

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

Clarks Summit Graves

The graves of 59 Sisters have been moved from Clarks Summit cemetery to Moscow, Pennsylvania.

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Statues find new home

Statues that adorned the Province Center campus now look over a cemetery in New Haven, Missouri.

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Blue Ribbon Winner

Sr. Patricia Marie Barnette took first place at the Bloomsburg Fair for a pecan pie she baked.

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NAC Anniversary

NAC celebrated its 18th anniversary and its director his 80 birthday on September 19.

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Pearl Companies plans a \$60 million, mixed-use development with a grocery store and market rate apartments next to the MetroLink station on Natural Bridge Road by the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. (Rendering courtesy of Trivers architects).

NORMANDY PROPERTY UNDER CONTRACT

The news became official on September 22, 2019, when the St. Louis Post Dispatch broke the story that the Sisters of the Good Shepherd have signed a Real Estate Sale Contract for their Normandy property with the

Continued on next page



Green Corner

Fourteen Planetary Pilgrims took a journey in September to the great heart where God is. We linked up in St. Louis and connected to the energy that draws us together and binds us on one Earth, in one Life. We are all pilgrims, a tiny strand of many in the fragile web of life. These are my reflections after being on retreat as a Planetary Pilgrim for five days. The story may no doubt look different for

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Property, *Cont'd from p. 1*

development firm Pearl Capital Management. The Province of Mid-North America received four offers for the 10-acre site. Province Leader Sr. Madeleine Munday said that Pearl's generative vision seemed to offer the most benefit for the neighborhood. The vision includes Normandy City Hall's land, as well as the Good Shepherd campus.

Province of Mid-North America is now seeking new office space for Province administrative staff

and leadership and residential space for Sisters. Sister Madeleine said, "We're sad to leave Normandy. We don't want to leave Normandy, but the property is more than we need and more than we can handle. Because it's time for us to move along, we really wanted to be good stewards of the property and make sure it would benefit Normandy."

Pearl hopes to start construction by the middle of 2020. Their plan envisions people of different

economic levels and stages in their life as part of the community. The project includes 237 market-rate apartments anchored by a grocery store, 41 for-sale single-family homes, townhouses, Normandy Police Department and City Hall. It will be one of the largest private investments that north St. Louis County has seen in decades.

Story extracted in part from [St. Louis Post Dispatch](#) on September 22, 2019. Additions made by Sisters Madeleine Munday and Mary Carolyn McQuaid.

Gravesites in Clarks Summit moved to perpetual care

By Patricia Marie Barnette, RGS

This past August work began on the move of 59 graves from our private cemetery in Clarks Summit to St. Catherine Perpetual Care Cemetery in Moscow, Pennsylvania. The cemetery is owned by the Diocese of Scranton. Bishop Bambera donated the land for the new space. It was difficult to maintain our own cemetery because no Sisters live in the Scranton area. The mass grave from Norristown, Pennsylvania was also moved at this time.

Seven lost sheep found

The actual moving of the graves took 10 days. Near the end of what we thought was the last few to be moved, seven more graves were found under dirt and bushes.

The court had to be petitioned again for the movement of these last seven, even though they were buried more than 120 years ago. One of them was the first superior at Lourdesmont. She said: "you are NOT leaving us behind!"



Seven lost sheep were found buried beneath soil and shrubs. Among them was Sr. Sacred Heart Malone, First Superior at Lourdesmont.

The various contractors and diocesan staff were wonderful to work with. They were very dedicated, caring, and professional. All of the contractors gave us big discounts on the work.

Continued on next page



PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Gravesites, *Cont'd from p. 2*

Personally, this project was a huge blessing for me as the coordinator of all that had to be done. Please pray for all these wonderful people and for Bishop Bambera — all of whom are our benefactors.

