

ITEMS



History of Vista Maria

The Detroit Catholic online newspaper features the 139-year history of Vista Maria.

Page 8

RIP Sr. Dorothy Vogel

We celebrate contemplative Sister Dorothy Vogel's life and her love of creation.

Page 11

Youth Climate Strike

Good Shepherd Sisters join Portland youth in their demand for solutions to climate change.

Page 16

Stay close in prayer

Please stay very close to Sri Lanka in prayer and solidarity during this time of social unrest.

Page 17



Good Shepherd Services Atlanta

IN PRAISE OF SUMMER

Outdoor summer camps, gardening projects, river boat rides, and ice cream socials are just a few of the favorite things that have created summertime fun for the Good Shepherd family. This is the season of relaxation, recharging, and enjoying much-needed time together.

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Green Corner

September 1 marks the annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the [Season of Creation](#). The ecumenical phase ends on October 4 with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year's Season of Creation logo features a burning bush, in reference to Exodus 3:1–12. Through the image and the theme "Listen to the voice of creation," Pope Francis is asking us to cooperate with the earth. He said, "If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of

Continued on p. 15

SUMMERTIME FUN



ZEAL

Summer, *Cont'd from p. 1*

Inch by inch, row by row, GSS Atlanta grows a garden club

Sister Christine Truong has begun a garden club with volunteers at Good Shepherd Services (GSS) Atlanta. The club is growing organic tropical vegetables and sharing recipes with women in Mary Our Queen parish.

Along with youth volunteers, members of the Knights of Columbus, and parishioners from Mary Our Queen parish garden club members. They tackle chores that every gardener must consider,

including designing garden beds, researching and collecting seeds, enhancing the soil, planting seeds, nurturing the plants as they grow, weeding, harvesting crops, and preparing garden beds for winter.

During the two-week GSS summer camp in June, young campers joined in the gardening efforts and helped manage garden beds and tackle gardening chores.

Two volunteers from Mary Our Queen parish, Nancy O'Reilly and Jackie Alf, oversee the garden club.

As seasoned volunteers with GSS Atlanta, mostly through Vacation Bible School and faith formation, they also take on vital roles to assist GSS in other areas, such as coordinating and planning the summer camp and assuming leadership roles at camp.

Enjoying summer fun at summer camp with Good Shepherd Services Atlanta



Good Shepherd Services Atlanta wrapped up a two-week summer camp in June that engaged young people in a full range of outdoor and indoor activities. In the first week of camp, campers played games that allowed them to get to know one another and build new friendships. This included sitting in pairs to converse and share stories and dreams. It wasn't long before the campers were having

Continued on next page

SUMMERTIME FUN



ZEAL

Summer, *Cont'd from p. 2*

fun making clay pinch pots together, learning how to eat healthy, and stretching in yoga classes.

Week two of summer camp kept the campers busy and happy with arts and crafts, learning about animals, and reflecting on gratitude. They wrote 50 thank you phrases in 5 minutes, most of which expressed gratitude for family, home, God, food, friends, and summer camp.

Summer camp also included a gardening component with volunteer Nancy O'Reilly, president of the Norcross Garden Club. She helped campers plant zinnia seeds in clay pots that they took home. The youth also planted two native berry bushes on the property for pollinators and birds and adorned the garden with positive sentiments, such as faith, love, and joy.

On the last day of camp, the campers splashed about in water and



raced around the yard tossing water balloons. Summer camp ended with snow cones, laughter, and hugs goodbye to new friends and adult and youth leaders the campers had come to love.

Youth at Vista Maria learn about fundraising



Residents at Vista Maria are learning the economics of fundraising this summer, starting with a successful car wash over the 4th of July weekend. Way to go!

Summer school instills no fear



Students enrolled in summer school at Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles learned more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. They also learned about tarantulas and pythons! An organization called Upscale X-otics donated their time to bring the animals to the shelter. The students were taught how to hold a tarantula and learned that it is very important not to let the spider fall to the ground. They also learned that snakes like to sleep a lot.



SUMMERTIME FUN



ZEAL

Summer, *Cont'd from p. 3*

Summer activities abound at Maryhurst

Young residents of Maryhurst, the Good Shepherd legacy agency in Louisville, Kentucky, are making the most of their summertime hours. Together with the Maryhurst staff,

the young ladies have taken on various arts, education, and recreation projects. Painting campus statues are among the activities, along with writing and filming a

television pilot. They are also exercising in fitness classes, learning about American history and self-care, and just plain relaxing and having fun in the summer sun!



Sisters at Mason Pointe welcome summer with root beer floats and cake

The Mason Pointe Community in Chesterfield, Missouri, welcomed summer with a party on June 28, 2022, that featured root beer ice cream floats and cake.

Photos clockwise from left: Sr. Patricia O'Sullivan (foreground), Sr. Rose Kern, Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson, Sr. Sharon O'Grady, and Marie Moore. Table: Sr.

