

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

Heritage Museum

The long awaited Good Shepherd Heritage Museum was inaugurated on May 30 in Angers.

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Preparing for prom, helping youth lobby legislators, fundraising ... these are our ministries.

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After 32 years on Chew Avenue in Philadelphia, Good Shepherd Mediation Program moves.

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Family of Life

Monte Abbott writes about a sacred place and the world as an amazing place full of variety.

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Sister Gabriel Herbers

A SISTER'S ZEAL FOR JUSTICE

By Jeanette McDermott, Province Communications Coordinator

I woke up on an early June morning with Sister Gabriel Herbers on my mind. I met Sr. Gabriel in 2013 on a visit to Boutwells Landing and

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Green Corner

Monte Abbott is the Director of Operations for the Province of Mid-North America. When he is not coordinating logistics or organizing large Good Shepherd gatherings, he can be found toiling in the great outdoors, planting trees and pollinator plants for urban wildlife. The natural world fills Monte with wonder. Here he talks about the sacredness of plant communities and the importance of their stories.

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SISTER STORY

Justice *Cont'd from p. 1*

haven't seen her since. I don't know why she came into my thoughts from a deep sleep, so I took it as a sign that I was meant to tell her story.

Sr. Gabriel was still engaged in her lifelong commitment to right social wrongs when I met her. Today, at age 96, she is in the memory care unit at Boutwells Landing Senior Living in Oak Park Heights, Minnesota.

She doesn't remember most people she knows anymore. She is blind, and her hearing is now nearly gone. But my, oh my, there was a time when this spitfire of a Sister set the world ablaze with social justice activism. Her attitude and actions have had lasting impacts on people and communities.

Lasting impact

For example, two pioneering youth-centered programs that Sr. Gabriel ignited decades ago in Omaha are still going strong. The Frog Town neighborhood in St. Paul, which was rife with pornography and prostitution before Sr. Gabriel targeted it for activism, is now a decent area to live.

Sr. Gabriel's efforts to clean up Frog Town had a profound impact on Sr. Maureen Kunz, who said, "I admired Gabe's willingness to address issues and pull Sisters and other people together to impact change. One reason I moved to Frog Town with other Sisters was because of Gabe's investment in that low income area.

"She was seriously involved in shutting down porn and prostitution. By the time we got there the red light corner had been



Sr. Gabriel (left) has been on the front line of protest movements since the 1960s, when bishops of the Second Vatican Council redefined the nature of the Church.

transformed into a community garden, Sr. Maureen said."

Good Shepherd Sisters had other notable effects on the Frog Town neighborhood through their work with girls and young children. Today a memorial garden in Frog Town honors Sisters of the Good Shepherd for the positive changes they brought to the neighborhood and the legacy of good works they left in their wake.

The root of problems

Sr. Gabriel was active in multiple causes while serving in the St. Paul Province in the 1970s through 1990s. Sr. Liz Schille remembers supporting her protest actions against 3M Corporation. 3M was helping to produce deadly cluster bombs for war efforts abroad. Of



Sisters in the St. Paul Province joined Sr. Gabriel in her protests against 3M Corporation Headquarters for its involvement in making cluster bombs to support war efforts.

particular concern to Sr. Gabriel were the "bomblets" that didn't explode and were left on the ground. They are lethal for anyone who comes across them.

"Gabriel never missed a single rally

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SISTER STORY



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Justice *Cont'd from p. 2*

outside 3M's headquarters building. She campaigned tirelessly against glaring injustices that were being done in the name of Americans," Sr. Liz said.

Sr. Gabriel has always belonged to a large network of antiwar protesters and conscientious people who are committed to social justice. She was bold and provocative, which led to her getting arrested in Omaha for civil disobedience. Jail was a very sobering experience for her, according to Sr. Barbara Beasley. Even so, Sr. Gabriel was not deterred from her causes.

Sr. Gabriel once told a reporter, "Whenever I hear people say, 'Here comes that radical nun,' I would say that's fine with me. A radical is one who gets at the root of problems."

This comment sounds exactly right for those who have witnessed Sr. Gabriel's zeal to reform something

unjust. Getting at the root of problems is what drove Sr. Gabriel to be a Witness for Peace in Nicaragua and the Philippines on the heels of the Vietnam War, and to take on a leadership role with the Alliance to End Repression in 1977.

It drove her to testify before Congress nearly 40 years later on voter ID, which would put an additional road block in the lives of the poor. In the many years between she championed gay rights and immigration reform. She advocated for improved quality of life for incarcerated elderly women and the blind and disabled. She protested military actions at the Strategic Air Command on Offutt Air Force Base and at the School of Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia.

One of her boldest and most courageous moves was organizing individuals and groups in the late 1970s to investigate Chicago's most powerful men and expose their corruption. The Chicago Tribune wrote an article lauding Sr. Gabriel's efforts to clean up Chicago's ward politics. The reporter said of Sr. Gabriel, "She will be remembered for her audacity and tenacity." The Chicago Sun Times called her the "Conscience of Chicago."

