

# ITEMS

## OF INTEREST

### God's grace

Guadalupe Padilla finds peace at Good Shepherd Gracenter as she journeys toward recovery.

**Page 5**

### Celebrating service

Parishioners in Omaha honor Sr. Ellen Dolan for her 25 years of service to the parish.

**Page 7**

### Exhibit honors Sisters

A museum exhibit celebrates the impact Catholic Sisters have had in St. Louis for 200 years.

**Page 10**

### Syrian refugee crisis

Good Shepherd Sisters in Lebanon ask for prayers as the Syrian refugee crisis continues.

**Page 13**



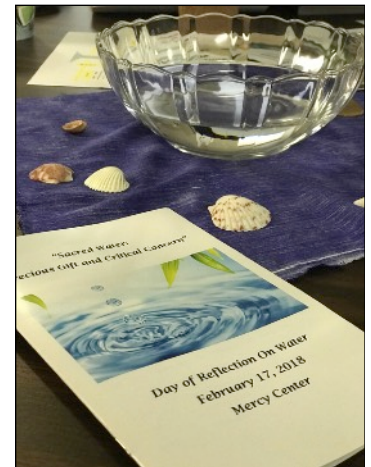
Larry Couch in the streets of Honduras during protests in February

## ACTING IN SOLIDARITY

By Larry Couch, Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center

*I was intrigued when I was invited to join a 50-member International Emergency Faith Delegation to Honduras to act in solidarity with protesters against a fraudulent election. Having visited Honduras three*

*Continued on next page*



### Green Corner

*Sacred Water:*

*Precious Gift & Critical Concern.* Who could say “no” to a day of reflection with such a compelling title? Certainly not members of the Eco Zeal for Mission Core Team in St. Louis. Sisters Elizabeth Garciano, Sharon O’Grady and Silvia Romero attended the workshop on

*Continued on p. 11*

## NAC NEWS



ZEAL

Solidarity, *Cont'd from p. 1*

times previously, I had many positive memories of the place and the people. However, I wasn't sure if going to Honduras would be appropriate.

Ever since I was hired to work with the National Advocacy Center nine years ago, my focus has been entirely on domestic issues such as poverty, immigration, human trafficking, and domestic abuse.

But then I realized that what happens in Honduras is a domestic issue. If U.S. policy vis-a-vis Honduras fuels migration north, then it affects our domestic immigration policies. I was further persuaded to join the Delegation since our Good Shepherd Sisters have had a presence in Honduras for several decades.

In November 2017 Juan Orlando Hernandez was reelected as president of Honduras in an election widely seen as both unconstitutional and fraudulent. Immediately, there were widespread protests. The Organization of American States urged new elections; however, the Honduran government responded with an iron fist. As of this date, at least 30 protesters have been killed by the military police.

Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart famously declared that he couldn't define obscenity but said, "I know it when I see it."

In like manner, I recognize political repression when I see it. I was present when some 200 military police, all heavily armed and many wearing black masks, confronted a group of less than 40 unarmed young people. The protesters, who had blocked a highway, were mainly high school age youths and some were even younger. When the military police charged the



*Protests in Honduras took place by day and by night as the citizenry expressed their anger over an unconstitutional and fraudulent election of their recently elected President.*

protesters, they lobbed more than 50 canisters of teargas. At another protest, as people held signs and chanted, car after car honked their horns in support.

For me, the most intense moment came when I was riding in the bed of a pickup truck headed toward another demonstration. Suddenly, the driver swerved into a network of side streets at high speed. The driver, a former member of Congress, had learned that his home was being ransacked and family members threatened with guns to their head by uniformed police. When we arrived, the police fled.

Looking to the future, I am sure there will be other opportunities to be in solidarity with the people of Honduras. Also, I hope to visit our

Good Shepherd program in Honduras to learn of their good work during these days of political repression.

Meanwhile, the National Advocacy Center has issued an Action Alert calling for the passage of the Berta Carreres Human Rights in Honduras Act (H.R. 1299).

The Act suspends United States security assistance with Honduras until human rights violations by Honduran security forces cease and their perpetrators are brought to justice. To take action, please go to <http://bit.ly/HondurasAct>.

*Editor's Note: You can visit Larry's blog to read more about his experience in Honduras. <http://www.gsadvocacy.org/larrys-blog>*



# PROVINCE NEWS



## ZEAL

## Gathering in Detroit set for September 2018

The Planning Team for Good Shepherd North America met at the Province Center in February to map out details for the next Gathering in Detroit. The event is slated for September 23-25 at St Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Detroit, Michigan. Apostolic and Contemplative Sisters will attend the Gathering, along with staff from programs in the provinces of Mid-North America, New York/Toronto and Central South.