Pauline Billbrough, Sr. Louise Nazaryk, Sr. Rosalinda Sobremisana, a friend, Sr. Therese Hillary, Sr. Nora Pat O'Flannigan, Sr. Renee Scheich, Sr. Patricia Thomas, Sr. Bernadette Faulhaber. Photo on right; Sr. Renee Scheich enjoying the party down to the last crumb.

Continued on next page

SUMMERTIME FUN

ZEAL

Summer, *Cont'd from p. 4*



Danville community

Sisters in the Danville community planted a small rose bush at the main entrance of Maria Hall to honor Sr. Agustina ("Aguchita") Rivas, who was beatified on May 7 and is unofficially known as the "Patroness of Ecology" in Peru.

Good Shepherd Sisters and Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius planted a cherry tree on June 28 at Emmanuel Center, where Good Shepherd Sisters Marita Aumiller, Regina Long, and Grace Rhodes receive special care.

Sisters in the Danville community planted the tree in response to Laudato Si, which calls for us to care for creation. Sisters Stella Mangona and Mary Charlotte Kirst represented the Good Shepherd Sisters at the tree planting ceremony as an additional response to the Province Direction Statement to care for our common home.

Sisters Stella and Mary Charlotte are in the foreground of the photograph of the tree planting.

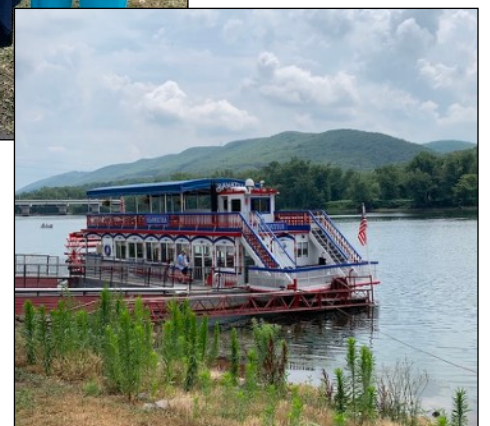


Clockwise: Rose bush planted in memory of Sr. Aguchita. Tree planting in recognition of Laudato Si and the

Province Direction Statement to care for creation. Sisters enjoy a picnic after the riverboat cruise, and then prepare to board the Hiawatha to return home on the Susquehanna River.



It's impossible to imagine summer without being on a large body of water. That's why Good Shepherd Sisters, along with Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius and one Carmelite Sister, relaxed in a warm summer breeze while gently meandering down the Susquehanna River on an enchanting and scenic riverboat cruise overlooking the natural scenery and skyline of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Hiawatha, an authentic stern-driven paddlewheel riverboat, has been cruising the Susquehanna River for more than 30 years.



Pennsylvania's popular Hiawatha paddlewheel riverboat.

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SUMMERTIME FUN

ZEAL

Summer, *Cont'd from p. 5*



Good Shepherd Sisters and Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius fill goodie bags for adults in preparation for the SSCM Summer Festival.



Good Shepherd Sister Agnes Yamamoto fills goodie bags for children for the SSCM Summer Festival.

Danville community

Good Shepherd Sisters pitched in with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius (SSCM) when an all hands effort was needed to prepare for the Sisters' annual Summer Festival on July 9.

It may look like Christmas in July from the looks of the gift bags, but it was a summer fest fundraiser to beat the band with food trucks, Bingo, a silent auction, and so much more.

Good Shepherd Sisters helped fill the bags with books, home decor items, and other goodies and then sealed the bags. Guests who attended the Summer Festival bought

the surprise goodie bags and experienced the excitement of seeing what was inside their bag after buying it. There were bags for adults and children.

It was the first Summer Festival held by the SSCM Sisters since Covid struck in 2020, and the community was eager and ready to support it.

"We do fun things in Danville, and we have a good time," said Sr. Stella Mangona.

Submitted by Stella Mangona, RGS

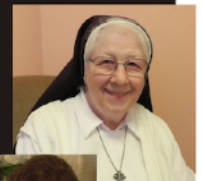


Good Shepherd and SSCM Sisters prepare the food booth with fried egg rolls cooked by Vietnamese benefactors living in Danville. Good Shepherd Sisters Stella Mangona (left) and Caroline DeAngelus (right) anchor the photograph.

Sisters
Jude Ellen Golumbieski
Janice Rushman
Maria Sowerby

Warmest
congratulations on
celebrating 60 years of
religious profession.

Diamond Jubilee



PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Announcements and News Tidbits

Sisters Cathie Boerboom and Carmel Irving now reside at 706 Krueger Court, Onalaska, WI 54650

Sister Glynis McManamon has begun her sabbatical year.

Sister Madeleine Munday will be on a mini-sabbatical from August 16-September 21, 2022.

We expect to hear sometime in August whether the Normandy property will be sold to government to construct a building for the General Services Administration.

August 19 is the feast day of Saint John Eudes.

