

ITEMS



NETWORK celebration

NETWORK celebrates its 50th anniversary and one of its founders, Gabriel Herbers, RGS.

Page 3

Heeding the Call

Sister Alena Bernert tells her story of how she came to be a Good Shepherd Sister.

Page 7

Farewell to GSAC

After a 7-year run, Good Shepherd Arts Center closes its doors to merge with A Red Circle.

Page 10

NAC attends EAD

A shared commitment to justice energizes NAC Director at Ecumenical Advocacy Days.

Page 12



PLENTY TO CELEBRATE

Important events and occasions have been happening at lightning speed within the Province of Mid-North America since the last issue of *Items of Interest* was published. Sisters and Partners-in-Mission have engaged in a host of enjoyable celebrations including Aguchita's beatification, the

Continued on next page



Green Corner

Encounter for Our Common Home is a national campaign of Catholic Climate Covenant. It urges Catholics to contact their U.S. Senators and ask them to enact authentic solutions to the climate crisis. The advocacy effort is grounded in the Catholic faith and is in concert with the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Phase I of the campaign took place the week of May 2nd after weeks of preparing participants for their encounters with senators through webinars and other resources.

Continued on p. 14

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Celebrations, *Cont'd from p. 1*

installation of the Congregational Leadership Team, CORA Services 50th anniversary gala, and much more.

Aguchita's beatification



The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd celebrated the beatification of Sr. Agustina ("Aguchita") Rivas (1920-1990) on May 7, 2022, in La Florida, Peru, where Aguchita was murdered. Sisters and Partners-in-Mission set up displays in their communities and houses to honor Sr. Agustina on the day of her beatification. For more of the story, see page 15.

CLT installation



Installation of the Congregational Leadership Team took place on April 24, 2022, in Rome. Visit the congregational website to see each member's name and country of origin. <https://rgs.gssweb.org/.../congregational-leadership-team>



Honoring the legacy of Judy Lambeth

Judy Lambeth had been a staple of Maryhurst for nearly 50 years before retiring on June 26, 2020. She started working at the social services agency as a clinical intern at age 24 and eventually became CEO, where she dedicated her time ensuring Kentucky's most vulnerable youth received support. On April 14, 2022, Maryhurst proudly named its campus "Lambeth Campus" after the dedicated Partner-in-Mission who gave so much to Kentucky's youth and families. The public event featured speakers from local leaders and longtime donors she had worked closely alongside during her decades of tireless service.

Laudato Si Week festivities

The Vatican focused on its flagship sustainability push, the Laudato Si' Action Platform, during Laudato Si' Week May 22-29, 2022. Along with the [Vatican's events and festivities](#), hundreds of ancillary celebrations took place across the globe, including a sneak peek at a forthcoming Laudato Si' documentary.

Canonization of SME

On May 2, the Good Shepherd family celebrated the day St. Mary Euphrasia was canonized on May 2, 1940.

See next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Celebrations, *Cont'd from p. 2*

Anniversary of NETWORK

On April 22, 2022, NETWORK celebrated its 50th anniversary and honored its founders, among which was our own Mary Gabriel Herbers, RGS (RIP). Good Shepherd participated in the celebration to show support for NETWORK's advocacy for social justice and to mark a historical continuation of such an endeavor.

Seeking justice and peace is in our DNA, as Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. It is said that St. John Eudes would preach truth to the king of France and St. Mary Euphrasia would advocate for the wronged women to their wrongdoers.

Since our beginnings, we have so many stories that show how we respond to the compelling call for justice, through advocacy, giving voice to the voiceless and acting with justice for and with those in difficult situations who are oppressed and disparaged.

We know that whatever we do, we do it with zeal, bringing to light the dignity of each person, and for that we must seek justice.

As we celebrated the 50th anniversary of NETWORK, we also celebrated the life of Sister Gabriel, who was not shy about seeking justice. Many of you remember her courage in organizing, picketing, talking to the media, and persevering for the cause of justice. She accomplished many good things, including closing an adult club and unseating an unfair judge. She was extremely astute in knowing how systems work and who to approach. She had no discernible fear when she had a mission in sight.



NETWORK and the National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the Good Shepherd collaborate closely. Founded by Catholic Sisters in the progressive spirit of Vatican II, NETWORK works to create a society that promotes justice and the dignity of all in the shared abundance of God's creation. See more Justice Peace stories on p. 9.

