

ITEMS

O F I N T E R E S T

Love and farewell

It's time to say goodbye to Sisters Agnes Park and Helena Moderno, our international students.

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Nicaragua examined

NAC Communications Specialist Kathy Dempsey examines the state of affairs in Nicaragua.

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Protectress of the Poor

Sr. Glynis' painting "Protectress of the Poor" is included in a newly published book.

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The journey continues

Sr. Brigid covers activities in Angers as Sisters continue to prepare for perpetual vows.

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POWER OF COMMUNION

More than 800 Catholic Sisters in leadership positions from across the U.S. met in St. Louis August 7-10 for the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR) assembly. The 2018 assembly picked up where

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Green Corner

The Eco Zeal for Mission Team invites you to join Christians across the globe in celebrating World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1. For many the day marks the beginning of a longer celebration that runs through October 4 and is referred to as the Season of Creation. This month-long prayerful observance and contemplation of the beauty and gift of creation heightens

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

LCWR, *Cont'd from p. 1*

last year's meeting left off: with a call to communion. This year's theme — *Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion* — was in response to last year's assembly, which also focused on "being the presence of love."

Ask the hard questions

LCWR represents nearly 80 percent of the approximately 48,500 women religious in the United States. Their four days in St. Louis addressed a broad spectrum of topics. Among them were reflections on diversity and asking hard questions about racism. More than 60 sisters in the fight against the death penalty gathered in a lunch session to brainstorm how to better organize as a network.

As LCWR wrapped up its assembly, Sisters explored diversity within the image of God and lessons for religious life. They honored the first black recipient of LCWR's Outstanding Leadership Award, Daughter of the Heart of Mary Sr. Anita Baird.

Baird, 71, has spent the last 20 years in ministry focused on racial justice. In 1997, she became the first African-American to serve as chief of staff to the archbishop of Chicago, the late Cardinal Francis George.

Sr. Rosalyn Menard, New York/Toronto Province, said she was deeply struck by the 800 Religious women in attendance.

"The Sisters' sense of community, love and compassion were evident throughout the assembly. It was a beautiful blend of diverse charisms joining together in



Sr. Maureen Kunz, RGS, prepares for the opening session of the LCWR assembly.

Contemplative Prayer and dialogue for the sake of our Mission in the Church and our suffering world," she said.

Learn from the younger Sisters

Sr. Paulette LoMonaco, also from the New York/Toronto Province, said she was influenced by the recommendation that leaders speak to and learn from the young Sisters.

"This inspired me to suggest to our leadership team that we send a letter to the Sisters who are currently in formation to share the theme with them and ask them to share their insights with us. The future of our congregation is in their hands and we need to understand their hopes and desires," Sr. Paulette said.

Throughout the Assembly participants heard from keynote speakers, panel presenters and each other. They reflected on tough topics, had challenging discussions, and planned actions.

On the final day of the LCWR assembly, Sisters explored the diversity within the image of God and lessons for religious life. Sisters ended their conference with a drum-led procession and rally downtown on the Old Courthouse steps to bear witness against systemic racism in the United States. The Old Courthouse in St. Louis is infamous for the 1857 [Dred and Harriet Scott](#) case.

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Good Shepherds from across North America gathered for lunch at LCWR. l-r: Sisters Celia-Cruz Gómez, Maureen McGowan, Madeleine Munday, Mary Carolyn McQuaid, Paulette LoMonaco, and Dolores Kalina.

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL



LCWR, *Cont'd from p. 2*

Opposition to the 1857 Supreme Court decision, which denied African-Americans the right to sue for freedom, was a catalyst for the Civil War, and eventually led to the adoption of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

Province Leader for Mid-North America Sr. Madeleine Munday was moved by the experience on the courthouse steps. She said, "We experienced profound solidarity as hundreds of Assembly participants stood on the steps of the Old Courthouse in silent witness against racism."

Sr. Madeleine said she felt particularly inspired by the speaker Br. Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB. She was especially inspired by his words, "The ministry of leadership is to believe, trust and permit the providential and surprising fruitfulness of fragility ... not to resist it."

Creative problem-solving

Sr. Maureen Kunz was struck by how many congregations at LCWR are taking creative approaches to addressing issues and solving problems.

"One congregation has turned a part of its motherhouse property into a field of windmills to generate energy. Another community of Sisters has elected one of its youngest members onto its leadership team. Region 15 members (my region in the Pacific Northwest) is working to support the InterCommunity Justice and Peace Center. So many people, so many stories!" she said.



An immigration lawyer who has lived as an immigrant in four countries, Holy Cross Sr. Sharlet Wagner is the new president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. She said, "There's such a need for the world to see that we can live together and work together, and I think that's an area where religious could be a prophetic voice and speak of the Gospel values."

Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez said, "Everyone needs to hear our stories. We all have a story, a meaning in our lives to be shared with our hurting world. We as leaders and members are about doing something new — welcoming the reign of God. We are what God needs us to be today," she said.

You can read full coverage of the LCWR assembly at [Global Sisters Report](https://www.global-sisters-report.com/). To read or download keynote addresses from the assembly, visit <https://lcwr.org/calendar/lcwr-assembly-2018>.

Story written by Jeanette McDermott, PMNA



Ir: Sisters Martha Hernandez, Central South Province, and Jean Marie Fernandez, Mid-North America, spend time getting to know each other better.



Mingling, networking and catching up on friendship are common elements of the annual LCWR assemblies, which draws leadership teams from congregations throughout the United States.

PROVINCE NEWS



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Leadership team members from the Provinces of Mid-North America, Central South, Montreal and New York/Toronto took a few moments to gather for a group photograph at their meeting which followed the Leadership Conference for Women Religious assembly in St. Louis in August.

Announcements and News Tidbits

Gracenter will hold its annual gala luncheon in San Francisco on September 17.

The annual Good Shepherd Gathering will take place in Detroit from September 25-28. The retreat for Province of Mid-North America CEOs will precede the gathering from September 23-25.

CORA Services has received recent grants from four foundations. The new funds will enable the agency to expand existing programs and services, and to embark on a few exciting new adventures.

Maryhurst will dedicate a Historical Marker to Sisters of the

Good Shepherd in Louisville on September 13 and 14.

Sr. Adrienne Baker's temporary mailing address is Cerenity Humboldt, 514 Humboldt Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55107

Sr Marilyn Kahl's new email address is rgsmarilyn@icloud.com

PROVINCE NEWS



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Love and farewell to international students

By Virginia Gordon, RGS

Sr. Agnes Park, RGS

A year goes by too quickly, especially when you are preparing to bid farewell to a person like Sr. Agnes Park. She will be returning to the Republic of South Korea and to her Province on September 1. She leaves with us memories of her delightful, generous and fun loving person.



Agnes Parks, RGS

Agnes completed 12 levels of English at ELS here in St. Louis. Advancing so rapidly in English writing and reading was tedious work for her. Although she was hard at work with her studies, she always found time to put her many talents to the service of the community. We could count on Agnes for many things, like playing the organ at prayer times, even when asked at the last moment.

