OF INTEREST

Gracenter Luncheon

The Good Shepherd Guild held its annual Christmas Luncheon to support Gracenter last month.

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Zones of Peace

Good Shepherd Mediation Program has become one of Philadelphia's Zones of Peace.

Page 9

Visit to the UN

National Advocacy Center Director Larry Couch reflects on his visit to the United Nations.

Page 10

Farewell to Sr. Marie

We celebrate the fulfilled life that Sr. Marie Maurer lived. She went home to the Lord on December 7.

Page 14



CHRISTMAS IN THE PROVINCE

Take a look at how our ministries celebrated the Christmas season.

Continued on next page



Green Corner

Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Mid-North America is a member of the Intercommunity Ecological Council (IEC) in St. Louis. Province Communications Coordinator Jeanette McDermott and EcoZeal Team member Sr. Sharon O'Grady represent PMNA on the Council. The group held a retrospective celebration on December 1 to commemorate its 15th anniversary.

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Christmas Cont'd from p. 1











Clockwise from top left: Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid with the table decorations she created for the Province Center dining room tables; Sr. Jude Uy with Mrs. Claus at Immaculate Heart Convent; Shirley Norful with decorations she made for dining room tables at Immaculate Heart Convent; Mission Effectiveness team members Lizzie Tschida and Melinda Stricklen with Local Leader of the St. Louis Community Sr. Marta Ceballos; Local Leader of Immaculate Heart Community Sr. Pauline Bilbrough and Elizabeth Cook



distribute gifts at the Immaculate Heart Staff Christmas party; Mission Partners enjoy conversation at the Province Center Staff Christmas Party. Cover: The Province Center dining room took on a festive flair for Christmas.







Christmas Cont'd from p. 1





Top: Volunteers from the National Charity League in Portland, Oregon, served meals to Rose Haven guests at its annual Ladies Holiday Tea. The League donated and distributed gifts to nearly 100 women at the event. One of the Rose Haven guests performed songs on the piano while kitchen elves tended to tasks in the background. In addition to gifts that National Charity League donated, local business Core Logo gave a purse filled with gifts to each woman who attended the Tea.

Below: Rose Haven also held a Christmas party for nearly 300 children. Donated gifts included toys, books and clothing and 10 bicycles that Franz Bakery donated.



See more photos of Rose Haven's holiday parties on facebook at http://bit.lv/2hZUSx4













Christmas Cont'd from p. 1

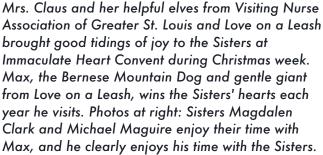






The theme of the staff party at GSS Baltimore was Winter Wonderland and included a caricature artist, beautifully decorated cake and games with prizes. GSS dietary staff created a banquet of crab cakes and side dishes and Thelma Johnson made her famous fried chicken. Sr. Caroline DeAngelus showed up to the party in her new scooter.







The holidays wouldn't have been complete in St. Louis without the fresh-baked cookies, cakes and pies emanating from the convent kitchen. Sr. Monica Duong and Mrs. Ho didn't disappoint with their decorated gingerbread cookies.











Christmas Cont'd from p. 1







O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Much pleasure thou can'st give me. L-R: Sr. Kathleen Moore, Baltimore Community; Sr. Sarah Tolento, Immaculate Heart Convent; one of the many beautiful handcrafted Christmas cards that Sr. Elizabeth Garciano, Maria Droste Contemplative Community, made to sell in the gift boutique at Immaculate Heart Convent. Sr. Elizabeth also made Christmas wreaths and uniquely decorated candles for the holiday season.

A one, and a two ... and a one, two, three

Maryhurst Board members giggle and carry on with glee before straightening up and performing for an audience at the Maryhurst holiday dinner last month.