Attending the NETWORK anniversary celebration were (above photo l-r): Brigid Lawlor, RGS, founder of NAC; Erin Hood, Good Shepherd Volunteer serving with NAC; Fran Eskin-Royer, NAC Executive Director; Leslye Colvin, NAC's policy advocate and co-chair of the board of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS, Vice-President of the National Black Sisters Conference, which received the Distinguished Justice Seeker Award at the anniversary celebration; and Claudia Palacio, RGS, Justice Peace Liaison for Mid-North America.

Submitted by Claudia Palacio, RGS

Farewell to Barbara Haas, SSND

Barbara Haas, SSND, left her position as the Province Center's number one St. Louis Cardinals fan and Partner-in-Mission for nearly 18 years on April 29, 2022, to embark on a new journey. Province Center Sisters and staff celebrated her service and dedication with hot dogs and pretzels while singing rounds of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." We laughed at many memories and shared stories.

Sister Barbara was born and raised in Belleville, Illinois. She entered School Sisters of Notre Dame and was first professed in January 1978. She took final vows in April 1988.

Continued on next page



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

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Celebrations, *Cont'd from p. 3*

Sr. Barbara taught elementary and high school before entering the world of accounting.

"I am hoping to have a bit of time to regroup, make a retreat, and discern where God may be calling me to minister next," Sr. Barbara said.



Celebrating 50 years of love in action

CORA Services celebrated 50 years of service to Philadelphia region families on April 28, 2022. The Love in Action gala took place at National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. The event centered on remembering how and why CORA began serving, who they are today, and what is opening up next.

This was really CORA's 51st anniversary; last year's celebration was virtual because of COVID. This year was the real deal. It was also the first in-person, off-campus event since the pandemic, so people were giddy with seeing each other face-to-face. The room was filled to capacity with people who attended.

There were traditional hors d'oeuvres downstairs in the gathering area (caterers walking around with trays, real nice) and then we were called upstairs to the seating area. It was not a traditional seated hotel dinner. It had heavy hors d'oeuvres stations, and we circulated around and returned as often as we wanted. The flow was great.

CORA celebrated using the rubric of Family – the CORA family supporting and supported by various "families." They chose 10 families to honor, including the nephews of Sr. Charity Kohl, founder of CORA, along with several



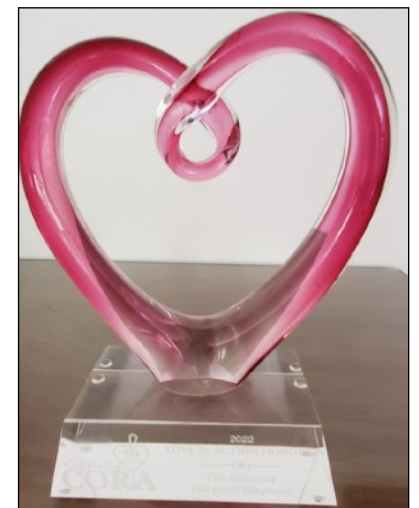
Sisters attending the CORA gala were (l-r) Mary Joy Benson, Maria Sowerby, Brigid Lawlor, Mary Carol McClenon, and Claudia Palacio.

families of long-term staffers at CORA (multi-generational employees), families who started human services projects who serve the same clients as CORA (you'd really like the one called Cooking4Autism), and finally, the family of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

CORA played a video montage that featured representatives from all of these "families." After the video, CORA called two representatives from each family (one family at a time) to receive an award.

The award for each honoree was a pink heart-shaped glass sculpture with the inscription "2022 Love In Action Honoree" and the name of the awardee (in our case, The Sisters of The Good Shepherd).

Our two representatives for receiving the award were Maria Sowerby, who worked at CORA for some 35 years, and Sr. Brigid Lawlor, who is currently on the Board and was present and supportive when Sr. Charity founded CORA Services.



Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Celebrations, *Cont'd from p. 4*

Attendees had been enthusiastic about every presentation (not merely polite applause, much more fun than that), but when Sisters Brigid and Maria went up, they gave the Sisters a standing ovation. I found myself crying.

