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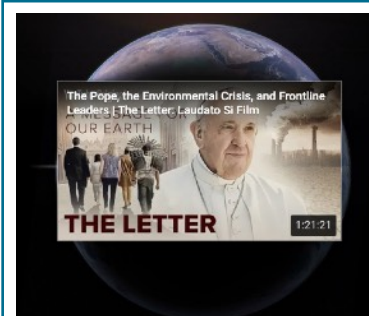
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THE GATHERING

After three years of being apart, the North America Mission and Values Team (NAMVT) held the North America Good Shepherd Gathering November 1-4, 2022, at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Detroit, Michigan. The Gathering provides an opportunity for Good Shepherd Mission Partners from Canada and the United States to come together for support and inspiration around the Good Shepherd mission, charism, vision, and core values. The theme for this year's Gathering was

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Green Corner

How would you feel if a personal letter from Pope Francis appeared in your mailbox? What would you do if that letter invited you to come to Rome for a conversation about how climate change is affecting your area or your group?

The Letter, a YouTube/Vatican production answers these questions with stories of five people from four different places who receive the letter and go to Rome. Beautifully filmed and deeply touching, the documentary portrays stark realities of our

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Gathering, *Cont'd from p. 1*

“Belonging: Seeking Moments of Togetherness.” The Gathering provides a unique opportunity to connect with Good Shepherd people in all programs and roles in an effort to look more deeply into the Good Shepherd history and mission, as well as consider the future of our work across North America.

I believe something deeper connects us. Whatever we do and whatever our role is at Good Shepherd, we all serve the mission. I think it's always helpful to take time to remember that and to build up our community through fun, conversations, and just spending time together to enjoy one another.

*Article by Lizzie Cody, Director,
Office of Mission Effectiveness*



Mission Partners from Canada and the US attended the Gathering in November, each bringing unique perspectives and experiences and finding common ground of what it means to be Good Shepherd.



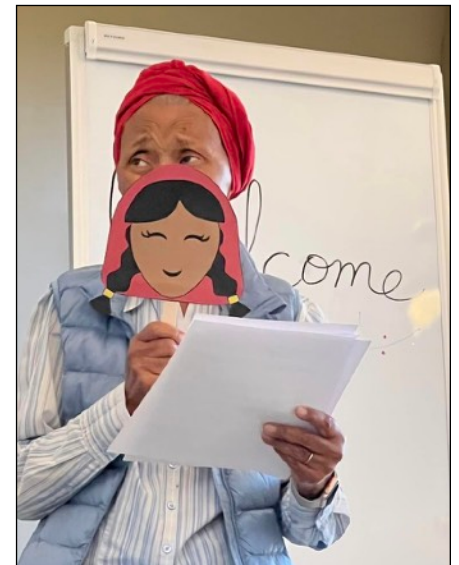
Province Administration Mission Partners engage in core values retreat

Sisters from the Province Leadership Team and Partners-in-Mission participated in a core values retreat led by Director Lizzie Cody at Pallottine Renewal Center in Florissant, Missouri, on November 17, 2022.

As part of the retreat, participants revisit the founding stories of Good Shepherd. Among the most beloved is the legendary story of St. Mary Euphrasia's vision to build a tunnel connecting the Motherhouse to St. Nicholas Abbey.

The tunnel allowed Sisters to overcome the barrier of not being able to move freely between the convent and the abbey. Knowing this story inspires and grounds us, and demonstrates how we can persevere in our own struggles.

The retreat was centered on affirming in our personal lives and work the four core values identified in early 2000: Reconciliation, Individual Worth, Mercy, and Zeal.



Lizzie Cody (L) and Sr. Barbara Beasley (R) reframed the story of Little Red Riding Hood to highlight the core value of Reconciliation.

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Final Mass celebrated at the Province Center

As part of the closing ritual of the Province Center, the Province Leadership Team hosted Sisters and Partners-in-Mission for a farewell and closing Mass. Rev. Nick Winker, pastor at Saint Ann parish, celebrated the Mass on October 28, 2022. Province Sisters and Partners-in-Mission are emptying the 4-story convent and Province Center in preparation for the new ownership.

