

ITEMS

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Continuity with Jesus

Good Shepherd Sisters attend installation Mass of new Archbishop of Saint Louis.

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GSAC virtual presence

Glynis McManamon, RGS, talks about Good Shepherd Arts Center and its future.

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NAC calls for action to prevent widespread homelessness of victims of COVID and wildfires.

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Two months after an explosion in Beirut, Good Shepherd Sisters continue to care for victims.

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The Danville Community of Sisters were one group of more than 75 Partners in Mission who participated in the 2020 virtual Inter-Continental Assembly in September.

ICA SETS TONE FOR TRANSFORMATION

By Jeanette McDermott, PMNA Communications Coordinator

For the first time in the history of Good Shepherd, the Inter-Continental Assemblies are being conducted online through the Zoom platform. They are taking place across the globe by region. The virtual ICA (vICA) for Mid-North America began on September 21 and ended on September 25. It included provinces of New York/Toronto, Central South, and Great Britain.

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Green Corner

Ahhh, the lovely little snapdragons you see here make my heart sing. They popped open in my garden in the earliest days of spring, and they are still in full bloom. These jewels are among the flowers I will soon miss the most. I've begun the fall chore of preparing my garden for winter. It's an emotional task. I don't like to see summer end, and I have never, not once, ever in my life looked forward to the cold and barren, bleak, dark days of winter. I long for the light the moment we set

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

vICA, *Cont'd from p. 1*



Ritual is a hallmark of the virtual Inter-Continental Assemblies. Individuals, communities of Sisters, and work groups design their sacred space with items representing their faith, life, and personal histories. Participants share photos of their space so they can be embedded into slideshows during the ritual portion of the virtual assemblies. This sacred space belongs to Monte Abbott, Archivist for the Province of Mid-North America.

vICA format

Eight vICAs will have taken place by the time the last one ends on October 16, 2020. The purpose of the 5 day virtual experiences is to continue developing the theme and agenda for the 2021 Congregational Chapter - Radical Transformation. The essence of the next Congregational Chapter will be shaped by what is said, shared and discovered during the eight virtual assemblies.

To ensure continuity across the vICAs, the same facilitators lead each assembly and follow identical agendas and presentations. Contemplative dialogue and ritual form the core of the assemblies so that participants are centered in prayer. The atmosphere invites

reflection and deep listening to the inner self, each other, and to the Holy Spirit.

"Christ, who is love and is always loving us into goodness, is with us at this time," said Sr. Ellen Kelly, Congregational Leader and member of Good Shepherd for 55 years.

Sister Ellen opens each of the virtual ICAs with a recorded video message. In her welcoming remarks, she states:

"We come together to reflect, pray and learn together in a sacred space. ICA is a time to dream about what God has in store for us, and for all those entrusted to us.

"Radical transformation is a call into mystery and to the margins. That requires courage and trust in God

and each other. As much as we may value our past and are grateful for it, we must look towards the future, where God is calling us."

Sister Madeleine Munday, Province Leader for Mid-North America, said, "The vICAs will be a foundation of planning and development in the province and Congregation for the next several years."

2021 Chapter

The virtual Inter-Continental Assemblies play a critical role in preparing for the 2021 Congregational Chapter scheduled for June 11 - July 2, 2021. vICA participants are offering wisdom and insights related to four themes chosen by the Congregation

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vICA, *Cont'd from p. 2*

as significant topics for the 2021 Chapter Agenda. If fully embraced, these four themes hold the power to radically transform the Congregation:

1. Movement from an international to a global learning congregation;
2. Movement to being an inclusive community;
3. Movement to Partnership being mission-centric;
4. Movement to develop a Global Congregational Culture that embodies mission and values consistent across all units.

Throughout the 5-day ICA journey, participants explore these themes in depth through input, reflection, and dialogue.

Governance models

In addition to examining the themes, vICA participants are studying and discussing three prototypes for reconfiguring the Congregation's governance structure.

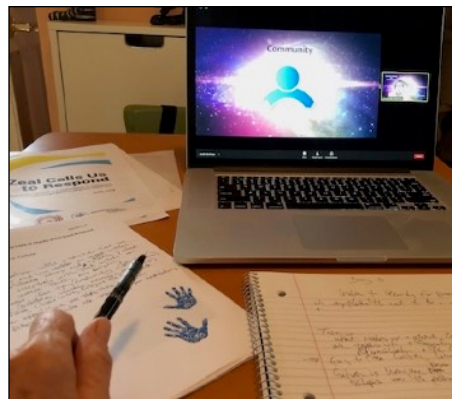
Sister Brigid Lawlor with the Life Seekers Committee presented brief overviews of the potential models for deliberation and feedback. Each model has a different characteristic for helping the Congregation move into the evolving future.

"One thing that is clear for all of the models is that governance's primary purpose is to foster the charism, enable us to be about mission, and to keep us united, both as Sisters and Lay Partners together in mission," Sr. Brigid said.

The models are future-focused for both expansion and/or contraction. The Life Seekers Committee will take the feedback from the eight vICAS and refine the models for consideration at the 2021 Congregational Chapter.

"Our work for now is to focus on the concept and a general structure for each model," Sr. Brigid said.

The completion of the virtual ICA phase on October 16 opens the door to the next expression of the Chapter topics and will ultimately lead to setting Chapter Directives that will guide the Congregation into the future.



More than 75 Partners in Mission participated in the vICA for Province of Mid-North America, New York/Toronto, Central South, and Great Britain. They joined one another in ritual, reflection and dialogue, and provided input to help shape the 2021 Congregational Chapter Agenda.

PROVINCE NEWS



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Top: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski displays to the congregation the mandate appointing him Archbishop of St. Louis. Bottom: Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, left, congratulates Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, new Archbishop of St. Louis, at the Mass of Installation.



Sisters attend installation Mass of new Archbishop of St. Louis

The Archdiocese of St. Louis installed its 10th Archbishop on August 25, 2020, the feast of Saint Louis. Good Shepherd Sisters Mary Catherine Massei and Monica Duong were on hand to witness the ceremony. Sister Mary Catherine attended on behalf of Mid-North America Province Leader Madeleine Munday, RGS. Sister Monica attended on behalf of Sister Pauline Billbrough, Local Leader for the Sisters at Mason Pointe Care Center.

As he was installed as the new spiritual leader of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski urged people to recall the words of Jesus to love one another in the face of social upheavals caused by the coronavirus pandemic, systemic racism and declining civil discourse.

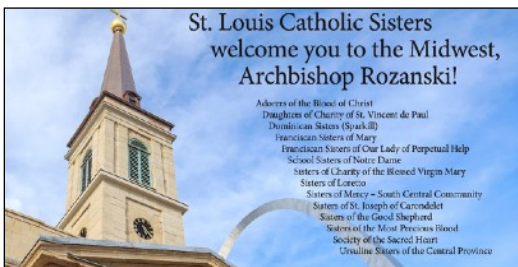
The newly installed 62 year-old Archbishop said, "In the midst of a pandemic, a societal reckoning on the life issue of race relations, an atrophied civic discourse — and yes, the often-sinful polemics we now face within our church — loving one another seems to be a tough thing to do these days. Yet, my friends, we are called to be a people of hope.

"We need only to look at the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: 'Love one another as I have loved you,'" he continued.

Rozanski told the nearly 500 people in attendance at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis that the iconic Gateway Arch in the city provides us a rich imagery, "for in order for us to live out this fundamental command to love one another it must be carried out in action. We ourselves must be gateways, not gatekeepers; gateways to healing, to evangelization, to mercy, to compassion; gateways to listening with the ears of Jesus."

Sister Mary Catherine had never attended an installation ceremony of this nature. She said she was inspired by the ceremonial symbolism and felt privileged to be there.

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Left: St. Louis Catholic Sisters welcome Archbishop Rozanski to St. Louis. Right: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist at his Mass of Installation as the 10th Archbishop of St. Louis on August 25.

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Archbishop, *Cont'd from p. 4*

"The entire ceremony inspired me," said Sr. Mary Catherine.