August 22 is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Members of the Congregational Leadership Team will be in the US and in St. Louis in mid-August. Team members will attend the LCWR Assembly, spend time with Sisters at Mason Pointe, and meet with Mission Partners in St. Louis.

Orientation for the new Good Shepherd Volunteers is August 21-26, 2022, in Astoria.

Sister Monique Tarabeh, former Communications Coordinator for the Congregation, will be assigned to PMNA in September.

September 27 is the 32nd anniversary of the martyrdom of Sr. Agustina "Aguchita" Rivas.

The North America Mission and Values Gathering will take place from November 1-4, 2022, at St. John of the Cross in Detroit.

Deadline for the next issue of *Items of Interest* is September 21, 2022. Please submit your stories and photos by the deadline.

Zoom follow-up calls to Spring Area Meetings

The Province Leadership Team has completed the Spring Area Meetings. Follow-up sessions are taking place with Sisters and Partners-in-Mission, using the book *Subversive Habits* by Dr. Shannen Dee Williams. The book provides the first full history of Black Catholic Sisters in the United States.

- Friday, August 26
10 am PDT, noon CDT, 1:00 pm EDT
- Saturday, August 27
noon PDT, 2:00 pm CDT, 3:00 pm EDT
- Saturday, September 24
noon PDT, 2:00 pm CDT, 3:00 pm EDT

Sister Nellie Marie Hawkins passed away suddenly on July 22, on the morning of the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, the special feast for our contemplative Sisters.

We thank God for Sr. Nellie Marie's life and vocation. Her funeral and Mass of Christian Burial were held on July 26 and July 27 respectively in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania.

We will publish Sr. Nellie's Celebration of Life in the next issue of *Items of Interest*.

NELLIE MARIE HAWKINS, RGS



1934 - 2022



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Vista Maria's history in review

Detroit Catholic, the digital news service of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, published an article on July 20, 2022, about Vista Maria and its 139-year history of breaking the cycle of abuse, trauma, and neglect of young girls. Here's how the story goes:

Early history

In 1883, five Sisters of the Good Shepherd made their way into the city of Detroit to establish a home in Ward Mansion on Fort Street for young women and girls who had fallen on desperate times.

Armed with the mission set out by foundress St. Mary Euphrasia, over the next several decades, the Sisters housed hundreds of young women



and girls in what they named Good Shepherd House.

The Sisters outgrew their facilities and prayed a novena asking God to help them find a new and bigger home for the girls.

In an answer to their prayers, the Henry Ford family generously stepped in to provide a solution — 50 acres of land in Dearborn Heights. Read more of the story at <https://bit.ly/3S1HAON>

Sensory rooms benefit youth at Vista Maria

Children with developmental disorders or past trauma can be particularly sensitive to certain stimulation that most people rarely consider.

Youth may have extreme negative reactions to unpleasant or overwhelming sensory stimulation. Reactions may include tantrums, screaming, pacing, flailing, and more.

Vista Maria knows that developing self-calming and relaxing techniques is crucial to the healing of youth who have experienced trauma or have developmental disorders, including autism.

In each residential building on its campus, Vista Maria is installing sensory rooms after

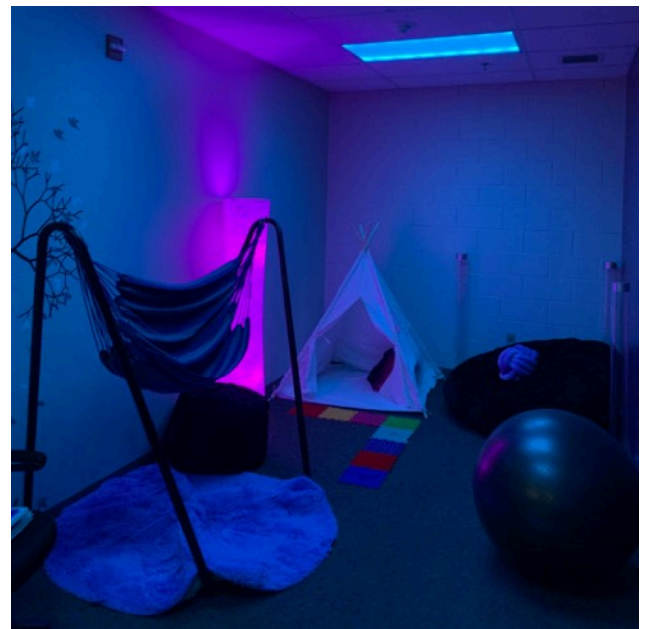
a successful pilot project that provided residents with a "calming box" of sensory tools.

Calming emotions

Designed to help clients use their five senses to de-escalate intense emotions and thoughts, each sensory room uses light, sound, color, and other sensory cues to calm and engage them.

Sensory rooms are safe and comforting spaces where youth can apply coping strategies for self-care, self-regulation and self-soothing.

With one enhancing room fully constructed, Vista Maria looks forward to adding additional rooms throughout campus.



