

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

Companions

Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd report on their status and prepare for their gathering.

Page 7

LA Shelter

Director of NAC Larry Couch reports on his visit to the Good Shepherd Shelter in LA.

Page 9

Catholic Sister Week

National Catholic Sisters Week includes the message, "We have faith in you, St. Louis."

Page 12

Accepting an invitation

Sr. Mary Catherine Massei shares her vocation story with 6th graders at St. Ann.

Page 13



Sr. Brigid Lawlor's first day of teaching English in Ecuador while on sabbatical.

SABBATICAL MUSINGS

By Brigid Lawlor, RGS

I am filled with gratitude to Sr. Madeleine Munday and all of the members of our Province Leadership Team for offering me a year-long sabbatical following my years in Congregational Leadership. My sabbatical took on two focuses:

Continued on next page



Green Corner

What comes to mind when you hear the word investments? For many people, investments mean healthy returns. We at Good Shepherd certainly hope our province investments have a good return so that we can continue supporting the many ministries that we feel called to help. At this point you might be wondering why a story

Continued on p. 14

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Sabbatical *Cont'd from p. 1*

The first inspiration came from our 2015 Congregational Chapter mandate to:

1. rediscover the richness of our founding story in the lives of St. John Eudes and St. Mary Euphrasia and express it in contemporary language, and
2. recognize our inter-connectedness with the whole of creation which obliges us to "protect our common home." (*Laudato Si*)

I participated in workshops, read books and went to Springbank Retreat Center in South Carolina for a three month program as a means of addressing the first focus. This is an on-going pursuit that I'll write more about it in another article some day.

Reconnecting with direct service ministry

For now, I'll share my second focus, which was to reconnect with direct service ministry after many years in administration. I sought this out to more fully enhance the dimensions of the first focus.

I began my sabbatical with rest in Ocean City, New Jersey. The first

week there I learned that St. Frances Cabrini Parish needed volunteers to teach English as a Second Language. I signed up!

From January to March I became a teacher, a profession to which I never really felt called. I was surprised to learn how many Spanish speaking people live in Ocean City. Most of them live in crowded apartments with many family members and friends.

English in Ocean City, NJ

The program ran on Mondays, with morning and evening sessions. I volunteered for both. The majority of the students were from Mexico. The women were mostly domestic workers; the men worked in construction or in the fields. While not scheduled that way, the women came to the morning classes. Some of the volunteers provided day care so the moms could participate. Men came to evening classes. Most of them were in their 20s or early 30s.

Many of the students were undocumented. Having done immigration work over the years, I understood the concerns of the students and occasionally provided legal assistance. This was not part of the original plan, but it came in handy! Because of their immigration status, I didn't take any pictures of the students to share with you. I'm sure you understand.

One Monday,

actually it was President's birthday weekend, none of the students showed up for the morning session. The week before they had thought it would be a great day for class because their older children would be home from school and could take care of the little ones at home instead of bringing them out in the cold.

The students called us to say why they weren't coming. Here, news had reached them that the "feds" were coming to the area to look for "illegal" immigrants to deport. However, by the next week they were all back in class.

We used a teaching method called Side-by-Side. A student with less knowledge is paired with a tutor or student with more knowledge. They work together side-by-side.

One of our challenges was that many of the students had dropped out of school and/or were illiterate. They weren't able to do grammar in their first language, let alone comprehend it in English. Conversation and pictures saved the day!

None of the other instructors or tutors knew Spanish so I became an immediate asset. When blank stares crossed faces, I was able to briefly explain the lesson in Spanish so they could continue well with the class. I spent a very enjoyable three months working with the Ocean City class.

There is a Spanish Mass at the Parish on Sundays so I would often attend the liturgy. Here I'd see my students and meet more of their relatives. This was an opportunity for me to improve my Spanish!

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Ocean City, New Jersey

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Sabbatical *Cont'd from p. 2*

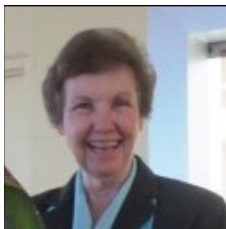
Mentored in Wickatunk

Two trips to Wickatunk, New Jersey, enhanced my teaching, where Sisters Carol Bearsto and Virginia Daniels mentored me. Sister Carol gave me her resources and reports from the years when she taught



English in various countries in Latin America and Spain. This was meaningful to me, as it allowed me to follow in her footsteps. I had made a promise to the Provincials in Spain and Ecuador that I would come and teach English in those countries once I completed my time in leadership.

Sister Virginia Daniels teaches English as a Second Language through a local neighborhood program,



which Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Mercy Sisters sponsor. Sr. Virginia uses the same method that I used in Ocean City. She gave me a lot of tips for practical approaches to teaching, such as how to evaluate the level of a student. She also had copies of the more advanced levels which I didn't have, along with some other helpful tools.

I'm grateful to both of these Sisters. Their input increased my confidence and gave me an opportunity to reconnect with my New York Province friends in Wickatunk, New Jersey.

English in Spain

I headed to Spain for six weeks in April 2016, where I had a small number of students — five at basic level and one at advanced level. I think we did as much laughing as studying!

The basic class was delightful. Two of the Sisters had previously studied but didn't have experience with speaking. For those with no experience, the Side-by-Side method was perfect. We met in the mornings and afternoons three days a week. Only English could be spoken at the noon meal. There was a lot of silence and sign language in the beginning.

Laudato Si served as the text for my advanced student Sr. Carmina Fernando. She would read a section and then we would pause to practice pronunciation and to clarify vocabulary. We used reflection questions to practice conversation after each section. It was informative for both of us.

