

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

Systemic racism

Sister Mary Catherine Massei attends workshop on racism seen through the prism of social justice.

Page 5

Betty Goldbeck retires

Our beloved Betty retires as Executive Assistant to spend more time following her bliss.

Page 7

Planning CACS

Congregational Assembly of Contemplative Sisters (CACS) 2020 Assembly is underway.

Page 9

Catholics arrested

Catholic religious and laity are arrested while protesting U.S. immigration policies.

Page 13



Students from three Catholic High Schools in Michigan transformed the Province Center grounds in July when they volunteered for three days as part of a summer service camp and conference.

VOLUNTEERS TRANSFORM CAMPUS

By Jeanette McDermott, Province Communications Coordinator

For three sweltering days with 100 degree temperatures and high humidity, 23 Catholic high school students and five adult chaperones and youth ministers came to the Province Center as volunteers to pull weeds,

Continued on next page



Green Corner

Sister Monica Duong takes us into her vegetable garden for this month's Green Corner. She talks about experimenting with gardening techniques and learning the art of patience with wind, rain, and pesky squirrels.

Continued on p. 15

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Volunteers, *Cont'd from p. 1*

prune trees, trim flower beds, and clean out sheds. The effort was timely, as the Sisters are selling the property in Normandy and needed to have the campus look inviting and fresh for potential buyers.

The youth and adults were from three high schools in Michigan that are affiliated with a nonprofit called Alive in You. Alive in You is a Catholic conference and service camp that serves people in need. The goal of Alive in You, according to the organization's founders, is for youth "to dive into their Catholic faith and have a blast hanging out with other young Catholics."



Sister Joanna Le, RGS, (front) pulled weeds and managed flower beds alongside the Catholic young people who volunteered at the Province Center in July.

While the outdoor work in deep summer was challenging, it was also rewarding.

"The experience was amazing," said Kimberlin. "I'm hot and dripping in sweat, but I would come back again. It's been fun getting to know the Sisters and bonding with other kids from Michigan that I didn't know before coming to camp."

It's a fluke how the volunteers ended up at the Province Center.

*God sent them to us.
This happens all the
time. Have you ever
heard of Providence? ~
Sr. Mercy de Leon*

"We were told we were going to be painting a school," said Olivia. "We brought gallons of paint and old work clothes for painting. But the school cancelled at the last minute and we ended up working with Sisters of the Good Shepherd. To be honest, I prefer working outside and gardening. Getting to the know the Sisters has been awesome."

Sister Mercy de Leon supervised the volunteer effort. She said, "God sent them to us. This happens all the time. Have you ever heard of Providence?"

"Believe me, it works. Providence works better than Facebook," Sr. Mercy said.

Believing in something

Jim and Heather Weir, the founders of Alive in You, built the organization 14 years ago around the belief that through service,



Samantha is confident in her ability to handle saws and other gardening tools. She said she learned how to use every possible tool imaginable from her dad.

young people learn what it means to believe in something, why belief is so important, and how Catholic beliefs can shape world views.

The Alive in You summer camp had two parts: a Catholic identity portion and a service component. The Catholic identity segment of the camp combined keynote speakers, daily Mass, Adoration each day before breakfast, prayer, the life-giving sacrament of reconciliation, and Holy Communion. Service and community loomed largely throughout the camp, as young people tackled the Province Center

Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Volunteers, *Cont'd from p. 2*

landscape. The idea behind the agenda was to give youth the opportunity to make the summer experience of faith more personal.

The conference had six goals:

1. To challenge youth spiritually
2. To help youth learn more about the Catholic faith
3. To process the service work young people completed
4. To build community among the youth's parish family
5. To prepare young people to enter the working world
6. To help youth apply the themes of the week to their daily life

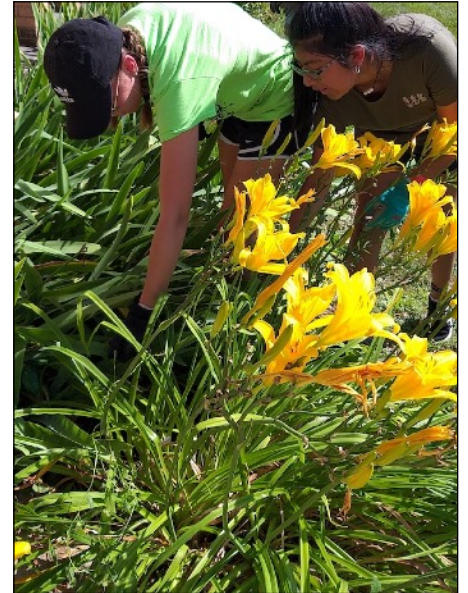
Prayer played a big role in the conference and camp. Alive in You had a prayer team that began praying for the participants and their parish before they left. The prayer team continued to pray for them throughout their entire Alive in You experience. The conference and camp wove prayer throughout the experience to bring youth's

hearts closer to Jesus and open their lives to his merciful love. Many of the activities throughout the week provided young people with the opportunity for personal reflection and prayer.

For example, Zak Mirzadeh, a Catholic convert from Islam, is an illusionist. He performed for the group in St. Louis, weaving his personal story through a mind-blowing show of illusion to communicate God's plan of redemption.

Steven Joubert has served as a musician at Alive in You each summer since 2010. The goal of his high energy performance is to help navigate youth into worship.

Luke Grant, one of the youth ministers who accompanied the students to St. Louis, said, "Alive in You is the reason I'm still Catholic. I went through it as a high school teenager and am now a high school youth minister and confirmation coordinator at Our Lady of Consolation in Rockford, Michigan.



It would make me happy if Alive in You became a camp for youth service work all summer long."

Kyle said this was his first experience on a mission trip and that "it's been great getting to know other kids and really great being able to help the Sisters."

As for Sr. Mercy, she said, "Working with these young people has been a terrific experience!"

Sharing our story

Sister Mercy ordered pizza for the work crew and introduced them to the international students who are currently living with the Sisters in the St. Louis Community. She also spoke briefly about the Good Shepherd charism and shared with them inspiring stories about Saint Mary Euphrasia as a young girl. She also spoke with the Michigan youth about Vista Maria, the province ministry in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, that helps girls who have been trafficked restore their lives and regain their dignity.