Vista Maria's sensory room provides youth a space to retreat and regulate their emotions when the world is just too much for them to handle.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Vista Maria celebrates women at annual event

Every year Vista Maria holds a premier event that honors the achievements of girls in its care, all of whom have overcome tremendous barriers on their road to success. Guests and sponsors reinforce the importance of supporting Vista Maria, an agency that is devoted to healing and teaching girls necessary coping and life skills. The event also celebrates the contributions of women in society.

In its 23rd year, the Celebrating Women event took place on July 20, 2022, at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester, Michigan. Attendees had the unique opportunity to network with 200 guests during a private reception. The evening also featured a delicious dinner, robust silent auction, and an inspiring program that celebrated the stories of healing, triumph, resilience, and victory won at Vista Maria.



Volunteers Janice Rushman, RGS, (inset left) and Beth Labadie prepare the room for the Vista Maria event.

Graduates celebrate their achievements at Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles



Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles (GSS LA) kicked off summer with a celebration that honored its elementary school students with an awards ceremony. One young lady graduated the 5th grade and will be moving on to middle school in the fall, while two young boys made the leap from kindergarten to first grade. The rest of the students also celebrated their advancement to the next grade level.

GSS LA has a K-5 elementary school on campus. It is the only transitional domestic violence shelter in Los Angeles to have a school on site.

"We are very blessed to have the school and the trauma-informed

teachers. All of our students enter our school below grade level due to the trauma they have experienced. Thanks to the love and dedication of our teachers, all students are brought up to grade level and above by the time they transition out of the program," said Deana Payne, Program Director.

About GS Shelter LA

Good Shepherd Shelter is a long-term treatment and education-based shelter for women and their children who are healing from domestic violence.

The program was founded by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1977 and became a part of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles on October 1, 2019.

SISTER STORIES



ZEAL

Full Speed Ahead?

By Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

I had the privilege this summer of spending a week at a Jesuit Retreat House in Wisconsin. As I explored the retreat house facilities on the first evening, I discovered a bicycle.

It had been more than 40 years since I had ridden one, but I had always heard that once you know how to ride a bicycle, you never forget.

The theme of my retreat was Inner Freedom, and I felt attracted by the challenge of risking something different. Although I was a bit nervous, I longed to feel the wind rushing through my hair, so I decided to give it a try.

My first outing was a big disappointment. I couldn't get the



bike to move at all. I couldn't reach the top pedal to push off without losing contact with the ground and starting to tip over.

The next day, I tried a bike with a lower seat, and I was able to start rolling downhill, but my knees were

just about hitting my chin when I tried to pedal back up.

Finally, on the third day — a perfect fit. I had my right heel on the ground, right toes on the lower pedal, my seat on the seat, my left foot on the top pedal, and I felt well balanced. I pressed forward, but it wouldn't budge, even though I was pointed downhill. Crazy frustrating!

Oh! Then, I figured it out. It was a one-speed bike with foot brakes (pedaling backwards). My right toes were pushing the lower pedal, effectively putting the brakes on. So I was trying to go forward while simultaneously inadvertently stopping myself.

Moral of the story: If you are not making progress in some area of your life, check to make sure you are not stepping on the brakes.



The Catholic Spirit published a story about Frogtown Farm, an urban demonstration farm community in St. Paul, Minnesota. Frogtown Farm was once the House of Good Shepherd, where Good Shepherd Sisters served 8,000 girls in need. The Sisters purchased the land in 1881 and completed construction at around 1888. Read the story in *The Catholic Spirit* at <https://bit.ly/3cny2xc>. You can read more about the Good Shepherd connection to Frogtown Farm on the PMNA website at <https://bit.ly/3yM8Wj6>

Inspired by our Good Shepherd program

Earlier this summer, I was invited to give the invocation for a golf banquet at Vista Maria. I explained that I understand the spirituality of Golf, that it stands for God of Love and Food. It was a very successful fundraiser, with 144 golfers and multiple sponsors.

The keynote speaker was a 24-year-old young woman named Charlaine. She was at Vista Marie for her last three years of high school and has been supported through the scholarship program. She is now completing a Master's degree in Public Administration.

Very inspirational.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



Charlaine

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Dorothy Vogel, RGS

January 4, 1937 – May 27, 2022

Reflections from Nora Pat O'Flannigan, RGS

Sister Dorothy Vogel came to 3801 Gravois Avenue in St. Louis to begin her training as a contemplative Sister at about the same time I arrived to be an apostolic Sister. She had come from our convent in Milwaukee. Although we were in different communities, we managed to make contact during choir practice, special feasts, and through the back fence that separated the apostolic recreational yard from the contemplative convent.

A lover of animals

After the move to Marygrove in Florissant, my presence with the contemplative community increased. I was a group leader who loved animals and believed animals were good for the residents. The contemplatives felt the same way, especially Sr. Dorothy.

