

# ITEMS

## O F I N T E R E S T

### PLT transitions

*We give thanks to the outgoing leadership team and welcome the new team on July 3.*

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### Brigid to advise Pope

*Pope Francis appoints Sister Brigid Lawlor to consulting role at the Vatican.*

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### Recalling special times

*Sister Patricia Marie Thomas tells her story of serving 18 years in parish ministries.*

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### Aguchita beatified

*Pope Francis announced on May 22, 2021, that Sister Aguchita will be beatified.*

**Page 25**



From "the cradle" of Good Shepherd in Louisville, Kentucky: Maryhurst CEO Paula Garner (left) and Marcia Esarey, Vice President of Community Based Residential Programs, welcome all to the opening prayer of the April 10 virtual Chapter launch.

## PMNA CHAPTER

*"What a beautiful launch of our Chapter! Thank you to the team in Cincinnati and Louisville for taking us to 'the cradle' where Mary Euphrasia and her partners sent the first five Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Sisters 178 years ago in 1843,"*

*Continued on next page*



## Green Corner

As summer approaches, bees are abuzz with swarm activity. PMNA Archivist Monte Abbott shares the experience he had with a swarm of bees and a beekeeper earlier this spring.

*A beekeeper visited the St. Louis Province Center campus after Sr. Marta and I noticed a large swarm of honeybees flying around the front door. The swarm had recently left their home in some unknown location and had temporarily*

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



## Chapter, *Cont'd from p. 1*

said Province Leader Madeleine Munday after the opening reflection to the Chapter launch day. Sister Madeleine then gave the province report, which she said is one of three key elements in a chapter process:

1. First, we review the life of the province since the last chapter that was in 2014.
2. Second, we craft the direction statement to guide our course until the next chapter.
3. Third, we discern who is God calling to lead the province in living out the direction statement. "Province" includes Contemplative and Apostolic Sisters, co-workers, Companions, associates,

volunteers, benefactors, board members, friends.

This way of looking at our Province is from the broad definition in Sr. Brigid Lawlor's paper on partnership – anyone who chooses "to accept co-responsibility to work collaboratively to forward the mission."

## Highlights of the virtual province chapter

By Dolores Kalina, RGS

The Province of Mid-North America (PMNA) celebrated its first virtual Chapter from April 23 – 27, 2021. The care and attention that went into preparing for the event resulted in great harmony and unison when it came time to accept the province Direction Statement.

Prior to the Chapter, all partners in mission had an equal voice in providing input and suggestions for the Direction Statement. This inclusive process proved extremely beneficial when a final draft of the statement was presented. The well-planned chapter also led easily to a pathway forward with new leadership.

### Positive outcomes

Holding the Chapter through Zoom allowed many Sisters to participate who would have been unable to travel to a physical chapter. It was inspiring to witness Sisters' efforts to learn technology, and it was an added

joy to be able to meet with them on Zoom.

The Finance Report reflected the generous cooperation of Sisters to live within PMNA's budget. It also reflected the willingness and sacrifice of elder Sisters who have moved from Good Shepherd care facilities to those that are operated by other religious groups.

Over the past seven years, the province cut its expenses in half. This has put us in a much better position to direct our resources toward mission.

Jeanette McDermott's photography and artistic skills presented Chapter delegates with a meditative remembrance of our dear Sisters who joined our Risen Lord in January of this year: Marie Dolores Beck, Mary Michael Maguire, JoAnne Getzendanner, Joelle Weid, Mary Immaculata Lupin, Magdalena Oliva, and Josephine Fritz.

We were very happy to have with us at Chapter Sr. Mirian Colala, Congregational Contemplative Councilor, and Sisters Frances Robinson and Josita Corera, Congregational Apostolic Councilors.

### New leaders elected and appointed

Having listened to all of the presentations, prayers, and desires of the Chapter delegates, and after discernment, the Congregational Leadership Team appointed Sr. Madeleine Munday to serve as Province Leader for another three years. In turn, Sr. Madeleine responded to leanings expressed by the delegates and made several appointments.

She appointed Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson as a Contemplative Councilor. She appointed Sisters Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, Mary Carol McClenon, and Claudia

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

## Chapter, *Cont'd from p. 2*

Palacio as Apostolic Councilors. Delegates rejoiced together, anticipating their leadership into the future. They agreed that another Contemplative Councilor and two Apostolic Councilors would be appointed after a period of discernment with the new leaders.

(Note: On May 17, 2021, Sr. Madeleine appointed Sr. Elizabeth Garciano as Contemplative Councilor, and Sisters Barbara Beasley and Christine My Hahn Truong as Apostolic Councilors. The new Province Leadership Team takes office on July 3, feast of St. Thomas the Apostle.)

### Heart of the Chapter

The heart of the Chapter was delegates praying together, listening to the wisdom and guidance of our Founders, and interweaving the core of our Direction Statement with the prophetic message of poet laureate Amanda Gorman. What thought and care went into the preparation of those times of prayer!

On April 24 we celebrated the feast day of our foundress St. Mary Euphrasia. The next day, April 25, on Good Shepherd Sunday and our congregational feast day, we renewed our vows together. We joined in prayerful discernment between these times of celebration.

### Our Direction Statement

Our Direction Statement calls us, "*Partners-in-Mission,...to witness to the merciful love of God...*" and "*to bring hope to our sisters and brothers of all colors, cultures, and creeds... (Painfully) aware of deep relational division in our country, world and church ... the disparities...and discrimination ... (suffered by) marginalized persons and groups, as well as humanity's deep spiritual longing ... we are called to a radical transformation of heart, mind, and lifestyle.*"

### Carrying out the direction set before us

Looking within, we examine our own prejudices and complicity in contributing to climate change and the injustices we see in this world by the daily choices we make. Turning outward, we hear Amanda Gorman's call to "*lift our gaze not to what*

*stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside...and reach out our arms to one another.*"

### Province Chapter was a blessed time

The 2021 Province Chapter was truly a blessed time. We ask the Good Shepherd to walk with us so that we may carry out the direction set before us. May the joy of having received God's mercy and love ever enkindle the fire to bring that mercy and love to all we serve, to our loved ones and neighbors in need, far and near.

### Mark your calendars!

Mark your calendars! There will be a Zoom prayer and welcome for the new leaders on Saturday, July 3, 2021. Noon PST; 2 pm CST; 3 pm EST. All are welcome. Zoom link will be posted closer to date.

## Good Shepherds dazzle when working together for mission

By Lizzie Cody, Director of the Office of Mission Effectiveness

*"Yes, our Congregation is built on love. Strive to perpetuate it among us. What is more beautiful or more desirable than this charity, this heartfelt love for each other? There must be only one heart in this body. Just as, when one tries to put spangles into a tiny tube and they escape all over the place, so, if we are not united among ourselves, we shall not be united to God, and we shall do no good. Charity and Zeal must be universal, that is, they should reach out and relate to everyone."* St. Mary Euphrasia, Conferences, p.315

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



## Dazzle, *Cont'd from p. 3*

This quote always tickles me when I think about each of us being our own little spangle, glitter, or sparkle. Each of us is interesting and shiny on our own, but when we get together, we are dazzling!

This newest phase of Congregational Chapter preparedness “Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice: Phase 2 Into the Deep” — invites us to be dazzling. Until last year, I had no idea how much time, energy, mental effort, and preparation it takes to make dazzle happen.

