

ITEMS

OF INTEREST

Greetings from Philly

Sister Maria Sowerby reports on her recent activities in the great city of Philadelphia.

Page 5

Painting the sacred

Contemplative Sister Lalani Ekanayaka reflects on her first icon painting experience.

Page 8

Down the Shore

Sister Mary Carol McClenon takes us along a journey to Jersey's summer shore.

Page 12

55 pilgrims visit

The Maria Droste Contemplative Community welcomed 55 pilgrims on August 9.

Page 14



Lynn Jarrell, OSU, referenced the Good Shepherd Constitutions during her workshop.

A FRESH THEOLOGY

By Maureen Kunz, RGS

Some members of our Province Leadership Team (PLT) had attended an assembly in the Central South Province last year, where they experienced

Continued on next page



Green Corner

September 1 is known globally by most Christian churches as a day of prayer for Creation. The Orthodox Church was first in setting aside this day of prayer for Creation. Members of the World Council of Churches have also engaged in this practice, as have a number of Catholic Dioceses across the globe. In fact, many have renamed it the Season of Creation and have extended it from one day to a full month. The Season of Creation begins this year on the first day of

Continued on p. 17

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Theology *Cont'd from p. 1*

Lynn Jarrell, OSU, gave a day's presentation on the vow of poverty. The PLT members were very enthusiastic about the experience. As for me, I said to myself, "OK, but that sounds a bit boring."

"Well," I continued to think to myself, "if team members of mine liked the presentation so much -- and because Sisters were asking for a fresh theology of the vows -- it can't hurt to ask Lynn if she's available to conduct something similar at the Province Center." So, I called and asked her. She said she was available. We made a plan.

Then I had my own experience of Lynn at another Central South assembly in Carrollton this past spring, where she did the vow of chastity. That's when I got enthused myself! I thought, "Yes! I'll bet the Sisters will love this!"

Alive with joyful Sisters

Lynn Jarrell came to the Province Center from August 16-19 and presented a three-day workshop on Vows and the Common Life. Sure enough, the Sisters who attended the workshop loved, loved, loved it! It was amazing to have the Province Center alive with joyful Sisters!

Sr. Renee Scheich said, "This was the best workshop/retreat that I have received in my 52 years in Religious Life."

Lynn has a doctorate degree in canon law from the Catholic University of America and a masters degree in communications. She has worked with women and men religious since 1984 as a canonical consultant, presenter and teacher, especially on the role of membership and leadership and on the internal life of congregations.



Lynn said her goal or intention for the workshop was to provide a way for God to use these days to inspire Sisters to live their lives as fully as they can.

It's all mystery

"The gift to me is watching the movement among the Sisters. Beyond that it's all mystery to sit and talk about this life," Lynn said.

Sr. Caridad Tamayo said, "Lynn has taken the Constitutions (that we don't read!) and put them in the context of today. She took the best of our Constitutions and Statutes and integrated them with the evangelical councils and common life. It's a fresh theology!"

Sr. Nellie Marie Hawkins said, "I like how Lynn has made the vows come alive! She knew what she was talking about because she's living it; her challenge to us comes from her living it. I liked how we



Sisters engaged in dyads and small groups throughout the workshop in an effort to go deeper into thought and theology while exploring vows and the common life.

came together as a community to talk about living our vows. It should make us a more loving community. It was helpful to all of us who want

Continued on next page

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Theology *Cont'd from p. 2*

to continue to grow in our vowed life," Nellie said.

As for me, I was amazed at how this workshop touched so many Sisters in the province. To have an affirming and challenging experience on one's own is wonderful. But to have so many Sisters share in this experience can ground us —together, as we create a vision that can transform our province!

Sharing the experience

Our Communications Coordinator Jeanette McDermott videotaped the workshop. She will provide us with DVDs that we can share with Sisters who were unable to attend, and for those of us who attended but want to replay, remember and ponder the content of the workshop. So, Sisters of Mid-North America, stay tuned for future enriching opportunities!



Sr. Charlotte Kirst gave a reflection on St. John Eudes following the workshop on August 19, which is the Feast of St. John Eudes.



Lynn encouraged everyone in the workshop to let what was seeping within them happen. She said movement is what was the most important happening during the three days of gathering.



PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



Theresa Nguyen is staying at the Province Center in St. Louis for a month as part of her discernment about entering religious life. Theresa lives in Atlanta, where she volunteers with Sr. Christine Truong at Good Shepherd Services.



Sisters and volunteers will plant wildflowers for a native habitat area on the convent grounds the morning of September 24. The plantings coincide with the Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 through October 4.



The Planning Team met at the Province Center in July to plan the next Gathering of the North American Provinces: Mid-North America, New York, Central-South, Canada English-speaking and Canada French-speaking. The Gathering will be held September 20-23 in Detroit. From l-r: Nancy Fritsche Eagan, Melinda Stricklen, Bob Interbartolo Lizzie Cody Tschida and Anna Pavan.