Grants Farm donated a horse named Jerome to Marygrove. He was allowed to roam in the playground that was fenced in and around which the contemplative Sisters would take their evening walk. Sister Dorothy fed Jerome sweets through the fence. During the Corpus Christi procession around the yard, Jerome found Sister and proceeded to nudge her and other Sisters, looking for sweets!

A phone call from Sr. Dorothy would let us know that Jerome was out and headed down Mullanphy Lane. She helped to bring him back on occasion.

The Sisters obtained a "firehouse dog," with black spots and all. The dog became Sister Dorothy's constant companion.

During their summer vacation time, Sr. Dorothy became, with other companions, a great fisherman. The Missouri River was at the bottom of the hill on the property, so Sister fished and often provided fresh fish for supper.

If any equipment or mechanical machinery needed repair, Sister Dorothy became an expert on how to fix it. She repaired many things that otherwise would have been sent out for repair.

Sister's voice in choir could be depended on and she loved to learn new hymns, as long as they were not in Latin. We miss her and her sense of humor.

Reflections from Sharon Rose Authorson, RGS

Sister Dorothy had a great love for our Congregation. She said she owed her vocation to the kindness of the apostolic Sisters.

She had chosen Good Shepherd when she was ten years old and living in an orphanage. She always identified with the children and girls who were served in our ministries. Her prayers encircled them each day.

Sister Dorothy found God in creation. She had a love for animals, plants, trees, rivers, and all the wonderful gifts we have been given in the world around us. She walked through the garden each morning to check on the bird feeders. When you saw Sr. Dorothy walking outside, you always saw the dogs accompanying her.

Sister was also truly gifted with her hands. She could mend or fix anything, from the smallest screw on



Sister Dorothy Vogel had a passion for animals, repairing machinery, and making arts and crafts.

a pair of glasses to one of the large baking ovens in the altar bread department. She was generous and gifted with her talents of knitting.

Master of many skills

Sister Dorothy earned a certificate in electrical engineering after working and studying with Dr. Joseph Volk, one of our benefactors. She and Sr. Magdalen Clark worked with Dr. Volk in the convent on Gravois and after our move to Marygrove. They installed the intercoms for the chapel and dining room.

The outlets in the altar bread department at Marygrove had to be updated, as they were on the floor and shooting out sparks when we first began our business there. Between these two Sisters we always had someone to repair emergencies.

Some may not be aware that the steam table at the Province Center was engineered and installed by Dr. Volk and Sisters Magdalen and

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

ZEAL

Dorothy, *Cont'd from p. 11*

Dorothy. They were supervised lovingly by Andrew Jansky, RGS.

These are just a few of my memories of Sr. Dorothy. The writing is not complete because it could never represent the over 40 years that she and I lived together, especially in Florissant.

Reflections from Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

Sister Dorothy's health declined considerably over the past few years, and she became in total care. She lovingly joined her suffering with that of Jesus on the cross.

Sister Dorothy enjoyed company and was pleased when Sisters and family visited. She has a large family. Her brother Norman, his wife Adele, and their daughter and miniature dachshund visited her often.

At Sr. Dorothy's funeral, her sister-in-law was able to take home several boxes of pictures that dated back many years. The family held a picnic on July 9, 2022, and shared with delight the pictorial trip down memory lane.

Sister Dorothy is being missed by us all, and we are assured that she is remembering us in heaven.



President Joe Biden awards the nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, to Simone Campbell, SSS.

Sister Simone Campbell wins Medal of Freedom Award

President Joe Biden awarded longtime social justice lobbyist Sister Simone Campbell with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a ceremony at the White House on July 7, 2022. She is the latest woman religious to receive the nation's highest civilian award. Previous women religious recipients include Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Missionary Servant Sr. Isolina Ferré Aguayo.

Simone, a member of the Catholic Order Sisters of Social Service, is the former executive director of NETWORK, a lobby for Catholic social justice. In honor of receiving the award, Global Sisters Report has republished a profile of Sr. Simone's life and work that was originally published on March 25, 2021, when she was preparing to leave her role as the executive director of NETWORK. <https://bit.ly/3PXsjMX>

Learn more about the award at <https://bit.ly/2y50Vtd>



Sister Dorothy Vogel (getting hugged) was well loved by everyone in the province and at Mason Pointe. Clockwise: Contemplative Sisters Mirian Colala, Contemplative link Sister to the Congregation, Dorothy Vogel, Sharon Rose Authorson, Marie Elizabeth Epp, and Sarah Tolento.

COMING SOON

Items of Interest will be getting a new look to serve you better!

WELCOME



ZEAL



New Executive Director hired for GSV

We welcome Austin Applebach to the Good Shepherd family. He is the new Executive Director of Good Shepherd Volunteers (GSV). A commitment to service and passion for guiding the spiritual lives of young adults is a hallmark of his journey.

Austin recently served as the Director of Enrollment at the New York Theological Seminary. Prior to that, he worked as an area director at a large faith-based service program for college-aged volunteers in New Jersey and Colorado.