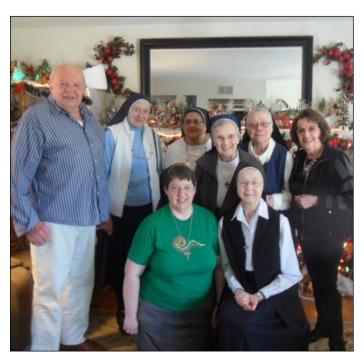


Celebrating with Asian immigrants and refugees

Dressed in their finest garb on a cold wintry day, 86 elderly immigrants and refugees from the Metro Atlanta region joined Good Shepherd Services (GSS) for a Christmas party on December 17. Guests who had come to the United States recently from Vietnam, China and Myanmar (Burma), where Christians are few in number, were enthralled by the unique experience. They gazed at the brilliantly colored lights, ornaments and decorations. They listened to traditional Christmas hymns and received items of clothing as Christmas gifts. Parishioners of St. Brigid and Mary Our Queen had donated and lovingly wrapped the new sweaters, jackets and shoes. Vietnamese friends of GSS prepared a bountiful Christmas luncheon that was laden with favorite Asian dishes and delicious desserts.

"We are so grateful to our friends and benefactors for bringing the guests to GSS and helping us share with our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Atlanta the joy and love of Christ's birth," Sr. Christine Truong said.

Sr. Christine is the Executive Director of Good Shepherd Services Atlanta. She spoke in three different languages to



The GSS Baltimore Community visited friends in their home during Christmas.



welcome the guests to the party. A Burmese employee translated her remarks for the refugees from Myanmar.

"The Christmas party reminded me once again of Scripture that has been my favorite since I was 16 years old," Sr. Christine said.

The Scripture is from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 35 and 40.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me....as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."

Submitted by Christine Truong, RGS

Christmas outing

The GSS Baltimore Community took its annual outing on December 10th to the festive home of the parents of their haircutter Renee Schilling.

The Sisters have visited with Renee and her parents in their home during Christmas for the past four years. The tradition began with Renee asking her parents if they could contribute anything to the Holiday Store for the residents at Good Shepherd Services. This led to Renee telling her parents more about the Sisters (Renee has been cutting our hair on-site for quite a few years now) and then telling us about her father's annual major Christmas decorating project. The next thing you know, we were invited to the Harycki's Open House, and the rest is history.

Mr. and Mrs. Harycki have an incredible array of Christmas decorations (and refreshments), including little houses, lights and displays with moving parts that include skaters, skiers and trains. It's such a pleasure to see a loving and healthy family interacting.

Submitted by Sr. Mary Carol McClenon







The Good Shepherd Guild held its annual Christmas Luncheon to support Gracenter last month. Sister Liz Schille opened the program with a prayer by St. Francis. Nora Hall, Guild President, followed by drawing names for cash raffles with a winning prize of \$500. Nora also presented Sr. Marguerite with a check to support Gracenter. The meal was served, and Gracenter's Executive Director Sr. Marguerite Bartling introduced Vanessa, a resident at Gracenter.

Vanessa told her story of learning about Good Shepherd and making the best decision of her life to come to San Francisco to start the residential treatment program. Vanessa has recently discovered her career goal to become an addiction recovery counselor. She has enrolled in a two year course at San Francisco City College to obtain her Drug and Alcohol Counselor certification. Vanessa currently works as a house manager in a residence for women with children who are seeking recovery from addiction.

"I feel touched by the dedication of the women of the Good Shepherd Guild who are so supportive of the women at Good Shepherd Gracenter. Since 1932, they have planned and organized fundraisers to strengthen women served by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in San Francisco," Sr. Marguerite said.

Approximately 95 people attended the luncheon at the Olympic Club in Lakeside, the oldest athletic club in the United States. The club has an inspired view on any given day. On the day of the luncheon guests gazed out onto a more spectacular view than normal when much needed rain poured from the sky and drenched the drought-ridden earth throughout the day.