Responding to Lynn Jarrell's workshop with a dance that flowed from her religious concepts on Vows and the Common Life were from left: Srs. LeeAnn Mackeprang, Lalani Ekanayaka, Jean Marie Fernandez and discerner Theresa Nguyen.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Greetings from the great city of Philadelphia

By Maria Sowerby, RGS

I thought you might be interested in hearing about a few recent events in our great city of Philadelphia. In May, CORA Services had an evening at the Tavern to raise money for the agency. It was very well attended, especially by young adults. I always enjoy the interaction and answering questions about Good Shepherd mission. People are so interested in what we do and who we are that it is quite amazing. While being a fun event it also raised some good money, which always helps the agency.

6th grade chaperone

Near the end of May, I had an opportunity to chaperone the 6th graders in my school to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in New York. It was a beautiful day, very interesting and the students loved it. We even climbed to the top of the Statue of Liberty, and the views were breathtaking. Ellis Island was wonderful since we had an opportunity to look up relatives who came to the new world years ago. The whole day was just terrific.

In June, the Mediation Program had a nice breakfast and sharing of information at the Union League in Center City. It was good to be present and to get to know some of the volunteers who were present. The program has since moved from Germantown to Center City. I am looking forward to visiting the new premises.

As some of you know, we are surrounded by religious congregations where we live and, over the years I have gotten to know many of them. I attended a picnic at the home of the Trinitarians recently. We were joined by other



Maria Sowerby, RGS

Sisters from different Orders. Sr. Claudia was working and couldn't attend.

The grey nuns

Another big contact that we've made is with the Grey Nuns. Within walking distance of the apartment where I live (just yards away from CORA Services) there are apartment buildings called LaFayette, which are run by Holy Redeemer Health System.

The Sisters closed their institution in Yardley, Pennsylvania, and moved 45 Sisters into this building where they live in apartments of varying sizes. I have been there a couple of times and enjoy socializing and eating with them. I really admire the courage it must have taken for them to do this. Still, we have done our own movings and changes, which are good too. Seems like we are all "on the move" for a better world and greater mission effectiveness for today's reality.

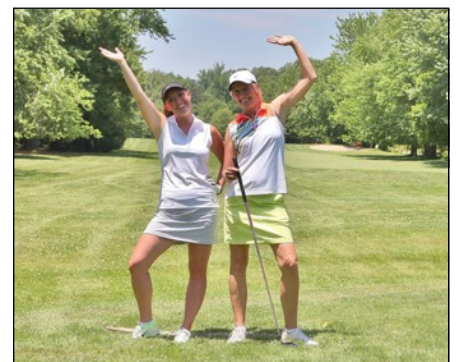
As you can see, this is likely to turn into the first chapter of a book!!!

Cora Golf Tournament

The next event worth mentioning is the Cora Golf Tournament. It was held on a beautiful day. The weather was perfect and the golfers (about 100 of them) were great as well. I attended the tournament to represent the Good Shepherd Sisters as a vowed religious, not because of my golf skills.

Anyway, this fundraising event, which takes place annually, was sponsored by the cast of a TV show in California. The actors and producers were all there. Some of you may know Danny DiVito. He is tiny in stature but has a huge heart. I had a chance to talk a little bit about our Order with him. He was

Continued on next page



MINISTRY NEWS

Philadelphia *Cont'd from p. 5*

very impressed with our mission.

Remember the crazy television show "Taxi?" Some of those people were at the golf tournament too. They are magnificent people and were very supportive of CORA's mission to families and children.

A wonderful dinner followed the golf event, where a short film of CORA's work was shown. Then, the cast of the TV show hosted a live auction with fabulous prizes. We also had a silent auction and I was one of the volunteers for that. It was truly a fabulous day and a wonderful opportunity to share with others what our mission is all about.

I was, like many others, so tired at the end of the day that sleep eluded me for the night.....still, the energy of the Spirit seemed to be right there with us all. The golf event brought in more than \$100,000 for CORA. Enormous gratitude is due to the actors from California and all of the other golfers and volunteers.

Nuns on the Bus

Of course you know that the Democratic National Convention was held in Philadelphia in July. I decided to go down to it and experience the atmosphere of it all. Naturally, I was not able to be in Wells Fargo with the delegates, but I was at the Convention Center where many events were taking place.

I saw and spoke with "the Nuns on the Bus." What an amazing group of Sisters! I attended their workshop for two hours. Sr. Simone Campbell is just delightful and really tries to understand both sides of the issues. About 80 people from all parts of the United States came to the workshop. We took seats at a table of our own choosing. I chose



Simone Campbell, SSS, (Sisters of Social Service) stands at the podium on July 26 during a workshop sponsored by the Nuns on the Bus campaign at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia.

I saw and spoke with 'the Nuns on the Bus.' What an amazing group of Sisters!

Citizenship because I wanted to better understand why 12 million people in this country do not have a path to citizenship. The discussion was invigorating and lively. A couple of points that Simone made were new to me. For example, she said individuals who earn \$66,000 per year are not in the middle-class category, although they often think they are.