Showing vision and courage

Sister Gabriel wasn't afraid to swim against the tide publicly or within her own Province of St. Paul. While in Omaha in the 1970s she stopped construction plans for a large Good Shepherd residential facility for girls. At the time Social Services was changing rapidly. The trend was moving away from large

residential institutions to smaller community-based facilities.

"Good Shepherd already had Girls Town in Omaha, and Gabe felt that constructing another large institution was not sound. She conducted a feasibility study of her own and determined that building the facility would take Good Shepherd in the wrong direction," said Sr. Gabriel's friend of 44 years Sr. Ellen Dolan.

According to Sr. Ellen, Sr. Gabriel was fervent in her pursuit of stopping construction because of the changing landscape in the field of human services. Despite influential philanthropists and benefactors having already donated the millions of dollars needed to construct the building, Sr. Gabriel succeeded in bringing construction plans to a halt. This troubled some Sisters and their supporters, among whom was Rose Kennedy, mother of then U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

"I've been very close to Sr. Gabriel since 1972 and can tell you that Gabe has always been fiery. She goes to the center of controversy and always has. She had vision and courage and knew building a large institution in the early 1970s was not the right thing to do," said Sr. Ellen.

Sr. Barbara, who was in the Omaha community in the 1960s, when Sr. Gabriel served as local leader, said, "Gabriel got as much flak as she did adulation. It wasn't all glory by any means."

Sisters Ellen and Barbara have witnessed Sr. Gabriel's intrepid

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One of the gifts that Sr. Gabriel has treasured is the willful ballerina that one of her former girls in Denver painted for her.

SISTER STORY



ZEAL



Justice *Cont'd from p. 3*

spirit on many occasions over the course of knowing her for nearly five decades.

"When she saw something that needed to be changed, she would find the resources and means to see it through. Whatever it took, she would drive it to completion," said Sr. Ellen.

Sister Barbara recounts the time Sr. Gabriel unseated a judge. "Omaha had a Juvenile Court judge who was less than merciful to girls who appeared before him. Good Shepherd had a large institution for teen age girls at the time. Sr. Gabriel took it upon herself to get the judge removed from the bench at the next election -- a feat that was nearly impossible since he was an incumbent," Sr. Barbara said.

"She spread the word to everyone she could and invited all of the Sisters in Community to participate in her campaign to oust him. The judge was the most surprised person in the city when he was not retained. We got a much more humane and caring judge as a result," Sr. Barbara said.

Sr. Gabriel was leader of the Good Shepherd Community in Omaha during the time of Vatican II, when a new relationship between the Catholic Church and the modern world was being forged. According to Sr. Barbara, "Gabriel was very supportive of all of us who were stretching the boundaries then in so many ways: dress, routine, civil activities, and the like."

Joan Spiering said, "She and I used to joke about refurbishing the congregation. By that I understood she and I were in sync on the desire to live our gospel call in some ways that Good Shepherd wouldn't have

necessarily identified with or easily approved at that time."

Sr. Gabriel was loyal to her causes and friends. Sr. Ellen said, "When Gabriel went to bat for you, she stepped up to the plate and went to bat for you all the way. She was bold and courageous, and she was loyal."

Relationships run deep

Relationships with people, more than her devotion to activism, are what have always mattered most to Sr. Gabriel. Even the women she connected with while serving time in jail for civil disobedience had become friends that she kept in touch with through the years. Her relationship with the Corrigan family deepened into a family bond.

"All of my kids and grandkids grew up with Gabe. She has always been a part of our family. When my son named his daughter after her, someone asked, 'who would name their child after a radical nun?' We

all said in unison, 'We would!'" Sancha said.

Sancha's friendship with Sr. Gabriel began on a spring day 50 years ago. It was St. Patrick's Day morning. Sr. Gabriel, the young superior of the Omaha Community, was walking to the neighborhood bakery to get a cake for the community celebration. She strolled past a bar that already had revelers. The doors burst open and out flew a very drunk young man who nearly knocked her down. She was in the modified post-Vatican II habit.

The young man, a good Catholic boy, introduced himself and gave her his business card before staggering off. She called him the next week and his wife answered the phone. Within a flash Sr. Gabriel had become a lifelong family friend to the future District Court Judge for the state of Nebraska Larry Corrigan and his wife Sancha.

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Sr. Gabriel Herbers (center) celebrates a birthday with the Corrigan family.

SISTER STORY



ZEAL



Justice *Cont'd from p. 4*

Their friendship flourished over the decades and proved fruitful on many fronts. When Sr. Gabriel saw an unjust situation that needed to be changed she drove it hard. Judge Corrigan gave her good counsel at every turn.

"Sister Gabriel has always lived what she believed. This is why she has been so respected in the social justice community," said Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley.

While serving as Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center from 2003 to 2014, Sister Gayle had a unique opportunity to experience first-hand Sr. Gabriel's commitment to activism and ability to form deep and meaningful friendships among diverse people and groups.



One of Sr. Gabriel's deepest friendships has been with her brother Fr. Simon Herbers, CP.

