

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

A look at DLC

NAC Director Larry Couch paid a visit to DeNeuville Learning Center and left impressed.

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More Green Doors

Good Shepherd Services New York has jumped on the bandwagon and painted its doors green.

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#ThisIsMyFerguson

Exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center shows Ferguson, Missouri, through other's eyes.

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New book about LCWR

"However Long the Night" tells the story of what LCWR learned during a six-year crisis.

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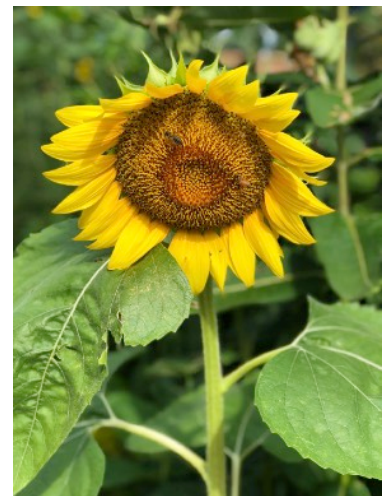


Photo Tehran FNA

MIGRANTS IN THE U.S.A.

The hot topic on the minds of the Good Shepherd family is the separation of immigrant children from their parents at the U.S. border. Hundreds of "freedom warriors" from border states began rallying at the detention camps in Tornillo, Texas, in late June. Their aim has been to show

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Green Corner

What do you suppose it is about sunflowers that so captivated Saint Mary Euphrasia? I like to think that there was more to the story than recognizing the sunflower's compass-like instinct to turn toward the sun. I like to imagine that Saint Mary Euphrasia loved nature, and this is why she came up with the analogy to

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ZEAL

Migrants, *Cont'd from p. 1*

the nation that people will not stand for the deportation force. The rallies have been in response to the deportation force's detention of over 1,500 minors.

This is President Donald Trump's latest executive order. It allows for the separation of families across the country and increased interior enforcement.

Twenty miles outside of El Paso, Texas, along the U.S.-Mexico border, sits the Tornillo Port of Entry, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility.

The Trump Administration selected the encampment as the first site for temporary housing for the overflow of unaccompanied minors and the children of detained migrant parents, under the Administration's new "zero-tolerance" policy.

Good Shepherd response to executive order

On June 20, 2018, the U.S. Good Shepherd Sisters issued a statement to the President of the United States. The Circle of Provincials of North America signed the statement, along with National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Good Shepherd NGO Special Consultative Status with ESOC, United Nations.

The statement read in part: "As people of faith and of conscience, the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in the USA, the National Advocacy Center of the Good Shepherd Sisters, and the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office strongly condemn the United States' policy reversing protections for asylum seekers fleeing domestic abuse and gang violence, and the "zero tolerance" policy that has resulted in the inhumane and deliberate separation of immigrant children and parents at the United States border.



Immigrant children, many of whom have been separated from their parents under a new "zero tolerance" policy by the Trump administration are housed in a tent city next to the Mexican border in Tornillo, Texas, near El Paso. Photo Tehran FNA.

"We call for an immediate end to these cruel and immoral policies, which have an especially harmful impact on migrant women and children. In the face of such egregious mistreatment of the most vulnerable seeking refuge in the United States, we cannot remain silent."

The statement went on to say, "There is no justification for tearing children apart from their parents and keeping them in punitive conditions. The families and children impacted are among the most vulnerable, are often fleeing unspeakable violence and persecution in their home countries, and are not a threat to national security."

The signers of the statement chastised the Trump Administration for incorrectly and repeatedly claiming that the policy is the "law." In fact, the United States government has a responsibility

under U.S. immigration law to hear a person's immigration or asylum case, not to scare them away or prevent them from seeking protection.

Good Shepherd representatives further described how deterrence policies don't work, as they fail to address the root causes that force people to leave their homes in the first place.

The signers also addressed how the policy puts families at extremely high risk of experiencing further rights violations.

"This policy is contrary to the values and principles of due process, solidarity, family unity and liberty that are embedded in U.S. law," the statement reads.

Furthermore, the signed statement addresses how the Administration's policy is a violation of the human rights of all migrants recognized

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Migrants, *Cont'd from p. 2*

under international law, including the right to migrate, the right to seek asylum, the rights of the child, and the right to family life.

It goes on to declare that detention causes physical and mental trauma and lifelong psychosocial and developmental problems.

The U.S. Good Shepherd family believes the Trump Administration's policy is inhumane and goes against Catholic social teaching...

"Community-based alternatives are more effective, more cost-efficient and better respect human rights," the statement iterates.

"The United States should pursue these alternative approaches that respect children's and families' fundamental rights to liberty, security, and human dignity," the signers state.

The U.S. Good Shepherd family believes the Trump Administration's

policy is inhumane and goes against Catholic social teaching to love ones' neighbor, welcome the stranger, and respect the human dignity of every person.

