

ITEMS



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The province archives contain the first movie depicting cloistered religious life.

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Good Shepherd shows what it is achieving around the world to support women.

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Spring Area Meetings



SPRING AREA MEETINGS UNDERWAY

The Sisters' annual Spring Area Meetings began on February 12 with a two-day virtual meeting of Sisters on the West Coast. Topics are woven around the Province Direction Statement that emerged from last year's Chapter. In particular, the meetings address our commitments to acknowledge and

Continued on next page



Green Corner

There is a Vatican initiative gaining momentum to inspire Catholics in the U.S. to act upon Laudato Si's teachings and encourage participation in the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#). The campaign began on October 4, 2021, coinciding with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The U.S. effort, called "We're All Part of God's Plan(et)," is led by the Catholic Climate Covenant and its 19 national partners. The website godsplanet.us supports the initiative.

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Spring Area Meetings, *Cont'd from p. 1*

address racism within ourselves, in our structures, and in the wider social context, as detailed in the Province Direction Statement.

The meetings also encourage us “to take action to address the root causes of injustice in order to restore respect, promote equal opportunity for all, and bring healing to creation.”

As preparation for the work on racism, we pondered questions relating to what attracts us and what we resist. The honesty and willingness to be transparent set the tone for the 2-day session.

We viewed a video presentation by Dr. Robin DiAngelo, who, in her 2018 book “White Fragility,” addresses unconscious bias and why White people get defensive when talking about race.

We also watched a video by Brown University Professor Tricia Rose, who argues that five issues drive structural racism: housing, criminal justice, education, wealth, and media. The videos were followed by conversations in small groups.

Joan Spiering, RGS, coordinated and led the section on care of creation. She and Sisters Marguerite Bartling, Lakshmi Napagoda, and Marilyn Atwell served as panelists to present their views on creation.

Sister Lakshmi, who grew up surrounded by wide-open spaces in Sri Lanka, spoke about the beauty of nature and

how it is an essential component of wellness. She is incorporating this insight into her clinical practice in Tennessee. Sisters Marguerite, Marilyn, and Joan described their local efforts to become better stewards of the environment.

Both large group and small group discussions allow participants of the Spring Area Meetings to share ideas and go deeper into the conversation. The meetings are relaxed and allow sufficient time for questions about finance, properties, and other topics of interest and importance to the Sisters.

*The meetings allow us to pray together,
have fun together, and to get caught up on
province business and with each other.*

Madeleine Munday, RGS

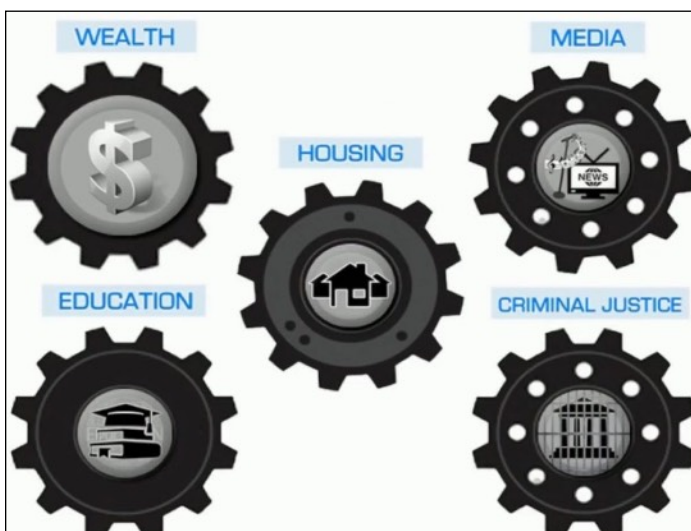
Spring Area Meetings are designed for transparency, so that information is heard first-hand and nobody is left out of the loop. According to Mid-North America Province Leader, Sr. Madeleine Munday, “The meetings allow us to pray together, have fun together, and to get caught up on province business and with each other.”

Information compiled from the meetings will help the Province Leadership Team plan further opportunities and steps towards implementing our Direction Statement. There will be a total of four area meetings including the one already held for the West Coast. Our plan is for the Cincinnati and St. Louis meetings to be face-to-face, with a virtual Zoom option for those who do not travel.

We have to see how the COVID protocols for healthcare facilities in Pennsylvania unfold before we know whether it will be possible to meet in-person in Danville. Each location will follow a similar schedule, tweaked to accommodate local realities.

The St. Louis meeting will be held from May 10-11. Danville is scheduled for June 21-22, and Cincinnati for July 19-20. An additional date with a modified agenda will be scheduled for the Good Shepherd Community at Mason Pointe. Sisters may participate in whichever meeting is most convenient for them. Registration information will be available in April.

Written by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



Five key issues drive structural racism, according to Brown University Professor Tricia Rose.

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Promoting the common good through socially responsible investing

By Mary Carol McClenon, RGS, Province Leadership Team for Mid-North America

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) issued a formal statement last November on new socially responsible investment guidelines. The guidelines offer a framework for Catholic institutions and dioceses that want to make ethical and socially responsible investment decisions.

The update added eight new topics to screen out: euthanasia, assisted suicide, in vitro fertilization, human rights violations, gender reassignment surgery, gambling, tobacco, and recreational cannabis.

These newer developments join the familiar list of abortion,

contraceptive manufacture, embryonic stem cells, fetal tissue research, human cloning, pornography, controversial weapons, and antipersonnel landmines.

PMNA not affected by revised policies

The adoption of the revised USCCB investment policies does not affect changes in investments for the Province of Mid-North America, which are already in line with the new guidelines. Recognizing the increasingly fast pace of new developments in technology and changes in social mores, the USCCB now intends to review the

investment guidelines every three years. Prior to November 2021, the last revision was in 2003.

Bishop Gregory L. Parkes, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Budget and Finance, led the working group responsible for developing the recent update.

He said, "Overall, the guidelines see a three-pronged investment strategy based on the defense and promotion of life: avoid doing harm, actively work for change, and promote the common good."

"The key is that we invest if we can affect positive change and don't invest where we can't," he said.

RESOURCES

Sharing resources across borders

Two Sisters in the Province of Mid-North America are using Zoom to share resources across international borders and contribute to the greater good of the Good Shepherd mission.