Austin attended Arizona State University and graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and a minor in anthropology. At ASU, he completed certificates in ethics, philosophy,

politics, and law. Austin received a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS) in 2015, with a concentration in youth ministry and theological education.

While at PTS, he served in many roles related to student life, ministry, and academics. Austin's wife Anna is a PhD candidate at Fordham University studying Early Christian History.

Austin said he is thankful that Good Shepherd Volunteers embraces a model of intentional communities that are formed around the common goal of service, and that he is "honored to be stepping into the role of Executive Director."

Austin replaces Diane Conroy, who served as Executive Director of GSV for the past five years.



Austin Applebach, newly hired Executive Director of Good Shepherd Volunteers.

You can reach Austin at austin@gsvvolunteers.org. He works in the GSV office in Astoria, New York.

Pam Fisher assumes new role as accounting clerk for the province

Prior to coming to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Pam Fisher had worked for nearly 16 years in the finance department of SSM Health. She started in 2005 as a staff accountant. When she retired in June of 2021, she had spent the last eight years as the accounts payable manager.

"I got a little bored after about nine months of retirement and decided I wanted to go back to work, not to manage any longer, but to work and stay busy. I missed daily interactions with people and being productive," Pam said.

Pam is the mother of four married daughters and is a typically proud grandmother of eight — five granddaughters and three grandsons, who all live in St. Louis. She returned to school to finish her degree in accounting and business administration from Missouri



Pam Fisher (third from right) with her daughters and sister.

Baptist University when her youngest daughter was in preschool. Pam's one sibling, a sister, is 23 years younger. Pam was married and had her first daughter, who was two, when her sister was born.

"My sister and I are close and very much alike even though we never lived together. I thank God and praise Him for the life I have with my family and friends, and for the opportunities that came my way in my professional life at just the right moment each time. I already feel like I am a part of the Good Shepherd family, which, once again, has me feeling blessed," she said.

Pam said she is very thankful for the opportunity to not just have a job, but to be part of a mission. She said she is looking forward to becoming more knowledgeable of all the assigned duties for her position and that she "will always give 100% each and every day."

You can reach Pam at pfisher@gspmna.org or by calling her cell phone 314-913-1318.

NAC NEWS

ZEAL

Ending my year as a GSV intern with NAC

By Erin Hood, Intern, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

As my year working with the National Advocacy Center came to its close in July, I wanted to express my profound gratitude for all the experiences I have had and for the people from whom I have learned and worked.

While serving as NAC's Government Relations Associate this year, I have experienced frustration and disappointment, and also jubilation and inspiration. I've made friends and have enjoyed what the city of Washington, D.C. has to offer.

As NAC's Good Shepherd Volunteer, I've had the opportunity to connect with Good Shepherd agencies across the country to learn how federal advocacy can support their organizations as well as the individuals and communities with whom they work.

In mid-July, we celebrated the end of my time as a Good Shepherd Volunteer with a lunch outing at a nearby Italian restaurant and finished the day with two pints of ice cream from a small local creamery.

It was lovely to enjoy the company of the entire NAC team together and in-person.

Following new pursuits

While my GSV tenure has officially ended, I'm excited to be staying on at NAC for a few extra weeks as I finalize my future plans.

Washington, D.C. has begun to feel like home to me, so I hope to stay in the area and find work with a nonprofit.

Wherever my journey takes me, I know I will carry the experiences I have had and the friendships I have



Erin Hood (right) and Sr. Brigid Lawlor share some locally made ice cream at the NAC office in Silver Spring, Maryland.

made at the National Advocacy Center with me for many years to come.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is uniting people across the country to challenge systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation, and the nation's distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

Staff members of NAC joined the march in Washington, DC, on June 18, 2022, as tens of thousands of people lined Pennsylvania Avenue. Even more watched online as impacted people shared their stories involving voting rights, the nation's failure to respond to COVID, especially among poor communities, workplace rights, the need for health care and living wages, and the day-to-day struggle of not having enough money to survive.

Faith leaders, union leaders, social justice attorneys, and other allies accompanied the protesters during the march.

Campaign statistics

According to statistics assembled by the organizers of the Poor People's Campaign, more than 140 million poor and low-income people live in the United States, or 43% of the country's population, and that was before the COVID-19 pandemic. Of this number, 250,000 die each year from poverty. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3oA4u1W>

Photo: NAC Executive Director Fran Eskin-Royer and former Executive Director, Larry Couch, join the march in Washington, DC.



GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Creation, *Cont'd from p. 1*

dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home."

Pope Francis said, "Listening to these anguished cries, we must repent and modify our lifestyles and destructive systems."