Think about all we have accomplished together in the past year and a half:

- talks by Brother Philip Pinto
- virtual InterContinental Assembly
- North America and province Zoom calls
- Province Chapter

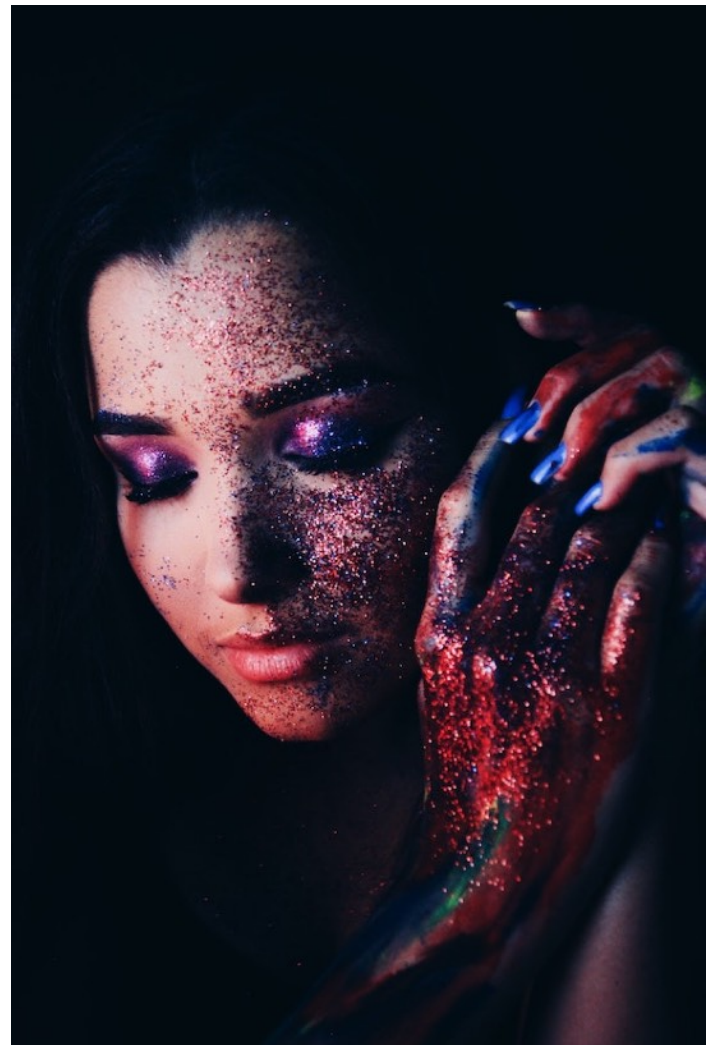
Talk about unifying! Not only that, there are personal reflections, prayers, thought, and time that are too numerous to count. With all of this content, meetings, and processes, it would be easy to feel overwhelmed. It helps to remember something Sr. Madeleine has often said: “This is not a test.”

### **My role as Chapter Animator**

In order to bring life and engagement to this year of preparation, I was asked to serve as the Animator for PMNA’s preparation for the Congregational Chapter. PMNA Communications Coordinator Jeanette McDermott is serving as the Communications liaison.

Monique Tarabeh, Communications Coordinator for the Good Shepherd Congregation, has created a one-stop-website for everything related to Chapter. She updates content and pictures frequently, so visit often at <https://rgs.gssweb.org/chapter2021/>

Every month, I send one or two emails to help break down the process into manageable pieces. The emails usually include a video to show where new resources are found and how to navigate through the website. There are also invitations to Zoom calls. Our goal is to increase the number and variety of voices that are heard and encourage as much participation and engagement as possible because we know that when we are together, we simply dazzle!



*We dazzle when we work together for mission! Photo: Maria Eduardo Loura Magalhaes Tavares, Pexels*

### **Heart wisdom**

Our current journey involves making our way through the second video and accompanying reflection resources called “Heart Wisdom” and “Journey to the Heart.” It’s deep stuff!

We are offering optional Open Learning Groups (see invitations in your email) to view parts of the videos together and to have conversation with partners and Sisters you otherwise might not have the opportunity to speak and interact with.

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# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

### Dazzle, *Cont'd from p. 4*

Everyone is invited to host a self-guided and self-directed Learning Group, either in person or on Zoom. Even if someone is a part of their own Learning Group, I believe it will also be beneficial to attend an Open

Learning Group, again in order to hear a greater variety of voices.

There is much more to come as the weeks and months roll by, so remember to keep checking the Congregational Chapter website

and check your email for "Into the Deep" updates and Zoom opportunities.

Please send me an email if you have any questions, ideas, concerns, or suggestions.

[lcody@maryhurst.org](mailto:lcody@maryhurst.org)

## Thanks to the outgoing Province Leadership Team



Jean Marie Fernandez  
Apostolic Councilor



Maureen Kunz  
Apostolic Councilor



Maureen Johnson  
Contemplative Councilor



Sharon Rose Autherson  
Contemplative Councilor



Madeleine Munday  
Province Leader



Mary Carolyn McQuaid  
Apostolic Councilor



Beverly Hedgecoth  
Contemplative Councilor



Dolores Kalina  
Apostolic Councilor



# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL



## Welcome to the new Province Leadership Team



**Madeleine Munday**  
Province Leader



**Barbara Beasley**  
Apostolic Councilor



**Christine My Hanh Truong**  
Apostolic Councilor



**Claudia Palacio**  
Apostolic Councilor



**Mary Carol McClenon**  
Apostolic Councilor



**Sharon Rose Authorson**  
Contemplative Councilor



**Elizabeth Garciano**  
Contemplative Councilor



**Gayle Lwanga Crumbley**  
Apostolic Councilor

## A note about the outgoing and incoming leadership teams

Province Leader Sister Madeleine Munday expressed her special thanks to the outgoing leadership team members who served an additional 14 months through a term that kept getting extended with pandemic postponements of the province chapter. The last project of the outgoing team will be orientation and transition sessions with the new team.

A prayer and welcoming service for the new province leaders takes place through Zoom on Saturday, July 3, 2021. Noon PST; 2 pm CST; 3 pm EST.

A fuller introduction to each of the new province leadership team members will follow in subsequent issues of *Items of Interest*.

# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

## Pope Francis appoints Sister Brigid Lawlor to consulting role at the Vatican

By Jeanette McDermott, PMNA Communications Coordinator

Pope Francis has appointed Sister Brigid Lawlor to a role at the Vatican office for religious. The appointment named her a Consultor for the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL).

The Vatican office has jurisdiction over all aspects of institutes of consecrated life (vowed religious) and societies of apostolic life (societies of men or women who live in common without vows). Responsibility includes governance, discipline, studies, and goods.

### Sister Brigid's experience with CICLSAL

Sister Brigid already had a position at CICLSAL as a Religious Assistant. In that role, she helped other religious congregations with specific issues that required assistance.

"I had been vetted by CICLSAL after I finished my term as Congregational Leader in 2016," Sr. Brigid said.

"They were familiar with our work on the reunification of Our Lady of Charity (OLC) and Sisters of the Good Shepherd (RGS). They also were familiar with the 12-year relationship I had with CICLSAL personnel when I was in leadership in Rome," she said.



Brigid Lawlor, RGS

As a Consultor to the Pope, Sister Brigid said she will provide advice to Pope Francis on the basis of need.

In light of her background, she anticipates being asked to advise him on Justice issues, particularly poverty, human trafficking, immigration, and possibly racism. She believes he might also call on her to advise him in matters regarding women religious.

In terms of the actual work to be assigned, Sr. Brigid said it will be based on theme and the time when a response is needed. She doesn't believe the appointment has a certain time limit for serving.

Sister Brigid attended a Zoom orientation for new appointees on April 15. The new Consultors met with the CICLSAL staff, the majority of whom are Cardinals. They are different people than those she worked with as Religious Assistant. She also met people who are already consultants.

### Good sign for women in the Church

When asked how she felt about being selected for the appointment, Sr. Brigid said, "It is an honor to have been selected. It is also a good opportunity to continue to make known the Good Shepherd mission in the Church, as well as the mission of others."

With a bit of humor, she continued, "Depending on what I am consulted about, I may have to do some consulting and research myself."

Sister Brigid is aware of the challenge that faces her and said, "I will be extremely grateful for your prayers as I move into this appointed position."

The majority of past appointees have been men. Sister Brigid said, "Seeing more women being appointed as Consultors is a good sign that things are slowly changing in the Church."