"I was grateful for the appreciation expressed to Archbishop Carlson for his years of service as Archbishop of St. Louis, and I was moved by the warm welcome that Archbishop Rozanski received. The rituals that were performed throughout the installation were beautiful to watch," she said.

"It was the continuity with Jesus that inspired me most. The ceremony displayed the unity between the Pope and his bishops. It's a sign of unity that dates back to the Apostles when Jesus gave them the command to go out into the world to spread the Good News. For me, this represents the way we are supposed to be living and doing our part in the Kingdom," she said.

Ceremony rituals

The installation ceremony began when Msgr. Dennis Kuruppassery, representing Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read the apostolic letter from Pope Francis announcing Rozanski's appointment to St. Louis and relieving him of his responsibilities as bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts. Rozanski moved across the sanctuary as he displayed the apostolic letter to the entire congregation.

Rozanski then received the pallium, a woolen band that the heads of archdioceses wear around their shoulders over their Mass vestments. It is given to an archbishop by the pope as a sign of their unity with the pontiff in ministry to the Catholic faithful. Rozanski then was escorted to the bishop's chair (cathedra), where the archbishop presides at Mass and

other celebrations at the cathedral basilica.

There was a brief exchange with Robert J. Carlson, who had led the St. Louis Archdiocese since 2009, and named Rozanski as his successor. Carlson handed Rozanski the crozier, the pastoral staff that symbolizes the responsibility of leading all to Christ.

For Rozanski, this appointment moved him from one of the smaller dioceses in the United States to one of the larger archdioceses with some 505,000 Catholics worshipping in 182 parishes. Geographically, the archdiocese comprises St. Louis and 10 Missouri counties, covering an area larger than 5,900 square miles, roughly twice the size of the Springfield, Massachusetts, Diocese from where Rozanski came.

At a news conference in St. Louis in June, Carlson told an audience of staff, clergy and reporters: "You are receiving from the Holy Father a true man of God. Pope Francis is appointing someone who knows the joy of the Gospel. He has a zeal for evangelization and is known throughout the Northeast, from Baltimore to Boston, for his work with peoples of all colors, all creeds."

Always be humble

On a personal level, when asked how he would describe himself, Rozanski responded, "The happiest day of my life was the day of my ordination as a priest. And the happiest years of my life were when I served in parishes. I am a parish priest."

Asked how his family members, including his parents, Alfred and Jean, and his brothers, Kenneth and Albert, responded to his elevation to archbishop, he shared his mother's



Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski acknowledged the congregation after displaying the mandate appointing him Archbishop of St. Louis.

comment: "I told you this when you were named an auxiliary bishop, and I told you this when you were installed as bishop of Springfield and I am telling you this again: Don't get a big head. Always be humble."

This story is a composite of original writing and edited news reports from various sources. Written, compiled and edited by Jeanette McDermott, Communications Coordinator for Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Mid-North America and Editor of Items of Interest. Photos by Lisa Johnson, St. Louis Review, a publication of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

New formation options open for partners in mission

The North America Mission and Values Team — known best for planning North America Gatherings and Angers Pilgrimages — is offering mission formation in new and creative ways during the pandemic, when we cannot be together in person. The team is broadening the invitation to everyone.

Beginning in October, the team will host at least one virtual meeting per month on Zoom. Some of the meetings will be more content-based and lasting for two hours. Some will be more conversational and reflective and will last for one hour.

Meetings are open to all Partners in Mission. The sessions will be interactive and include small group discussions in breakout rooms. The purpose of the sessions is to provide participants with an opportunity to learn about issues of concern to Good Shepherd while connecting with one another across North America.

The three monthly events for the rest of 2020 are:

1. October 13: Migration Talk with Sr. Winifred Doherty (See page 20 for details).
2. November 17: Talk by Sr. Anne Josephine Carr (Great Britain, the Angers Pilgrimage presenter) about St. Mary Euphrasia and Hope
3. December 4: Conversation and Reflection on 2020 - What Do We Carry Forward or Let Go Of?

Registration for the sessions opens about a month in advance. The November and December meetings are not yet available for registration. Registration is open for the October event with Sr. Winifred Doherty at <https://bit.ly/3ikdUZO>. Registration is required and will close October 8.

An invitation to register for all formation events will be sent through the Good Shepherd listserv (the same list for the SME daily quotes). To be added to the listserv, send your email address to Lizzie Cody lcody@maryhurst.org.

Members of the North America Mission and Values Team include Lizzie Cody from Province Mid-North America; Celia Ceballos from New York/Toronto Province; Nancy Fritsche-Eagan from New York/Toronto Province; and Nadia Dias from Marymount in Winnipeg, Canada. The team met for two days in August to plan mission formation opportunities for all of the Partners in Mission in North America. This includes Sisters and Lay Partners in the provinces of Central South, Montreal, Mid-North America, and New York/Toronto.

Announcements and News Tidbits

The Province Chapter (moved from April to October 26-29) is postponed indefinitely due to COVID19.

The Province Assembly for Mid-North America will be held through Zoom October 19–23, 2020.

Contemplative Assembly for Contemplative Sisters (CACS) scheduled for February, 2021 in Ecuador is postponed indefinitely due to COVID19.

Sister Ann Marie Soloman has turned 104 years old. She received a presidential letter and Papal Blessing when she turned 100 four years ago. The Danville Community celebrated with ice cream for all. Sister Anne Marie's birthday is March 8.

Sister Marilyn Atwell celebrates 60 years of Good Shepherd vowed life on October 3. She recalls entering on a day when the sun was bright and the breeze was blowing through the tall evergreen trees. She asks God to keep each of us faithful, joyful, eager in living out the mission of the Shepherd.

Sister Elizabeth Garciano will move from Danville on October 10 to spend time with Good Shepherd Sisters in Carrollton, Ohio, the Central South US province.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd said House passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act September 17 is a "huge win for women." The bill was passed in the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. It now awaits a vote in the U.S. Senate.

<https://bit.ly/3l4JCfM>

Good Shepherd Gracenter held its first online fundraiser from September 1-20. Look for a future story about it in Items of Interest.

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Q&A

*Glynis McManamon, RGS, moved into a storefront in Ferguson and opened **Shepherding Images Studio** and **Good Shepherd Gallery** on September 1, 2015. The official opening was November 17, 2015. A few years later, **Shepherding Images** evolved into the nonprofit **Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC)**. **Sisters of the Good Shepherd** moved out of the building on July 31, 2020. An interview with Sister Glynis, Director of GSAC, explains the story of **Good Shepherd Arts Center** and where it stands today.*

Why did you close the doors to GSAC?

We were open to the public very little between March 14 and the time we closed our doors on July 31 because of the coronavirus pandemic. We were open to film a documentary about "Who Is My Neighbor?" and also for our "Y'Art Sale," during which time we sold off as many fixtures as possible.

We did not have the capacity to sanitize the facility for COVID-19 to the degree that was recommended. We were not sure who would risk coming. Our occupancy expenses were averaging \$1,800 a month. So basically, we had a very expensive storage facility. The GSAC board wanted to see our funds go for something more beneficial to others, rather than holding the space.

You started out as a healing presence in Ferguson following the Michael Brown shooting. Now that you no longer have a presence in Ferguson, how will your mission change, or how has it already changed?

We are exploring a partnership with another Ferguson entity so we can resume an active presence in Ferguson once the pandemic restrictions are lifted. Jonathan Tremaine Thomas, a pastor, activist and founder of Civil Righteousness will be re-opening the coffee house, so we are in conversation with him about using the walls of their meeting room. We are also talking with the Ferguson Library, and there are a few other organizations we are exploring partnership with.

What else are you doing in the interim to figure out next steps for GSAC?

We are watching for Ferguson events on Zoom (such as the recent Town Hall meeting with Mayor Ella Jones). I helped with donating crayons, markers and pencils for a backpack stuffing project, and helped stuff backpacks at the Community Center. GSAC donated to "The Taste in Ferguson - this is our fourth year doing that.

I'm still attending the Ferguson Ministries Alliance meetings, which are on Zoom as well. Also, GSAC is a member of Ferguson's "PROUD" - People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity." We were the focus of their Courageous Conversation in July. So GSAC will remain as involved as possible in Ferguson during this in-between time.