MINISTRY NEWS

















CORA Services held its annual Champions for Children event in November to honor its supporters. Executive Director Ann Marie Schultz remarked to the crowd that "Your support of CORA for the past 45 years has had, and will continue to have, a ripple effect on families for years to come." Five Good Shepherd Sisters were on hand to enjoy the celebration: Mary Joy Benson, Maria Sowerby, Frances Altavilla, Carmen Flores and Claudia Palacio.

A return to Albania

Sr. Olga Cristobal returned to Albania in December, where she will once again support the Germany/Albania Province. Sr. Olga will assist Sr. Mirjam Bieke with her ministries in Tirana and Kamez, Albania. She will also continue working with Filipinos in a ministry of presence to help those who experience problems with employers, including helping those who run away from abusive employers who lured them to Albania under false promises. Sr. Olga first went to Albania in 2014 and served there for two years. She returned to the United States recently for a short leave of absence before returning to serve a final year there. You can read about Sr. Olga's work in Albania at http://bit.ly/2hDhj8z.



MINISTRY NEWS



Good Shepherd Mediation Program celebrates highlights

By Cheryl Cutrona, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Mediation Program

It is my pleasure to announce that the Good Shepherd Mediation Program (GSMP) training room is dedicated to Kay and Paul McClenon, the parents of Sr. Mary Carol McClenon. Sr. Mary Carol and her niece Lee (Kay and Paul's granddaughter) were on hand for the dedication ceremony. The event took place at GSMP's Open House on December 12, 2016.

Kay and Paul took a lively interest in a wide variety of political and social issues during their lifetimes. The McClenon home was notable for reading aloud from an endless supply of both conventional and quirky magazines. The couple, and inevitably their three children, were always interested in progressive causes. Kay and Paul became acquainted with the Good Shepherd Mediation Program through Sr. Mary Carol, who was sent by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to be on the staff there from 1991 through 1996. She became a Board Member in 2008.

The McClenon family has supported GSMP for many years. We were the beneficiary of a legacy from Kay's sister Ruth Barker through the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and a legacy from Paul McClenon, also through Sisters of the Good Shepherd. In addition, the Mediation Program has been a frequent recipient of grants from the Walter H. McClenon Fund, which was created by Paul's father in 1924.

Kay died in 2004 and Paul died in 2014. It was a real privilege to dedicate our training room to both of them.



From left: Standing next to the GSMP training room dedication plaque are Cheryl Cutrona, Sr. Mary Carol McClenon and Lee McClenon.



Good Shepherd Mediation Program was recognized as a Zone of Peace at its Open House in December.

Following the dedication of the training room, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia Religious Leaders Council recognized Good Shepherd Mediation Program as a "Zones of Peace" member. In recognition of the honor, Council representatives Quaisar Abdullah and David Chiles presented us with a Zones of Peace banner.

The Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia advances mutual trust, understanding and cooperation among faith communities in order to work together for the common good of the region.

Its Zones of Peace program is a region-wide movement of community-based organizations, schools, churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship that work to address the root causes of violence to make Philadelphia's communities safer. The program recognizes organizations that are pioneering creative responses to violence and elevates their leadership.

We feel blessed and honored to have been selected as a member of the Zones of Peace program. This distinction allows us to network and engage with other members in public conversations and educational activities. It also helps us pursue our Good Shepherd mission.

To learn more about the Interfaith Center's Zones of Peace program, please visit http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org/zones-of-peace.

NAC NEWS



The United Nations: A Personal Journey

By Larry Couch, Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center

When I was a young man, my dream was to work for the United Nations. The white and blue flag with the world map surrounded by olive branches captured my imagination. As is often the case with youth, my life took many different twists and turns and I never achieved my dream.

Over time, my views of the UN changed. In responding to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the United Nations inadvertently introduced cholera to that poverty-stricken country. More than 7,000 Haitians have died of cholera and hundreds of thousands have been sickened. Sadly the UN initially responded with denial and then with cover up. Only now is the UN accepting responsibility.

Still I was delighted to recently receive an invitation to spend a day at the United Nations as an official guest of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The Sisters have a non-governmental organization (NGO) UN observer status.