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# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

### Brigid, *Cont'd from p. 7*

#### 20 Consultors appointed

Pope Francis appointed 20 new Consultors from around the world to CICLSAL. The Congregation is headed by Brazilian Cardinal João Braz de Aviz. CICLSAL is located in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life dates back to May 27, 1586, when Pope Sixtus V founded it. To learn the history of the Congregation and to gain a deeper understanding of its purpose, visit <https://bit.ly/3wBo00e>



*Brigidam is one translator's view of how the name Brigid was spelled in ancient Latin.*

### It's spring!

Spring has burst forth all over. For Lizzie Cody, Director of the Office of Mission Effectiveness, spring has been especially lively. She said, "It's like a wildlife refuge in my yard! My dad took pictures of the owl we see. Baby and Mama Deer had their nest across the street from me and are often in my front yard visiting. Mama Deer especially enjoys a breakfast of my garden hostas and maple leaves. We have also been keeping an eye on eight new baby ducklings at the neighborhood park where my son Joshua and I take our morning walks. It's definitely spring!"



### Back in the archives

After a year-long COVID hiatus working from home, province archivist Monte Abbott has returned to the archive vault at the Province Center. His first priority is to file oversized documents from properties that have closed in recent years. This gets tricky because of their size and condition. Dried glue and tape, fragile backing on frames, and rusted staples on framed photos have to be removed gently with caution. Monte makes sure the documents lay flat for storage so they are not damaged by creases and folds. Tools used in the process of preparing the documents for the archives are seen in the foreground of the photo above. The large B&W photo on the desk is an aerial view of the old Denver convent. The "In Memoriam" document lists the names of deceased Sisters in the Magdalene Community in New Orleans.





# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

## Sister Mary Carolyn McQuaid recognized for her service to the congregation and love for the Good Shepherd mission

The Congregation of Sisters of the Good Shepherd sent Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid a letter of appreciation last month in recognition of her service to the congregation.

Sister Madeleine Munday, Province Leader for Mid-North America said, "It is a joy to share this letter from Rome appreciating Mary Carolyn's great spirit and service. A beautiful bouquet of flowers accompanied the letter, and a Papal Blessing will follow."

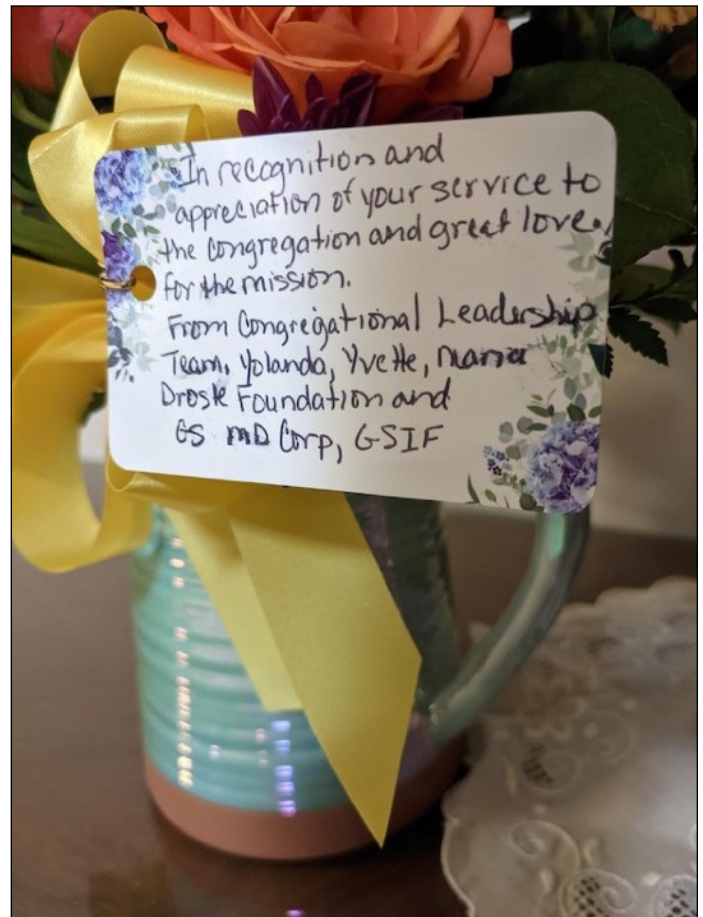
The floral bouquet came with a card attached, which read, "In recognition and appreciation of your service to the congregation and great love for the mission." The card was signed by the congregational leadership team, along with Maria Droste Foundation, Good Shepherd Mission Development Corporation, and Good Shepherd International Foundation.



*Sister Mary Carolyn McQuaid receives a bouquet of flowers from the Good Shepherd congregation in appreciation for her zeal to the mission.*

## Sister Marie Claudie Salama celebrates Golden Jubilee

In order to join Sr. Marie Claudie Salama in celebrating her 60th Jubilee on May 30, the Province Leadership Team sent her a bouquet of flowers, and other Sisters sent her cards and called her on the phone.



# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



**UPCOMING EPISODE: RACIAL JUSTICE**

Posted on January 15, 2021 by Admin  
[Leave a Comment](#)

**JUNE 9, 3pm (CT) | RACIAL JUSTICE**

**HOST**

**CHARISH BADZINSKI**  
 Founder, Rollerbag Goddess  
 Global Communications

**EMILY LAZOR**  
 Teacher  
 Cristo Rey Dallas  
 College Prep

**PATRICIA ROGERS, OP**  
 Sister, Executive Director  
 Dominican Center for Women

**MARY LOU SPECHA, PBVM**  
 Sister, Executive Director  
 Hotel Hope

**EXPLORING INTERSECTIONS**  
 CATHOLIC SISTERS  
 ON RACISM, MIGRATION AND CLIMATE  
[exploringintersections.org](http://exploringintersections.org)

## LCWR Region 10 webinar campaign continues

Join the next episode of “Exploring Intersections: Catholic Sisters on Racism, Migration and Climate” on June 9. Presenters will address the long-term consequences of a nation’s racist history. The panelists — Emily Lazor; Sister Patricia Rogers, OP; and Sister Mary Lou Specha, BVM — will share their diverse perspectives and personal experiences as they engage with host Charish Badzinski in lively and eye-opening conversation. Registration is free and open to the public. It airs live at 3 pm CST. Click [here](#) to read the [panelists’ bios](#).

The Exploring Intersections campaign is an active response to the 2015-2022 Resolution of Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Region 10 to heighten awareness for advocacy and action, create communion without controversy, and offer insight with intent to effect change. Each month, Exploring Intersections focuses on a social issue and explores how it intersects with racism, migration and climate in thought-provoking conversation.

**Mark your calendar for the July 14 episode** on Ending Human Trafficking. Presenters include Angela Aufdemberge, CEO of Vista Maria.

Episodes air live the second Wednesday of each month at 3 pm CST. [Register here](#). You can watch recordings of the sessions on [Facebook](#) and join the conversations on [Facebook](#).

## Announcements and News Tidbits

Sister Ellen Kelly’s resignation as Congregational Leader came as a surprise to most of us. We will publish a story about Sr. Ellen’s resignation and her successor, Sr. M. Susana Franco, in the July-August issue of *Items of Interest*.

DeNeuville Learning Center has a new logo and website. Check out the fresh look at <https://dlcmemphis.org/>

Sister Marie Claudie Salama celebrated her Golden Jubilee on May 30, 2021. See page 9.