The theme of the Gathering is “Be\*Longing.” The Planning Team reflected on belonging to Good Shepherd and the stories we carry. As the team thought about this year’s theme, they reflected on the poem *Belonging*, which reads:

*So many, those beyond our doors  
In our community, out in the world, the wilderness  
Seeking the spiritual, meaning, acceptance  
Hungry for hospitality for a listening ear, a safe place  
Hungry for hospitality  
A calling to us all  
Offering to them  
An honest welcome  
A sense of belonging  
To all who grace our door.*



The Planning Team for Good Shepherd North America weaves fun and laughter into their work sessions at the Mid-North America Province Center in St. Louis. Front row l-r: Nancy Fritsche Eagen, Lizzie Tschida, Anna Paven. Back l-r: Sr. Tram Nguyen, Melinda Stricklen and Bob Interbartolo.

## Mystery photo ... who has information?

Nobody had any clues about last month’s mystery photo of the Sisters on the bombed out airplane. And so our archives remain dark about this particular photograph to the right.



What about this month’s mystery photo? Who can help us figure out what is happening in the photo to the left? All we know is that the picture was taken in Girls Town.

- Where was Girls Town?
- What year might this have been taken?
- What is going on in this photo?
- Who are the women?
- Who are the Sisters?

So many questions. Can you help flesh out details for the archives? If so, please contact [jmcdermott@gspmna.org](mailto:jmcdermott@gspmna.org).



# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

## A coloring community



Monthly Adult Coloring Night at Good Shepherd Arts Center builds community and brings the kid out in all of us. Visit <http://www.goodshepherdarts.org> for the center's calendar of events.



## Announcements and News Tidbits

Vote for Good Shepherd Arts Center as the "Best of North County" in St. Louis. Type "Good Shepherd Arts Center" in the category "Jewelry," the only Arts category. Voting ends March 1. Hurry and vote now! <http://bit.ly/2ozSgqZ>

Shine the Light is the name of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd's first conference on human trafficking. The conference will bring together Good Shepherd Sisters, other people of faith, Members of Congress, congressional staffers, policymakers, survivors and

advocates for a morning of education and an afternoon of advocacy. Save the date: May 15, 2018, at the U.S. Capitol. You can read more about it in the next issue of *Items of Interest*.

HourDetroit.com ran a Q&A in February with Angela Aufderberg, President and CEO of Vista Maria. The topic of the article is human trafficking and the Wings program at Vista Maria. <http://bit.ly/2C16MMX>

CORA Services will hold a workshop for parents on March 7 to help them better understand the dark side of the internet and

how their children's behavior can be affected by it. CORA wants parents to be informed of risks, legal implications and latest dangers of cyber bullying and other internet threats.

CORA Services will host its annual Family Fun Day on March 3 to celebrate the importance of early literacy. The event includes carnival games and reading.

The Good Shepherd Congregational Leadership Team continues to work with the Eudist Fathers on the projects for St. John Eudes to be declared as a Doctor of the Church.



# MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



## Recovery through God's grace and Good Shepherd Gracenter

By Guadalupe Padilla, resident at Gracenter

I came to Good Shepherd Gracenter almost a year ago. I was released from San Francisco County Jail with nothing but my motivation and relationship with God to keep me going.

I was supposed to have been released a few months earlier than when I was actually released. And I do not think I have ever been so afraid to be free, generally speaking.

I wanted nothing more than to get out of that place. I had prayed for months to have those doors open up to me. But I wasn't ready. I realized that my foundation was not strong enough, that I could not do it on my own, that ultimately it was my decision to do better in life, but that I needed help. I needed support and I needed to trust!

I didn't understand the importance of turning a new leaf. All I wanted was to go back to how things were before I relapsed. Between the time of almost being released and coming to Gracenter I realized that having

all the material possessions to dress up the outside wasn't what was going to keep me in recovery.

It was what's on the inside of me that needed to be put in order. I needed to be solid and secure with not only myself but where I was in life at that moment. I needed to turn the page and start anew!

And that's what I did. I prayed, I forgave, and I changed. I thanked God that I had not been released from jail on the day that I was supposed to have been given freedom.

I thanked Him for all the bad places and situations I had to go through before learning to be grateful, and to remain grateful. I thanked Him for the relationship that I have with him and for not just saying that I believe in him.

It's no story when people say that the fall just gets harder and harder every time. Thankfully, with the support of Gracenter I've been able to keep my recovery going.