The other point she made that I liked was when she shared a story

about a group of business men she met in Washington who were all making around 10 million dollars per year. Simone asked the men, "How do you spend that kind of money?"

One young man replied, "Sister, it is not about the money; it is about winning."

So, at the workshop Simone pointed out how our culture dwells on winning in so many ways that we can destroy others in the process. Many interesting people from all across the country attended the workshop with Nuns on a Bus.

I really am done now. My apologies for being so long-winded. Once I get started, it is very hard to stop. For those who know Philly, I hope this is a wee bit interesting and sorry you were not with me at the events. Lots of love and thanks!

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

GSS Baltimore celebrates two anniversaries

Good Shepherd Services (GSS) Baltimore turned 152 years old on August 10. St. Mary Euphrasia would have turned 220 years old on July 31, if humans were immortal. Not wanting either anniversary to pass unnoticed, GSS held a joint celebration with staff on August 10 to honor both anniversaries.

As a part of the celebration staff shared their personal stories and life commitments. Everyone who participated in the reflections had their names entered into a drawing to win Baltimore Orioles tickets and an Orioles-themed wreath created by Good Shepherd Sisters. GSS science teacher Dr. Carlos Almeida (Dr. A.) won the prize!

In his reflections, Dr. A. related incidents of his own life to circumstances surrounding St. Mary Euphrasia's life in 19th century France. When asked what was going on in his family and in the world immediately prior to his birth, Dr. A. said, "I was born in 1962. My parents had just

emigrated from Portugal to the U.S. two years prior and my Dad bought his first American car, a 1958 Ford Mustang. In the world, the Cuban missile crisis was a concern and John F. Kennedy was the first Catholic to be elected as President of the United States. "

When asked what circumstances in Rose Virginie's birth are being echoed in our world today, he said, "Today the 'reign of terror' is with the Islamic Extremists (ISIS)."

This year shows the highest number of displaced people ever registered in the world at 65.3 million. When asked how he can use his voice, the way Anne Pelletier used hers, to diminish suffering, Dr. A. said, "I can use my voice to diminish the numbers of displaced people by supporting the motto from the Statue of Liberty: Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



Dr. Carlos Almeida (Dr. A.) won a pair of tickets to see a Baltimore Orioles game and a hand-crafted Orioles wreath made by Good Shepherd Sisters in Baltimore when his name was drawn in a raffle at the GSS celebration honoring St. Mary Euphrasia's birthday and the anniversary of GSS Baltimore.

Announcements & News Tidbits

Good Shepherd Volunteers will host its Annual GSV Alumni Gathering on September 9 in Astoria, New York. The gathering provides an opportunity for GSV alumni to link up with old friends and meet the new volunteers.

Gala season is upon our Good Shepherd ministries. In Louisville, Beauties vs. The Beast Golf Tournament on September 21 benefits Maryhurst. On September 25 Good Shepherd Gracenter

presents its third annual Taste of Autumn luncheon and Amazing Grace Awards in San Francisco. The annual Benefit for the Los Angeles Shelter will honor Sister Anne Kelley on October 9 with a Lifetime Achievement Angel Award. DeNeuville Learning Center's 14th annual charity golf classic is slated for October 7. The Memphis center's annual gala is coming up in November. Good Shepherd Mediation Program will hold its 10th annual Shepherds of

Peace Dinner and Awards ceremony on October 19 in Philadelphia.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops' Amistad Movement will hold its first Amistad Institute from November 4-6, 2016. The institute is a weekend of intensive training for individuals wanting to become leaders in anti-trafficking activism and advocacy. Learn more at <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/amistad.cfm>

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Bringing the sacred to the every day life

By Lalani Ekanayaka, RGS

Lalani Ekanayaka is a Contemplative Sister with the Province of Sri Lanka. She has been missioned to the Maria Droste Contemplative Community in St. Louis for three years and will return to her Community in Sri Lanka on December 6. Earlier this year Sr. Lalani took a class from Sr. Glynis McManamon to learn how to paint icons. The following is Sr. Lalani's personal account of what it meant for her to paint something sacred as an aid to devotion.

It has taken me a while to write about my experience of painting an icon, but now it gives me great joy to share my story. I took the class in February. Sr. Beth Garciano had invited me to attend the class with her and another Sister from my Community, RoseMary Hah. I was reluctant to accept the invitation because I didn't think I would be able to paint an icon successfully. Sr. Beth asked me three times to participate. After her third insistence I prayed to God to discern his Will. After much prayer I gave my consent to participate, although I was filled with anxiety.

Sr. Glynis taught the class at the Shepherding Images Studio in Ferguson, Missouri. She led us step-by-step into the process of painting an icon. Our goal was to paint Saint Michael the Archangel. The whole time I worked on the icon I prayed to St. Michael, asking him to guide me to do my best to paint his image the way he wanted me to paint him.