Which, if any, volunteers are still assisting you?

Sister Mary Catherine Massei is still doing the books. Our fledgling board is still involved. There are two graphic designers who have volunteered and may be assisting



Glynis McManamon, RGS

with some specific projects occasionally.

Where are you working now?

The physical workspace is in our community on Waco Drive. We are using a box at the UPS Store for a mailing location: 224 N. Hwy 67, "Suite" 248, Florissant, MO 63031.

You are now concentrating on online exhibits, retreats and workshops. Are the online sessions catching on?

The exhibits have had a solid viewing audience. I've had four online sessions so far, and there have been attendees at each. The videos remain accessible on Facebook, and I am putting links on our website. The next artist, Thomas Park, will have an online reception/artist talk on Sunday, October 4 at 2 p.m. Central Time.

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MINISTRY NEWS



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Q&A *Con't from p. 7*



Sister Glynis (left) welcomes guests to an opening night art exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center in Ferguson.



The icon painting classes Sister Glynis offered at GSAC in Ferguson are now being taught online.

How successful are the online sessions?

It's too early to tell regarding workshops, but the art exhibits are better online than if we were trying to conduct them in person.

How did it feel to transition from having a physical location to an online presence?

It was better than nothing. I miss the interaction of having a live space. I especially miss welcoming our special guests - several folks from the homeless population. I so enjoyed welcoming them in and having them enjoy the art.

What's in store for GSAC?

We'll have to wait and see. For now

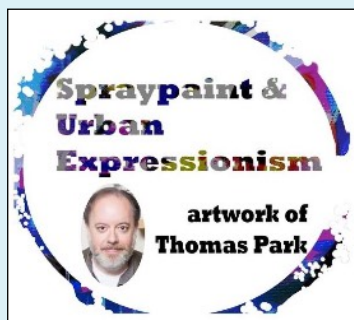
I would just like folks to look at our website, check out our Facebook page, and participate in our Facebook Live events and online artist receptions and art exhibits. You can find our website at <https://goodshepherdarts.org/>

Our Facebook page is at <https://bit.ly/33jz5ai>

Online artist reception and art opening with GSAC

Thomas Park is the featured artist at an online reception and art exhibit sponsored by Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) on October 4, 2020. Park will share his thoughts and entertain questions about his ethos and technique for spray paint and urban expressionism. His talk runs from 2 pm - 3 pm Central Time. To receive a Zoom link to the event, send an email to info@goodshepherdarts.org

To see past talks with artists, visit the Good Shepherd Arts Center Facebook page at <https://bit.ly/33jz5ai>



How can people see past art exhibits or artist talks that you have held online?

We share current exhibits and art tutorials with the public from the main page of our website. People can visit the archives on our website to see past events at <https://goodshepherdarts.org/exhibit-archives>

How can people support Good Shepherd Arts Center?

We accept donations, of course. In addition, people who shop on Amazon can support us easily through the Amazon Smiles program at smile.amazon.com

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



GSAC Trivia Night succeeds virtually

When the coronavirus lockdowns began, Good Shepherd Arts Center (GSAC) didn't know whether to cancel or move forward with its long-planned Trivia Night fundraiser on Friday, August 14. After long deliberation, the Board decided to try something new and take the fundraiser into cyberspace.

Things turned out much better than Sr. Glynis McManamon, Director of GSAC, said she expected. When asked if she would do another Trivia Night online, she said, "Yes, if the board is on board, which I expect they would be."

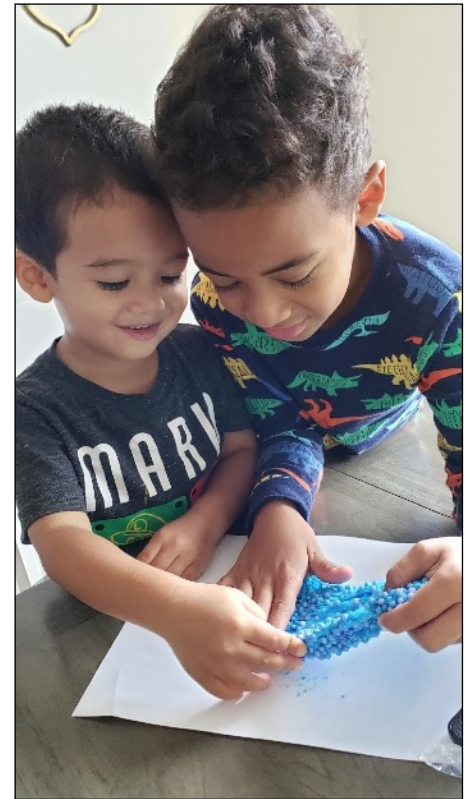
About 50 people at eight tables of varying sizes participated in Trivia Night. Among the participants were Sisters and friends from the East Coast and Canada. The event raised \$3,200 for Good Shepherd Arts Center.

Generous donors enliven CORA Services

CORA Services exceeded its CORA vs. COVID fundraising goal, thanks to a generous grant from the Connelly Foundation. CORA has raised more than \$125,000 since May 1, 2020, when it launched the campaign.

"We are extremely grateful to Connelly and all of the compassionate members of our community who contributed so that CORA can continue serving children and families during this unprecedented time, when they need support more than ever," said CORA CEO AnnMarie Schultz.

As providers around the city of Philadelphia struggled with whether they could or should reopen services for children, CORA recognized that many families needed to return to work and were desperate for quality childcare in a safe environment. With this in mind CORA made a plan to support these families to the best of its ability. On July 6, 2020, CORA reopened two Early Years Early Childhood Education facilities and launched four in-person summer camp locations. CORA also provided



virtual programming for children ages K-8.

Early Years Program

Early Years kids and staff made the most of the summer of 2020. They hatched, raised and released butterflies. They learned about the arts and made ice cream sundaes. They studied other countries and cultures, learned about all of the fun things to do at a beach, and explored dinosaurs for a week.

CORA's three Early Years locations have been enrolling children for fall.

CORA Services is a sponsored ministry of Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Rooted in a tradition of care and compassion, the mission of CORA Services is to assist children, youth and families who are experiencing emotional, academic and social challenges.



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Mural, mural on the wall

Beauty is not only in the eye of the beholder, it's in the heart of the artist. The 2019-2020 graduating students of Clara B Ford left a lasting imprint on the Vista Maria campus when they designed and painted a large mural on one of the school walls.

A student approached Vista Maria staff, Ms. Brittany, about the idea for the project. Right before COVID19 struck, a student space had been cleared for a group of volunteers to convert into an art studio. COVID forced the school to put the art studio plans on hold. This opened

the door for the students to brand the room. Ms. Brittany and the seven graduating students studied various designs and themes to get ideas for the mural they wanted to paint. They voted on an African animal sunrise theme, believing it could represent everyone while unifying the campus with a powerful quote about not letting your past be the ending of your own story. Maya Angelou's quote solidified their concept.

From the first paint stroke to the last bit of touch up, the mural took about seven days to complete. One of the

students, Doro, is a resident in the Shepherd Hall Program. He said what he enjoyed most about the mural project is that it was an escape. He said art has always had that effect on him.

Doro said he enjoyed watching the project start as an idea and evolve into something bigger until it was transformed into art. He hopes that others will see the space where the mural is located not as just another room, but as a special place of meaning and hope.

Submitted by Janet Jones, Values Educator at Vista Maria



Mystery Photo

Who might be this Good Shepherd Sister wearing a modified habit and snagging a line full of fish? Any idea who she is? Where is she fishing? And in what year was this photo taken?

Much of the material in the PMNA archives is a bit of a mystery, especially photographs that contain no captions or annotations of any sort. Some of these archival pictures are really fun and fascinating to look at and study. The photographs could no doubt tell an interesting story if we had information to accompany the image. A few of us at the Province Center have looked long and hard at this particular photo to try to figure out who this Sister is and where she is. We have come up dry and need to sleuth it out among our readers. If you have any information about this picture that can help flesh out the archives, please contact Jeanette McDermott at jmcdermott@gspmna.org.