Sister Christine My Hahn Truong is serving as ongoing Formator for the Vietnam Sector while Sr. Virginia Gordon mentors Sisters in Vietnam and another Sister in France for weekly sessions of English tutoring.

Prayer resource

Look for *Awakening to Sacred Presence — Holy Mystery*, a booklet of prayer resources as a

gift from the Congregational Leadership Team. Erica Donemeyer, Administrative Assistant for the Province of Mid-North America, will distribute the booklet to Sisters and Partners in Mission later this spring. The booklet is in response to the Congregational Direction Statement of 2015 to "find new ways of prayer that connect us to God deep within ourselves and in our contemporary world."

Exploring Intersections Links

Exploring Intersections, the year-long join project on a wide variety of social justice topics between LCWR Region X and Communicators for St. Louis

Sisters, has ended. Past episodes are available to view on YouTube or listen to as a podcast. The following episodes are available online at <https://exploringintersections.org>

[Gender Equity](#)

[Care of Creation](#)

[Migration](#)

[Racial Justice](#)

[Ending Human Trafficking](#)

[Eliminating Gun Violence](#)

[Economic Justice](#)

[Food Security](#)

[Restorative Justice](#)

[Affordable Housing](#)

[Education Justice](#)

[Equitable Access to Healthcare](#)

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

A month of celebrations

By Jeanette McDermott, Province Communications Coordinator

March is a month of activity. We celebrate women's history, Catholic Sisters, and St. Patrick. This year Lent began in March, and each year the month welcomes spring.

Women's History Month

Women's History Month highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8. The Good Shepherd International Foundation released an ebook on March 22 to celebrate women in Good Shepherd programs. [Download the e-book](#) and feel free to share it.

Catholic Sisters Week

March 8-14 marked Catholic Sisters Week (CSW), a time when we shine a light each year on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious. As part of CSW, Jesuit priest Nick Leeper wrote an article about the contributions women religious make to the Catholic Church and world. Read his article at <https://bit.ly/34K9ta3>

The theme of Catholic Sisters Week was Laudato Si (Praise Be to You!), the second encyclical of Pope Francis. It has the subtitle "On care for our common home." Good Shepherd Sisters shared their thoughts about caring for creation on the province's Facebook and Twitter feeds.

Sister Janice Rushman said, "When I consider the expansive call of Laudato Si and the pervasive suffering and degradation throughout our beautiful planet, I wonder: What real difference do my paltry efforts make to reduce my use of goods, to faithfully recycle, to act with justice, and to respect all of God's creatures – including the centipede crawling in the bathtub?"

"Then I remember the 'ripple effect' and I have hope. Beloved Creator, 'prosper the work of my hands and heart for your Creation!'" she said.

Contemplative Sister Jude Ellen Golumbieski has in her bedroom two plants that have nourished her with flowers daily for the last 35 years. She said, "Being born in the Wyoming Valley, surrounded by mountains, creation was all around me and somehow captured my heart. Creation is the icon of God. Every stroke, color, and image speaks of God's love to us."

Read more quotes from Sisters at <https://bit.ly/3DDKdzn>

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Announcements and News Tidbits

Sister Claudia Palacio is the new Formation Director for Mid-North America. She has joined Sr. Brigid Lawlor in the Silver Spring community.

Sisters Cathie Boerboom and Carmel Irving are relocating from Portland, Oregon, to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to serve in outreach ministries.

Sister Christine Truong received a \$50,000 grant for Good Shepherd Services Atlanta. Look for a story in the next issue of Items of Interest.

Sister Joan Lopez and the new Congregational Leadership Team begin their term of office on April 24, 2022, when installation of the team takes place in Rome.

CORA Services Gala *Love In Action* will be held in Philadelphia on April 28, 2022. CORA's 13th Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for May 23rd, and its Heritage Days for staff on May 12.

Here are the spring events to engage in to show your care of creation:

- April 22 [Earth Day](#)
- April 29 [Arbor Day](#)
- May 2-6 [We're All Part of God's Plan\(et\)](#)
- May 22-29 [Laudato Si Week](#)

The Province of Mid-North America is conducting a Communications Audit to determine the best way to move forward in creating a structure that aligns communications to the mission and goals of the province. Focus groups will be held on April 20 as part of the communications audit. Please contact Toni Ponder if you are interested in participating in a focus group. tponder@gspmna.org

Deadline for the next issue of Items of Interest is May 20, 2022.

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



March, *Cont'd from p. 4*

Lenten Season

Lent is a very special time when we give greater attention to God and others. It is a time of self-examination and reflection in preparation before the celebrations of Easter, which marks the resurrection of the Lord. I am spending the Lenten Season attending Mass at a different church each Sunday to gain inspiration from the priests' homilies and parishioners' dedication to their churches.

St. Patrick's Day

I learned a few myths about St. Patrick when researching the saint for a Zoom call on March 15. I discovered that he wasn't Irish, nor was his name Patrick. The saint was born at the end of the 4th century to wealthy aristocratic parents in Roman Britain. His real name was believed to be Maewyn Succat.

Maewyn's life took an unexpected turn when at 16 he was kidnapped by Irish raiders who shipped him as a slave to County Mayo, where he worked six years as a shepherd. Fast forward ... he escapes, returns to Britain, trains to become a priest, and goes back to Ireland to convert the country's population to Christianity, using the shamrock plant to explain the Holy Trinity to Irish pagans.

Spring

Spring is more than a season of the year. It is a time of rebirth and renewal. Everything is in bloom. The weather is warmer. Birds are singing, baby wildlife are being born. Bees are buzzing. The sky looks brighter, and our spirits are lifted. Spring makes us happy and hopeful.



Sister Elizabeth Garciano photographed her experimental painting and saw through the camera angle that the flow of the liquids had formed a heart. For her, the painting symbolizes God's divine blood and water poured into creation for justice in the world.

Who doesn't love spring? Oh yeh, pollen, allergies, sneezing, and watery eyes. Well, there is that about springtime too.

NAMVT sponsors inter-province workshop

The North America Mission Values Team (NAMVT) sponsored an inter-province virtual workshop on March 10 that examined common issues which often undermine an organization's equity efforts, such as systemic racism and unconscious bias. The workshop, titled *Working on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging*, covered four broad areas:

1. **Valuing each other's lived experience** addressed how we interpret and attribute meaning to our existence based on our history, culture, and messaging.
2. **Unconscious bias** spoke to the way we think about others, based on unexamined beliefs, assumptions, and mindsets.