As I moved along with the painting, I became lost at times. Sr. Glynis was patient with me and kept encouraging me to continue. As I struggled to paint the icon, I discovered that this struggle was similar to my struggles in daily life. In each circumstance, I desire to grow closer to God. I am learning to be more humble and to accept myself as I am. I want to trust in God to help me overcome my weaknesses and limitations. I want to believe that He will also reveal my strengths and gifts. I learned that if I focus too much on my mistakes then I block my ability to see the light that God is sending to me through St. Michael.

As I continued with the class and painting, I prayed for the people of Ferguson. I asked that they may experience the gift of true peace, healing and reconciliation. I hope that Jesus the Good Shepherd will inspire some people to seek an experience in painting an icon and, through this gain greater healing.



After our first Mass in the Maria Droste Convent Chapel on June 14, 2016, Reverend Father Ron Chochol blessed our completed icons of St. Michael. When I looked at my icon, St. Michael seemed to say to me, "You are unique. You are a mystery."

This experience with St. Michael has given me the courage to paint an icon of St. Mary Magdalen. I am looking forward to getting to know her as she reveals herself to me through the icon painting process.



MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Sister Lioba makes art cards for Gracenter

Sr. Lioba Abe handcrafted 200 origami greeting cards for Good Shepherd Gracenter's fundraising gala A Taste of Autumn. The Luncheon and Amazing Grace Awards will be held on September 25 in San Francisco. Each person attending the celebration will receive a gift bag that contains one of Sr Lioba's beautiful cards and other goodies.

Sr. Lioba is trained in the art of origami, or paper folding. She has a knack for transforming flat squares of paper into finished sculptures and intricate designs. She chose Fashion as her theme for the Gracenter cards. Sr. Lioba was born and raised in Japan, which is often associated with origami. She has been missioned to the Province Center for two years. On September 1 Sr. Lioba will be missioned to the Los Angeles Shelter, where she will teach and mentor young children who are in the care of Good Shepherd Sisters and Mission Partners.



Sisters Janice Rushman (left) and Marguerite Bartling (right) admire the hand-crafted origami cards that Sr. Lioba (center) made for Gracenter's fourth annual Taste of Autumn Luncheon and Amazing Grace Awards ceremony on September 25.

New art exhibit to open at Good Shepherd Gallery

Sister Glynis McManamon will host an opening reception for artist Henry Chaney on Friday, September 23, at Good Shepherd Gallery in Ferguson. The reception, which takes place between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., launches the opening of Henry Chaney's photographic works "The Awakening."

"The Awakening" showcases Mr. Chaney's challenge to the constraints often placed on our perception of faith, worship and even ministry. The display weaves together three seemingly

discordant themes: All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), the Six Days of Creation and glimpses of conventional church life. True to its name, "The Awakening" awakens viewers to new visions of the Bible, church, spirituality, and of God. The show invites Christians and non-Christians to extend the borders of their spiritual life and ministry beyond ordinary experience.

The exhibit will run from Friday, September 23 through Saturday, October 8, 2016. Good Shepherd Gallery hours of operation are

Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery is closed on Sunday and Monday.

For more information contact Sr. Glynis at 314-522-1155 or reach her at rgsicons@yahoo.com. Good Shepherd Gallery is located at 252 S. Florissant Road, Ferguson, Missouri 63135. All are welcome. The gallery includes a cafe table and chairs and small meditation space for people who want a quiet space to rest and reflect on the exhibited art or world around them.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



For the salvation of souls

The year is 1842, the scene is Angers, France. St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier has called her Daughters into her office. They are going out into the world to start Good Shepherd mission houses. She has gathered the Sisters to challenge, exhort and inspire them with zeal for the salvation of souls as they prepare to leave France. Nancy Krebs performs the monologue in the role of St. Mary Euphrasia.

Good Shepherd Services staff and Baltimore Sisters came together to watch the performance on DVD last month. The screening included popcorn and soft drinks. Nancy Krebs, who portrays St. Mary Euphrasia, grew up in Baltimore, in the Ascension parish. She was a cradle Catholic, although she did not know the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and at the time was not particularly practicing her faith. She did have a feel for the script, and she took the stage role when it was offered. In the process of preparing for the performance, she fell in love with St. Mary Euphrasia and Good Shepherd and had a religious re-awakening. Today Nancy serves on the GSS Board of Directors and is a high school teacher at the School of Arts in Baltimore, Maryland.

The monologue on DVD was performed originally on stage in the 1990s, before a large gathering of Sisters. The Sisters in Baltimore wrote the script. Later, Nancy performed the monologue for video. It was filmed in Baltimore, at Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville, Maryland, a high school run by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia (known as the Nashville Dominicans). The story takes us on an examination of why we are here on Earth — to help one another reach Heaven. The screening at Good Shepherd Services was part of ongoing Mission Development with staff and Mission Partners.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



The spirit of St. Mary Euphrasia lives on today in the lives of Sisters and Mission Partners like Steven Farr. Steven was hired as a Youth Counselor for a Maryhurst dorm on August 11, 1985. Today he is Vice President of Human Resources at Maryhurst. When asked what he loves about the work and what inspires him for mission, he said, "I love being a part of helping Maryhurst fulfill our mission with the clients we are currently serving. I'm also inspired by the concept of carrying on the work that goes back to our founding in 1842 and being connected to the worldwide mission of the Sisters today."

COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL

A visit with our beloved Sisters in Cincinnati

By Cameron Hosner

Cameron Hosner served as Executive Director of Vista Maria for many years before leaving in 2007 to start his own consulting firm. Cameron has always been a special friend to the Sisters at Pelletier Hall in Fort Thomas, making frequent visits to see them even after leaving Good Shepherd. In August he and his wife Gail visited the Sisters in their new environment at Margaret Hall in Cincinnati.

Each year seems to pass us by more quickly than the last. So many changes occur at what appears to be lightning speed. However, one thing that doesn't change for my wife Gail and me is how we feel when we visit the Sisters. Even though the group that we began sharing meals with

When we realized how quickly summer was slipping away, we decided that we wanted to visit our beloved Sisters in their new 'digs' at St. Margaret Hall.

in 1998 has slowly become smaller, the group that we now visit has increased in size.

When we realized how quickly summer was slipping away, we decided that we wanted to visit our beloved Sisters in their new 'digs.' Sr. Mercy was instrumental in making arrangements for our visit and for that, we cannot thank her enough! She greeted us at the car and escorted us in to see many old friends, along with a few new faces.

Our visit was brief; far too brief. But in that short window, we were able to reconnect with the Sisters, both contemplative and apostolic. Stories were shared, both happy and sad. Memories of those who have joined the Lord were prevalent and many of those Sisters were in attendance that day, including Sr. Anna Jo.

After leaving the Sisters, Gail and I drove to Ft. Thomas to visit the graves of Sisters of the Good Shepherd. We



Gail and Cameron Hosner

were able to say prayers over Sisters Anna Jo, Marie, Dorothy, Josephine, Martha Rose and many others. While saddened at their passing, we were joyful that their suffering had ended.

Our visits leave us feeling rejuvenated, both emotionally and spiritually. Although it had been many months since seeing everyone, once we were together, it felt like no time had gone by at all. We were embraced with such positive energy that it is impossible to leave without feeling closer to God. We are eternally grateful for the opportunity to know the Sisters!

On a separate note, Gail and I have been quite busy with many changes. I began my own consulting firm where I work with non-profits with strategic planning, marketing, organizational issues, board governance, and other related topics in order for them to grow and provide services to more children and families. Gail will be teaching special education math at a local high school starting in September. Jimmy has completed two of his four years in veterinary school at Michigan State University. Cam II, Leann and the grandkids continue to be well.

We feel so blessed to know the Sisters and to be a part of their lives!

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



Down the shore

By Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

Regina, Patricia Marie and I went "down the shore" to Ocean City, New Jersey, for summer vacation from August 5-12. We played on the beach, walked on the boardwalk and watched the longest annual running parade in the United States (107 consecutive years) -- the Ocean City Baby Parade.

We also checked out the old haunts, where for 35 years or so Good Shepherd Sisters went on vacation. We visited with Jane McDonald, our former landlady. She is doing well at the Methodist Senior Complex. She was delighted to see us. She was especially happy to see Sr. Regina Long, who was in charge of the shore house.

We looked at the new construction at 3200 Wesley. The site comprises two huge condos that recently sold for several million dollars! We also toured the new beach house belonging to the Christian Brothers. It is not a retreat house, but a 14-room residence for Brothers. Three vacant lots are next to the Brothers. Hint, hint.

"I described the water as 'beachly hot.' It was sickeningly hot in the day, with running heat indexes of 105 degrees and high humidity. The evenings had lovely breezes. We went on the ferry across the Delaware Bay and went to a concert and prayer service with Mark Forrest, an Irish tenor and devout Catholic. <http://www.markforrest.com>.

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Our summer vacation to Ocean City was packed with activity and visits with people we hadn't seen in a while. Top: The Ocean City Baby Parade, the longest running annual parade in the U.S., allows older kids too. Bottom: We had a wonderful visit with Donna Marie McElroy, former RGS in the Washington Province. Left: Sr. Regina Long (left) and former vacation house landlady Jane McDonald enjoyed a happy reunion.

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



Shore *Cont'd from p. 12*

"This was our first year seeing the Baby Parade. It led off with a flag and drum corps. There was a hobo band, firefighters band, city councilmen in cars, all of the local beauty queens and princesses, and a dance troupe on a float. It was amazing. It was like a 4th of July parade. It wasn't paltry by any means.

There were three Divisions in the baby parade: cutest, comedy and slightly older kids on floats. We've seen the infants in the Pamper Scamper in previous years. The boardwalk is a lot of fun. It's a long boardwalk with amusement rides. One of our annual traditions is to play skeeball in the arcade. They don't give prizes anymore, so we didn't have a competition. We just took turns. Didn't win any free games. It was a new skeeball set and not all rickety like the old one. The dime skeeball now costs a quarter.