Those who signed the statement to President Trump were Sisters Frances Aguilon, U.S. Province Leader Central South Province; Maureen McGowan, U.S. Province Leader New York Province; and Madeleine Munday, U.S. Province Leader Mid-North America Province.

Other signers were Sister Winifred Doherty, Main NGO Representative to the United Nations, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; and Lawrence Couch, Director of National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

U.S. Sisters and Mission Partners are preparing to protest the zero tolerance policy on July 7, 2018. They will join with local community organizations in El Paso, other Catholic advocacy organizations, and diverse groups that oppose the Administration's new policy on migrants.

Items of Interest will report on Good Shepherd's involvement in the protest in the August issue.

How you can take action

- **Call the Department of Justice at 202-353-1555.** Voice your distress with Attorney General Jeff Session's changes to asylum policy and tell him to end the policy of separating families.
- **Call your Senators and Representatives.** Let them know you oppose immigration bills that will restrict regular migration channels, split up families, harm children, and promote mass deportations
- **Use hashtags and raise your voice on social media.** #FamiliesBelongTogether #KeepFamiliesTogether #ThereAreAlternatives
- **Join or organize a local rally or vigil.** Find an event near you and participate.
- **Assist supporting organizations** that are providing shelter, medical services, legal representation and psychosocial support to immigrant children and families. Volunteer or donate.

Story compiled by Jeanette McDermott, Items of Interest Editor

Announcements and News Tidbits

Please note Sr. Anita Kristofco's new email address:
annjkrist90@gmail.com

Catholic News Service (CNS) published a story in June on U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' asylum decision for migrants. CNS crafted the story from a

press release that National Advocacy Center wrote. [Catholic Philly](#) picked up the story. You can read the article at <https://bit.ly/2y5hG7J>. NAC is playing an increasingly important role in advocating for policy decisions that impact the common good.

Congratulations to our July Jubilarians who are celebrating 60 years of vowed life: Sr. Nellie Marie Hawkins; Sr. Dorothy Vogel; and Sr. Mary Bernadette Faulhaber. The Sisters will celebrate their Jubilees with their Communities.

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Gratitude expressed

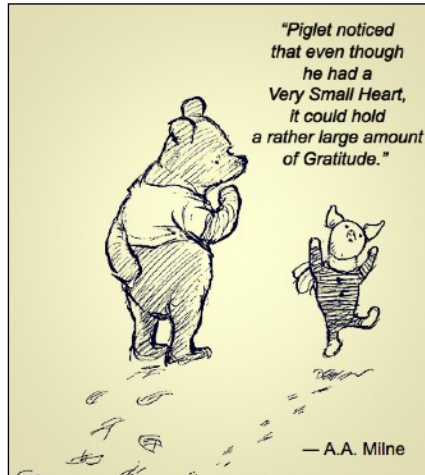
Kathy Jacobs was a long-term social worker at St. Margaret's Hall (SMH) in Cincinnati, Ohio, before she retired in May. She served our Sisters at SMH after they relocated there from Pelletier Hall in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, in 2016. Kathy wrote a departing letter of gratitude to the Sisters on a lovely card before she retired. Her letter is reprinted here.

"Dear Sisters of the Good Shepherd: I would like to say how much you have enriched my life since you came to Saint Margaret Hall. I have learned something from each of you. (I could tell you apart long before I could get your birth names and your religious names correct.)

It was a privilege to see the bonds you have with each other and the love you share. It was wonderful to work with a group of women who have done so much social work in your lives. I hope that someone will take the time to write your stories down. You have made the world a better place, and I believe that you have also made SMH a better place.

Thank you for my card and box of chocolates. How did you know that milk chocolate with nuts was my favorite? They didn't last very long, and they were delicious!

I will miss each of you more than you know. Thank you for sharing this chapter of your life with me."



Debra Stokes sent a loving letter of gratitude to Sr. Sharon O'Grady, RGS, through the contact form on our Province website. These are the words she wrote:

"When I was there (at Good Shepherd) Sister Sharon O'Grady was my counselor. I received the most love and guidance there than I had received in my whole life. I don't think I would be alive today if it wasn't for the Sisters and their loving care.

I remember the Sisters had a dog named Shep. The dog usually slept next to my bed every night.

I was at Good Shepherd during the Candlestick Park earthquake. I have very fond memories of the Sisters and miss them very much. I had a different name when I was there."

Journey of Hope since 1843

Last month *Items of Interest* reported on Maryhurst's 28th year of the "Journey of Hope" luncheon. We forgot to mention that the focus of the luncheon was on the Good Shepherd founding in North America in Louisville, Kentucky. Sisters who came to Kentucky 175 years ago, in 1843, were the first Good Shepherd Sisters to arrive in North America.



Maryhurst took guests of the luncheon through the journey of Good Shepherd and Maryhurst in Louisville, beginning with the 1840s and continuing through today.