"Sr. Gabriel has been open minded since she was a young Sister. This quality resulted in her having an eclectic circle of friends to draw upon to support her many different causes," said Sr. Gayle.

But not all of her friendships were based in activism. Sr. Gabriel had a deeply spiritual side to her nature,

which was also reflected in her relationships.

"Gabe hobnobbed with prominent biblical scholars and theologians. Her brother Simon is a Passionist priest," said Sr. Ellen.

"I loved it when Gabe invited her scriptural friends to the house. Because of her connections and friendships — especially while she was in Chicago — we had truly extraordinary conversations with internationally revered leading figures in Catholic Church movements like Frs. Carroll Stuhlmuller, CP; Raymond Brown, SS; and Don Senior, CP. It was great fun!" Sr. Ellen said.

Sr. Gabriel embraced both the contemplative and prayerful side of her nature and her bent toward extroverted activism. One day she journeyed to the Desert House of Prayer near Tucson, Arizona, for a personal spiritual retreat. She ended up staying there for years to run the center.

"The time in the desert renewed her. It allowed her to restore her spiritual core so that she could continue to carry out her wide array of non-violent protests for years to come," said Sr. Ellen.

Gabe was very steeped in her faith even as a young girl, according to Sancha Corrigan.

Answering the Call

"Gabe told me the story about her Call to religious life. She was a young girl and had been on a date. She came home from the date happy, but something gnawed at her. She sat on her bed, propped against the wall with pillows, and drew her legs to her chest. As she hugged her knees she started asking

God to guide her. It came to her that night that she was being called to religious life. She chose to be a Sister of the Good Shepherd because it was the only Catholic Order that engaged Sisters in social work.

"Gabe's zeal for social justice activism and prayerful devotion to God have always demonstrated the two parts of who she is. She is the most unique woman I've ever known. She is truly a remarkable person," said Sancha.

Sr. Gabriel served as Sancha's spiritual director for many years. Also marked by the spiritual facet of Sr. Gabriel was Sister Liz Schille.

"Gabe was leading a weekend spiritual retreat in St. Paul at one point in my early religious life. I took the retreat and was struck by her spiritual and scriptural foundation. She helped me to realize during that weekend retreat how the meaningfulness of justice issues creates both a depth and passion for doing what's right. That experience allowed me to take Gabe seriously, and not to just see her as an agitator. From that weekend forward I participated in social justice causes that Gabe invited me to," Sr. Liz said.

One of Sr. Gabriel's dear friends, the late Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone, shared her values and seemed to have had Sr. Gabriel in mind when he pronounced in his speeches, "Never separate the life you live from the words you speak."

As Sr. Gabriel grew older, she still kept up-to-date on all of the issues that filled her with deep emotion. When her eyesight prohibited her from reading she enlisted friends

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SISTER STORY



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Justice *Cont'd from p. 5*

and volunteers to read for her. As a result, her readers always seemed to be enlightened and much more aware of the needs of the world, the planet and the poor, according to Sr. Barbara Beasley.

Sr. Liz said the last event that Sr. Gabriel invited her to participate in a few years ago was in the backyard of the Visitation Sisters in North Minneapolis. The people at the function were ex-convicts who had been locked away for murder. They had served their time and were now out of prison. Mingling with the ex-cons and their families were the families of the murdered victims.

“Gabriel was drawn to the spiritual nature of Restorative Justice as a way for bringing people together to reconcile with each other. She is, and always has been, an exceptional woman,” Sr. Liz said.

In June 2013 Sr. Gabriel received the Making Democracy Work award from the League of Women Voters. Over the decades she has been recognized at many dinners and awards ceremonies for her socially progressive views and achievements.

Boutwells Landing, where Sr. Gabriel lives in Minnesota, has a Memory Lane Archive Program that records the life histories and stories of its residents. Each DVD offers a unique perspective on the person who has been interviewed. The stories hold great wisdom for those that take the time to listen and learn from the elders who have traveled paths different from their own. A recorded interview with Sister Gabriel is among the collection.

You hear Sr. Gabriel say in the interview, “It was my privilege to



The Boutwells Landing Memory Lane Archive Program includes a video interview with Sr. Gabriel Herbers.



Sr. Gabe at Boutwells Landing in 2013.

have brief times in the Philippines, Nicaragua, China, France and Rome. My favorite assignment has been, and is, Social Justice work. However, what I value most is being a Sister of the Good Shepherd.”



Sr. Gabriel at her Golden Jubilee in October 1992.

CONGREGATION NEWS **ZEAL**

Good Shepherd inaugurates Heritage Museum

By Sarah Elbisser, Heritage Manager, Angers, France

We held inauguration for the much awaited Good Shepherd Museum in the Mother House on May 30, 2016. It was the culmination of almost five years intensive work by the Heritage Committee. More than 210 guests had an opportunity to take a short tour of the Museum before the official inauguration speeches got underway in the main chapel.

Sr. Ellen Kelly, Congregational Leader; Sr. Magdalena Franciscus, Provincial Superior of Europe BFMN; Marc Fardet, President of the Association of the Friends of the Museum and great-great-grand-nephew of Mary Euphrasia thanked all who had helped to make the Museum a reality.