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Sisters made sure the volunteers stayed hydrated with plenty of water and protected themselves from the heat by taking frequent breaks in the shade.

PROVINCE NEWS

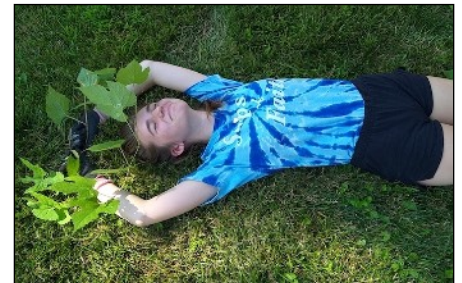


ZEAL

Volunteers, *Cont'd from p. 3*



The volunteer brigade worked under the blazing sun for three days on the Province Center campus in July. The Sisters served the high school students a bounty of frozen popsicles and orange slices to keep them refreshed.



Sister Mercy wrapped up her talk with the young people by saying, "Like Jesus, Good Shepherd Sisters reach out to help everyone. And you young people - this is what you are about too. You are really reaching out to others to be of service."

Neil, one of the adult chaperones, rolled up his sleeves and fixed the courtyard door that had been broken for years. He asked Sister Mercy why the Sisters were selling the St. Louis property. In response, she said, "The campus and buildings

are too large for us now that there are so few of us living here. We feel that selling the property will give way to others."

Youth performed service for Sisters at the Province Center from July 10-12, 2019. While they worked on the Normandy campus, their peers from Alive in You performed service work in Tampa, Florida; Columbia, South Carolina; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Dallas, Texas.

As a special treat and thank you to the volunteers, the Sisters took them

to the popular St. Louis ice cream and frozen custard shop Ted Drewes. The group then went on to visit several other iconic locations, including the St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park and the famous Arch - Gateway to the West, before heading back to Michigan.

You can read about the sale of the Normandy property in the March issue of Items of Interest. https://sistersofthegoodshepherd.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Items-of-Interest_March-2019-.pdf

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Examining the roots of systemic racism

By Mary Catherine Massei, RGS



I attended the annual Justice Conference of Women Religious (JCWR) at the request of PMNA's Justice Peace Coordinator Sister Claudia Palacio. The event was held in St. Louis. The theme was *RACISM—through the Prism of Social Justice*.

The purpose of the event was to examine the roots of systemic racism. The aim also was to explore the difficult work of purging ourselves, communities and country of the destructive effects of racism.

Patricia Chappell and Anne-Louise Nadeau keyed the convocation. Both are Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and experienced presenters and workshop leaders. They specialize in anti-racism work. Sister Patricia serves as Executive Director, and Sister Anne-Louise as Program Director, of Pax Christi USA.

Patricia and Anne-Louise set the pace for the conference. They have partnered for more than 15 years in planning and facilitating dialogue and discussion among their own Sisters. They have also engaged with other religious communities and two LCWR regions. Their energetic presentations were based on personal experiences of racial bias and stereotype judgements.

In addition to sharing their own stories, the speakers reviewed a series of decisions that have affected world and U.S. histories by authorities at national, state, and local jurisdictions. Their examples cited laws that were aimed primarily at people of color or people whose beliefs deviated from the socially accepted norm.

Defining racism

Patricia and Anne-Louise offered a schema of definitions that define racism, positive and negative use of power, the systemic nature of racism and its effects on education, politics, economics (jobs), social interactions, religious institutions, family and legal protection. Here are two key definitions:

1. **RACISM:** *Racism is PERSONAL RACIAL PREJUDICE + the MISUSE OF POWER by SYSTEMS and INSTITUTIONS*
2. **POWER**
 - a. **(positive)** *Energy * Ability to influence * Ability to produce an effect * Personal and collective
 - b. **(misuse)** * Authority over (obey). * Have control over * Have command over * Determine the outcome * Force people to be/do * Negate/deny the other

It became clear as we reviewed the schema and decisions made throughout history that most, if not all, systems and institutions were created to assure that power and control would be in the hands of white men. The speakers highlighted a few examples:

- 1452 Pope Nicholas gave the King of Portugal approval to perpetually enslave Saracens (Muslims) and pagans (a decision subsequently condemned by Pope Paul III in 1537)
- Doctrine of Discovery, "a concept of public international law expounded by the U.S. Supreme Court in a series of decisions, most notably *Johnson v. M'Intosh* in 1823. Under it, title to lands lay with the government whose subjects occupied a territory whose inhabitants were not subjects of a European Christian monarch. The doctrine has been primarily used to support decisions invalidating or ignoring *aboriginal* possession of land in favor of colonial or post-colonial governments." (Wikipedia)
- This "Doctrine" led to displacing native Americans and immigrants from Asia throughout U.S. history. During the colonization of the United States, enslaved people from Africa were brought forcibly to the U.S. and treated as non-human beings for imposed labor.

Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Racism, *Cont'd from p. 5*

In reviewing these historical events, we see how African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other people of color have been affected by racist institutional decisions by governments, organizations, religious and secular, that continue today.

We were gradually led to dialogue about ways that we can use this knowledge to exert influence for positive change and greater awareness of racially biased attitudes and actions, especially within our own congregations. In our large group gathering on the final morning we asked, "How are we being led to respond to systemic racism?" We broke into smaller groups by LCWR regions. Each group was asked to discuss and come to agreement about initiatives to address racism within our own regions/congregations. Each of us also agreed to accept a personal challenge to move us forward beyond the workshop.

I found the event energizing and inspiring! My hope is that Sisters of the Good Shepherd will call ourselves to examine the possibility of racist systems and/or attitudes in our communities and local geographic areas. I believe this is an important step if we are to create and sustain environments that are inclusive and supportive.



Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia Chappell (left) and Anne-Louise Nadeau were keynote speakers at the March convocation in St. Louis.

Boldness and beauty of communion

Giving Voice has held forums for Sisters under age 50 for the past 20 years. The forums provide a way for younger Sisters from diverse congregations around the world to gather and witness the boldness and beauty of their shared sisterhood. Themes generally touch upon leadership, mission, and ministry. Three Sisters from the Province of Mid-North America attended the biannual gathering in June at Fontbonne University in St. Louis: Sisters Anna Tram Nguyen, Claudia Palacio, and LeeAnn Mackeprang.

