

ITEMS

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Black artists express

Good Shepherd Arts Center exhibits creative expressions of the young Black experience.

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Leadership teams from the provinces of Mid-North America, New York/Toronto and Central South spent quality time together at the LCWR meeting last month.

REFLECTIONS ON LCWR MEETING

The annual Leadership Conference of Women Religious is always robust and friendly. Sister Jean Marie Fernandez said this year's conference was

Continued on next page



Green Corner

Tens of thousands of Christians of all traditions around the world celebrate the [Season of Creation](#) each year. The season begins September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals. This year's theme, *the web of life*, is a reminder that each plant and animal species reveals the Creator's glory. According to Christina Leño, organizer for

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PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Headline, *Cont'd from p. 1*

especially energetic. She said, "We celebrated the increasing diversity of religious life. This is our reality - sisters living in intercultural as well as intergenerational communities. We are a "Global Sisterhood."

The event ran from August 13-16 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Keynote speakers inspired Sr. Madeleine Munday with their wide-ranging experience of religious life in the United States and worldwide.

"Sr. Pat Murray stated in her call to 'be present at the borderlands' that Borderlands are everywhere: in our local neighborhoods, at national and international levels, and very close to home within our own religious communities. This allows us to build deep connections, celebrate and appreciate differences, and commit to collaborate," Sr. Madeleine said.

Relationships beyond borders

Sister Maureen Kunz also resonated with Sr. Pat's talk of borderlands. She said, "We in Good Shepherd tend to think of charism in a framework specific to our mission and ministries. At LCWR I was immersed for four days in the charism of religious life itself. Being among all these Sisters impressed me again with the power of religious life across congregations.

"I think our future will include stronger ties with others who share the charism of religious life. Our Danville Sisters are living this reality now. How can our whole province strengthen relationships beyond our own boundaries?" Sr. Maureen said.

Sister Pat, IBVM, Executive Secretary of UISG (Union International of Superiors General), left an impression as well with Sr. Jean Marie, who said, "Speaking to those entering religious



More than 600 Sisters wave napkins to salute and thank the hotel workers. The gesture is part of the traditional greeting at LCWR's closing banquet.

congregations today, Sr. Pat said: "It is not ours to direct the future of religious life nor to create a plan for the new to emerge, but rather to create space for the new to emerge."

Province Leadership Team members from North America carved out quality time during LCWR to discuss the future of the three provinces. The pre-Assembly day offered by Catholic Health Association had targeted meaning for PMNA's Province Leader, Sr. Madeleine. She said, "This year's presentations at the pre-Assembly offered examples of how different congregations have created ministry organizations to provide the best support and oversight of their agencies. This is a timely topic for Province of Mid-North America."

Sister Gayle Lwanga Crumbley said she never thought she would be able to attend LCWR. She participated in a zoom call this spring that one of the Sister staff from LCWR led. The topic was Emergent Leadership, which was part of the 2019 LCWR theme *Imagining Leadership in a Global Community*. LCWR contacted Sisters of color and

invited them to respond to questions about the topic. According to Sr. Gayle, "Not only did they present the information gathered from these interviews, in a very scholarly presentation, they invited us to attend this year's LCWR meeting.

"Once Sr. Madeleine knew I was attending, she invited me to participate in the North American Good Shepherd leadership meetings. It was thrilling. I am very grateful to have had this experience; it was the cherry on top of a great summer," Sr. Gayle said.

As a final reflection, Sr. Jean Marie said, "Do I/we believe that this is exactly where God wants us to be? If I want to live life worthy at all I must take risks, live with the passion of my heart, in service for the reign of God."

Photo on cover, standing l-r: Good Shepherd Sisters Maureen McGowan, Elish McPartland, Carol Ann Siegel, Edith Olague, Madeleine Munday, Maureen Kunz, Jean Marie Fernandez, Mary Carolyn McQuaid, Francisca Aguillón. Seated l-r: Rosalyn Menard, Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, Thomas More Fahey

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

LCWR demands immediate end to gun violence

Sisters who attended the Leadership Conference for Women Religious in August (see previous page) took a stand against gun laws and implored all elected officials to pass legislation that effectively prevents gun violence.