*Guadalupe 'Lupe' Padilla has resided at Gracenter for nearly a year. She is grateful to the Good Shepherd ministry for supporting her on her journey to recovery from addiction.*

## Bethesda - The House of Mercy offers hope in the New Year

By Sr. Patricia Marie Barnette, RGS

"Jesus, Our Hope in the New Year" was the title of an afternoon of prayer offered to the women who have been journeying with Bethesda as they heal from a previous abortion.

I gave a talk in the afternoon, with the focus on the Virtue of Hope. The gospel story of the Woman with a Hemorrhage: Luke 8:43-48, focused on how this woman had persevered in her quest for healing, and how she found in Jesus the source of her hope and healing.

The writings of St. Paul and Pope Benedict's Encyclical on Hope also gave much food for thought. There was time for personal prayer and reflection. Each woman wrote a prayer of her hope for the New Year, and then put the prayer in a basket, also lighting a candle.

The basket was then passed around as each participant took a prayer. These were read aloud, with each woman promising to pray for this person's intention throughout the year. The house was full to overflowing with women who look to Jesus as their hope, as they long to be hope for others.

### Upcoming Events

March 10, Training for Seminarians on the effects of the trauma from abortion and how it effects the healing process.

April 28, Day of Healing Prayer at a local parish for women as a joint venture of the Diocese of Cleveland and the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio.

# MINISTRY NEWS



## ZEAL

## My first visit with Good Shepherd Services in Atlanta

By Larry Couch, Director Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center

I find it useful to visit Good Shepherd programs. It gives me a hands-on understanding of their work and the importance of their missions. Later, when I meet with legislators or their staff, I can discuss the programs serving their constituents with a high level of credibility and personal involvement.

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Going to Atlanta was like discovering a new room in a house where I have lived for many years.

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I had the pleasure of going to Atlanta and visiting with Good Shepherd Services recently. I found Sr. Christine Truong My Hanh, RGS, a truly remarkable person. Having lived in several different countries, she brings to her work a cosmopolitan understanding of the needs of Asian immigrants and refugees. Her clients come from Vietnam, China, Myanmar, and other Asian countries.

Sr. Christine has an intuitive understanding of the needs of her clients. She and her staff assist people with interpretation and filling out paperwork for energy assistance, naturalization, food stamps, disability benefits, Medicare, and Social Security.

Every summer, Good Shepherd Services (GSS) provides a summer camp for children and youth. GSS also offers counseling to children and youth who are at risk. Five high school students from various schools were referred to GSS last year for counseling. Some of the youth had tried to commit suicide.



*Mission Partners and Sr. Christine Truong (far right) stand by a Vietnamese New Year Tree. Vietnamese people decorate their houses and offices with ornamental plants during Tet as symbols of warmth, wealth and good luck.*

With additional funding, GSS would be able to reach out to more students to provide them with counseling and educational and recreational activities.

I was impressed by the range of services the agency provides to immigrants and refugees. Many of the staff have been with GSS Atlanta for 15 years or longer. This longevity creates great stability within the agency and an awesome depth of knowledge and experience.

Although Sr. Christine has great compassion for immigrants and refugees, she is also clear sighted.

She knows many of her clients come from countries with corrupt governments. Some people consider it a victory to outwit the government, so Sr. Christine keeps a watchful eye to make sure people receive government benefits only if they are entitled to them.

I love the Good Shepherd family. Going to Atlanta was like discovering a new room in a house where I have lived for many years. And what a room it is! A small, dedicated staff making a difference in the lives of hundreds of people and, in doing so, creating a better community for everyone.



## COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL

## Sister Ellen Dolan honored for 25 years of service

The parishioners of the church Sr. Ellen Dolan attends threw a party to celebrate her 25 years of service to the parish. Sr. Ellen said, "It turned out to be a bigger deal then I anticipated."

St. Mary's Catholic Church hosted the reception for Sr. Ellen on February 11. Sr. Ellen had served as the church's liturgist for the past 25 years, up until last year. Now semi-retired, she still heads the Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults, a program for those wishing to become Catholic.

Sr. Ellen took her vows in 1963 and went to the Archdiocese of Omaha in 1968. She spent the last 25 years at St. Mary's and was committed to the church. As liturgist, Sr. Ellen orchestrated the church's rituals.

"I always wanted to do it in an engaging way. A way that leads to a deep commitment to Christ," she said.

Rev. Dennis Hanneman, a former pastor at St. Mary's for more than 10 years, said Sr. Ellen was excellent at keeping everything running smoothly, and in a way that engaged people.

"She's very cooperative with a good sense of how worship should be done," said Hanneman, who retired last year. "I really appreciated her insights and experience."