Teaching wasn't all work; weekends were free. When I wasn't teaching, we were out visiting museums and palaces. We even had an evening of flamenco dancing. We also took a day trip to Toledo. I made Powerpoint presentations about my trips, which I'm happy to share.

There were also several celebrations, a jubilee and the Feast of St. Mary Euphrasia. Associates joined in both celebrations. I had met the associates on my previous visits to Spain, so we had a nice reunion. My students sang the *Our Father* in English and also wanted credit for singing the Alleluia! They were very proud of their accomplishment. We had a

delightful "graduation" ceremony at the end of the course.

Sr. Carmina and I took a one-day trip to Avila and Segovia. The spirits of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross were very evident. Sr. Armelle Dehennault, who was also on sabbatical, came to Madrid towards the end of my six weeks there.



Basic class in Spain.

Spanish in the USA

Knowing that I would be heading to Ecuador where I would have a lot more students, I applied for a scholarship to the Rassias Program at Dartmouth University in New Hampshire. For about the past 12 years I had been receiving their brochure and always wished I could schedule in their program. Finally, sabbatical let it happen!

I wrote an essay on Good Shepherd's internationality in order to get a scholarship to help with the funding. This program is intensive. It is ten full days of speaking Spanish from morning to evening, including meals, where professors joined us. There are no books. The process includes mostly fast moving drills. Classes were 55 minutes long with a five minute break. There

Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Sabbatical *Cont'd from p. 3*

were eight classes a day. Cultural events in the evenings were also in Spanish. Needless to say, my Spanish improved and I learned another teaching method, which I used with the Side-by-Side program when I got to Ecuador.

English in Ecuador

I was in Ecuador from the last week of July to the first week of September. The classes took place at our Euphrasia College. I lived at the Provincialate which is in walking distance from the school. I had 40 students! Mission Partners, Sisters and Laity studied together.

There were several young mission partners in the group called Friends of St. Mary Euphrasia. These are young women and men who give one year after high school to work in our programs before going on to university. Some were also in vocation discernment. Ages of students ranged from 18 to 82. There were both apostolic and contemplative Sisters in the classes.

Because of the large number of students, I had to do an assessment and divide them up. There were two basic classes, one intermediate class and one advanced class. One thing that both the basic and intermediate classes had in common was mixing up the words kitchen and chicken. I



Contemplative novices formators.

responded appropriately to whichever word they used. A good laugh for all!

There were four Sisters in the advanced class. For this group I used another document by Pope Francis, *The Face of Mercy*. It was a lovely way to celebrate the Year of Mercy, and it became a tool for very deep sharing as well as learning.

The advanced group liked to “play” on Friday afternoons. I had *Godspell* with me so we watched it in English with Spanish subtitles.



We played a game called “banana.” It is a little like Scrabble and is good for learning how to spell. I learned the game from the college students at Dartmouth. It was the “in” thing to do in the cafeteria.

I was invited to various communities on weekends by both the contemplative and apostolic novitiates for Latin America, which are located in Ecuador. My students were in these communities. They were proud to show me their communities and ministries. I also enjoyed a visit with Sr. Gema Cadena, former Congregational Leader. I celebrated Ecuador’s Independence Day with the Provincialate community.

We had a pause from class on the Feast of St. John Eudes for a Eucharistic Celebration followed by a fiesta! A Eudist friend of the community said the Mass. Another



Students Sr. Brigid taught while on sabbatical.

celebration was the missioning of two Sisters: one to the Philippines and the other to Chiapas, Mexico. I also attended a ceremony of an entrance into the contemplative

Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Sabbatical *Cont'd from p. 4*



Sr. Carmina Fernando reading an English version of *Laudato Si* as a student in Spain.

novitiate. Oh, and then there were the earthquakes! The first one shook things up around midnight. All of a sudden my bed was rocking and I realized what was happening. After it stopped, the Sisters came to my room to see if I was okay. They seemed more “shaken” than I was. I had experienced earthquakes in other countries.

Since we had electricity I suggested that we have a cup of tea and watch the news. One of our convent chapels was being reported on when we turned on the television. The bell tower was hanging off the building and the walls were cracked. Fortunately, everyone was okay. One of my students lived in that

community. The second earthquake happened in the middle of the day shortly after lunch and wasn't as strong as the first one.

We completed the course with a big graduation ceremony that was followed by a pizza party.

Conclusion

It was a joy to be with our Sisters and Mission Partners in this capacity. I witnessed our founding story in them. Their zeal and love for mission was evident in our conversations and as I witnessed them fitting English into their busy lives. Using *Laudato Si* and *The Face of Mercy* were tools for the interconnectedness we have with one another and all of creation.

Because I am not a teacher, I know that I “over” prepared but I think it paid off. I learned a lot from my students. I watched them struggle to learn. I also learned that to teach, you have to be an actor. The classes were fun and we laughed a lot, but occasionally there were a few tears and frustrating moments for the very serious students. They motivated me to continue my own study of Spanish.

Needless to say, I was enriched and blessed by the opportunity to be with these inspiring English



**Top: Celebrating the Feast of St. John Eudes with students in Ecuador
Bottom: Sr. Gema Cadena (left), former Congregational Leader, with Sr. Brigid Lawlor.**

students in Ocean City, Spain and Ecuador. Gracias y adios!