Donna Marie McElroy, former RGS in the Washington Province, lives near Ocean City and visited us during our vacation. She is a college social work instructor. Sr. Mary Frances Altavilla is the shore house coordinator for Ocean City, New Jersey.



New construction at 3200 Wesley, former site of the Good Shepherd shore house in Ocean City, New Jersey.

Summertime is play time



Along the way to nature's playground at Rockaway Beach, Oregon, Sisters Liz Schille (piglet), Maureen Kunz (llama) and Joan Spiering (sheep) stopped in Tillamook for a little bit of scampering and a bite to eat at the popular Blue Heron French Cheese Company.

Please submit your photos and stories for the October issue of *Items of Interest* by September 21. Send them to jmcdermott@gspmna.org. In the subject line please state "Items of Interest."

COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL

Pilgrims widened the doors of Sisters' hearts

By Jeanette McDermott, Province Communications Coordinator

The six Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Maria Droste Convent welcomed 55 pilgrims to their chapel on August 9, 2016. The pilgrims traveled more than 80 miles from their parish in Farmington, Missouri, to pray with the Sisters in response to the Holy Year of Mercy.

The Year of Mercy began on December 8, 2015, with the opening of the Holy Door at the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. The Jubilee Year will close on November 20, 2016.

The experience of pilgrimage is a tangible sign of the choice of an individual to journey toward Christ through prayer and Gospel Asceticism. In the Jubilee Year of Mercy the faithful are invited to make prayerful pilgrimages to one or more local churches, religious houses or other pilgrim site throughout the world.

Archbishop Robert Carlson designated particular sites in St. Louis as Holy Doors. The Contemplative Community at Maria Droste Convent was one of six Contemplative convents named as a pilgrim site.

Procession to the Holy Door

The Sisters greeted the pilgrims when the bus arrived and escorted them into the chapel so they would feel welcomed and at home. Before walking through the Holy Door, the pilgrims wrote their names and prayer intentions in the booklet the Sisters keep in the chapel. Everyone was silent and reverent as they took their seats.

Call to prayer

The pastor and parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Farmington accepted the invitation to pray Office of Readings with the Sisters. They sang the opening hymn with a CD, then the Sisters recited three Psalms. All responded with the Glory Be after each Psalm. The Sisters invited one of the pilgrims to proclaim the Scriptural Reading. Sr. Sharon Rose read Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. A short silence followed. The pilgrimage concluded with the reciting of the Our Father and Pope Francis' prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Rev. Father Rickey Valleroy, Pastor of St. Joseph Church, walked to the lectern after prayer and expressed the pilgrims' gratitude for the hospitality and welcoming hearts of the Sisters. He asked the Sisters if he could inquire about their contemplative lifestyle. This led to interaction between the Sisters and pilgrims.

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COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



Pilgrims *Cont'd from p. 14*

Calling on the Gospel for support

Sr. Rose Mary felt nervous during the dialogue and turned to her imagination. She said, "I reflected on the Bible and thought about the people who would crowd around to listen to Jesus. Calling on the Gospel helped me to relax."

Sr. Madge said, "The significance for me was knowing that the pilgrims had come to our place knowing we were praying for them. The pilgrims knew our lifestyle. When they asked about our lives, it was important to me that they understand who Good Shepherd Contemplative Sisters are and what our prayer life means to us."

Sr. Beth feels strongly that the pilgrims' presence was an affirmation of the Contemplative Sisters' place in the Church. She said she could actually see the face of God when she entered the chapel filled with pilgrims. "I felt stillness in the presence of God," she said.

Before leaving the chapel, Sr. Beth expressed her hope to the pilgrims that this would not be the last time they visited. She let them know that the door is always open to them for visit and prayer. She assured the pilgrims that the Sisters would hold them in their constant prayers.

Fr. Valleroy and Fr. Abe Arganiosa, Filipino priest Associate, along with all of the parishioners of St. Joseph Church, invited the Sisters to have a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri, on September 7, 2016. (*Items of Interest* will report on the trip in the October issue.)

The pilgrimage ended with Contemplative Community offering five decade rosaries to the pilgrims, which the Sisters had handcrafted for the occasion. The pilgrims also purchased some of the Sisters' handmade candles and greeting cards. After more lively conversation and refreshment with water, the pilgrims eventually boarded the bus to continue their pilgrimage to other sites.

Expressions of gratitude

Sister Madge expressed happiness at being selected as a Pilgrim site. She said, "We have a very small chapel, yet many people came and filled it to the brim with love."

Sr. Rose Mary said she welcomed the pilgrims with all of her heart. "When we read the prayer with the pilgrims I felt like I was the Good Shepherd opening our chapel to the sheep. We prayed together as shepherd and sheep and gave each other the spiritual gifts and graces of God. I felt very satisfied."