More than 200 guests attended the inauguration of the Heritage Museum at the Good Shepherd Mother House in Angers, France, on May 30, 2016.

“The presence of more than 30 members of the Pelletier family at the inauguration added greatly to the sense of continuity with our roots.”

Good Shepherd spirituality

Speakers underlined the interactive nature of the Museum. Our desire is that it will convey Good Shepherd spirituality, our history and our present ministries and social commitments throughout the world. We also hope the Museum will challenge visitors to respond to the social needs around them.

Mrs. Frédérique Drouet d'Aubigny, Departmental Secretary for Culture, Heritage and Archives and Mr. Christophe Béchu, Senator-Mayor of Angers expressed appreciation on behalf of the city and department for this new initiative.

The Mayor drew attention to the materials used in the building – the strong enduring slate of Angers and the soft tufa stone of the Angers region. He likened the work of the Congregation as that of weaving strength and tenderness where humanity is most vulnerable.

Pelletier family

The presence of more than 30 members of the Pelletier family at the inauguration added greatly to

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A display on the ground floor of the Heritage Museum welcomes guests.

CONGREGATION NEWS

ZEAL

Museum *Cont'd from p. 7*

the sense of continuity with our roots. The inauguration concluded with an enjoyable cocktail-aperitif in the Mother House dining room.

The guests expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the dynamic and sensitive scenography – developed by the Scenographer Sandra Troffigué and built by the firm Boscher from Nantes, France.

“Creating a Museum is a challenge that has enabled me to learn a great deal about the Congregational History and Mission.”

Museum layout

Most of the content in the Museum is in the three languages of the Congregation (English, Spanish and French). The Heritage Museum has three floors: a ground floor, a first floor and a second floor.

The ground floor presents the geographical area of the building from the 18th century, when it was part of the Tournemine Factory for printed cotton, to the arrival of the Sisters in 1829.



Displays on the second floor of the Heritage Museum tell the Congregation's story, beginning with Saints John Eudes and Mary Euphrasia and continuing through the everyday life of Sisters up to the Second Vatican Council.

The first floor presents the mission of the Sisters and Mission Partners in France and around the world, with photographs and audio and video stories.

The second floor presents the roots of the Congregation (St. John Eudes and Our Lady of Charity), the life and work of St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier and the everyday life of the Sisters up to the Second Vatican Council.

I have been thrilled to be part of this great experience for the past five years. Creating a Museum is a challenge that has enabled me to learn a great deal about the Congregational History and Mission, which I look forward to sharing with a large public. The opening of the Museum in a few weeks' time will be the start of another rich journey. We look forward to welcoming the public for the first time on July 6th!



The new Heritage Museum in Angers, France, has static and interactive displays on three floors.

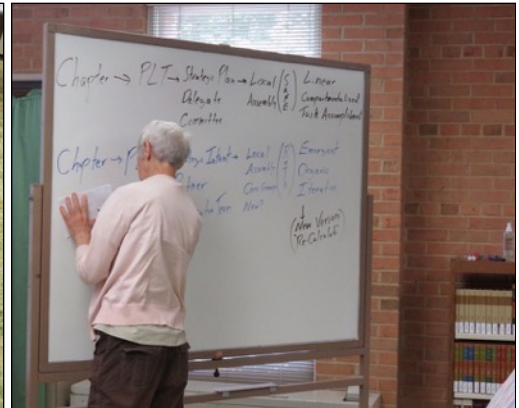
PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Unifying power of mission

The Province Leadership Team (PLT) and Core Teams met June 21-24 at the Province Center in St. Louis to continue the process of Transformative Visioning for the Province. Mission is the driving force of the three Core Groups: Community for Mission, Administration for Mission, and Eco-Zeal for Mission. Each Core Group selected two Sisters to coordinate the work of their group. They will meet with the Leadership Team at critical junctures throughout the ongoing Transformative Visioning process. Together the co-coordinators and PLT form what is being called the Integration Group. Dr. Ted Dunn facilitated the meeting in June and will facilitate the first Integration Group, which is scheduled for September 28-October 1 at the Province Center. Subsequent to the first Integration Group meeting, the PLT and Core Teams will carry forward for the Province the process that Ted has been sharing with the Province for five years.



Religious law training

Sisters (from left in photo) Dolores Kalina, Maureen Kunz, Marta Ceballos, Mary Beisiegel, OSU, Marie Maurer and Madeleine Munday attended the annual Institute of Law and Religious Life in Dallas, Pennsylvania from June 9 to 14.

This year Srs. Madeleine, Marie, Dolores and Maureen completed the three-year cycle and were awarded a certificate of completion entitled Rights and Obligations of Members of Religious Institutes.

"This has been a worthwhile experience," said Sr. Marie.

"Both Religious Law and Civil Law have taken on greater meaning for us as we are called upon to make different decisions with regard to our Religious Life," she said.



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Global Sisters Report features Good Shepherd

Shepherding Images Studio & Good Shepherd Gallery, which [Sr. Glynis McManamon](#) established in Ferguson last year, caught the attention of Global Sisters Report (GSR) in June. A story about Sr. Glynis and her studio/gallery wound up as a feature story on the GSR website.