She obtained a Missouri driver's license so that she could drive Sisters where they needed or wanted to go. Agnes said this was a gift she could give back to the community that had supported her. She is a kind and giving person. And she is funny. She brought many laughs to our meals as she struggled good-heartedly to pronounce unfamiliar words and use American expressions that were strange to her. She kept us in good humor with her contagious laughter.

Agnes' artistic talents came forth when she helped decorate for special events in the community. At our Saturday night movie times, she helped the older Sisters understand pop culture and some of the new styles of technology. In return, she learned some things about U.S. culture and American history from the older Sisters.

Go forth Agnes with our love and gratitude, knowing you will be missed for a very long time — FOREVER!

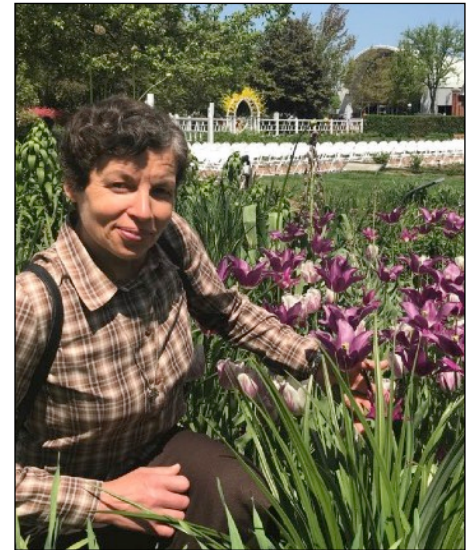
Sr. Maria Helena Pereira Moderno, RGS

Although Sr. Helena was with us for just a short while (about 5 months), she became a very important part of our community life here at the St. Louis Province Center. Her smiling face as she walked into any room and greeted us, will leave us with many warm feelings.

Helena is a diligent learner and is taking her studies in English seriously. A memorable moment marks her commitment to studies. Here's how that story goes:

The National Weather Service's outdoor emergency whistle blew, warning us that a life-threatening tornado was fast approaching the Province Center. The sound of the alarm sent us racing to the safety of the basement, where we were to wait until we heard the "all clear" signal.

As we descended the stairway toward the basement, we saw Helena rush back to her room. She didn't follow the rest of us. When she finally appeared in the basement, she was carrying a backpack filled with school books! She had raced back to her room to collect study materials; not important papers like a passport, but school books and homework assignments. Studious Helena figured she would study while waiting for the tornado to pass.



Helena Moderno, RGS

Helena's generosity stands out; she can always be found where help is needed. Her laughter mingles with ours when she struggles to use American expressions. Her questions keep us on our toes as we try to explain the meaning of English words, phrases and slang.

Helena has shared with us her knowledge of and great love for Blessed Maria Droste. Her presentation on Maria gave us new insights into this remarkable saint.

Sr. Helena will travel to New York at the end of September and will spend a couple of months with Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS, learning all she can about the Good Shepherd Justice, Peace and Solidarity at our UN International Office. This experience will help connect Helena's Province and their ministries to Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace and with offices also in Geneva and Vienna.

We are blessed with your presence, Helena. We know you will go forward with courage, peace and justice for the Mission of Good Shepherd. With gratitude you will always be in our memory.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL



A Visit to the San Francisco Community

By Larry Couch, Director, Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center

I visited the San Francisco Community recently and began my day by accompanying Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez to a 300-bed homeless shelter where she works as a case manager in downtown San Francisco. The shelter is administered by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The shelter provides beds for the homeless and a drop-in center that never closes. With about 70 chairs, homeless people can come, sit and relax. Sr. Jean Marie said that some people spend months, even years, in the drop-in center.

I love to walk and found to my delight that so does Sr. Jean Marie. A memorable part of our walk through downtown San Francisco was a visit to the Gubbio Project at St. Boniface Church. The pastor welcomes homeless people to use the back 2/3 of the sanctuary for sleeping while the church uses the front 1/3 to celebrate daily mass. Lack of sleep is one of the most critical health issues for the homeless. An average of 225 unhoused neighbors seek safety and rest on the pews in the sanctuary each day.

I was struck by the contrast of the beauty of the church with its stained-glass windows and the back pews filled with people who end up without a place to call home. The Gubbio Project is known as a Sacred Sleep, Community and Sanctuary. Gubbio refers to the town in Italy where St. Francis tamed a ravenous wolf who then lived in peace with the townspeople. To see a moving video of the Gubbio project, go to <https://www.thegubbioproject.org/>.



Larry Couch visited Sisters in the San Francisco Community on a recent trip to San Francisco. L-R: Sisters Jean Marie Fernandez, Olga Cristobal, Anne Kelley and Liz Schille. Other members of the community who are not present in the photograph are Sisters Danielle Fung and Marguerite Bartling, who took the photograph.

In the afternoon I visited Good Shepherd Gracenter. After nine years working with the National Advocacy Center and dealing with the political gamesmanship of Washington, DC, visiting Gracenter was like spending time at an oasis of caring.

Executive Director Sr. Marguerite Bartling and Program Manager Sandra Munoz discussed with me the wonderful work they accomplish with women recovering from alcohol addiction. With 13 beds, Gracenter is a safe and nourishing licensed recovery residence.

Gracenter provides a supportive community that incorporates the 12-Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. With a focus on whole-person wellness, staff provides women in residence with opportunities for spirituality, education, skill-building and sustainable employment.

Although I was sorry to leave, I had scheduled a brief visit because I know the Sisters are busy people. However, as Local Leader Sr. Liz Schille reminded me, "A lot can happen when you have time for a long, unhurried conversation."

I realized later that her comment reflects nicely the Good Shepherd Gracenter approach to both healing and spirituality. Giving people time and listening to what they say are keys to wholeness for all involved.

On a related note, Sisters in the San Francisco Community honored Province Leader Sr. Madeleine Munday on her feast day and vow day during her visit to the community.



NAC NEWS



ZEAL

Nicaragua: What happened while we were not looking?

By Kathy Dempsey, Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center

It seems to those of us paying scant attention that one day Nicaragua was a beautiful, prospering country, and the next day hundreds of its citizens are left dead and thousands fleeing after being targeted by paramilitary forces.

Nicaragua suddenly exploded in mid-April, when President Daniel Ortega's government announced changes to the social security program, setting off nationwide street protests that quickly turned violent. As of July 30, approximately 350 people had been killed and nearly 2,000 injured. Violence, political tension, human rights abuses and forced detentions continue to mount. Thousands of Nicaraguans are seeking asylum in Costa Rica.

These sort of crises take time to foment and bubble over, but two things are certain. The government of Daniel Ortega is not what it once was, and we must help our neighbors.

Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center for Sisters of the Good Shepherd, attended a presentation in August in Washington, DC. Nicaraguan activist Julio Martinez spoke about President Ortega and how he began his political career as a revolutionary fighting against the U.S.-backed [Contra War](#) that took place in Nicaragua from 1981 to 1988. Martinez said Ortega has become an autocrat who violently represses dissent with police, military and paramilitary force.

According to Martinez, Ortega is not the resistance leader whom



A woman carries the name of an assassinated loved one in a protest march in Nicaragua.

many embraced years ago. During the question and answer period following Martinez's presentation, Larry was surprised by the number of people who still express support for Ortega.

