonus points if you can name the pup.

Are you in possession of vintage photos that you would like to see featured in *Items of Interest*? Send your pix to Jeanette McDermott at jmcdermott@gspmna.org.



SOCIAL JUSTICE



ZEAL



Pandemic's affect on sexual exploitation of children

Sister Winifred Doherty, the United Nations (UN) representative for Sisters of the Good Shepherd, moderated an online forum in July that addressed growing concerns of online sexual exploitation of children during COVID-19.

Known in U.N. circles for her passionate advocacy for women and children, Sr. Winifred said the work of ending sexual exploitation of children has to be seen in the wider context of ending exploitation of any kind for economic gain.

The event highlighted local progress as well as an opportunity for advocates to address concerns and offer potential courses of action to protect children and stop exploitation.

Catholic Sisters and other advocates for children are worried that the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdowns may be

contributing to an uptick in the sexual exploitation of children online and in social media.

A perfect storm

Lockdowns create a perfect storm for the increase in online sexual abuse of children. Quarantined child sex offenders are spending more time online, and vulnerable children are confined at home, often with their traffickers.

The forum was part of the United Nations' yearly evaluation of progress in achieving the world body's 17 sustainable development goals, which aim to reduce poverty and eliminate other social ills.

You can read more about the July event at Global Sisters Report (GSR) <https://bit.ly/2WZvfzt>

In a related story at GSR, Sisters say they rely on each other and God amid the dark realities of their social



Winifred Doherty, RGS

justice ministries. Read more at <https://bit.ly/3oVg5MQ>

New documentary about trafficking features Good Shepherd Sister

A new documentary film uses the power of storytelling to illustrate the horrors of human trafficking. Set in the Middle East and focusing on the experiences of young

women of different nationalities and religions in the region, the 30-minute video "Wells of Hope" raises awareness about human trafficking in the region.

Aurora Vision produced the film in its ongoing pursuit of specializing in films about humanitarian issues. Talitha Kum, the global anti-trafficking network of religious under the aegis of Union of Superiors General (UISG), commissioned the film.

Lebanon-based Sister Marie Claude Naddaf is the regional coordinator of the Wells of Hope Network in the Middle East. She is featured in the film. Sister Marie is a Good Shepherd Sister from Syria and longtime activist. After becoming mother superior at the Good Shepherd Convent in Damascus in 1994, she established a number of programs in Syria to fight trafficking, homelessness and prostitution. The U.S. Department of State honored her with an International Women of Courage Award in 2010. Learn more about the documentary and the organizations that worked on it at <https://bit.ly/3o3de5y>



Marie Claude Naddaf, RGS, is featured in the new Wells of Hope documentary.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Making dreams come true

Bobo-Dioulasso is Burkina Faso's second-largest city and economic and commercial capital. It thrives with small businesses that drive the country's economy. This is where three Good Shepherd Sisters established a new mission in 2011, choosing to locate in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods. Not long after settling in, local women began knocking on the Sisters' door asking them for food.

Many of the women were illiterate and trapped within traditional roles of marriage. They struggled to find employment. Some were widows or had been abandoned by their husbands. Muslim women seeking help were often part of a concubinage that the husband struggled to support. Troubled and challenged by the extreme poverty they witnessed, the Sisters began exploring with the women ways they could climb out of poverty to become self-reliant.

A microcredit financing program involving eight women emerged from these conversations. Today, now in its 9th year, 50 women are receiving loans through the program. They are developing skills, generating income and setting

"Thanks to the microcredit program, my nightmares are over. I've been able to make some of my dreams come true."

future aspirations. Empowered by the program, the women are able to provide for their families and send their children to school. Most of the businesses include selling fruit, vegetables, cereals, dry wood, charcoal, clothes, shoes, craftwork, sandwiches, and cakes. Some have a restaurant or dressmaker's shop and employ other women.

One of the women in the program said, "I didn't go to school, what could I do? This was the question I always asked myself. But thanks to the microcredit program, my nightmares are over. I've been able to make some of my dreams come true. It has enabled me to develop my business venture. I'm no longer an employee but a manager of my own small business."

The Good Shepherd program reaches beyond economic empowerment of women. It also incorporates political and socio-cultural empowerment strategies that involve



Good Shepherd Sisters in Burkina Faso have changed the lives of more than 50 women through a microcredit program they began in 2011. These are some of the women they have helped.

lawyers, psychologists and health and medical professionals in providing education and training workshops. In this way, the women are able to discuss and tackle some of society's taboos, such as forced and early marriage, abortion, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and HIV and AIDS.