People around the world celebrated Laudato Si Week May 16-25. The week-long celebration was hailed as the crowning event of the Special Laudato Si Anniversary Year of 2021, the aim of which is to mark the progress the Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. Find links to all of the events and activities that took place during Laudato Si Week at <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

2021 is the year of Saint Joseph. There is no better time than now to read Sister Louise Sweigert’s book about him. “Sister Louise was a Contemplative Good Shepherd Sister. Her book is really beautiful. It’s well worth reading, especially during this year of St. Joseph,” said Patricia Marie Barnette, RGS. Find the book at <https://amzn.to/3p1pvll>

15 years ago Saul Martinez was a Good Shepherd Volunteer (GSV). Today he is a GSV board member. Saul bicycled 200 miles in one day on May 14 to raise funds for #GSVMovesforJustice campaign and to highlight the work of GSV. His 200-mile journey from Albany to New York City allowed GSV to meet its \$20,000 fundraising goal. Watch videos of his ride at <https://bit.ly/3fylS3l>



# MINISTRY NEWS



## ZEAL

## Experiencing the joys of spring at Good Shepherd Shelter

The Good Shepherd Shelter family and community in Los Angeles came together to celebrate and connect on Easter. Children played on the sprawling lawn of the shelter and scavenged for Easter eggs. The kids, their families, and staff gathered together for an outdoor luncheon. And the Easter Bunny brought baskets filled with goodies for the families. The generosity of donors, benefactors and local service agencies made the special day possible.

### Toddlers get playground equipment

PRESENT NOW, one of Good Shepherd Shelter's local mission partners, donated playground equipment for toddlers to help them heal through play. The mission of PRESENT NOW is to provide children in domestic violence shelters with essential goods and specialty items to bring them joy, comfort, and relief during a time of crisis.

### Moms get pampered on Mother's Day

Children and staff at Good Shepherd Shelter created a day of love, pampering, and self-care for moms at the shelter to make sure they felt happy, relaxed and special on Mother's Day. The day began with the children reading to their moms and presenting them with handmade gifts crafted with love. The special day continued with mom-only time and a high tea made of light cucumber sandwiches, scones and other sweet treats. The moms were then treated to facials, hand and shoulder massages with essential oils designed for calm. The day ended with the moms receiving beautiful donated gifts.

### Residents plant a garden

Residents and staff at Good Shepherd Shelter spent several days earlier this spring pulling weeds and preparing the soil for a community-wide gardening project. The families and staff planted watermelon, cantaloupe and other fruits, as well as lettuce, radishes and other vegetables. They added an herb garden to include mint, cilantro and parsley. The kids will be responsible for tending the garden and watering the plants throughout the growing season. The teachers are using the time in the garden to add to the students' science curriculum. When the time comes, families will harvest the food and come together once again with staff and benefactors to dine as a bonded community and enjoy the fresh homegrown farm to table fruits, vegetables, and herbs.



Sister Barbara Beasley (foreground) and staff at Good Shepherd Shelter test the new playground equipment that PRESENT NOW donated.



Case Manager Kimberly Ayala (left) joins Sisters Regina Do and Donna Miles in Easter fun at Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles.



One of the little boys living at Good Shepherd Shelter takes special care when planting aromatic herbs in the community garden.



A mom and her three daughters find a heartfelt way to express their gratitude for the special Mother's Day treatment.



## MINISTRY NEWS

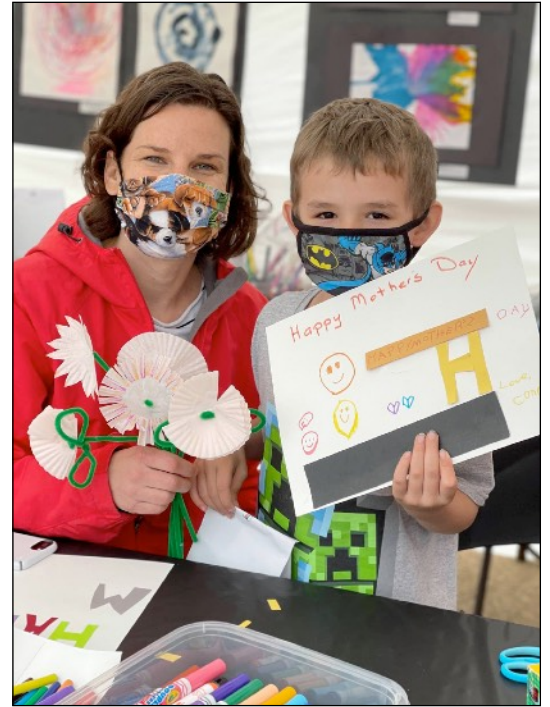
ZEAL

## Children's art brightens Ferguson Farmer's Market

"Adults get so nervous when we pick up a paint brush or crayon. Actually, how often do we take the risk to do just that? But put a crayon or paintbrush into the hands of a young person and amazing things happen," said Sister Glynis McManamon, Director of Good Shepherd Arts Center.

Sister Glynis celebrated the courageous example of the children of North County St. Louis when she exhibited their artwork on May 8 at the Ferguson Farmers Market.

The market was abuzz with people studying the children's art while kids themselves were busy making Mother's Day cards for the important women in their lives. Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) sponsored the art exhibit and will continue sponsoring artists every weekend at the Ferguson Farmers Market all summer long.





## OUTREACH MINISTRY

ZEAL

# Sister Patricia Marie Thomas, trailblazer in outreach ministry

By Jeanette McDermott, PMNA Communications Coordinator

Sister Patricia Marie Thomas was among the first Good Shepherd Sisters in the Province of Mid-North America to break from the tradition of serving in Good Shepherd sponsored ministries to serve in parish ministries instead.

The year was 1972. Sister Patricia Marie was in St. Paul. The pastor of the St. Luke's parish had become concerned about parishioners who were homebound. They needed care. The pastor put a call out for Sisters to help, and Sr. Patricia Marie responded.

## Diving into the unknown

"There were days I wondered what I had gotten myself into. I had dived into the unknown on trust and faith that God would be there by my side. I found ways to help the homebound. I brought them communion and prayed with them. Mostly, I ministered to their souls."

"For Christmas the parish priests bought me a bicycle. I didn't drive, so up until that day, I was breezing around the entire parish, walking everywhere to meet the needs of parishioners. They wheeled that bicycle out from its hiding place and I couldn't believe it," she said.

Sister Patricia Marie was wearing a modified habit at the time, her veil taking flight each time she took off for another visit.

Several years passed when Sr. Patricia Marie found herself ready to move on. This time she was missioned to Seattle, Washington.

## Program for seniors in Seattle

"I started a program in Seattle for senior adults. We often took them

on bus trips all over the state of Washington and up into Canada. Bus tours at that time were uncommon. It was a wonderful experience. With all of the trips we took, I got to know the state of Washington better than my own home state of Minnesota," she said.

"Five of us Good Shepherd Sisters went to San Paulo, Brazil. We lived in a retreat house in the poor district of San Paulo and did workshops with Sisters from Brazil. It was a really special time."

"I also went to Angers, Rome, the Balkans, and the Holy Land. These were also enriching experiences for me," Sr. Patricia Marie said.

## Finding her passion in St. Paul

Six years later, Sr. Patricia Marie left Seattle and returned to St. Paul. She was hired as a pastoral minister at St. Rose of Lima parish, where she served in outreach programs for persons in need.

"I became aware that our charism was truly alive in many of the volunteers. After 18 years of memorable experiences, I resigned in 2000," she said.

"Shortly after, one of the Sisters from the New York Province visited us in St. Paul. She brought a sizable collection of items. I was amazed at the variety and the beautiful colors. I wondered how did women accomplish all of this?"

## Allure of Hand Crafting Justice

What Sister Patricia Marie was experiencing was the allure of Hand Crafting Justice. For days she couldn't stop thinking about the



*Sister Patricia Marie Thomas enjoys reading in her room at Mason Pointe Care Center in St. Louis.*



incredible marketplace she had witnessed. One day she just up and decided, "I can do that."

"Sister Barbara Beasley was Provincial of the St. Paul Province at the time, and I spoke with her about my desire to run Hand Crafting Justice markets in parish churches. Sister Barbara listened and then

*Continued on next page*

# OUTREACH MINISTRY

**ZEAL**

## Patricia Marie, *Cont'd from p. 13*

exclaimed, "You have made my day!"