The Sister in the Mystery Photo in the last issue of Items of Interest was our Province Leader Sister Madeleine Munday with a cute German Shepherd pup named Heidi.



COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL

Fulfilling my passions for vocations and contemplation

By Jean Marie Fernandez, RGS

NRVC Board

I am honored to serve on the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) board of directors. I have a deep passion and commitment to the full flourishing of religious life in the Church and for the ongoing transformation of the world.

I am discovering ever more deeply that religious life is a viable prophetic option for those persons seeking to discover God's call in their lives. To me, it is God's holy work. I am only a catalyst for vocation discernment. God's call remains a mystery and a gift.

I was recently elected for a three-year term on the board, with the option to serve for two consecutive terms. The board meets at least twice a year. My first meeting took place by Zoom in August. I felt very welcomed at the meeting and experienced a sense of belonging in a diverse group of peers. The next Zoom meeting of the board will be in March 2021 by Zoom, followed by another meeting September 20-24th in New Orleans, which will include travel.

The vision of NRVC is to set the world ablaze with the fire of God's love through the prophetic, joyful witness of religious sisters, brothers, and priests as radical disciples of Jesus.

The board is currently preparing for the NRVC 2020 Virtual Convocation, which will run October 28-31.

Contemplation webinar

I was one of some 1,200 Sisters who participated in a recent webinar titled "Tapping into the Power of Contemplation." Gail de George, the



Jean Marie Fernandez, RGS

editor of *Global Sisters Report*, conducted an hour-long online interview with Sr. Nancy Sylvester. (Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan) on the power of contemplation.

For nearly two decades, Sister Nancy has been drawing on "contemplative power" in her interactions as a leader and her social justice work — and teaching others how to do so — in workshops. In this current time of chaos and conflict, Sr. Nancy and her team at the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue have developed a workshop to address how to integrate contemplative practice while engaging with others' differences.

I found this conversation to be extremely helpful and enlightening because this practice aligns me with

my deepest Good Shepherd values. It brings me to a new awareness of being and acting in right relationships with God, mother nature, and all of life — especially the world's suffering poor.

I am also a member of the virtual contemplative sitting network. We have about 1,000 people all over the world who are committed to sit in meditation for 20 minutes each day. This experience of being together is powerful because I experience God's energy of love transforming and healing the world in profound new ways.

I am reminded again and again in the writings and wisdom of Constance FitzGerald, OCD:

"Our time and place in history bring us face to face with profound societal impasse...

We can find no escape from the world we've built....

Yet it is only in the process of bringing the impasse to prayer to the perspective of the God who loves us that our society will be freed, healed, changed."

Here is the link to the YouTube recording of the webinar: <https://youtu.be/gEXibLraSyU>

Sister Jean Marie serves as Vocation Director for the Province of Mid-North America. She is a member of the San Francisco community of Good Shepherd Sisters. She also serves as a counselor at St. Vincent de Paul center in San Francisco.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL

Danville community doesn't let COVID slow them down

Sisters Mary Carol McClenon and Stella Mangona report on the energetic activities of the Danville community since the onset of coronavirus lockdowns.

Personal retreats

Four Good Shepherd Sisters from the Danville Community went on retreat in Carrollton, Ohio, after asking Sr. Francisca Aguillon, Province Leader of Central South, if they could make private retreats there. (Sisters are expected to make annual retreats.) Each Sister had a different theme for her personal retreat. They joined the Carrollton community for Mass and meals. The eight-day retreat took place in July. Those on retreat were Sisters Mary Carol McClenon, Stella Mangona, Carmen Flores, and Sr. Maria Do Rosario Oliveira from Good Shepherd in Portugal.

Sheep races

The game was afoot on August 19, Feast of Saint John Eudes, with a party and sheep races at Danville.



The sheep race was pretty much akin to the Kentucky Derby.

The Good Shepherd Sisters sponsored a party for the entire Maria Hall community. Games, activities, and sheep races filled the hours. Before the game began, the spectators were allowed to bet on one of the sheep. I made them write down their bets so they wouldn't cheat ... I know these Sisters all too well! Eventually, one of the sheep wins the race. It was hilarious to see how deeply involved we all got with cheering for the sheep we bet on," said Sr. Mary Carol.

Line dancing

Dancing has become a favorite pastime at Maria Hall. Some of the Sisters can kick nearly as high as a Ziegfeld Follies dancer.



Cats

We have a cat Cordiae who's in the barn as a model of our Care for Creation. The barn is in a beautiful setting with a creek and gorgeous sunrises and sunsets. The area is surrounded by evergreens, apple and peach trees, tomato plants, grapevines, and flowering plants. We are living the experience of Divine abundance. Sister Stella Mangona and I spend a lot of time with Cordiae and the other barn cats, which Sr. Irene Marie, SSCM, manages. I spend probably about seven hours a week just visiting the cats. It's one of my "therapies" during the coronavirus pandemic.

And more

We go for contemplative walks, stay involved with our parish and connect with homebound parishioners, and hold fundraisers for Catholic Charities to help the homeless and victims of calamities. We also make pilgrimages to local shrines, and do many other things.



Retreatants with Central South Province Leader Francisca Aguillon. From left: Sisters Carmen Flores, Francisca Aguillon, Mary Carol McClenon, Lynn Reid, and Stella Mangona.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL

Danville, *Cont'd from p. 12*

A monarch butterfly lands on Sr. Elizabeth Garciano's blouse to greet her following the butterfly release at Maria Hall in Danville, Ohio.

Butterfly release honors deceased Sisters from the Maria Hall community in Danville

Good Shepherd Sisters in the Danville Community joined other Sisters at Maria Hall recently for a butterfly release and memorial service for those Sisters who have died since March.

The event, called Wings of Hope, took place at Maria Hall grounds in Danville, Pennsylvania, where Good Shepherd Sisters live with members of the Saints Cyril and Methodius and Carmelite orders. Six SSCM Sisters have gone home to God since March.

"The butterflies we released symbolized new life for those who died in Geisinger Hospice on our fourth floor. We prayed together for those Sisters as we released 45 butterflies. Relatives of the deceased came to experience the event," Sr. Stella said.

Twenty Sisters from Maria Hall participated in the butterfly release and memorial service, including Good Shepherd, Cyril and Methodius, and Carmelite Sisters.



Sisters Stella Mangona and Elizabeth Garciano gather once a month with the Filipino nurses who work in the Emmanuel nursing home where three Good Shepherd Sisters are cared for. They also meet with other Filipino doctors and nurses who are part of a Filipino ministry in Danville. Sr. Stella is on the left, and Sr. Elizabeth is in the rear on the right.



Sisters in the Danville community and Maria Hall enjoyed a S'mores party on Labor Day weekend. The celebration took place on the 4th floor porch at Maria Hall in Danville. Sisters say they enjoy outings on the porch because they can see deer grazing in the woods, making them feel like they are at a party in the park.

***As a retired community,
we continue our mission through
contemplation, joyful interaction, and
caring for our sick in Emmanuel Hall.***

Stella Mangona, RGS

NAC NEWS



ZEAL



NAC calls for action to prevent widespread homelessness

By Patricia Kelly, Good Shepherd Volunteer for the National Advocacy Center

As a new Good Shepherd Volunteer, I've had the opportunity to meet many inspiring Sisters and Mission Partners who are deeply committed to social justice. I am struck by the Good Shepherd charism and the community's commitment to a simple yet radical idea: that each person is of more value than the entire world.

When I became a volunteer, I made a commitment to grow in this charism by advocating for laws that reflect the inherent, immeasurable worth of each person. Now, with millions of people at risk of losing housing, one of the most basic human needs, I am reminded of that commitment and feel compelled to act.

Between the ongoing economic crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic and the dangerous wildfires raging across the west coast, millions of people may become homeless in the coming months.

The National Advocacy Center urges the Good Shepherd

community to take action to keep individuals safe, housed, and secure.

Displaced by economy

As our country continues to grapple with the ongoing pandemic, many are experiencing financial hardships that threaten their livelihoods. By June, 2020, nearly 30 million people had lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

Today, many businesses have permanently closed and the unemployment rate lingers at 8.4%. With this widespread loss of income, millions of tenants in the U.S. are unable to pay rent.