Heartfelt homily

In his homily Fr. Nick stated:

“So many lives have been spent in prayer and charity here in this chapel and Province Center. It is now time for you to be sent again, and so we celebrate the good work you have done here.

I think it’s particularly fitting on this Feast of St. Jude to celebrate this Mass, because Jude adopted the hopeless cases. It seems to me that the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters, going back to St. John Eudes, went to those women who the world had already given up on.

But we know, through history and prayer, that there are no hopeless cases if we have faith. We celebrate today the work and history of Good Shepherd Sisters going where the mission is.

May the Lord continue to prepare us all for mission today, just as he



L-R: Sisters Nora Pat O'Flannigan and Pauline Billbrough re-connect with former nursing staff members of Immaculate Heart Convent, Diane Byrd and Alice Monroe, after the Mass was celebrated in the Province Center chapel on October 28, 2022.

sent those 12 Apostles out to mission so many years ago.

There’s a sense of sorrow when we say goodbye to buildings and places we’ve loved. But it’s far better to go on mission to serve those who are in need, as the Lord has called us to in accordance to our charism and gifts.”

Sisters living on the campus moved to various locations including Mason Pointe Care Center in West St. Louis County and the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet Motherhouse in South St. Louis City. The offices will move to a new location in early 2023.



Sister Monica prepares for her move to Mason Pointe in Chesterfield, Missouri, by sorting through some of her most cherished kitchen items. Mission Partners have been busy sorting through furnishings and equipment.

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Black Sisters Testify: To Oppressed People, Let Us Bring New Life

Sister Barbara Beasley is a founding member of the National Black Sisters' Conference. She shared her views on the history of Black Sisters in a feature blog she wrote for the website NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice. Her blog was in recognition of November's Black Catholic History Month, which coincided with the National Black Sisters Conference in April. Sister Barbara's article contributes to anti-racism efforts expressed in the 2021 Province Direction Statement, which reads in part: *Acknowledge and address racism within ourselves, in our structures, and in the wider social context. This is a reprint of her article.*

By Barbara Beasley, RGS

When I think about my own story and the story of every Black woman religious, there is a unifying theme, whatever the congregation we have membership in: We all testify that we have experienced the hand of God laid on us and a strong invitation to follow, to surrender to being loved by God and called to love and serve God's people and to live together in a way that generates life.

The power of God's call has been, and continues to be, the "why" and the "how" behind the determination and courage to move into the storm, whatever it feels like, whatever its form.

I often fall back to the beautiful lyrics by Curtis Burrell:

"I don't feel no ways tired.

Come too far from where I started from.

Nobody told me that the road would be easy.

I don't believe He brought me this far to leave me."

In 1968, when the [National Black Sisters' Conference](#) was founded, I was 30 years old and had been perpetually professed for three years. For that first meeting I traveled from Denver to Pittsburgh, to the Mercy Sisters' campus to meet about 100 of myself! Although I had not seen many other Black Sisters before, I knew immediately the feeling of home.

Sister Martin De Porres Grey, RSM, was the woman of vision who convened us. Together we reclaimed (or reaffirmed) our identity, with the realization that Blackness is Gift to ourselves, our people, our congregations, the church, and beyond.

From that first meeting until now, I have seen NBSC as a support and resource for the continuing growth of Black



Barbara Beasley, RGS

women religious, an advocate for justice for all people and a voice of conscience within the structure of the Catholic Church.

Nearly 40 years after the founding of NBSC, in 2007, [Dr. Shannen Dee Williams](#) stumbled upon an old news article, with a photo of four smiling African-American nuns at the first NBSC meeting.

Dr. Williams was intrigued to discover that Black Catholic Sisters existed, not to mention that this large group of them had met to strategize on how to strengthen their impact for the sake of the liberation of their people.

As historian and educator, Dr. Williams knew she needed to find out more about these women, but little did she know that her own life would be radically changed by the

Continued on next page

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Black Sisters, Cont'd from p. 4

work she was about to undertake. Her research led her to locate and interview the hidden storytellers who knew the story of the foundation of

NBSC and wanted to share it. Dr. Williams eventually tracked down Dr. Patricia Grey, formerly Sr. Martin De Porres, founder of NBSC.

Dr. Grey's prophetic words to Shannen were: *"If you can, tell the whole story of Black nuns in the United States."*

["Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Struggle for Freedom"](#) did indeed tell the whole story.