During my visit I learned more about the UN's 17 sustainable development goals, which includes by 2030 the abolition of poverty, ending human trafficking, and gender equality. I am inspired by the ambitious goals.

One of the high points of the visit was hearing the ambassador to the UN from Ireland, David Donoghue, deliver his report on immigration. Initially, the report was to demand the ending of all detention of children. From my own reading, I understand that the detention of a young child can scar her or him for a lifetime.



Larry Couch stands before the Sustainable Development Goals at the United National building in New York City.

One of the high points of the visit was hearing the ambassador to the UN from Ireland.

Unfortunately, the report was modified to read that countries should be "encouraged" to end the detention of children.

During Donoghue's presentation, I was sitting next to Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS. Sr. Winifred is the Sisters of the Good Shepherd's official UN representative. When Donoghue mentioned that the committee weakened the language regarding the detention of children in response to pressure, Sr. Winifred slipped me a note that simply read, "United States." I realized that since

our country has a policy and practice of detaining immigrant families, including very young children, we wanted softer language rather than an outright condemnation of the practice.

As I left the UN to walk back to my hotel amid the hurrying crowd of New Yorkers, I was very grateful for the day. I no longer have the idealistic image of the UN that I had as a young man. Sadly, I see the limitations of the United Nations, the inhumanity of my own country and, in a different context, the scandals of my own church. Yet I still witness the work of the Holy Spirit leading all of us as we struggle with our weaknesses and failures. As I was caught up into the moving mass of humanity, I was reminded of the words of the poet and priest Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings."

MISCELLANEOUS







NRVC draws on Pope Francis' invitation to Wake up the World

The 2016 National Religious Vocation Convocation (NRVC) drew on Pope Francis' invitation to those in consecrated life to "Wake up the World" by moving outward and proclaiming the Good News. Attending the convocation were more than 300 vocation ministers, formators, religious leaders, communicators, and others who support vocations to consecrated life. Four Sisters of the Good Shepherd attended the event (photo from left): Yolanda Martinez, Central South Province; Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, Province of Mid-North America; Martha Hernandez, Central South Province; and Jean Marie Fernandez, Province of Mid-North America. The biennial convocation was held October 27-30 in Kansas City, Missouri.



Preserving and archiving province fabrics



Monte Abbott provides physical protection of PMNA's historical content so that it is preserved and accessible to researchers.

Monte Abbott, Province Operations Director and archivist, is creating a storage system for fabric banners that belong to the Province of Mid-North America.

"We have several banners that are 3-feet, 4-feet and even 6-feet wide. The fabrics are currently folded and stored flat. This storage method is not optimal because folding causes permanent creases," Monte said.

The new storage system is based on a design that was created by Denise Thuston, archivist for the Friars Minor in St. Louis. The photo (lower right) shows fabric rolls at the Friars Minor archive in St. Louis. Denise's system of storage allows fabrics to be rolled onto

tubes that are suspended on stainless steel chains. The fabric rolls are covered in a non-reactive covering like Tyvek sheeting or muslim cloth to prevent discoloration of the fabrics and varns that were used to create the banners. Identifying labels are tied to the covering to describe details about the banners. The fabric rolls are turned one-quarter of a turn every three months to avoid potential distortions caused by gravity.



COMMUNITY LIFE







Greetings from the Cheltenham Community





New Year's greetings from the Contemplative Sisters in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, where Sr. Nellie Marie Hawkins bakes, packages and distributes Hosts. Cheltenham is the remaining house in the Province that still has an oven for baking the Hosts. On December 13th the Community celebrated Sr. Martha Cardenas' 25th Anniversary of entering Good Shepherd. Sr. Martha renewed her vows with Fr. Dennis. Fr. Dennis and Fr. Janton joined the Cheltenham Community for Sr. Martha's anniversary meal.





GREEN CORNER







IEC Cont'd from p. 1



Twenty three communities of women and men religious form the Intercommunity Ecological Council in St. Louis.