Larry spoke with Martinez about this, who said that many people who have not been following events in Nicaragua during the last several years still see Ortega as a revolutionary hero.

Martinez cited his own experiences as a protester and reminded people that every international organization that has reviewed the situation has concluded that Ortega is guilty of massive human rights violations resulting in the death of innocent protesters.

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How you can help

One of NAC's Advisory Board members is Sister Claudia Palacio, RGS, who is originally from Nicaragua and still has family there. Sr. Claudia lists the crisis in stark numbers. In four months in a country of six million people, there have been:

- 350 Assassinated
- 2,000 Wounded
- 1,800 Arbitrarily Detained
- 200 Political Prisoners

Sr. Claudia suggests two ways that individuals might support the civic revolution of the Nicaraguan people:

Fight the Nicaraguan government's "fake news" on social media. The Nicaraguan government denies any responsibility in the massacre of civilians. It is important in social media to support the Church and civil society. Also it is critical to lend support to political prisoners, such as Medardo Mairena, a Campesino member, and Irlanda Jerez, a merchant and activist.

Provide the people of Nicaragua humanitarian help. There are few private hospitals (two in Managua). They have opened their doors to the wounded; however, it is not enough. Catholic churches had opened clinics in their sacristies but those have been shut down by paramilitary forces and Sandinista mobs. The people are in need of food and medicine. The economy of the country is suffering and many people have lost their jobs.

You can donate to the cause through SOS Nicaragua Global at <https://www.gofundme.com/jscd5x-sos-nicaragua>.

NAC NEWS



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Nicaragua, *Continued from p. 7*

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reported on August 2 of thousands of Nicaraguans “forced to hide and move, even to the point of being forced to flee Nicaragua to seek international protection in other countries.”

Only a few days earlier, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees called “on the international community to provide support to Costa Rica and other countries hosting Nicaraguan refugees and asylum seekers, in the spirit of solidarity and responsibility-sharing.”

Costa Rica is keeping its borders open even in the face of 200 Nicaraguans filing for asylum within its country each day. The United States needs to lend humanitarian assistance to Costa Rica and its neighbors.

There is bipartisan support in Congress for sanctions against Nicaragua and a resolution passed in the spring. Legislation sanctioning the Ortega-Murillo family and any other member of their government must pass. Given the ongoing nature of the crisis, NAC believes that Congress should find a permanent solution for Nicaraguans currently in the U.S. with Temporary Protective Status (TPS) before TPS expires in January 2019.

National Advocacy Center alerts eMail subscribers to legislative news involving Nicaragua and other places of concern. Through our alerts, we connect you directly with lawmakers so you can easily and quickly let them know how you feel about domestic and global issues.



Ongoing protests began in Nicaragua on April 18, 2018, when demonstrators challenged the government for imposing social security reforms.

NAC is coordinating Good Shepherd advocacy with our NGO United Nations Representative Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS. UN human rights experts have called for an end to the repression. See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23201&LangID=E>

NAC will continue to work with Sr. Winifred to find ways our offices can help resolve this humanitarian crisis. Details may be found at advocacydays.org. You can sign up for NAC alerts at <http://bit.ly/nacsignup>.

Save the date. Let's make good trouble!

In a marked departure from years past, the 2019 EAD (Ecumenical Advocacy Days) Gathering in Washington, DC, will focus on the theme *Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World*. EAD will look at the history of resistance in America - the history of resistance to unjust social structures - and then look to the future as to how this resistance can best manifest itself in the present.

The Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center has long been a major organizer of EAD and again participated in the development of the theme for next year. In 2019, EAD organizers will call upon people of faith and conscience to take a stand, be renewed and carry on for justice. Participants will be called to stir up Good Trouble for the sake of God's kingdom.

“Every day a different piece of the sky falls. One day it's a tax structure that favors the rich and bloats the deficit. Another day it's an attack on our health care system. And every day it's an attack upon refugees and immigrants,” said Larry Couch, Director of Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center.

“We need some time to go back to our roots, to remember why we value what we do, to draw nourishment from our deepest selves and from each other,” Larry said.

The EAD Gathering will be held April 5 through 8, 2019, in Washington, DC. Save the dates. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

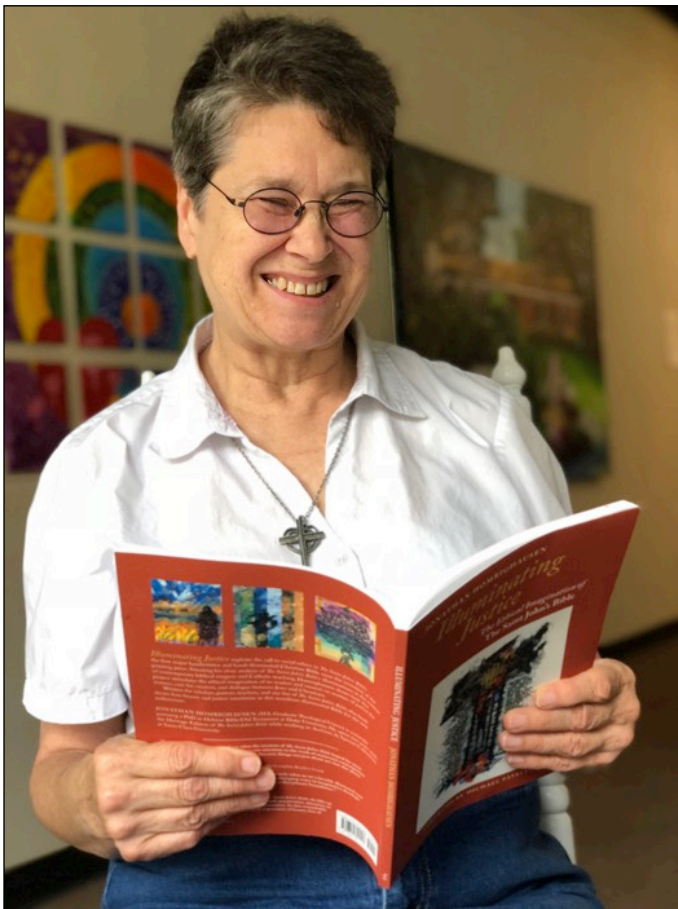
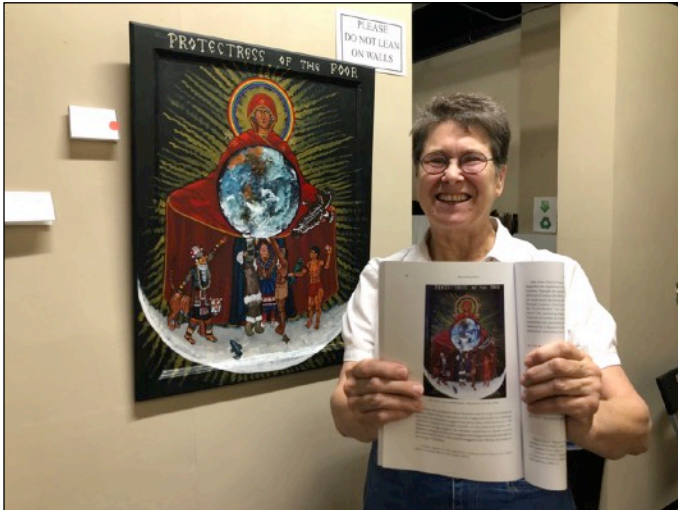
Submitted by Kathy Dempsey, NAC

SISTER STORY



ZEAL

Sr. Glynis' artwork appears in newly released book



Top and bottom: Sr. Glyins McManamon delights in seeing her painting "Protectress of the Poor" reproduced in a book about the illuminations of the Saint John's Bible.