The award is gorgeous and we are all afraid to try to pick it up, lest we drop it. It's really heavy. Sr. Brigid drove the award home with her to Silver Spring and then gave it its own suitcase with mucho packing to fly it to St. Louis when she came for the Spring Area Meeting. The award is displayed on a table in the dining room at the Province Center for all to see and appreciate.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



Gracenter reaches milestone in providing 90 years of service to women in recovery

By Anne Kelley, RGS

Good Shepherd Sisters in the San Francisco community celebrated 90 years of service to San Francisco at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Good Shepherd Sunday, May 8, 2022, along with members of their Guild.

In the midst of the Great Depression in 1932, the Sisters arrived in San Francisco to provide safety, healing, and a productive future for young women in vulnerable situations.

That very year, the Sisters organized the Good Shepherd Guild, which conducted its first fundraiser. The Guild has been supporting the Sisters' ministry at Gracenter ever since.

Gracenter is a transitional residence that helps low income women break free of drug and alcohol addiction. Approximately 95% of graduates continue to be successful in their recovery, their employment, and in stable housing long after graduating from Gracenter.

On May 7, Sisters in the San Francisco community also celebrated the beatification of our very own Sr. Agustina (Aguchita) Rivas, who was murdered in Peru in 1990 by the terrorist group, the Shining Path.

We joined countless other Sisters and Partners-in-Mission around the world as we watched the live stream of the beatification from Peru.

See page 15 for photos of Aguchita's beatification.



Breaking bread across cultures

Several Sisters and Partners-in-Mission were invited to attend home-based Iftar dinners with Turkish families during Ramadan this spring. The dinners were organized by The Turkish American Society of Missouri and the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Dinner participants listened to one another's stories and learned about each other's culture, religion, and life experiences. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community.

This year Ramadan ran from April 2-May 2. Sister Barbara Beasley, a member of the leadership team who was invited to an Iftar dinner, said, "I feel extremely blessed to have been asked to be a part of this very special occasion. It was an experience I won't forget."

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Spring area hybrid meetings

The St. Louis Spring Area Meetings were true hybrid meetings. Ten Sisters in-person at the Province Center, 13 Sisters in-person at Mason Pointe, and four Sisters individually in Zoomland all linked together in one integrated meeting May 10-11. The technology worked well, thanks especially to Sisters Claudia Palacio, Madeleine Munday, LeeAnn Mackeprang, and Mary Carol McClenon. The purchase of a wide-angle camera and wireless microphone for use at Mason Pointe contributed a lot to the success of the meeting.

Sisters Claudia and Elizabeth Garciano represented the Province Leadership Team at Mason Pointe and facilitated during breakout groups. The content was based on the Province Direction Statement, same as the West Coast Area Meeting in February, and Danville and Cincinnati in June and July respectively. Everyone was particularly impressed with the level of engagement by Sisters at Mason Pointe.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS
Photos by Elizabeth Garciano, RGS



Sister Barbara Beasley is caught in a contemplative moment during the Spring Area Meeting in St. Louis.

LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub stimulates ideas

Nine Good Shepherd Sisters from the United States attended the LCWR Collaborative Leadership Hub in St. Louis, May 23-25, 2022. LCWR invited members to attend one of five such hubs in Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, and St. Louis. Leaders from the three U.S. provinces chose to gather in St. Louis in light of future restructuring in North America.

Key Areas of Interest for Collaborative Leadership Hubs were

1. Designing discerning processes
2. Desire to simplify/streamline administrative options
3. Leadership capacity (Sisters willing and able for leadership)
4. Shared leadership

Many religious congregations in the U.S. are in various stages of reconfiguring or restructuring. The leadership hubs provided a stimulating environment for communities to share experiences, ideas, and resources as each one plans for their participation in the emerging future of religious life.

Submitted by Madeleine Munday, RGS



Sisters attending the Leadership Conference for the Women Religious Collaborative Leadership Hub were (clockwise from top) Barbara Beasley (PMNA); Maureen McGowan and Paulette LoMonaco (NY/Tor); Mary Carol McClenon, Madeleine Munday, Claudia Palacio, Beth Garciano, Gayle Lwanga Crumbley (PMNA); and Francisca Aguillón (CSUS).

VOCATIONS STORY

ZEAL

Sister Alena Bernert tells her vocations story

By Jeanette McDermott, PMNA Communications Coordinator

"I wanted to enter the convent right after high school, but my dad wanted me to wait a year. So, I entered when I was 19 years old in 1946."