As I read the book, what stirred a strong and painful reaction in me was the narrative of the foundation of the three Black religious Orders: the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the Sisters of the Holy Family, and the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary.

No doubt it would be terribly difficult for small bands of Black women doing works of mercy on behalf of oppressed people. To those served by the Sisters, education, health care, social services, and advocacy would serve as lights on the path to a new life.

What was so deeply painful was the description of the outrage and resistance by white nuns to the mere

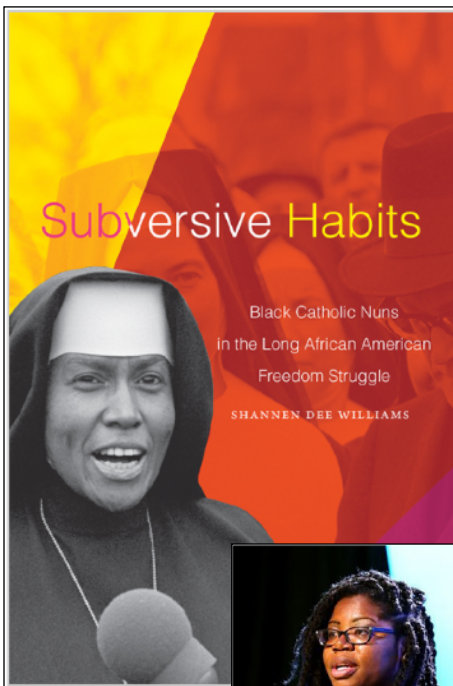
thought of African-American women becoming consecrated religious in the Catholic Church and offering the ministry they were called to give.

That the three Black Congregations are alive today gives witness to the mighty power of God's Spirit ablaze within these faith-filled women.

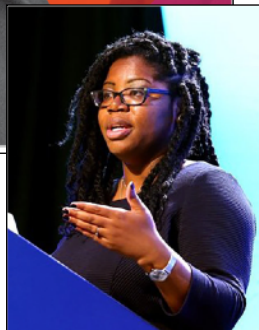
I am profoundly grateful that this book about Black Sisters has been written. Dr. Williams did more than full justice by chronicling so magnificently what has been achieved, at what cost, and that the struggle goes on.

I venture to think that most/many congregations would welcome the gifts of Black recruits. There is awareness that each congregation has an obligation to support and encourage the culture of the persons who enter, a new level of responsibility on the side of the religious communities these young people come into.

Like their predecessors in religious life, I pray that young religious today feel God's hand firmly upon them and know in their hearts that God is and ever will be a Promise-Keeper.



Dr. Shannen Dee Williams and her book "Subversive Habits."



The lived experiences of Black Catholics

By Leslye Colvin, National Advocacy Center

The first Black Catholics arrived in the US in 1565. They journeyed on a Spanish ship that arrived in what is now known as Mission Nombre Dios in St. Augustine, Florida, and participated in the first Mass celebrated there. Some of them were free and others were enslaved.

The three million American Catholics of African descent are a diverse people. We are laity, vowed religious, and clergy. While we share in the same baptism, like all Catholics, we have different lived experiences that influence, and are influenced by, our faith and spiritual journey. Black Catholics include native born Catholics as well as converts and immigrants.

In addition to English, our languages include Amharic, Creole, French, German, Gullah, Krio, Mende, Omoro, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tigrinya. We live our faith in major metropolitan areas, small rural communities, and a range of places in between. We embody a variety of ethnic and regional cultures and physical features.

Black Catholic History Month, celebrated each November, is an invitation for parishes, schools, communities, and dioceses to be mindful of the universal nature of the Church that includes Black Catholics. How is this reflected in your parish, school, community, or diocese?

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L-R back: Sister Claudia Palacio, PLT; Toni Ponder, Director of Province Administration; Lisa Fox, Province Accountant; and Sr. Mary Carol McClenon, PLT. L-R front: Sisters Martha Park, Congregational Treasurer; Yolanda Borbon, CLT; and Erika Sanchez, CLT.