Since hosting the annual fundraising luncheon last month, Maryhurst has uploaded a video on its website that chronicles the presence of Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Kentucky and its founding of Maryhurst in Louisville.



Watch the video at <https://www.maryhurst.org/why/about/history>



Kathy Dempsey, Communications Consultant for National Advocacy Center, created this eye-catching meme to share across social media platforms the anniversary story of Good Shepherd Sisters in North America.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

A glimpse of Good Shepherd's DeNeuville Learning Center

By Larry Couch, Director of National Advocacy Center

I had the recent pleasure of visiting DeNeuville Learning Center (DLC) in Memphis, Tennessee, and meeting with its Executive Director Lori Bramlett. Lori and her staff provide an amazing range of services to girls and women who are on the margin of our society. They operate the high quality center and its top notch programs with no local, state, or federal governmental funding.

Impressive array of offerings

The Center provides high school equivalency classes in English and Spanish to approximately 75 students each year. Lori showed me the volume of materials that the students are required to master in order to pass the test. Academic subjects include math, English grammar, social studies and an array of other disciplines.

Lori pointed out to me, that many high school seniors would have a difficult time mastering the required material. In addition, the DeNeuville Learning Center offers classes in English for those who are from a different culture and need to learn English as a second language.

The only cost to the participant is a \$20 enrollment fee.

DeNeuville Learning Center served more than 300 clients last year.

During my visit, I observed a Spanish-speaking woman accompanied by her little girl signing up for the classes. The woman had such a look of joy about her. Perhaps she knew she would soon be better able to help her daughter with her school work, would communicate better with her teachers, and if her daughter became sick, would be able to reach out for medical help.

DeNeuville Learning Center also provides computer training and job readiness classes. And DLC offers free child care for all of its clients so they can focus on studies while still being available to their children.

I spend much of my time as a lobbyist in Washington D.C. trying to get politicians to do the right thing for people who live in poverty and on the margin of society. Pope Francis reminds us that politics "is one of the highest forms of love, because it is in the service of the common good." Sadly, politicians focus much of their time on winning the next election instead of serving people in their districts. Their focus on elections involves raising huge amounts of money for campaigns and pleasing the "right" people.

Taking breaks from the D.C. area to visit Good Shepherd programs is cathartic. The visits are a real reminder to me that the good work begun by St. Mary Euphrasia in the 19th century in France continues to bear fruit in 21st century America.

Although DeNeuville Learning Center may not make splashy headline news, its programs, and other local nonprofit programs like DLC, are what keep our society together and make for a better world.



DeNeuville Learning Center offers child care services to any client who needs it.



DeNeuville Learning Center provides high school equivalency classes in English and Spanish to approximately 75 women each year.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Good Shepherd Shelter CEO Mark Rothman and Director of Development Neslie Akkol with staff and event volunteers.

Golf tournament a swinging success for Good Shepherd Shelter



Good Shepherd Shelter's second annual golf tournament took place on June 8, 2018, at the Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena, California. A total of 78 guests joined the event, including 53 golfers and 25 lunch attendees. Good Shepherd Mission Partners and volunteers also attended the golf tourney. Among them were Good Shepherd Shelter CEO Mark Rothman and Director of Development Neslie Akkol. Director of Finance Marie Thorsted and Front Office Coordinator Cristina Franco, also attended, along with 15 volunteers and sponsors. Also in attendance was celebrity golf player Dave Shelton from the Monster Channel kids TV show Professor Creepy's Scream Party. He was especially well-received by the children and youth who attended the tournament.

For the second year in a row, the Sheppard Mullin team won the Best Golfers Award. The Max Sales Group achieved the tournament's highest scores. Good Shepherd Shelter looks forward to the 3rd annual fundraising golf tournament next year.

Gibson Dunn, IRS Demo, Wells Fargo, United Storm Water, Manhattan Commercial Group, Max Sales, Bob Smith Toyota, Chubb Insurance, Bolton Co, Sheppard Mullin and City National Bank sponsored the event. Thanks to their generosity, Good Shepherd Shelter raised \$18,375 with a net of \$12,086.

Submitted by Neslie Akkol, Good Shepherd Shelter, Los Angeles

SISTER PROVINCE



ZEAL

GSS New York paints its doors green

Good Shepherd Services (GSS) New York holds a Founders Day celebration each year to honor the memory of St. Mary Euphrasia. The event this year was held on her Feast Day, April 24. GSS also honors staff at the event who have reached incremental 5-year employment milestones (from 5-40 years) of service to Good Shepherd.

This year's Founders Day theme was the Green Door, a project that grew out of the 2017 Pilgrimage to the Motherhouse at Angers, France.

Monte Abbott, Director of Operations for Province of Mid-North America, was inspired by the story of the Green Door at Angers. He envisioned ministries across the globe painting their doors green to match the Motherhouse entry door.

National Advocacy Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, was the first ministry to paint its doors green. Vista Maria followed in Detroit. Good Shepherd Services in New York is the third ministry to adopt the idea.