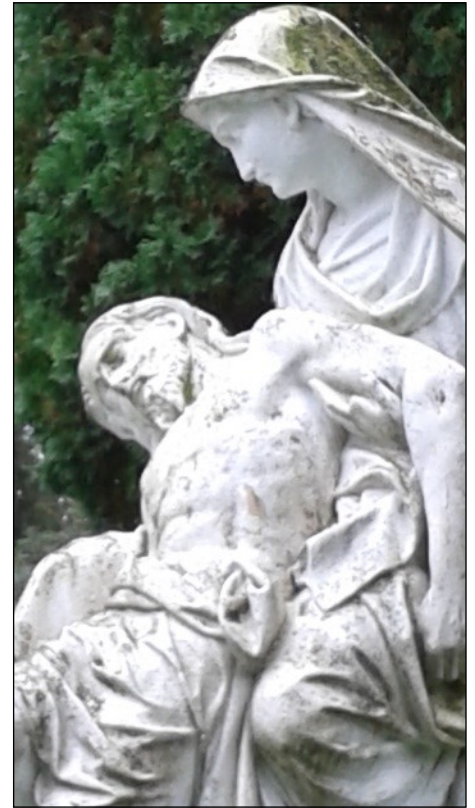
Winter delays

The ground at the new cemetery has to settle. As winters are harsh in the Pocono Mountains, the grave stones will be cleaned and stored during winter and placed on graves in the spring. Also, the beautiful statue of the Pieta and a small cross will be cleaned and stored until spring. Then we will have a prayer service at the new site.

As several people said, this is the second or third FINAL resting place for our dear sisters! So another update will come out in *Items of Interest* in the spring of 2020.



Exhumations of the Sisters' graves took place in the cemetery behind the Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing near Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. The school used to be the Lourdesmont School for Girls before it closed in 2010.



Clockwise from bottom: New final resting place for Good Shepherd Sisters at St. Catherine Perpetual Care Cemetery in Moscow, Pennsylvania; Dedicated work crew on the last day of exhuming 59 graves of Good Shepherd Sisters. Mass grave of Sisters in the private cemetery of Good Shepherd in Clarks Summit; Pieta statue moved from Clarks Summit to Moscow, Pennsylvania; Construction crew exhuming the graves of Good Shepherd Sisters in the cemetery behind the former Lourdesmont School for Girls near Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Province Center statues find new home

Seven statues that had adorned Good Shepherd properties for more than 100 years are now perched in a cemetery belonging to the Assumption Parish, a community of Catholics 63 miles west of downtown St. Louis in New Haven, Missouri.

The story of relocating the statues starts with the reclamation project that Sister Mercy de Leon supervised when Sisters moved from Immaculate Heart Convent to Mason Pointe Care Center last December. Sister Mercy needed to find new homes for everything housed in Immaculate Heart Convent. This included religious artifacts such as altars, pews, and indoor and outdoor statues.

To achieve her goal, Sister Mercy called upon the linchpin of religious recycling: Deacon Joe in the St. Louis Archdiocese office of reclamation.

“Deacon Joe is a good networker. He does a great job moving religious items from one place to another,” said Sr. Mercy.

Living up to his reputation, Deacon Joe spread the word throughout Archdiocese parishes that the Good Shepherd Sisters in St. Louis had a lot of stuff that needed new homes. The Assumption parish council heard about the statues and asked for them. Their prayers had been answered.

Parish priest Fr. John Deken said, “Everybody is thrilled to have the statues. Our cemetery didn’t have any, and the parish council had been wanting to make the cemetery a more sacred place.”

A few men from the parish built pedestals to set the statues upon. Volunteers from the church are planting gardens and designing landscape to enhance the placement of the statues in the cemetery and at the parish church.

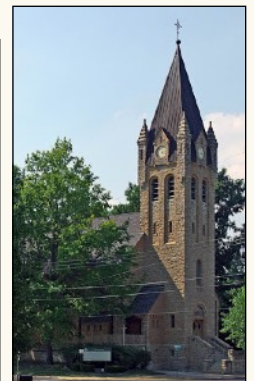
Parishioners from Assumption brought a large truck to transport the statuary from the Province Center campus in February. They were very excited to get them. Sr. Mercy said, “I feel really good about our statues having a new home in New Haven.”