Originally from Montana, Sr. Ellen said she was raised in a tight-knit family in which church and faith were always important. She said her parents Ed and Lois Dolan were always there for her and that the community as a whole was cohesive. She believes her upbringing was a natural precursor to a life serving God.

The reception for Sr. Ellen was held in the parish center following the church's 12:30 p.m. Mass. Current and past parishioners were invited to attend.

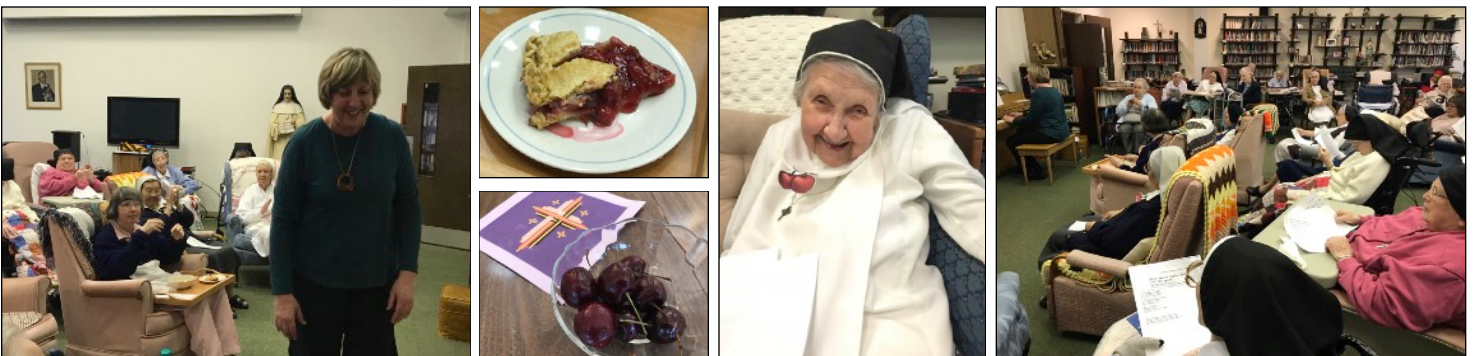


*Sr. Ellen Dolan (left) with parishioners from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Omaha, Nebraska.*

Filled with gratitude to the parishioners, Sr. Ellen wrote a letter of thanks to them. In the letter she wrote:

"Thanks for a wonderful reception with great food, beautiful decoration, good friends and fun surprises. Thanks to all who worked to make it happen and to all who came by to wish me well. Thanks for being so welcoming to our/my guests. Thanks too for all the cards. A special shout-out to all the parish children who sent delightful cards. Most of all, thanks for sharing faith and goodness with me through all of these many years. God really does do great things for us and among us. Holy is God's name!"

*Submitted by Debra Dowling, Leader Staff Writer*



*Sisters at Immaculate Heart Convent celebrated National Cherry Pie Day with bing cherries, cherry pie and a musical sing-along with PMNA's very own talented pianist Mary Schmich, of the Province Finance Department.*

## VOCATION STORY



ZEAL

# A Good Shepherd journey

Sister Rosalie Nguyen's vocation story starts with a Buddhist mom and Ex-Seminarian father whose side of the family includes priests and nuns. While growing up, her mother modeled to Rosalie and her eight siblings the compassion of the Buddha.

"Mom protected life and respected people. She taught her children that even when giving to beggars you treat them with respect. This Buddhist tradition is very Good Shepherd," Sr. Rosalie said.

Her mother converted to Catholicism before marrying, but she never stopped practicing the compassionate ways of the Buddha. When her middle child Rosalie decided to enter religious life, her compassion turned to sorrow. Rosalie's older sister had already joined the local congregation and a brother had entered Seminary. Her mother did not want to lose another child to religious life.

Rosalie waited and prayed. Finally she received her mother's permission to join the Good Shepherd Congregation. Her father supported the decision.

In May 1973 Rosalie made her Novitiate in Singapore. While she was there, life began falling apart for people in her country. Things turned tumultuous April 30, 1975, when the Communist government took over the South of Vietnam. The doors closed. Vietnamese passports became invalid. The Singapore government refused to accept Vietnamese into their country.

Good Shepherd Leadership from the Congregation, Province of Singapore and St Louis Province accepted the group of young novices

and postulants. They arrived on January 11, 1976.

Sr. Rosalie made her First Commitment in St. Louis on April 24, 1976. She was missioned to Las Vegas, where she developed a deeper appreciation of her vocation and love for the girls that Good Shepherd helped.

In the second year of being Temporary Professed, Sr. Rosalie was missioned to Hong Kong. She returned to St Louis to study Theology and obtain American citizenship. Then she returned to Hong Kong to make her Final Vows on March 25, 1982.