3. **Diversity and Inclusion** identified the multiple ways individual differences and similarities exist among humans, such as personality, race, age, gender, and religion.
4. **Belonging and Psychological Safety** addressed our need to believe that it is safe to be vulnerable, to feel trust, and be able to take interpersonal risks without fear of negative repercussions.

NAMVT held the 3-hour workshop as a way to help the three provinces in North America keep centered on the shared work of Province and Congregational Direction Statements. Members of the North America Mission and Values Team are Lizzie Cody, Celia Ceballos, Nadia Dias, and Nancy F. Eagan.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Gracenter expands

By Marguerite Bartling, RGS

The tremendous generosity of a women's nonprofit, Stepping Stone, has made it possible for Gracenter to expand its capacity to serve more women. When Stepping Stone closed, it distributed its financial assets to Gracenter and other women's programs.

Through the Stepping Stone grant, five more bedrooms are being added to Good Shepherd Gracenter's residential treatment program in San Francisco, California.

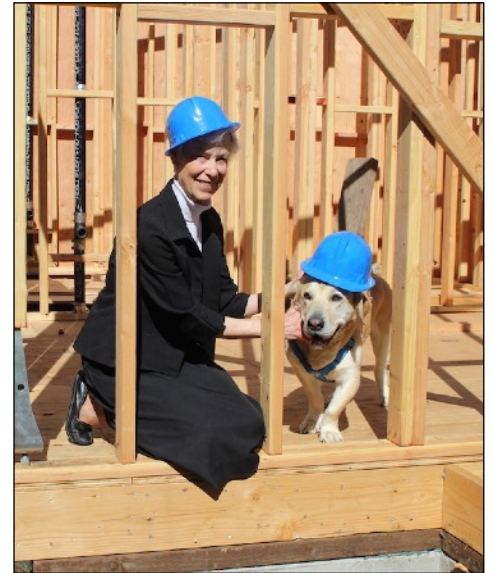
Gracenter is licensed by the Department of Health Care Services and provides supportive recovery services and transitional housing for women who are without resources, meeting a huge need in the Bay Area. The new construction brings the total number of beds in Gracenter to 18 women served at one time.

The new building will be completed by September of this year! Providentially, September is National Recovery Month, the month of Gracenter's annual fundraiser, and this September the Sisters and the Good Shepherd Guild will be

celebrating 90 years of service to young women in San Francisco.

Expanding and serving more women has been a dream of ours for many years and now we see God making that dream a reality and bringing the mission into the future.

A graduate of Gracenter said she is excited about the new facility that is being built because "Gracenter can help more women who specifically need this type of service. It can change their lives!" she said.



Sister Anne Kelley and Gracie don hard hats as they prepare to supervise the constructing crew.



Top: Anne Kelley, RGS, stands on the rooftop of the main building at Gracenter to get a birds-eye snapshot of the new building being constructed. Below: Sisters Anne Kelley (right) and Marguerite Bartling, Executive Director of Gracenter, review the blueprints for the new building.



The construction crew works on the foundation of the new building at Gracenter.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



L-R: Sr. Regina Do, Good Shepherd Shelter Program Manager Deanna Payne, and Sr. Donna Miles at the farewell party for the Sisters.

Sisters leave LA Shelter

Sisters Regina Do and Donna Miles completed their work at Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles at the end of February. They had been with the shelter for many years and helped it transition from being a Good Shepherd ministry to becoming a program of Catholic Charities. The Sisters said they will miss the peaceful atmosphere and beauty of the LA campus, working with the moms, and playing with the children.

“We will miss them because they allowed us to journey with them as they reached for wholeness to become independent, confident women. They inspired us with their faith, trust and courage, and the love they have for their children. It has been an honor to see the courage and strength these families have to begin a new life, to trust again, to laugh and play, and to become a loving family after all they have been through,” said Sr. Donna.

“It was not easy to leave the mission and ministry to which we have given our hearts and souls,” said Sr. Regina.

Sisters Donna and Regina are taking some time for renewal before discerning where the Good Shepherd may be calling them next.

Online spring exhibits at Good Shepherd Arts Center

Good Shepherd Arts Center demonstrates peace, justice and racial equality through the healing power of art and creative expression through its exhibitions of local artists.

Jeanette McDermott

The [March exhibit](#) featured the nature photography of Jeanette McDermott and carried the title *Mother Earth: Every Picture Sings Your Praises*. The exhibit coincided with International Women’s Day, National Women’s History Month, and Catholic Sisters Week, which carried the theme *Laudato Si (Praise You!)*.

“Jeanette’s lens captures the beauty of this world, even as much of it is vanishing. Her love for ‘Mother Earth’ is evident in her picture,” wrote Sr. Glynis McManamon, Director of Good Shepherd Arts Center.

Fr. John Nickolai

[April’s exhibiting artist](#) is Fr. John Nickolai, pastor at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Parish in Florissant, Missouri. The title of his show is *Flotsam & Jetsam*. He cites a passage from G.K. Chesterton’s “The Soul of the School-boy,” in which the mundane contents of a character’s pockets are listed. In *Orthodoxy*, Chesterton names *Robinson Crusoe* as one of the most-read books in his boyhood, saying, “the best thing in the book is simply the list of things saved from the wreck.”

Chesterton continues: “It is a good exercise, in empty or ugly hours of the day, to look at anything, the coal-scuttle or the bookcase, and think how happy one could be to have brought it out of the sinking ship.”



Top: The GSAC March exhibit featured photographs by Jeanette McDermott. Fr. John Nickolai’s art is on display in April.



ARCHIVES NEWS



ZEAL

Cloistered, the first movie ever made depicting religious life from inside a cloistered institution

By Monte Abbott, Province Archivist

As I travel around the country acquiring materials from convents and programs for the Good Shepherd archives, I occasionally find old films. I recently had two old films digitized to preserve them for our future viewing.

It appears the films may have been made for vocation purposes to attract young women to the congregation. The film cases bear stamps and address labels, indicating they were shipped around the country for local screenings. Today though, they provide insights into how Good Shepherd Sisters lived and administered their programs before Vatican II.