The two large statues of Mary and Joseph that once stood watch over the Province Center in St. Louis are now positioned in a cemetery belonging to the Assumption parish in New Haven, Missouri.

Assumption Church, New Haven

The Assumption church in New Haven, Missouri, has been there for nearly as long as the town itself. New Haven was founded in 1836 as a riverboat stop on the Missouri River. The original church was built in the late 1800s and later replaced with a limestone structure in 1923. Men used horses and wagons to haul the brown limestone from local quarries. Today more than 280 families belong to the Assumption parish in New Haven.



MINISTRY NEWS

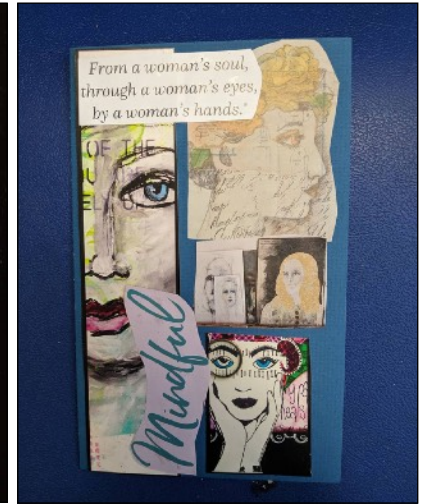


ZEAL

Rose Haven

Rose Haven holds a "Soul Collage" class every Friday afternoon in Portland to give women in the day center a creative way to express themselves. Rose Haven staff and volunteers say the art that the women create is beautiful; "however the sharing that happens in this class and the meaning behind each placement on these soul collages is so meaningful and so moving. We are grateful to our guests for opening up and sharing their work and souls with us."

The Soul Collage activity and many others are part of Rose Haven's Bloom wellness and empowerment programs.



DeNeuville Learning Center

DeNeuville held its 17th Annual Golf Classic last month in Memphis. Staff wishes to congratulate the Highvisibility team for coming in 1st place. The Lucchesi's Ravioli & Deli Company team took 2nd place.



Maryhurst

Maryhurst had a successful fundraiser in September with its Beauties vs The Beast golf tournament. The Maryhurst staff wishes to thank Louisville's Persimmon Ridge Golf Club Ladies Golf Association for hosting the event benefiting Maryhurst. "Their kindness and gifts make a real impact on our work," said Maryhurst staff.

Gracenter

The annual fundraising gala for Good Shepherd Gracenter on September 15, 2019, was a great success and a lot of fun. The gala theme was "Stepping Stones to Success." The silent auction is always a huge hit and raises important funds for Gracenter to continue serving women in San Francisco who are determined to break free of addiction and create a hopeful future for themselves and others.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Good Shepherd Mediation Program

GSMP Restorative Practices Coordinator Pablo Cerdera shared the theory and practice of Restorative Justice with 14 Philadelphia community members recently. Participants plan to use this knowledge in their work in such varied fields as victim advocacy, elder care, higher education, and criminal justice reform activism.



International Students ministry

It was with a heavy heart that we said goodbye to Sister Teresa Acosta (right) on September 24. She had become an integral part of the St. Louis Community during her year of English studies and brought great joy to the convent. She has returned to her Province in Argentina to begin the next phase of her journey as a Good Shepherd Contemplative Sister.



Good Shepherd Arts Center

The October exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) is titled *Three Women: Vision and Voice*. The show features St. Louis fiber artists Laura Saunders Kaiser, Deb Lewis, and Pat Owoc. The women are members of Art Fiber St. Louis.

Each of the women approach the art form in different ways and with varying perspectives. The exhibition of their work aims to address the questions "Who are these three women, and what do they mean to tell us through their textiles?" The show runs from October 4-26 and opens with an artist reception on

October 4 from 5-7 pm. See a related article on textile arts in the St. Louis magazine [All the Arts](http://www.allthearts.com). Sr. Glynis McManamon has a featured page in this issue of the arts magazine. In September Sr. Glynis held a fundraising challenge for GSAC to meet a financial goal of \$5,000. As of this writing, it looked as though she would meet that goal. Good Shepherd Arts Center runs on private donations and grants.