## A return to Vietnam

In 1983 Sr. Rosalie returned to Vietnam to make a home visit. Tragically, she found Saigon to be filled with women and girls on the street. Sr. Rosalie said seeing them placed in her heart the Zeal to help them lead lives with dignity.

She prepared for two years to return to Vietnam to work with women and girls. On October 21, 1992, Sr. Rosalie returned to Vietnam with Sr. Regina Do. The two Sisters went to Sadec in the Dong Thorp Province and became the first Good Shepherd Sisters to return to Vietnam after the Communist takeover in 1975.

They began with a vocational training center for vulnerable and abused women. They continued with a halfway house and a garment factory for graduates of the training program. In later years, other Vietnamese Sisters returned to their country to help in the mission.

The program that Sisters Rosalie and Regina opened in 1993 closed in 2001 because the government



*Sr. Rosalie is on sabbatical in St. Louis discerning her next steps.*

wanted the program to be government run. Sr. Rosalie left Vietnam when the center closed and returned again in 2002 on a business visa to continue the work. The center cares for migrant children and includes a hostel for rural girls who come to the city to study. The center also includes pastoral works in parishes, family care, and has a kindergarten for the poor children.

"Most of all, we thank God who has blessed us with Vocations," Sr. Rosalie said. "Currently we have 30 Apostolic Sisters and more than 10 candidates. The younger Sisters are taking roles in leadership and are keeping the mission going," she said.

Today there are three communities of Good Shepherd in Vietnam, including a formation community for Novitiates in Vinh Long.

As for Sr. Rosalie, she is back in St. Louis, feeling grounded and discerning the next steps in her Good Shepherd journey.



## SPOTLIGHT

ZEAL

## A story about the St. Mary Magdalen statue from Baltimore

*Items of Interest ran a story last month about the statue of St. Mary Magdalen that was housed in Baltimore. We reported that the statue left Baltimore and now resides in Mission Church of St. Margaret in nearby Bel Air, Maryland. We also reported that we did not have a photograph of the beloved statue to share with our readers. Happily, you can now see the statue, thanks to Sr. Maria Janina M. Ponte, NSCBP. She has a great story to tell:*

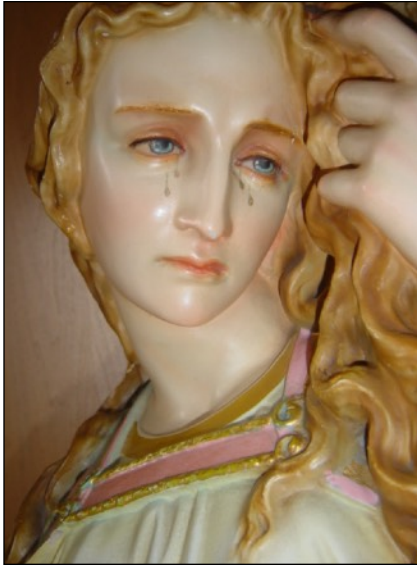
Hello Jeanette, I'm happy to greet you again. Only about four days ago I found your newsletter in my in-box and started reading it. To my great surprise I found this in your text about the St Mary Magdalen statue:

*"It is unfortunate that we do not have a picture of this treasured statue."*

Oh my God, I know I have those pictures, I told myself. I took them in 2004 when I lived in St Joseph's Residence for several months after my first cornea transplant surgery. But where are they?

By now I guess I have millions of pictures. Since I was blind and didn't have much else to do after my surgery, I took pictures of everything I wanted to see and later I would put them on the computer, quite enlarged of course, and that is how I managed to see things. Of course I couldn't name and classify them at the time, as I couldn't see enough.

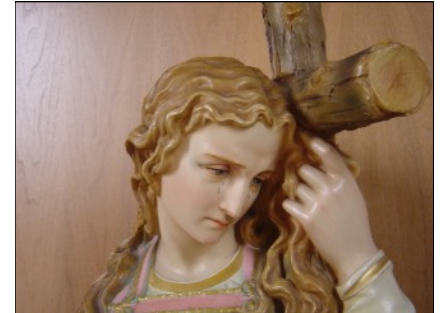
Well I looked and looked and finally found some of the photographs. There may be others, but this is what I found, and I am so happy to be able to share this treasure with the Mid-North America Province. It is a little way of saying THANK YOU



again for all the love and care I received while I lived with you in St Joseph's Infirmary.

At present after both cornea transplants (2004 and 2006) I see everything so beautifully and well, I can't stop blessing the Lord and everyone.