The story, written in Q&A style, covers everything from Sr. Glynis' journey as an artist to how she embeds Good Shepherd values in her artwork and the exhibits she curates.

Global Sisters Report also featured a story that one of the [Good Shepherd Volunteers](#) (GSV) wrote about her year-long experience at a juvenile justice residential

detention facility serving adolescent girls in Brooklyn, New York.

Brenna Neimanis discusses in the article how the GSV slogan "Just Love" (adapted from a quote by St. Mary Euphrasia) epitomized her year with Good Shepherd Volunteers.

In the article Brenna writes, "I am thankful for a year that has humbled me and reminded me of my own need for grace and love. I am thankful for a year full of pleasant surprises and beautiful relationships. I am thankful for a year of learning more about what unconditional love looks like in my life and the ways that I can share that love with others. Lastly, I am thankful for this year's opportunity to just love."

In addition to these articles, Global Sisters Report published a [Q&A with Sr. Winifred Doherty](#) last month. In the interview GSR asks what it means to be a global citizen.

In response to the question, Sr. Winifred answered, "The concept of 'global citizenship' is not just for the 'ordinary people' of the world, but to build relationships across nations, replacing power and dominance with ethical principles in all areas, particularly in trade, finance, business and economy — replacing greed and profit with equality and a people-centered agenda."

You can read all of the articles online at <http://globalsistersreport.org>

GSVs in Los Angeles take on new roles

Good Shepherd Volunteer alumna Rachael Brugman is a familiar name to Sisters and Mission Partners at Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles. Rachael taught at the shelter's school during her service year in 2014-2015. GSV hired Rachael last month to serve as its Marketing Recruitment Coordinator in New York. We extend our congratulations and send our blessings to Rachael as she begins her new position.

GSV Deirdre Harrington is wrapping up her year of service at the Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles this summer. Working at the shelter has given her the opportunity to become trained as a Domestic Assault Response Team (DART) Advocate for

the West Los Angeles Police Station. The DART program is a partnership between the police and local nonprofits. DART Advocates provide crisis intervention and support for people who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Deirdre said, "Working with victims of domestic violence, especially when they're in acute crises, is such an important role to be trusted with. I am grateful to be able to stand in solidarity with victims of domestic violence and help them create a future where domestic violence is no more," she said.

Deirdre is exploring ways to expand the DART program to her hometown after she finishes her GSV year of



Deirdre Harrington works with the LA police as a DART Advocate.

service. She and the sheriff in South Bend, Indiana, are discussing possibilities.

Good Shepherd Volunteers is a joint ministry of the Province of Mid-North America and the New York Province.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Internationally acclaimed Foyer Federation endorses Vista Maria

Good Shepherd's Vista Maria Shepherd Hall Transitional Living Program has received a prestigious international endorsement from the Foyer Federation. Vista Maria underwent a rigorous review process to earn the Foyer endorsement. Among the many positive observations made during the review process was its mental health services program and feedback from tenants who repeatedly stated that "Vista Maria's Shepherd Hall Dorm Apartments are where I want to live."

Shepherd Hall Transitional Living Program offers supported, independent living for girls who are homeless, or who have aged out of the foster care system. In addition to providing housing, girls are able to complete their high school education and access Vista Maria's rich campus

resources, which include expanded food service, after school programs, mentors and recreation. We extend our

congratulations to Vista Maria and the staff of Shepherd Hall Transitional Living Program for this exceptional achievement!

You can learn more about the Foyer Federation at <http://foyer.net>

Submitted by Kelly Small, Vista Maria



Bringing peace to the Philadelphia parkway

After 32 years of being known as the "Gem in Germantown," Good Shepherd Mediation Program (GSMP) has moved from Chew Avenue to the heart of downtown Philadelphia.

"The new location will allow the Mediation Program to expand its visibility and be more accessible to the families and youth who travel from all corners of Philadelphia to be served by Good Shepherd programs," said Cheryl Cutrona, Executive Director.

GSMP is Philadelphia's only nonprofit community mediation center. Through the use of mediation and other constructive conflict resolution processes the Good Shepherd Mediation Program empowers people to search creatively for meaningful and lasting solutions to their conflicts. Until last month Good Shepherd Mediation Program had operated for 32 years from the Good Shepherd Neighborhood House at 5356 Chew Avenue. The program moved last month to its new location at Suite 301 Rodin Place, 2000 Hamilton Street in Philadelphia's bustling city center.

Sister Mary Joy Benson helped the staff of Good Shepherd Mediation Program complete the move from Chew Avenue to Hamilton Street. While involved in the relocation she realized something significant: she was grieving the loss of Chew Avenue. See the next page to read Sr. Mary Joy's response to her sense of loss.