ARTFIBER SAINT LOUIS

THREE WOMEN: VISION AND VOICE

GOOD SHEPHERD ARTS CENTER

In 1996 a small group of artists from Greater St. Louis formed the Art Fiber Alliance. The group became ArtFiber Saint Louis in 2005 to reflect the widening interests of members. An exhibition featuring members of ArtFiber Saint Louis is Laura Saunders Kaiser, Deb Lewis, and Pat Owoc at Good Shepherd Arts Center in St. Louis, Missouri, formed as part of Innovations in Textiles 2019.

The exhibition titled *Three Women: Vision and Voice* answers the question: who are these three women and what do they mean to tell us?

Fiber artist Laura Saunders Kaiser is a member of three young children, three inspirations from her observations of children approach to creativity. Her own art is playful, experimental and reflective of just this idea: the child's joy of their imagination and the connection to the creative energy and culture.

Saunders Kaiser's recent work is characterized by sympathy for the notion of nature connected to our families and deep concern about the loss of quality, respect and traditions in our current society. She hand-dyes her fabrics with natural, repurposed materials and incorporates natural elements on simple handprints. It is a process she finds therapeutic.

Deb Lewis has always found weaving with fiber. A complete engagement, she finds that her art practice offers needed opportunities for her expression. Her fiber work is inspired by nature and often incorporates historical elements. She uses repurposed fabric materials along with fabric she makes on her own.

Pat Owoc's work explores historical design and genre life and history. Many of her artwork depicts images based on stories. Her early artwork were constructed with family, personal and social issues in mind. Her work complements tell visual stories about the environment, politics, nature, health concerns and aging.

Owoc uses a wide variety of surface design techniques such as hand weaving and dyeing, then, overprint and screen to illustrate her stories. The composition is often embedded with antique references, country roads, and transparent family photos.

Oct 4 - Oct 26
Opening Re Oct 4, 5-7pm

Glynis Mary McManamon

www.gshac.org

MISSING kindness

Pat Owoc - "Love, Memories, and Time" (see text) [Image courtesy of Good Shepherd Arts Center] Deb Lewis - "Among Brothers" (see text) Pat Owoc - "Rajapur, India" (see text) [Image courtesy of the artist]

MINISTRY NEWS

ZEAL



Catholics protest ICE in Newark

More than 400 people participated in a Catholic protest outside an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in New Jersey on September 4, calling for an end to the U.S. government's detention of migrant children and families. Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Newark's archbishop, joined men and women religious, Lay Catholics and other demonstrators outside the city's Peter Rodino Federal Building.

About 50 people risked arrest for civil disobedience, including Sister Claudia Palacio, Good Shepherd peace justice coordinator. Protesters blocked traffic as they occupied the busy Broad Street crosswalk, and lay in cross formation for hours. The protest was not an isolated event, but is part of a larger non-violence movement to address children's detention at the border. *Items of Interest* reported in the [July/August issue](#) about a similar protest involving Good Shepherd Mission Partners that took place on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Danville Sisters join in celebration



The Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius in Pennsylvania celebrated 100 years in Danville this month. Our Good Shepherd Community, under Sr. Stella's inspiration, gave them a gift basket of food and a couple of stuffed sheep.

Editor's Note

It looks like my wish to be a bit bionic will come true to an extent. I am having my right shoulder replaced on October 16. The surgery will prevent me from producing a November issue of *Items of Interest*. Instead, I will combine November/December into one issue, which I will distribute the first of December. In the meantime, please keep me in your prayers. More importantly, please pray that my anesthesiologist is a precise mathematician and that my orthopedic surgeon has steady hands. Be back soon! *Jeanette*

Celebration of Gratitude

Sister Mary Carol McClenon was the Local Leader of Good Shepherd Services Baltimore when the property at 4100 Maple Avenue in Halethorpe went up for sale two years ago. The Baltimore Community of Sisters celebrated Saint Mary Euphrasia's birthday on July 31 with the closing of the property. Sr. Mary Carol called it

the bittersweet end of an era. She said, "We wish to extend thanks to all the Sisters, Mission Partners, benefactors, board members, girls (and more recently boys), who put so much love and effort into the Good Shepherd Services program throughout the years, as well as those who supported it by their prayers."

