

# ITEMS

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

### COVID-19 Impact

*Coronavirus leaves its impact on ministries, programs, Mission Partners and Sisters.*

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### Convent closes

*We say a loving farewell to the Maria Droste Contemplative Community.*

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### GSAC education bound

*Program Director takes Good Shepherd Arts Center in new direction of community education.*

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### Candidates welcomed

*Four candidates for the Inter-Province Novitiate enter into the Congregation.*

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## PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR CACS

Sisters on the planning committee for the Congregational Assembly for Contemplative Sisters (CACS) came to the Province Center in March to continue planning the sessions for their Assembly. Sister Janice Rushman

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## Green Corner

*The COVID-19 pandemic has nixed Earth Day festivals in the U.S. and abroad for 2020. Still, we can all do our part to make Earth Day everyday in our routine activities. A silver lining in the Coronavirus outcome is reduced air pollution as businesses stop, social distancing continues and more people work from home. Media reports about reduced air pollution show us what a marked difference our habits make, and how we can change those habits.*

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

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

facilitated the weeklong meetings from March 9-13, 2020. Members of the CACS planning committee are Sisters Reina Escobar (El Salvador), Maureen Johnson (USA), Sadhani Welmillage (Sri Lanka), Cristina Rodriguez De La Cruz (Peru), and Sharon Rose Authorson (USA). Sister Janice is an Apostolic Sister who serves at Vista Maria, the Good Shepherd ministry in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

### CACS

The Congregational Assembly for Contemplative Sisters (CACS), originally scheduled for August 2020, will be rescheduled prior to the Congregational Chapter in 2021. About 55 Contemplative Sisters - elected from every unit in the Congregation that has Contemplative Sisters - will serve as delegates at the Assembly. They will be joined by their Unit Leaders and by several invited guests: both young Sisters in Temporary Vows and Partners in Mission.

During the CACS, nine Contemplative Sisters will be elected as delegates to the 2021 Congregational Chapter, which is to be held from June 11 to July 2, 2021, at the Motherhouse in Angers, France.

During the planning committee meeting in St. Louis, the Sisters spent one day reflecting on "The Meaning of Mary Magdalene in Our Contemplative Life Today."

### The meaning of Mary Magdalene

Early on in the work of the planning committee, the Sisters had experienced a desire to see Mary Magdalene with new eyes, and to find fresh inspiration and challenge from her today. It seemed that these reflections on Mary Magdalene would be the heart, the core, the anchor point for the Assembly work. The Sisters sensed that the Holy Spirit has a strong message regarding the meaning of Mary Magdalene for Good Shepherd contemplative life today.

Actually, this encounter with Mary Magdalene at the Contemplative Sisters' Assembly can be a grand opportunity for our Apostolic Sisters as well. After all, our Constitution #9 tells us:

"Mary Magdalen (spelling in Constitution), first to witness and proclaim the resurrection, announces for us in a very special way the liberating power of merciful love. She gives us hope that, through this love, all in need of reconciliation can return to the Father." (Article 9)

Following the day of reflection, the planning committee turned from the sublime to the more mundane - details, details, and more details.

The end of the meeting was marked by the sense of a job well done ... and by a sharing of tasks to be completed at home.

*Submitted by Janice Rushman, RGS*

## 2021 Congregational Chapter



### Vision

We envision a new way of living that celebrates the connectedness of all God's creation, an inclusive world where the dignity and diversity of all life is honored and protected.

### Mission

Energized by our evolving understanding of God's love, we build partnerships that promote the dignity and human rights of all, especially women and children. In solidarity, we work for the transformation of unjust systems, the flourishing of humanity and integrity of all creation.

### Reflection

The Congregational Chapter theme and logo invite us to deeper consciousness of God's presence as the energy of Love at the Heart of the Universe. As we grow in awareness of this Love, we come to experience and reverence our fundamental interconnectedness to each other and to all created life. Drawn by Love, which spontaneously flows outward in zeal, we are impelled to be passionate for justice - to challenge the prevailing structures of injustice and to live in right relationship with humankind and all creation.



# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

## Province Chapter postponed indefinitely

COVID-19 health experts continue to emphasize the need for people the world over to shelter in place and avoid gatherings of more than 5-10 people. These recommendations have prompted Mid-North America Province leadership to postpone the Province Chapter until further notice. The Chapter was to have taken place in St. Louis from April 22 – 28, 2020.

### Chapter purpose

Sisters of the Good Shepherd convene Province Chapters every six years for three important reasons:

1. to address the life and ministry of each province
2. to set the direction for the next six years
3. to choose leadership to implement that direction

Province Chapters are also forums to prepare for Congregational

Chapter. The 31st Congregational Chapter is set to take place from June 11 – July 2, 2021, at the Motherhouse in Angers, France.

### Congregational Chapter

Preparation for the Congregational Chapter includes each province electing delegates to two international meetings that precede the Chapter: the Congregational Assembly of Contemplative Sisters (CACS) and the Inter-Continental Assembly (ICA). This year the ICAs have been re-configured to bring provinces together from their geographic area. The meetings will take place by video conferencing.

Each province is assigned to one of eight virtual ICAs. The ICA for Mid-North America is set to run from September 21-25, 2020, with New York/Toronto, Central South, and Montreal provinces.

CACS, originally scheduled for August 2020, will be rescheduled prior to the Congregational Chapter in 2021.

### A world transformed

Maureen Jenkins, facilitator for the Mid-North America Province Chapter, reflected on COVID-19 and postponing the Province Chapter.

Maureen said, “If nothing else, it must be said that you are postponing the Province Chapter as part of participating in a global event of shared suffering that will transform our futures across the world in ways that we have yet to understand.

“We will return to Chapter from a new perspective, to a world transformed, calling for care in ways that are yet to be revealed.”

*By Madeleine Munday, RGS*

## Impact of COVID-19

### By Jeanette McDermott

On March 11 the World Health Organization declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus disease a pandemic, acknowledging that the virus will likely spread to all countries on the globe.

The disease (abbreviated “COVID-19”) began in Wuhan, China, and made news for the first time on December 31, 2019. Today the number of coronavirus cases is nearing one million worldwide. From the earliest outbreak, the Center for Disease Control made it clear that this situation poses a

serious public health risk. Recent attempts to stop the spread of the virus include social distancing and sheltering in place.

### Stop the spread

This means staying home. When not at home, such as when grocery shopping, it means distancing ourselves at least six feet apart from anyone else. It also means avoiding places where more than 5-10 people are gathered.

These health recommendations have had enormous impacts on our lives. We no longer eat in restaurants or attend art openings. We don't flock

to festivals or participate in fundraising galas. We don't go to workshops or conferences. We avoid visiting family and friends, and we don't travel. Our habits and behavior have changed in efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

What does this mean for Good Shepherd? What impact is COVID-19 having on the Province ministries, programs, Mission Partners and Sisters?

I asked those questions, and here's what people said...

*Continued on next page*

# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

## COVID-19, *cont'd from p. 3*

### **Lizzie Cody, Director, Office of Mission Effectiveness**

Frankly, it's heartbreaking to plan the Good Shepherd North America Gathering and have to cancel it. People who participate in the Gathering consistently give feedback about how meaningful, connecting, and encouraging it is to meet other Good Shepherds from around North America.

The Gathering is an annual event that the North America Mission and Values Team puts many hours of thought, work, prayer, and preparation into. The Mission Effectiveness Office is all about connecting Mission Partners to one another, the mission, and Good Shepherd values.

Losing the Gathering this year feels like a blow. I will take this time to brag about our province leaders though, and say that they have been incredibly supportive and encouraging. We all want to look after one another and do what's best for all. The Gatherings have been happening regularly in some form or another since the 1970's. We are looking forward to the day when we can host it again.

That being said, this moment in time is the PERFECT opportunity to live what we say we believe. Hard moments are exactly the time when we can let our core values and the mission of Good Shepherd tell us what to do and how to respond.

We need to connect now more than ever. Mary Euphrasia gave us some incredible examples of adjusting and being creative when something unexpected or unwanted happens.

One example I can think of is when she was asked to take in 70

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***Mary Euphrasia gave us some incredible examples of adjusting and being creative when something unexpected or unwanted happens.***

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adolescent female "prisoners" from Paris. She only had a couple of days to get ready. Two Sisters went to get the girls, and all of the other Sisters made dresses, meals, and prepared the farm called Nazareth.

When the young prisoners arrived, they were given new clothes and dinner, and were shown love and dignity. Sometimes we have to scramble and change plans and just make stuff happen!

So, Mission Effectiveness is brainstorming other ways to encourage people to stay connected. Mission formation needs to be consistent and ongoing, so we'll provide more opportunities than ever before for weekly connection.

Maybe we won't be in person to do a 3-hour session like we usually do, and there won't be a Gathering, but there will be even more encouragement and opportunity.

We don't stop doing what is important and necessary when a crisis hits; we just do it differently. I'm honestly feeling hopeful and energized at the chance to do something new and different.

### **Marguerite Bartling, Director of Gracenter**

It feels so strange to have our Good Shepherd Guild cancel their Spring

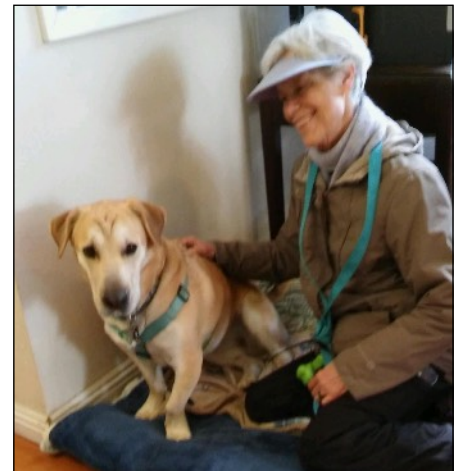
Luncheon that was scheduled for April 15, as well as their May Installation.