Caring for themselves and their families

They are further educated in ways that help them better care for and look after themselves and their families through workshops on human rights, family law, conflict management, health, and hygiene.

Women engaged in the program gain self confidence and a more holistic view on life. They are dismantling gender inequality in Burkina Faso and driving its economy forward.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd is an international congregation working in 72 countries, among which 14 are found in Africa, including Burkina Faso. People can help support the microcredit program through the nonprofit Good Shepherd International Foundation to help offset hardships caused by the COVID19 pandemic. For more information see the COVID19 Emergency Response at <http://gsif.it>

Story condensed from an article that was published in the Good Shepherd Congregational newsletter in July 2020. You can read the full article at <https://bit.ly/2OTkLgC>

COVID-19

ZEAL

Orientations of the heart

snippets of reflection during COVID19

There is a way to look at the coronavirus pandemic that goes beyond fear and panic, blame and violence. It is a more loving way, a spiritually wise way to see COVID-19 as a form of God's intervention.

The pandemic has given us more time for ritual and prayer, more time to discern what enriches our lives and what we can release. People are gardening — putting their hands in the dirt (from whence we came, says the book of Genesis) and investing in life.

Some people are pulling away from the news to avoid or limit their time with it. Others are coming to the news to turn toward the pain of the world and bear witness to suffering.

What spiritual response does the pandemic elicit in you as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to dominate our worldview? How are you showing compassion? How are you accepting change?

Carmelita Medenilla, RGS

"We are like in a cloister, no going out and no visitors. Thank God for the silence and the time for more prayers and reflection." Sister Carmelita sent this note to Sister Rose Henry Kern in an email thanking Sr. Rose for the *Guidepost* publication she sent to her. Sisters Carmelita and Rose Henry lived together as missionaries in Ethiopiain the 1990s. Sister

Carmelita currently lives in the Philippines and Sister Rose Henry lives in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

Rose Henry Kern, RGS

"Vista Maria is very restricted to who is permitted on campus. All are limited as to where we may go. It takes all of us working together to keep Vista Maria open and financially sound. The staff and residents are making it work, day by day. We rely on God. He is in charge. He knows. We are His followers. He works through us. Doing wonders, changing lives, being His heirs. Praise God!

Christine Truong, RGS

"We are all covered with the masks, but I see bright eyes smiling and laughing above those masks."

Eric Anderson, Benefactor

"I have no fear of COVID. Jesus wants us to live a life of courage and hope. He wants us to stand tall and face the world with faith and confidence. Satan wants us to live in fear and obsess." Eric is a Georgia farmer and benefactor of Good Shepherd Services Atlanta

Maureen Kunz, RGS

"I was impressed by the way the police chief in Seattle took leadership in restoring decency to the city during protest riots in June. Chief Carmen Best demonstrated shepherd in the Seattle community. It's important for us as Good

Shepherd people to name reconciliation and shepherding and affirm it in places where we see it happening." Sister Maureen sent a letter to Police Chief Best to thank her for the positive way she handled an explosive situation.

Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

"Nothing is ever an obstacle. It's an opportunity for creativity."

Saint Mary Euphrasia

"You must live by love. Fear is not made for you. The Good Shepherd does not want this kind of service."

Marguerite Bartling, RGS

"We keep washing our hands and wearing our masks. Because of this, Gracenter and the San Francisco Community have made the raccoon our official mascot."



LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

Name	Dates	Location
Leadership Team	No travel	COVID-19 sheltering in place



Season of Creation 2020

1 September - 4 October

@catholicbishops

The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi). The season has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established September 1 as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is a time to slow down to repair and restore our relationships with one another and with all of creation. It is a time to celebrate the joy of creation and raise awareness about the environment to remind ourselves and encourage others to protect our common home.

The following resources are available for use during the Season of Creation 2020:

- from the *Laudato Si* Working Group <https://bit.ly/2BhVNEy>
- from the Vatican <https://bit.ly/3ho2AMg>

The idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology ... is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry at every limit. ~ Laudato Si

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



*"Do not listen to or say anything that can harm the reputation of others.
Condemn no one. Defend the absent."*

Saint Mary Euphrasia

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

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@GoodShepherdRGS (twitter)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