Jonathan Homrighausen's newly released book *Illuminating Justice: the Ethical Illumination of the Saint John's Bible* looks into some of the art and themes of the Saint John's Bible. The Saint John's Bible is the first major handwritten and hand-illuminated Christian Bible since the invention of the printing press.

Protectress of the Poor

Included in Homrighausen's book is an image that Sr. Glynis McManamon, RGS, painted. The artwork, called "Protectress of the Poor," graces a page in the chapter titled "Care of Creation." *Illuminating Justice* is the first book to survey the illuminations of the Saint John's Bible thematically.

Homrighausen discovered Sr. Glynis' artwork about a year ago when he read an article about her in *Global Sisters Report*. He was struck by the poignancy of *Protectress of the Poor* and contacted Sr. Glynis.

Sr. Glynis said, "I was pretty much stunned when Mr. Homrighausen contacted me to ask if he could include my artwork in his book. Now I've got to read the book!" she laughed.

Illuminating Justice Interprets the Art of *The Saint John's Bible* through a modern lens of social justice. Taking examples of contemporary art that speak to the themes in the book, Homrighausen stimulates the imagination of readers on matters of justice. He uses artwork to shed light on women's rights, ecological responsibility, and religious conflict.

Homrighausen spent two years with the Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* while working in Archives & Special Collections at Santa Clara University. He has been quoted as saying, "Seeing a lot of these thematic connections was where my book was born."

Illuminating Justice is available through the publishing company Liturgical Press, in bookstores and online.



An example of one of the illuminations in Jonathan Homrighausen's new book.

COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL

Celebrating my 50-year journey with Good Shepherd

By Cathie Boerboom, RGS

I wish to start this little story with a touch of history: I entered Good Shepherd with 13 other women in 1965. Another woman joined us in January 1966. Five Sisters joined us shortly after they became novices from the Cincinnati province. I am the only one remaining of those 19 people. I am so grateful for my life as a Good Shepherd Sister. And I am very grateful for my relationship with God.

June 14, 2018, was the 50th anniversary of my first vows. The plans I had for celebrating this landmark occasion shifted greatly when my father fell and died four days later. His death was sad, sacred and beautiful.

I am very close to my parents and was not ready to celebrate my Jubilee after dad died. I needed time to overcome my initial shock and grief. I also needed time to support my mother for a few weeks. So, I postponed the celebrations.

I say celebrations with an "s" because I was blessed to have

eventually celebrated my anniversary as a Good Shepherd Sister in several settings. First was with my family at our annual July gathering with a special cake, balloons, flowers and many homemade cards. It was a day of fun, prayers, and being together when we really needed that.

I had requested and budgeted for a trip to Crater Lake in south central Oregon. In July Sr. Carmel Irving and I spent a day in awe at the beauty of this incredible lake.

I had another celebration in Portland with five of us Good Shepherd Sisters together, which is an uncommonly large number for us

in the Northwest. I was delighted that Srs. Maureen Kunz, Joan Spiering, Liz Schille and Carmel Irving were part of a small group of friends and neighbors who gathered with me to share a potluck meal and conversation.

This celebration included a very special time of listening to poems, prayers, songs, and quotes that the guests had picked out



Sr. Carmel Irving and I spent a day at beautiful Crater Lake in south central Oregon in honor of my 50th Jubilee.

for me and shared with all of us. Each of these sharings sparked a short conversation. It was so fun and sacred!

I had another opportunity to celebrate my anniversary as part of my Spiritual Direction class during this summer's practicum. This, too, was a very special time. Each of us alternated between directing another student on retreat for three days and then being directed on retreat for three more days. God and I took this opportunity to celebrate our anniversary. This was a very special time!

Lastly, I will celebrate my 50th anniversary with a Mass at my parish on September 12. I could never have imagined my life so full, with so many opportunities to serve, heal and be healed, to love and be loved. I am grateful!

Thanks for your prayerful support, and I continue to pray for you.



One of the celebrations I had for my 50th Jubilee was spent in the company of Sisters and friends in Portland, Oregon. Absent in the photo is Sr. Carmel Irving, who took the picture.

COMMUNITY LIFE

ZEAL



Seated l-r: Sisters Donna Miles, Regina Do, Mary Carolyn McQuaid, Mary Carol McClenon, Mary Carmen Flores; Standing l-r: Sisters Stella Mangona, Anne Kelley, Florence Bautista, Mercy DeLeon, Barbara Beasley, Madeleine Munday, Joanna Le, Charlotte Kirst, and Bishop Ryan Jiminez, Bishop of Saipan. Sr. Florence (Province of the Philippines) entered in Los Angeles. She was visiting family in California at the time of the Jubilee.

Celebrating four Golden Jubilees in Los Angeles

More than 200 people honored Sisters Mary Carmen Flores, Anne Kelley, Charlotte Kirst and Stella Mangona when they came to Los Angeles to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sisters making their professed vows.

The photo above shows all of the Sisters who were in Los Angeles on the day before the Golden Jubilee celebration. Sisters Olga and Jean Marie arrived that evening and missed being in the photograph. We had lunch with Bishop Ryan Jiminez, Bishop of Saipan. He came all the way from Saipan to preside at the celebration as a tribute to Sr. Stella. After lunch, he spent some time interviewing

the four Jubilarians, touring the grounds of the Good Shepherd Shelter, and checking out the location of the altar. I had picked him up from his hotel near the airport to bring him to lunch; I knew him as Fr. Ryan during the time I was missioned in Saipan. I returned him to his hotel after lunch, successfully vanquishing the LA freeways, I might add. I was encouraged to attend the celebration because of my ties to Stella, when I worked in Saipan, and Carmen, from our days together in Baltimore. It was great fun.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS



Danville days

Left: Sisters Mary Becker, Dolores Beck and Patricia Marie Barnette greet Bishop Ronald Gainer. Sisters Caroline De Angeles, Kathleen Moore, Grace Rhoads, Mary Carol McClenon and Patricia Connelly enjoy an outing at an ice cream shop.

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL



Living harmoniously in diversity

Sisters Olga Cristobal and Mirjam Beike shared a house and mission for three years in Albania. Their personalities and cultural experiences are vastly different. One Sister is German, the other Filipina. English is a second language for both Sisters. Together, they experienced the richness of Good Shepherd internationality.

"There were challenges having Sisters from two cultures living together. But just as we treat the women we work with, we treated each other with respect and dignity. We lived harmoniously in diversity," said Sr. Olga.

The two Sisters became fast friends and missed each other when they were reassigned. Sr. Olga left Albania last October to serve in San Francisco. Sr. Mirjam left Albania to serve a six-month internship at the United Nations (UN) in New York. The internship was a training ground to prepare her for her new role as the main representative of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd to the UN in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sr. Mirjam had to be in Geneva on August 27 to start another internship with a human rights lawyer to continue her education and training. Before making that journey, she took a detour to San Francisco to spend time with her dear friend and former roommate.