Good Shepherd Mediation Program has moved from Chew Avenue (top) to a rented space in Philadelphia's city center. GSMP staff stands ready to assist clients in the new home (l-r) Aleah Mobley, Ana Arndt, Cheryl Cutrona, Phoebe Sheftel, Cynthia Blue, Shakeya Foreman, Sue Wasserkrug.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



A time to grieve

By Mary Joy Benson, RGS

I've been cleaning out our convents, or parts of our convents, for several years. I'm good at it; I enjoy sorting, packing, pitching, donating, etc. My most recent clean-out, besides Omaha, has been Chew Avenue in Germantown, Philadelphia. I began in the fall of 2014, when we realized that the convent, though empty of Sisters, was not empty of things — lots of things! That ministry lasted from September to December.

The next summer, in 2015, we discovered all the things in the garage and in the loft above the garage, which is the length of four garage spaces! Then came the smaller two-car garage, and the mediation building. It has been quite an adventure. I helped with the final packing of Good Shepherd Mediation Program during the end of May and first week of June. The movers came on June 3rd. I had planned to be present when they came, but instead I attended Sr. Mary Ann Giordano's funeral in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Mediation Program moved from our Good Shepherd Neighborhood House at 5356 Chew Avenue to a rented office space in Philadelphia's city center. I was very busy with all of the details of that move. Friday night, on June 3rd, after the movers had taken everything, I went to bed and couldn't sleep. I was clueless about my jerking muscles ... until reality shone through to my mind.

I'm grieving! I have been so busy finding new homes for other people's things for so long that I didn't realize how deeply this last move was affecting me. Not only moving from Chew Avenue, but also from Pelletier Hall, where I lived for more than five years and felt close to many



Sisters, staff and benefactors in northern Kentucky. I needed to put my thoughts and feelings into writing. The following words summarize how I was feeling at the moment:

Loss ~ a time to grieve

Places - Good Shepherd Presence -

and Persons we love ...

Pelletier Hall

in northern Kentucky —

all the Mission Partners throughout many years

and many faithful volunteers - like Big Stef ...

Chew Avenue in Philly - Good Shepherd Presence

For more than a century —

Gone, the end of an era.

I grieve the loss and move, still trusting, into the future.

"The best" they say, "is yet to come."

Announcements & News Tidbits

Sr. Stanislaus DePolonia has a new e-mail address: stanie414@gmail.com

The new mailing address for Good Shepherd Mediation Program is Suite 301 Rodin Place, 2000 Hamilton Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130-3814.

Sr. Marie Dolores Beck marked her 60th Jubilee on May 24 in

contemplation. She received a Papal Blessing to honor the milestone.

CORA Services' Early Childhood Years locations in Fox Chase and on the campus of LaSalle University have earned Keystone Star 4 status.

Keystone recognize continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania.

Congressman for Kentucky's 3rd congressional district John Yarmuth donated his salary for serving in the U.S. House of Representatives to 17 Louisville charities, one of which was Maryhurst.

Cheryl Cutrona just celebrated her 25th year as Executive Director of Good Shepherd Mediation Program!

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



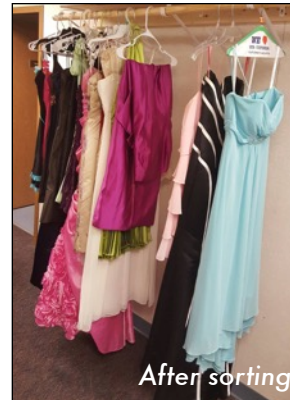
Before sorting



During sorting



Dreaming and sorting



After sorting



Ready for wear

Preparing for prom at GSS Baltimore

Prom is a big deal for the young men and women who attend the annual event at Good Shepherd Services (GSS) each year. It's also a big deal for the GSS staff who seek and receive donations for the prom — gowns, tuxedos, shoes and accessories that then have to be cleaned, sorted and displayed so the young people can choose what they will wear that night. Each year volunteers make this massive undertaking a lot less stressful for staff. Last month Siri, Sofie, Clara and Kelly came to Good Shepherd Services to help get prom gowns ready for the girls for the August 17 fanfare.

NAC helps youth lobby congressional leaders



Larry Couch, Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center, led a group of students from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart to congressional offices on Capitol Hill on June 29. The youth met with U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and Congressman Chris Van Hollen to advocate for ending human trafficking and forced labor.



A family affair

Good Shepherd Mediation Program held its second annual Peace Begins with You fundraising breakfast on June 10 at the Union League in Philadelphia. Among those in attendance were (from left in photo) Sr. Mary Carol McClenon and her niece Lee McClenon, along with two nieces of Sr. Grace Rhoads: Linda Hill and Kathy Owsik.

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



Kitchen hospitality

When you're in the hospitality business at the Province Center, things get lively when Sisters come to town. Just ask Sr. Virginia, who has been filling in during Sr. Monica Duong's visit to her homeland in Vietnam. Sr. Virginia and the cheerful kitchen crew met the challenge of serving the Leadership and Core Teams who had come to the Province Center for meetings from June 19-25. They hustled in the convent kitchen, chopping vegetables, preparing and serving meals, washing dishes and cleaning up. It's all in a day's work when hospitality is your mission. From left in the photo are Sonia Trogler and Sisters Virginia Gordon, Lioba Abe, Dami Ham and Erika Patricia Sanchez Valdez.