The recent moratorium has provided critical relief by halting evictions until December 31 of this year. However, the moratorium postpones, but does not solve, the impending eviction crisis.

Renters still have no emergency financial assistance and will be debt burdened by back rent, penalties and interest when the moratorium expires. An estimated 30-40 million

people are at risk of eviction by the end of 2020.

Displaced by wildfires

While millions of people throughout the country face eviction in the coming months, thousands have already been displaced by the wildfires raging across the west coast. Hundreds of thousands more have been ordered to prepare to evacuate if needed.

People are staying in park encampments, shelters, hotels, churches, and the homes of family and friends. With stretched budgets, the affected states are struggling to gather enough resources to provide shelter for all who need it. Housing advocates report that with shelters at full capacity, thousands of people are still left unsheltered and homeless.

Conditions today are especially dangerous, as people experiencing homelessness inhale the smoke and ash of the fires and are increasingly exposed to COVID-19.

Continued on next page

NAC NEWS



ZEAL



Homelessness, *Cont'd from p. 14*

When faced with such enormous suffering, how can we respond? How can we act to uphold the dignity of our fellow human beings who are in danger of losing their homes or have already lost them?

Throughout the pandemic, the Good Shepherd community has acted in solidarity with those most impacted by it. Good Shepherd has remained steadfast in serving vulnerable women, children, and families, bravely adapting to new challenges, and uniting in prayer. The community has shown courage and compassion for others even as we contend with the pandemic ourselves.

To extend the reach of this important work, we must join our voices with those who are hurting. We must urge Congress to pass \$100 billion in rental assistance and fund additional shelters for those displaced by the wildfires. Use our quick and easy advocacy tool to contact your Senators and Representatives at <https://bit.ly/3n2cPcR>

By uniting together, we can continually advocate for the transformation of society until it reflects the incredible truth that each person is of more value than the entire world.

Patricia Kelly started with the National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the Good Shepherd in September 2020 and will continue her volunteer service with NAC through July 2021. She graduated from Columbia University in New York City in 2019 with a degree in Human Rights. She is from West Palm Beach, Florida, and currently lives in Washington, D.C.



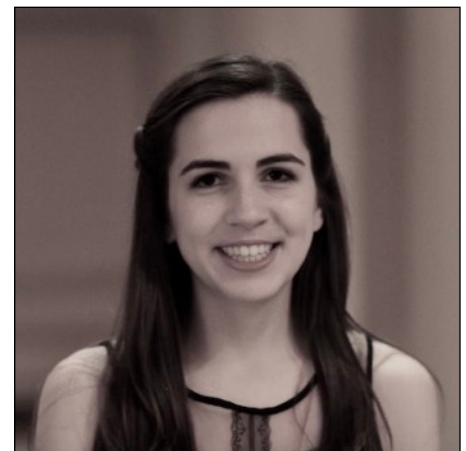
Thousands of individuals and families across the West Coast have been displaced by wildfires, leaving many homeless.

Patricia said she wanted to serve with NAC “because of how invested in and effective they are at advocating for social justice. They have extensive knowledge of social justice issues and an acute vision that allows them to respond nimbly to the needs of the times.”

Patricia also said she saw that “at the heart of NAC's mission was a profound respect for the dignity of each person, which made me want to be a part of and learn from the organization.”

Following her year of volunteer service, Patricia says she plans to work in advocacy and live out her faith on a daily basis.

Good Shepherd Volunteers honors the Sisters of the Good Shepherd core values of individual dignity, mercy, reconciliation, and zeal for those suffering injustice, oppression



Patricia Kelly, Good Shepherd Volunteer

and alienation by practicing the 4 Tenets of GSV: social justice, simplicity, spirituality, and community, during their service year. Learn more at <https://www.gsvolunteers.org/>

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Green Corner, *Cont'd from p. 1*

our clocks back. The growing season seems to fly by, literally - a flash in the pan. One day I'm dropping seeds into the newly thawed earth, and the next day I'm cutting back, digging up, and mulching the whole backyard so what's rooted beneath the soil can lay undisturbed, dormant in Missouri's frozen tundra for the next 5 months.

Time is so elusive. My brother helped me design a new garden bed in May. I told him the other day that it felt like just last week we were planning, mapping, seeding and planting the new garden. I asked him if it felt the same way to him. He said, "No." To him, it felt exactly like the four months it has been.

I lived in the Costa Rican rainforest for three years, where it's eternally and blissfully summer. There are two seasons: wet and dry. The jungle is green and lush with leaves and rich vegetation year round. That's my hallmark of a gardener's dream.

How I wish Missouri were a Zone 11 region, hot like tropical Central America. But if that were the case, then it wouldn't be the Midwest, now would it? It would be the Florida Keys or Baja, California, or somewhere else altogether. And I do love St. Louis. I was born here and am rooted here. I would miss it if I went in search of Zone 11. I think.

If there were really such a thing as a genie in a bottle, would I squander a wish and ask for a 12-month growing cycle in St. Louis? Nah, probably not because ultimately this could never work. St. Louis is what it is. It has its own circadian rhythm, its natural, internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle for humans, animals, and plants alike.

Still ... I do wish for longer St. Louis summers. As I say this, I also

whisper a prayer of thanks that I, at least, don't live in Montana, where my brother moved. The brother who helped me design the new garden bed. The growing cycle where he now lives is a mere 55 days. Wow! That's not even two months. What can possibly grow in that length of time? Some lettuce I suppose. St. Louis has a whopping 209-day growing season by comparison. See, there is always something for which to be grateful.

Autumn sets in

And so October unfolds. And before we have time to blink an eye, this month will soon give a nod to November, and November will welcome December. With that awareness in mind, I'm saying goodbye to my garden blooms. That inevitable last day of growth will appear, as scheduled by nature, on October 29, give or take a few days.

Already the migratory birds have moved on, heading south into those glorious warm zones that never stop producing food for them. I've ceased looking for the tiny ruby throated hummingbirds at my feeders and listening for the sweet melodies of the bubbly and energetic house wrens. I hope they return next spring. There's no guarantee, but I'll increase the odds by luring them with dried mealy grubs and soft cotton fiber for their nests. Next fall maybe I'll build an aviary.

The grass that grew ten feet tall every other day just last month no longer hides me when I fail to mow. In another few days I won't need to shear the grass this year at all anymore. That happened fast.

Like I do at this time every year, I'm struggling to make peace with autumn for snatching up summer and paving the way for winter. I've



Nature's cure for COVID

Local Leader for the Danville Community Sister Mary Carol McClenon says she is coping with the coronavirus pandemic by spending more time in nature, especially hiking and camping. How are you dealing with the pandemic and its effect on your wellbeing? We would like to know. Send your stories and photographs to Jeanette McDermott at jmcdermott@gspmna.org

decided to add a sunroom onto my house. This will make the houseplants happy. But most importantly, the glass-enclosed sunroom will trick my brain and give me the sense of being outdoors (my favorite place to be) while actually being indoors protected against harsh weather. Never mind the window washing. Next fall maybe I'll move to Zone 11.

Most likely, however, I'll just stay put and go on bargaining with nature in anticipation of spring.

Written by Jeanette McDermott

PEACE JUSTICE



ZEAL

Day of the Girl

Good Shepherd Asia Pacific has organized a regional campaign to advocate for girls. It involves schools and social services agencies across each of the Good Shepherd units in Asia Pacific. The campaign starts October 1 and runs through Human Rights Day on December 10.

The campaign offers the Good Shepherd Asia Pacific units a way to connect with one another as a region. The nine units leading the campaign are Northeast Asia, Philippines/Japan; East Asia; Sri Lanka/Pakistan; Nepal; Singapore/Malaysia; Indonesia; South West India; Central East India/Nepal.

Objectives of the campaign were born of the COVID19 lockdowns, which have resulted in massive numbers of children attending virtual classes. This has raised the need for children, and especially girls, to know safety rules so they might avoid exploitation when using digital platforms. (See related story on page 18)

The campaign also aims to create awareness of the human rights of the girl child and introduce support systems and safe spaces for girls to express joys and successes, as well as challenges and violations to their human rights.