Sisters Olga and Mirjam spent a week together visiting a dizzying array of tourist sites and catching up on each other's lives. One of Sr. Mirjam's lifelong dreams came true when Sr. Olga took her to see the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

Sr. Olga also introduced Sr. Mirjam to her ministry at Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation and Good Shepherd Gracenter. Sisters in the San Francisco Community welcomed Sr. Mirjam into the fold and made her feel at home.

Because English is a foreign language to Sr.

Mirjam, her internship in New York was very demanding, and at times overwhelming. The trip she made to be with Sr. Olga was fun and relaxing. It balanced the intensity of work she had experienced in New York City.

Sr. Mirjam's work with the United Nations in Geneva is just starting. She doesn't know how long she will serve in Geneva or what exactly she will do. Still, she is excited about what lies ahead.

"I had a very good experience in New York at our justice and peace office with Sr. Winifred Doherty. I hear that the work in Geneva will be different and more structured according to laws and rules, compared with the political work in New York. I don't know the whole spectrum of what I will do in Geneva, but I'm excited about the possibilities," Sr. Mirjam said.

"I am very grateful for the many experiences and help I have received here, especially for the friendly reception by the Sisters in New York and San Francisco, and my good friend Olga. I will always keep this time in good memory," Sr. Mirjam said.

Written by Jeanette McDermott



Sisters Olga Cristobal (left) and Mirjam Beike horse around on one of their many outings while on vacation together in San Francisco this summer.



GREEN CORNER



ZEAL



Province campus harmonizes with nature

By Monte Abbott, Director of Operations

Two years ago we noticed a very large dying tree at the front of the Province campus in Normandy, Missouri. Given the potential danger from falling branches and the expense of removing the tree, I proposed that we cut the tree back to a 30-foot stump and create a 60-foot diameter wildflower prairie garden around its base. The idea caught on, perhaps in part because Pope Francis had recently called for us to give more attention to environmental stewardship.

After trimming the dead tree and preparing the ground, we planted 180 native wildflowers and native grass starts. The outpouring of support and help from Sisters, staff, Girls Scouts, school children, and neighbors was phenomenal.

The prairie garden started slowly, taking much of last year to get its roots well established. This year we have seen a great deal of growth and flowering above the ground, as native flowers and grasses put on a lot of height. Our dream of adding to the little corners of wildlife habitat around Normandy is coming to fruition.

Many birds, butterflies, native bees, moths, and flies visit the garden to gather food and take shelter. This summer we have observed monarch and yellow swallowtail butterflies repeatedly. They are all crucial members of our ecosystem - lowly native flies, gorgeous butterflies, and colorful songbirds alike.

During the past year the dead tree (called a snag) at the center of the garden has undergone its own transformation. Most of the bark has fallen away to create a deep, soft, spongy pile of decaying matter



around the snag's base. This bark pile has become a home to beetles, ants, and earthworms, all supremely important composters in our natural earth cycle.

Now a tall, smooth tree stump rises from the center of the garden, starkly white and beautiful. This spring three round holes appeared in the trunk, two about half way up and one at the very top. These must have been woodpecker nests, but we never saw the birds. The uppermost hole at the top of the trunk, is currently occupied by a community of honeybees.

Natural gardens look very different from ordinary flower gardens around our homes. Sometimes people think they are weedy and abandoned spaces that should be mowed and "cleaned up." From the perspective of our environment, this could not be further from the truth. Butterflies and bees desperately need these uncontrolled spaces and the plants that live in them. Thankfully, we have not heard any such comments here. It seems that we either already understand this or perhaps we are learning to love this natural kind of beauty!

We monitor the garden and remove colonizing, invasive plants that are



Clockwise: Monte points to the snag that houses woodpeckers and honeybees, cradles a beneficial pollinator plant, and sees the fruits of his labor when a monarch lands on a native plant.

not part of our Missouri habitat. We also remove some native plants that crowd out butterfly food sources. As the butterfly plants continue to mature they will eventually be able to outcompete these aggressive colonizers on their own. For now though, this little pocket of creation care continues to evolve and thrive on our campus.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Creation, *Cont'd from p. 1*

our awareness of the ecological crises facing us today. It affords us an opportunity to commit to the care and preservation of creation for the sake of all future generations.

"The human environment and the natural environment are deteriorating together, and this deterioration of the planet weighs upon the most vulnerable of its people. The impact of climate change affects, first and foremost, those who live in poverty in every corner of the globe."
Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew 9/2017.

The late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios inaugurated the first World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1,

1989. Other faith communities began extending the celebration. It eventually grew into the Season of Creation, which ends on the feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4.

The Season of Creation has no official recognition in the Catholic Church; however, Pope Francis acknowledges it and affirms its ecumenical initiatives. On the other hand, Pope Francis inaugurated September first as the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation for the whole of the Catholic Church in 2015, one year after he gave us *Laudato Si*.

Weekly themes

Weekly themes for the 2018 Season of Creation are:

- Planet Earth (week 1)
- Humanity (week 2)
- Sky (week three)
- Water (week four) since water is our particular province concern for 2018.

Two helpful websites are [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) and [Season of Creation](#). We also invite you to review a list of intercessions on our [province website](#) to use during Mass or office.

Submitted by By Sharon O'Grady, RGS

**Baltimore statue adorns new church garden**

The statue of Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd, once housed on the convent grounds in Baltimore, Maryland, has a new home. The concrete statue that stood tall for decades in the grotto on campus now adorns a garden at Ascension Church, the local parish where Sisters were members before moving to Danville, Pennsylvania.

The statue originally came to Baltimore from the Good Shepherd convent in Reading, Pennsylvania, when it closed about the same time that Baltimore was being built in the 1960s. The parish priest at Ascension Church, Fr. John Williamson, designed and built the new memorial garden where the statue now rests.

A plaque explains the statue's origins and how it was gifted to the church from Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Submitted by Mary Carol McClenon, RGS

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Sisters gather on the lawn at the Motherhouse in Angers, France.

Love, the heart of the universe: the journey continues

By Sr. Brigid Lawlor, RGS

I reported in last month's issue of Items of Interest about our Good Shepherd Sisters who are in final formation at the Motherhouse in Angers, France. This month's article covers activities in Angers during weeks four, five and six (July 30-August 17, 2018). The Sisters preparing for perpetual vows continue to be an inspiration. They respond with enthusiasm, openness and an eagerness to learn. They frame questions and comments positively about all that is presented to them, especially material which might be very new.

Ongoing revelation of God's dream for us

Our Founding stories were the focus of week four. Sr. Angela Fahy, RGS, presented an enactment of the life and personality of St. John Eudes. Women who entered Sisters of Our Lady of Charity and joined Good Shepherd at the time of the reunification played various roles in the enactment. Nine of the Sisters

The stories included the time St. John Eudes ran away from home at age 14 to join the seminary.

are from Kenya/Uganda/Congo; one is from Mexico; and one is from Europe. The stories included the time St. John Eudes ran away from home at age 14 to join the seminary. He took a horse and left because his father disapproved of his decision at such a young age. However, halfway to the seminary, he turned around and went back home.