Sister LeeAnn said her life was changed by the gathering of younger Sisters because, through their eyes, she was able to see religious life through a new lens and different perspectives.

"Being among your peer age lets you talk to others to seek advice and look at religious life with fresh eyes," Sr. LeeAnn said.

Sister Tram said, "It was a great joy to be with young members of other religious communities and to see that vocations are alive and active in the world today. This gives me courage and strength."



Sister Anna Tram Nguyen (2nd from left) with peers.

Sister Claudia summed up the gathering by saying, "It was wonderful seeing so many women committed to and having great love for religious life."

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Betty Goldbeck retires

Betty Goldbeck, the glue that has held together the Province Center administrative functions for 18 years, has retired. Her final day in the office was July 11. We sent Betty off into her new phase of life with fanfare and food to beat the band two days earlier, on July 9. The food! Sisters Mercy de Leon and Anna Tram Nguyen made delicious English tea-style sandwiches that were beautiful and plentiful.

Sisters Mercy and Tram planned Betty's retirement party, and it was a party to remember. Betty received cards aplenty, so many that a forklift was nearly needed to carry them to her car. She also received a gorgeous bouquet of flowers, gifts from individuals, and from the Sisters - a prized convent painting of Joseph and Baby Jesus.

Everyone at the party took a few moments to reflect on their relationship to Betty and share one word that summarized their feelings about her. Words expressed included gracious, loving, dedicated, friend, persevering, joyful, helpful, rescuer, grandmother, among many others.

Sisters at the party spoke about Betty's dedication to the Mission and her loyalty as a friend. They shared stories about Betty that made people laugh and cry just a little. Ultimately, all spoke tenderly about how much they love Betty and how very much they will miss her for a long time to come.

"It means so much to me to be thought of in this way by so many people," Betty said.

Betty said she is looking forward to a retired lifestyle, when she can spend more time with her grandchildren, participate in Silver Sneakers classes at the gym more frequently, and read books at a leisurely pace. In general, she is eager to have time to simply follow her bliss.

Betty's replacement is Charnele Dawson. She comes to us from Edward Jones, where she served as a Senior Tax Specialist and Cost and Measures Specialist. You can learn more about Charnele on the next page.



Top: Betty and Sister Mercy de Leon share an intimate moment at the table, which is adorned with festive English Tea sandwiches that Sisters Mercy and Anna Tram Nguyen created. Below: A small group of well-wishers gathers with Betty to enjoy the photo album that the Finance Department put together for her. L-R: Sister Madeleine Munday; Yolanda Camp; Sisters Janice Rushman, Pauline Bilbrough, Virginia Gordon; and Betty Goldbeck.



A colorful banner, gifts, flowers, and cards completed the sending off party for Betty.



PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Province Center welcomes new Executive Assistant

Charnele Dawson learned about Sisters of the Good Shepherd from a staffing agency in St. Louis that had her resume on file. When the Province Center advertised the position for Executive Assistant, the agency called Charnele, believing she might be a good fit for the job. They were right! Charnele has eased into her new position with a cheery attitude and high confidence.

Charnele attributes her successful transition into the job to Betty Goldbeck. Betty cross trained Charnele for two weeks in the position that she had held for 18 years before retiring on July 11 (see related story on page 7).

"Betty was a great and patient teacher. As a result, I have been able to dive right in. Betty and the Leadership Team have made my transition into Good Shepherd run smoothly," she said.

Good Shepherd core values

Charnele said what motivated her to apply for the Executive Assistant position were the Good Shepherd core values. Since being on the job she said she has seen how the core values are demonstrated in the daily work environment.

"There is an ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Everyone has been so kind, helpful, and welcoming!" she said.

Family means a lot to Charnele. She said one of her greatest pleasures is spending time with her twin sister and the rest of her family. She also likes to read and do volunteer work.

Charnele comes to the Province Center from Edward Jones, where she worked for nearly four years as Senior Tax Specialist and Cost and Measures Specialist.

Charnele was born and raised in the Mississippi Delta. She graduated from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, a top-rated public magnet high school in Columbus, Mississippi.

She relocated to St. Louis to attend Washington University, where she studied psychology and anthropology. She and her sisters are first generation college students.

Charnele's other professional experience has mostly centered around administrative and student support in higher education.

Charnele said she is eager to increase her project management



We welcome Charnele Dawson into the Good Shepherd family!

skills and learn more about Good Shepherd's individual ministries.

"Sisters of the Good Shepherd serve populations that need it most. They strive unconditionally to treat every human being with dignity and respect. I look forward to supporting their work," she said.

Charnele's email address is executiveassistant@gspmna.org.

Announcements and News Tidbits

Please note two new email addresses:

Sr. Cathie Boerboom
cathiergs@gmail.com

Sr. Ann Joseph Dye
srajdye@gmail.com

Save the date for next year's Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Gathering. The Gathering - April 17-20, 2020 - will address the intersection of climate change and economic injustice.

Good Shepherd Arts Center opens a new show on August 3, featuring art as activism, Blackness as spirituality, and the global, collective, creative

revolution ignited by the movement and Spirit of Ferguson, Missouri. Look for the article in the September issue of Items.

St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson writes about his gratitude for the women religious in St. Louis as he faces retirement.
<https://bit.ly/2OpFCuB>

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Planning for CACS 2020 underway

The planning committee for the Congregational Assembly of Contemplative Sisters (CACS) met at the Province Center in July to advance their plans for the 2020 Assembly. The committee began its work in Rome this past January. They meet regularly to unify their thoughts into a single focus that they will present at Assembly.

New vision of Mary Magdalene

The planning committee is tasked by the Contemplative Congregational Leadership Team to clarify the vision for the Contemplative Sisters moving into the future.

The committee believes that connecting the past way of thinking with a new vision for the future can bring new life into Contemplative Communities. One way of doing this is by looking at the new vision of Mary Magdalene, who is being rediscovered as a contemplative woman — something Saint Mary Euphrasia knew all along, according to Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson.

She said, “Mary Magdalene was in full relationship with the Lord. Saint Mary Euphrasia called her the first Contemplative.”