Community Outing

Six of us Sisters in the Baltimore Community took an outing in June to see the two new houses that have been built on former Good Shepherd Services property. We walked down the street from the convent to an Open House for the newly-built houses on Maple Avenue.



We have been watching these houses go up, so we were very interested in seeing what the inside of the houses look like. Realtor Tom Walter seemed to enjoy our visit. Nobody else was there at that time, so I guess we kept him from being bored.

The two houses that were built on the property are identical, with only the lot sizes varying. One lot is .4 acre and the other is .33 acres. We (the Sisters) are pretty much flabbergasted by the asking prices for these small 3-bedroom houses — \$315,000 and \$324,000!

Those of us who went on the jaunt are in the photograph. We are from left: Sisters Kathleen Moore, Carmen Flores, Marie Dolores Beck, Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, Mary Carol McClenon, and Regina Long.

Submitted by Sr Mary Carol McClenon



Taking a virtual tour

Sisters Elizabeth Garciano and Agnes Yamamoto, members of the Maria Droste Contemplative Community, marvel at a virtual tour of their chapel. Lisa Johnston, photographer for the St. Louis Review (behind Sr. Elizabeth), created the 360 degree web-based tour in June to promote the Maria Droste Community as a pilgrim site during the Year of Mercy. You can view the virtual tour at <http://stlouisreview.com/article/2016-05-31/going-360-bubble>.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Family of life

By Monte Abbott, Province Director of Operations

Why do snakes look so weird? Why did birds evolve to fly above the ground? Why are they both so different from us? I don't know those answers but the more we look at nature the more variation we see. It's almost as if difference is valued by the creator, or natural selection, or both.

One of my favorite trees is called Devil's walking stick and I will never forget the day we met. As a child, I spent a lot of time in the woods and thought I knew all the trees and shrubs and forest flowers around me. One fateful day I ventured off my usual rambling trail and lost my footing in a pile of dry leaves at the top of a steep slope.

As I slid down I reached out for a nearby trunk to slow my descent. The thorns greeted me first so I let go! When I eventually stopped sliding downhill I faced the stinging pain and wondered what on earth I had just encountered. What was that thing with those ridiculous thorns? Could trees even have thorns like that?

On my next trip to the library I found the tree in a field guide. It is a small tree, no more than 10 feet tall, and its leaves are lush and tropical. In spring the tree is topped with foamy clouds of white blossoms. I learned that the spines covering its trunk protect it from deer that would otherwise eat it to the ground and from smaller mammals that would climb the tree and devour its fruits.

I learned that mammoths and mastodons may have been warded off by those spines in the distant past. The spines help the tree

reserve its fruits for songbirds and, in return, they scatter the seeds far and wide.

This information transformed my dismay to respect. When I next visited the tree and reflected on its story, its script on the stage of life, my respect became admiration. Devil's walking stick is uncommon and few people know that it exists.

Victims of our carelessness

As we continue to replace woods and fields with roads and shopping malls it will become even more uncommon. I wonder how many other wonderful things have already vanished along with their stories, unknown and unloved, victims of our carelessness.

"I didn't have the words for it at the time but now I can say the place was sacred."

One day shortly after these events I came home from school to the sound of heavy machinery and chainsaws. The 100-acre woods I had known as my own Eden was being cut down. The landowner made a few thousand dollars from the timber and put that money into an investment account.

By the next spring, the creek had filled with silt. The leaves and flowers carpeting the ground had washed into the creek or died. Large erosion gullies appeared



Devil's walking stick

everywhere. The birds, the crayfish, the garter snakes, the butterflies, the Devil's walking stick, the 200-year-old beech tree with exposed roots forming a big chair high over the creek – all my friends – had disappeared.

It's difficult to explain the sadness I felt but the loss of that place was very real to me. While a part of my sadness was selfish, a longing for the woods I loved so much, there was also grieving for the rich web of life that was extinguished there. Even as a child, I knew that the birds could fly away but the crayfish and the shiners in the creek pools could not. They died with the trees.

I didn't have the words for it at the time but now I can say the place was sacred. The animals were sacred, the trees were sacred. The wood was a temple where I went when I needed to pray. I always found quiet and I always encountered God there. I was a part of that place and the whole thing was sacred.

Continued on next page

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Family of life *Cont'd from p. 15*

I can't get that wood back but I still have a deep connection with nature. It is like a language learned through experience and reflection. It's not a commonly spoken language but anyone can pick it up. I spend my evenings and weekends giving lessons by engaging my neighbors in habitat projects.

A year ago I was invited to design the country's first Transgender Memorial Garden, a garden dedicated to the memory of transgender people who have been lost through acts of violence.

"Often I sit apart and observe how the trees are anchors, even in their youth ..."

I admit for about five minutes I wavered, wondering what people would say if they knew I had affiliated myself with the transgender community. But I was not put here to separate myself from others or from nature. The natural sacredness in the world includes us in all our variations.

So I accepted and I designed with trees and flowers of eastern Missouri. I talked with the community about the native beauty that still exists, hidden and overlooked, in our alleys and waste places and how we can bring that back to life in the garden.