Sister Agnes said, "The pilgrimage was important for all of us. I felt that Mother Foundress was smiling down upon us as pilgrims came to our chapel to pray."

Sister Lalani believed the pilgrimage was a blessing. She said, "We were hidden to the public and then all of a sudden God made this opportunity for us to be known. We are small, and yet God sent us many. He blessed us with His mercy. As the pilgrims entered our chapel one-by-one, I felt unified with them. I felt Divine mercy and love embrace us all. Singing with one voice inspired and uplifted me. It struck me as powerful."

Sr. Sharon Rose said, "The words of the refrain on the CD we chose for prayer were, *How lovely, How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, Mighty God!* As the refrain of

Continued on next page

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



Pilgrims *Cont'd from p. 15*

Psalm 84 was repeated ALL of the voices in our chapel joined in. It was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes. We seemed to be a small image of our larger Church at prayer — a mirror of the Mystical Body.”

Sr. Sharon Rose said she is still cherishing the visit with the pilgrims from St. Joseph. “I look forward to being with them again as we, in turn, become pilgrims to Perryville on September 7. We can then pray as they did. *‘I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’ (Psalm 122),*” she said.

Special favors granted

Sr. Beth was moved by the wonder of connectedness that she felt with the Farmington pilgrims. She said, “Their presence widened the doors of our hearts. We gazed together upon God’s presence. We felt the overflowing of His love and mercy and received His gifts of joy and peace. It was a unique experience.”

The Sisters, unaccustomed to large numbers of visitors, asked God for special favors before the pilgrims arrived. They asked God to expand their chapel to fit everyone inside and then to return it to its normal size when the pilgrims left. Sr. Beth said He answered their prayers.



Sr. Sharon Rose oriented pilgrims to the Office of Readings so they could participate fully in the liturgy.

“That actually happened. God really did expand our chapel. I don’t know how He did it, but He did. We all fit in with no overflowing, and now our tiny chapel is back to its normal size,” Sr. Beth said.



Pope Francis set to canonize Mother Teresa

Pope Francis is set to canonize Mother Teresa on Sunday, September 4, largely in recognition of her service to the poor in India. You can learn more about this Holy woman of God at <http://info.americancatholic.org/mother-teresa>, and how the Church documented her [miracles](#). EWTN is celebrating Mother Teresa with inspiring films and documentaries that follow her life of service as she sought Christ in every human life along her path to sainthood. [EWTN coverage](#) leads up to the moment when Pope Francis officially declares her a saint of the Jubilee Year of Mercy on September 4, 2016.

GREEN CORNER

ZEAL

Season of Creation Cont'd from p. 1



Day in Krakow, Poland. About three million pilgrims from every corner of the globe saw the video while they were gathered in Krakow to join Pope Francis for the World Youth Day final mass.

The video was intended to raise awareness in the Catholic community about the Pope's invitation to pray for Creation Care on September 1st and take action until the end of the Season of Creation on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Let us join together in prayer for our Earth—a prayer that reawakens us to the beauty and gift of Earth, and brings us into solidarity with the cry of all of Earth's Beings who are so devastated by human greed and destruction.

Submitted by Sharon O'Grady, RGS

of September and ends with a Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4.

Pope Francis wrote a letter to the people of God last year initiating a "World Day of Prayer for Creation." He began the letter with quotations from *Laudato Si* #216, 217 and cited four reasons for the world prayer:

1. To reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of Creation
2. To thank God for "the wonderful handiwork" entrusted to our care
3. To ask God's help for the protection of Creation
4. To ask pardon for our misuse of Creation

The Holy Father asks that this annual day of prayer become "a

significant occasion for prayer, reflection, conversion, and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles."

Websites are set up to help individuals, parishes and communities participate in the Season of Creation. They contain prayers and resources for those wanting to participate in the World Day of Prayer for Creation or the extended Season of Creation. To find resources, Google *Season of Creation* or visit <http://seasonofcreation.org/catholic/>

The website for Global Catholic Climate Movement contains [Pope Francis' letter](#) announcing the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation"

The official [Season of Creation video](#), produced by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, was launched on July 31 at World Youth



Sr. Sharon O'Grady posts on the bulletin board that she created at the Province Center for the Season of Creation.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Gabriel Herbers, RGS

January 16, 1920 – July 29, 2016

The July issue of Items of Interest featured Good Shepherd social justice advocate Sr. Gabriel Herbers. Sr. Gabriel died less than a month after the story appeared in the newsletter. She was 96 years old when she passed into the loving arms of Jesus on July 29.

Sister Gabriel Herbers was born on January 16, 1920. She was the oldest of four children who were born of Joseph and Anna Herbers. The family was agricultural and had come to New Vienna, Iowa, from Germany several generations earlier. The family was devoutly Catholic, producing in five generations 13 religious Sisters and two priests. Sr. Gabriel was the oldest child in her immediate family, followed by two brothers and a sister. Her oldest brother Simon became a Passionist priest and survives her in death. Sister's parents named her Innocence, but everyone knew her by Chen.