“The teaching of the Church is evolving. We want to bring this vision, the new wine of Mary Magdalene, to the Contemplative Assembly,” said Sr. Sharon Rose.

“This new wine of Mary Magdalene also recognizes that she was a true Apostolic and faithful follower of Jesus, Master of Wisdom,” said Sr. Janice Rushman, who is facilitating the CACS 2020 meetings.

Members of the planning committee are asking themselves a number of questions to help guide discussions at the Assembly. Chief among them are the questions:



CACS 2020 Planning Committee back l-r: Sisters Maureen Johnson, PMNA; Sadhani Welmillage, Sri Lanka; Reina Escobar, El Salvador; and Sr. Cristina Rodriguez, Peru; Front l-r: Sisters Janice Rushman (meeting facilitator), PMNA; and Sharon Rose Authorson, PMNA.

- How are we going to embrace the new vision of Mary Magdalene to enrich our Contemplative Communities?
- How will we present the dignity of this woman to Contemplative Sisters at the Assembly?
- How is the new vision of Mary Magdalene relevant to the contemplative lifestyle?
- How do we share what we envision with our Apostolic Sisters? How do we ask them, our staff, benefactors and associates to pray for us, to live with us?

“We have to reflect and ask ourselves how the Church is inviting us to see differently what the vision is for the contemplative lifestyle. Reflecting on Saint Mary Euphrasia and Mary Magdalene is growing

from the call of the Church,” said Sr. Reina Escobar.

Cosmic Spirituality

Members of the committee are also drawn to Cosmic Spirituality as a way into the future. Sometimes called The Universe Story, Cosmic Spirituality is based on the mystery of the universe and the unity of all things. The committee will provide opportunities for Contemplative Sisters to reflect on and integrate this important theme.

“The Universe Story speaks to Jesus as Master of Wisdom and Mary as Mother of the Cosmos. Our Good Shepherd spirituality connects with the story,” said Sr. Janice.

“The Universe Story is at the heart of being a Contemplative because

Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

CACS *Cont'd from p. 9*

all of creation is centered in each aspect of creation. It is about unity and communion," she said.

Sr. Sadhani Welmillage said, "The Contemplatives have always lived Cosmic Spirituality, but we didn't have a name for it until now. Our lifestyle has been a deep well of experience and inner life from the time Saint Mary Euphrasia formed The Magdalenes."

Sister Cristina Rodriguez wants the Sisters to feel hope and gratitude for the future of Contemplative Communities. She said, "The young and middle-aged Contemplative Sisters ask, 'What is happening with vocations? Where is the new life in our communities? How are we as Contemplative Sisters relevant in today's age?'"

"Our committee is addressing these questions. Pope Francis says to open the heart, the mind, the will.

As for me, I have hope in the new life," Sr. Cristina said.

Sister Maureen Johnson said the planning committee's task is global. "We are being asked to be impelled by God's love, to deepen our commitment, and to discover new ways of living contemplative life today.

"If we truly believe our contemplative life is valuable and needed within the world, then we will be energized by the Spirit to live more fully each moment God gives us," Sr. Maureen said.

The CACS 2020 planning committee sent a survey to each Contemplative Sister in the congregation to help shape the Assembly. The committee will gather and summarize responses in November, 2019.

By Jeanette McDermott and the CACS 2020 planning committee

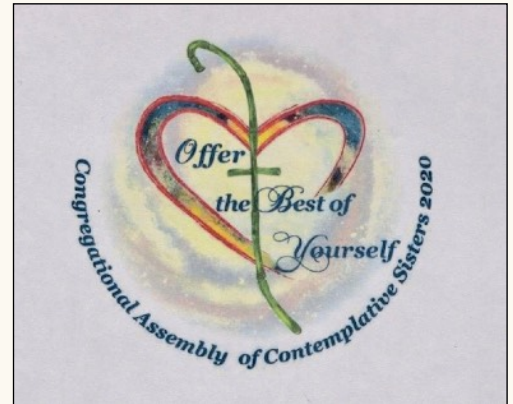
Root causes of migration, a brief on Honduras

An international delegation of 75 faith leaders involved with issues of social justice and immigration traveled to Honduras from March 18-25, 2019. Larry Couch, Director of the National

Advocacy Center, was among them. The objectives of the pilgrimage were to bring back to the U.S. a better understanding of what is at the root of the flow of migrants from Central America (particularly Honduras), and to act in solidarity with people striving for freedom and safety. In July, a committee from the delegation of pilgrims published a concise 8-page statement of findings and actions of the 2019 Root Causes Pilgrimage to Honduras. The committee has delivered the brief into the hands of U.S. power: all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. Find it at <https://bit.ly/2OD4MG6>



CACS 2020 logo



The logo for the Congregational Assembly of Contemplative Sisters (CACS) 2020 is embedded with layers of symbolism for deeper reflection.

- The crook is depicted by the deep growing bamboo shoot to symbolize rootedness in the developing history of the contemplative way of life within the Good Shepherd congregation.
- The heart in the logo is not closed to convey openness, sharing with others, and welcoming all.
- The cosmos swirling around in the logo represents Cosmic Spirituality through The Universe Story.
- The theme "Offer the Best of Yourself" is from a quote by Pope Francis in *The Path of Change in Politics and Society* that was published in 2018. Sisters on the CACS planning committee used the quote as a prayer throughout their days together in St. Louis in July.

Members of the CACS 2020 planning committee conceptualized the logo. Monique Tarabeh, Communications Director for the congregation, designed the logo to visually represent the planning committee's vision for the 2020 Assembly.

JUBILEES

Liz Schille, RGS

On a perfect Day-before-Pentecost on June 8, my immediate family and four Good Shepherd Sisters gathered at the Fort Walla Walla Park in Washington for a day-long picnic to celebrate my 50th Jubilee. Fifty-six summer-clad children and adults descended on the area Saturday as I introduced Madeleine, Maureen and Joan to my family. They had come to help me give thanks to God for 53 years of giftedness as a Good Shepherd Sister.

This was very much like a family reunion, as many children had grown from tots to young adults since the last time I had seen them. Some family members had gone home to God and a little more gray hair was showing on others. My nephew, owner of a locally-sourced produce and meat bistro, catered the meal with the help of my sisters, who insisted on having tablecloths and flowers on the

tables. Children and adults played games nonstop throughout the day.