Alena Bernert took her first vows three years later in 1949. She took her final vows in 1952. But for all practical purposes, her journey as a Sister began much earlier, when she was an adolescent.

Sometime during her 7th or 8th grade year, the church she attended with her family in Steubenville, Ohio, was holding a novena, where people could put their prayer requests in a box. The young Alena dropped a slip of paper in the box that read, "Please watch over me so I can enter a convent."

The parish priest ran a Catholic Action Group that Alena was a part of. It just so happened that the priest, Fr. Francis Maloney, was the brother of a Good Shepherd Sister. Alena mentioned something to the priest about her desire to be a nun. He suggested that Alena get in touch with his sister, Mary Patricia Maloney, RGS.

Without hesitation, Alena contacted the Sister and soon found herself boarded on a train to the Cincinnati convent to meet Sr. Mary Patricia.

"I spent the night in the convent and Sr. Maloney told me everything about being a Sister of the Good Shepherd. When the time came years later for me to enter religious life, I entered Good Shepherd through Carthage, Ohio," said Sr. Alena.

Interestingly, Alena's formative years had been shaped by Dominican Sisters who taught her from grade school through high school. Although the Dominicans had been her teachers, she didn't know any of them personally.

"Sister Maloney was the first Sister of any order I developed a relationship with. It took a long time to tour the Carthage convent, so we got to know each other pretty well over the course of two days. I didn't fully understand the mission of Good Shepherd, but I liked the convent, and I liked Sr. Maloney. My vocation calling came from the friendliness of a nun. I entered Good Shepherd because of her," Sr. Alena said.

As time went by, Sr. Alena came to fully understand the Good Shepherd mission and said she is glad Good Shepherd accepted her. Religious life has fulfilled her. After joining the order, she went to John Carroll University in Cleveland, where she graduated Cum Laude in Social Studies.



Sister Alena's favorite pastime is working on jigsaw puzzles. When completed, she hangs them on the walls in her room to reflect on them.

She then went on to receive a Masters Degree in clinical psychology from the Jesuit's Xavier University. She received a second Masters Degree in Religious Studies from St. Louis University.

Psychologist at Good Shepherd schools

"I was considered the psychologist at our Good Shepherd schools Our Lady of the Highlands in Fort Thomas, Kentucky; Mary Crest in Cleveland; Vista Maria in Detroit; Villa Maria in Grand Rapids; and Rosemont in Columbus. I also taught regular classes and whatever else the schools needed for me to teach," she said.

Sister Alena remembers one student in particular. She was three years old and orphaned when she came to Cincinnati at Good Shepherd Girls Town. The Sisters developed her singing voice and she went on to become a famous singer.

"I always felt that it was an outstanding achievement for one of our Good Shepherd girls to attain status as a professional singer. This was very special," Sr. Alena said.

Continued on next page

VOCATIONS STORY

ZEAL

Sr. Alena, *Cont'd from p. 7*

In an ironic twist of fate, Sr. Alena found herself back in the fold of Dominican Sisters many years after leaving high school, when she needed a place to stay. She was the only Sister left on the grounds after shutting down Rosemont and had nowhere to live. The Dominicans took her into their Motherhouse in Columbus, where Sr. Alena lived for four and a half years. In 2017, Sr. Alena moved into St. Margaret Hall in Cincinnati.

"Good Shepherd is where I was always meant to be. This was my calling," she said.

Sister Alena was one of 11 children born into a large Catholic family. The family was pretty evenly split between six girls and five boys, including one set of twins. Alena was the only one of the children to enter religious life.



Sister Alena Bernert in her room at St. Margaret Hall.

The Gathering to return after three years

After three long years of being apart, the North America Mission and Values Team is excited to announce the return of the North America Good Shepherd Gathering. The Gathering will be held November 1-4, 2022, at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Detroit, Michigan.

The Gathering is a wonderful opportunity for Good Shepherd Mission Partners from Canada and the United States to come together for a time of support and inspiration around our mission, spirituality, vision, and core values.

The theme for this year's Gathering is "Belonging-Seeking Moments of Togetherness." The Gathering provides a unique opportunity to connect with Good Shepherd people in similar programs and roles. Participants will engage in a variety of small and large group sessions to help us look more deeply into our Good Shepherd history and mission, as well as consider the future of our work across North America.