The latest U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report issued in April showed that many of the technologies and tactics to avert the worst impacts of climate change already exist; we just need the financial and political will to choose them. Find the report at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>

You can read the Pope's full message on the Season of Creation at <https://bit.ly/3cGs2jh>, or the summary of the pope's four key points at <https://bit.ly/3bcVNaK>

You can download a Season of Creation celebration guide at <https://bit.ly/3ouH1zl>

For more information about the Season of Creation, visit <https://seasonofcreation.org>



Climate Vigil Songs

The Porter's Gate Worship Project has released *Climate Vigil Songs*, a Christian album that challenges us to respond to the climate crisis as an act of worship.

You can access the album through most major streaming platforms or listen to singles and watch lyric videos on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/3PZdgT3>

There is also a worship guide and other free resources available at <https://bit.ly/3zbAU89>

Christians divesting from fossil fuels

Increasing numbers of Christian churches, dioceses, religious orders, and organizations are divesting from fossil fuels. 35 faith institutions from six countries with more than \$1.25 billion in combined assets recently announced their divestment from fossil fuel companies. Globally, approximately 300 Catholic institutions have committed to divest their finances from or to avoid future investments in fossil fuel companies. At its annual conference on June 28, 2022, the Catholic Theological Society of America, the world's largest organization of theologians, voted to halt new investments in oil, gas, and coal companies and to sell existing investments by 2025.

In 2020 the Catholic Church published a manual called "[Journeying Towards Care For Our Common Home](#)" that explains to Catholics how to divest from institutions it deems harmful.



The monarch is two steps from extinction

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has added the monarch butterfly to its Red List of threatened and endangered species. The migratory butterfly has for millennia turned North American woodlands into kaleidoscopes of color in one of nature's most spectacular mass migrations.

Numbering in the millions in the 1990s, the butterfly's population has since shrunk by more than 85%, scientists estimate. Logging has destroyed much of the insects' winter grounds, agricultural pesticides have decimated the milkweed plants that their larvae feed on, and extreme temperatures due to climate change are triggering the monarchs to migrate too early, before the remaining milkweed is available.

In all, the IUCN says more than 41,000 species are now at risk of going extinct in what scientists are calling the planet's sixth mass extinction event - and the first caused by humans.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Sister Joan Spiering gets Portland readers excited about Laudato Si

The *Catholic Sentinel*, the oldest Catholic newspaper on the West Coast (established in 1870), published an article recently that Sister Joan Spiering wrote about Laudato Si. Her story begins like this ...

Overwhelming issues meet us every day: mass shootings, homelessness, consumerism, increased frequency of heat domes and deadly storms. The list goes on. Amid the pileup of problems, Pope Francis guides us to see that everything is connected. From his frequent visits to slums around the world, his meetings with refugees and migrants, he has witnessed the link between how we treat the earth and how we treat each other, especially the poor and vulnerable among us.

Fair warning: If you are afraid of your hair or your heart catching fire, now is a good time to stop reading because this column intends to give off sparks.

Intrigued?

Read Sr. Joan's full story at <https://bit.ly/3veQoZ2>



Sisters in Portland join Youth Climate Strike

Sisters Joan Spiering and Liz Schille marched in Portland's Youth Climate Strike in May to stand in solidarity with the region's youth who are demanding that city leaders take meaningful action on climate change.

Portland high school students rallied at City Hall and then marched to Revolution Hall for a climate festival that lasted into the evening. The strike was part of a global youth-led climate mobilization effort.

Sister Liz said she and Sr. Joan participated in the Youth Climate Strike because they felt it was critical to show up and place their physical presence among youth leaders.

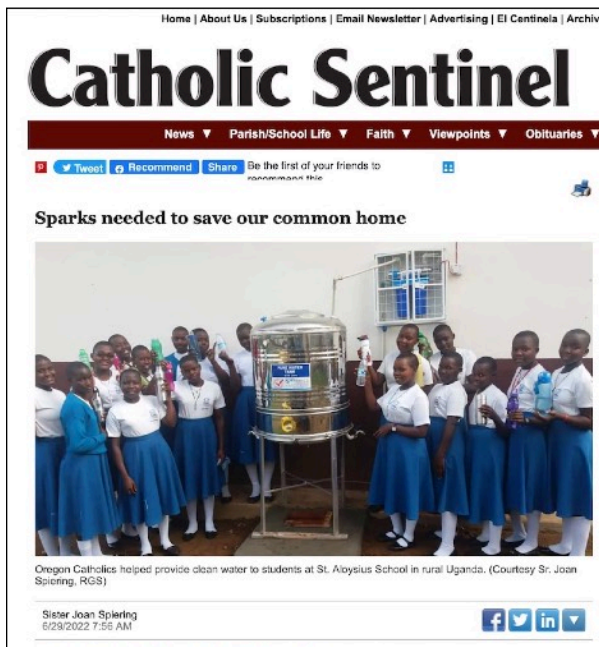
"I have been on many rally walks for justice over the years. This time, because the strike was organized and attended by mostly young people, it seemed different and critical to support the future leadership of our country," said Sister Liz.

She believes the average person marching was well under 25 years old. Canvassers were asking whether people signing petitions were old enough to vote.