Each ministry has taken on the Green Door project in a unique way. GSS New York decided to make an 8-foot replica of the Motherhouse door for display at Founders Day. As staff walked on stage to receive their employment pins and awards, the Green Door framed them. Later, staff took selfies and group photos by the display. Alex Garay, GSS Facilities Director, designed and built the replica.

"When I first saw the Green Door on Pilgrimage, I was moved by what the door represented — love, trust, hope, and new beginnings for so many who had walked through that door. I thought, what better way to bring that feeling back to our

organization than to create a replica of the door in Angers that we can share with all of our programs," Alex said.

Good Shepherd staff also painted fairy doors as part of the joyful celebration. Everyone kept their tiny green door as a souvenir of the day.

Meaning of the Green Door

The Green Door has been a symbol of transformation for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd since the early 19th century. The Green Door was the portal for those who came to the Motherhouse, whether they were coming in or going out. Sisters, residents and Mission Partners all passed through the Green Door as they accepted the call to mission, sought safety, and shared gifts and resources.

Watch a short video clip as GSS Executive Director Sr. Paulette LoMonico explains the significance of the Green Door. <https://bit.ly/2N66ifj>

The initiator of the Green Door project Monte Abbott said, "I'm so happy that the New York Province has taken this idea and run with it, making it unique for them.

"My first thought about the project while on Pilgrimage was that it could be relevant for Good Shepherd people in many different places. It's good to see the spirit of the project spring to life," Monte said.

To read the story about the first Green Door project at National Advocacy Center in Silver Spring, visit <https://bit.ly/2KjAGow>.

To read the story about Vista Maria's Green Door project, visit <https://bit.ly/2tGvaRU>.

Story submitted by Celia Ceballos, Good Shepherd Services New York.



A replica of the Green Door at Angers was on display at Founders Day, where staff posed for selfies and group photos. GSS Staff also painted fairy doors to keep as souvenirs of the day.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Art exhibit looks at Ferguson, Missouri

[#ThisIsMyFerguson](#) is a St. Louis art exhibit that speaks to what people treasure from the past, value in the present, or passionately desire for the future of Ferguson, Missouri. Sr. Glynis McManamon, director of Good Shepherd Arts Center, envisioned the project a few months ago and has pulled together collaborators to ensure a successful show in August.

Exhibitors will be residents, business owners, people who grew up in Ferguson, and others who are invested in Ferguson, Missouri. The show will include Good Shepherd Arts Center and three other venues in the Ferguson area. It will open on August 4, 2018, with a reception at all four venues. The show will continue through August 25.

Good Shepherd Arts Center has been holding a series of art making workshops since May to give community members an opportunity to make art for the exhibit.

Sessions have included an origami crane-making workshop, a photographic postcard workshop, and an altered books workshop where people transformed discarded books into art, using techniques of collage, drawing, painting and cutting. Good Shepherd Sisters in the St. Louis Community have enjoyed participating in the workshops.

Evolution of Good Shepherd Arts Center

Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) began as "Shepherding Images Studio & Good Shepherd Gallery" and was later shortened to "Good Shepherd Gallery."

GSAC has continued to evolve since it opened on November 17, 2015. A 501(c)(3) organization, the Center's mission is to exhibit art and offer experiences that affirm human dignity, uplift hearts and link creativity with spirituality in Ferguson, Missouri.

Worldview of Ferguson

Sr. Glynis said, "The world saw one aspect of Ferguson in 2014. The shooting of Michael Brown became the event that defined this small town. What the world has not seen is the hard work the people -- all the people -- have been doing to make changes.

"Even in the midst of the chaos, how many images of peaceful protest, respectful dialogue and people reaching out to one another were seen worldwide?" Sr. Glynis asks.

"We believe in the healing power of art and are glad to be a part of Ferguson's renewal and resurrection," she said.

Core Values of the Arts Center

Good Shepherd Arts Center subscribes to four principles:

Spirituality – We believe that art which affirms truth, goodness and beauty can lead to richer spiritual awareness for people of all faiths.

Individual Worth – We believe that classes and workshops can help develop unique creative and artistic gifts that affirm all aspects of human diversity.

Harmony – We believe that art nurtures unifying experiences and a harmonious atmosphere in the Gallery.

Hospitality – We believe that all persons who enter the Gallery come in a spirit of peace.