IEC has focused on growing understanding of the sacredness of Earth since its inception. The initial activity of IEC was the planting of more than 1,500 trees as a religious act to address climate change. Over the years, IEC members have succeeded in encouraging their congregations to buy fuel efficient vehicles, to stop using bottled water, to compost food scraps from their kitchens and to link Lenten conversion to Care of Earth as ways to add ecospirituality to daily living.

IEC has sent money for hurricane relief and developed resources to heighten awareness about water, food and agriculture. Members have facilitated public discussions on Earth spirituality and presented workshops on bioregionalism. They have offered retreats and programs, sponsored concerts and formed prayer vigils to help raise consciousness about the environment. IEC brought two environmental giants to St. Louis: Wangari Maathai of Greenbelt Movement in Kenya for Earth Day and Jane Goodall for a public lecture at Powell Symphony Hall.

In April of 2000 some LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) Communities, together with the St. Louis Sisters of Earth, sponsored a conference. Massive response to the conference indicated that something more was needed. So, on November 9, 2000, all LCWR Region 10 Communities in St. Louis received an invitation to become members of the newly formed council. Each Community was to be represented by a Sister from leadership together with one or more persons who have a passion for Earth. Today 23 religious Communities and two associate groups form IEC.

The IEC retrospective opened in prayer and closed in song. The program included stories and remembrances of the past 15 years and a candle-lighting ceremony honoring the members who have died since the group first formed. A reception followed the program.

Nuclear waste town hall meeting

Mission Partners Monte Abbott and Jeanette McDermott attended a Town Hall meeting on December 13 on radioactive waste in St. Louis as a followup to a nuclear waste tour they took in October with Missouri State Senator Maria Chapelle-Nadal (center in photo.) The senator has vowed to expose culpability of disease, illness and lost lives resulting from radioactive contamination that originated from the Manhattan Project in St. Louis at Mallinckrodt Chemical Company. Read the story in Items of Interest at http://bit.ly/2hFR1Sx.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZEAL

Marie Maurer, RGS

August 13, 1940 - December 7, 2016

How do we tell a story about a woman like Sr. Marie Maurer? Words are inadequate. We can only make a feeble attempt to capture the aspects of her life. Others can keep adding their own bits to the story of Sr. Marie, who was also called Marie Bernarde and known by her family as "Tootsie."

Sr. Marie was a woman of simple faith who had a large heart for the most abused, troubled and suffering people of our world. Her story begins, as all stories do, at birth. Dorothy Clara was born on August 13, 1940, to Carl and Dorothy Maurer in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was the third of five children born to this couple.

The family lived in a middle class neighborhood until Dorothy was seven years old, when her father lost his job. This forced the family to move into a poor section of town. Living amidst poverty, violence and gangs on the North Philly streets toughened her exterior. The family suffered many hardships during this time. At age 14, Dorothy went



Sr. Marie enjoying a quiet break during a Province Assembly.

to work. Instead of going to high school she went to business school. She graduated within two years and took a job as a secretary clerk, a job she hated.

> During her teenage years Dorothy started to develop strong relationships with God and Mary. She also had a Guardian Angel, whom she named Christopher. As Marie matured, her simple faith also matured.

Her faith sustained her as a teenager and grew deeper over the years and into her final days. Her love of God as Abba, Mary as Mother and Christopher, her angel, remained with her throughout life.

Every vocation story is unique, and Sr. Marie's was no exception. Her Call came by accident when, as a teenager in a frightful situation, young Dorothy blurted out to a priest that she wanted to be a nun.

The priest gave her a big book of Religious Orders and told her to pick out some of them and write to them. Dorothy wrote to several. Only two of them responded, one of them being Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Dorothy feared that two things might prevent her from being accepted into the Order:

 $Continued\ on\ next\ page$



Sr. Marie was a stabilizing force during the St. Louis Contemplative Sisters' move from Florissant to the Province Center campus.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZEAL

Sr. Marie Cont'd from p. 14

she hadn't graduated from high school, and she had no money for a dowry. Her worries proved unfounded, as Good Shepherd invited her to come.