Segovia, Spain



Avila, Spain



Toledo, Spain

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



CORA Services builds on Sr. Charity's mission

CORA Services recently announced its new scholarship opportunity for students who participate in the CORA Peer Helper Program. CORA counselors run the program at six local grade schools. Each year, starting this May, CORA will award an 8th grade student \$1,000 to support them as they move on to pursue secondary education. Applicants must demonstrate that they have served as leaders and contributed positively to their schools by acting as mentors to younger children and empowering them to be better students.

Supporting families through care and compassion

Last month, on February 2, CORA opened its doors and welcomed more than 100 concerned community members to a listening session addressing the opioid crisis in Philadelphia. On April 22, CORA will host its 5th Annual Family Festival where families enjoy outdoor activities and learn about local resources that can benefit them.

Since its founding, CORA has built on Sr. Charity Kohl's mission of supporting families through care and compassion.

"We continue to use her vision as a guiding factor when hiring staff at every level, implementing programs and making organizational decisions. We look to her legacy to empower our team in organization-wide strategic planning," said Executive Director AnnMarie Schultz.



CORA Services is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Announcements & News Tidbits

Sr. Brigid Lawlor has settled into her new location. Here is her contact information:

Brigid Lawlor, RGS
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
504 Hexton Hill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA
301-384-1169 (Community)
404-457-8584 (cell)
mab.lawlor@gmail.com

The email address in the Province Directory for Sr Louise Nazaryk is incorrect. Please change it to the following:
srmlnararyk@gmail.com.

Sr. Lakshmie Napagoda has changed her cell phone number to (865) 724-6652.

The LA Shelter's 2016 year-end fundraising campaign had an original goal of \$10,000. The Shelter more than doubled this goal and raised in excess of \$22,000. "What a great way to end the first month of 2017," Executive Director Mark Rothman said.

MINISTRY NEWS

ZEAL

Update on Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd

By Joan Clancy

We held our last Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd (CJGS) biennial meeting in St Louis in 2015. At that time we tasked a committee with updating our Constitutions, which were formulated over a decade ago. We rolled out our resulting document at a series of regional meetings last July.

Meetings and member vows

Veronica Brantz facilitated the Southern Region gathering. Candidate MaryBeth Reiling Metz graciously hosted the event at her lovely home in New Orleans. The weekend of prayer, study and discussion included a Holy Door Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a Redemptorist priest who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in the Solemn Jubilee Year 2000.

The Northern Region met in Cincinnati under the guidance of Donna Sauer and assisted by Bernie Bates. With minor tweaking, all accepted the revised Constitution, Way of Life, and passed it on to the Sisters, who also enthusiastically approved!

Since our last gathering we have welcomed a number of candidates, including seven in the Philippines who, ably shepherded by Encarna Tumanguil, made vows in September. The Archbishop is pleased to have Companions in his Archdiocese and plans to hold our next vow ceremony in his palace.

People we serve

An unforeseen bonus of our discernment process was renewed awareness of the variety of ministries in which Companions quietly serve. These include active outreach to the



Seven new Companions in Tuguegarao City, Philippines, take their first vows as Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd and celebrate the occasion with Msgr Bassig.



homeless, personal presence to persons where we have found them: beaches, bars, shelters, in prison, in classroom, in the workplace.

CJGS are actively involved in ProLife Services, volunteer in Hospice and home visitor networks and offer bereavement support. Companions have accompanied the dying, the

Continued on next page



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Companions *Cont'd from p. 7*

depressed, the disenfranchised and long-term seriously ill persons. We provide weekly contact in person or through Skype and phone calls to homebound elderly and nursing home residents.

You'll find Companions driving disabled folks to church, stores or medical appointments on a regular basis. One CJGS instituted a home-based Bible Study group and offered retreats at a woman's prison.

In true Good Shepherd fashion, some of us have focused our outreach on abused women and children. Others lean toward ministering to families in crisis, conflict mediation and intergenerational support. A number of Companions are engaged at the parish level in evangelization efforts or serving as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, in Charismatic Renewal programs, Music Ministry and as Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound. Other ministries in which we serve are the catechesis of children, prayer ministry and church decoration by an artist among us.

We actively support the lobbying efforts of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center and United Nations efforts through prayer, signing petitions and assisting with Good Shepherd Sharing Fairs. One Companion serves as facilitator for the Diocese for Pastoral Planning.



Some South Region Companions out to sample New Orleans cuisine.

The Spirit has been busy flinging blessings on our group and our vowed lifestyle, and we remain ever grateful.

Companions Jesus the Good Shepherd will gather in St. Louis for their biennial meeting from August 3-5, 2017.

Corporal Works of Mercy seen through the eyes of children

Good Shepherd Gallery will host an opening reception for its latest art exhibition "Corporal Works of Mercy" on Sunday, March 5, from 1-3 p.m. The show features children's artistic interpretations of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Three schools are participating in the exhibit: Incarnate Word School, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Cletus. The schools are in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The show runs through March 31, 2017.



Sr. Glynis McManamon (right) and 7th grade teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe Jessie Joiner hang the art show Corporal Works of Mercy at Good Shepherd Gallery.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

A Haven for Victims of Domestic Abuse

By Larry Couch, Director, Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center

If you ever visit Los Angeles, you may want to include in your plans a visit to the Good Shepherd Shelter. With Mark Rothman as the Executive Director, the shelter provides a refuge for women who are victims of domestic abuse and for their children.

Recently I spent a day touring the facility and meeting with staff members. I sat in on a session where the women discussed best ways to coordinate their use of the laundry appliances.

With so many unrelated families sharing common facilities, conflict is almost inevitable. However, in a community spirit, the women shared with each other their concerns and frustrations. They eventually agreed on a course of action that would require little or no staff involvement.