The current exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center features artists who share their views of what being human means to them. Paintings, drawings and three dimensional works convey the body, expressiveness of the human face, and the dignity of each human being. The show runs from July 7-27, 2018. For more information visit <https://www.goodshepherdarts.org>

Written by Jeanette McDermott



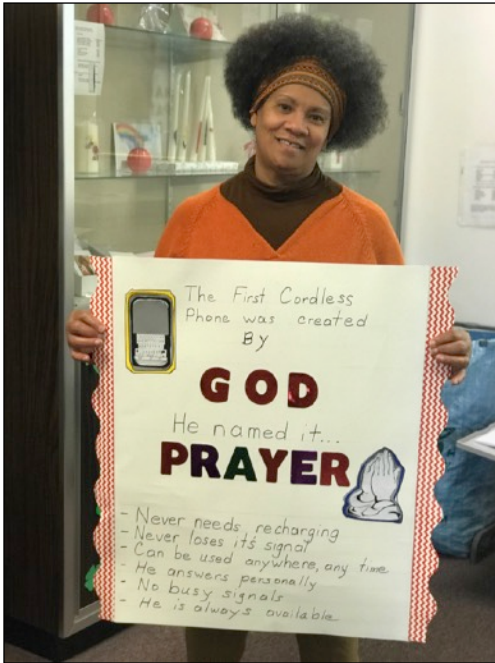
Good Shepherd Sisters Madeleine Munday, Marta Ceballos, Sharon O'Grady, Mary Carolyn McQuaid and Helena Pereira Moderno make origami cranes at Good Shepherd Arts Center for the upcoming exhibit titled [#ThisIsMyFerguson](#). The show runs from August 4-25.



The July exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center features St. Louis artists who share their perspective on what it means to be human. Items of Interest will report on the exhibit in the August issue.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL



Shirley's poster ministry

Shirley Norful likes to create posters. She has a real knack for making them pop so they grab your attention. The receptionist at Immaculate Heart Convent in St. Louis handcrafts her posters. Creative thought, time and energy go into them.

Her posters often carry messages that are aligned with holidays or current affairs. Other times, Shirley creates posters that stem purely from her imagination or from guidance she receives through the Holy Spirit. Occasionally Shirley will see a word or phrase that captivates her and triggers her creativity. Still, other posters are a call to action, like her

recent "Get Physical" poster that encourages Sisters to exercise.

Shirley says she makes the posters to brighten up the reception area where Sisters like to visit. She also says the posters are her way of bringing positive messages into the work space to inspire and motivate Sisters and staff. Her uniquely designed posters keep conversation lively at Immaculate Heart.

Local Leader Sr. Pauline Billbrough said, "From her rich and deep faith, her creative hands and heart of gold, Shirley brightens our days and invites all of us to pay attention to what matters – thank you Shirley."

Mystery Photo ... guess who?

Last month's Mystery Photo winner is Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson. She knew the whole story behind the photo to the right. Here's what Sr. Sharon Rose revealed:

"The mystery photo was taken in the Contemplative Community room in Florissant, Missouri. I was not in it because I was in charge of the Infirmary and taking care of the sick. Sr. Dorothy Vogel and Sr.

Magdalen Clark are kneeling in the front row. It was during a visit with our

Superior General Mother Thomas Aquinas Lee. She is in the middle. Mother Columba is beside her, the Superior of the Apostolic Sisters at the time. I'm not sure now, but Sr. Mary Andrew might have taken the photo. If so, it would have been taken between 1974 and 1977. I will have to put on my thinking cap when I have a chance and try to recall an actual year."

And now for this month's Mystery Photo. Who is the Sister in the photo on the left and why is she dressed as a clown? What's going on in this picture? Where was it taken? Who took it? Inquiring minds want to know. Please send in your best guess with some background information so we can flesh out the archives at Province of Mid-North America.

Deadline for the August issue of *Items of Interest* is Monday, July 23. Please send your guesses for the Mystery Photo, announcements, news stories, photographs, or other contributions to jmcdermott@gspmna.org



CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sr. Mary Holy Family Karl, RGS

October 25, 1922 – June 8, 2018

Sister Mary Holy Family (Florence Anita) Karl was born October 25, 1922, on a large dairy farm in South Fork, Pennsylvania, near Johnstown. She had three brothers and three sisters. Her brother Albert lives in Florida. Sister has many nieces and nephews who live near the family farm in South Fork. They are a very close family and have always held a special place in Sister's prayers.

Sister Mary Holy Family entered the Good Shepherd Sisters in Germantown, Pennsylvania. She received the habit on May 18, 1946 and made her final vows on the same date in 1948.

For 40 years Sister was an Infirmary Aide in our Good Shepherd infirmaries in Pennsylvania. For 30 of those years she was also in charge of the convent kitchen.

Sister had a loving way with pre-school children and spent several years working with little ones. A story is told of a miracle.

Two of the little girls were sisters, ages 4 and 6. They knew that Sister Holy Family was very fond of a lovely statue of the Blessed Mother on the first floor landing of the school. One day the statue "arrived" on the fourth floor in the children's activity room. The little girls were too small to have moved the statue. Only Our Lady knows how it got to the fourth floor on its own, to be appreciated by the children.

Over her later years Sister became an apostle of the pen. She kept up correspondence of comfort, support, encouragement, friendship and



Mary Holy Family Karl, RGS

prayer for others. Her late-in-life ministry kept several scribes busy.