Childhood parish

On Sunday morning, June 9, we all went to St. Patrick's Parish, the parish where most of my family grew up, received the Sacraments, and got married.

I made my final profession of vows there in 1975 with Sr. Dorothy Renckens, Provincial, and about 25 Sisters from Seattle, Spokane, Portland and our recently arrived Vietnamese Sisters who were staying at Mt. Angel Abbey in Oregon.

It was 105 degrees in the shade that day in 1975! The Sisters from Vietnam stayed overnight in the homes of my various siblings. My Sister-in-law had made a quilt for me to commemorate the occasion of taking my vows. It had 27 squares, each square with a

personal and unique drawing by my nieces and nephews. I still use that quilt and had it displayed at the Jubilee picnic.

The renewal of my vows at the Jubilee Mass was simple and meaningful. My siblings arranged for a reception to follow Mass. This provided an opportunity for local friends and classmates to also say hello. Afterwards, we spent the rest of the day shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables at the local farmers markets and then headed home.

Submitted by Liz Schille, RGS



Everyone who knows Sister Nora Pat is aware of her love for Pope Francis. Here she displays one of the gifts she received at her Jubilee celebration.

Nora Pat O'Flannigan, RGS

Sister Nora Pat O'Flannigan celebrated her 60th Jubilee with family and Good Shepherd Sisters and Mission Partners on the Feast of the Sacred Heart June 28.

Monsignor Nicholas Schneider served as officiant of the Jubilee Mass in the Province Center chapel. After Msgr's homily, Sr. Nora Pat stood and renewed her vows. Before Mass, Sister Jean Marie Fernandez offered a liturgical dance of grace, beauty, festivity and reflection in celebration of the Jubilee.

The chapel was filled with Sisters from the St. Louis area and Sr. Nora Pat's family who had traveled from Oregon, Connecticut, Ohio, Wyoming, and St. Louis County. Long-time friend and Mission Partner Jean Honich enriched the singing at Mass with her musical talent at the organ.

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Sister Liz Schille (center) celebrates her 50th Jubilee with Good Shepherd Sisters (l-r) Joan Spiering, Madeleine Munday, and Maureen Kunz.

JUBILEES



ZEAL

Jubilees, *Cont'd from p. 11*

Following Mass and the renewal of her vows, guests joined Sr. Nora Pat in the Province Center's dining room, which Sisters had adorned in green and yellow — Sr. Nora Pat's favorite colors. Jubilee festivities included delicious food, a decorated cake, and gifts.

After lunch the full entourage of Sisters and family guests loaded into cars and traveled to Mason Pointe to celebrate with Sisters who were unable to travel to the Province Center. The remaining half of the Jubilee cake went to Mason Pointe for the party there, which also included a banquet of goodies.

Sister Nora Pat said she was moved by everyone's thoughtfulness. "The whole day was wonderful. It was very special," she said.

Province Leader Sr. Madeleine Munday said, "It was a big, big day. The Province Center was delighted to host Sister Nora Pat and her family for this grand once in a lifetime celebration."

We will report on Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson's 60th Jubilee in the September issue of Items of Interest. Her celebration in July took place after publication deadline.



Portrait wins first place in national contest

The National Press Photographers Association is an organization representing some 6,000 photojournalists from U.S. publications, including *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. The association runs a photo contest each month for best photography in multiple categories. A photograph in the Catholic newspaper *St. Louis Review*, which shows Sister Josephine Fritz knitting a baby blanket for Birthright (above), won First Place in the portrait category in April. Lisa Johnson, photographer for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, took the photograph to accompany an article that *St. Louis Review* staff reporter Joseph Kenny wrote to commemorate Sr. Josephine's 100th birthday. You can read the online version of the article at <https://bit.ly/2FSfhxF>. The online story doesn't include Lisa's award-winning portrait, but it does feature other photos of Sr. Josephine with the Good Shepherd Sisters at Mason Pointe.

Good Shepherd blogs and links

Winifred's blog from the United Nations
<https://gsiipoffice.com/>

Larry's blog from National Advocacy Center
<https://www.gsadvocacy.org/>

NAC environmental blog by Jack Lawlor
<https://www.gsadvocacy.org/stewardship>

Blogs from Good Shepherd Volunteers
www.gsvolunteers.org

GSIIJP Prayer Network
<http://rgs.gssweb.org/v4/justice-peace/prayer-network>

Want to share your blog? Submit your URL.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL

Good Shepherd Sister and other Catholics arrested at D.C. protest

Vowed Catholic religious and laity gathered on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol on July 18 to protest the Trump Administration's immigration policies. The event — #catholicdayofaction — drew nearly 250 Catholics, some of whom were arrested for demonstrating illegally in a Senate building. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS, was one of them.

Following a prayerful assembly and press conference, where she spoke, Sr. Gayle walked with other protesters to the Russell Senate Office Building to make her stand. She and Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC), engaged in civil disobedience in the Senate building. Their aim was to draw attention to the plight of children being detained by the U.S. Government.

Five protesters laid face-up on the floor in the senate building to form the shape of a cross with their bodies. While they lay on the floor, the rest of the protesters circled them and recited the Lord's Prayer. Sister Gayle and Larry were arrested, along with 68 other Catholic demonstrators. The protesters were arrested on misdemeanor charges and released the same day after paying a \$50 fine.

Ideals and Catholic faith

Larry said, "Our bedrock American ideals marry well with our Catholic faith in providing refuge to those in need and welcoming people into our communities. With this action, I hope to call more Catholics to demand our government immediately end the detention of children."

Leaders of 14 faith organizations, including NAC, signed a statement in



Clutching her rosary, Sister Gayle Lwanga Crumbley is arrested for demonstrating in Senate offices to end child detention. Photo: Marlena Sloss/Washington Post

support of the protest. Catholic bishops and orders of women religious sent statements supporting the gathering and civil disobedience action. The Province Leaders of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd abhor the needless deaths occurring at the border and issued a statement in reaction to the Administration's immigration policies. Titled *In Defense of the Human Dignity of All People at the Border, Especially Children*, the statement reads, in part: "The people at our southern border are not our adversaries. They are fleeing a desperate situation in their home countries, a situation of extreme poverty frequently caused in part by our national policies."