The [UN International Day of the Girl Child](#) (IDG) is celebrated annually on October 11 to promote girls' empowerment and fulfillment of their human rights while also highlighting the challenges that girls face the world over. A Good Shepherd live forum for IDG will take place on YouTube on October 11, 2020, at 9:30 am Malaysian Time. This is 9:30 pm Eastern Time the previous day, on October 10. Join the forum at <https://bit.ly/36gq6sg>

Four girl youth advocates will speak about rural girls, girl refugees, childhood ending early through forced marriage, and gender equality. Winifred Doherty, RGS, will moderate the forum as the main NGO representative to the United Nations for Sisters of the Good Shepherd. You can find her blog at <https://gsijpoffice.com/>

Good Shepherd units throughout the Asia Pacific region will lead other IDG events and activities, including a logo competition and theme song composition, prayer writing and recitation, a social media hashtag campaign #myvoiceourfuture, poster making competition, infographic designs, school outreach to social services, outreach to men (dads, brothers, boys), and gratitude body prayer movement. Visit <https://bit.ly/2GojoY1> for more details.

Written by Jeanette McDermott, Editor, Items of Interest



GOOD SHEPHERD ASIA PACIFIC PANEL EVENT

Addressing girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights while highlighting challenges faced by girls throughout the Asia Pacific and all over the world.

11 OCT 2020, 9:30AM MALAYSIAN TIME

WATCH LIVE: <https://bit.ly/36gq6sg>

MODERATOR **Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS**

Main NGO Representative to the UN for the Good Shepherd Sisters

PANELISTS

Sanjana Angeline K

Rural Girls Advocate

May Twe

Girl Refugees Advocate

Jillian Fernandez

Educator and Advocate for Gender Equality

Merrylove Glory Albert

Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage Activist

The panel is sponsored by Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Circle of Leaders, Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office and Good Shepherd International Foundation.



Good Shepherd Asia Pacific



Good Shepherd_AP



goodshepherdap



GSIF Asia Pacific



Good Shepherd Sisters
in Special Consultative Status
with UN ECOSOC



GOOD SHEPHERD
INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION

Today's more than 1.1 billion girls are poised to take on the future. Every day girls break boundaries and barriers and tackle issues like child marriage, education inequality, violence, climate justice, and inequitable access to healthcare. Girls are proving they are unstoppable, as evidenced in the report "[A New Era for Girls](#)."

PEACE JUSTICE



ZEAL

MODERN SLAVERY CONTINUES DURING COVID-19

Exploitation is on the rise as a direct result of the virus.

Pandemic's hidden crisis of child trafficking

"STOLEN" is the end result of a year-long NBC 7 investigation into the sex trafficking and exploitation of children in San Diego County. The seven-episode documentary series is told from the perspective of survivors, advocates, traffickers and sex buyers. From these multiple perspectives, STOLEN explains why the illicit selling and buying of children for the sex market thrives in San Diego County and across the U.S. The series also chronicles the strength of survivors and their families, and the advocates who are working to break the destructive cycle and reclaim stolen lives.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has impacted nearly every aspect of society in 2020. In particular, it has aided in the rise of sex trafficking on national and global levels. With more children online during the coronavirus pandemic, experts say they are at greater risk of exploitation now more than ever. Traffickers have been turning to the use of web cams and chat rooms to exploit their victims. According to the NBC7 report, researchers found that the economic hardship from the shutdown has forced pimps and exploiters to turn to the internet as a source of cash. Today one in five children online are sexually propositioned through gaming platforms and other social media.

But economic turmoil is not the only issue fueling the increase in sex trafficking during COVID-19. With schools and other programs shuttered, victims have fewer places to turn to report the exploitation and there are fewer chances for the abuse to be recognized.



From January through June 2020, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported a more than 90% increase in the number of reports it received of "online enticement" and calls made into its Cyber TipLine reporting child abuse compared to the year before. In March 2020, as the virus was spreading throughout the United States, the FBI issued a warning to parents regarding the increased presence of sexual predators on the internet.

The first episode of the NBC7 investigation explains the psychology behind this complex issue, how it happens, the myths surrounding trafficking, and how virtually anyone can become a victim. The second episode looks at the scope of the problem. In the third episode undercover agents bust a sex buyer, and a survivor explains why girls aren't the only victims targeted. The fourth episode tells the story of a wealthy businessman who admitted to paying young girls for sex, and talks about how he received immunity from prosecution, despite evidence of sexual exploitation. The fifth episode examines social

Continued on next page

PEACE JUSTICE



ZEAL

Child trafficking, *Cont'd from p. 18*

media apps and the risk factors of human trafficking that everyone should know about.

Are we doing enough?

Many say the culture of child sex on-demand is driven by a sexualized society. NBC 7 investigates this claim in the sixth episode. In the final episode of the series, NBC7 looks at solutions. Leaders in the fight discuss what's being done to help prevent trafficking, educate youth, and support survivors. The report leaves us with the nagging question, "Is it enough?"

We can all do something to help in the fight against human trafficking. The website for the NBC7 investigative report offers some useful tips at <https://bit.ly/35FTBUn>

Keep the conversation going

The STOLEN series focuses on the domestic sex trafficking of children in San Diego, but researchers say there are many layers to this complex issue, including labor and international trafficking. Many resources are available to help us better understand the issues and to keep the conversation going. We

can begin by watching the full documentary series STOLEN at <https://bit.ly/3ka4Sju>, or at least by watching the trailer at <https://bit.ly/3ka4Sju>

Resources

- **Talitha Kum** (International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons) is an organization of Catholic women established by the International Union of Superiors General (UISG). The group works to end human-trafficking. It is based in Rome and operates in 92 countries. talithakum.info/
- **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** is a network of services and resources to inform the public about human trafficking, prevent the crime and assist survivors to achieve a fulfilling life. sistersagainstrafficking.org
- **Vista Maria WINGS** program helps girls who have been trafficked. vistamaria.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/restore_2019_web.pdf
- **Polaris Project** helps prevent struggling communities from

falling prey to sex and labor trafficking. polarisproject.org/

- **Coalition Against Trafficking in Women** is an international non-governmental organization opposing human trafficking, prostitution, and other forms of commercial sex. catwinternational.org/
- **Shared Hope** protects children from online predators. sharedhope.org
- **Survive and Thrive** coordinates and provides services for victims of human trafficking. surviveandthriveadvocacy.org
- **Stop the Traffik** recruits activists to help stop human trafficking. stopthetraffik.org
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Trafficking in Persons** acf.hhs.gov/otip
- **Department of Homeland Security, Blue Campaign** is a national public awareness campaign. dhs.gov/blue-campaign

Editor compiled story from online resources

Vision Statement of the Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office (GSIJPO)

United with St. John Eudes' acute awareness of God's compassionate love and inspired by the creative audacity of St. Mary Euphrasia, we seek to give prophetic and radical responses to needs of our time.

"We see a world permeated by God's love, where justice and human rights support the dignity of every girl, woman and child. We advocate to change policies that exclude and systems that dehumanize." See *Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Position Paper on the Trafficking of Women and Girls*, page 10. <https://bit.ly/2Rk8lzy>



PEACE JUSTICE



ZEAL

Good Shepherd migration position paper examined through Zoom

The North America Mission and Values Team is offering an interactive session with Sr. Winifred Doherty that unpacks the Good Shepherd position paper on migration. The session will lead participants to a deeper understanding of systemic advocacy and present ways the information can be integrated into Good Shepherd programs.

Join the talk on Zoom October 13, 2020 for a presentation, small group discussion, and Q&A with Sr. Winifred from the Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Office. Registration is required and will close on October 8. The talk is limited to 200 participants. Register and obtain details about the talk at <https://bit.ly/3ikdUZO>. The link for the Zoom meeting will be sent out on October 11 to individuals who have registered.

Sister Winifred is the main NGO representative to the United Nations for Sisters of the Good Shepherd.