Bright young voices

Mark invited me to view the playground. The beautiful California sunlight bathed the enclosed play area. The slides, swings and other play equipment created for the children an idyllic place to run and play with their classmates. Before long, bright young voices were shouting, "Good morning, Mr. Larry!"

Entranced by the warm California sunlight and the happy voices, I was half-inclined to call my wife in Maryland and say we were moving west!

Afterwards I entered a classroom where a young man, Eric, was teaching some children fourth grade math. No memorizing formulas here! Eric patiently explained the underlying mathematical concepts. As the children listened attentively, I thought about what the children

experienced as witnesses to domestic abuse. How great it was that they now had the opportunity to interact with a strong, caring young man.

Calm serenity

Mark showed me one of the apartments that was temporarily vacant. What a relief it must be for the women and children as they are able to settle into a pleasant and stable environment. The entire apartment spoke of a calm serenity.

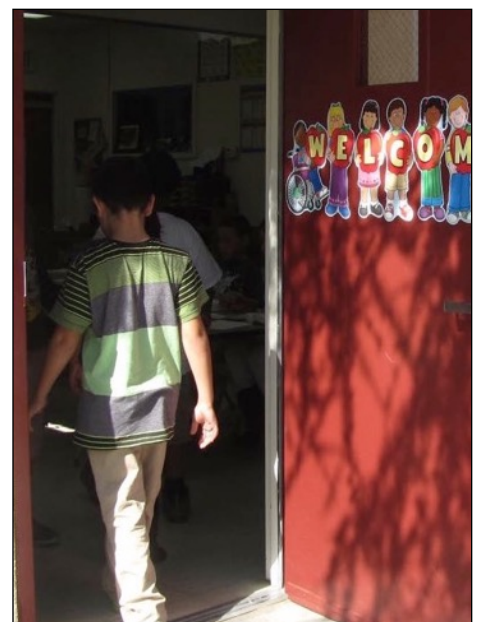
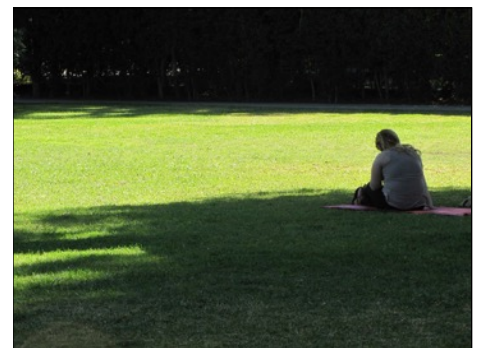
A high point of the visit was meeting with two Good Shepherd Volunteers: Allison (Allie) Reynolds and Kassandra (Kassy) Villareal. They are both about mid-way through their year of service. Both have enjoyed the variety of experiences that their volunteer work has provided. Kassy, a native speaker of both English and Spanish, works with the mothers in the Learning Center. Allie teaches the 3rd graders.

At the end of the day, I spoke with Mark about the sadness that the children must feel when they have to leave this protected environment for the "real" world that may include a lot of insecurity.

Holy ground

Mark mentioned that they do remind the children that their stay is temporary. Also, they see their classmates come and go. More importantly, the staff offers psychological counseling and skill training for the mothers to ensure they have a greater chance of providing adequately for their families.

In leaving, I keep in prayerful memory the mothers and their children as they seek to rebuild their lives. I know I had walked on holy ground.



COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL

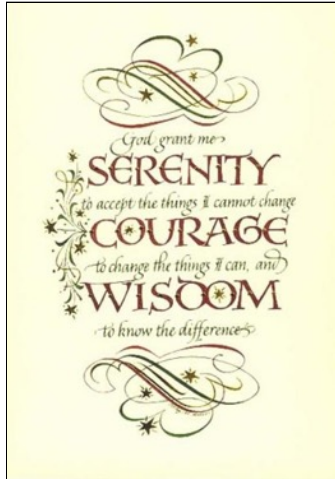
Spirituality, our daily lifeline

By Marilyn Atwell, RGS

Spirituality is, for many people, the backbone and foundation of both maturity and health. Those of us who are working a Recovery/12-Step Program form a unique group of people who look toward spirituality as their basic path to growth.

There are three rich resources available to me everyday as I commit to living free of addiction to alcohol and over eating. There is the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and Overeaters Anonymous. There is the Sacred Scripture, and there is our Good Shepherd Constitutions. These resources are my lifelines to a happy, healthy and holy life. I share the following as examples:

1. "Most of us sense that real tolerance of people's shortcomings, viewpoints and a respect for their opinions are attitudes which make me more useful to others ... Our very lives, as ex-problem drinkers (and food bingers) depend upon our constant thought of others and how we may help to meet their needs." AA Big Book, pp. 19, 20.
2. "From on high, you reached down and seized me; you drew me forth from the mighty waters and saved me from my powerful foe; from my enemies, whose strength I could not match." (Psalms 18)
3. "We are aware that we are always in need of conversion, in our unceasing return to our compassionate God. We discover, in the depths of our sinfulness, the mercy of God. We are united with all people in our struggle with sin and our need for reconciliation." (Good Shepherd Constitution, paraphrased)



New to Zoom

The three Good Shepherd Contemplative Communities — Boutwell's, Cheltenham and Marie Droste — had their first Zoom conference on Sunday afternoon, February 20, 2017. We all enjoyed putting a face to the name we are always hearing about. We found the experience to be a great opportunity, especially for those Sisters who are unable, or find it difficult, to travel to meetings.

We look forward to using Zoom again soon, especially since the February call was a practice run in learning how to use today's new technology.