<https://bit.ly/2M8T6rZ>

Courage to do the right thing

Marge Clark, Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Advisory Board member for NAC, told reporters, "We hope that by being here and putting our bodies on the line, we can give members of Congress courage to do the right thing. It's important to go beyond words, to put your body where your words are, where your beliefs are."

The demonstration came less than a week after President Trump promised a crush of immigration raids in cities around the country. The Catholic demonstration was the second protest that followed the president's remarks. Two days earlier 100 Jewish activists had locked arms and formed barriers around the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building, disrupting the agency's daily operations. They were arrested.

National media outlets covered #catholicdayofaction in length. For links to published reports visit <https://bit.ly/2ZkudNB>

Written by Jeanette McDermott in collaboration with NAC staff



Protesters wore photographs of migrant children who have died while in federal custody.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL



NAC holds second Conference on Human Trafficking

Capitol Hill staffers, religious Sisters and social justice advocates packed a congressional meeting room on Capitol Hill June 26 for a conference on human trafficking.

The National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC) sponsored and organized the conference for the second consecutive year.

Conference organizers offered a wide range of human trafficking examples. Neha Misra, of the Washington-based Solidarity Center, said that even the popular image most people have about human trafficking can prove complicated.

Sister Winifred Doherty, United Nations Representative for the Good Shepherd Congregation, addressed conferees. She used Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* as a launching point to discuss human ecology and our relationship to one another.

She said, "Our society sees humans as objects. We encounter the other as objects to be commercialized and used. ... And we are all diminished for it."

Twenty-year-old Bailey also spoke at the conference. A survivor of human trafficking, she spoke about finding her way to Vista Maria. The Good Shepherd ministry in Detroit offers female survivors of human trafficking critical services to help them heal, such as counseling, housing, and career training.

In her address to conference attendees, Bailey said, "Without long-term treatment, I would not be where I am today. It wasn't that long ago that I didn't want to live because of my depression. Today my future is very promising. Please help us pass laws that support girls and women who have experienced sexual exploitation and help them have a future beyond trafficking."

Participants lobbied U.S. lawmakers after the conference to encourage them to pass tougher legislation that will help combat the problem of trafficking.

Next month *Items of Interest* will share two pieces of legislation that the National Advocacy Center supported at the conference. We will invite you to contact your



Television reporters interview Winifred Doherty, RGS, about the trafficking conference and her role with Good Shepherd at the United Nations. Sister Winifred spoke at NAC's first conference on human trafficking in 2018 and addressed conferees again this year.

lawmakers in support of the legislation.

Submitted by Kathy Dempsey, NAC

CELEBR8!
NAC's 18th Anniversary
&
Larry's 80th Birthday
FUNDRAISER

DONATE & RSVP TODAY
RSVP: www.gsadvocacy.org/celebr8
Donate: <http://bit.ly/nacpaypal>

Thursday, Sept 19, 2019
5:30 - 7:30 pm
in Washington DC

Time to celebrate National Advocacy Center

Good Shepherd's National Advocacy Center (NAC) is celebrating its anniversary with a party and fundraiser on September 19 in Washington DC. It is NAC's 18th anniversary and it is the 80th birthday of Larry Couch, NAC's Director.

The National Advocacy Center is raising funds for its educational programs such as its highly successful human trafficking conferences.

For more details, to donate and to RSVP, please call NAC at 301-622-6838 or visit <https://www.gsadvocacy.org/celebr8.html>

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Sister Monica doesn't plant genetically modified seeds or use chemicals on her plants. She believes organic food is grown in a way that is kinder to the Earth and to our bodies.

Gardeners know that their efforts can be exhausting, and they can be exhilarating. For Sister Monica, the real joy of gardening is harvest time — when she sees with her own eyes the mature, ripened vegetables.

While talking with Sr. Monica, I learned that just a few short years ago she knew nothing about gardening. It seemed like a useful but time-consuming hobby to her that involved too much work and irritation. And then something shifted. She decided to grow a few vegetables on a small patch of land as a way to reconnect with nature.

For years she had enjoyed going to a You-Pick farm in southern Illinois. These trips eventually led her to wonder if maybe she could gain as much pleasure growing food that she had grown with her own hands.

Well, the day she took on that challenge is the day her learning curve began. She made many mistakes early on, and still does, she said. But she's OK with that. She says she solves problems as they come up, learning as she goes along.

"I have had to apologize to seeds and plants and take back threats I have made to squirrels," she said.

Gardening has shaken her up and slowed her down.

"Tending a garden is a meditative and humbling experience. I can't force anything. I just have to have patience," Sr. Monica said.

For example, Sr. Monica says she has failed at growing robust ears of corn on the cob, radishes and sweet peas, some of which she blames on squirrels. But she does tomatoes

well and grows runner beans and cucumbers like a pro now. She also has a lush crop of rhubarb that is destined for a pie. But the pie has to wait and Sr. Monica said she realizes that she needs to be patient because it takes more than one growing season for rhubarb to mature.

Into her third growing season, Sister Monica says her patience continues to be tested by wind, rain, squirrels, and her own frustration. But she is working more in harmony now with Mother Nature, and it's paying off. She is excited about her newest experiment: vertical gardening - training vegetables to grow upward on trellises instead of letting them sprawl on the ground. She is having success. Vegetables are getting plump, and they are ripening.

Continued on next page

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Sr. Monica *Cont'd from p. 15*

Joyful custodianship

Evening is Sister Monica's favorite time to be in the garden. She visits her small garden at the end of each day to relax and lose herself while communing with her plants. There is a joy that she gets from being in the fresh air and sunshine, hearing birdsong, and getting exercise by tending a garden. It's a happiness that makes her feel healthy and alive.

"Gardening feeds my soul," she said.

Her gardening efforts also feed people. Sr. Monica harvests her

fresh, homegrown vegetables for meals in the convent. She can't eat the food she produces because of some digestion issues, but she said she really enjoys watching the Sisters benefit from her labor.

Sister Monica doesn't know where the Sisters will be living next growing season, now that the Normandy property is for sale. But she hopes that wherever they are, there will be space where she can transplant her rhubarb and continue to practice homegrown gardening and the art of patience.