The statue of St. Mary Magdalen is very beautiful. I used to like to visit



her often as I went, via the Chapel, on my way to and from the Contemplative Community in Baltimore and my room in the hallway that led towards the Apostolic Community. I used to tell her about the Community of Contemplative Sisters in Venezuela (in the town of San Juan de Lagunillas, Merida State), which we founded July 22, 2002. I always reminded her to take good care of the Sisters and also of me.

I had met her in Washington, where I always visited the Sisters — the Washington Provincial house where I first met the Good Shepherd Sisters in 1967, and later the Contemplatives when I went on family visit-vacation in Maryland. I later found her in Baltimore. In fact, St Mary Magdalen and I are very good friends.

So now, I ask you, please tell St. Mary Magdalen to protect the Apostolic and Contemplative Good Shepherd Communities here in Venezuela because times are at present very difficult. The Sisters are brave. They are helping the people struggle in this hard battle for the triumph of the Reign of Jesus Christ in this much suffering society and land. God Bless you.

*Sr. Maria Janina M. Ponte, nscbp.  
Obra Buen Pastor Los Chorros,  
Caracas, Venezuela*

# WOMEN'S MONTH



## ZEAL

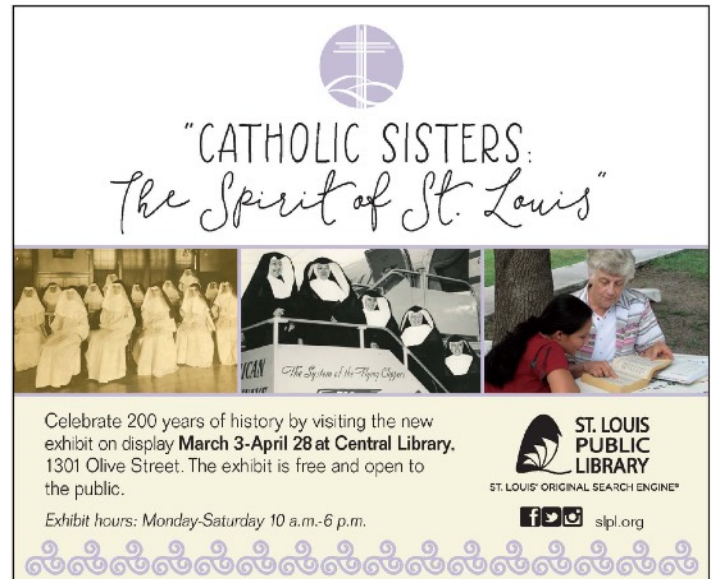
### Exhibit honors St. Louis Catholic Sisters

A museum exhibit at Central Library in downtown St. Louis celebrates the immense impact Catholic Sisters have had in the St. Louis area since their arrival 200 years ago. The exhibit, titled *Catholic Sisters: The Spirit of St. Louis*, is timed to coincide with National Women's Month and National Catholic Sisters Week.

Archbishop Carlson will be at the library when the exhibit opens to the public on March 9. Sisters from the numerous Catholic Orders in St. Louis will be on hand throughout the exhibit to interact with the public and answer questions they may have about religious life. Sisters Nora Pat O'Flannigan and Madeleine Munday will represent Good Shepherd as Sister Docents.

The exhibit will run from March 3 through April 7, 2018. The Communicators for St. Louis Sisters worked with the St. Louis Public Library to plan the exhibit. Fifteen orders of Sisters are represented in the museum exhibit, including Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Sisters, churches and archdiocese across the U.S. will hold various events to celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week, which runs from March 8-14. Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez will actively participate in a number of events in the San Francisco area. For example, the Council of Women Religious in the San Francisco Archdiocese is organizing a picnic/barbecue for homeless men, women and children on the streets. Women religious at St. Agnes Parish will provide a ministry of presence with food/fellowship after the 10:30am Mass, and a parish in Marin County will host a "come and See" for vocations.



A sampling of Good Shepherd photographs that are represented in the exhibit *Catholic Sisters: The Spirit of St. Louis* at the St. Louis Public Library as part of National Catholic Sisters Week and National Women's Month in March. The exhibit includes photographs and artifacts from each of the orders that are represented.

### ICONIC WOMEN

WOMEN TO KNOW,  
BY WOMEN ARTISTS

**MARCH 3 - 24, 2018**

OPENING RECEPTION, SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 4-6 P.M.