A documentary film with no attempt at narrative or dramatic contrivance, it is a straightforward and competently photographed record of life inside the cloistered convent of the Good Shepherd near Angers, France.

Frank S. Nugent, film critic

The first film, titled *Cloistered*, was filmed in black and white at the Motherhouse in Angers, France. It is purported to be the first movie ever made depicting religious life from inside a cloistered institution.

Originally filmed in French, our copy is dubbed in English, and it highlights many facets of life at the motherhouse, including religious activities, teaching, corresponding on typewriters, farming, and daily

Continued on next page



Above and right: Film stills from the 1936 documentary *Cloistered*. The camera follows Good Shepherd Sisters, novices, postulants, and Magdalens as they tend to daily chores, prayers, and special rituals at the Motherhouse in Angers, France.

THE SCREEN

'Cloistered,' at the Fifty-fifth Street Playhouse, Is an Unusual Record of Convent Life.

CLOISTERED, filmed at the Convent of the Good Shepherd near Angers, France, produced by Pathe Cinema; directed by Robert Alexandre; narrated by the Rev. Matthew Kelly. At the Fifty-fifth Street Playhouse.

By FRANK S. NUGENT

Although it may safely be described as one of the most unusual pictures of the year, "Cloistered," the new French film at the Fifty-fifth Street Playhouse, must—by the very nature of its material—have a limited appeal. A documentary film with no attempt at narrative or dramatic contrivance, it is a straightforward and competently photographed record of life inside the cloistered Convent of the Good Shepherd, near Angers, France.

This is the first time in history, on the word of Roman Catholic authorities, that cameramen—and consequently the general public—have been permitted to peer within the sheltered walls of a cloistered convent and observe novitiates and nuns at their work, prayers and services. Director Robert Alexandre and his crew have made the most of their opportunity, slighting no detail of convent life and keying the tempo of their picture to the quiet, austere and pious mood of the cloister itself.

The Convent of the Good Shepherd, mother house of more than 300 convents scattered over the globe, is shown to be a world in itself, with great stone walls and bolted doors guarding its few square miles against the greater world outside. A few public highways cross its fields, but these have been tunneled so the nuns may pass beneath, screened from the eyes of passers-by.

The camera follows them as they till their fields, build their walls, chop wood, break stone, paint their chapels, print their texts, prune their trees. So apart in their life, so medieval is its quality that you experience a jarring sense of anachronism when the camera discovers,

too, a corps of hooded nuns pecking away at typewriters, handling the vast correspondence of an international order.

With equal fidelity does "Cloistered" record the religious aspect of their life. Their rituals and ceremonies, including the acceptance of the novitiates and the impressive investiture of the nuns who have completed their five and a half years of probationary service, have been filmed with dignity and simplicity. The sound accompaniment is the actual chanting of the nuns and the questions and responses have been changed into English with remarkable skill. There is a narrative accompaniment, also, by the Rev. Matthew Kelly of the Church of the Little Flower in Sunnyside, Queens.

Most of it, even to the casual spectator, is remarkably interesting, but "Cloistered" is not meant for the run-of-the-mill filmgoer.

STAGE PLAYS

BROOKLYN

WPA Federal Theatre Project
MAJESTIC Theatre, Fulton St., Phone
NY 8-1710, Brooklyn.
A Production of The American
Historical Theatre
"THE BALLAD OF
DAVY CROCKETT"
by Hoffman Kings
OPENING TOMORROW NIGHT
Box only at 5-10. Reserved seats now
on sale at Box Office—25c to 50c.
SYMPHONY Theatre, Formerly Tal-
lers Street, Phone
GL 5-1141. Broadway Theatre presents
"BACKWASH"
by Edwin Harvey Blum
Even. Only at 8-10
Reserved seats in advance at box
office—25c to 50c.

MUSIC

WPA Federal Music Project
presents "WILDERNESS STONE"
World Premier Performance Sat., Mar. 24, 8-10
New York Civic Orchestra Hugh Ross
conducting
Admission 25c to 50c.



A Magdalen in prayer behind the cloistered grill.

ARCHIVES NEWS



ZEAL

Cloistered, *Cont'd from p. 8*

chores, among other day to day tasks.

Cloistered was shown at the Fifty-fifth Street Playhouse in Manhattan, New York, and was reviewed in the New York Times on May 20, 1936. Reviewer Frank Nugent was complimentary, describing *Cloistered* as "one of the most unusual pictures of the year."

The second film is untitled and undated, but was filmed in color in St. Paul by a group of high school students. The movie follows a fictional young woman as she learns about the congregations and discerns whether she should join. A note found with the film suggests it "still has basic truths, could show to girls who know us well, have serious interest."

You can watch both films by typing this address into your search bar: <https://bit.ly/3ImXInH>

Cloistered is a longer film so it has been broken into two files. The third file is the high school film from St. Paul.

*Whatever the origin of these women
or the diverse nations from which they spring,
they live in a mystical solidarity
and form a world family
that places above all else the love of God.*

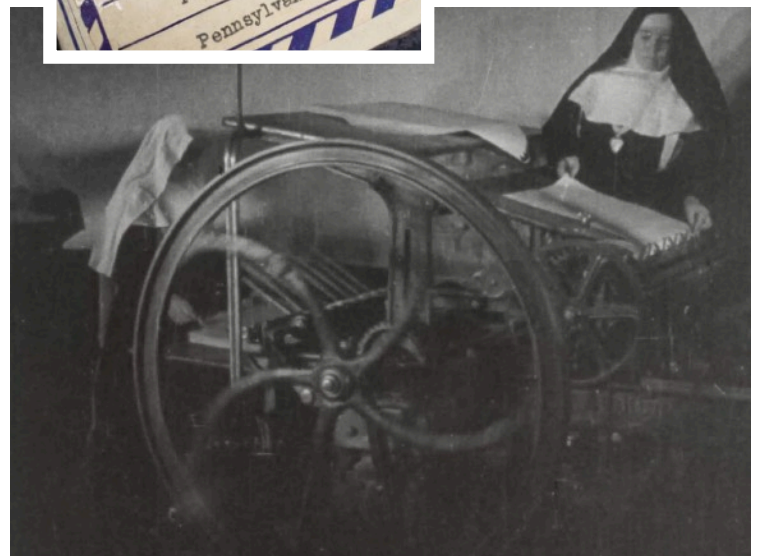
Cloistered, the movie



Receiving the habit.