Submitted by Lizzie Cody, Director, Office of Mission Effectiveness

Announcements and News Tidbits

Summer camp at Good Shepherd Services Atlanta starts in mid-June with volunteers from Mary Our Queen parish. Look for a story in the next issue of Items of Interest.

A Zoom presentation on June 9 will highlight findings of the evaluation of the Good Shepherd International Foundation's 5 year Strategic Plan. It will also offer a time of reflection and listening to help GSIF design future plans. The call is from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Rome time. Registration is required <https://bit.ly/38NT6LM>

- June 19: PMNA offices will be closed in observance of the federal holiday Juneteenth, which marks the freedom of enslaved Black people in the US.
- June 20: UN World Refugee Day
- June 26: United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- June 26-July 2: The lamp in the Oratory of St. Mary Euphrasia at the Mother House burns for the intentions of the Province of Mid-North America.
- July 19: Deadline for Items of Interest

JUSTICE PEACE NEWS

ZEAL

Journey to Justice campaign

By Diane Conroy, Director Good Shepherd Volunteers

The pursuit of justice is lifelong work and Good Shepherd Volunteers (GSV) has been helping young people begin their journey for nearly three decades. It's a journey that has led GSV alumni to become social workers, teachers, lawyers, and advocates – taking the values learned during their year forward into a lifetime of engaged compassion.

Our spring Journey to Justice fundraising campaigns allowed us to offer training, retreats, and support to our volunteers so they can increase capacity at social service

agencies, working in education, youth counseling, juvenile justice, domestic violence, and public policy and advocacy.

As part of our fundraising efforts, GSV Board member and alum Saul Martinez embarked on a one-day, 200-mile bicycle ride with Unbound Gravel to raise awareness and funds for the life-changing work at GSV. We surpassed our goal and raised \$22,374!

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped spread the word about this social justice driven campaign.



Good Shepherd Volunteers board member and alumni Saul Martinez raised awareness and funds for GSV while on a one-day, 200-mile bicycle ride during GSV's spring Journey to Justice fundraising campaign.

Sister Tram in the news for her work at Bilingual International

The St. Louis-based Bilingual International Senior Center operates Missouri's only center devoted to senior immigrants and refugees. Most older adults at the center speak little English. Bilingual International helps them study for citizenship tests, translate important letters, and communicate with their physicians. Every senior group has a group leader who speaks their preferred language.

Good Shepherd Sister Anna Tram Nguyen is a case worker at Bilingual International and group leader for seniors who immigrated to the US from Vietnam.

A recent episode on National Public Radio's *St. Louis on the Air* podcast featured Bilingual International and individuals who participate in its program for seniors. When a reporter asked Net Huynh, who immigrated from Vietnam 29 years ago, about her experience with the center, Sister Tram translated for her.

The center hosts gatherings, communal birthdays, and holiday celebrations for older adults from Albania, China, Vietnam, and several African countries, providing a place where they can come together as a peer group and speak their native language.

Due to Covid-19 shutdowns, the center also was closed, leaving the seniors feeling vulnerable and isolated. Now,



Bilingual International's case worker and group leader for Vietnamese seniors Anna Tram Nguyen, RGS, (right) with Net Huynh at the agency's annual picnic for seniors in St. Louis. Photo by Kayla Drake/St. Louis Public Radio. Used by permission.

the seniors are reuniting after two years. Before the pandemic, around 250 seniors met in groups every week. Since resuming in April, around 120 have returned. See the story at <https://bit.ly/3Gccle8>

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Photo review of Good Shepherd Arts Center as we bid farewell

Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) has closed its doors as an independent nonprofit organization and merged with the nonprofit in North St. Louis County A Red Circle, whose mission is community betterment through a racial equity lens. During its 7-year run, GSAC provided ministry through the arts to the community of Ferguson. Here's a look at some of the openings and exhibits that brought people together at GSAC.



Learn more about
A Red Circle at
aredcircle.org/

COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL

Archbishop Rozanski celebrates Mass at Mason Pointe



Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, Archbishop of the Saint Louis Archdiocese, celebrated his first Mass at Mason Pointe Care Center on May 24, 2022, with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Other residents at Mason Pointe joined the Sisters in attending the Mass.