Another story revealed John Eudes' love for the heart of Jesus and Mary. Another story focused on his work with the lepers and care for those afflicted with the plague. You might recall that he slept in a barrel during this time, just like the people he was helping.

After a presentation on the vow of zeal, which St. John Eudes felt was necessary for the congregation, the participants shared their own ministry experiences. They marveled at the expansion of the ways that we are reaching out to the most abandoned and unloved in our societies today.

Sister Marie Françoise Le Brizaut, RGS, spoke about the first part of our name: Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. She highlighted charity and read passages from the first Constitutions written by St. John Eudes.

By focusing on the great Heart of God and the Heart of Jesus and Mary who are conduits of God's great love, it was easy to connect our early history with the theme of these sessions: Love, the Heart of the Universe: first from a 17th century perspective and then from today's perspective in the 21st century.

Continued on next page

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

**Angers, Cont'd from p. 15**

With great tenderness, Sister Anne Josephine Carr, RGS, presented the life of St. Mary Euphrasia, focusing on the events of her life and all that led to the founding of the generalate. In response to the presentation, participants expressed their growing love for our internationality.

Sr. Noreen O'Shea, RGS, helped link the gift of the spirit to the congregation by connecting our charism and *Laudato Si*. Again, tapping from the theme *Love, the Heart of the Universe*, we continued to become aware of ourselves as people of the earth. This deepened our understanding of the evolutionary movement of the universe and our congregation's part in it. We celebrate anew our history as it unfolds today with new energy and hope for the future.

Living the Vows Today

Sister Camilla Burns, former Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, led the sessions in week five. She blended our Constitutions and 2015 Congregational Chapter Document with the vows in general and each vow specifically. This made the vows come alive as participants reflected on their personal experience of God against the backdrop of the theme.

The universe that surrounds us is constantly evolving and changing. God is the constant in our lives. Sr. Camilla offered challenging examples of this, showing that every aspect of our lives requires a fidelity to the God to whom we have made our commitment.

- For chastity, it includes living in community with all that it entails and responding to the needs of today, such as human trafficking.
- Poverty demands mutual sustainability and sharing of our gift.
- Obedience, as a mutual responsibility, calls us to the

transformation described in our Congregational Chapter 2015. It states, "Transformational leadership is a way of being leaders arising out of the depths of the wisdom within each of us."

- Zeal gives us a particular energy for mission. Each table group showed compassionate love and spoke to how zeal encompasses all of our vows. The three contemplative Sisters touched all of our hearts when they spoke through silent gestures a prayer for the earth and all Good Shepherd concerns.

As an aside, Sister Camilla Burns and her team lived in the Generalate during my first term. Camilla facilitated the meeting between the leadership teams of Our Lady of Charity and Good Shepherd in 2006, which led to theological reflection by

both Congregations about proceeding with a reunification.

Week five ended with a social evening. Sisters representing 10 cultures shared brief PowerPoints about their countries and demonstrated a cultural dance. Sr. Blanca Inez, who is missioned in Nicaragua, showed video clips of the violence that is taking place in the country. We paused for a moment of silence following her presentation. For a perspective on the current state of affairs in Nicaragua, see the article that Kathy Dempsey has written on page 7.

Some provinces have only one Sister at the sessions. It was impressive to see how those who are solo called on Sisters from other cultures to help them with their presentation and dances. Truly, internationality is imbibed here!

Continued on next page



Sisters on a field trip to Noirmoutier Island, where they imagined Saint Mary Euphrasia at home with the sea, her parish and neighborhood as a child.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

Angers, *Cont'd from p. 16*

Darkness cannot drive out darkness

One of the quotes Josefina Tondo used in her opening talk in week six was *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that; hatred cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."* (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Josefina is an anthropologist and friend of our Sisters in the Philippines and Singapore/Malaysia. She gave an overview of Culture: Family/Authority and Culture: Gender and Sexuality. Joining her as responders were Sisters Honorine Yanba, SND deNamur, and Olga Soldevilla, RGS.

Honorine, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, lived at our Generalate as a team member during the time when Sister Liliane Tauvette was Congregational Leader. Olga is from Peru and has been living in Ecuador as a member of the Regional Formation Program Team. Both panelists injected stories from their personal experiences and cultures.

As with all of the weeks, the presentations offered the challenge of looking at the world and religious

life in a deeper way. The presentations ended with a ritual from the indigenous Peruvian culture. Each person tied knots on four pieces of yarn.

The first knot represented our most significant moments in childhood. The second symbolized the call to religious life, the moments that shaped our life and unity with diverse cultures. The third knot represented the process and challenges of formation, and the fourth knot represented the journey of enrichment and our reunification.

There was time for prayer, reflection and sharing after we made each series of knots. Many memories surfaced which connected each participant with the important people who have guided her so far on her life journey.

The sixth week ended with a pilgrimage to Ri and Caen, France. In Ri, the participants renewed their baptismal vows at the same font where St. John Eudes was baptized. Fr. Jim Conlon celebrated Eucharist on the altar where St. John Eudes said Mass when he returned home after his ordination.

There was a visit to the office/room where he died. It is now a chapel.

There was an opportunity to visit the Sisters who live in Caen. The participants delighted in seeing the vow book that St. Mary Euphrasia signed at her profession as a Sister of Our Lady of Charity. The Sisters saw the statue that St. John Eudes loved of Mary nursing the baby Jesus and also the statue of Mary, Our Lady of Charity.

During the final weeks in Angers, we will focus on three key areas:

1. Community and Communion for Mission;
2. Development of Mission in a Global Context;
3. a full week of integration and review of all of the materials with a few toward the future when all return to their provinces.

More details about the sessions in Angers are available on the congregational website at <http://rgs.gssweb.org>.

I will complete my report on the Sisters preparing for perpetual vows in the combined October-November issue of *Items of Interest*.

Nuns on the Bus 2018 tour

The Nuns on the Bus will stop in the following cities on their sixth tour.
The full schedule is at networklobby.org/bus2018/events/.

California	Illinois	Delaware
Nevada	Indiana	Washington, D.C.
Arizona	Michigan	Virginia
Colorado	Ohio	North Carolina
Nebraska	Pennsylvania	South Carolina
Iowa	New York	Georgia
Missouri	New Jersey	Florida



Nuns on the Bus 2018 Tour

"The Nuns on the Bus route this year is being structured around when Mar-a-Lago opens [on Oct. 31] and working backward from there," according to Meg Olson, Network's grassroots mobilization manager.

"We wanted to be coast-to-coast, and we wanted it to be a study in contrasts, so we'll start in the barrios in Los Angeles and end up in Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida. Mar-a-Lago is not just a symbol of individualism and excess; it's the quintessential example of individualism and excess," Meg said.

And in between? Officials look at congressional districts hotly contested in the midterm elections for opportunities to do on-the-ground lobbying and advocacy as well as cities that are especially suffering because of policies that favor the wealthy and powerful.

[Access the full schedule online.](http://networklobby.org/bus2018/events/)

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

RGS Sisters help Kerala flood victims in India

Kerala State in southwestern India is famous for its picturesque coastline and backwaters. Known as "God's Own Country," today Kerala is in peril.