"The Climate Strike was wonderful. I had an experience of energy and determination from the march and learned a few things along the way, especially when the huge banner of Northwest Natural Gas greeted us as we came around a corner. They also are proud of their product," Sr. Liz said.

"However, I am learning with new clarity about the methane which leaks from most gas products into our homes, air, and lungs. Nothing is perfect, and we can do better. As my energy level waxes and wanes, I try to do what I can," she said.

Read more about the Youth Climate March at <https://bit.ly/3vh20t5>. Photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff / OPB.



ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Urgent solutions for urgent times

July provided opportunities to watch girls from Good Shepherd programs and lay and Sister Mission Partners participating in panels regarding the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“These were wonderful opportunities to connect with the Good Shepherd mission around the world,” said Winifred Doherty, RGS, Main NGO Representative to the United Nations for the congregation.

You can find the annotated programs with speakers who presented at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at <https://hlpf.un.org/2022/programme>

The video “Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times” addresses the biggest problems the world faces, looking at the four key areas where we must take urgent action:

1. Climate and our planet
2. Poverty and inequality
3. Justice and human rights
4. Gender equality

Watch the video at <https://bit.ly/3S56qwY>

For more information about the Sustainable Development Goals or Good Shepherd’s participation at the UN, read Sr. Winifred’s blog at <https://gsijpoffice.com/>

Stay close in prayer to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is in political and economic unrest. This beautiful nation has a special place in our Good Shepherd heart. PMNA Sister Lakshmi Napagoda was born and raised in Sri Lanka. Two members of the Congregational Leadership Team are from Sri Lanka, Sr. Josita Corera and Sr. Sadhani Wellmillage. Sadhani has spent time with contemplative Sisters in the Mid-North America province.

The province donated to the relief fund for Sri Lanka. If anyone wants to donate to the fund, please contact Sister Martha Park, Congregational Treasurer, at martha.park@gssweb.org



The Province of Sri Lanka/Pakistan has 355 Good Shepherd Sisters and many Partners-in-Mission. Please stay very close to them in prayer and in solidarity.

Eucharistic Revival

On June 19, 2022, the U.S. bishops' launched a three-year National Eucharistic Revival. The revival is in response to waning of professed Catholics' belief of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. A recent Pew Research Center study showed that roughly two-thirds of U.S. Catholics do not believe the bread and wine at Mass become Christ's body and blood during the consecration — a core dogma of the Catholic faith. Learn more about the revival. at <https://bit.ly/3cHQX5J>

PLT CALENDAR



NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Full PLT	Aug 1 Aug 9-12 Aug 10 Aug 13 Aug 14 Aug 15 Aug 22 Aug 26-27 Aug 29 Sep 22 Sep 24	PLT team building, Zoom LCWR Assembly, St. Louis Meeting w/members of CLT at LCWR Assembly Meeting w/members of CLT & N. Am. PLTs after LCWR Assembly Meeting w/members of CLT/NA contemplatives, hybrid Meeting w/members of CLT/PMNA Partners-in-Mission, hybrid PLT team building, Zoom Province Zoom call on book "Subversive Habits" Financial Advisory Board, St. Louis hybrid PLT team building, Zoom Province Zoom call on book "Subversive Habits"
Sharon Rose Authorson	Full PLT schedule	
Barbara Beasley	Full PLT schedule + Aug 3-5 Aug 28-31 Sep 8, 15, 22, 29 Sep 9-11 Sep 22-24	Visit contemplative community, Cheltenham Mission Effectiveness Team session, Maryhurst Care of the Earth Zoom event with Maryknolls St. Peter Claver meeting, Omaha Spirituality session, St. Louis
Gayle Lwanga Crumbley	Full PLT schedule	
Elizabeth Garciano	Full PLT schedule + Sep 13	NAMVT reflection, virtual
Mary Carol McClenon	Full PLT schedule + Aug 3 Sep 13 Sep 27-29	Return to St. Louis from home visit in Texas NAMVT reflection, virtual LCWR Region 10 fall meeting, Dubuque
Madeleine Munday	Full PLT schedule + Aug 13-15 Aug 16-Sep 21 Aug 29 Sep 22 Sep 24 Sep 27-29 Sep 30	Mason Pointe Sisters, contemplative Sisters of NA, PMNA Partners-in-Mission mini-sabbatical, except as otherwise noted Financial Advisory Board, St. Louis DeNeuville Learning Center auction gala, Memphis Province Zoom call on book "Subversive Habits" LCWR Region 10 fall meeting, Dubuque DeNeuville Learning Center Annual Golf Tournament, Memphis

PLT CALENDAR CONT'D

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Claudia Palacio	Full PLT schedule	
Christine Truong	Full PLT schedule + Sep 10 Sep 17	Zoom meeting with postulants in Vietnam Zoom meeting with Sisters in Vietnam



PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"You are the cherished child of the Mission, because you have its spirit; preserve it carefully."

St. Mary Euphrasia
Letter 1526

Contact us

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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