Many years ago a Jesuit priest who was a friend of the Fox Chase Community asked some of our Sisters to spiritually adopt young seminarians who were preparing for profession and ordination.

Sister Holy Family prayed for and stayed in touch with several of the seminarians over the years. One of the priests, Fr. Thomas Pesci, SJ, celebrated the Mass for Sister on her 65th Jubilee in 2013.

Sister had many abilities and also helped with the clearing out of the Fox Chase Convent before it closed in March of 1997.

Sister Holy Family was a gifted crocheter and made very beautiful afghans and Irish patterned pillow

shams. She also taught others how to crochet, spread the gift around.

Sister's quiet prayerful manner, warm encouraging smile and kind ways will be greatly missed. One of her favorite quotes was by Father Faber:

It is a precious thing to love God; it is more precious to love Him ever more; and the most precious thing of all, is to light up the fire of Divine Love in others."

May Sister Mary Holy Family rest in eternal peace.

From her niece Anita Karl Rose

The first recollection I have of my aunt Sr. Mary was when I was about four years old and I visited her at the convent where she was living in Western Pennsylvania. She was working with troubled teen girls. During that visit, my aunt gave me a bean-bag clown, made by the teen residents. It became my favorite toy, probably because it had love in it. I wish I still had that clown, but I wore it out!!!

There was a long period of time when I didn't see my aunt. In 2015, I learned that she was in Baltimore, just a few hours away from where I live. I made it a priority to visit her. It was like we had never stopped seeing each other. Her smile, her happiness just beamed when we talked of years gone by. We spoke of her parents (my grandparents) and life in general. Time passed quickly during that visit, and I left feeling more filled with happiness than I had felt in a long time.

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sister Leona Marie Lucier, RGS

Mentor and Spiritual Director to Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

August 21, 1923 – June 13, 2018

Sister Leona Marie loved the Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd. She enriched our meetings with her presence and wisdom. She was 86 when she became our mentor.

In spite of her failing health, she volunteered to sit down with us during our monthly meetings. This holy woman taught me courage. She was my Spiritual Director during my formation as a Companion.

She reminds me of Pope Francis' homily during the celebration of his 25th anniversary as Bishop of Buenos Aires in 1992. He commented on the dialogue between God and the call of the elderly Abraham.

Pope Francis said we hear three imperatives:

"Get up!"

"Look!"

"Hope!"

Sr. Leona Marie was a model of zeal. She got up, looked at the Companions who were left without a shepherd, and volunteered to be present for us. Until the doctor told her to stop.

Mentor and Spiritual Director

I remember years back when Sr. Ann Sullivan, RGS, our mentor for more than a decade, informed me of the good news that Sr. Leona Marie would be my personal spiritual director.

I met with her once a month as she helped me prepare for first commitment. Her beautiful smile



Leona Marie Lucier, RGS

and wholesome aura spoke louder than her words.

The last time I saw Sr. Leona Marie was when I visited her at her retirement facility, Providence Villa, on December 20, 2017. She still had that beautiful smile while sitting in her wheelchair.

I sat down with Srs. Leona Marie and Bernadette Robitaille and showed them pictures from the Companions scrapbook that I had brought to St. Louis for our Companions Gathering at the Province Center in 2017.

The Sisters were delighted to see the evolution of the Companions as daughters of St. Mary Euphrasia and St. John Eudes. Both of these Sisters had helped me in my formation in the charism of St. Mary Euphrasia and St. John Eudes.

The Companions are also very grateful for the huge involvement of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Mid-North America and to Jeanette for taking care of communications. This

is a very important link for us, especially since Companions are dispersed across borders.

Good bye, Sr. Leona! Happy reunion with the Sisters and Companions in eternity. Enjoy your well deserved rest.

Submitted by Encarnacion Tumanguil, Companion, Canada

Sr. Holy Family, *Continued*

Last year, before she relocated to Missouri (just nine months before her death), I could see changes in my aunt. I knew that visit would be the last time I would see her on Earth. She still held the same smile, joy and happiness in being with others, but I could see that she was tiring and getting closer to meeting up with my dad, her other siblings and my grandparents.

My aunt reminded me so much of my dad. While visiting, I looked at her and said, "I thought you had blue eyes like my dad. She said, "No, John was the only one with blue eyes." The little things ... are the big things.

My heart is full because of the time I had spent with her. She touched me in ways she could never know. I will forever treasure that smile and twinkling eyes behind those thick lenses. She will forever be in my heart ... 'til we meet again.

Submitted by Sr. Pauline Bilbrough, RGS, and Anita Karl Rose

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Sunflowers, *Cont'd from p. 1*

sunflowers in the first place. I like to think that she was attracted to sunflowers not only for their unique proclivity to turn toward the sun, but because they are bright and cheery flowers, and because they draw songbirds and pollinators to a bountiful seed buffet for their survival.