Hand Crafting Justice was an exciting time for Sr. Patricia Marie. She worked with people who had volunteered with her at the parish and other Sisters setting up displays. She said, "We held markets at various parishes and again I found our charism to be fully alive in these volunteers."

HCJ began marketing women's handmade crafts in 1995. It was designed to help at-risk women served in Good Shepherd programs in the Global South lift themselves out of poverty through their handiwork. From toys and décor to jewelry and handbags, more than 1,000 high-quality products were designed and handmade by thousands of skilled artisans in safe, clean worksites located in 20 countries.

### **HCJ comes to an end**

As things began to shift in the global economy over time, it became necessary for HandCrafting Justice to rethink its business plan. It was time to act when the cost of producing goods abroad and

shipping them to the U.S. increased and the global economy spiraled downward. The outgrowth was to find ways to decrease the dependency on the Good Shepherd international markets and help artisans reach independence.

From 2013 to 2015 producers in Asia and South America learned design work and business skills that helped them create contemporary designs at competitive prices.

***"I never saw myself as a trailblazer. It's only in hindsight that I can see it."***

They also learned how to market their goods to local communities. In short, the artisans began to strengthen their own production sites and pivot toward a more sustainable and independent business model.

Hand Crafting Justice stepped back and allowed artisans to help themselves out of poverty, which had always been the goal all along. HandCrafting Justice, Inc. closed on January 31, 2016.

Read more about the [closure of HCJ](#) on the PMNA website, where you can also read about the [HCJ](#) markets in Los Angeles.

**Reflecting on parish ministries**  
When Hand Crafting Justice ended, Sister Patricia Marie moved to Boutwells Landing in Oak Park Heights, where she lived with Sisters Bernadette Faulhaber and Charlotte Kirst. She was missioned to Mason Pointe Care Center in St. Louis in 2018.



**Sister Patricia Marie Thomas reflects on the 18 years she worked as a pastoral minister in St. Paul.**

"I still miss some of those wonderful times. I loved all of the parish ministries, especially Hand Crafting Justice," she said.

In reflecting upon her experiences in parish ministries over the years, Sr. Patricia Marie remarked that it was unusual for Sisters at that time to serve in parishes rather than in Good Shepherd sponsored ministries. Now, she said, it has become commonplace for Sisters to work in parishes in the communities where they live.

"I never saw myself as a trailblazer," she said. "It's only in hindsight that I can see it."



**Patricia Marie Thomas, RGS, laughs when recalling some of her memories in parish ministries.**



## NAC NEWS



ZEAL



## National Advocacy Center continues to collaborate with Good Shepherd agencies to act for justice

By Patricia Kelly, GSV intern

Over the past nine months, I have had the incredible opportunity to work with several partner agencies that help carry out the Good Shepherd mission across the country. It has been a powerful learning experience meeting agency staff and hearing their unique stories and perspectives. Each agency is deeply committed to serving its community, helping people heal, and empowering those who are marginalized.

Agency staff members are open and generous in sharing their insights with NAC. As expert service providers, they are deeply knowledgeable about the issues facing their communities. NAC has learned that the primary advocacy concerns of Good Shepherd agencies are mental health, behavioral health, funding of nonprofit organizations, racial justice, challenges faced by youth in the welfare system, the particular needs of immigrant communities, and poverty.

### COVID's impact on agencies

In the past year, the COVID pandemic heightened the challenges faced by agencies and their communities in these areas. While mental health issues and food insecurity rose dramatically, government funding for nonprofits decreased, making it more difficult for the agencies to serve the people who rely on them.

Maria Droste Counseling Services in New York City and Massachusetts conveyed the rising need for mental health services, and Good Shepherd Gracenter in San Francisco underscored the importance of SNAP benefits for their clients.

Good Shepherd Services in New York City and Maryhurst in Louisville expressed the importance of financial relief and funding for nonprofits. At the same time, anti-Asian racism fueled a rise in

*Continued on next page*



*Patricia Kelly stands before the 555-foot marble obelisk in Washington, DC, which honors the first president of the United States George Washington. Patricia has been an intern at the National Advocacy Center since last September. NAC is located in Silver Spring, Maryland, a commuter suburb of Washington, DC.*

# NAC NEWS



ZEAL

## Agencies, *Continued from p. 15*

pandemic-related hate crimes, an issue that directly impacted the community of Good Shepherd Services in Atlanta.

### **My role as an intern**

In my role as a Good Shepherd Volunteer intern at NAC, I have helped advocate for solutions to these pressing issues.

Incorporating the input of our agencies, I created action alerts that equipped our network to urge lawmakers to respond.

Among our top requests were to make COVID relief funding available to nonprofits, expand access to mental health services, expand nutrition assistance programs, and take action to protect Asian communities from hate crimes.

At this time, several of these measures already have been signed into law. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) expanded eligibility for nonprofits to access Paycheck Protection Program loans and provided

\$350 billion in state and local aid, which is essential for resuming government contracts for nonprofit services. ARP included more than \$3 billion for mental health services. It also extended the 15% increase in benefits to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program until September 2021.

Furthermore, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, which strengthens the government's ability to address hate crimes and raises awareness of the issue.

It is encouraging to see that by standing together as a Good Shepherd community and sharing on-the-ground insights of our agencies, our voices can affect real change. Our efforts are united with those of other advocacy groups and people all around the country who called for these measures and who continue to stand up for justice. We know that no one of us could



Patricia Kelly

have accomplished these things alone. But when we each do our part, our united voices are powerful.

Looking ahead to my last weeks as a Good Shepherd Volunteer, I feel energized to continue finding ways to bring our agencies' concerns to Capitol Hill, and am excited for NAC's future collaborative efforts. By intentionally weaving together direct service and advocacy, we can continue to transform the world little by little until the dignity of each person is valued and respected.

## **Solidarity with Seafarers Campaign**

COVID-related restrictions have left over 400,000 seafarers stranded for months, working beyond the expiration of their contracts. As part of the Catholic Coalition of Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAH), for the past month NAC has promoted the Solidarity with Seafarers Campaign, which raises awareness about the plight of seafarers around the world and advocates for their protection.

Advocates call for the recognition of seafarers as key workers, the facilitation of timely crew changes, and other important protections.

The campaign will culminate with a special webinar hosted by CCOAH on June 25, 2021, to honor the Day of the Seafarer. Look out for more information on NAC's social media in the coming weeks!



## COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL



*Sister LeeAnn Mackeprang places a votive candle in Sr. Madge Oliva's luminary. Sister Dolores Kalina strolls among the 73 luminaries at Mason Pointe. Sister Pauline Bilbrough, Local Leader for Good Shepherd Sisters at Mason Pointe, addresses those who gathered.*

## Remembering Sisters

Mason Pointe Care Center remembered the residents in their care who died from COVID in 2020 in a Celebration of Life ceremony on May 13, 2021. Sisters from the Province Center and St. Louis community attended the ceremony.

As Mason Pointe's chaplain called the names of the deceased, loved ones stepped forward to place votive candles in white luminary bags with the person's name on them. A reception and time for spoken remembrances preceded the reflective luminary ceremony. Sister Pauline Bilbrough was one of several people who addressed those who had gathered.

Mason Pointe lost 73 residents to the pandemic, including eight Good Shepherd Sisters: Marie Dolores Beck, Mary Josephine Fritz, Immaculata Lupin, Mary Michael Maguire, Mary Magdalena Oliva, Dorothy Renckens, Mary Joelle Weid, and Gertrude Sen.

In May, Pope Francis called for a worldwide marathon of the Rosary to end the pandemic. Each day during May at 11 am CST (6 pm at the Vatican), the Rosary was prayed from a different Marian shrine around the world. Pope Francis began the Rosary marathon at the Vatican on May 1 and concluded it there May 31. The theme for the worldwide event was "From the entire Church an unceasing prayer rises to God."