Part of the proceeds from the sale of the property will serve as a Legacy Gift through Catholic Charities of Maryland and will provide funding for psychological assessment and counseling for youth and families in need. The buyer, H&H Rock, will create a 3-acre Good Shepherd Park for use by the local neighborhood.

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL

Blue Ribbon winner

We've got a Bloomsburg Fair Blue Ribbon winner in the Good Shepherd family. Congratulations to Sister Patricia Marie Barnette for capturing the top award in the Home and Dairy Products Baked Products category at the annual county fair. "It feels awesome to get a blue ribbon for an awesome pie," Sr. Patricia Marie said.

When asked if she wanted to share her award winning recipe with the readers of *Items of Interest*, she said, "Recipe is a southern secret."

Bloomsburg Fair has been a Pennsylvania tradition since 1855. Each year it draws tens of thousands of people to its exhibitions, events, and top notch judging of entries in different premium classes, including pies. Historians lovingly call the weeklong extravaganza a street carnival.



Announcements and News Tidbits

The annual Gathering in Detroit begins on October 15 and ends October 18. Look for a story in the next issue of *Items of Interest*.

Good Shepherd Mediation Program (GSMP) will host its annual Shepherds of Peace Awards Ceremony in Philadelphia on October 18. Each year, in conjunction with international Conflict Resolution Day, GSMP honors several individuals who have been instrumental in encouraging peace and social justice in Philadelphia and names them "Shepherds of Peace." *Items of Interest* will report on the event in its next issue.

Fall Assembly runs from October 28 through November 1 at Kings House in Belleville, Illinois. We will publish photos and a story

about the Assembly in the next issue of *Items of Interest*.

Good Shepherd Shelter will host its fundraising gala on October 26. The gala marks 42 years of Good Shepherd providing safe shelter and support services to women and children who have experienced domestic violence. We will report on the gala and the shelter's transfer to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles in the next issue of *Items of Interest*.

Maryhurst CEO Judy Lambeth has announced publicly that she will retire and leave Maryhurst next June. *Items of Interest* will report in a future issue on Judy's retirement and 45-year history with Good Shepherd.

The Archives Department is processing multiple records for the Province Center Archives. Look for a story in the next issue.

Note new email addresses for the following Sisters:

Cathie Boerboom
cathiergs@gmail.com

Olga Cristobal
srolgargs@gmail.com

Sister Renee Scheich has a new mailing address and contact info:
Renee Scheich, RGS

Sarah House
3393 McKelvey Road
Apartment #306
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Tel: 859-512-8280
srreeneescheichrgs26@gmail.com

NAC NEWS



ZEAL

NAC turns 18 and its director grows young at 80

National Advocacy Center (NAC) of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd celebrated its 18th anniversary in September, proving its work is still, if not more, relevant and essential in today's times.

The Good Shepherd ministry is a small office with a mighty voice. Its physical footprint has remained small over the past 18 years, but NAC's impact makes a big difference and is growing.

NAC builds awareness around its legislative priorities and stimulates action around social justice issues that are important to the Good Shepherd Congregation. Unique to NAC — you could call it the NAC Difference — is its Partners in Mission program. These partners work in solidarity with NAC to benefit the disenfranchised — particularly families, women and children.

The NAC Difference

- shines a light on human trafficking and works with Congress to strengthen the federal government's ability to respond to the high numbers of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women;
- discovers first-hand what is pushing Central American families out of their homes and countries and encourages the United States to end support for the current central government of Honduras;
- engages in nonviolent civil disobedience and calls attention to the treatment of immigrant families and refugees.

On September 19, 2019, more than 90 Good Shepherd Sisters, Mission Partners and NAC supporters



Above: Larry Couch (l) introduces his students at the NAC Celebration before they exhibit their skills in the martial art Tae Kwon Do.

attended the 18th anniversary of this highly effective ministry. As an added bonus, guests were on hand to celebrate the 80th birthday of the ministry's Director Larry Couch.