I brought along my old friend, Devil's walking stick. The symbolism is not lost on the community: unknown and

disregarded by many; with a name and thorns that present a façade of danger; yet beneath it all the complexity and intense beauty that can come with a struggle for survival.

Stories of loss

I can't speak for this community but I heard their stories of loss. They too have been cast out of Eden, out of their families, out of their churches, and all too often out of life itself. They have been told they are not sacred. I don't know why people who are different trouble us so much. We are all part of the same family of life, infinitely varied.

In response, I drew a sacred landscape and filled it with native trees that are strange, formidable, unapologetic and almost entirely unheard of. The garden has rapidly become a haven, a pilgrimage site where people flock together to meet, grieve and share life. As knowledge of the garden spreads the trees are

becoming a small part of the story of the transgender community in St. Louis. Often I sit apart and observe how the trees are anchors, even in their youth, connecting the community to this soil. They form a sacred structure - real, true, beautiful, millions of years old - while around them the people transform their lives and bodies. The garden is sacred. The people are sacred. The whole thing is sacred.

There in spirit

I can't separate the trees from the people. The only way I can go back to my sacred wood is by taking people with me. When I see beauty in nature and beauty in people I am there in spirit. The world is an amazing place full of variety we've not yet appreciated and stories we haven't yet heard. I look for it and look at it in order to honor it. I'm going to keep looking and talking and holding because I don't want any more of it to slip away.



A mature stand of Aralia Spinosa, commonly called Devil's walking stick. The deciduous shrub is native to the eastern United States.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Mary Ann Giordano, RGS

April 11, 1940 – May 31, 2016

Judith Giordano was born in Philadelphia, the elder of the two daughters of Frank and Olga Giordano. Throughout her life she maintained a close relationship with her sister Janet and boasted of her Italian heritage. She completed one year of college before entering the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Fox Chase, Philadelphia at age 19. She was given the name Mary Ann when she entered the novitiate and made her first profession of vows in 1961.

Sr. Mary Ann displayed a natural talent for the traditional work of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd – residential treatment for adolescent girls. She served as a Group Leader in several locations, and earned a Master's degree in Education. She was an early practitioner of Special Education.

Sr. Mary Ann was missioned to Baltimore (Good Shepherd Center) in 1976 and spent about 20 years as a Group Leader, Director of Group Life, and Residential Training Coordinator. She was a founding member of the small Good Shepherd Community in Orlando in the 1990's and worked at Covenant House.

She began discerning a call to Contemplative Religious Life and made her formal transfer to the Good Shepherd Contemplative Sisters in December of 2001. This transfer mystified many of the Apostolic Sisters. Mary Ann later explained that her call to Contemplative Life flowed out of her Vow of Zeal. As an Apostolic Sister, she experienced the joy of helping some people. She felt inflamed with the desire, however, to help everyone in the whole world, which



she could better accomplish as a Contemplative Sister.

She was always known as a gentle person with a whimsical sense of humor who enjoyed word play and instigating funny pranks. An avid reader, she focused mainly on history and philosophy with a special interest in World War II. She also enjoyed detective stories and classic works of fiction. She was also a writer who composed poetry and maintained a voluminous personal correspondence. She was a faithful keeper of community annals and also excelled in secretarial work, serving as Chapter Secretary for the Province of Mid-North America Merger Chapter in 2000 as well as Secretary of the first Contemplative Inter-Continental Assembly (the CICA) in 2008.

Sr. Mary Ann struggled with health issues throughout her life, but she was a real trooper and nothing ever kept her down for long. While still recovering from a hip replacement, she came to St. Joseph Residence for breast cancer treatment in 2015. Her unstable blood pressure was an ongoing challenge and concern during the past year. Sr. Mary Ann experienced a hemorrhagic stroke on the evening of May 30th and her condition deteriorated rapidly after her arrival at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center. Our pastor, Fr. John Williamson, anointed her at 11:45 p.m. and she passed over to eternal life in the early hours of the Feast of the Visitation. We will miss her greatly.

Submitted by Sr. Mary Carol McClenon

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	No travel	No travel
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	July 17-31	Personal time/Sabbatical
Sr. Maureen Kunz	July 1-6 July 16-25	Travel and retreat St. Louis
Sr. Marie Maurer	July 25-29	Ministry visit, Blaine, WA
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	July 25-29 July 30-Aug 7	Good Shepherd Shelter, Los Angeles Retreat
Sr. Madeleine Munday	July 1-5 July 7-10 July 10-14 July 14-16 July 18-23	Personal time Sisters of Earth Conference, Los Gatos, CA San Francisco Community & Gracenter Board Meeting Los Angeles Community Sisters Frances & Josita in St. Louis

Deadline for the August issue of *Items of Interest* is Wednesday, July 20. Please send articles and photos to Jeanette at jmcdermott@gspmna.org. In the subject line please state "Items of Interest."

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



God blesses you visibly; each day there are new benefits, let us give thanks to God!

Saint Mary Euphrasia

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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