THE JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS CAMPAIGN

MIGRATION POLICY WEBINAR SERIES

EACH WEDNESDAY, 2:00 PM EST
SEPTEMBER 30 - NOVEMBER 12, 2020



Migration Policy Webinar Series

A series of webinars explores some of the current hopes and challenges in the effort of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to influence immigration policy with the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Times of the webinars are Eastern Standard Time. Get full details at <https://bit.ly/3l3DjsQ>

Seeking Asylum During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Wednesday, October 14 | 1pm

The Role of Race in Immigration Policy

Wednesday, October 21 | 1pm

Rebuilding Refugee Resettlement during the next Four Years

Wednesday, October 28 | 1pm

The Big Picture: What does the Election Mean for Immigration Policy?

Thursday, November 12 | 1pm

GOOD SHEPHERD NORTH AMERICA
MISSION AND VALUES TEAM



GOOD SHEPHERD MIGRATION TALK

Presented by Sr. Winifred Doherty, Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Office

Watch Video for more information:

https://youtu.be/Hl9_bvaJtiE

Register on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/good-shepherd-migration-talk-tickets-117798852539>

OCTOBER 13, 2020

10:00-12:00 pacific time

12:00-2:00 central time

1:00-3:00 eastern time

REGISTRATION INFO

Registration required.

Limited to 200 participants.

No translation available.

Zoom link will be emailed to those who register on October 11.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Good Shepherd Sisters care for victims of Beirut explosion

After nearly two months, Sisters of the Good Shepherd continue to deal with the aftermath of the port explosion that shattered lives and property in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 4, 2020.

Sister Antoinette Assaf directs the St. Antoine Dispensary in Roueisset Jdeidet, a suburban quarter northwest of Beirut. A ministry of Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the dispensary is a major humanitarian and health service clinic in one of Lebanon's most impoverished areas. Families of 10-12 members are often found living together in a single room. Unemployment rates are at 30 percent.

Roueisset Jdeidet is a small multicultural suburb of about 35,000 people. It is home to the most destitute from vastly different backgrounds, nationalities and religions, including Christians and Muslims, Lebanese, Syrian, Iraqis, Egyptians, Indians, Africans, Turks, and Sri Lankans. Social services and medical care, beyond what St. Antoine provides, are not available in this region. Many families can barely feed their children. Schooling is not available for all. Juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, drugs, and crime thrive in the area. The conditions give rise to prostitution, illnesses, diseases, and trauma. The coronavirus pandemic and August 4 explosion added to an already untenable situation, taking the community to new heights of need.

What happened on August 4

On August 4, 2020, an afternoon fire broke out at the Port of Beirut, sending plumes of white smoke into the air. Just after 6 pm local time, an explosion shook Beirut. Less than a minute later, a second and much larger explosion tore through the city, leveling much of the government-owned port that serves as a vital piece of infrastructure for the importation of scarce goods and strategic reserve of cereals for the country.

About 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate stored at the port exploded. This is equivalent to nearly 1.1 kilotons of dynamite. People felt the explosion in Turkey, Syria, Israel, Palestine, and parts of Europe. The explosion, heard more than 160 miles away, affected communities throughout Lebanon. It killed 220 people and wounded more than 6,500. It left 300,000 people homeless and damaged 160 schools. Three of Beirut's major hospitals were forced to close after the explosion, and three others were partially damaged.

The Good Shepherd dispensary was one of a handful of hospitals where victims arrived after the massive explosion. With hospitals destroyed, the demand far



Antoinette Assaf, RGS, is the director of the Saint Antoine Community Health Center that is run by Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The dispensary is located in Roueisset Jdeidet, a suburban quarter of Mount Lebanon, about 80 miles from Beirut.

exceeded the number of beds and medical supplies. Many men, women and children had to sleep on the streets without food, shelter, and medical care.

St. Antoine Dispensary responded quickly to the emergency, providing medical and psychosocial support. Sisters, staff and volunteers distributed medicines, food, clothing, toiletries, and household items, as well as face masks to help prevent further spread of the coronavirus. Staff visited families to evaluate damage to homes and identified other local organizations and NGOs that could provide assistance for immediate repairs and replacement of windows and doors. They found temporary home environments for families whose houses were destroyed.

The Good Shepherd team at the dispensary continues to restore dignity to victims as reconstruction takes hold. Most of the toxic fumes are gone that filled the air after the explosion. The chemicals dissipated in the days following the blast, but scientists fear some of the dust that has been deposited all over Beirut and surrounding areas may still be carrying toxins that can seriously impact those with asthma, allergies and other health conditions.

Continued on next page

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Lebanon, *Cont'd from p. 21*

The Good Shepherd team at St. Antoine Dispensary includes two Sisters, 15 employees and 30 doctors. They provide the only affordable healthcare service in Roueisset and the surrounding areas. The ministry has several partnerships, in particular with the Faculty of Medicine at Saint-Joseph University.

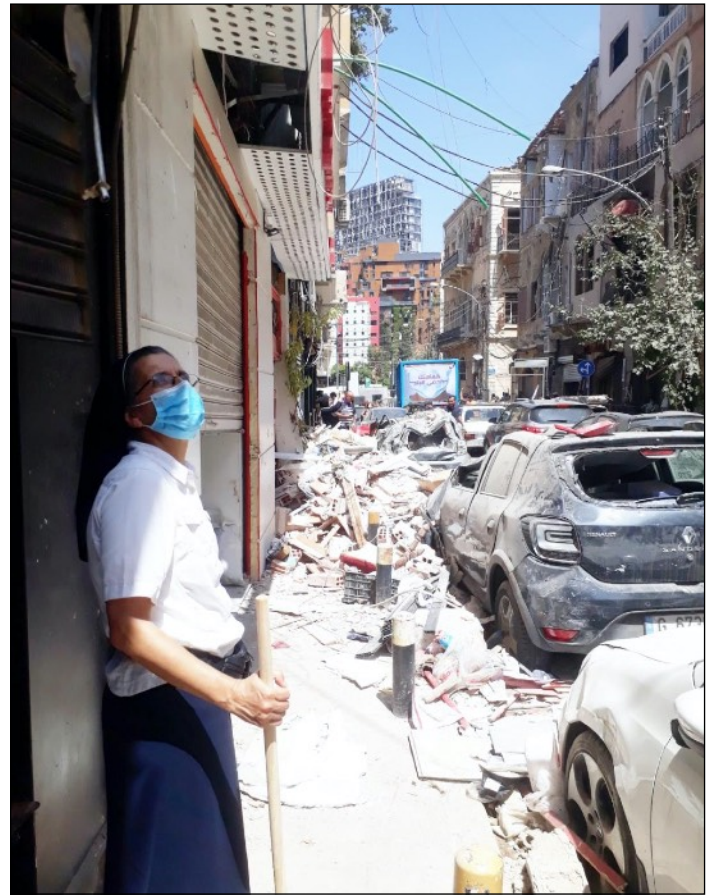
"Their presence guarantees a high-quality medical service, as the university is run by Jesuit fathers with whom we share the same vision of the value and dignity of the human being, especially the most vulnerable to have the right to access health services the same as wealthy people," said Sister Antoinette.

When asked what Lebanon needs to recover, Sr. Antoinette said, "First of all, we need to unite our hearts and minds. We need to support each other to regain the physical and psychological strength necessary to overcome this great shock. Even before the explosion, more than 55% of the population was already living below the poverty line in Lebanon. With this deflagration, the population is on its knees, homeless, unemployed, without care. Young people have a lot of potential and can help rebuild the country, but opportunities are limited for them too. Lebanon cannot cope with countless such problems on its own.

"The road to recovery is long. Very long," she said.

The Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF) created a webpage where people can share testimonials from Beirut. Visit <https://www.gsif.it/emergencylebanon/>

GSIF also has a website where people can donate money so Good Shepherd can continue to help people in Lebanon rebuild their lives. <https://www.gsif.it/emergencylebanon/>



To read an interview with Sr. Antoinette, visit the Good Shepherd Congregational website at <http://rgs.gssweb.org/en/news/beirut-we-need-unite-our-hearts-and-minds>

Story compiled by Jeanette McDermott, editor, Items of Interest



ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Pope to sign encyclical on social friendship October 3

After months of speculation over what the next move might be for a pope stuck at home due to the coronavirus, the answer came with the announcement of an upcoming papal visit to Assisi to sign a new encyclical letter.