The Guild held its first luncheon for Good Shepherd in 1932. This year is the first time in 88 years that the annual fundraising luncheon has been put on hold. Gracenter depends on the Guild's fundraising efforts to support our residential recovery home for homeless women.

Speaking of our residential women at Gracenter, two of them had to stop going to City College and are doing their classes and homework online. One woman works remotely on her computer in the wonderful computer lab at Gracenter. Three women have lost their food service jobs in San Francisco.

We are carefully following the directives of the Center for Disease

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**Health experts recommend frequent doses of fresh air as we shelter in place during COVID-19. Sister Anne Kelley and Gracie take this advice to heart and get out each day for a walk in the park.**



# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

### COVID-19, *cont'd from p. 4*

Control to protect our women and staff. We are constantly disinfecting surfaces and washing our hands. We are staying home and away from public crowds. Of course, we pray diligently for the health and wellness of all.

We are also listening to webinars about how to cope with COVID-19, and we are trying to learn how to put on "virtual events" in the coming months.

It is a whole new world with the social distancing and disruption of normal everyday activities such as shopping or going to meetings. It's a good thing our technology is at our finger tips so the women in residence can join AA meetings through Zoom.

Sister Olga Cristobal teaches a Tai Chi class to the women in Gracenter, and Sr. Anne takes Gracie, our dog, for a daily walk. She takes the women too, if they wish to walk.



*Sister Olga Cristobal instructs the women at Gracenter in the calming martial art of Tai Chi.*

### **Mary Carol McClenon, RGS, Local Leader, Danville Community**

We are extremely lucky. Because we have a resident priest-chaplain, we still have the privilege of daily Mass, although we are attending it "remotely." In our diocese of



*Sisters in the Danville Community practice social distancing when they gather for Mass, meals, feast day parties, and other social activities.*

Harrisburg, the priests are directed to celebrate Mass "privately" with an allowance for a few ministers assisting. Our chapel has closed-circuit TV. So we have about five or six Sisters in chapel with him (at social distance, of course!).

These Sisters bring Holy Communion to the other 40 or so Sisters in the building. Those with televisions in their rooms follow our Mass on TV. Those without personal televisions gather in one of five common rooms with large TVs. This set up has worked amazingly well. There is no real disruption to our regular schedule, and I don't have to worry about my elder Sisters being deprived of the Sacraments.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is the Personal Care home. As a licensed facility, it's a little stricter than the rest of the convent. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor residents (which includes Good Shepherd Sisters Grace and Kathleen) have to be at least six feet apart from each

other at all times. For meals they are seated two at a double table, within talking distance of each other, if they don't have hearing impairments. Sisters Grace and Kathleen miss the table fellowship with all the rest of us, but they are doing okay. At least they are not isolated in their rooms.

Before we began to shelter in place, most of our Sisters went out for medical appointments. One of the stressors now is figuring out which medical appointments are "essential" and which are not.

Some appointments are being converted to telemedicine and others are being indefinitely postponed. We've got a couple coming up that are "essential."

There is anxiety about exposure while out and the risk of bringing infection back in. But it is what it is. We have a huge campus with beautiful grounds and good paved

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

## COVID-19, *cont'd from p. 5*

walking areas, so there is no trouble about getting their regular exercise whenever the weather permits.

Our community has been blessed with a positive focus. Sr. Rosary Oliveira arrived from Portugal the night before the European Travel Ban went into effect. She is here for English Immersion. We can't send her to ESL school since schools are closed, but we are doing a mighty good job teaching her ourselves (largely because she is an excellent learner, and also because we're giving her a lot of attention). She is a delight and it's a wonderful distraction from the general pervasive anxiety.

We had a pizza party to celebrate Sr. Beth's feast day and the end of Sr. Rosary's "quarantine" after travel. It was nice to feel festive.

We have Food Service and have not had to worry about grocery store shortages. We have started wrapping the cutlery in paper napkins and putting it on the tables before each meal rather than everybody handling it in the cafeteria line. Several of our Sisters have generously become daily "wrappers".

We have three Sisters in the nursing home, and they are on lock-down. We cannot visit, but one of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius works there so she is allowed in and out, and she gives us regular updates. Staff did the care plan reviews over the phone yesterday. I don't think our three Sisters have a sense of time so I don't think they are exactly "missing" our visits. We are much luckier than families whose elders are still oriented in time and space.

For myself, I would think that I would have more time to catch up with administrative stuff since there are substantially fewer medical appointments. I guess I have made some progress on my backlog, but

Good Shepherd Arts Center is closed during this world-wide health crisis...



not a lot. I have a new job description for the role of leadership, which is to catch whatever is thrown at you. I think everyone experiences a greater degree of anxiety than usual. Some of us are obsessively watching the news while others are obsessively avoiding it.

All in all, we have not experienced much change in the regular rhythm of life at Maria Hall. Nobody here has the virus or the flu or a cold at this time!

### **Dolores Kalina, RGS, Beechwood Community**

Our older Sisters at St. Margaret Hall are remarkable in how they are adjusting to no visitors and canceled activities where outside groups would come to entertain. They know the reason for all of this and so accept the restrictions. They have been creative in connecting with each other.

If a Sister's door is open they will stop by and chat a while or give information from the hallway. Also, they have advocated for Bingo and so now the arrangement is for those who wish to attend sit one at a table to keep a distance. Those of us who

cannot visit them have sent each one a little package of goodies, notes from each of us and some province information. Letters and phone calls take place regularly. Our eldest Sister, Alena Bernert is 92. She keeps us informed of what is happening at St. Margaret Hall.

### **Mary Vogt, Director, Marketing and Fund Development, Vista Maria**

Having our plans and events canceled and disrupted is challenging. It is difficult to start and stop and start again and feel as though we are maintaining our momentum of moving the mission and message of Good Shepherd forward.

At Vista Maria, we help children affected by adverse experiences through many different services and programs. It is our vocation and responsibility to make sure those in our care are well-tended and unburdened.

It is never easy to cancel events, but with the COVID-19 crisis people realize cancellations are out of our hands. As an example, we were

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

## COVID-19, *cont'd from p. 6*

forced to postpone our signature event, "Celebrating Women" from the end of April to the end of September. Our committee and volunteers were supportive and expressed a sense of relief at how quickly we responded to ensure that we were all safe and that we could secure the same venue at another time without financial penalty.

Overall, our Vista Maria team is as resilient as the youth we serve. We all share an understanding that there will be an 'after' this situation and that events will continue someday. We will gather again in large groups to celebrate, someday. It is finding comfort in the shared uncertainty of *when* that allows us to say it's out of our hands and God's Will, be done.

### **AnnMarie Schultz, CEO, CORA Services**

Here's what it feels like for me to run a large ministry in the time of COVID-19. I feel two burdens. The first is the burden of making sure children and their families are supported during these difficult times.

The second wave of challenges came when we were informed that we could no longer provide services until further notice because of the virus. More than 60 percent of CORA's revenues result from billable fees for services rendered.

Both of these situations have seriously challenged us. First, anxiety and fear are high as parents juggle full time employment and homeschooling, while others are laid off and face unemployment.

These environments often create the potential for those with addiction histories to move back towards their negative tendencies to cope with the stress around them. These environments put the children we

serve at risk. The need for our services is greater than ever. And yet because of coronavirus, we have become limited in our ability to provide the "touch" of care and compassion that exists when we are face-to-face with our clients, students, children, and families.

We have had to adapt quickly in order to continue to serve ALL children and families regardless of their access to technology at home. Within a few weeks before closure and into these past two weeks all children and families have been contacted and are being served in some capacity, if they desire to be served.

The second challenge — the indefinite closure of CORA Services — has put us into an emergency crisis. When something like this happens, leaders, along with their entire teams, move into crisis management.

No longer can we focus on operations; now we are required to focus on advocacy at the local and state level — across all funding systems and relevant city and state departments. We have to take fast action.

In our case, CORA had the potential of losing \$90,000 dollars per day if these systems stayed unfunded. There became a fine balance between taking fast action to reduce staff and holding staff to maintain service while advocating — not knowing if funding would ever catch up with service or personnel expenses.

The Board of CORA Services has become engaged in new ways as we attempt to discern how far we can wait before critical, possibly irreversible decisions are made. In the meantime, there is a need to cast

vision for new service delivery and to keep staffs motivated to work when they don't know if they will be laid off soon. Honesty that includes both successes and risks must be communicated and communicated well. Everything is very fast so we hope and pray that along the way we make the best decisions possible.

### **Overcoming the hardships**

The first few days of closures were chaotic and scary. News was coming our way nearly every minute as all systems around us were trying to make sense of the new "new."

We are not out of the water yet, but we have stabilized. Our schools closed on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. It wasn't until 12 days later that I was able to breathe and know that, for now, my staff could continue to serve at full capacity.

By the way, like much of the country, as a working mom, I had the added responsibility of being a homeschool parent.

CORA is overcoming hardships to continue the mission. We have led, in many ways, the creative service delivery ensuring our programs remain. We submitted a continuity plan to the City of Philadelphia.

We are now doing telehealth and education enrichment by video and telephone, including special instruction by video for physical and occupational therapy. We have led the city in developing live online support for after-school classrooms, small groups and youth diversion. We are supporting families with emergency funds and offering care packages that are being delivered by Amazon.

Our peer recovery support systems

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# PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

## COVID-19, *cont'd from p. 7*

remain intact as do all case management supports. Truly this list of supports goes on and on. We are poised right now to increase capacity and will soon be opening our intake lines across the board.

Our next step is to develop a very robust Family Navigator system. The system needs describing, but it has been a goal of CORA for some time and we were hoping to launch it in the next couple of years.

Like any difficult time, out of it can come new innovations that would have never existed if it were not for the challenges. We are looking at this time of COVID-19 as providing that opportunity.

Having said that, as this virus grows and spreads, we are well aware of

our need to support grief. I do not find joy in this crisis even though we will use this time to grow and develop who we are, what we do, and how we do it for all of our community.