Floods ravaged Kerala in August when monsoon rains mingled with the sudden onslaught of water that the Indian government released when it opened the shutters to 80 dams. Opening the dams caused all 44 rivers in Kerala to overflow and inundate homes, farms, schools, churches, streets, roads and railways. Floodwater gushed to the Arabian Sea on the state's western border. Most people living near rivers lost all they had, including their homes, farms and livelihoods. Some lost their lives.

The scale of devastation is marked by 410 dead, 1.2 million displaced in 3,200 relief camps, and rebuilding costs that are currently estimated at \$3 billion.

Now that the floodwaters are receding, post-flood focus has shifted to epidemic control. People who are returning to their flood-ravaged homes are finding their toilets rendered useless and well water contaminated with waste. Kerala health authorities are monitoring the deterioration of water quality from human waste and decayed animal carcasses for possible outbreaks of epidemics. Access to clean drinking water is a major concern.

Infrastructures, such as health centers and schools, were heavily damaged or totally destroyed. Every road and street in the state of Kerala (tens of thousands of miles) needs to be cleaned, repaired, sanitized and made safe for use.



The flooding in Kerala could set the region back 200 years according to some analysts.

Good Shepherd Sisters in Kerala are assisting in the humanitarian efforts in many ways.

High and prolonged exposure to chemicals and pollutants emitted from electronic waste that is strewn across Kerala adds additional health concerns, most notably damage to nervous and blood systems, lung cancer, respiratory disorders, and heart, liver, and spleen damage.

The unprecedented devastation to people, crops, animals and property is being addressed through local and international humanitarian efforts.

All 41 Catholic dioceses in the southern state of Kerala have opened schools and other services to accommodate flood victims. The dioceses are sending food, clothes and other relief materials to affected areas.

Good Shepherd Sisters in Kerala are assisting in the humanitarian efforts in many ways. The Sisters are organizing locally to address the immediate needs of hundreds of poor and marginalized families who have lost their livelihoods, homes and farmlands..

The Sisters are working with Caritas India and other local Catholic organizations to help victims of the flood pick up the pieces of their lives. They are committed to helping to restore and provide long-term support to the flood-affected communities in Kerala.

You can donate to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd's emergency appeal by clicking the Donate button on the Good Shepherd Congregational website:

www.fondazionebuonpastore.org/news/good-shepherd's-emergency-appeal-help-victims-kerala-floods

Compiled from online news sources by Jeanette McDermott. Jeanette will be on vacation in Kerala the full month of September.

ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL

Remembering Sister “Aguchita”

By Virginia Gordon, RGS

We remember and celebrate Sr. Maria Augustine Rivas Lopez, affectionately called “Aguchita,” as September 27 approaches — the day she was murdered in La Florida, Peru, in 1990.

Aguchita was born to Modesta Lopez and Damaso Rivas in Coracora, Ayacucho Peru. She was the eldest in a family of 11 boys and girls. In 1942, at age 18, she joined the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity the Good Shepherd. She served in several ministries of the Good Shepherd as a dedicated nurse, group leader of girls and women, and with a community that was forming new members to the Congregation. Her influence in each ministry was an example of the Good Shepherd charism of merciful love.

Ministry among the poor

At the time of her death she was teaching young girls how to prepare sweets. She had gone to the market to buy lemons for her cakes. It was there that she and five villagers were gunned down by a rebel in the group called Shining Path. Aguchita was not a political activist. She was just a simple minister of the compassionate Good Shepherd among poor farming peoples.

When the situation in La Florida had become dangerous, Aguchita’s Provincial Leader asked her to leave the area. Aguchita chose to stay with her loved people. In her own words:

“Lord, they are waiting for me, and now I no longer expect anything. All I hear is the cry of my people. I do not want to pray or struggle for myself. I want to spend myself

without reservations.” (found in her personal notes)

Charism of love and compassion

The rebel who shot Aguchita was 17 years old. Ironically, her ministry in La Florida was with young people. She had been living out the charism of love and compassion, just as she had committed herself when she answered the call of the Good Shepherd.

In these words, written in the Edict for her Cause for Beatification and Canonization, we read:

“She marks out for us a path to journey along and she speaks to us through her testimony about what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Good Shepherd, living the charism of love and compassion ... she lived the charism of mercy to its fullness...”

We remember this humble, smiling and loving woman who laid down her life for the flock that she loved. We give thanks for her life. Let us turn to this holy martyr and implore her help, as we try to meet the challenges of our time.

How are we called to lay down our lives for justice and peace and to “risk together for mission,” in accordance with our Congregational Directive?

While these are only a few things we could say, there are so many more that those who knew and loved her, could tell. We will always remember you, Aguchita, and give thanks for the gift of you to the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.



From top: Sr. Aguchita with some of her 10 siblings. Kind and joyful Sr. Aguchita loved teaching girls how to make sweets. We remember Aguchita.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE **ZEAL**

Sr. Mary Ellen McGrath, RGS

March 18, 1927 – August 10, 2018

We must learn from Mary. We must relive her 'yes,' her unreserved readiness to receive the Son of God in her life.

These words of Pope Francis typify Sr. Mary Ellen's life. She had a special devotion to Mary. Mary Ellen was uncomplicated and had a soft sense of humor that had wonderful timing. Born in St. Louis to Edith Marie and George McGrath, she was the middle child of nine: five girls and four boys. Her youngest sister Shirley Shore and four generations of nieces and nephews survive her.

Before entering Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1948, Mary Ellen worked for a few years at the Queen's Work, a Jesuit publishing office, where she worked with Fr. Daniel Lord, SJ.

Mary Ellen made her first profession on May 13, 1951. From 1951 to 1991 she ministered to girls and women in various programs throughout the U.S. She earned a degree in Sociology in 1960 while in Milwaukee and a Masters in Social Work in 1973 from the University of Wisconsin. She also studied Ministry Theology at the University of San Francisco. Her apostolic work ranged from group mother, case manager, counselor and staff supervisor to local community leader.

In August, 2005, Hurricane Katrina forced Sister Mary Ellen and her community to flee New Orleans. A few months later the decision was made to close the ministry. Not long after she had returned to St Louis in 2006, Mary Ellen suffered a severe heart attack. Easing into retirement, she began tutoring Sisters from other countries who came to St Louis to



Sr. Mary Ellen McGrath, RGS

learn English. She also helped women find jobs who were healing from drug and alcohol addictions in the Maria Droste Program. She had done similar work in New Orleans with women coming out of prison.

Mary Ellen had an artistic taste for the beautiful and elegant. This was evident in the way she set up her room and by what she collected. She expressed it in after-school art classes that she taught in New Orleans, and in the hobby she took up with adult coloring books toward the end of her life.

Sister knew that art takes many forms even apostolic forms as Pope Francis tells us: "Artists of every discipline are called to shine beauty, especially where darkness or gray dominates everyday life."

We give thanks for the gift of Sister Mary Ellen, and for all the good she

accomplished in her life. We give thanks for her gentle ways and for helping us to pay attention to the beauty that is in our world. Thank you, Mary Ellen.