Written by Jeanette McDermott



Sisters Monica Duong and Damiana Ham at Eckert's Farm in 2016.

Vatican City, a model for going green

Vatican City has its own system of collecting and recycling its waste. It is doing away with single-use or disposable plastic, and its 2,400 photovoltaic panels provide clean energy for the needs of the City Hall and several adjoining buildings.

In January, Vatican City inaugurated a new environmentally friendly and cost-effective LED lighting system in the interior of St. Peter's Basilica. Efforts are now underway to expand into other renewable sources of energy in the Vatican. In short, the world's smallest state has become a model for going green.

Before Pope Francis and his 2015 encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si*, Pope Benedict XVI and his predecessor St. Pope John Paul II boosted the Vatican's green effort. Both made appeals for the protection of the environment.

Today the government of Vatican City tries to minimize the amount of waste it disposes in Italy. The



The Vatican City Garden was first conceived in 1279 by Pope Nicholas III. It wasn't until the 16th century, under Pope Julius II, that major landscaping took place. This view shows a section of the Vatican Gardens today from the cupola of St. Peter's Basilica.

government's goal is to be a good example of a 'green' and non-polluting state."

For more information visit the Vatican website vaticannews.va

CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZEAL

Sr. Therese Mott

March 7, 1942 - May 2, 2019

Mary Luella was born in Pasadena, California, to John Wencel Mott and Helen Luella Rockwell Mott. She and her brother and sister were raised conservative orthodox Quaker and grew up in a predominantly Catholic neighborhood.

The Mott home was a happy one, living deep values and with a special appreciation for all of life. Sister was a very special and much-loved person whose story is a challenge to tell and is best told in her own words.

"In a recent television ad a little girl with head phones on and eyes glued to an iPod on her lap is in the back seat of a car moving through the beautiful countryside. I was saddened by what this girl was missing. I also felt concern for our world. I would like to share what the image of this little girl meant to me.

Quaker roots

I grew up in a Quaker family of five. My father had a week off each summer and we traveled in a station wagon that also served as our camper. We were immersed in the beauty of creation and experienced connections with the Sister we share our life with... and learned to know the beautiful Mother Earth who opens her arms to embrace us. (*Laudato Si 1*)

We traveled to the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, through the Rocky Mountains, Bryce and Zion Canyons, Cedar Breaks, and then our own beloved California—Death Valley, Hoover Dam, Lake Tahoe, Mount Lassen Volcanic Park, Big Basin, Big Sur, Joshua Tree National Monument, Mount Whitney, Kings Canyon, and Golden Gate Park. On



Sister Therese Mott often played the organ with fervent joy at Mass.

to Oregon, Columbia River Gorge, Klamath Falls.

My father was the bird expert; my mother the nature expert. I remember one mountain experience when my father had us lie down flat, not moving, and not making a sound, waiting with one arm outstretched with crumbs in our hands; eventually birds came to eat!

My parents taught us to delight in nature and to identify wildflowers, trees and shrubs, and identify birds by their appearance and calls. These experiences left their mark on me, giving me a deep sensitivity of and appreciation for natural beauty. It saddened me, on several levels, to ponder all that the little girl in the ad could be missing.

When I was in my twenties, I sought a teaching position in Alaska. I was seeking a simple environment where wilderness still thrives. At last I made it to that great State; to a place

off the North Slope with enough sun for a garden. However, I soon discovered permafrost and the fact that it snowed every month of the year, making gardening impossible.

Later I moved to Fairbanks, four hundred miles south, where I was fortunate enough to rent a small house with a large backyard. I went to the university extension farm to learn about short-summer gardening. I learned to make my own rows running north and south three feet apart; to dig trenches in-between and keep the soil warm by covering each row with heavy clear-plastic sheeting.

All told, I had 20 double-twenty-foot rows. Around each row I crawled, hand packing the edges of the plastic with soil. Several times a day I would walk each row and when I found a seedling, I would make a cut to free it from the plastic so it would not

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sr. Therese *Cont'd from p. 17*

burn. I felt like I was nurturing life, and giving birth. I had squash, beans, celery, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, three kinds of lettuce, beets, parsnips, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, carrots, , corn, rhubarb, and peas. I used no sprays on the pests. Instead, I washed off all insects and planted pungent marigolds at the end of each row. It worked.

I began to live in a new way. I taught during the fall, winter and spring and lived in my garden all summer long. I put my watch in the drawer and lived without awareness of time, as daylight is continuous in the summer. Long walks and gardening filled my short summers. I ate from the garden, froze the vegetables, saved some fresh ones for myself and gave the rest away.

I loved being in the garden and close to nature, giving myself to this work. I felt I was participating in the growth and fruitfulness of the plants. I became aware of the garden's cycle of life. In sacrificing, dying and giving what was left, the plants ensured and provided for new life.

Earlier, in the winter of 1969, I was living in an Eskimo village on an island off the north slope of Alaska, where we experienced total darkness. The darkness was breathtaking in itself. In such darkness the stars were brilliant - the Milky Way so evident.

One night while walking out from the village with total 360-degree visibility, the northern lights, Aurora Borealis, presented themselves in curtains of purple, green, pale yellow, violet, blue, and magenta, rippling all around me! I was overwhelmed by the beauty. I found myself dancing and twirling over the frozen tundra in communion with

my God. I had many encounters with the northern lights during my years in Alaska, sometimes with friends and sometimes alone. The encounters were always stunning and unique."

Door to Catholic faith opens

On May 2, 1984, Pope John Paul II was in Fairbanks with President Ronald Reagan for a portion of a day. It was a city holiday and Sister Therese watched the Holy Father on television. She felt impelled to make a telephone call to inquire who the priest was standing next to the Pope. He was Jesuit priest Rev. Francis W. McGuigan. That one phone call was the beginning of a door opening to the Catholic faith for her.

In the fall of 1984 Sr. Therese started regular visits and instructions with Father McGuigan. She was baptized and confirmed on Holy Saturday night in 1985. During the next three years she met, prayed and worked with Sisters of the Good Shepherd. She made a short visit with the Contemplative Community in Florissant, Missouri, and within 16 hours said, "this is home."