Nearly 600,000 people in the United States have died from coronavirus as of May 17. Numbers are starting to decline.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL

## Nun shortage at Good Shepherd means home for girls must close

By Jane Ann Morrison/Gazette-Journal

LAS VEGAS — The Home of the Good Shepherd must close next June because there aren't enough nuns to run the home for troubled teen-age girls.

After struggling for the past few years for money, it is a shortage of sisters that will close the doors of the home, which has housed 3,000 girls since it opened in 1962.

Carol is one of the last of the girls who will live at the home 15 miles north of downtown Las Vegas.

When she first arrived nine months ago, Carol was a suicidal runaway, a punk rocker sporting a purple Mohawk, dressed in black.

Today, she's a different person — upbeat instead of sullen. All-American instead of punk.

With all the youthful idealism and optimism she can muster, the 16-year-old steadfastly declared, "I plan on becoming a sister and opening it back up again."

In reality, it is doubtful she'll achieve either goal; none of the girls

who came here, either under court order or privately, has gone on to join a religious order.

"Most have gone on to join the Holy Order of Matrimony," chuckled Sister Kathleen Moore, who has been the administrator of the home for the past four and a half years.

Run by Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the home provides long-term help to girls from all over the state. Sister Moore says that about one-fourth of the girls are from northern Nevada.

The home differs from the Girls Training Center in Caliente in that it is less remote and less regimented — and it is run by 10 nuns and about 50 full- and part-time lay staffers. "We put a lot of love into the program here," Sister Moore said gently.

The Nov. 2 announcement of the closure brought tears to the 36 girls and the staff that day. Even a week later, lay counselor Cynthia O'Connell cried when discussing the closing.

"It's difficult to accept His will, but



Special to the Gazette-Journal

ADMINISTRATOR: Sister Kathleen Moore.

See GOOD, page 40

A reporter with Reno Gazette-Journal interviews Sr. Kathleen Moore on November 20, 1988, about Home of the Good Shepherd closing in Reno, Nevada.

## Tracking down Good Shepherd news

In January I subscribed to a service called [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com) and since have been scouring newspapers online to find stories about Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

The story in the Reno Gazette-Journal above takes us back to November 1988, when Home of the Good Shepherd announced it would close its doors the following June. Sister Kathleen Moore had been the Administrator of the home for nearly five years when the newspaper reporter spoke with her about the closure. The home had housed 3,000 girls since it opened in 1962. It was run by 10 Sisters and about 50 full-time and part-time lay staff.

"We put a lot of love into the program here," Sr. Kathleen told the reporter.

Submitted by Jeanette McDermott



Marie Moore holds a framed photograph of her biological sister Kathleen Moore, RGS.

## Marie's birthday wish

This story starts with a birthday wish. Marie Moore's birthday was looming, and what she wanted most for her birthday was a photograph of her sister. Marie lives in St. Louis. Her biological sister Kathleen Moore, RGS, lives in Danville, Pennsylvania. Local Leader of the Danville community Mary Carol McClenon, RGS, caught wind of the wish and set out to make it happen. She ushered Sr. Kathleen into a room and followed photographic instructions she had learned from PMNA Communications Coordinator Jeanette McDermott. She sent the picture that Sr. Kathleen liked best to Jeanette. Jeanette printed it on quality photographic paper and framed it. She took the birthday gift to Marie at Mason Pointe Care Center. Marie cried happy tears, literally, and Jeanette took her picture with the framed photo to send to Sr. Kathleen. Birthday wishes do come true.

©-Reno Gazette-Journal Sunday, November 20, 1988

## Good Shepherd home for troubled teen-age girls closing doors

From page 10

There's a purpose, maybe something big, and sister is in there for all of us," O'Connell said.

"I hope by telling myself I was brought here for a reason, that I've helped a number of girls. But the home and the girls have given me much more." With that, she walked up and she gave the money to O'Connell.

"This is difficult for me," she said finally.

O'Connell considered becoming a nun but chose instead to have a family and children before returning to counseling.

"There's been at least a 75 percent reduction in the average number of people entering religious orders in the last 10 years," Sister Moore said.

The turnover 1988 and '79 were difficult years in the religious world, just as they were in the rest of society.

Numbers not likely to increase

"It's difficult to make commitments," O'Connell said. "You can't find marriage, leaving as long as they need to. Every-

thing's changing and it's not going to increase, even though people are not sure if they can get it back."

"There was a period after my time when I was in the military, and the nun-

ner, she was very religious and very out-

order. But I took six to eight years before

she's ready to step in and help carry a larger program.

For a while, money shortages nearly closed the doors.

But then, Bill Higgins, R-Reno, and Assemblyman Marvin Swamy, D-Las Vegas, the chairman of the Legislature's

public committees, worked together and

the Legislature passed a bill to create the

Legislative Finance Committee. In past

years, the home was one of the per-

jects of former Sen. Fred Lamb, who

chairs the committee. The state gave \$2.50 million of the home, while at

Caliente, the cost is \$1.50 per girl.

Looking for alternatives

Consequently, Jerry Greengard, direc-

tor of Human Resources, is trying to see if

some other non-profit operation can run

the home.

The problem with that is that the land

is not owned by a trust and Catholic officials

are not certain if they can sell or lease the

land.

Greengard said his first preference is

to find a non-profit organization to run

the home, where the average time spent by a

girl between 12 and 17 years old was 18

months. The only sort of girl who couldn't go

there was one who was physically danger-

ous, more the type of person who did not

give the sisters the ability to care for

someone who needed to be locked up.

State officials say that it will cost more

to send the girls to Caliente, where 75

girls and space for another 40.

Sister Moore said she would like to

cover their living expenses, it costs more

to house a girl at Caliente than at the

Home of the Good Shepherd. The state

gives \$2.50 monthly of the home, while at

Caliente, the cost is \$1.50 per girl.

Worldwide order works for troubled women

By Jane Ann Morrison/Gazette-Journal

LAS VEGAS — The Sisters of the

Good Shepherd is a worldwide interna-

tional religious community with 1,500

nuns.

The focus of our order is girls and

women in difficulty," says Sister Kath-

leen Moore, administrator of the Home

of the Good Shepherd, operated by

the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Las

Vegas.

The order is based on a ministry first

started in 1961 by John Eudes, a priest

in Canada, France.

"He founded a religious order that

was almost destroyed by the French

Revolution," Sister Moore says.

"The Sisters of the Good Shepherd

are always helpful, because we come

out of the ashes," she says.

St. Mary Ephraim, Philadel-

phia, said the order started by Father

Eudes and in 1955 founded the Sisters

of the Good Shepherd in America.

The Sisters would not be involved, since

they will be reassigned to other areas.

France is a 15-year-old girl sent into

the home because she committed

grand larceny. Four months ago, her

method of communication was yelling

and screaming. Now she can discuss her prob-

lems.

She has trouble believing the home and

school must close.

"I don't believe it, because I

had heard so many times it was going

to close because of money."

Then, like so many others, she wept.



## COMPANIONS



ZEAL



## Reflections of a Lenten retreat

By Joan Clancy, Companion of Jesus the Good Shepherd

We Companions, isolated by COVID-19, have felt for a year like we're sitting in the car looking out the passenger side window. As Lent approached, Mary de Sane grabbed the wheel and metaphorically piloted us down the Zoom Interstate, past the airport full of conflicting schedules, and pulled onto the Companion Retreat highway!

The great turn out each Sunday morning and non-judgmental atmosphere easily fostered renewed solidarity and honest sharing with a different Companion acting as our spiritual GPS each week.

We took our mantra from Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister: "Lent is about becoming, doing, and changing whatever it is that is blocking the fulness of life in us right now."

### We journeyed with saints

We journeyed each week with a special saintly person; the first was Thomas Merton who set the focus: "God is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without God. It is simply impossible."

In the second week our daily reminder came from Teresa of Avila who encouraged our contemplative practice: "Prayer indicates where growth is needed."