Most importantly, I have profound gratitude for being able to rely heavily on a creative, dynamic and highly competent mission driven team to get through this.

### **Madeleine Munday, RGS, Province Leader, Mid-North America**

We are together in prayer for everyone and everything regarding COVID-19. I commend all of the agencies – their CEOs, Boards and staff who are making decisions and taking actions to continue services

wherever and however possible. Be assured of the constant prayers of all the Sisters.

All Province Center employees are home. The majority are able to continue working remotely, along with the leadership team. Zoom meetings have multiplied and we appreciate being able to connect. Thank you for your dedication, service and prayers. It is good to be united with you in mission!

### **COVID-19 Timeline**

For a timeline review of the coronavirus, visit

<https://bit.ly/2WVU4xc>

For daily situation summaries by the Center for Disease Control, visit

<https://bit.ly/2QLgwVK>

## Nuns: lifesavers during 1918 Spanish flu epidemic

Images of the 1918 influenza outbreak: hushed streets, shut doors, bodies piled up in basements and on porches because the morgues had run out of coffins. Businesses and public spaces citywide shuttered, including churches, schools and theaters. In a single day, on October 16, 1918, more than 700 people in Philadelphia die from influenza.

“The nursing forces of the city have been depleted by the war. There was a serious shortage in many of the hospitals before the epidemic broke upon us,” an official cautioned. “Now it is a matter of life and death.”

It was in this tense atmosphere that the archbishop of Philadelphia called on nuns in his diocese to leave their convents and take up posts caring for the sick and dying across the city. Although most of the Sisters had little experience of the outside world and no medical training, 2,000 Sisters answered the archbishop’s call.

By the epidemic’s end, 23 of the Sisters had died from the flu, joining the more than 12,000 Philadelphians who succumbed to it in the six short weeks of the outbreak’s peak.

Read this extraordinary story at <https://nyti.ms/2WHcKke>



## Catholic women religious and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic can be invisible, insidious and deadly, but Catholic women religious and the organizations they created or run are at the forefront of efforts to stop it. Sisters in health care, advocacy and immigration are responding to expanding needs of the coronavirus situation. Read about these efforts at Global Sisters Report. <https://bit.ly/33VIR22>



## NAC NEWS



ZEAL



## Advocacy in times of crisis

By Larry Couch, Director, National Advocacy Center

The mission of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC) continues especially in times of crisis.

### Continuing what is of critical importance

We advocated that the charitable sector needs an immediate infusion of \$60 billion; to raise the cap to \$2,000 for charitable deductions for 2019 through 2021; and clarify that charitable non-profits of all sizes can participate in the emergency Small Business Loan Program.

We continue to advocate for the best use of the federal budget and to work so that funding for immigration enforcement and detention is reduced. We have spoken out against the reduction of refugees allowed into the United States. Immigrants crossing the border, those who have lived in our neighborhoods for years, and those who are being returned to Mexico continue to be at risk. We continue to play a key role in limiting the blows to them.

As of this writing, we are anticipating a negative decision by

the U.S. Supreme Court regarding our DACA sisters and brothers. We have been working closely with our partners in drafting quotes, writing press releases, designing memes so that we are ready to pressure Congress to act.

### Coronavirus response

It has been all-hands-on-deck for the advocacy community as we work to ensure that the people who live on the margins are not forgotten when it comes to the coronavirus. They need protection and health safety.

They need increased benefits as the economy is shut down.

We have called for the vulnerable to be remembered and refugees and asylum seekers to be released and allowed to remain in the United States. We have partnered with the Coalition on Human Needs and a dozen other organizations to draft tweets and design memes for a common toolkit to influence Congress on the COVID-19 rescue packages and ensure that those in need are fully supported.

**CONGRESS MUST GIVE SPECIAL ATTN TO:**

**Refugees**

**Incarcerated Individuals**

**Tribes & Native Communities**

**People Experiencing Homelessness**

**Immigrants & Children in Detention**

**#COVID-19**

**#ProtectAllPeople**



## Labeling fish for Lent

Love fish on Lenten Fridays? Yep. But who caught that fish and hauled it in? It is quite possible that it was someone like Myint Naing, who was tricked into the slave trade at age 18 and worked for years on fishing boats against his will. Naing would be tortured when he tried to escape.

Throughout Lent NAC is working to eliminate labor trafficking in the seafood industry through a postcard campaign initiated by the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAH), of which NAC is a member. As

Catholics and people of good will, we have both the right and responsibility to demand that the seafood we consume is not tainted by slave labor.

The efforts of the campaign are focused on Sysco Corporation, a wholesale company that provides food services, including the sale of seafood to more than 650,000 schools, health care facilities, and restaurants around the world. Many of the schools and hospitals that purchase from Sysco are Catholic organizations.

We are asking Sysco to provide the sourcing information needed for purchasers to select ethically sourced seafood.

Join the campaign with your ministry, house, and friends. Order Labeling for Lent postcards at <https://bit.ly/3dFwTwX> or call NAC at 301-622-6838. See a sample postcard at <https://bit.ly/33XEoMT>

You still have time to get involved in the Lenten campaign. Easter is Sunday, April 12.

*By Kathy Dempsey, NAC*

# JUSTICE PEACE NEWS

## ZEAL

## Celebrate international days

The Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Office invites you to join its efforts in bringing attention to worldwide issues relevant to the congregation. If any of these days resonate with you or your ministry we encourage you to celebrate the day and to share with the rest of the Province.

The preface to *Gaudium et Spes* notes that:

"The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community of people united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit in their pilgrimage towards the Father's kingdom, bearers of a message of salvation for all of humanity. That is why they cherish a feeling of deep solidarity with the human race and its history."

*Gaudium et Spes* (meaning "Joy and Hope"), is the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council. The framers of *Gaudium et Spes* propose that the Church's affirmation of God and life after death do not detract from the dignity of humankind but rather provide the only true answer to the enduring questions of humankind's origin, meaning and end.



**Celebrate International Days**  
Make your calendar now!  
*'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'* John 10:10

February 6th	International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM*	SDG 5
February 20th	Social Justice Day	SDG 1,10
March 8th	International Women's Day *	SDG 5
March 22nd	World Water Day	SDG 1,6
April 22nd	Earth Day *	SDG 13,14,15
June 5th	World Environment Day	SDG 13,14,15
June 12th	World Day Against Child Labour *	SDG 8,7
June 20th	World Refugee Day *	SDG 5, 16
July 30th	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons *	SDG 5,8,16
September 21st	International Peace Day	SDG 16
October 1st-11th	11 Days of Action *	SDG 5
October 11th	International Day of the Girl *	SDG 5
October 16th	World Food Day	SDG 2,12
October 17th	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty *	SDG1,8,10
October 31st	World Cities Day	SDG 11
November 20th	Universal Children's Day *	SDG 2,3,4,5
November 25th	International Day for the Eradication of VAW*	SDG 5
Nov 25th- Dec. 10th	16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence *	SDG 5
December 1st	World AIDS Day	SDG 3,5
December 10th	Human Rights Day *	SDG 16
December 18th	International Migrant's Day *	SDG 8

For more information visit  
<https://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>



## Communications webinar for Justice Peace Promoters

A 5-series online course in February and March aimed to help Justice Peace Promoters manage communication for their campaigns and mission for human rights, justice, peace and environmental issues. It offered a general knowledge of digital culture and spirituality of communications and provided a set of tools for Justice Peace issues and campaigns. The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) hosted the course.



## Spiritual moment of shared humanity

Religions for Peace hosted an online Interfaith Moment of Hope & Solidarity on April 1, 2020 at 9:00 EST. Leaders from diverse religious traditions guided global believers in a spiritual moment of shared humanity, calling for health, compassion and strength in the time of COVID-19. Religions for Peace is an international coalition of representatives from the world's religions dedicated to promoting peace. It was founded in 1970.



# MISSION EFFECTIVENESS

## Social media connects Good Shepherds for Mission Effectiveness

By Lizzie Cody, Director, Office of Mission Effectiveness

People are struggling right now. We are in a worldwide situation that we have never been in before. People feel alone and scared. Good Shepherd values and mission were made for times like this. Mary Euphrasia was no stranger to the unknown, to fear, and to the strength that comes when we are together.

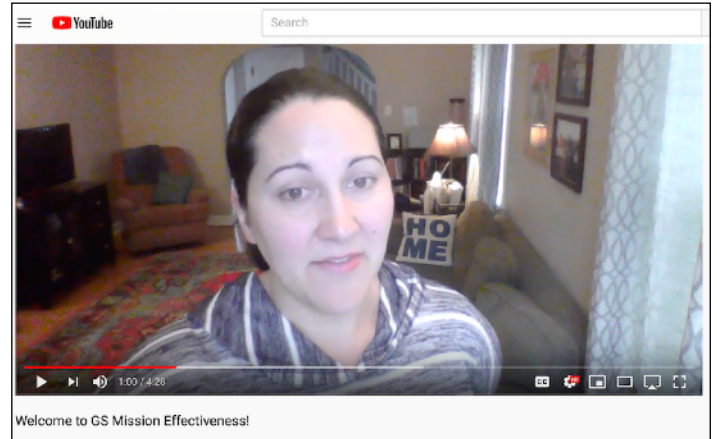
It is with this in mind that I want to let everyone know about a couple of ways Good Shepherds can connect with one another for Mission Effectiveness during this time of COVID-19 social distancing and sheltering in place.

### Mary Euphrasia Reading Club on Facebook

There is a Facebook reading group of St. Mary Euphrasia's Letters. You can join in anytime. The reading club is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We started reading Letters Volume 2 on March 16. There is so much that I like in this set of letters. Mary Euphrasia's description of her friend Madame d'Andigne and the lime trees, and her soul that is "as broad as the sea." We all need those people in our lives, don't we?