Ultimately, I like pondering St. Mary Euphrasia as a nature girl who found the same delights in nature that I do today. It's not a hard stretch of the imagination, considering she grew up on an island and spent her childhood exploring cliffs, forests and the wide open sea.

Conferences, Chapter 3

So, having made this connection and to satisfy my curiosity, I went in search of a back-story to the sunflower analogy. I turned to the new facebook group that Mission Partners Lizzie Cody and Stella Villasenour started last month for people who want to read and discuss St. Mary Euphrasia's letters.

I posed a question to the group, asking where I could find the reference to St. Mary Euphrasia's mention of sunflowers. Lizzie responded within half a nano-second. I'm amazed at how much knowledge Lizzie has about our foundress.

She led me to Chapter 3 in the Conferences and Instructions of Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier. These conferences are a composite record of spontaneous talks that St. Mary Euphrasia gave on religious authority, poverty, civil life and other topics related to faith, scripture and God.

Here's what I read in Chapter 3 on page 29:

"Our work is God's work, he will protect it! Like sunflowers that look towards the sun and as a compass needle seeks the pole, so your minds should always turn to our Lord, to Rome, to the Congregation."

Hmmm, I wondered. What prompted her to make this analogy to sunflowers? I continued reading. Come to find out, St. Mary Euphrasia made other references to nature in Chapter 3. She was



***As soon as we glimpsed
the holy city we knelt
and reverently kissed
its blessed soil."***

obviously inspired by creation. My kind of woman!

St. Mary Euphrasia had returned to Angers from Rome on April 17, 1838, when she wrote Chapter 3.

Listen to this: "My dear daughters, I cannot express the emotion our Sisters and I felt on entering Rome! As soon as we glimpsed the holy city we knelt and reverently kissed its blessed soil."

Think about those words: "It's blessed soil." How wonderful is that reference to nature? To call the soil blessed. Indeed it is. Soil is the very source of life, the place from which

food grows for all living beings on Earth. The place from which streams begin and flow into rivers and oceans.

She writes further, "We will no longer be children blown about by every wind of Doctrine."

Wind is strong and powerful. When it's gentle we call it a breeze. The mention of wind confirms for me that St. Mary Euphrasia had a connection with nature. Inspired by nature, she tapped strategically from it, painting pictures to make salient points.

Here are other examples:

- "Now, you are all familiar with ivy - a weak plant, which without support cannot stay upright. However, put it near an oak, it clings to it with all its might, grows upwards and never dies. We cling to our great oak. Rome. In that way we shall have strength and support in difficult times."

Continued on next page

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Sunflowers, *Cont'd from p. 12*

- “Be very recollected gathering, crumb by crumb, like little birds, the spiritual nourishment given to you. If one of you should be light, giddy, inattentive, the instructions given will be of no use, one might just as well throw wheat into the river!”
- “... it is impossible that a Religious Congregation should perish so long as it stays faithfully obedient to her diving authority. Should it suffer persecution the Church would protect it as a mother protects a child in danger. If, in certain environments, this tree cannot bear fruit, the Church will transplant it with maternal wisdom.

And, finally, this in Chapter 3:

“We must pray much, the Lord wants us to ask urgently if we desire



No flower can lift someone's spirits quite like sunflowers. They are stunningly beautiful and also have rich meaning. Sunflowers symbolize adoration, loyalty and longevity.

answers to prayer; he wants us to be people of work, prayer and sacrifice. We are not to be inert like stagnant water!”

Nature girl

St. Mary Euphrasia was shaped by nature, and in my mind's eye, fortified by it as well. A love for nature coursed through her veins.

There's something about remembering this that makes my heart sing. And spurs me onward to keep reading, to keep discovering tidbits about the remarkable woman who left a legacy of overflowing activity that has helped shape our world.

To join the facebook group *St. Mary Euphrasia Letters Reading Club*, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/831736800368890/>

Written by Jeanette McDermott

Water, a gift from the heavens



Creation Justice Ministries (CJM) is a network of Christian communities, denominations, congregations, and individuals who are concerned about protecting and restoring God's creation. The organization has a particular focus on water as a sacred gift from God that connects and sustains all life. With 2018 declared as The Year of Water for the Province of Mid-North America, it seems fitting to share CJM's Christian education resource on water. One of the resources is a PDF that includes liturgical materials, sermon starters and ideas for taking action. You can download the PDF and find CJM's other water resources at <http://www.creationjustice.org/water.html>. You will find water blessings, a prayer toolkit, advocacy statements and much more. The goal of Creation Justice Ministries is to help educate, equip and mobilize faith communities.

We will publish in the next issue of *Items of Interest* a poem titled “The Holy Water.” Companion of Jesus the Good Shepherd Joan Clancy contributed the poem. Please send your contributions for the newsletter by the 20th of each month to Jeanette McDermott at jmcdermott@gspmna.org.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Greetings from Sister Magdalen Bui in Vietnam

Sister Magdalen Bui, RGS, spent a year with the St. Louis Community while attending English as a Second Language at the University of Missouri St. Louis. She returned home to Vietnam on May 30, 2018.