Dorothy entered the convent in Fox Chase, Pennsylvania, at the age of 17. She received her new name Marie Bernarde, after St.
Bernadette Soubirous, a Saint who was special to Sr. Marie. Sr. Marie was Professed as a Good Shepherd Sister on September 29, 1960, and made her Vows final on October 1, 1965. Vocations had become very important to Sister Marie throughout her religious life. Right up until her death she prayed for the Lord to send 50 new candidates to Good Shepherd.

Sr. Marie served faithfully in administration and leadership capacities in various ministries. The ministries she loved best were those that served troubled teenage girls and boys, abused women and their children, cultural outcasts, migrants and the poor. The many challenges of her early life gifted her with strength, compassion, firmness and understanding. She brought these gifts to her many apostolic ministries. Her smile, sense of humor and common sense helped bring hope to many people who had been ready to give up.

Sister served as residential group leader, teacher, counselor and director of a group home for boys. She served as a missionary to Guam and worked with Appalachian migrants in Cincinnati, Ohio. She ran a commercial laundry in our Vocational School in her early years of religious life.

Sr. Marie was one of several Sisters who left institutional community



Sister Marie's comforting smile helped many people overcome conflicts in their lives.

living to reside among the poor. She and the other Sisters brought healing and reconciliation to many impoverished souls who were struggling to overcome conflicts in their lives.

Sr. Marie served for about 24 years at Lourdesmont in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She also served in Germantown, Pennsylvania; Raleigh, North Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; Silver Spring, Maryland; Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; Chicago, Illinois; and St. Louis, Missouri. She brought stability and a sense of caring and support to all of the ministries where she was assigned. Sr. Marie was trustworthy and loval. She was a good friend to many people. She loved the Good Shepherd charism and lived it fully.

In the last months of her life, unbeknownst to many, Sr. Marie suffered from a number of health problems and was in pain most of the time. She never let this impede her mission to serve as Local Leader of the St. Louis Community, Administrator of Immaculate Heart and the Province Property, and as a member of the Leadership Team for the Province.

It is a mystery how she carried out her responsibilities while bearing so much pain. As she faced the reality of her condition she wanted to live long enough to complete her tenure on the Leadership Team. She wanted to support the Province Leader and the Team, and not be a burden to them. She longed for a time of Sabbatical, which she intended to make a special time of prayer, before dying.

Her life on Earth ended all too soon on December 7, 2016. Sisters Madeleine Munday, Mary Carolyn McQuaid and Marta Ceballos were with Sr. Marie at her hospital bedside when she passed. Days later, people filled the chapel for her funeral, including her brother Carl and her two nieces.

Sr. Marie will be missed for a long time to come. We are grateful that she lived among us. Her story continues in our remembrances of Sister Marie Maurer, RGS. Submitted by Sr. Virginia Gordon



Sisters Marie and Damiana take a moment to appreciate a snowfall.

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL



NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	Jan 29 - Feb 4	Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Jan 18 Jan 26 - Feb 4	NRVC meeting, Moraga, CA Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	Jan 28 - Feb 4	Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Johnson	Jan 28 - Feb 3	Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Jan 2-4 Jan 5-15 Jan 28-31	Visit with Sr. Christine, Atlanta Visit with family, Florida Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Jan 28 - Feb 5	Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Jan 29 - Feb 4	Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Jan 7-11 Jan 15-17 Jan 24-27 Jan 29 - Feb 4	Visitation with Good Shepherd Community, Baltimore Good Shepherd Shelter Board meeting, Los Angeles Visit Sisters at Boutwells Landing, Minnesota Leadership & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis

50th World Day of Peace January 1

In his 2017 Message for the World Day of Peace, Pope Francis urges us to practice active nonviolence and work to prevent conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships and facilitating healing and restoration. Check out the two-page handout for a summary of the message, prayer and action ideas.



PROVINCE CONTACT







"How I love to repeat the greeting of Jesus, 'Peace be with you."

Saint Mary Euphrasia

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