The group originally started on May 21, 2018, with Letters Volume 1. Cristella Villasenor from Collier Youth Services and I are the administrators. We currently have 255 members. If people need to catch up, there is a weekly post that is still on the page to bring you through. Volumes 1 and 2 are both posted in pdf. Every week we post 5 letters, along with a reflection and question. We would love for people to comment with their thoughts and responses. The more we engage with each other, the richer and more rewarding the experience will be for each of us.

The idea for the reading club came about a few years ago, when Melinda Stricklen was Director of the Office of Mission Effectiveness. She and I started reading Volume 1 together and shared our thoughts about what we read. I



*Lizzie Cody speaks to us from the Mission Effectiveness YouTube channel.*

thought it would be great if there were a way for others to read the letters together too. Cristella is a former Pilgrim and Gathering participant, and I knew that she had an interest in doing more, so I asked her if she would co-lead the reading club with me, and she said yes!

Sister Virginia Gordon has always said that if you really want to know Mary Euphrasia, read her letters. I have found this to be true. She is funny and thoughtful. She writes to people in different ways, depending on who they are. She is encouraging, and you can hear first hand how important unity and the spread of the mission were to her.

### Mission Effectiveness YouTube channel

I have also started a Mission Effectiveness YouTube channel as another way for Good Shepherds to stay connected in this unprecedented time of COVID-19. We need to think about how our values can help us get through this together. That's what the YouTube channel is about. I will be posting videos twice a week on topics related to our Good Shepherd mission, history, and core values. People can watch the videos and leave comments, questions, thoughts, ideas, and suggestions.

Ongoing mission formation has always been necessary and vital to the growth of Good Shepherd. Like Saint Mary Euphrasia, we sometimes have to get creative about how we do it. You can check out the 4 1/2 minute intro video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/7qbNL9Joxpk>. The reading club is a private Facebook group, so you'll need to ask to join. Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/831736800368890/>



*Writing desk in Mary Euphrasia's Oratory at the Motherhouse in Angers, France.*

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ZEAL

## Loving farewell to Maria Droste Contemplative Community

After nearly 150 years of providing altar bread hosts for many parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and throughout the Midwest region, the Maria Droste Contemplative Community closed its altar bread services on November 30, 2019.

The Sisters stopped baking their own altar bread when they left the Marygrove convent in Florissant, Missouri, in 2015 and moved to the Normandy campus. They continued to distribute hosts for a company until last year. Sister Sharon Rose Authorson managed the ministry.

Father Joe Weber, priest at St. Monica Parish in St. Louis, said, "I got to know Sr. Sharon Rose over the years as she managed the altar bread ministry. She was a joy to work with. If we needed to change the order she happily accommodated us. And she reminded us that the Good Shepherd Contemplative Sisters were always praying for their customers."



Among the robust times at the Maria Droste Contemplative Community were the days when Sisters crafted more than 100 rosaries when the St. Louis Archdiocese asked the Sisters to hand-make rosaries to support its Annual Appeals Luncheon in August of 2015. Benefactors of the Archdiocese received the rosaries as thank you gifts for their generosity in supporting Catholic ministries in the St. Louis Archdiocese.

***"Giving up something we love has to take place, and we have to surrender into the reality of letting go."***

***Sharon Rose Authorson, RGS***

### Giving up what we love

Sister Sharon Rose said, "It is never easy giving up something that we love, something we are passionate about, something that makes us feel energized and gives us the satisfaction of knowing that this thing we are doing fulfills our life's purpose and brings us closer to God.

"But alas, some things are out of our control altogether. Giving up something we love has to take place, and we have to surrender into the reality of letting go," she said.

Sister Sharon Rose continued reflecting and said, "For some of us, our life's work defines us, shapes our attitudes and beliefs, and makes us feel good about ourselves. For me, this has been being God's servant in the altar bread ministry for 56 years."

Sister Sharon Rose began making altar bread hosts when she was a 17-year-old novice. She said she knew from the beginning that this was her calling, her destiny in serving God and His flock.

*Continued on next page*



Contemplative Sister Sharon Rose Authorson managed the Sisters' Altar Bread business for 56 years, first when the Contemplative Sisters lived at Marygrove in Florissant and later, when the community moved to the province's Normandy campus.



## COMMUNITY NEWS



ZEAL

## Droste, Cont'd from p. 12

The Province closed the doors to Maria Droste when altar bread operations ceased and Sisters Sharon Rose and Elizabeth Garciano became the last two remaining Sisters in Community.

Sister Elizabeth left the convent in December 2019 to take a year's sabbatical after having served as Local Leader of the Maria Droste Contemplative Community.

Sister Sharon Rose was the final Sister to leave the convent. She moved to Mason Pointe Care Center in March 2020 and joined Good Shepherd Contemplative and Apostolic Sisters who were missioned there in December 2018 when the Immaculate Heart Convent in Normandy closed.

Before leaving the Maria Droste convent, Sr. Sharon Rose sorted



Sisters Sharon Rose Authorson and Maureen Johnson sort through old memories at Maria Droste convent.

SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - PROVINCE OF MID-NORTH AMERICA JANUARY 2018

## PROVINCE NEWS

Reflecting on being a pilgrimage site for the Holy Year of Mercy  
By Elizabeth Garciano, RGS

The Archbishop of St. Louis invited its six contemplative communities to "open wide our doors" as pilgrimage sites during the Year of Mercy. It is a great and gift to open our doors to pilgrims for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It calls us to deepen our welcoming and hospitality to receive with open hearts all those who want to come and pray with us. The Most Reverend Bishop Edward M. Rice, Auxiliary Bishop for the St. Louis Archdiocese, called the Maria Droste Contemplative Community and asked if we would like to have him to celebrate Mass with us during the Advent season. As Local Leader for the community, I said, "yes," with eagerness and enthusiasm. This was a great opportunity for us, as we had just ended the Year of Consecrated Life and had begun the Triduum from December 20 - 22 in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. We ended the Triduum with Bishop Rice's Resurrection Mass and subsequent blessing of the convent. Our heart and soul sang "O, how lovely is your dwelling place..." living in the house of God.

The sacred encounter humbled us and made us more greatly realize God's overflowing grace and gifts. It is a privilege to be of service to others in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The opportunity allows us to be more visible and known throughout the Diocese of St. Louis. Our



Top photo: Bishop Edward M. Rice conducted Mass in the chapel of the Maria Droste Contemplative Community before blessing the community's home and other bread distribution center (bottom photo).

presence is an affirmation of our missionary life. We live near Ferguson and in the midst of racial tensions in St. Louis. May our lives be a living witness and healing of God's mercy and reconciliation.

Continued on next page

ITEMS OF INTEREST 4 WWW.SISTERSOFTHEGOODSHEPHERD.COM

through and boxed up items to donate to parishes and other nonprofits in St. Louis. Sister Maureen Johnson came from the Contemplative Community in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, to help with the packing and to lend moral support to Sister Sharon Rose during the emotional change. The Contemplative Sisters had lived in the Maria Droste convent for five

SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - PROVINCE OF MID-NORTH AMERICA NOVEMBER 2018

## COMMUNITY LIFE

## Glorious day of overflowing grace

The September issue of *Items of Interest* reported on pilgrims from Farmington, Missouri, who made a pilgrimage to the Maria Droste Contemplative Community for the year of Mercy. This story tells what happened next.

The year-long Jubilee of Mercy closed on November 20, 2018. One of the central components of the Jubilee has been that Holy Doors throughout the world have been opened so that anyone who entered could experience the love of God. Each diocese had the opportunity to open a Door of Mercy. The St. Louis Archdiocese declared the Maria Droste Contemplative Community one of its Holy Doors of Mercy in St. Louis. During the Jubilee of Mercy the Community welcomed more than 100 pilgrims through its Holy Doors.

Among the pilgrims were more than 50 parishioners and priests from the St. Joseph Church in Farmington, Missouri. The experience for the Farmington pilgrims was so profound that they wanted to show their gratitude by doing something special for the Maria Droste Community. So they invited the Sisters to visit them in the Holy Doors of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, St. Louis. Monday accepted the Sisters' invitation to join them on the pilgrimage.

"Our goal was to spoil the Sisters. The highlight of the day for us was seeing the joy on their faces," said Fr. Robert Vukobrat, parish priest.

A special day

The pilgrimage included Morning Prayer at St. Joseph Church in Farmington, where Sisters received gifts and blessings of song from the parish children. The journey



Sr. Elizabeth Garciano blessed one of the young parishioners who presented gifts to the Sisters on behalf of St. Joseph Church.



Sisters and parishioners traveled by bus to each of the pilgrim sites.

Continued on next page

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years. Before coming to Normandy, both Apostolic and Contemplative Sisters lived at Marygrove in Florissant, Missouri. They moved there on August 15, 1969. Marygrove was sold to Catholic Charities in 1983. The Contemplative Sisters were allowed to live there until 2015. You can read more about the Maria Droste Contemplative Community in back issues of [Items of Interest](#).

SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - PROVINCE OF MID-NORTH AMERICA JANUARY 2018

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Home Sweet Home**  
Sisters of the St. Louis Contemplative Community move into their new home.  
Page 4

**The Good Fruit**  
St. Louis Contemplative Community reflects on what it means to embrace a consecrated life.  
Page 7

**Rest in Peace**  
100 years of Sister Frances' (Graceland and Frances) life.  
Page 10

**Saved Earth**  
Pope Francis declares that creation is not a property to own but a gift from God.  
Page 13

**SAVING BABIES THROUGH CROCHET**  
By Joanne McDermott

The St. Louis Contemplative Sisters have joined a crochet club with the purpose of handknitting blankets to use babies from abortion. The Sisters say that giving baby blankets to pregnant women who are considering abortion lets them know that someone cares about them. This simple gesture helps the women feel less alone and has been the catalyst for changing some women's minds about ending their baby's life.

See next page

**GSS names new CEO**  
Michelle Wynn became the new Chief Executive Officer of Good Shepherd Services (GSS) following her tenure with GSS in 2017 as the Performance Improvement Director. She was promoted to Vice President in October 2018 and then, Executive Vice President in July 2019. She agreed to serve as Acting President and CEO on January 6, 2019. She became CEO on December 1.