During her stay in the United States, Sr. Magdalen had the opportunity to meet many Sisters during Assembly and when Sisters visited the Province Center for meetings. Sr. Magdalen sent a note to the Editor of *Items of Interest* in June to say how much she missed everyone in St. Louis.

She also sent a few photographs of the Good Shepherd Communities in Vietnam so we could see some of our Sisters there.



Good Shepherd Sisters in Vietnam. Sr. Magdalen is kneeling, second from left in the front row.

Story of what LCWR learned during a six-year crisis

The book *However Long the Night* tells the story of what the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) learned during a six-year crisis from 2009-2015.

A high-ranking and very powerful Vatican office suddenly and very publicly confronted LCWR with forceful questions and negative assumptions about the foundation of the lives of Catholic Sisters. The Vatican office threatened the autonomy and even the existence of LCWR. A great majority of U.S. Catholic Sisters rely on the national organization for many kinds of resources, support, and connections.

The experience rocked LCWR's officers, its hundreds of members, and the approximately 60,000 Sisters who belonged to member congregations at that time. Yet the ultimate resolution benefited everyone. How did that happen?

This book answers that question. It explains how the organization worked through a very difficult time. It also provides spiritual grounding and useful information. In addition, the book offers inspiration and hope to people who

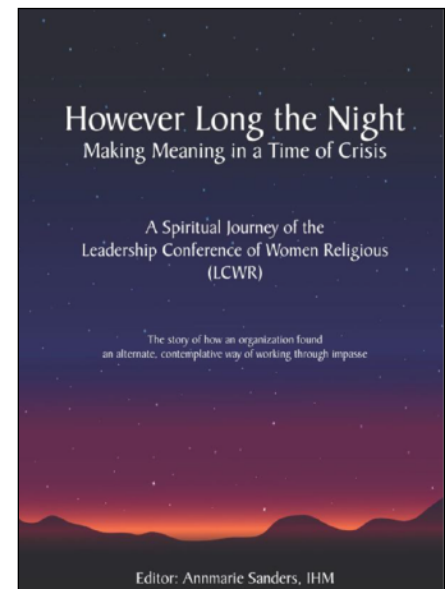
are working through conflict, polarization, or even impasse in their own personal, professional, family, community, neighborhood, or organizational settings.

During the six-year period of investigation by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and since that time, LCWR was asked by many to tell the story of how the organization and how its leaders navigated this time of tremendous risk as well as less visible personal pain and, ultimately, blessing.

Reporters have wanted the organization to offer an exposé of the unrevealed details of what provoked this investigation and of "who said what when" in the very slow process of its resolution. This is not that tell-all book. This is a serious effort to describe what LCWR's leaders learned personally and as an organization about how to weather a crisis in ways that create a new and better reality.

However Long the Night is the product of reflection over time. The authors had long pondered if there was any benefit to their telling LCWR's story and their own stories

to the public. Their reticence was palpable primarily because it had been such a sacred journey for them and they wanted it to be respected as such. Conscious of the dire national and international conflict existent today, the authors chose to risk telling their story with the hope that it could offer a way forward for others. *Compiled from book reviews.*



<https://amzn.to/2lIFD4M>

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

| NAME | DATES | LOCATION |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson | July 9 | Hoffman Resource Group Meeting, St. Louis |
| Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez | July 18-21 | St. Louis |
| Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth | No travel | No travel |
| Sr. Maureen Johnson | No travel | No travel |
| Sr. Dolores Kalina | July 1-16 July 17-28 July 29-31 | Cincinnati Vacation Cincinnati |
| Sr. Maureen Kunz | July 10-19 | Vacation |
| Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid | No travel | No travel |
| Sr. Madeleine Munday | July 1-2 July 16-22 July 25-31 | Saipan Retreat Community visitation, San Francisco |

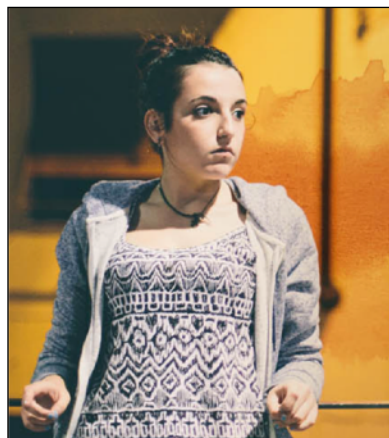


Independence Day is celebrated annually on July 4 and is often known as "the Fourth of July." It is the anniversary of the publication of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1776.

Sr. Christopher Mullan and all of the Sisters
at Immaculate Heart Convent
wish you a
Happy 4th of July!

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"We must fill our souls to the brim with the mission, always be united among ourselves."

Saint Mary Euphrasia, Conferences, 74

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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