The next week Theresa Petrachinio, a Companion in Canada, shared about the martyred Archbishop Saint Oscar Romero and his admonition: "The ones who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless." Our group reflection broadened the meaning of 'voiceless' beyond persons to our Earth itself as we prayed the following week with Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*.

Carson first drew national attention to the destruction of our waterways and natural resources. She advocated for what is now called *the scripture of nature*. "There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

After mentally relaxing with nature, we were confronted with the fearless Sojourner Truth, American abolitionist, escaped slave and advocate

Earth cannot escape heaven,  
flee it by going up or flee it by going down.  
Heaven still invades the earth,  
energizes it, makes it sacred ...  
God is at home (here).  
It is we who have gone out for a walk.

Meister Eckhart (1260-1329)

*We returned from retreat refreshed, renewed and recommitted.*

of women's rights who reminded us to (of all things) enjoy the trip!

"If we laugh and sing a little as we fight the good fight of freedom, it makes it all go easier," Sojourner had said.

Today science has shown there are even 65 animals who laugh including dogs, birds and dolphins. Sojourner was onto something!

Our final friend for the week was the fiery Irish immigrant Mother Jones (Mary Harris Jones) who, though old, childless, widowed and financially destitute, nonviolently took on the powerful coal industry. She fought child labor practices and organized labor unions seeking better safety precautions and wages for miners.

Lastly, Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles, was our accompanying spiritual sister as we celebrated with her the good news of Easter.

We returned from our road trip as a group refreshed, renewed, recommitted and ready to joyfully welcome our two new Companions - Patti and Helene, and renew together our own vow(s). The plan is to keep Zooming and next year we hope to add music!

# COMPANIONS



## ZEAL

## Companions hold vow ceremony to install new members

By Patti Olson, Companion of Jesus the Good Shepherd

I wanted to share my reflections on the recent vow ceremony Companions held on Sunday morning, April 25. To better understand how meaningful this ceremony was to me, I feel it is important to first share my background with you.

From the age of five, when I attended my first Mass, I was deeply impressed by the beauty of the Catholic Church and I think that was the first time I felt Christ calling me to conversion, although I was much too young to realize that at the time.

As a teen, my mother and I would grocery shop every Saturday. I did not like grocery shopping and always asked mom if I could go to the nearby public library instead. In the library, I would read *Butler's Lives of the Saints*.

After graduating high school, my sister-in-law and closest friend was killed instantly in a car accident on December 10, 1975. Linda's death was by far the most shattering, life-changing event I have encountered. In the months following her death, I struggled with deep depression and suicidal thoughts.

One Sunday, in April 1976, during the homily, I felt an extremely comforting, peaceful sense of calm completely envelope me. I did not understand what was happening, but I loved the feeling!

This event resulted in breaking that downward spiral of



Newly vowed Companion Patti Olson (left) visits in Ohio with her mentor Donna Sauer (right) and Good Shepherd Sister Dorothy Doyle.

depression. My suicidal thoughts gradually ended and within several months I began studies at a Lutheran college in Wisconsin and graduated with a dual degree in psychology and religion.

### **I fell away from worship**

After graduation and after working many years for the electric utility in South Bend, Indiana, I relocated to Columbus, Ohio.

During the period of relocation, focusing on my career and getting used to living in a much larger city, my faith weakened and I fell away from worship. In December 2011, my brother-in-

law was nearly killed in an accident. He recovered, but spent more than two months in the Intensive Care Unit. One day I neglected to take a book to read while waiting to visit Earl. A good friend who was a devout Catholic stopped by. Realizing I had nothing to read, she said, "Wait here – I'll be right back."

She reappeared bearing a paper grocery bag of reading material ... The Word Among Us, Magnificat, several holy cards, a Catholic Lectio Divina Bible, and even a Catholic church supply catalog.

*Continued on next page*



# COMPANIONS



ZEAL

## Ceremony, *Cont'd from p. 20*

This gift of grace made me realize that I was being called to return to worship at a Catholic congregation.

### **I finally became Catholic**

At Easter Vigil, March 30, 2013, I finally became a Catholic. I felt right at home in my new church. I heard it said, "Before I became Catholic, I attended church. After I converted, I found my faith."

I find this statement to be so true. Shortly after, I met Sister Dorothy Doyle and Joanne Bellisari and then was introduced to Donna Sauer, who is my mentor and my close friend. Donna, Sr. Dorothy and Joanne introduced me to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

At the Companion's Retreat Weekend in August, 2015, I met some of our Companions and I was impressed with the deep faith that each expressed and the respect they showed toward one another. I was intrigued with the opportunity each Companion has to serve our Good Shepherd by serving others directly through our personal ministry.

After much consideration and intense prayer, I found myself wondering what my personal ministry might be. I knew then that my heart had finally been opened to my Lord and I was ready to become a Companion.

### **I took vows as a Companion**

On Sunday morning, April 25, 2021, I felt honored to make my first vows as a Companion of Jesus the Good Shepherd. I made first vows along with Helene Steve, who is mentored by Alice Caulson.

Twelve other Companions witnessed the vows that Helene and I took. After our ceremony, the other Companions renewed their own vows. Thanks to Zoom, I am connected with the other fine Companions who I hope to befriend in the months to come.

It has taken me a very long time to reach this pivotal and sacred point in my life and I thank the Holy Spirit for never giving up on me, but gently nudging me ever closer to our Good Shepherd.

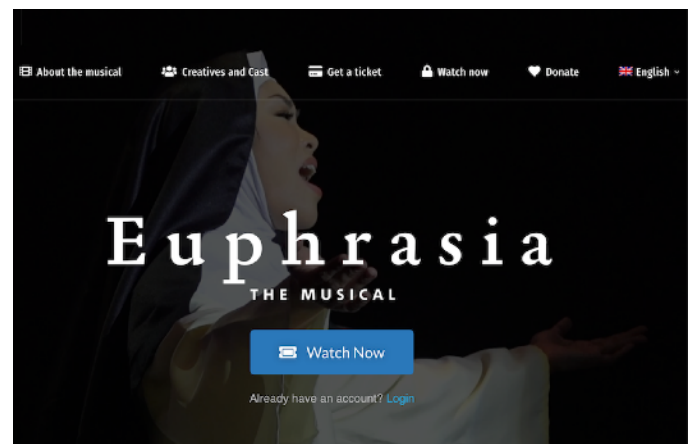
Each morning I ask Jesus Christ to lead me in my personal ministry of reaching out to the isolated and



*Newly vowed Companion Helene Steve (left) with her mentor Alice Caulson.*

lonely through letter writing, and to learn to see each person I encounter through His compassionate eyes.

I want to extend my service, and learn to live my life to emulate St. Mary Euphrasia's words, "A person is of more value than the whole world."



*Euphrasia The Musical tells the true-life story of Saint Mary Euphrasia. Jointly produced by the Good Shepherd Sisters of Singapore-Malaysia and the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre, this award-winning musical is being offered online for streaming until June 21, 2021. Don't miss it! Tickets at <https://euphrasiathemusical.gsif.it/ticket/>*

## GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



### Green Corner, *Cont'd from p. 1*

stopped to rest on a small stump beside the fence between the Province Center and the Immaculate Heart building. The day was sunny and warm, and the lawn mowers had disturbed their rest, so a cloud of bees circled high into the air. After a few minutes, most of the honeybees had settled back onto their stump and I was able to observe them up close without being stung.

My father was a beekeeper, and I grew up working with bees. Based on previous experiences, I thought the swarm would move to a tree cavity or some other suitable shelter before long, but they remained in place the rest of the day.

The following day was unseasonably cool with a late fall of snow and an overnight freeze. The poor bees were huddled tightly together in the snow, not flying, and hardly moving at all.

I put out an appeal to my neighborhood Facebook group to see if a local beekeeper would be interested in collecting the swarm. Colter Kennedy, a beekeeper and attorney who lives just a couple of blocks from me, came to campus the next day, bringing a bee box and an array of tools and supplies.