1 Sr. Agnes Tarnowski, Elizabeth Garciano, Michelle Wynn and Joanne McDermott

ITEMS OF INTEREST 1 WWW.SISTERSOFTHEGOODSHEPHERD.COM

Find stories written about the Maria Droste Contemplative Community on the Province website at <https://sistersofthegoodshepherd.com/>

SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - PROVINCE OF MID-NORTH AMERICA SEPTEMBER 2018

## COMMUNITY LIFE

## Pilgrims widened the doors of Sisters' hearts

By Joanne McDermott, Province Communications Coordinator

The six Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Maria Droste Convent welcomed 50 pilgrims to their chapel on August 9, 2018. The pilgrims traveled more than 50 miles from their parish in Farmington, Missouri, to pray with the Sisters in response to the Holy Year of Mercy. The Year of Mercy began on December 8, 2016, with the opening of the Holy Door at the Basilica of Peter in Rome. The Jubilee Year will close on November 20, 2018. The experience of pilgrimage is a tangible sign of the choice of an individual to journey toward Christ through prayer and Gospel Action. In the Jubilee Year of Mercy the faithful are invited to make great pilgrimages to see or more local churches, religious houses or other pilgrim sites throughout the world.

Archbishop Robert Carlson designated particular sites in St. Louis as Holy Doors. The Contemplative Community at Maria Droste Convent was one of six Contemplative convents named as a pilgrim site.

**Preparation to the Holy Door**  
The Sisters greeted the pilgrims when they had arrived and escorted them into the chapel so they would feel welcomed and at home. Before walking through the Holy Door, the pilgrims wrote their names and proper intentions in the booklets the Sisters kept in the chapel. Purpose was stated and consent as they took their seats.

**Call to prayer**  
The parish and parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Farmington accepted the invitation to pray Office of the Readings with the Sisters. They sang the opening hymn with a CD, then the Sisters recited their Psalms. At requested with the Gloria after each Psalm. The Sisters invited one of the pilgrims to proclaim the Gospel Reading. In St. Louis, the Sisters read Pope Francis' call of the Jubilee of the Father and the Holy Year of Mercy. A short silence followed. The pilgrimage concluded with the reading of the Our Father and Pope Francis' prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Rev. Father Robert Vukobrat, Pastor of St. Joseph Church, walked the Sisters after prayer and expressed the pilgrims' gratitude for the hospitality and welcoming heart of the Sisters. He asked the Sisters if they would inquire about their own pilgrimages. This led to a conversation between the Sisters and pilgrims.

Continued on next page



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL

## Sisters on cutting edge of COVID-19 social movement

Sisters in the Danville Community are sewing protective masks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are making the masks voluntarily, as a free gift from them to the people of the area.

Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SSCM, responded to a call from Geisinger Hospital asking for masks. She and other Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius immediately set to the task at hand and are now sewing

masks to meet the hospital's needs. Good Shepherd Sisters Elizabeth Garciano, Stella Mangona, and Patricia Marie Barnette are helping out. The Sisters are making the masks according to hospital qualifications, using an approved pattern. The Pennsylvania State (Mental) Hospital has also requested masks made by the Sisters.

### CDC guidance

Guidance on protective masks from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) remains under development. According to a news report in the Washington Post on March 30, new CDC guidance would make clear that the general public should not use medical masks that are in desperately short supply and needed by healthcare workers. Instead, the CDC recommendation under consideration calls for using do-it-yourself cloth coverings — like



*Sister Patricia Marie Barnette, RGS, models her latest COVID-19 creation.*



*Sister Denise Marie Fallat, SSCM, prepares to sew masks for protection against the coronavirus.*

the ones Sisters are making — to help flatten the curve of coronavirus.

The current review by officials in the U.S. government has sparked a grassroots pro-mask movement to lower the rate of transmission of COVID-19. Sisters are on the cutting edge of the movement.

## Sister Olga starts something new for Sisters in San Francisco

My pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish had told me that priests in the Archdiocese of San Francisco get invited to dine free at a local Filipino restaurant twice a year: on Easter Monday and on the Feast of St. John Vianney (Patron Saint of the Priest) on August 9th. The owner of Hapag Pilipino Restaurant, Willy Carandang, invites them.

Willy catered a Filipino public gathering that I attended not long

ago. I met Willy and asked him why he doesn't do for the women religious what he does for the priests. Right away Willy asked me when is the day to celebrate the Sisters? I told him that February 2nd would be a good day because it's the World Day for Consecrated Life.

And so, this past February 3rd, on Monday when the restaurant is closed to the public, Willy opened his restaurant for women religious.

There were 11 Congregations represented with 26 Sisters present. Willy also invited 24 friends, lay staff and Parish volunteers.

This was the first time that Sisters in the Archdiocese of San Francisco gathered together in fellowship. The Sisters were grateful that I organized it, and Willy said he will do this for women religious in the Archdiocese every year.

*Submitted by Olga Cristobal, RGS*



# MINISTRY NEWS



## ZEAL



## CORA Services turns into Seussville for a day

CORA Services transformed its building in Philadelphia into the wonderful world of Dr. Seuss on March 7, 2020 in honor of the birthday of the famed and beloved children's author. The event occurred before COVID-19 lockdowns.

Participants of CORA SEUSSVILLE 2020 enjoyed a number of activities. Among them were games with prizes, photos with characters, and light snacks. Children also had a good time during interactive storytelling with characters from the Dr. Seuss books, including Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, and Grinch. CORA held the SEUSSVILLE 2020 event to promote reading among children and their parents. Approximately 300 people attended the event at the CORA Services building.

CORA currently operates two Early Years programs located in Fox Chase and at LaSalle University in Philadelphia. At each facility, CORA provides an enriching preschool curriculum for children ages 2 ½ to 5 years of age. Children in the program enhance their early learning through reading, hands-on-experiences, social interaction, arts and crafts, recreation and purposeful play.

You can find more information about CORA Services at <https://www.coraservices.org>

See more photos at SEUSSVILLE 2020 on CORA's Facebook page at <https://www.coraservices.org/seussville-2020/>



Meet the dynamic charism team at Vista Maria. These dedicated staff members volunteer their time to make their Good Shepherd peers feel special and appreciated all year long. Think of them as the spirit club and cheerleading squad at the Vista Maria ministry in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Learn more about Vista Maria and its mission to provide healing and hope to hundreds of women and children who have suffered the effects of abuse, neglect and trauma. <https://www.vistamaria.org>

# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

## GSS Atlanta celebrates 25th anniversary and beginnings of a new year

Good Shepherd Services (GSS) Atlanta celebrated Tet in February, to mark the arrival of spring. Tet Nguyen Dan, or Tet for short, is considered the biggest and most popular festival of the year in Vietnam. It is celebrated on the first day of the first month in the Lunar Calendar.

During Tet, Vietnamese visit their relatives and temples, forgetting the troubles of the past year and hoping for a better upcoming year. Good Shepherd Services Atlanta provides outreach services to refugees and immigrants who are in need from Vietnam and other ethnic Asian backgrounds, making Tet an important event on GSS Atlanta's calendar each year.

### Celebrating 25 years in Atlanta

The photo above shows Sister Christine Truong, Executive Director of GSS Atlanta with her long time friend Tina Nguyen. The photo was taken at a fundraising dinner honoring 25 years of Good Shepherd services in Atlanta.

Before dinner, Mass was held at Holy Cross Church, the parish where Good Shepherd Sisters belonged for several years. It is also the church where Sister Christine started the Vietnamese Catholic community and served as one of its founders for six years. The Vietnamese community is now a large parish with a huge new church that was inaugurated last summer.

More than 150 guests attended the special Mass at Holy Cross. More than 500 well wishers attended the celebration dinner honoring Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Sr. Christine for what she has accomplished with Good Shepherd Services and the Asian community in Atlanta.

Others who attended the dinner and Mass from the Province of Mid-North America were Sisters Madeleine Munday, Brigid Lawlor and Pauline Bilbrough, each of whom has played a part in the successes of GSS Atlanta over the past 25 years.

Learn more about GSS Atlanta at <https://www.goodshepherdatl.org>



*Sister Christine Truong (right) and her longtime friend Tina Nguyen at a 25th anniversary fundraising dinner for Sr. Christine and GSS Atlanta.*

## Announcements and News Tidbits

Vista Maria's annual fundraising event Celebrating Women has a NEW DATE! Mark your calendars for September 24.

Each year Maryhurst pays tribute to the Good Shepherd Sisters in Cincinnati on Valentine's Day for the common bond they hold and love they share for one another. Read about this year's Valentine's celebration at <https://bit.ly/2xq7hU1>

Maryhurst has moved its signature fundraising event Journey of Hope Luncheon to October 2, 2020.

Stay tuned in subsequent issues of Items of Interest to learn how DeNeuille Learning Center is changing its corporate image with a new name, symbol, and overall rebranding design.

The Office of Consecrated Life Archdiocese of St. Louis featured Sisters of the Good Shepherd on its website on February 13, as part of its efforts to inspire others by the actions of men and women living a consecrated life. <https://bit.ly/2QYi6nw>



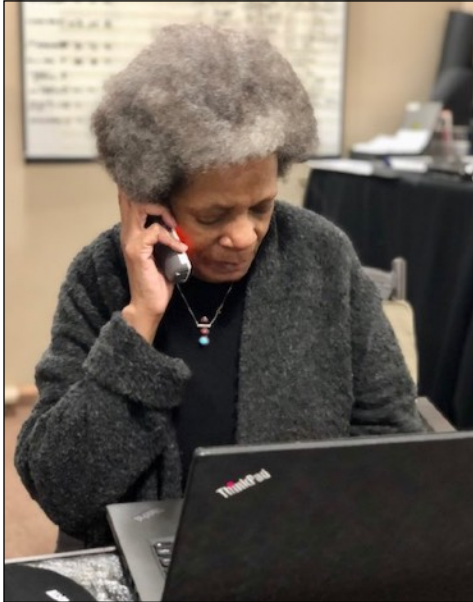
## MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Good Shepherd Arts Center heads in exciting direction



*Pat Johnson spends much of her time at Good Shepherd Arts Center planning programming with artists, schools, and community groups.*

Meet Pat Johnson, Program Director at Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC). Pat's fondness for community education forms the basis for her vision to take arts at GSAC in a new and exciting direction.