All of Sister's immediate schooling was in the small country school in New Vienna, with many grades in one room. There, besides regular studies, she learned how to participate in, and even plan and supervise, programs for children. She loved doing that.

After high school graduation she learned about Sisters of the Good Shepherd. She decided this Order was for her. She entered in St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 12, 1940. She made her first profession on September 12, 1942 and her final commitment on August 19, 1945.

Sr. Gabriel was active, always active. From the beginning she was very effective with the Good Shepherd girls, active as principal of the



Gabriel Herbers, RGS

school, director of plays, managing sodalities and other activities. Above all, she helped the girls move into productive and wholesome futures.

In addition to working with girls in St. Paul, she worked with them in Omaha, Denver, Spokane and Portland. She often became principal of the school and was always an active one. She was a "natural" at facing challenging problems, including girl gangs among the students.

Intrigued with social action

As years went by she became intrigued with social action and the major problems of our society. She joined local organizations and influenced them to promote peace and justice. One of the earlier adventures of this sort was when she helped depose the chief juvenile judge in Omaha. This man was a sore in the side for nearly everyone who was working with disadvantaged youth. Sr. Gabriel was also very active in justice work during a

several-year school interval in Chicago.

I would have liked to have been a priest

Words of Sister Gabriel: "I entered the Good Shepherd Community on March 12, 1940, because I felt called to commit my life to God and to serve the very needy. I had also been told by my pastor that the Good Shepherd Sisters were the closest to the priesthood of any other Order. I would have liked to have been a priest," she said.

Sr. Gabriel once cited the second draft of our Constitutions, which states that Jesus, the Good Shepherd has called us to live with Him and continue His redemptive mission in the Church.

"I find that just being present to people in the changing neighborhood, while doing what is my assigned task, is my way of living out this call," Sr. Gabriel said.

There are many ways to fulfill the 'redemptive mission,' such as helping poor families who need child care, especially single parent families. The 'redemptive mission' could also be working with City Council and the Mayor to develop a spectrum of child care services that would be available to poor families without cost.

Sister Gabriel lived out these values by her life and she continued to live them out until the end. To quote her again: "My favorite assignment has been, and is, Social Justice work. However, what I value most is being a Sister of the Good Shepherd."

Submitted by Sr. Bernadette Faulhaber, RGS

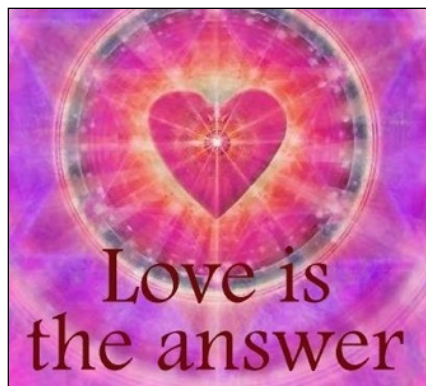
LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	Sep 7 Sep 20-23 Sep 27 Sep 28-30	Pilgrimage with Farmington Parish, Perryville, MO Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit PLT meeting, St. Louis Integration Team meeting, St. Louis
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Sep 22 Sep 13 Sep 25 Sep 26 - Oct 1	NRV Bay Area meeting, Los Altos, CA Council of Women Religious meeting, San Francisco Gracenter gala, San Francisco PLT & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	Sep 26 - Oct 2	PLT & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Johnson	Sep 26 - Oct 2	PLT & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Sep 1-2 Sep 3-19 Sep 20-21 Sep 23-24 Sep 25-30	Visit with Sisters, Cincinnati Sabbatical Visit with Sisters, Minnesota Visit with Sisters, Omaha PLT & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Sep 15-20 Sep 20-23 Sep 20 - Oct 2	Visits, Louisville and Maryville, TN Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit PLT & Integration Team meetings, St. Louis
Sr. Marie Maurer	Sep 27 Sep 28-30	PLT meeting, St. Louis Integration Team meeting, St. Louis
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Sep 12-13 Sep 15 Sep 16-18 Sep 20-23 Sep 27 Sep 28-30	Stewardship of religious property workshop, St. Louis Good Shepherd Shelter board meeting, Los Angeles Family visit Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit PLT meeting, St. Louis Integration Team meeting, St. Louis
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Sep 6 Sep 7 Sep 20-23 Sep 27 Sep 28-30	MO Coalition for Responsible Investment, St. Louis Pilgrimage with Farmington Parish, Perryville, MO Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit PLT meeting, St. Louis Integration Team meeting, St. Louis

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"Go out of yourself to enter into God and a holy love of your neighbor."

Saint Mary Euphrasia

Contact us

Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Province of Mid-North America
7654 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-381-3400; 314-381-7102 fax
www.sistersofthegoodshepherd.com

Jeanette McDermott, communications coordinator
314-381-3400, ext. 28
jmcdermott@gspmna.org

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Province of Mid-North America
7654 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63121