WORKS BY

- LISA CARSWELL
- LAURA KAISER
- GLYNIS MARY MCNAMANON, RGS
- KATE MOORE-FREEMAN
- MARY NICHOLS

DETAIL: SUGGRAGISTS OF BELLEFONTAINE CEMETERY BY KATHERINE MOORE-FREEMAN

### Women To Know, By Women Artists

Good Shepherd Arts Center (formerly Shepherding Images and Good Shepherd Gallery) is hosting an art exhibit in honor of Women's History Month. "Iconic Women: Women to Know, By Women Artists" opens with a public reception with artists on Saturday, March 3. Executive Director of the Arts Center Sr. Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS, and four local women artists are participating: Lisa Carswell, Kate Moore-Freeman, Laura Kaiser, and Mary Nichols.

Themes range from archetypal and mythic images of woman to legendary and historical figures women. Media employed for the exhibit include: digital collage, acrylic, egg tempera, watercolor, assemblage and fiber art.

The show will run from Saturday, March 3 through Saturday, March 24, 2018. <http://bit.ly/2ETXGUp>



## GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

**Water,** *cont'd from p. 1*

February 17, 2018, at the Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in St. Louis. Event organizers based the gathering on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*. They focused the day of reflection on the sacredness of water, the water crisis, and our call to respond.

Carolyn McWatters, RSM, has a Master of Divinity degree from Aquinas Institute of Theology. She led the day of reflection, which began and ended with prayer and ritual. The event included presentations by people who are doing on-the-ground water projects in developing countries and in our local St. Louis community. Small table discussions netted pearls of wisdom and nuggets of insightful observations. For example, who knew that a single tiny drop of water per second from a faucet can add up to 165 gallons of water a month; that's more than one person uses in two weeks. If a single drop can add up like that, can you imagine how much water we waste by leaving the faucet wide open while washing dishes, rinsing vegetables and brushing our teeth? One of the participants at my table said that she believes water serves as the earth's circulatory system. That's insightful food for thought.

Sister Sharon O'Grady said, "The theological reflections expanded and renewed my sense of the beauty and goodness of water. Water so reflects the action of God in its beauty, its many faces and fluidity--all expressive of a nature that is ever giving. And these qualities are brought to fuller realization when water is taken up into the sacramental life of the Church.

"Water reminds us that we, all of creation, are a world community and all are one. We are interdependent. All species come to be through water. This is the foundation of our global concern. When looking at water in this way I cannot help but feel selfish in my use of water. I feel complicit when I see those who have so little and I have had so much. I am just learning. I did not know," Sr. Sharon said.

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## World Water Day March 22



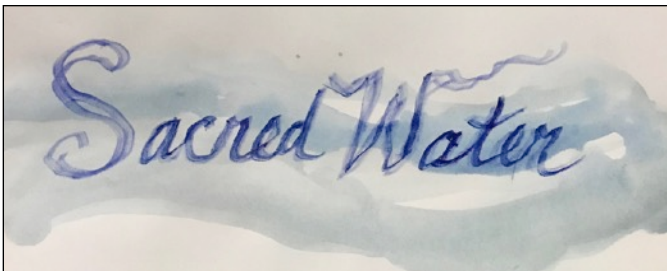
Environmental damage, together with climate change, is driving the water-related crises we see around the world. Floods, drought and water pollution are all made worse by degraded vegetation, soil, rivers and lakes.

When we neglect our ecosystems, we make it harder to provide everyone with the water we need to survive and thrive. 844 million people don't have clean water. 2.3 billion people don't have a decent toilet. 31% of schools don't have clean water. Diarrhea caused by dirty water and poor toilets kills a child under 5 every 2 minutes. Every minute a newborn dies from an infection caused by lack of safe water and an unclean environment.

Learn about the issues related to water. And then think twice about leaving the water tap running, taking a long shower, or filling a bathtub full of water. If we want a safe future, we need to conserve water.

<https://www.wateraid.org/us/facts-and-statistics>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/waterday/>



# GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

## Water *Cont'd from p. 11*

Sr. Silvia Romero said she learned from and enjoyed the experience. "My meeting with Sister Water was a discovery of the value that we have between our hands every day. We must respect water and take care of her because she represents life itself.

"To learn the language of water — her sounds and colors, her strength — is to learn about the wonders of God. This is why I want to revere and contemplate water," she said.

Sr. Elizabeth Garciano said, "A day of reflection on water moves my life to a deeper meaning of my relationship and connection with it. It's my faith that understands the Divinity of Water – life giver, sacred and precious, freely given and freely received.

"God created water in abundance for our basic needs of life, not as a private possession restricted by law, not divided by boundaries, but for common use for all. Because God loves equality for all," Sr. Elizabeth said.

You can see Sr. Elizabeth delight in water on the Province Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/2opoYvR>



*Lr: Sisters Sharon O'Grady, Elizabeth Garciano and Silvia Romero.*



## Students become journalists in global water project

Want to be inspired? Want to feel hope? Want to know what the new generation of leaders is doing about water? Then read this.