Mass behind the grill.



Working in the printing press to keep communications flowing between 300 convents scattered over the globe.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL



NETWORK internship builds connection and community

By Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director of National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the Good Shepherd

The National Advocacy Center (NAC) of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd has had a longstanding connection to NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice – best known as “that nuns on the bus* group!”

When Brigid Lawlor, RGS, founded NAC in 2001 she participated in a short internship with NETWORK to bolster her experience with advocacy and help situate the newly formed NAC in the national advocacy community in Washington, DC. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS, followed suit when she began her service at NAC in 2007.

NETWORK ties also have been found in NAC Advisory Board members through the years. Most recently, Marge Clark, BVM, formerly a lobbyist at NETWORK and one of the “bus riders,” served at the request of former NAC Director Larry Couch. We were grateful to have Marge’s thoughtful perspective on the Advisory Board from 2014 until she retired in 2020.

Serving a month-long internship with NETWORK

I am happy to report that I recently completed a month-long internship with NETWORK, continuing the tradition and building on the relationship. Mary Novak, the laywoman who succeeded Simone Campbell, SSS, and took the helm as NETWORK’s executive director in April 2021, welcomed the idea and was excited to have NAC connect.

With Mary’s deep appreciation for the role of women religious in advocacy, as well as her awareness of the individual gifts each of us brings to the work, I, too, was grateful for the opportunity. During

the month I was there, I worked with Laura Peralta-Schulte, NETWORK’s seasoned Senior Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs.

She offered me an excellent understanding of the way their government relations team works, as well as great insights around our common advocacy focus areas — poverty, in particular.

She was generous with her time and expertise, allowing me to ask many questions and shadow her at meetings and on lobby visits. Laura helped me understand the three “Ps” of lobbying:

1. the desired Policy - e.g., ensuring a basic safety net for those on the margins;
2. the Politics - the political landscape and context for lobbying work at any point and time; and
3. the Process – what legislative vehicles are moving and most likely to advance our goals.

All these factors must be considered as we look for the best ways to advance our priorities. Laura added a fourth “P” that is particular to our faith-based framework: PRAYER.

Good Shepherd is well-placed on the fourth “P” given the devotion to prayer of our Contemplative Sisters!

NETWORK learns about Good Shepherd agencies

For their part, Laura and Mary were particularly excited to learn more about Good Shepherd agencies across the country, noting that direct input from social service programs and clients is something NETWORK lacks. Contributions

from Good Shepherd agencies can inform and strengthen our shared work for change.

I am grateful for NETWORK’s collegiality, and for their willingness to provide me with such a helpful grounding. With Larry Couch’s official retirement from NAC as executive director in December 2021, it was a gift for me to learn more about their work and to feel the shared advocacy commitment of the NETWORK team.

Growing sense of community and support

As I learn more and more about the groups advocating alongside NAC for, and with, those on the margins, I continue to be struck by their earnestness and passion – and to feel a growing sense of community and support.

Nuns on the Bus is an effort of NETWORK Lobby. It brings Catholic Sisters to cities across the country to raise awareness about different Catholic social justice issues. It began in 2012 with a focus on income inequality and the working poor.

The National Advocacy Center represents Sisters of the Good Shepherd each year at Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD). EAD is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community that mobilizes for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. This year NAC will have a virtual booth at the online event, which runs from April 25-27, 2022, in Arlington, Virginia.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Climate, *Cont'd from p. 1*

On March 22, 2021, Catholic Climate Covenant announced that it and its partners are launching a new campaign for climate solutions. The initiative is a U.S. Catholic training and advocacy campaign to encounter and urge Senators to support climate solutions. Training emphasizes advocating from a place of faith and reason.

Meetings between Catholic constituents and Senators will center strongly upon the Catholic faith and transcend partisanship. The campaign approach rests on the faith of manifesting a change of heart for a shared concern. The spring training campaign culminates in virtual or in-person meetings with U.S. Senators the week of May 2-6, 2022. [Sign up](#) to get involved and stay informed of campaign actions.

Background to the campaign

As [background](#) to the campaign, U.S. Senators are considering climate provisions in budget legislation through the climate portion of President Biden's former Build Back Better framework.

Catholic Climate Covenant asks Catholics to engage with lawmakers to support climate and clean energy investments that reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower national greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and build the resilience of impacted communities.

This includes tax incentives supporting clean energy technology innovation, resilience investments to protect directly affected communities, and other incentives to decarbonize and strengthen the economy. Together, they represent the largest federal investment in clean energy and would help the



2022 EARTH DAY PROGRAM

*Integral Ecology*Pursuing the Common Good
for Our Common Home

Catholic Climate Covenant's 2022 Earth Day program, "[Integral Ecology: Pursuing the Common Good for Our Common Home](#)" is available to assist in planning an Earth Day activity. The approximately one-hour program includes prayers, readings, a short video, and practical activities including suggested advocacy and personal sustainability commitments.

The program is intended to commemorate Earth Day on April 22, but it could also be used during *Laudato Si' week* (May 22-29 2022), or any other time that it fits your community's schedule.

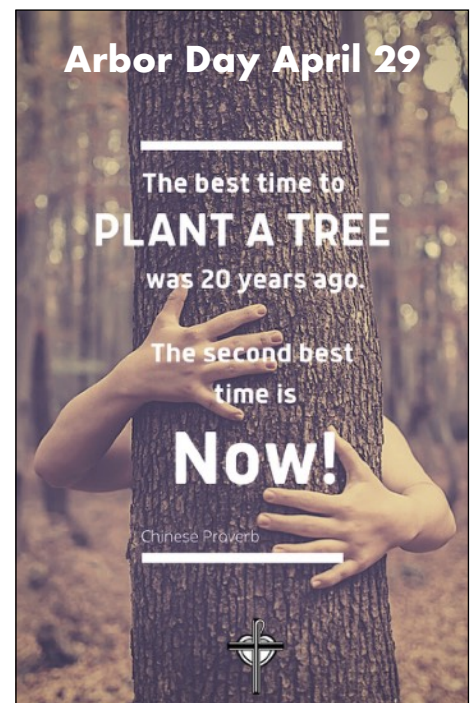
[Download](#) the 2022 Earth Day program package to get the Facilitator Program Guide for an event organizer and a Participant Program Guide that is suitable for in-person and online group events.