Pat knows the importance of community. She was born and raised in St. Louis, where neighborhoods matter. St. Louis City is made up of 79 neighborhoods, each having a unique character and style. Each of St. Louis County's 88 municipalities has its own distinct personality as well.

### Natural born artist

"I always knew that I wanted to do something in the arts that mattered to communities," she said.

Pat began drawing at age 10 when she started making paper dolls and designing costumes for them. Time

***"We want to open things up so Good Shepherd Arts Center becomes a vibrant community space."***

*~ Pat Johnson*

passed and her love for the arts grew. She went on to earn degrees in Fine Arts, Art History and Fine Arts Administration.

She studied art in the Netherlands for a while and was awestruck by the original paintings she saw in museums. She flourished in the art world and had a satisfying career.

Now retired, Pat found her way to Good Shepherd Arts Center through a friend who asked her to curate and install a fundraiser there as a volunteer. Pat thought this sounded like a good idea and decided to stay on at the center.

### Welcomed and happy

"I was immediately welcomed by Sisters Glynis and Mary Catherine. These two ladies made me feel like family when I visited the center, so I stayed to help. I'm very happy here," she said.

Pat volunteers three days a week at GSAC. She focuses exclusively on arts programming, including writing grants to receive funding to support her vision. Her primary goal is to help build events for the exhibit calendar that contain educational components for youth. This includes an Artist-in-Residence program for young artists.

"My focus has always been connecting artists with communities. Working with young artists is something I feel particularly good about having done in my career," Pat said.

Pat has a strong vision for what she is developing at GSAC and is calling on artist friends to help her actualize the vision. For example, her friend Karon Hatchett has written school-based plays that Pat believes would be good for St. Louis youth to experience. She wants to bring Karon to Good Shepherd Arts Center to do outreach with schools.

Her friend Alex recycles plastic bags and uses them to replicate stained glass windows. She would like to work with Alex and young artists at GSAC to create a permanent piece of public art in his unique style. The project would contain an educational piece on the environment.

Pat's friend Diane Kahlo (cousin of the famed Frida Kahlo) is an arts activist. Diane is currently creating

*Continued on next page*



*Pink crosses dot the city of Juarez, Mexico, to mark the deaths of hundreds of women and girls who have been violently murdered near the U.S. border since 1993.*

# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Arts Center, *Cont'd from p. 12*

art around the phenomenon of female homicides involving hundreds, if not thousands, of women and girls who have been murdered violently in Juarez, Mexico, since 1993.

Pat is trying to find a way to get Diane to GSAC for a public education project around justice and women. She is also working on a project to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, which occurred on August 9, 2014.

Pat further envisions bringing to GSAC a traveling exhibit of a musical instrument played by musicians in community spaces to promote peace.

She said, "The piece is a sculpture as well as a working instrument made from bullets that actually killed people.

"This work of art can show people what can come out of violence. It can be healing to take something meant to do harm and reconstruct it around art."

Pat believes GSAC is a welcoming, intimate arts space - perfect for community arts.

"I am working toward building programming that includes spoken word artists, performance artists, craft artists – artists and communities of art lovers from every faith, socio-economic and human background. We want to open things up so Good Shepherd Arts Center becomes a vibrant community space," Pat said.

*By Jeanette McDermott*

## Who are my neighbors?

The March exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center "Who Are My Neighbors" featured the artwork of high school and college youth who broke down barriers and explored what divides us and what unites us as neighbors. Sister Glynis McManamon addressed guests on opening night. Contemplative Sisters who were in St. Louis for a Congregational Assembly planning meeting made a visit to the Arts Center to view the exhibit.



*l-r: Sisters Maureen Johnson, Janice Rushman, and Cristina Rodriguez De La Cruz view the exhibit.*



## Volunteers paint Arts Center

Sister Glynis McManamon, Director of the Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) in Ferguson, Missouri, is recruiting volunteers to help with installation and space design for future gallery projects.

She said the center was blessed with a crew of high energy students and a staff person from University of Missouri St. Louis on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday on January 20.

The group arrived with paint, brushes, rollers, roller pans, drop cloths and other tools to paint the Arts Center.

"In three hours they had repainted all of the gallery area. The space was ready to exhibit "The Work of Our Hands," a display of artwork by students from the Federation of Catholic Schools," Sr. Glynis said.

The success of the volunteer effort has spurred Sr. Glynis toward wanting to work with additional young people who are interested in volunteer work in the arts. Please pass on the information to any interested college student who might like to work at the Arts Center. Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume to Sarah Myers at [info@goodshepherdarts.org](mailto:info@goodshepherdarts.org)



# MINISTRY NEWS



## ZEAL



## Then and now

The pre-COVID-19 era in February (photo on right) had Good Shepherd Sisters celebrating Mardi Gras with Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania.

Today, in the era of COVID-19 (top), the Sisters are adhering to social distancing and gathering with fewer than 10 people while staying six feet apart. See the story on pages 3-8 of this issue for a report on how the coronavirus has impacted Good Shepherd ministries, programs, Mission Partners and Sisters.



## Mail Call

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented Good Shepherd ministries with many new obstacles and challenges. Dedicated teams are working to provide the comfort, assurance and care needed in this uncertain time. Our ministries are striving to find ways to keep young people in our care safely connected and supported.

While volunteering at Vista Maria is on hold because of coronavirus, the young residents there are loving exchanging letters with their mentors and volunteer Pen Pals. If you would like to be a Pen Pal, please contact [jmarcetti@vistamaria.org](mailto:jmarcetti@vistamaria.org).

## Items of Interest

### Remaining publication deadlines for 2020

- May 20 (May-June issue)
- July 21 (July-August issue)
- September 21 (September-October issue)
- November 18 (November-December issue) Please keep your story length to 500 words or less.

#### Note

- Please supply captions for all photographs that you submit.
- In your stories and captions, please be sure to answer the 5Ws (who, what, when, where, why).
- Send your contributions for *Items of Interest* by deadline to [jmcdermott@gspmna.org](mailto:jmcdermott@gspmna.org)

## MINISTRY NEWS

ZEAL

## International Women's Day at the United Nations

Winifred Doherty, RGS, keeps a blog about actions at the United Nations (UN) and her role as the UN representative for Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.

International Women's Day, held annually on March 8, gave her plenty to blog about, most notably the event that the UN held at its headquarters in New York City to commemorate the day. Women rallied under the banner "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights."

You can watch a webcast of the event on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/cP1ivzHc2L8>

In speaking of the event, Sister Winifred said, "It was a joy for me to hear Alexandria Villaseñor, a 14 year old climate activist, speak from inside the United Nations. She sat for 65 Fridays outside the UN. She is the Greta Thunberg of New York!"

### UN publications and Good Shepherd position papers

As a part of International Women's Day, UN Women launched the book [\*Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing\*](#).

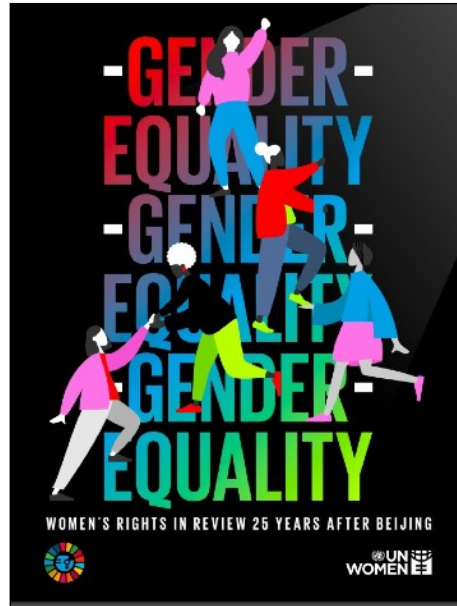
It marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action. It also marks the first time that progress on the implementation of the Platform is reviewed in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On March 4, UNICEF launched the publication [\*A New Era for Girls: Taking stock of 25 years of progress\*](#).

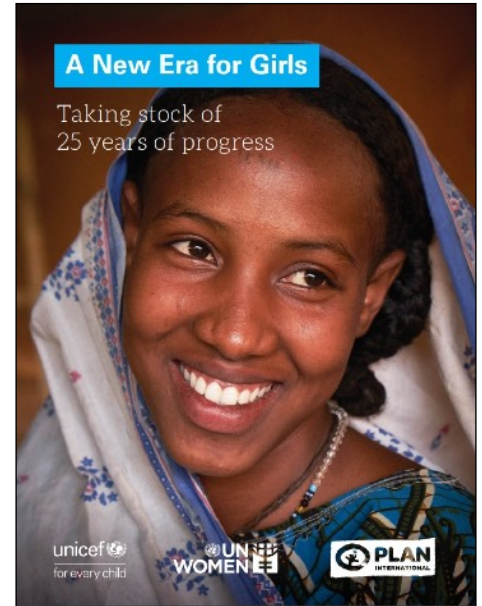
Another publication, [\*Tackling Social Norms: A game changer for gender inequalities\*](#), questions pervasive bias and prejudice against women that both men and women



Sister Winifred and colleagues wait for the International Women's Day event to begin at the United Nations in New York City in March.



hold worldwide. All of these publications are directly and explicitly related to the Congregation's position papers and ministries, according to Sr. Winifred. She said, "Explore them



with the position papers in one hand and your strategic plan in the other."

To find links to the publications and to gain a better understanding of the issues addressed in them, visit "Winifred's Blog" at <https://gsijpoffice.com>.



# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

## Gratitude expressed

### From Good Shepherd Shelter, Los Angeles

At Good Shepherd Shelter, we are moving forward with the goal of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd of treating the whole person and restoring dignity, self-worth and 'permission to dream' of a peaceful and productive future.

Daily, the staff exhibits great enthusiasm, expertise and hope because of the legacy you and others have established here.

On behalf of everyone at Good Shepherd Shelter, we continue to say thank you! Thank you for your vision and commitment to helping others. Thank you for your volunteer advice and expertise. Thank you most of all for your commitment to the never-ending effort to truly BREAK the cycle of domestic violence in the families we serve.

Thank you also for being a shining light, a beacon of hope, a partner in our mission. We strive to create a nurturing and therapeutic milieu, instilling the message that each mother and child has value, ability to heal, and tremendous potential.

For these things, we are so very grateful for you and your family, and we say thank you for establishing your legacy at Good Shepherd Shelter.

### From Maryhurst, Louisville

In what has become a Valentine's Day tradition, Maryhurst held its annual staff appreciation lunch in February. Each year, Good Shepherd Sisters provide resources for Maryhurst staff to gather, visit, and share how they have adapted

and carried on Good Shepherd values since Maryhurst's separation from the ownership of Sisters of the Good Shepherd several decades ago. During speeches at the luncheon, Mission Partners said:

"Thank you to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for remembering Maryhurst staff and encouraging us and valuing our work."

"In addition to maintaining a legacy connection to Maryhurst's services for children and families, the Sisters continue their work to build partnerships that promote the dignity and human rights of all, especially women and children. They work for the transformation of unjust systems, the flourishing of humanity and integrity of all creation, in 73 countries around the world. Thanks for all the good work you do, Sisters!"

This year, the Maryhurst Mission Partners made a micro video on Youtube to express their appreciation for the Sisters. <https://bit.ly/2UMy9py>

Sisters Elise Kramer, Dorothy Doyle, Gayle Lwanga Crumbley and Chris Hock attended the luncheon.

### From Congregational Leadership Team, Rome

Our planet is in a moment of darkness as we hear each day how many more have died or are now infected. We can turn to Mary and many others who have gone before us and have lived the dark night of the soul.

This pandemic is our dark night and people like John of the Cross can lead us to a deeper understanding of our Trinitarian life calling us to live communion.

The Congregational Leadership Team knows the limitations of ourselves and of the Congregation. We also know that God has no limitations. God is with us on this journey, and the energy of the God who is Love will enable us to continue our mission. We are blessed with our partners in mission.

Mary Euphrasia told her Sisters that the commitment to the mission "is not a passing moment of exaltation which dissipates and leaves nothing. No, it is a love filled with tenderness, dedication, and sacrifice. My soul is filled with delight and consolation at the thought of the good that is being done through our weak efforts sustained by the grace of God."

If Mary Euphrasia were here today, she would be filled with joy at the collaboration and great zeal of our partners and Sisters who are working in the midst of this crisis.

We should remember that Mary not only gave birth to Jesus, but she witnessed him suffer and die. She saw him again after Easter Sunday with the promise to all of his followers: *"I will not leave you orphans."*

So, let us rejoice and be people of hope and courage shining this Presence in this dark moment that is enabling us to "become a new people for a new planet." (Teilhard de Chardin)

I have gratitude to all of you for your commitment to community building and to living the mission.

*Excerpted from Sister Ellen Kelly's video message on Youtube <https://bit.ly/2UrNo8f>*

## GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



## Coronavirus contributes to decreased air pollution

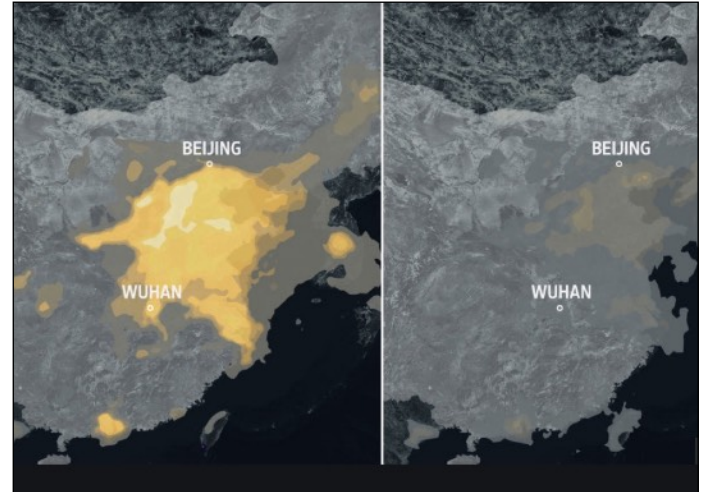
China's efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 in the days immediately following the coronavirus outbreak had an unintended effect. It led to less air pollution after the government imposed travel bans, quarantines and factory shut downs. Levels of nitrogen dioxide, a pollutant primarily from burning fossil fuels, were down as much as 30 percent just weeks after the outbreak, according to NASA.

Data from Italy, which was hit hard several weeks after the outbreak in China, suggested a similar pattern. New data now confirms vast improvement in air quality over Europe and parts of the United States as well.

### Death toll from pollution

The lockdown may save more lives from pollution reduction than are threatened by the virus itself, said François Gemenne, director of the Hugo Observatory, which studies the interactions between environmental changes, human migration, and politics. The World Health Organization estimates the global death toll from air pollution to be 4.6 million.

Health experts caution against viewing these numbers as a cost-benefit calculation around pandemics. However, some climate scientists hope that they will help shed a light on the massive environmental impact of our everyday habits and economic activities, potentially leading to some positive change after the crisis subsides.



*Air pollution in the Wuhan region of China before Coronavirus (left) and six weeks after the outbreak.*

The process of challenging assumptions and fundamentally altering behavior — illustrated by remote work — is something climate action advocates can seize upon once the worst of this health crisis is over. Minds may open for structural change. And that could have lasting impact.

*Compiled from various authoritative news sources.*



## Climate strikes go online

April 22, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Before the coronavirus pandemic, youth had announced a three-day Climate Strike launching in Washington, DC, on Earth Day. COVID-19 has changed those plans and has prompted climate activists to abandon public demonstrations - one of their most powerful tools for raising public awareness. Instead, activists will shift to online protests.

Organizers of the Fridays for Future climate protests are advising people to stay off the streets and to post photos and messages on social media in a wave of digital strikes.

"We are people who listen to the scientists and it would be hypocritical of us to not treat this as a crisis," said Saoi O'Connor, a 17-year-old Fridays for Future organizer from Cork, Ireland.

You can follow information and actions of Fridays for Future and Global Climate Strike at <https://globalclimateshrike.net>



## GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

## Worship resource for Earth Day

Each year, Creation Justice Ministries (CJM) offers Christian education materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation. CJM has released a worship resource for Earth Sunday April 19. The theme is *The Fierce Urgency of Now*. It features stories of congregations taking climate action, liturgical resources, and faith-rooted interpretation of recently released dire Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports. Creation Justice Ministries and Interfaith Power and Light are hosting the following events this month:

- April 17-26 Faith Climate Action Week
- April 19 Earth Day Sunday 2020
- April 22 National Climate Prayer

You can download the worship resource at <https://bit.ly/2R3oiKM>



Follow Creation Justice Ministries on Facebook to better understand their mission and to keep up with their calendar of events. <https://www.facebook.com/CreationJustice/>

## Save the earth, plant a tree on Arbor Day

Health experts are advising people to take breaks outdoors to freshen our lungs and slip away from the stress in these turbulent times of coronavirus. Even with shelter-at-home orders in place for COVID-19, we can still get outside to plant a tree on Arbor Day, so long as we maintain social distancing.

Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates throughout the year based on best tree planting times in their area. To find out when your state observes Arbor Day, check out the map at <https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/dates.cfm>.

The Arbor Day website also shows when people across the globe celebrate trees. <https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/world-dates.cfm>.

You can learn about the history of Arbor Day at <https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/history.cfm>

### A poem about trees

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree  
A tree whose hungry mouth is  
pressed  
Against the earth's sweet flowing  
breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.*

Joyce Kilmer



J. Sterling Morton first proposed in 1872 a national tree planting holiday to be named Arbor Day. It was proclaimed on April 10, 1874. Morton said, "Each generation takes the earth as trustees."

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

## Joan Tubbs, RGS

August 13, 1924 – February 17, 2020

Claudia Marie was the first of ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Tubbs in Portland, Oregon.

The family operated a dairy farm and all the children learned early about accepting responsibility and sharing in the joys and challenges of farm life.

Sister enjoyed working indoors with her mother on household and cooking duties and, until her brothers were old enough, the girls worked with their father tending and milking the cows and in planting and harvesting.

The family always had good food enough even through the difficult financial times of the depression and knew the value of team-work and cooperation.

The Tubbs family was a family of faith, and they counted on God to be with them in hard times. Sister developed a deep spiritual side and chose to enter the religious life as a Sister of the Good Shepherd and began her novitiate on February 8, 1953 with the loving support of her family.

Several years later her younger brother, Leo, entered the seminary and became a Dominican priest. Father Leo, her last remaining sibling, was able to attend Sister's funeral having recently moved from Oregon to Missouri. Most of Sister's family live on the west coast and were with us in spirit and prayer.

Prior to entering Good Shepherd, Sister Joan was employed as a Nurse Attendant in a 16 bed Accident Ward at St. Vincents



*Sister Joan Tubbs*

Hospital, a Clerk-Typist at the Portland Ice & Cold Storage Co., and at the L. A. Drapery and Braid Co. in the Product Billing and Payments department.

Sister Joan was fully professed on September 8, 1955. Since her entrance, she had been missioned to Los Angeles, Arizona, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Tennessee as a Bookkeeper/Accountant, Computer Data Processor, Librarian, Child Care Worker, Receptionist, Assistant in a Battered-Women's Shelter, Assistant Director of a Residence for Adolescents, and a support person in several programs.