Project Water is a global collaboration between 10 schools from six continents in which students identify water issues and try to find solutions on local and global scales. Among the issues students investigate are water shortage and clean water, water pollution, health benefits of water and how we waste water.

The participating countries cover every part of the world, combining all religions, cultures and languages. Through this project, students are breaking boundaries and becoming multimedia journalists, creating videos and writing weekly articles about topics related to water.

The students have created social media pages to keep conversations alive about their research and discoveries. It's also a way for the young people to stay connected with one another across the world's continents. <http://www.projectwater.info/index.html>



*Vietnamese students visited waterways, took pictures and created a public presentation as part of the project.*



## ACROSS BORDERS

ZEAL

# Lingering Syrian refugee crisis affects Good Shepherd

*The following article is extracted from a story that appeared in the National Catholic Register on January 30, 2018.*

As Lebanon enters its seventh year of hosting Syrian refugees, it is slipping further into an economic and social crisis. Lebanon has absorbed 1.5 million registered refugees from neighboring Syria, which is more than 25% of the total local population of Lebanon.

Refugees live in tented settlements in some area, but for the most part Syrian refugees are scattered across Lebanon, straining its already frail and inadequate infrastructure. In many towns and villages, Lebanese find themselves a minority.

The presence of the Syrian refugees, the majority of whom are Sunni

Muslim, also alters the sectarian balance of Lebanon, a country whose existing population is about 40% Christian.

Yet, refugees are still streaming into Lebanon, tensions are growing and bombs continue to fall in Syria. Meanwhile, international aid in response to the Syrian refugee crisis is diminishing.

As interest in the crisis wanes, more Lebanese slip into poverty. More than 28% of the local Lebanese population now live below the poverty line.

Maronite Father Karam, president of Caritas Lebanon, said, The network of Caritas and our donors will help for one or two years, three years, five years maybe, but they can't continue to help for eternity."

## Good Shepherd Sisters

In the Jdeideh section of Beirut, the Good Shepherd Sisters have a ministry of mercy. The medical dispensary they run is constructed from four corrugated shipping containers. The dispensary functions as a primary health care center that serves Syrian and Iraqi refugees, as well as Lebanon's poor.

The dispensary is affiliated with the faculty of medicine at St. Joseph University in Beirut and includes a team of 30 rotating doctors.

"Whether Syrian, Iraqi or Lebanese, Christian or Muslim, the person, the suffering, all are equal," said Good Shepherd Sister Antoinette Assaf, director of the dispensary.

"It's about giving them some hope. It's about tender love," Sr. Antoinette said.

The dispensary, like the country of Lebanon, is facing a decrease in international aid. For example, a European embassy that has helped to support the clinic for the last three years has told the Good Shepherd Sisters that this is its final year as a donor. The embassy's focus is on emergencies.

The war is not over in Syria. There are three Good Shepherd Sisters and about 100 lay staff dodging bombs while serving the people in Damascus.

Sr. Antoinette said, "We would like Christians in the West to know more about our reality, to keep supporting us, to pray for us. I believe prayers are so powerful, to help in every way."

Father Karam said, "The crisis must be addressed by encouraging a peace process in Syria."



*Sr. Antoinette Assaf, RGS, meets with a patient at the St. Anthony medical dispensary in Beirut, where she serves as director.*

## LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Mar 4 Mar 5-8 Mar 14-16	Baltimore, Maryland Spring Area Meetings, Danville, Pennsylvania Spring Area Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Mar 1-9 Mar 20-31	Cincinnati, Ohio Baltimore, Maryland
Sr. Maureen Kunz	No travel	No travel
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Mar 16 Mar 20	Christian Bros. Religious Medical Trust Board Meeting Good Shepherd Shelter Board Meeting
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Mar 1-8 Mar 9-10 Mar 14-17 Mar 20-21	Spring Area Meetings, Danville, Pennsylvania NAC Advisory Board Retreat, Silver Spring, Maryland Spring Area Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio LCWR Region X Spring Meeting, Dubuque, Iowa



## Catholics for Dreamers

*Catholics and Catholic allies called on Congress February 27 to find a solution for Dreamers. #Catholics4Dreamers is urging legislators to create pathways to citizenship for young people brought to the U.S. as children, who know only the U.S. as their home. Larry Couch, Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center, represented Sisters of the Good Shepherd at the rally outside the nation's Capitol.*



# PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



*"Great works take their rise in the midst of all sorts of trials and labors."*

Saint Mary Euphrasia  
Conference p. 467

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

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