Happy days at Mason Pointe with pizza and friends

A group of volunteers who work with Madeleine Lane, SSND, threw a party for the Good Shepherd Sisters at Mason Pointe on May 4, 2022. Originally, the party was supposed to be for Christmas, then Valentine's Day, then St Patrick's, Day, and then Easter. So, finally the volunteers gave a spring party.

These volunteers all helped the Sisters pack up from Immaculate Heart Convent for their move to Mason Pointe in December 2018, so they have a long relationship. A company called Blues Fired Pizza brought their truck to the site to make individually ordered pizzas for the Sisters. The truck actually has a wood-fired oven installed in the back of it! The Sisters and volunteers were happy to see each other. They enjoyed their time together and the pizza was great.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



NAC NEWS



ZEAL

Heeding the Fierce Urgency of Now

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

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC) was among the sponsors of the 2022 Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD).

The theme of the virtual conference was “Fierce Urgency: Advancing Civil and Human Rights,” drawing inspiration from Martin Luther King’s 1967 “Beyond Vietnam” speech.

The three-day event included excellent speakers, engaging workshops, and powerful worship that illustrated every person is created in God’s image, imbued with dignity and with a voice meant to be heard, heeded, and treated justly. The theme beautifully reflected the Good Shepherd core value of individual worth.

I was both a part of the EAD organizing team and an attendee. I worked behind the scenes with different faith organizations to showcase their expertise on issue

areas, helping to ensure a rich array of workshops, which informed and animated participants’ advocacy visits that are held on the conference’s closing day.

Legislatives asks

I participated in an excellent workshop that focused on the conference’s domestic legislative “ask” — [the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act](#).

Thanks to the earnest and impassioned workshop speaker who had read all 730+ pages of the legislation and provided an excellent historical background on U.S. voting rights, I went into the Maryland advocacy visits with an even stronger foundation and conviction. While our senators are friendly to the bill, constituent support remains important.

The meeting also enabled us to strategize how we might bolster support among other senators.

Action at the federal level is crucial. Our vote is our voice — everyone must have access to this fundamental right.

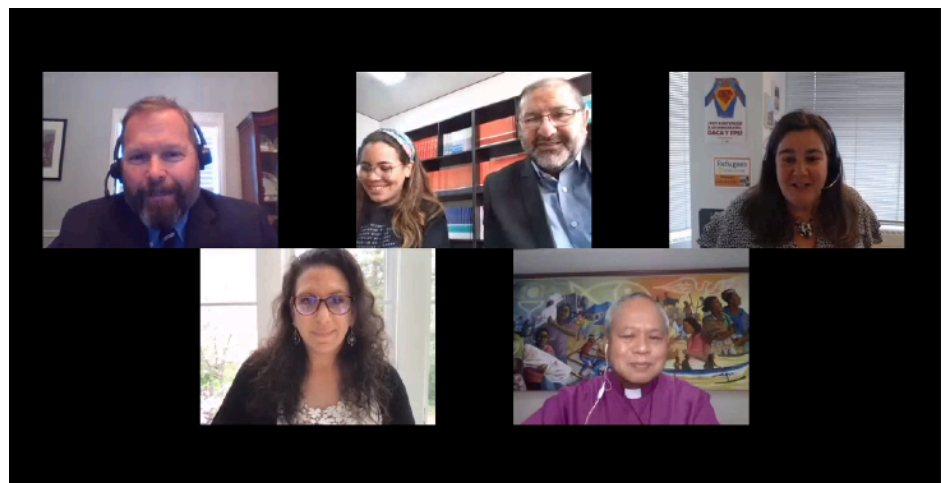
EAD’s international ask urged the Senate to support a newer piece of legislation, the [Safeguarding Human Rights in Arms Exports Act](#). The Act enhances congressional oversight of U.S. arms sales.

Erin Hood, NAC’s Good Shepherd Volunteer, also helped with EAD planning. She worked tirelessly on the team that was tasked with scheduling Senate lobby visits. Larry Couch, now retired from NAC, was kind enough to offer a poetry workshop with a few poet friends. Larry’s evening workshop was a welcome respite for conference participants.

I left EAD energized by a shared commitment to justice and the role NAC plays on federal and global levels.