RCRI Conference

The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) conference was held October 4 - 7 in Dallas, Texas. Good Shepherd participants included four Province Mission Partners and three Sisters from Rome. The 2022 program included 40 workshops covering topics related to finance, canon and civil law, and planning for institutes in transition, as well as two eldercare workshops. While visiting vendors at the RCRI conference, Sister Mary Carol McClenon stopped at the booth of Community Capital Management to play a round of corn hole toss. She was the only one to get all three bags into the hole. She swears she wasn't standing right over the hole, the way the photo makes it appear. Her kinetic skills netted a \$50 donation to the Hurricane Ian Relief fund in Fort Myers, Florida.



Sister Mary Carol McClenon at the Community Capital Management vending booth.



Communications Conference

Several members of the Province attended this year's annual conference of Communicators for Women Religious. The conference is a professional education and networking opportunity tailored to meet the needs of professionals who work on behalf of women religious. It was held September 27-30, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The keynote speaker, Sr. Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus and Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in 2020.

Province Mission Partners who attended were Jeanette McDermott, communications coordinator; Toni Ponder, Director of Province Administration; PLT members Sisters Gayle Lwanga Crumbley (photo center) and Claudia Palacio; and former communications coordinator for the Good Shepherd congregation, Sr. Monique Tarabeh.

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Announcements and News Tidbits

Sister Winifred Doherty's blog contains a roundup of activities that the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office presented in the lead-up to the International Day of the Girl in October. Girls around the world stood in their power to have their voices heard. <https://gsijpoffice.com/>

New missions

Sisters Virginia Gordon, Monica Duong, and Renee Scheich are at Mason Pointe Care Center, 13190 South Outer Forty Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017-5917

Sister Marta Ceballos has joined the community in Silver Spring. Her address is 504 Hexton Hill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sister Donna Miles has been missioned to the Good Shepherd community in San Francisco. Her address is 1310 Bacon St., San Francisco, CA 94134.

Sister Dolores Kalina has been missioned to Central South US Province, 620 Roswell Road NW, P.O. Box 340, Carrollton, OH 44615

Sisters Madeleine Munday, Barbara Beasley, and Mary Carol McClenon are living at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet at 6400 Minnesota Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63111. Sister Monique Tarabeh will join them when she completes her sabbatical in Colorado in mid-December.

Sister Anna Tram Nguyen has been missioned for one year to the Vietnam Sector of the East Asia Province. You can reach her through email at sr.tramnguyenrgs@gmail.com.

Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles holds annual gala

Good Shepherd Shelter held its annual gala on October 8, 2022. The theme was "Hope for the Future." The gala included Good Shepherd Shelter moms who spoke about hope for the future, a live auction, awards and recognitions, and a beautifully catered dinner that was served outdoors.

The shelter presented the St. Mary Euphrasia award to Sr. Madeleine Munday for her long-standing service to the shelter.

Sr. Madeleine accepted the award on behalf of Mid-North America Province Sisters. She asked Sisters Regina Do, Anne Kelley, and Donna Miles to join her on stage when she accepted the award. Each of the Sisters has a long association with the shelter.

Funds raised at the gala have gone directly to Good Shepherd Shelter families and toward the shelter's mission to break the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence.



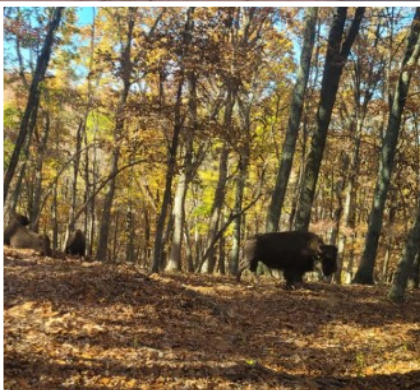
Sisters Anne Kelley, Madeleine Munday, Donna Miles, and Regina Do with Deanna Payne (center), Program Manager at Good Shepherd Shelter Los Angeles.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL



Autumn and Thanksgiving greetings from Sisters in the Mason Pointe Community.



Sisters at Mason Pointe head out for a fall outing to Lone Elk Park to get a close-up glimpse of elk and bison in their natural habitat.



Sisters in the Danville, Pennsylvania, community got creative this autumn season and carved jack-o'-lanterns at Maria Hall for Halloween. They also removed seeds from the pumpkin so the kitchen staff could roast them as snacks for the community. L-R: Sisters Carmen Flores, RGS; Beverly Hedgecoth, RGS; and Angela Picus, OCD.