Submitted by Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth



For questions about Zoom visit <http://bit.ly/2m3dY7f>

Queen of St. Margaret

Sr. Collette Sauers was dubbed Queen of St. Margaret Hall on Valentine's Day at the Catholic-based senior center in Cincinnati, where several Good Shepherd Sisters reside. Glenmary Priest Fr. Roland "Rollie" Hautz was crowned King of St. Margaret Hall. The royal couple were attended by their court of two women and two men. Each year the residents of St. Margaret Hall look forward to crowning the Valentine's Day king and queen and enjoying the festivities that follow the Coronation. Sr. Collette and Fr. Rollie were thrilled that they were allowed to keep their soft, polar-fleeced capes, tiara and crown.



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Love was in the air at Maryhurst on Valentine's Day

By David Short, Maryhurst

The Province of Mid-North America Sisters of the Good Shepherd sponsored a Valentine luncheon for Maryhurst staff on February 14. More than 100 employees came to the event, which was held in the training room at Maryhurst.

Marsha Esarey, Maryhurst's Vice President of Community-Based Programs, read aloud a letter from Province Leader Sr. Madeleine Munday and the Province of Mid-North America Leadership Team.

What made the day most special for our staff was having four of the Sisters from Cincinnati in attendance. The Sisters drove down to be a part of the celebration. Srs. Connie Thompson, Elise Kramer, Rose Henry Kern, and Renee Scheich made the trip. They brought with them one of the staff members who had worked for the Sisters at Pelletier Hall in northern Kentucky for more than 40 years.



Maryhurst staff and Sisters at St. Margaret Hall had a joyful reunion at the annual Valentine Day luncheon on February 14 at Maryhurst in Louisville, Kentucky.



While Maryhurst has been independently owned and managed for nearly 20 years now, we continue to stay true to the covenant relationship we have with the Sisters. The Core Values are seen throughout the agency in print, behavior and attitude. The Valentine luncheon is one of many ways that the Sisters affirm their continued love of Maryhurst's mission, children and staff each year.

"It is so special to watch the Sisters and our staff connect and draw inspiration from each other," said Maryhurst CEO Judy Lambeth.



Sr. Renee Scheich said, "It is amazing to think about the thousands of lives that have been touched by this place and these staff; lives changed for the better."

VOCATIONS



ZEAL



Moving out a message during National Catholic Sisters Week

National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW) occurs March 8-14 every year as part of National Women's History Month. Created to honor women religious, it is a series of events that instruct, enlighten and bring greater focus to the lives of Catholic Sisters.

Once again, St. Louis Catholic Sisters are reaching out to the people with the message "We have faith in you, St. Louis." The ad campaign ran last year during National Catholic Sisters Week. In a world that's always changing, the Sisters wanted to offer a consistent message: that they love all of God's children, and pray for them every day. This year, in addition to billboards, the Sisters are sharing their message on Metro buses and in Catholic parish bulletins.

The simple message lets the people of St. Louis know that Sisters, whose congregations have been a part of St. Louis for generations, are convinced that area residents are up to the task of being more loving, less violent and better neighbors. They pray for violence and hunger to be eliminated for those in the St. Louis region and beyond. They pray for the poor to be lifted out of poverty, for those who are sick to be healed, and for the stranger to be welcomed among us. No matter who holds local, state or federal offices, the Sisters pray for their wise leadership



Glynis McManamon, RGS, is serving as the 2017 media spokesperson for the NCSW advertising campaign in metropolitan St. Louis.

and that the leaders will advocate for social and environmental causes.

St. Louis continues to make headline news with high rates of crime. Racial issues in St. Louis still garner national attention. Despite this, the Sisters have faith that the citizens of St. Louis will continue to see the good in one another and work for a bright future in a city that has been so abundantly blessed.

NCSW is supported by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The Foundation hopes that as more young women learn about women religious, more will choose to follow their example.

See what's going on for National Catholic Sisters Week at www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org.



Last year's NCSW billboard campaign in St. Louis has been expanded this year to also include Metro bus signs and parish bulletins. Srs. Janice Rushman, LeeAnn Mackeprang and Maureen Johnson viewed one of the billboards in Ferguson during a visit to Shepherding Images and Good Shepherd Gallery last year.

Discernment Retreats

March 4 Discernment retreat for young adults in San Francisco, California

March 8 -11 Discernment retreat for young adults in Baltimore Maryland

May 7 Good Shepherd Sunday/World Day of Vocations

June 29 - July 2 Fiat retreat for young women, Archdiocese of Baltimore/Washington

July 5 - 7 Fiat retreat for young women, Archdiocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

VOCATIONS



ZEAL



An unexpected invitation to share my story

By Mary Catherine Massei, RGS

On weekdays, I usually participate in the 8 a.m. Eucharistic Celebration at St. Ann's Church, our local parish in Normandy. The highlight of my participation each week is the Wednesday celebration, when the students at St. Ann's elementary school attend the morning Mass. I get great joy from going to the school Mass on Wednesday and interacting with the teachers and students.

Sharing my vocation story

Last fall, the 6th grade teacher Mrs. Cheryl Thomas spoke with me after the school Mass. She asked if I would be available to share my vocation story with her 6th graders at some point during the school year. I didn't hesitate to say yes to this unexpected invitation.

In January Mrs. Thomas approached me again to set up a definite time for me to speak with her class. We set a date and decided that my visit would be informal.

On the day of my visit we arranged the desks in a circle and opened the session with a prayer. Then I asked every student to give their name and to share one fact about themselves. Mrs. Thomas and I also shared an aspect of our early lives that led to our adult vocational choices.