Martial arts: vehicle for peace

The dual celebration had a unique flare to it, as Larry, a 7th Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, brought his students along to demonstrate the Korean martial art.

The display of a warrior sport may seem incongruent for a Good Shepherd ministry that promotes peace and justice, but a back story sheds logic on the matter.

Tae Kwon Do is recognized as one of the oldest forms of martial arts in the world. It was introduced in the United States in the 1950's and over the years has grown in popularity as

Continued on next page



Province Leader Sister Madeleine Munday reads a poem that Matt Cuff submitted for the celebration. Matt is a NAC Advisory Board Member and was unable to attend the event.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL

Celebration, *Cont'd from p. 9*

a martial art and international sport. Its role at the peace table makes for interesting reading. A google search is in order to fully understand the martial art as a vehicle for peace.

Larry has been practicing the martial art for 35 years, and has been teaching it to others for 33 years. The Tae Kwon Do Master has posted a blog on the NAC website titled [*Tae Kwon Do as a Way to Peace*](#).

Larry states in the blog that "Peace is not simply an absence of violence but a way of being in the world. And peace begins with each of us. Through the daily practice of Tae Kwon Do, I can bring my body, mind, and spirit together. In Tae Kwon Do, I learn to focus my mind and to channel my energy."

All Tae Kwon Do practitioners are expected to uphold the five tenets of the martial art:

- courtesy
- integrity
- perseverance

- self-control
- indomitable spirit

In addition to the Tae Kwon Do demonstrations, guests at the NAC celebration enjoyed poetry readings that were read by those attending. Among the poems was one of Larry's compositions titled *The Explorer*:

*Waking from a nap
A bit groggy
But the blood will move again
Circulate in the brain
Like rain on dry earth
At 80 I continue to search for
New birth. Let lightning strike
At weary bones, melt them, fashion
A new living being that will
question
Everything and light lamps long
Extinguished. I move forward to
Learn and enjoy new lands.*

When asked what stood out at the September 18 affair, Larry said, "More than 90 people came. We had a smashing good time and raised more than \$5,000 for the mission."

Larry went on to thank Sr. Brigid Lawlor for blazing the trail a year ago with her 70th birthday fundraiser event. He ended by saying, "I am deeply indebted to Fran and Kathy for all the work they did to ensure the success of the evening. I was truly touched by the turnout of friends and colleagues who helped me celebrate my birthday and raise funds for NAC."

*Written by Jeanette McDermott,
PMNA Communications
Coordinator, in collaboration with
the NAC team*

Montgomery County Council recognizes NAC

National Advocacy Center (NAC) of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd received recognition from the Montgomery County Council on the 19th day of September 2019 with a signed proclamation that reads:

Montgomery County Council recognizes National Advocacy Center for its tireless fight to promote the wellbeing of the disenfranchised in Montgomery County and abroad. In 1997, the Good Shepherd Sisters knew that something had to be done to address injustice and in 2001 the National Advocacy Center was formed. NAC has been a consistent champion for laws that positively impact those who are the most vulnerable and is an example of inspiring leadership, advocacy and compassion."



NAC Director Larry Couch (center) surrounded by his wife Cathy and friends.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Planetary Pilgrim, *Cont'd from p. 1*

each of us who journeyed together. This article reveals my story of what it meant for me personally to experience the week-long retreat called Love, Heart of the Universe.

The retreat focused on the New Story of Creation. This story of the evolving 13.7 billion-year-old Universe is different than the Genesis Story of Creation that took place in seven days.

Because the stories are vastly different, for some the retreat was a mind-stretch, a leap into the murky waters where science co-mingles with faith. Ultimately, the retreat took us on a journey through sacred scriptures, teachings from St. John Eudes and Mary Euphrasia, Pope Francis, congregational documents, modern writings and songs.

Response to Chapter Statement

The retreat was in direct response to the Congregational Chapter Statement from 2015. It states "That the CLT establish an International Committee to integrate our spiritual heritage with up-to-date theology and our evolving experience of God."