SISTER STORIES

Ministry of Love

By Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS

Sister Liz Schille and I are parents and grandparents to a family whose history with us dates to the late 1980's in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1987 Congress passed the Amerasian Homecoming Act, which allowed children fathered by American soldiers to be brought to the United States. The Act affected about 30,000 children. Sister Myriam Phan (now deceased) worked for Lutheran Social Services in the unaccompanied minors program. She asked me if I would help teach English to Ngan T' Ngo who was Vietnamese-African American.

Ngan and I bonded on long Saturday afternoons of hair care and conversation. She told me of her earliest memories of being found on the street and becoming a "flower girl" (she sold flowers on the street).

Many of her memories were extremely painful; she was even sold to another family. Ngan needed a mother as much as I needed a daughter.



Ngan, our daughter and mother of the groom, Johnathan.

Ngan aged out of foster care because of the age limitations the Vietnamese government placed on all of the child refugees.

This is when Sr. Liz came into her life. Ngan moved into Rose Center, a Good Shepherd independent living program for young women. Sister Liz shepherded Ngan as she finished high school. This was remarkable, as Ngan had no previous education.

Ngan married Nhu Nguyen and they had four children: Johnathan, Steven, Tiffany, and Martin. When the children were young they would come to the St. Paul convent on Hodgson Road to celebrate many holidays with us. Some of my favorite memories are of us dying eggs and making Easter baskets.

One day Ngan asked me what kind of Buddhist I was and I responded Catholic. Not too much time passed before Ngan enrolled herself in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at St. Peter Claver Parish in St. Paul, where she and the children were baptized.

Sister Liz and I have shared in the lives of this loving family. Most recently, we celebrated the wedding of our first grandson, Johnathan, to Hai. We were all blessed by their love and desire to create their new family.



Johnathan and his bride, Hai.

GREEN CORNER

The Letter, *Cont'd from p. 1*

Earth home from perspectives of climate refugees, indigenous, youth, and scientists. Footage of the sea overtaking Senegal's coastal villages followed by death-defying attempts of villagers to cross to Europe aboard flimsy boats takes the breath away. We hear the tragic tale through the eyes of a villager.

Chief DaDa of the Maro tribe appears in the film rowing through a

watery Amazon forest. He tells the story of the logging operations that cut down his people's beloved forests. More than 400 Maros have been killed trying to protect the land they have lived on for generations. Many more have been displaced.

What are some of our takeaways from watching *The Letter*? We found these lines memorable: "If we look only at science, we despair over

the climate problem. We need to hear the stories. We need faith to motivate actions."

Our major takeaway is the urgent need for us humans, whether identifying as secular or religious, to work together NOW. Only by working together will we find HOPE.

Article by Sisters Joan Spiering and Liz Schille

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Marita Aumiller, RGS

November 17, 1922 – October 19, 2022

Sister Marita (Mary Rita Aumiller) joined the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 19, 1942. She made her first vows on October 20, 1944, and final vows three years later on October 20, 1947.

Her great zeal for service and desire to make a difference in the lives of the young women served by our community was the driving force for Sr. Marita's long life and varied service.

Missions

She served in Baltimore, Maryland; Batesburg, South Carolina; Washington, DC; Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She also served briefly in a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Guam.

Sister Marita worked with adolescent girls and in leadership roles in Baltimore, Batesburg, and Washington, DC.

She was engaged in various aspects of social work while missioned to Clarks Summit, Philadelphia, and the Good Shepherd Center in Baltimore. Assignments included the Diagnostic Center and Catholic Social Services in Philadelphia.

After years of interrupted study due to her ministry assignments, Sr. Marita graduated from Marywood College, Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1971 with a B.S. degree in Sociology.

She graduated from the National Catholic School of Social Work, Washington, D.C., in 1974 with an M.S.W. degree in Social Work, at age 52.



Marita Aumiller, RGS

The ministry assignment that most delighted Sr. Marita in the latter years of her life in ministry, was her work with Catholic Social Services/Adoptions, in Philadelphia.

*She delighted in guiding
and supporting adoptive
parents through the
adoption process.*

She found delight with each child. And she delighted in guiding and supporting adoptive parents through the adoption process.