Sister then prepared to leave Alaska. She visited a number of Good Shepherd communities in the U.S. and in March of 1988, Holy Week, she returned to Florissant to stay, where she lived a deeply contemplative life. She learned to play the organ and knitted many beautiful afghans, using the Aurora Borealis colors in her weavings. She enjoyed garden work and added much joy to the communities where she had been missioned in St. Louis, California, Illinois, and Korea.

Sister Therese began to experience mild difficulty speaking and swallowing in early 2013. The symptoms gradually progressed and



Sister Therese Mott in St. Louis.

decreased her ability to interact verbally or eat normally. After many tests to eliminate various illnesses, Sister was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a chronic and debilitating disease. Her courage, beautiful acceptance and resignation of her illness was an inspiration and humbling gift to all of us who loved and cared for her throughout the gradual progression of her disease and ultimate death and return home to our loving Shepherd on May 2.

The fidelity of her family, especially her sister Peggy who visited her from California and e-mailed her daily, were a blessed treasure, as were her religious Sisters and many faithful friends. Sister Therese was also very grateful to our staff and the Visiting Nurses and Associates who brightened her days so often. She was a special angel and is greatly missed.

Submitted by Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

Mission stories needed for Good Shepherd Museum

The Good Shepherd Museum of Angers at the Motherhouse opened three years ago, in July 2016. Ministries and individuals sent stories and testimonies to the museum so they could help tell the Good Shepherd story to today's visitors and future generations of guests.

The museum is once again looking for stories from Sisters and Mission Partners who can enhance the story of the Good Shepherd mission. The museum wants completed

videos that are between 3-5 minutes long (no longer than 5 minutes). Ideally, the videos would be narrated in one of the three languages of the Congregation, preferably with sub-titles in at least one of the other two languages.

For details and more information, contact Sister Nirmala at csc.coordinator@gssweb.org or Sarah Elbisser at archivistemm@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2019.

North East Asia Province completes Pre-Chapters

The Province of North East Asia is the first province in Asia Pacific to have its Chapter in the Asia Pacific region. It will hold its third Chapter from October 10 - October 18, 2020. The Chapter is based on the theme "Drawn by Love, Called to See Deeply, Respond Boldly."

As part of the Chapter process, the province had a Pre-Chapter in Hong Kong from June 17-19 and another in Korea from June 22-24, 2019. Sister Anne Dalton and Mission Partner Theresa Symons facilitated the Pre-Chapters. The Hong Kong Pre-Chapter drew 17 apostolic sisters and nine Mission Partners. The Pre-Chapter in Korea engaged 37 apostolic Sisters, four Contemplative Sisters, and six Mission Partners.

The Pre-Chapters were significant, as lay Mission Partners were invited for the first time to participate in the first day in Hong Kong and Korea. The province has acknowledged that Sisters and lay partners are co-responsible for the effectiveness and sustainability of Good Shepherd Mission into the future. The Sisters suggested names of possible leaders who could lead the province into the next six years.

"The Pre-Chapters are designed to provide space and time for deep



listening to oneself and each other on the realities of today and the priorities that need attention for the future of Good Shepherd Mission in the Province of North East Asia," said Sister Marie Jean Bae, North East Asia Province Leader.

Everything discussed at the Pre-Chapters will be further discussed at the province Chapter in October.

Submitted by Sister Marie Jean Bae



Activity at the Pre-Chapters in Hong Kong and Korea as Sisters and Mission Partners in the North East Asia Province bond and ponder the future of Good Shepherd in the Asia Pacific region.

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

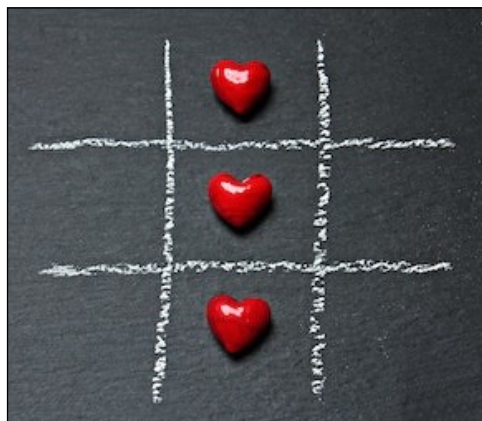
NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Aug 12-17 Aug 17-24 Aug 29 - Sep 1	CHA workshop & LCWR assembly, Scottsdale, AZ Apostolic Council mtg/Financial Advisory Board, St. Louis Vocational Discernment retreat w/young women, Dallas TX
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	Aug 18-25	Meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Johnson	Aug 28-Sep 2	Home visit
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Aug 6-28	Meetings and secretarial work, St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Aug 12-17 Aug 17-25 Aug 30-Sep 7	CHA workshop & LCWR assembly, Scottsdale, AZ Apostolic Council meetings, St. Louis Love at the Heart of the Universe retreat in St. Louis
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Aug 6 Aug 8-12 Aug 13-17 Aug 19-24 Aug 27-28	Staff Retreat, Pallottine Renewal Center, St. Louis Good Shepherd Shelter, Los Angeles CHA workshop & LCWR assembly, Scottsdale, AZ Apostolic Council mtg/Financial Advisory Board, St. Louis Christian Brothers' Religious Medical Trust, Romeoville, IL
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Aug 6 Aug 12-17 Aug 19-24	Staff Retreat, Pallottine Renewal Center, St. Louis CHA workshop & LCWR assembly, Scottsdale, AZ Apostolic Council meeting, St. Louis

Birthday greetings to Saint Mary Euphrasia

Good Shepherd Sisters and Mission Partners across the globe commemorated Saint Mary Euphrasia's birthday on July 31. This amazing woman was a real dynamo. She was born Rose Virginie Pelletier on July 31, 1796, on Noirmoutier, a tidal island off the Atlantic coast of France. She received the name Mary Euphrasia upon entering religious life at age 18. Mary Euphrasia died on April 24, 1886 in Angers, France, after having founded 110 Good Shepherd houses around the world. Mary Euphrasia's beatification took place in 1933. She was canonized Saint Mary Euphrasia in 1940.

“The glory of God
and the salvation of souls -
this is my life.” ~ Saint Mary Euphrasia

PROVINCE CONTACT



"Ask God to grant you God's own love for all persons. You will see what marvels this love achieves in you."

St. Mary Euphrasia

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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