Good Shepherd Sisters Angela Fahy and Brigid Lawlor led the retreat in St. Louis. They have been facilitating this same retreat with Good Shepherd Mission Partners around the world for nearly a year.

I was resistant to the retreat and didn't necessarily feel like I wanted to participate in it. When first invited, I hesitated. I didn't understand its purpose or how it would occupy my time for five days. I am restless by nature and talkative and loud by upbringing. The contemplative retreat sounded restrictive. Still, when Sister Madeleine asked me to discern her invitation to the retreat, I did so.

After about three weeks of questioning its relevance to my life, I decided to give it a go. I'm glad I did.

I left the retreat feeling uplifted, inspired and a little bit more aware of myself and knowledgeable of what it means "to integrate spiritual heritage with up-to-date theology and our evolving experience of God." I found those to be very nebulous words before the retreat.

Gospel of John

The retreat began with a reading from the Gospel of John and words that call forth God's desire to speak to humans.

*In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God.
And the Word was God.*

I'm not a Bible scholar or student of Teilhard de Chardin, Thomas Berry or the New Cosmology, so I had to be patient that what I heard would

eventually make sense and that I would come to understand how The Word and The Dream (The Universe Story) are connected.

The subject matter became clearer as the days rolled by and we discussed and reflected on three basic laws of the Universe: differentiation, interiority, and communion. According to Sisters Brigid and Angela, the three laws identify the reality, the values and the directives in which the Universe is proceeding. The Sisters based the retreat on these laws and how our being human affects the living, breathing orbital Earth.

Daily retreat sessions

Daily sessions broke down like this:

1. *Differentiation:* the enormous diversity in the Universe and our inter-connectedness of

Continued on next page



Planetary Pilgrims at Love, Heart of the Universe retreat in St. Louis.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Planetary Pilgrim, *Cont'd from p. 11*

everything. Reflecting on differentiation was a way of opening us up to wonder and awe, and looking at our relationship with nature and God.

2. *Interiority*: the importance of contemplation and silence as intrinsic and essential in our development as Planetary Pilgrims. This was a two-fold journey: inward to the heart and outward to connect with the natural world around us.
3. *Communion*: the importance of relationship, of community, of community living. This took us deep into the notion of how each Being of the Universe is in communion with every other Being in the Universe.
4. *Compassion*: continued focus on the importance of relationship, with an emphasis on compassion. We pondered how all of humanity is called to be compassionate because compassion is inherent in our nature and evident in Good Shepherd's vow of zeal.
5. *Reconciliation*: the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness. This session was a reminder that Good Shepherd values demand we promote justice and peace and that the call is constantly there for us to deepen and expand our reconciling by seeing that the heart of reconciliation is found in the sacredness of the whole Universe and the extravagant love of God.

Each of the five retreat days began with an orientation to the session. This was followed by personal prayer and reflection, contemplative dialogue in small groups, and large group sharing. My favorite part was the personal reflection and contemplative dialogue in small groups. I wish we had had more time for the small groups. In my opinion, it was in the heartfelt intimate sharing that the light bulbs of recognition flashed and nuggets of insight, and even epiphanies, broke loose.

My mind walks and musings

The daily personal reflections were stellar because they allowed me to spend hours outdoors in the summer heat, which I love, while listening to the symphony of crickets, katydids, and songbirds. And on one occasion, the joyful laughter of children at recess on the neighboring parish school playground.

And so the retreat, which I initially thought was going to be restrictive, actually ended up being expansive. I went on mind walks throughout the retreat and expressed my musings and questions through poetry, prose and artwork. It was a freeing experience. In the end, I felt a sense of peace and closer affinity with God. And my

lifelong devotion to nature was strengthened as these words from the retreat reminded me never to take Mother Earth for granted:

Much too often, however, Mankind forgets,
fails to remember that all is one,
that all of life is connected.
That all that is - is an expression of the Holy One.
And when we forget the connectedness,
the oneness, the unity,
We are forgetting not only our origins,
we are forgetting who we really are -
and all of life is diminished.