Treasure trove of photographs

She left behind a treasure trove of photographs that bear eloquent witness to the joy she found and shared with each family she helped.

Sister Marita was also enthusiastic in her support of these families as their children continued to mature within the family structure.

Sister Marita enjoyed baseball and was a life-long fan and enthusiastic supporter of the Baltimore Orioles. She attended many games with family and friends while living in Baltimore.

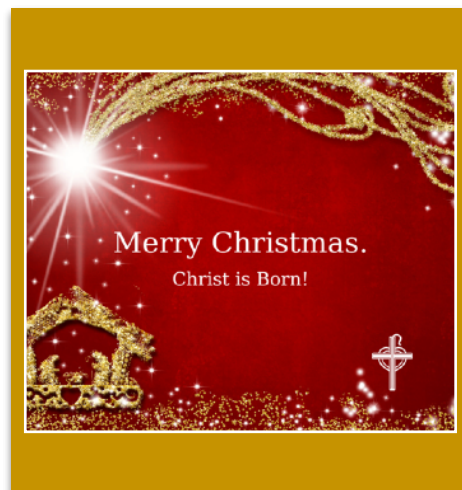
Sister Marita will be remembered for her warm and outgoing

personality and deep compassion for others. She said of herself, "I often suffer, much when I see others suffer unnecessarily." *

*Words taken from a document "Curtis Completion Form" found among her records of service and education. (October 1971)

Sister Marita was a very devoted apostolic sister. I am privileged to have lived with her and served with her at various points in our lives.

Submitted by Mary Catherine Massei, RGS



PLT CALENDAR



ZEAL



NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Full PLT	Dec 5 Dec 8 Dec 9 Dec 12-16 Dec 13-15 Dec 16 Dec 19 Jan 9 Jan 17 Jan 23 Jan 30	PLT meeting, virtual PLT meeting with Finance, St. Louis & Zoom hybrid PLT walkthrough for Assembly Province Assembly + travel PLT meeting, virtual PLT meeting, virtual PLT meeting, virtual PLT meeting, virtual PLT meeting, virtual PLT meeting, virtual PLT meeting, virtual
Sharon Rose Authorson	Full PLT schedule +	No additional events or activities
Barbara Beasley	Full PLT schedule + Jan 11-13 Jan 15-20 Jan 18 Jan 19 Jan 27-28 Jan 29-30 Jan 31 - Feb 2	Mission Effectiveness team meeting, Edwardsville, IL LCWR retreat (on wait list), Scottsdale, AZ Leaders of eldercare communities, Zoom Intercongregational Novitiate webinar Reimagining the World - Franciscan School Theology Zoom NAMVT Angers planning meeting, Edwardsville IL Steering Committee Detroit MI
Gayle Lwanga Crumbley	Full PLT schedule + Dec 1 Dec 7 Dec 8 Jan 24	Maryhurst annual Holiday Board Dinner Travel to PMNA Budget Meeting Budget meeting DeNeuville Learning Center for Women Board Retreat
Elizabeth Garciano	Full PLT schedule +	No additional events or activities
Mary Carol McClenon	Full PLT schedule + Dec 6 Dec 8 Jan 18 Jan 19	Mercer Investment Webinar LCWR Region X meeting, virtual + PLT Budget meeting Leaders of eldercare communities, Zoom Intercongregational Novitiate webinar
Madeleine Munday	Full PLT schedule + Dec 1 Dec 20 Jan 24	Archbishop's annual meeting with major superiors, Detroit Circle of Province Leaders of North America (CPNA), Zoom Board retreat, DeNeuville Learning Center, Memphis

PLT CALENDAR CONT'D

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Claudia Palacio	Full PLT schedule +	No additional events or activities
Christine Truong	Full PLT schedule + Dec 3 Dec 10 Dec 27 - Jan 5	Teaching postulants, Zoom Meetings with sisters in Vietnam, Zoom Home visit, Houston

PROVINCE CONTACT



"Contemplating the Christmas mysteries will inspire you to offer fervent acts of love."

St. Mary Euphrasia
Conferences pg. 94

Contact us

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Please note that beginning in March 2023, our address will have changed. New address information will be forthcoming.

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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