Pope Francis will sign the third encyclical of his pontificate on October 3, the eve of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The pope will visit the Sacred Convent of Assisi to sign the encyclical, the most developed form of papal teaching.

The document is titled *Fratelli tutti* ("All Brothers") and focuses on the theme of human fraternity and social friendship. The title appears in a passage in the Admonitions of St. Francis, under number six, which reads: "Let us all, brothers, look to the Good Shepherd who suffered the passion of the Cross to save his sheep."

Pope Francis' previous encyclical, *Laudato Si*, published in 2015, had a title taken from St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun" prayer praising God for creation. His only previous encyclical, *Lumen Fidei* ("The Light of Faith"), was issued on June 29, 2013, and addressed the nature of religious faith.

Since the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has embraced and celebrated St. Francis of Assisi as a model of social justice, particularly when it comes to the topics of poverty, peace, and fraternity.

Popes have been writing letters to the faithful since the early days of the Church. They communicate through encyclicals, homilies, sermons, and apostolic exhortations that urge faithful Catholics to take certain actions.



This imposing structure is the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy. Construction on the building began in 1228, two years after the death of Saint Francis. His body was moved and interred inside the basilica when construction was completed in 1230. The basilica is one of the most famous holy places of Christianity. Pope Francis will sign the third encyclical of his pontificate at the tomb of Saint Francis on October 3, the eve of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Letters to the faithful

The word "encyclical" means "circular letter." They are usually addressed to Catholic clergy and the laity and contain the pope's views on church teachings and doctrine in a particular area. Encyclicals are in essence official statements and are considered authoritative teaching, since popes speak for the church. They do not set down new church doctrine (the Roman Catholic Church's core beliefs).

Encyclicals carry particular weight because they are formal documents. The first pope to issue an encyclical (and call it such) was Benedict XIV, who released *Ubi Primum* ("On the Duty of Bishops") in 1740. Since then, popes have written nearly 300 circular letters.

Pope Leo XIII wrote 90 encyclicals, almost one-third of all circular

letters. He led the church from 1878 to 1903. His most famous encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* ("Of Revolutionary Change"), laid out church teachings on economic issues as well as church-state relations. This encyclical is widely seen as the foundational document of modern Catholic social teaching.

Pope Francis will arrive in Assisi in the afternoon of October 3 and will celebrate Holy Mass at the Tomb of St. Francis. Following the liturgical celebration, he will sign the new encyclical and return to the Vatican.

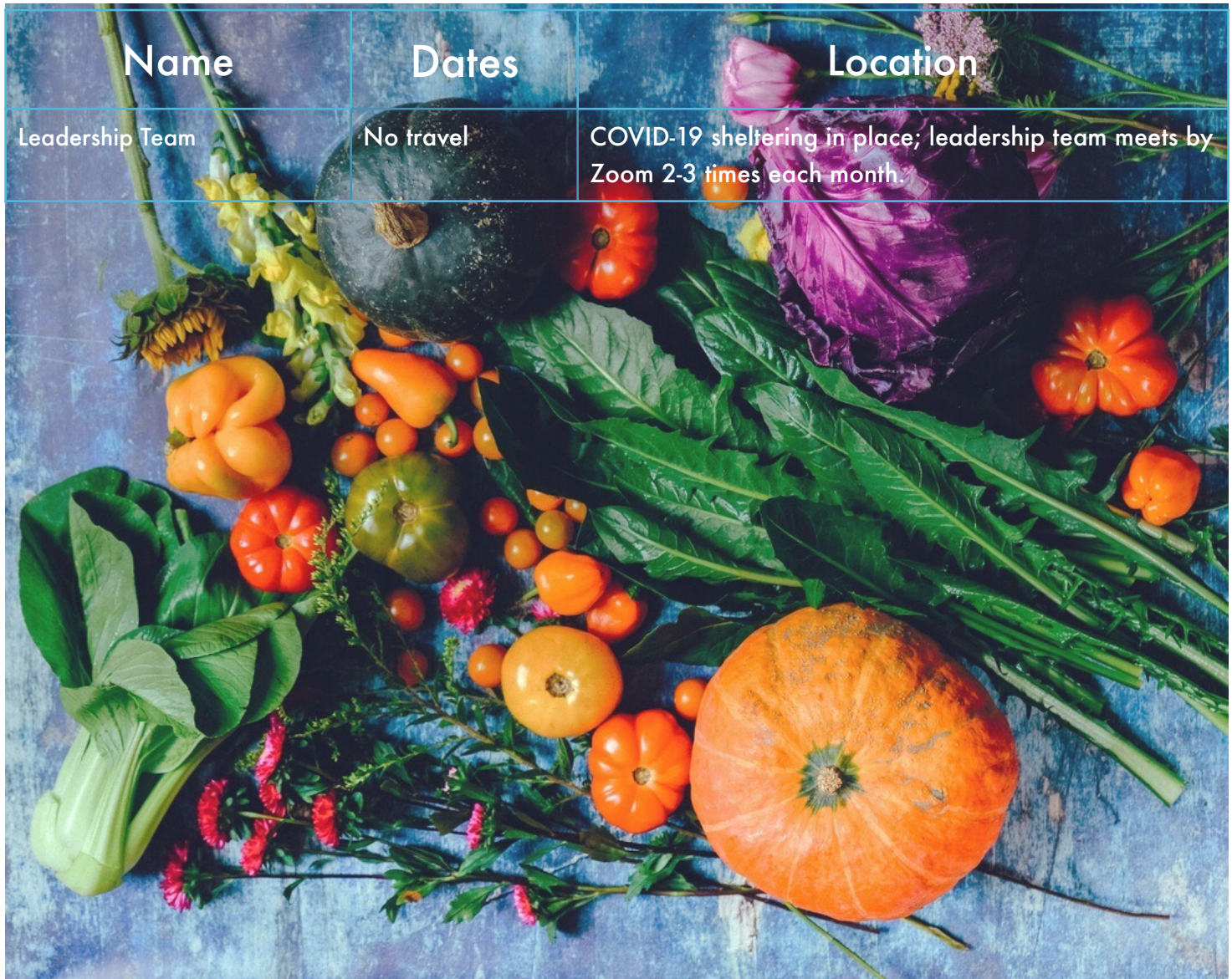
Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Pope's visit to Assisi will take place in private, without the participation of the faithful.

Story compiled and edited from various Vatican sources and Catholic news reports.

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

Name	Dates	Location
Leadership Team	No travel	COVID-19 sheltering in place; leadership team meets by Zoom 2-3 times each month.



Season of Creation: Jubilee for the Earth

The concept of Jubilee marked the theme for this year's Season of Creation (September 1 - October 4, 2020). The theme is rooted in the holy wisdom that there must exist a just and sustainable balance between social, economic, and ecological realities. When one variable is exploited to maximize growth of another, the whole system will eventually suffer. When one part of the Earth community is stressed, every part is affected. In 2020, the novel coronavirus pandemic demonstrated this reality on a global scale. While the experience of living with the COVID-19 outbreak points back to this need to maintain justice, the lessons that we learn may point us towards the need for a Jubilee and motivate us to restore balance to the very systems that sustain life. This year's Season of Creation brought together the need for a prophetic voice on climate injustice and actions for the restoration of the Earth. The theme Jubilee for the Earth affirmed the need for equality, justice and sustainability, and a transition to sustainable economies. The year 2020 also marked 50 years since the first Earth Day when the environmental movement was born. Season of Creation ends on October 4 with a blessing of the animals on the Feast of Saint Francis.

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"Remember, you are the instruments God has chosen to cooperate in this great work. It is given to you to cultivate the mustard seed which God plans to make into a great tree. Direct all your efforts to this. It is up to you to make it possible that those exhausted and lost in the ways of the world should find strength in the shade of this healing tree."

Saint Mary Euphrasia,
Conferences p. 269

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