I believe deeply that those who truly care about others can have a positive influence on their lives.

In an effort to expand on my vocational experience I told the students that God calling me to become a religious Sister was a bit like a nudge of conscience, although at the same time I had a personal desire to marry and have children.



I told the children how I continued to experience the struggle between a desire for marriage and a personal call to religious life until four years after my graduation from high school when, at the age of 21, still torn between the two possibilities, I decided that I had to "get off the fence" and make a decision.

I gave a few more details of what led me to join Sisters of the Good Shepherd. My final decision to choose Sisters of the Good Shepherd was influenced by how we served girls between the ages of 13 and 18 who were adjudicated "delinquent" by governmental agencies.

I shared with the students how, in addition to wanting to serve young women, I discovered a way to grow more deeply in relationship with God through coming to know His Son Jesus more profoundly.

I really enjoyed the interaction with Cheryl Thomas and the students in the 6th Grade. I believe deeply that those who truly care about others can have a positive influence on their lives. This is especially so in the lives of children.

I believe that seeds can be sown in the early developmental stages as children mature during elementary and high school ages.



GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Investing *Cont'd from p. 1*

about investments would be in the Green Corner. Lets bring them together.

I have learned recently that for many years “value harm” scanning has been a part of the strategy that the Province of Mid-North America (PMNA) uses when investing. In other words, we invest in assets that bring financial returns without violating our values.

The Province has a policy that guides our decisions on where to invest. Our Social Responsibility Investment Guidelines are described in the following way: “... responding to the Gospel challenges of responsible stewardship calls for investment decisions to be made with the consideration of both economic and social justice factors.”

Coalition of investors

PMNA's participation in the Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment (MCRI) enables us to make informed decisions. MCRI is made up of religious communities and meets monthly. The coalition's mission states, “The member organizations of MCRI and its associates accept the challenge to the faith community to address issues of corporate social responsibility by working for justice in and through economic structures and for care of Earth.”

MCRI is in partnership with a number of groups. One such group is the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). This is a very large coalition of investors representing over \$100 billion in investment capital. ICCR membership includes more than 300 organizations. Among them are faith-based institutions, socially



Ameren's coal ash contaminates the groundwater that flows into the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and pollutes the water.

responsible asset management companies and unions. Motivated by faith and values, members use their investments as catalysts to foster greater corporate accountability.

Confronting Ameren

When MCRI members decide to confront a corporation about its irresponsible practices, the coalition works in conjunction with ICCR and other groups that carry political and economic clout. For example, MCRI has been dealing with Ameren Corporation, the supplier of electricity for Missouri. The coalition is concerned about the way Ameren disposes of and stores its coal ash.

Millions of tons of coal ash, a by-product of burning coal for electricity, are being stored in

unlined ponds, landfills and abandoned mines across the U.S. Ameren's toxic coal ash ponds in Missouri are seeping into the groundwater and polluting the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

Holding a sufficient amount of Ameren stock qualifies MCRI to engage Ameren officials in discussing the corporation's disposal practices, as well as coal ash's impact on water pollution. The discussions are followed up with ongoing communications, including MCRI representation at Ameren's annual stockholder meeting, where members of the coalition have opportunities to speak directly to Ameren's Board.

Continued on next page

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Investing *Cont'd from p. 14*

A serious point of contention that MCRI has with Ameren is that Ameren does not line its coal ash ponds and knowingly contributes to contaminating the Missouri and Mississippi rivers with toxic heavy metals. The corporation has taken no steps to dispose of its coal ash in a more responsible way or to clean up existing contamination.

Ameren officials who have taken part in MCRI discussions have agreed to look into MCRI's concerns. Taking a proactive stance, MCRI members who own Ameren stock have sent a shareholder's request to the Ameren Board asking for a report on the company's efforts to reduce environmental and health hazards associated with handling coal ash. MCRI included a number of supportive statements that address water as the world's top societal risk in terms of potential health and economic impact.

Human right to water

The Human Right to Water, formally recognized by the United Nations in 2010, states that it is the responsibility of companies to ensure their operations do not infringe on the rights of individuals to sufficient, safe and physically accessible and affordable water. This human right is further buttressed by the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6, which includes a target for improving water quality by reducing pollution and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials.

A knowledgeable representative from MCRI will attend Ameren's annual stakeholders meeting in April to address these concerns in length.

The interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, the Midwest Capuchins and other stakeholders give evidence that socially responsible investment strategies can be successful.

Call to ethical responsibility

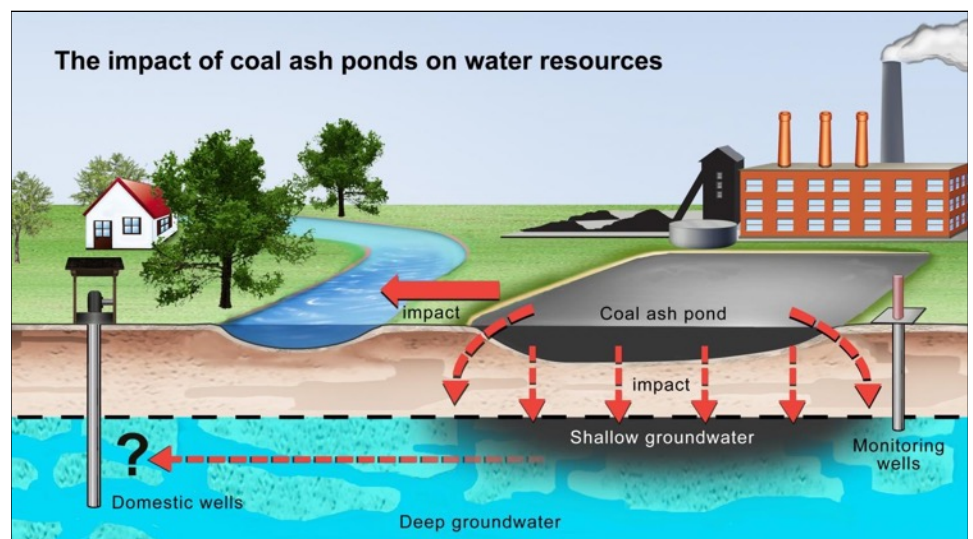
Using financial investment to challenge and call corporations to greater ethical responsibility — particularly with regard to the environment — is a growing means of advocacy. *Laudato Si*, which has become part of the body of social teaching of the Catholic Church, confirms these efforts.