International Human Rights panel gave testimony about violations

EAD 2022 International Human Rights Panel: (top l-r) Derek Duncan, Global Ministries of the Christian Church (moderator); Xiomara Cintron-Garcia, Global Ministries Mission (interpreter); Martin Nates, Justapaz, Colombia, Maggie Conley, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team (EAD co-host); (bottom l-r) Zeina Ashrawi Hutchison, Defense for Children International Palestine; Bishop Reuel Marigza, National Council of Churches, Philippines. The three panelists gave compelling testimony about human rights violations in Colombia, Palestine, and the Philippines. For me, hearing how Palestinian children are caught up in the Israel/Palestine conflict was particularly haunting. Submitted by Fran Eskin-Royer



NAC NEWS



ZEAL

A time of potential for NAC

By Leslye Colvin, NAC Policy Advocate

Advocating with and for those who are so often marginalized is the natural next step in my professional journey. Inspired by the Catholic social justice tradition, I have extensive experience in promoting mission and expanding outreach.

An Alabama native, I am excited to relocate to work with the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. This is a time full of potential for NAC and all who advocate for and with women, children, and families, especially those who live on the margins.

Leslye began working as NAC's policy advocate on April 4, 2022. We welcome her to the Good Shepherd family.



Leslye Colvin

Sister Pamela pays a visit

Pamela Marie Volland, RGS, visited the Province Center in May as part of her journey to the states every three years. She has been in China for 25 years. She and Veronica Brantz, Companion of Jesus the Good Shepherd, have known each other since 1968, when they began working together at House of Good Shepherd in Chicago between 1968 and 1972. After visiting the Province Center, Sr. Pamela and Veronica ventured north into Iowa, and then Sr. Pamela journeyed to Florida to visit friends before returning to Asia.



Sister Pamela Marie Volland and Veronica Brantz



Pamela Marie Volland, RGS

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Encounters, *Cont'd from p. 1*



During the May 2-6 virtual and in-person encounters, participants asked U.S. Senators — who are considering climate provisions in budget legislation — 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.

The campaign approach seeks to manifest a change of heart. The meetings between Catholic constituents and

their senators are strongly centered upon the Catholic faith and transcend partisanship.

Although phase I has ended, the *Encounter for Our Common Home* campaign is just getting started. When you join the campaign, you will be the first to hear of future events, including community-building events, action alerts, and webinars on faith and climate action.

Join here <https://bit.ly/3af7T2l>

Pollution number one risk factor for disease and premature death

The [Lancet Commission](#) on Pollution and Health published a new report May 17, 2022, which finds that pollution remains the world's leading environmental risk factor for disease and premature death, despite advances in cleaner water and safer indoor cooking.

"It is increasingly clear that pollution is a planetary threat, and that its drivers, its dispersion, and its effects on health transcend local boundaries and demand a global response," the report's authors said.

Co-lead author Philip Landrigan reports that the levels of pollution stemming from current economic models reflect "the throwaway

culture" that Pope Francis has condemned. He sees this as an opportunity for religious leaders to step up and speak to the moral and ethical dimensions of polluting the planet.

[Catholic bishops of Brazil](#) are paying attention and raising their voices, specifically about the deadly effects of chemical pollution through mining.

"Mining represents death for the Indigenous peoples," according to Archbishop Roque Paloschi. He said, "It contaminates their water and is responsible for the spread of diseases like malaria because mosquitoes breed in abandoned

mining pits. Mining also increases food insecurity, because heavy machinery causes animals that the Yanomami depend on for hunting to relocate.

Auxiliary Bishop Vicente, the secretary of the Bishops' Conference's Special Commission on Integral Ecology and Mining, said, "Beginning with Catholics, we have to raise awareness about the need to divest from mining."

He said, "Our greatest challenge is to carry out concrete actions to face that enormous power (of the mining industry). We still do not know how to stop that Goliath."

ACROSS BORDERS

ZEAL

Aguchita beatified May 7

The beatification of Sister Agustina (“Aguchita”) Rivas, RGS, took place on May 7, 2022. Invited guests participated in a Mass and procession in Lima, Peru, with Aguchita’s relic. They also attended a vigil Mass in San Ramon, which was followed the next morning by the beatification Mass in La Florida. Mid-North America Sisters and Partners-in-Mission who didn’t attend watched the live stream of the beatification and took part in their own events and rituals to honor Aguchita. The community at Mason Pointe also watched a PowerPoint presentation that Sr. Brigid Lawlor created. The story of Aguchita’s life is told in a video at <https://bit.ly/38ESnwn>. [Global Sisters Report](#) also ran a story about Aguchita’s beatification.