U.S. meet approximately half of the Biden Administration's pledge to curb national greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from 2005 levels by 2030.

Report from IPCC

The latest report from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) emphasizes the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of the global climate crisis.

Catholic Climate Covenant and its 19 partners guide the U.S. Catholic Church's response to climate change. *Encounter for Our Common Home* is its latest campaign to engage individuals, families, and organizations in ending the climate crisis.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Veronica of the Holy Face Ferrao, RGS

January 13, 1939 – December 30, 2021

Veronica was born in Goa, India, to Louisa and Lawrence Ferrao and, with her brother Reginald, grew up in a prayerful and active Catholic home. Veronica was a quiet and reflective child with a warm and confident manner which hid a playful and engaging way. She was a good student, completed elementary school, and was trained as a seamstress.

After coming to the United States, she lived in Washington, DC, and worked as a private duty caregiver of the elderly and small children. She also worked as a seamstress. She was very active in her local church and, with spiritual direction, began to explore a religious vocation.

On November 21, 1990, Veronica entered the Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Washington, DC. With her sewing skills, she worked in the vestment department, making very beautiful vestments and fine altar linens. She also enjoyed working in the altar bread department, where she prepared and shipped hosts to many churches for their Eucharistic liturgies.

She was subsequently missioned to Fox Chase in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she pronounced her final vows on December 8, 1998. She was then missioned to Baltimore, Maryland, and served in the vestment and altar bread ministries.

Sister Veronica came to St. Louis and the Immaculate Heart Community when the Baltimore Community closed in 2019. She brought a beautiful gift to the community with her quiet and strong contemplative presence.



Veronica Ferrao, RGS

In the words of Sister Jude Ellen Gumbieski

Sister Veronica was in a religious community in India. When her sister was diagnosed with cancer, Veronica left to take care of her. She used all of her inheritance to do so. She could not get work in India because of the caste system. This prompted her to come to the United States. A dressmaker here offered to teach her how to sew when she arrived. By the time she entered the convent, her dresses and gowns were selling for thousands of dollars.

Sister Veronica came to each meal with something to share — a joke, a story, some news. She also was responsible for caring for the fish at Fox Chase. When she was

missioned to Washington, DC, the fish were missioned with her. She and the fish traveled to Washington in the middle of an ice storm but arrived safely.

She was a blessing to the community and all of God's people because of her prayerfulness and recollection.

In the words of Sister Nora Pat O'Flannigan

"As youngsters in RCIA class at church, we heard about Sisters who led the contemplative life. We were told that a contemplative was a man or a woman who was totally in love with God, and God with them. Their love was expressed by living together in a community of Sisters

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Veronica, *Cont'd from p. 12*

or Brothers who spent hours each day in silence meditating on sacred scriptures or stories of the saints. Sister read the newspaper daily to keep the world and its needs in prayer and supplication with the lover of her soul. Her smile and laughter were contagious.

Did Sister Veronica fulfill the ideal of a Contemplative Sister? Yes, to the letter! Sister was the most prayerful lover of God, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Sister Veronica's death came as a surprise to us. She left so quiet and

peacefully, which spoke so directly to us of her life.

She went home happy to meet the ONE she loved so dearly and was LOVED in return.

Submitted by Sister Pauline Bilbrough

Anne Marie Solomon, RGS

March 8, 1916 – February 26, 2022

Sister Anne Marie Solomon was born Ann Dorothea Solomon in Peckville, Pennsylvania, on March 8, 1916, during a snow storm. The eldest of eight children, she had three brothers and four sisters. Her mother was born in Poland.

Ann Dorothea attended Holy Ghost Catholic School in Olyphant (a suburb of Scranton), Pennsylvania, where she was taught by the Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius. She graduated in 1931. Subsequently, Ann Dorothea attended St. Patrick's High School, where she was taught by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She completed her studies in 1935.

Ann Dorothea enters Good Shepherd Congregation

In the following year, Ann Dorothea entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd at 35th and Fairmont, the provincial house at the time she entered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She received the name Sister Mary Pius before Pope Pius X was canonized a saint.

After completing her novitiate, Sr. Mary Pius pronounced her first vows at 35th and Fairmont on October 20, 1938, followed by her perpetual vows three years later on October 20, 1941.



Anne Marie Solomon, RGS

Her love for education and desire to teach led her to seek an undergraduate degree in education, for which she received cum laude from Villanova University. She continued her education at Villanova and received a Master of Science Degree in Biology (1949) and certifications in four other subjects.

Sister Mary Pius had the heart of a missionary and participated in many Good Shepherd ministries. Sister Virginia Gordon was a student at Immaculate Conception Academy, a boarding school in Philadelphia at 39th and Pine when Sr. Mary Pius came to teach biology in the accredited high school. Sister Virginia said students felt a deep affection for Sister Mary Pius and lovingly nicknamed her Mother Mouse because of her small stature and high-pitched voice.

"Girls loved participating in the many science projects she led, including me. She made the classes fun and interesting. They weren't boring by any means. She had a lovely way of presenting the horrible material related to biology. She was quite a woman!" said Sr. Virginia.

Sister Mary Pius changed her name to Sister Anne Marie in 1969.

Continued on next page

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Anne Marie, *Cont'd from p. 13*

She taught at Lourdesmont Residential Services in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, and later became the principal. She later became the director of education at the Good Shepherd Diagnostic Program in Germantown (Philadelphia), Pennsylvania.

When the bishop invited the Good Shepherd Sisters to come to Anchorage, Alaska, Sr. Anne Marie volunteered her services in the parish ministry. She also found time to study Latin, French, Spanish, and some Greek. She seized an opportunity in 1973 to study Hebrew in Northeast Standard High School in Philadelphia. She also learned Japanese while missioning in Osaka.

A Sister of many languages

Sister Anne Marie taught English as a Second Language to Good Shepherd Sisters in Osaka, Japan, and taught education to the kindergarten children in the schools Good Shepherd had in Osaka. Before leaving Osaka, she served Vietnamese refugee families who were leaving Japan to resettle in France.