Investment decisions challenge the status quo of many corporations, particularly in areas that Pope Francis calls "Integral Ecology." Integral Ecology begins with the recognition that humanity now faces existential crises on multiple fronts: extreme economic disparity,

increased competition for resources including land and water, a severely degraded natural world, failing nation states, and a climate on the verge of spinning out of control. Integral Ecology realizes that these crises are not independent, but closely intertwined. Aspects of it include social justice, economic inequity and environmental trauma such as climate change, water stewardship and sustainable food production.

I am deeply grateful for the Sisters who serve in leadership and those who help them in their investment decision making. Socially Responsible Investing seeks to consider both financial return and social good to bring about permanent and positive social change. It is a vitally important task that deserves our full support.

Submitted by Sharon O'Grady, RGS



Studies of unlined coal ash ponds have found that they leak long-lasting toxic substances including the heavy metals selenium, boron and arsenic. These toxins consistently contaminate nearby groundwater and surface freshwater systems with long-lasting effects.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Collier Youth Services celebrates 90 years of service

I had the blessing of rejoicing with our Sisters of the New York Province on January 28 when they celebrated the 90th anniversary of Collier Youth Services in Wickatunk, New Jersey.

Collier's history is rich and is always evolving to respond to the needs of the times. The Good Shepherd ministry began as a residential program. Today it serves at-risk youth through educational, residential and recreational programs that address their therapeutic needs and social skills development.

Like our other Good Shepherd ministries, Collier has touched, and continues to touch, the lives of thousands of people. The strong bonds that are formed at Collier are long-lasting and motivate former residents and students to return again and again to express their gratitude for the Sisters and staff. Alumna also return to Collier to stay connected to the Sisters and staff and to support Collier's mission.

I was first introduced to Collier Services by Sr. Carol Beairsto. She calls the ministry "La Tierra de Dios" (The



Sr. Claudia Palacio (PMNA) and Good Shepherd Sisters from the New York/Canada Province attended the 90th anniversary celebration of Collier Youth Services on January 28 in Wickatunk, New Jersey.

Land of God.) I think it's a fitting name for such a place because Collier Youth Services is surrounded by beautiful nature and is a place where God's grace is at work. Congratulations to them on their 90th anniversary!

Submitted by Claudia Palacio, RGS

Pray without ceasing for the victims of human trafficking

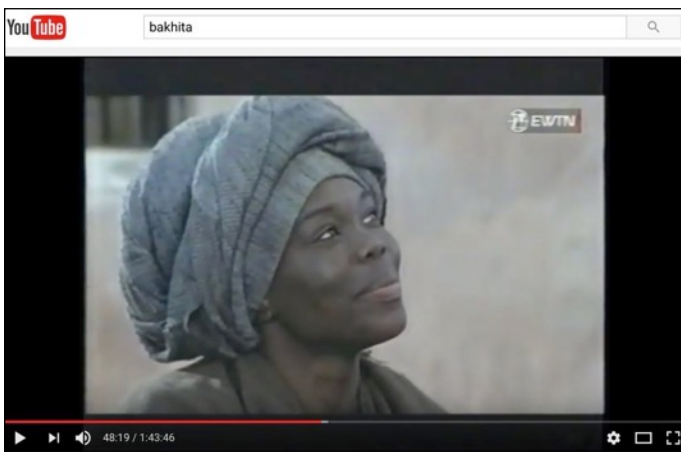
Pope Francis encourages the faithful to pray without ceasing for the millions of people who fall prey to human trafficking each year, especially for children, the most vulnerable. An estimated 5.5 million

children are trafficked around the world for prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, forced marriage, sweatshop work, begging, armed services and migrant farming. Despite progress, the number of trafficking convictions remains low. For traffickers and pimps, this is one of the most lucrative illegal activities in the world. The crime generates a total of 32 billion dollars a year. It is the third most profitable

"business" after drugs and arms trafficking.

Congregations and people of faith prayed for this crime to end on World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Trafficking in Persons on February 8. The event took place on the Feast Day of St. Bakhita who, in her life, experienced the horrors of abduction, torture and slavery. YouTube carries films that document [Bakhita's life](#).

Last October, 51 Good Shepherd participants in almost all the countries of Asia Pacific where Good Shepherd is present met in the Philippines to form a network on Anti Trafficking. You can read about the formation of the network on the [Congregation website](#).



LENTEN SEASON



ZEAL

Opening the doors to all those in need

Lent this year begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1. In his message leading to Easter, Pope Francis invites the faithful to deepen their spiritual life through fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

On Vatican Radio, Lydia O'Kane reports that the Holy Father's Lenten theme is *The Word is a gift*. *Other persons are a gift*. O'Kane states that the Pope takes his cue from the parable of the rich man and Lazarus and offers Lenten advice in the form of three themes:

1. The other person is a gift

Pope Francis says of his first theme, "The other person is a gift," that Lazarus teaches us about the value of people. He goes on to say that Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need, recognizing in them the face of Jesus Christ.