(from *The Dream*, on a DVD from the Well Spirituality Center)

Written by Jeanette McDermott



My contemplative reflection on reconciliation.

ACROSS BORDERS

ZEAL



Democratic Republic of Congo

Cristina Duranti is the Director of the Good Shepherd International Foundation in Rome. In this role she visits Good Shepherd ministries around the world and witnesses the lives that Good Shepherd impacts. For years Sisters of the Good Shepherd have had a presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where they are helping to normalize the lives of children and women who suffer in open pit mineral mines. Cristina took this photograph on one of her journeys and was moved deeply by the scene she observed and photographed.

"I wanted to count the number of human rights violations that this woman and her infant child are suffering while spending a whole day under the scorching sun, standing in a pool of uranium and cobalt-polluted water in Kolwezi, DRC, under a man-made mountain of tailings that have devastated a prior farming village. But I couldn't. I could just admire the dignity of her expression, a modern day Pietà that embodies the sorrow and the suffering of our times, of nature and humanity alike," Cristina said.



Angers, France

Good Shepherd Sisters at the Motherhouse in Angers, France, took part in a global strike for climate on September 20, 2019.



United Nations

The 2019 theme for International Day of the Girl is *GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable*. Girls are organizing globally to tackle issues like child marriage, education inequality, gender-based violence, climate change, self-esteem, and girls' rights to enter places of worship or public spaces during menstruation. Visit [Winifred's Blog](#) (Good Shepherd UN Representative) to keep up with the events of International Day of the Girl.

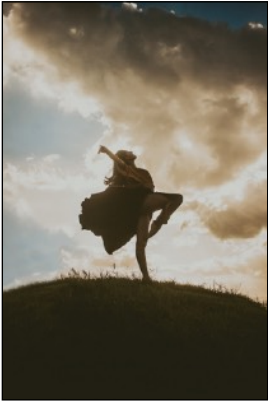
LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

| NAME | DATES | LOCATION |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson | Oct 28-Nov 1 | Province Assembly, Kings House, Belleville, IL |
| Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez | Oct 5 Oct 25-27 Oct 28-Nov 1 | Annual Luncheon Council of Women Religious, San Francisco Apostolic Council Meeting, St. Louis Province Assembly, Kings House, Belleville, IL |
| Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth | Oct 27-Nov 3 | Province Assembly, Kings House, Belleville, IL |
| Sr. Maureen Johnson | Oct 24-Nov 2 | Province Assembly, Kings House, Belleville, IL |
| Sr. Dolores Kalina | Oct 1-3 Oct 4 Oct 5-14 Oct 15-18 Oct 23-Nov 1 | St. Louis Columbus, Ohio Cincinnati Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit Meetings and Province Assembly, St. Louis/Belleville, IL |
| Sr. Maureen Kunz | Oct 21-23 Oct 25-27 Oct 28-Nov 1 | LCWR Region 15, Mount Angel, Oregon Apostolic Council Meeting, St. Louis Province Assembly, Kings House, Belleville, IL |
| Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid | Sep 30-Oct 1 Oct 2-4 Oct 8-10 Oct 12-19 Oct 25 & 27 Oct 26 Oct 28-Nov 1 | Los Angeles RCRI Conference, Dallas Generalate Investment Committee, St. Paul Retreat, Danville Apostolic Council Meeting, St. Louis Good Shepherd Shelter Gala, Los Angeles Province Assembly, Kings House, Belleville, IL |
| Sr. Madeleine Munday | Oct 1-4 Oct 8 Oct 14 Oct 15-18 Oct 18 Oct 25 Oct 26 Oct 28-Nov 1 | Communicators Conference, Mesa, Arizona DeNeuville Board of Directors Meeting, Memphis Missouri Bishops Meeting for Major Superiors, St. Louis Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit GSMP Shepherds of Peace Awards, Philadelphia Apostolic Council Meeting, St. Louis Good Shepherd Shelter Gala, Los Angeles Province Assembly, Kings House, Belleville, IL |

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"Do not be content to love with your small heart; that is too small ...But love with your great Heart."

St. John Eudes

Contact us

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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