Sister Joan had many interests. She especially loved music and the joy of being in the choir of the College Church when the Jesuits were writing the liturgical music hymns for the St. Louis Jesuits album.

She also followed women's competitive sports and was herself a jogger and runner. She could be heard jogging very early in the mornings as long as she was physically able. She was a member of the National Jogging Association and achieved a merit badge and entrance into the 250 Mile Club.

As her health failed, Sister Joan began to slow down. She was missioned to the Immaculate Heart Convent in May of 2016, where she remained quite active until her stroke in 2018.

Sister continued to follow women's sports in the media. She found spiritual enrichment in music, nature and the outdoors. She was a quiet and prayerful presence in community and is very much missed.

*Submitted by Pauline Bilbrough, RGS*



### A prayer amid a pandemic

<https://bit.ly/2UUaeUX>



## VOCATIONS



ZEAL



## An Endless Call

A new study shows that women and men who are entering religious life in the United States continue to become more diverse racially and culturally. They want to live in intercultural and intergenerational settings; they desire prayer; and they are committed to living simply and in solidarity with the economically poor. They express abundant hope.

The study surveyed 3,500 sisters, nuns, brothers, and priests who entered religious life since 2003. It reveals that young women and men continue to enter religious life at a steady rate. Approximately 200 per year make final vows.

### NRVC study released

On March 25, 2020, the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) released its *2020 Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life*. The study is a follow-up to the NRVC's landmark 2009 study, which examined new members from 1994 to 2009. The 2020 study captures trends and new data about those who have entered religious life from 2003-2018.

Nearly identical to the 2009 study, new members are drawn to religious life by a desire for prayer, spiritual growth, and deeper relationship with God. They also describe feeling a "sense of call" and a desire to be of service and part of a community. Personal private prayer, daily Eucharist, scriptural/spiritual reading, and other daily prayer practices and devotions are rated important by more than 80 percent of newer members.

"It's an endless call," said Sr. Deborah Borneman, a member of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and director of mission integration for the National Religious Vocation Conference.

### Good message of hope

"Significant numbers of women and men are still entering religious life today. That seems like an obvious message, but it's still a good message of hope," Sr. Deborah said.

New members acknowledge the challenges of the changing demographics within their institutes; yet they remain optimistic. As one new member put it, "These are exciting times to be a religious! My greatest hope is that we respond to the needs of God's people by thinking outside the box of what has been to what could be."

Another stated, "I hope we continue to invite others to join us and dream of new ways to minister to the poor and marginalized."



Beyond the spirituality of their religious institute, the most significant draw for new members to a particular institute are charism (spirit), mission, prayer life, community life, and the example of members.

### Sparked by an invitation

The majority of recent entrants were invited by someone—a parish priest, member of a religious community, a teacher, a friend—to consider religious life and discern a vocation. Among respondents of diverse ethnicities, the founder, ministries, cultural diversity, and sense of welcome of the institute are very important.

"Though fully aware of the challenges they face, new entrants are hopeful because they recognize their own role in creating a future," said Sister Deborah

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University conducted the study. The goal was to find what attracts and sustains membership in religious life, outline the challenges and opportunities for vocation ministers, and to identify the trends and best practices in promoting vocations. You can read the study in full at <https://bit.ly/2UKr5K2>

The 2020 study was made possible by a grant from the GHR Foundation. For more than 50 years, the legacy of Opus Group founders Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhurst (GHR) has steered transformational philanthropy.

The Opus Prize, part of the Opus Group, is an annual faith-based humanitarian award. It recognizes leaders and organizations that develop creative solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems.

Good Shepherd Sister Catherine Mutindi won the \$1 million Opus Prize last year for the program she began in the Kolwezi cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2012.

You can read about Sister Catherine and the Opus Prize that she received on the PMNA website at <https://sistersofthegoodshepherd.com/opus-prize/>

## ACROSS BORDERS

ZEAL

## Four candidates enter newly formed Inter-Province Novitiate

Sisters of the Good Shepherd marked a milestone in its history when four candidates for the Inter-Province Novitiate entered into the Congregation. Congregational Leader Sister Ellen Kelly received the candidates in Rome on February 22, 2020. Forty Good Shepherd Sisters witnessed the occasion.

The novitiate is in the House of Saint John Eudes near the Generalate in Rome. The building formerly belonged to the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity and served as a ministry for women and their babies.

In recent years several Congregations in Rome established an Inter-Province Novitiate Program in English. This made it possible for the four Good Shepherd candidates to slip into an established program.

Sisters and Mission Partners from the United Kingdom, United States, Philippine Islands, and Malta served as English teachers from March through the end of October 2019. Sister Florence Soe, who was in the Finance Department at the Generalate, is the Novice Directress.

### Inter-Province Novitiate established

The Good Shepherd Congregation established its Inter-Province Novitiate on November 3, 2019. Four Sisters who make up the Formation Community will sustain the novitiate. The community includes Sisters Florence Soe (East Asia Province), Frances Lynch (Irish Province), Annunciata Gatt (Italy-Malta Province), and Marcelina Nascimento (Angola-Mozambique Sector).

Sisters Brigid Lawlor and Angela Fahy guided a week-long retreat to prepare the Formation Community for its mission. Father Tim Norton,



*Four new Candidates have begun their blessed and special time of formation: the Novitiate. From left: Lana Lama, Delphine Pafadnam, Lucie Sebgo, and Ana Pepaj*

SVD, guided the Sisters through a three-day intercultural formation. Sister Pauline Darby, HSJ, facilitated a program with them on building meaningful relationships.

### You fill me with joy in your presence

Upon entering the novitiate, the candidates received a copy of the Good Shepherd Constitutions, Conferences of St. Mary Euphrasia, Lectionary of St. John Eudes, and the symbol of the Congregation.

Sisters who witnessed the ceremony felt as though Saints John Eudes and Mary Euphrasia smiled with great satisfaction to see new daughters joining the novitiate. It hearkened

the words of Psalm 16: "You have made known to me the path of life, you fill me with joy in your presence."

The new Good Shepherd novices are Ana Pepaj from Albania; Delphine Pafadnam and Lucie Sebgo, both from Burkina Faso; and Lana Lama from Jordan.

Four other candidates are currently learning basic English-language skills, with the goal of entering the Inter-Province Novitiate Program at a later time.

*Story condensed from the Congregational newsletter*  
<https://bit.ly/3d4TuCP>



## ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

## Remembering Oscar Romero

On March 24, 1980, in El Salvador, Archbishop Oscar Romero was murdered while celebrating Mass. Recognizing him as “a martyr for the faith,” Pope Francis canonized him in 2018.

When Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, his country was broken. Many people in El Salvador were living in poverty, while an elite group manipulated all political and economic power. Death squads ensured things stayed that way.

### Death squads and dictatorship

Just three weeks after becoming Archbishop, Romero’s good friend, Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, was murdered by one of those death squads. Another five priests would be assassinated in the Archdiocese of San Salvador during the three years Romero was pastor.

When a military junta seized power in 1979, Archbishop Romero began broadcasting weekly sermons over the radio. He openly criticized the regime and those supporting it. He denounced cases of abduction, torture and mass murder.

That is when he became known as “The voice of those without voice.”

### Civil War

In 1980, social tensions erupted into a civil war which lasted 12 years and left more than 75,000 people dead. Archbishop Romero set up pastoral programs to assist the victims of oppression. At the same time, he became even more outspoken, condemning human rights violations, and defending the preferential option for the poor.



*Born in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador, on August 15, 1917, Oscar Romero entered a minor seminary at the age of 13. During his years of priestly ministry, young Romero served the poor and the suffering of his country.*

Archbishop Romero appealed desperately to the Salvadoran military to stop killing their own people. “No soldier is obliged to obey an order that goes against the law of God,” he said. “I beseech you. I beg you. I command you! In the name of God: ‘Cease the repression!’”

It was his last radio broadcast.

### The assassination

At 6.30 p.m. on Monday March 24, 1980, the Archbishop of San Salvador was celebrating Mass in

the chapel of the Divine Providence hospital. A car pulled up outside, and a single gunman fired a single shot from the doorway straight into Oscar Romero’s heart.

Moments earlier, the Archbishop had been speaking about how “Those who surrender to the service of the poor through love of Christ, will live like the grain of wheat that dies...”

### Canonization

Recognized as “a martyr for the faith,” he was beatified on May 23, 2015, in San Salvador.

On October 14, 2018, in St Peter’s Square, Pope Francis proclaimed Oscar Arnulfo Romero a saint. For the occasion, the Pope chose to wear the same blood-stained belt that Romero was wearing at the altar when he died.

*“Aspire not to have more, but to be more.” – Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero*

*By Seàn-Patrick Lovett, Vatican News <https://bit.ly/2UffBiw>*



*Pope Francis (L) leads the canonization Mass of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero.*

## LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place
Sr. Dolores Kalina	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place
Sr. Maureen Kunz	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place
Sr. Madeleine Munday	No travel	No travel - COVID-19 sheltering in place

## Holy Week

Pope Francis will celebrate Holy Week ceremonies without the public present because of COVID-19. The decision marks an unprecedented move in modern times. The pontiff will celebrate all of the Holy Week liturgies in St. Peter's Basilica without participation of the lay faithful.

The Vatican Media will broadcast the celebrations by television and social media at scheduled times, so that people across the globe may be able to follow them.

<https://bit.ly/2xEUBc2>

On March 27, Pope Francis stood before a deserted St. Peter's Square to deliver an extraordinary *Urbi et orbi* blessing for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope," he said.

Watch a short one-minute video summary of the Pope's Special *Urbi et orbi* blessing for a world suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://bit.ly/3ax6dN7>

You can read the full text of the Pope's blessing at <https://bit.ly/3bJ24px>





## PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



*"Have a little patience and you will see this storm blow over."*

Saint John Eudes  
Letter to Renee de Taillefer  
April 1644

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**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

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