During the hour he was on campus, Colter enticed the bees into the box with sugar water and essential oils including lemongrass and lavender. Sister Madeleine and I observed nearby, and Sr. Marta observed from the safety of the receptionist office window!

After locating the lovely, rusty colored and active queen bee, Colter moved her into the box and began brushing large clumps of worker bees off the stump and onto combs that he then placed into the bee box. The bees were surprisingly docile and needed little encouragement to follow their queen into their new home.

The following weekend, Colter presented the Sisters with a couple of bottles of last year's honey as a gesture of thanks. Colter reports that the bees have now been moved to a full-sized hive and the queen is busy laying eggs. The same vigor that helped



*Beekeeper Colter Kennedy entices a swarm of bees into a box with sugar water and essential oils.*

them survive a night outdoors in freezing temperatures is driving them already to be about their business of reproducing and gathering pollen and honey for the coming year. The bee swarm is now assured a safe home in Colter's back yard.

The industrious honeybees remind me of our own work. The words of St. Mary Euphrasia sum up the comparison, "Like so many bees you fly from flower to flower bringing your harvest to the common store. This seems to be the mysterious work that goes on in the hive, everyone engaged for the general good, keeping nothing for herself."



## ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



## Pope beatifies Aguchita

Sister Aguchita will be beatified!

Last month, on May 22, 2021, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decree on the martyrdom of Antonia Luzmila Rivas Lopez (Aguchita) in *hatred of the faith*. A member of the Peruvian Communist Party Shining Path in La Florida, Peru, murdered Sr. Aguchita on September 27, 1990. She was 70 years old. The execution took place in a matter of seconds and left six people dead on the ground. Aguchita was the last one to die.

Beatification is an administrative act of the Catholic Church. It is a recognition of a deceased person's entrance into Heaven and capacity to intercede on behalf of individuals who pray in his or her name. The nominee can be a martyr killed in the service of Christ or a confessor. They are honored and revered for their actions while living. The Church beatifies only those whose lives have been marked by the exercise of heroic virtue.

Throughout her life, Aguchita bore witness to the faithful following of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Living the charism of love, mercy, acceptance and reconciliation, she gave her life to God while teaching some little girls and imploring mercy for her people.

### Process of being beatified

The formal process for beatification has changed in the last several hundred years. Originally, the church required 50 years between the time of the nominee's death and the beginning of the investigation. This has been decreased to five years. After a long inquiry, the pope authorizes the beatification, the newly beatified person is labeled "blessed," and people of the area identified with the beatified are allowed to perform limited actions in the blessed's name.

The process of Aguchita's beatification began in 2017. From the beginning of the process, the Conference of Bishops of Peru have fully supported the Cause of *Aguchita*, particularly because she was a woman religious and native Peruvian.



From the first request sent by the Province Leadership Team of Peru for the Cause, Congregation Province Leader Sr. Ellen Kelly supported the process for its advancement. The final part of the process for Aguchita's beatification is waiting for Pope Francis to approve the proposed date and place for the beatification ceremony, as well as the designation of his official representative.

## COVID crisis in India reaches Good Shepherd

COVID has reached challenging levels in India and Nepal. A mission partner in the Province of Central East India Nepal said, "When the pandemic first started, it was outside of our circle. Then as the number of cases escalated, it gradually came to our doorstep and now it has entered our homes."



Sr. Zita Oliveira

The Sisters of the Province of Central East India Nepal mourn the loss of [Sister Zita Oliveira](#) and mission partner Suresh Kumar. Both succumbed to COVID.

*Continued on next page*

## ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

India, *Cont'd from p. 23*

The Sisters in the Province of South West India operate one of the oldest hospitals in Bangalore, St Martha's Hospital, which is currently stretched to the limit with doctors and nurses attending to COVID patients at maximum capacity.

St. Martha's Hospital has dedicated 70% of the 350 beds available to COVID cases. Sisters salute the medical teams and support staff, who they say remain awake 24/7 to attend to the distress calls and sick patients.

There are Sisters, mission partners, their families and

students in both units in India who have also tested positive for COVID.

**GSIF assisting Indian government**

The situation in Nepal is very grave with the public health system not able to cope with the rising cases. The Ministry of Health and Population has reached out to development partners like Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF) Nepal to help procure medical equipment and supplies.

We are seeing what we can do to assist the government. All

community-based program activities in India and Nepal have ceased for the time being.

We thank all in the Province of Mid-North America for their prayer support of India and Nepal during this time of crisis.

**How you can help**

We are raising funds to buy medical equipment in India and Nepal and everyone is invited to donate through GSIF website at <https://www.gsif.it/donate>

*Submitted by Cristina Duranti and Theresa Symons, GSIF*

## COVID: Battling for lives in Nagpur, India

By Sister Pushpa Louis, Province Leader Central East India/Nepal

Good Shepherd Sisters in Nagpur are fine at the moment, but life is very uncertain. People are living in fear and anxiety.

**Nagpur top city for new cases of COVID**

Nagpur in central India is badly affected by the record-breaking spike of COVID cases that are soaring practically every day. We have lost many lives in our Archdiocese including a few young Sisters and priests. The loss is insurmountable and yet we have no time to mourn. We must think of those who are battling for their lives.

Nagpur is a city in central India. It is the sub-capital of Maharashtra, which is the

second largest State of India. The four cities with the highest number of fresh cases per million population over the last month are all in Maharashtra. Nagpur is at the top, followed by Nashik, Pune and Mumbai.

**Vaccines slow in coming**

The production of Remdesivir, an antiviral medication that targets coronavirus, is slowed due to the lack of raw material coming from abroad. The Nagpur district did not receive Remdesivir injections in the month of April at all, causing the death toll to rise. The whole city has become a crematorium with dead bodies scattered around the city. There are more funeral

pyres than there are people who can perform last rites.

There is an acute shortage of hospitals, beds, oxygen, ventilators, and vaccines. There are roughly 2,000 Catholics within the city. Of that number, 110 Catholics died from COVID just last week. Ten of them were religious including our own Good Shepherd Sister Zita Oliveira (see related story on page 23).

People wait in huge lines outside the hospitals. Some of them die while standing in line while waiting for their number to be called. Once you are in the line,

*Continued on next page*



## ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



## India, *Cont'd from p. 24*

it takes a minimum of four days to get admitted into the hospital. And even if you get admitted, there are not enough beds or medical equipment to combat the sickness.

In most cases, people get affected badly while waiting in the lines. Their weakened conditions deteriorate and their oxygen saturation levels drop, resulting in multi-organ disorder and death. We are supporting the best we can the Diocese COVID Care Centre with essential medical needs and medicines.

The second largest parish of Nagpur Archdiocese is also affected by the pandemic. The people of this parish are daily wage laborers, domestic workers, masons and mostly unskilled people with low income. Every house in the parish is affected by COVID. People have no money to treat themselves, so their numbers are not disclosed.

***In most cases, people get affected badly while waiting in the lines.***

***Their weakened conditions deteriorate and their oxygen saturation levels drop, resulting in multi-organ disorder and death.***

The media is reporting a decline in COVID cases in Nagpur, but the fight is not over yet. We are struggling but also looking forward to being among the countries who have succeeded in eradicating COVID. All are willing to bring our lives back on track.

Please pray for us.



Sister Zita Oliveira's brother has produced a beautiful tribute song to her on YouTube. <https://bit.ly/3yOG5cZ>

## LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Leadership Team	Limited travel	Leadership team meets by Zoom 2-3 times each month
Jean Marie Fernandez	June 1	Returns to San Francisco from Singapore
Dolores Kalina	May 27-30	Visit with Sisters, Cincinnati
Madeleine Munday	June 8	Board of Directors meeting, Deneuille Learning Center, Memphis





## PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL

*"Let gratitude to God enable you to forgive."*

St. May Euphrasia

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