Submitted by Sr. Sharon O'Grady, RGS



An example of Sr. Mary Ellen's finely detailed coloring skills that she performed later in life.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE ZEAL

Sr. Barbara Smithhisler, RGS

March 17, 1932 – August 6, 2018

Ann Marie, later to be named Sister Barbara, was born to Lillian and Leo Smithhisler and was the first of five children: four girls and one boy. The Smithhisler family has been a very close knit family over the years. Strong faith and much joy have enabled them all to weather the ups and downs of life with a spirit of mutual support and peace. Lillian and Leo fostered and encouraged the individual gifts and talents of their children. The love that was shared freely among Sr. Barbara and her siblings has extended down into subsequent generations.

Sister Barbara brought her many gifts to Sisters of the Good Shepherd when she responded to the call of Jesus the Good Shepherd in September 1955. Sr. Barbara spent many years in loving service to Gods' special lambs in the following ministries:

- St. Paul: Secretary in the Social Service Office; Certified Nursing Assistant in the Infirmary; and Sacristan and Eucharistic Minister
- Spokane, Sioux City and Denver: Child Care Worker
- Portland: Teacher
- Denver and Hawaii: Pregnancy Counselor and support staff.

***At Immaculate Heart Convent in
St. Louis, Sister Barbara had
brought her spirit of joy,
prayer and love to Sisters and
staff alike.***

At Immaculate Heart Convent in St. Louis, Sister Barbara had brought her spirit of joy, prayer and love to Sisters and staff alike. When asked for a few words that come to mind in thinking of Sr. Barbara, I heard the words spiritual, gentle, loving, kind-hearted, happy, easy-going, faithful, thankful and respectful of others and their opinions, especially on sensitive topics.

Sister was very pro-life and active in prayer circles at abortion clinics, rallies in support of life and care of the mothers, even on a national level. She gave her all to a



Sister Barbara was 86 years old and 60 years a vowed Religious Sister of the Good Shepherd when she passed in August. This photo was taken on the celebration of her 50th Jubilee.

deep prayer life and conviction of Gods' support. Sister never spoke unkindly of those who did not share her convictions.

A trademark of Sister Barbara was her infectious smile and genuine manner of caring. For Sister, no one was a stranger. She approached people spontaneously and greeted others in a very outgoing manner.

When Sister Barbara would go shopping for the Sisters' needs she would often take a Sister from the infirmary along for the ride. One day, after such an event, the Sister said, "I don't think I want to go with Sr. Barbara anymore because she goes up to everyone she sees and says hello to them." Later, this Sister changed her mind and began to appreciate and enjoy Sr. Barbara for who she was. We will all miss Sister Barbara. We thank God for our new advocate in Heaven.

Submitted by Sr. Pauline Bilbrough, RGS

MISCELLANEOUS



ZEAL



Left: Dorothy Day (right) with Cesar Chavez and Coretta Scott King in 1973. Bottom: Dorothy Day (center) in her early years as a peace activist.



New book published on Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day was one of the 20th century's most prominent lay Catholics. As her canonization cause continues, a new book seeks to inform the public on the origins of Day's mission and inspire its emulation today.

In his new book [Dorothy Day: An Introduction to Her Life and Thought](#), author Terrence Wright presents Day's radical response to God's mercy.

"If we think of the saints as giving us a life of virtue that we can model, I think she's a profoundly important model for our contemporary society; both in the sort of life that she led, and found in God's mercy the courage to change that life, and also just as the daily witness to our obligation to others, a daily witness to the love of Jesus Christ and to the Church," Wright says in his book.

After a period of darkness, which included an abortion and suicide attempt, Day had a profound awakening to God's unlimited love and mercy through the birth of her daughter. Viewing her daughter's birth as a concrete example of God's love, she felt called to show His mercy to others. Day converted to Catholicism and went on to

dedicate her life to the less fortunate. She became a strong activist and used her experience as a writer to reflect on spirituality.

Another writer, Robert Ellsberg, spent five years with Day at Catholic Worker headquarters in New York. The time he spent at Catholic Worker were to be the last five years of Day's life.

Ellsberg, now publisher for Orbis Books, wrote a blog about Day in 2005. In it he notes that "Dorothy was a great believer in what French Jesuit Priest [Jean Pierre de Caussade](#) called the sacrament of the present moment. In each situation, in each encounter, in each task before us, Dorothy believed, there is a path to God. We do not need to be in a monastery or a chapel. We do not need to become different people first. We can start today, this moment, where we are, to add to the balance of love in the world, to add to the balance of peace."

Dorothy Day was the legendary founder of the [Catholic Worker Movement](#) in 1933, along with Peter Maurin. Day spent her lifetime committed to opposing war and being in solidarity with the poor and those who suffered. One of her

favorite book characters was Pietro Spina, the hero of Ignazio Silone's novel *Bread and Wine*. Spina does no more during a time of war than go out in the night and write the word NO on the town walls. If nothing else, his deed shattered the unanimity of consent; it allowed people to envision the subversive possibility of an alternative reality.

Letter from Dorothy Day to Good Shepherd

The archives of the Province of Mid-North America contain a letter that Dorothy Day wrote to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Pennsylvania in 1975. Province Archivist Monte Abbott discovered the letter attached to the inside cover of Day's autobiography *The Long Loneliness*. Monte would like to flesh out the archival anecdote with Day and discover what the relationship was between Dorothy Day and Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Pennsylvania. Does anybody know?

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Sep 12 Sep 16 Sep 25-28	Bay Area NRVC meeting, San Francisco GS Gracenter annual gala luncheon, San Francisco Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	No travel	No travel
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Sep 1-2 Sep 3-22 Sep 23-25	Retreat Home, Cincinnati Retreat for Province of Mid-North America CEOs, Detroit
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Sep 14-17 Sep 18-24	GS Gracenter annual gala luncheon, San Francisco Visits in Scranton and Danville, PA
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Sep 13-14 Sep 18-21 Sep 23-24 Sep 25-28	Maryhurst Historical Marker Dedication, Louisville Good Shepherd Shelter Board meeting, Los Angeles Retreat for Province of Mid-North America CEOs, Detroit Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Sep 4-5 Sep 14-18 Sep 23-25 Sep 25-28	Visit Beechwood Community, Cincinnati Good Shepherd Gracenter Gala, San Francisco Retreat for Province of Mid-North America CEOs, Detroit Good Shepherd Gathering, Detroit

**NOTICE**

The editor of *Items of Interest* is traveling to India the full month of September and will not produce an October issue of the newsletter. Look for a combined October-November issue on November 1. Deadline for the combined issue is October 22.

Gratitude expressed

Theresa De La Cruz wrote the following note and sent it to the editor of *Items of Interest* through the Province website:

“Sisters of the Good Shepherd saved my life!! Their place for women recovering from addiction helped teach me to become self sufficient. I had to relearn every aspect of my life after 25 years of addiction.”

PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



"Look for the good and the positive in each person."

Saint Mary Euphrasia,
Conferences, 74

Photo: PMNA Apostolic Team with CEOs clockwise: AnnMarie Schultz (CORA Services), Angela Aufdemberg (Vista Maria), and Judy Lambeth (Maryhurst).

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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