Sister Anne Marie was then missioned in Guam in the Good Shepherd Alee shelter for victims of domestic violence. When she returned to the United States in 1983, she went to CORA Services to teach.

Sister Anne Marie continued to minister in other Good Shepherd programs in Philadelphia and briefly in Atlanta, Georgia, until she was reassigned to the Good Shepherd Services Community in Baltimore, Maryland.

Due to failing eyesight and a need for more personal care, Sr. Anne Marie moved to St. Joseph Residence in Baltimore, an infirmary for Good Shepherd Sisters that closed in 2017. While there, she celebrated her centennial year.

Sister Anne Marie summed up her spirit while living at St. Joseph Residence by saying, "Professed in 1938, I am now one of the ancients. I was a teacher for most of my life. I was also a missionary, having served in Alaska, Guam, and Japan. For two years now, I have been 'forced' into retirement because of impaired vision. Nevertheless, I do keep busy doing many things I love. The Good Shepherd is my life."

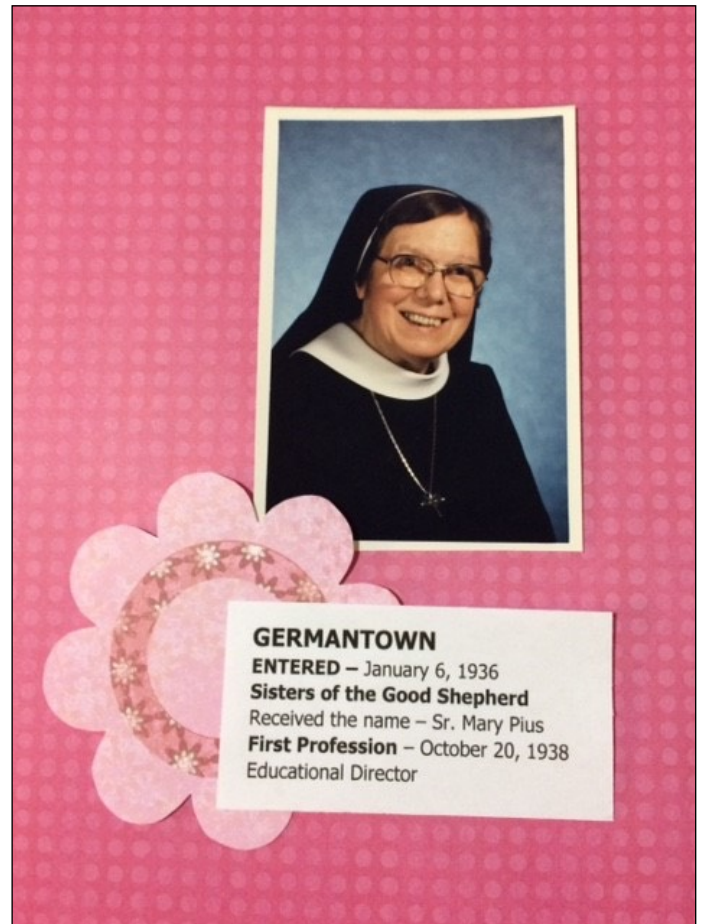
Sister Anne Marie moved to Danville, Pennsylvania, in 2018. She had been a resident of Emmanuel Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Danville for four years, where she charmed staff and other residents through her loving and warm responses to those who cared for her.

Sister Anne Marie went to her Shepherd God on Saturday, February 26, 2022. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at Maria Hall, in Danville, Pennsylvania, on March 3, 2022.

"It is a daunting task to adequately recover the details of a life well-lived for almost 106 years!" said Mary Catherine Massei.

Sister Anne Marie would have reached her 106th birthday on March 8, 2022.

Submitted by Mary Catherine Massei, RGS, with assistance from Sisters Mary Charlotte Kirst and Virginia Gordon



One of the table displays of pictures for the funeral of Sr. Anne Marie Solomon in Danville, Pennsylvania. Sisters Mary Charlotte Kirst and Stella Mangona made the table displays.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Gender equality for sustainable development at the forefront of CSW66

By Jeanette McDermott, Province Communications Coordinator

The United Nation's 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place from March 14-25, 2022, through virtual and in-person events. CSW is the foremost global intergovernmental organization promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives around the world, and developing global standards for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The civil society side of CSW66

The NGO CSW Forum is the civil society side of the Commission on the Status of Women. It coincides with official meetings at the UN Headquarters in New York, which include non-governmental organizations. Good Shepherd is among the NGOs that contribute to CSW each year. During CSW66, Good Shepherd and other NGOs organized more than 700 events to inspire grassroots advocacy to empower women and girls.

Good Shepherd girls present at CSW66

Jasmine, a 13-year-old climate change activist and middle school student at the Good Shepherd School in Channai, India, was a presenter for one of the events. She spoke about her creative ways to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable agriculture.

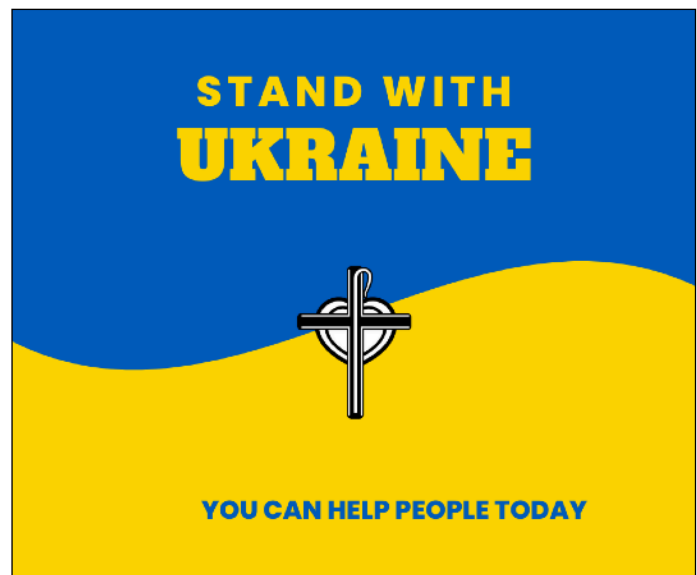
Jasmine also presented on an all-girls panel on March 17, which provided an opportunity to engage in a global conversation among girls from different social, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds.