2. Sin blinds us

Drawing inspiration from the second theme, "Sin blinds us," the Pope notes that the rich man's attachment to money results in a sort of blindness; therefore, he does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

Quoting the Gospel the Holy Father points out that you cannot be the slave of both God and of money.

3. The Word is a gift

In his final theme, "The Word is a gift," Pope Francis says that the Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us make a good preparation for the approach of Easter.

The rich man, he continues, recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the after-life. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did.

The Pope explains that the rich man's real problem comes to the fore: at the root of all his ills is the failure to heed God's Word.

Journey of conversion

Concluding his message, Pope Francis prays that the Holy Spirit will lead us on a true journey of conversion so that we can rediscover the gift of God's Word and be purified of the sin that blinds us.

He also encourages the faithful to express spiritual renewal by sharing in the Lenten campaigns that are



In the spirit of shepherding God's love, last year Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez invited women and men living in a homeless shelter to participate in a ritual service of blessing and prayer on Ash Wednesday. Sr. Jean Marie is a case manager/certified addictions treatment counselor at St. Vincent De Paul Society in San Francisco, California.

promoted by churches and organizations in many parts of the world.

You can hear Pope Francis' Lenten message at [Vatican Radio](http://vaticanradio.org).

"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."

~ Pope Francis

Lent 2017 GIVE UP, TAKE UP, LIFT UP!						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
During Lent, take inspiration from the words of St. Paul (2 Cor. 8:2), and contemplate his invitation to live a life of evangelical poverty. Embrace the Lord's call to being the "other person" by "giving up" material things, including food, superfluities to your basic needs; "taking up" charitable habits, directed to helping and caring for others; and "lifting up" those in need through giving alms, through praying for others, and by participating in devotional practices. Fortify your Lenten journey with the words of the church fathers and Pope Francis featured on this calendar, and contemplate the suggestions for <i>prayer</i> , <i>fasting</i> , and <i>almsgiving</i> .			Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins In many parishes today, the Collection for the Church is Central. It is a time to give up something for the poor. Please give generously on today's Mass readings with a <i>collectio</i> guide.	March 2 As Lent begins, consider participating in Catholic Relief Service's "Soup Kitchen" program to help you give, fast, and pray. Download the <i>Give Food</i> app to help you along!	March 3 Learn about <i>Acta Justitia</i> , a method for praying with the Scriptures, and look for links on this calendar to <i>Acta Justitia</i> guides for the Sundays in Lent.	March 4 This weekend, learn about and give to the <i>Collection for the Sick & Indian Mission</i> .
March 5 First Sunday of Lent Deepen your understanding of today's readings with the <i>Acta Justitia</i> guide.	March 6 Pray for the sick who will be baptized at Easter, and learn how catechists prepare them to be received into the Church through the <i>Book of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> .	March 7 Today we remember two early Christian martyrs, St. Perpetua and Felicity, who are always mentioned together because of their close friendship and faith. Read about their story and learn more.	March 8 In honor of St. John of God's first day today, pray for those who are ill and in hospitals. St. John of God was devoted to caring for the sick and needy.	March 9 Remember today St. Francis of Assisi, known for his great charity during epidemics and civil war. In honor of St. Francis, pray for all those who are marginalized.	March 10 The 40 days of Lent are a good time to work on personal discipline, throughout your discipline by giving something up or by doing something new, such as spending more time to pray or volunteering more.	March 11 The day of fasting is extended acceptable to God when it is made perfect by the fruits of charity." (St. John Cassian, Institutes, 5:35)

2017 Lent Calendar <http://bit.ly/1AmYyzZ>

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	Mar 1	Return to St. Louis from Cheltenham
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Mar 7-11	Retreat in Baltimore
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Mar 1-5 Mar 6-9 Mar 10-31	Baltimore Good Shepherd CEO Retreat, Philadelphia Baltimore
Sr. Maureen Kunz	No travel	No travel
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Mar 3-5 Mar 6 Mar 7-9 Mar 14-16	Good Shepherd Shelter Board Retreat, Los Angeles Province Financial Advisory Board Meeting, St. Louis Good Shepherd CEO Retreat, Philadelphia Area Meeting, Cincinnati
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Mar 6-9 Mar 14-16	Good Shepherd CEO Retreat, Philadelphia Spring Area Meeting, Cincinnati

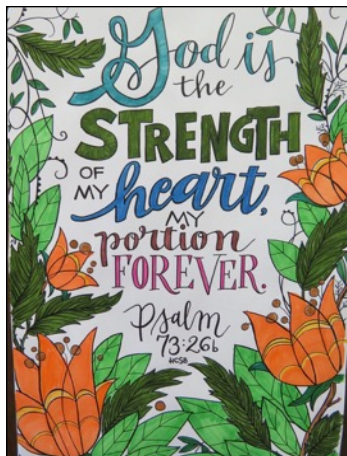
Glories of spring

I am always delighted when I spot public art along a route I'm traveling or on a city street close to home. Artwork catches my eye and causes me to pause for a few breaths to thank the anonymous artist for bringing light into the world. March 20 marks the first day of spring, a time when hope blossoms in tandem with new life and renewed growth. Blessings to you all as we welcome the glories of spring.

Reflection and photo by Jeanette McDermott



PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL


"Example makes much more of an impression than words and often brings about astonishing results."

Saint Mary Euphrasia

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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