Ambiance paying tribute to Aguchita in Mid-North America community rooms and prayer spaces (top left): Mason Pointe; (Bottom left): Silver Spring; (Right): Danville. Good Shepherd Sisters in Danville will plant the red rose on the grounds of Saints Cyril and Methodius in memory of Aguchita. Photos provided by Good Shepherd communities.



Top: Vigil Mass in San Ramon, Peru. Bottom: Indigenous people attend Aguchita’s beatification Mass in La Florida, Peru. Photos by Monique Tarabeh, RGS.



PLT CALENDAR



ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Full PLT	June 6, 17 June 15 June 21, 22 June 23 July 5 July 11 July 15, 18 July 19, 20 July 21	Virtual meeting Financial Advisory Board meeting, St. Louis Area Meeting by Zoom, Danville Virtual meeting Virtual meeting Virtual meeting Virtual meeting Area meeting, Cincinnati Meeting, Cincinnati
Sharon Rose Authorson	Full PLT schedule + June 2	Conversation on the vows, virtual
Barbara Beasley	Full PLT schedule + June 3 June 4 June 15 July 23-28	LCWR Zoom meeting PMNA Zoom meeting Chancellor's dinner, University of Missouri, St. Louis Joint Conference, Notre Dame
Gayle Lwanga Crumbley	Full PLT schedule + June 13 June 15 July 23-28	Larry Couch retirement dinner, Silver Spring Chancellor's dinner University of Missouri, St. Louis National Black Sisters Conference
Elizabeth Garciano	Full PLT schedule + June 2 June 9 June 15	Conversation of the vows, virtual GSIF Zoom presentation Financial Advisory Board in St. Louis
Mary Carol McClenon	Full PLT schedule + June 2 June 3 June 4 June 5-18 June 9 June 15 June 18 July 1-5 July 5-14 July 15 July 26-Aug 3	Conversation on the vows, virtual LCWR Safeguarding webinar PLT Zoom with Sisters living outside canonical communities Vista Maria, Detroit GSIF Zoom presentation Financial Advisory Board, virtual Travel to St. Louis Visit with Sisters of Central South Province Retreat Return to St. Louis Home visit, Austin, Texas

PLT CALENDAR CONT'D

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Madeleine Munday	Full PLT schedule + June 7 June 11 June 13 June 14 June 14 June 15 July 14 July 23-31	Maryhurst Journey of Hope luncheon, Louisville Debbie Cochran Memorial, DeNeuville, Memphis Larry Couch retirement dinner, Silver Spring DeNeuville Learning Center Board meeting, virtual Good Shepherd Shelter Advisory Board meeting, virtual Chancellor's dinner, University of Missouri, St. Louis LCWR Region 10 meeting, virtual Retreat
Claudia Palacio	Full PLT schedule + June 3 June 9 June 13 July 18 July 22	Travel for family visit, LA Travel for Vocation Awareness Weekend, Dallas Larry Couch retirement dinner, Silver Spring Travel to Cincinnati for Area Meeting Travel from Cincinnati to Silver Spring
Christine Truong	Full PLT schedule + June 4 June 11 June 14-18 June 25 June 30 July 9 July 16	Meeting with RGS Sisters in Vietnam, virtual Teaching Vietnamese postulants, virtual DUI workshop, Tampa, Florida Meeting with RGS Sisters in Vietnam for perpetual vows, virtual Meeting with volunteers (summer program ended), Atlanta Teaching Vietnamese postulants, virtual Day of recollection for group of Vietnamese parents, Atlanta



Summer Solstice
the longest day of the year

June 21, 2022

**Enjoy
your summer!**

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"If you fall, you must not lose heart. Trust in God and get up at once."

St. Mary Euphrasia

Contact us

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

314-381-3400; 314-381-7102 fax
www.sistersofthegoodshepherd.com

Jeanette McDermott, communications coordinator
314-399-4028

jmcdermott@gspmna.org

Follow us on facebook & Twitter

www.facebook.com/Sistersofthegoodshepherd
[@GoodShepherdRGS](https://twitter.com/GoodShepherdRGS) (twitter)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