Good Shepherd (Latin America) held a women-led initiatives for a sustainable and inclusive future on March 18. On March 19, Good Shepherd (RIMOA) led an event titled *Girl Activists in Madagascar Driving Action to Achieve*.

Including Good Shepherd girls as presenters

Sister Winifred, RGS, coordinated all of the events by Good Shepherd and made the information available virtually. In addition to following the UN process for CSW66, Sister Winifred served as a [Youth Mentor](#) for NGO CSW New York, ensuring girls attended the events and were included as presenters. Sister Winifred said, "It is a source of hope for congregations that girl mission partners are able to address the structural and systemic issues facing our world with breadth and depth of knowledge."

Read Sr. Winifred Doherty's article in [Global Sisters Report](#) about the success at the 2022 Commission on the Status of Women.



Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund

The Province of Mid-North America Leadership Team has made a significant financial contribution to the people of Ukraine. If you have been moved by the reports from Ukraine and want to help, please join the province by donating to the Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund.

To contribute to the fund, please make your check payable to Sisters of the Good Shepherd and note on your check "Ukraine Emergency Relief." We will collect the donations and wire all of the contributions together.

Please send your check to

Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Good Shepherd Mission Development Fund
7654 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121

Be sure to write "Ukraine Emergency Relief" on the check, or send an accompanying note with your intention.

We thank you for all your prayers and concern for all who are suffering at this time.

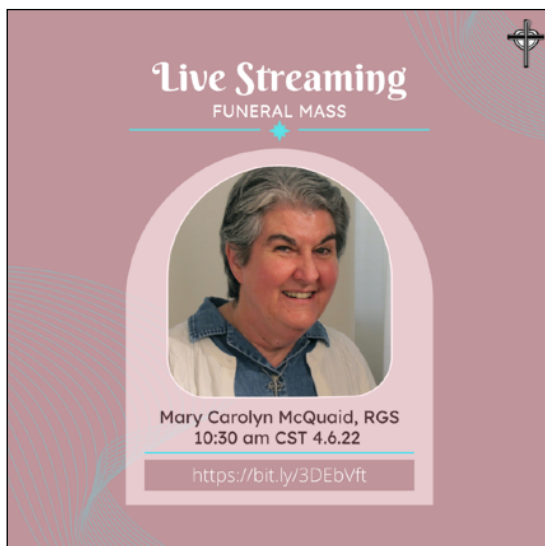
PLT CALENDAR



NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Full PLT meets weekly	Apr 4-5, 19, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 30	St. Louis
Sharon Rose Authorson	Apr 7 Apr 9 Apr 10-16 May 10-11 May 16	Conversation on the vows, virtual Inter-province Zoom call Private Retreat, Mason Pointe Area Meeting, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board, virtual
Barbara Beasley	Apr 1-3 Apr 8 Apr 21-24 May 16 May 22-25	LCWR New Leaders workshop, St. Louis Deepening relationships within community webinar Mission Effectiveness meeting and tree planting, Edwardsville Financial Advisory Board, virtual LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub workshop, St. Louis
Gayle Lwanga Crumbley	Apr 1-3 Apr 7 Apr 12 Apr 20-23 Apr 27 May 3 May 9-13 May 16 May 20-27	LCWR New Leaders workshop, St. Louis Conversation on the vows, virtual NAMVT session, virtual NETWORK training and gala Shoulder surgery, followed by couple of weeks of PT Catholic Investment Services webinar Area meeting, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board, virtual LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub workshop, St. Louis
Elizabeth Garciano	Apr 1-3 Apr 7 Apr 9-16 May 3 May 9-13 May 16 May 23-25	LCWR New Leaders workshop, St. Louis Conversation on the vows, virtual Annual Retreat Catholic Investment Services webinar Area meeting, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board, virtual LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub workshop, St. Louis
Mary Carol McClenon	Apr 1-3 Apr 7 Apr 12 Apr 21 Apr 27-29 May 3 May 10-11 May 16 May 22-25	LCWR New Leaders workshop, St. Louis Conversation on the vows, virtual NAMVT session, virtual LCWR Region X breakfast meeting, virtual CORA 50th Anniversary Gala, Philadelphia Catholic Investment Services webinar Area meeting, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board, virtual LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub workshop, St. Louis

PLT CALENDAR CONT'D

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Madeleine Munday	Apr 1-3 Apr 5 Apr 9 Apr 12 Apr 28 May 16 May 22-25	LCWR New Leaders workshop, St. Louis LA Good Shepherd Shelter Advisory Board, virtual N. America inter-province Zoom on restructuring DeNeuille Learning Center Board of Directors Circle of Province Leaders of North America Financial Advisory Board, virtual LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub workshop, St. Louis
Claudia Palacio	Apr 1-3 Apr 7 Apr 8 May 9-13 May 16 May 22-25 May 27	LCWR New Leaders workshop, St. Louis Formation team meeting, St. Louis Travel back to Silver Spring Area meeting, St. Louis Financial Advisory Board, virtual LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub workshop, St. Louis Travel home to Silver Spring
Christine Truong	Apr 8-10 May 16 Apr 23 Apr 29-May 3 May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Teaching DUI class, Atlanta Meeting with Vietnamese postulants Ongoing formation for Sisters in Vietnam Home visit, California Meeting with Advisory Board, Atlanta Meeting with postulants in Vietnam, virtual Ongoing formation for Sisters in Vietnam Meeting with volunteers for summer program, Atlanta



Funeral service for Sister Mary Carolyn McQuaid recorded on YouTube

Sister Mary Carolyn McQuaid was received into the loving arms of our Shepherd God on Sunday, March 27, 2022. Her funeral was held on April 6 in the chapel at the Province Center in Normandy, Missouri. The service was [streamed live](#) on YouTube and was recorded for ongoing viewing. Sister Mary Carolyn's full Celebration of Life story will be featured in the next issue of Items of Interest. In the meantime, you can [read her bio](#) online. Contributions in memory of Sr. Mary Carolyn can be made to Good Shepherd Mission Office, the ALS Association, or BJC Hospice.

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL


"In the midst of sorrows, there are always great graces."

St. Mary Euphrasia

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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