Sisters call for passage of laws

"We call for the passage of laws that ban assault weapons, require universal background checks for all gun sales, provide funding for gun violence prevention research, and makes the trafficking in weapons a federal crime," the Sisters stated in a group letter endorsed by LCWR participants.

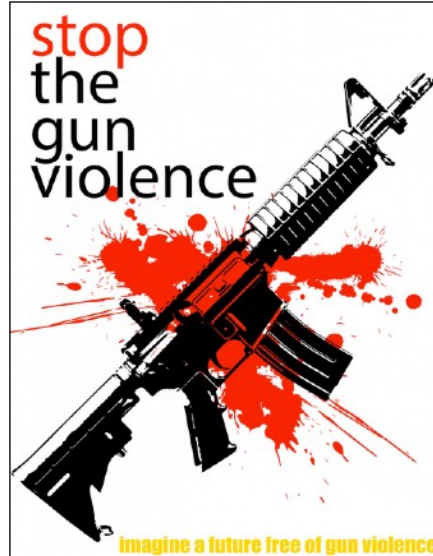
In response to recent mass shootings in the U.S., Sisters said, "We are a nation that promises a life free from fear, and yet we seem unable to stop the epidemic of hate that has overwhelmed us."

Records topic of webinar

Apostolic Council members and Mission Partners at the Province Center watched a webinar in August on records management and archives. The webinar was timely in light of property closures and a new directive from the Congregational Leadership Team about a policy for data privacy and protection.

Sister Amy Hereford, CSJ, is a civil and canon lawyer. She conducted the webinar, focusing on what to keep and what to toss, the life cycle of record keeping, and importance of differentiating between civil and canonical records.

She also covered archives and issues of confidentiality and personal privacy — the information that is shared with leadership, within the community, and the information that may be more widely disseminated.



Their letter went on to state that "we are called to confront rhetoric that stokes racism and hatred of anyone perceived to be "different" than we are. We are all responsible for

monitoring our own language and actions and calling attention when the language and actions of others cross the line."

According to [Gun Violence Archives](#), at the time of LCWR more than 8,734 people had been shot to death in 2019 and more than 17,300 people were injured in more than 33,000 incidents. The numbers do not include firearm suicides.

"While the horror of mass shootings captures our attention, gun violence persists day after day and its massive scale goes unnoticed," according to the Sisters.

"We pledge our support to end the scourge of rage and hatred that has gripped our nation. We will be unfailing in our efforts to call for legislation that works to end gun violence quickly and effectively," the Sisters stated.



Mission Partners at the Province Center tune into a webinar to learn best practices for record keeping.

PROVINCE NEWS



ZEAL

Joseph: A Guiding Light

Sister Louise Divine Heart Sweigart was a Contemplative Sister of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd before she passed into the arms of Jesus on July 31, 2012. She left behind a legacy that I recently discovered. It is a book that she wrote. Inspiring Voices published it one year before she died. The book is a story about Joseph, the saint who had been Sr. Louise's steady companion during her 71 years of religious life.

Sister Louise begins her story by answering her own question: Why Joseph? Because, she says, "About Mary, his spouse, there has been for centuries an unceasing flow of literature and poetry, art and music, and rightly so. Mary is the heaven-chosen mother of the God-man, Jesus.

"Joseph, on the contrary, while named Patron of the Church, and honored in a limited number of writings, is mostly relegated to scenes of the Nativity. He certainly has a right to be there, but it does not begin to portray the greatness of the man. The Child Jesus "grew and became strong" and "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man" under Joseph's fatherly care and tutelage."

Sister Louise acknowledges in the book's introduction that her work is not theological, but is rather a mixture of fiction, truth and legend. She states that the book "is the work of the heart of one who dearly loves St. Joseph and longs to see him loved, admired and honored."

Story synopsis

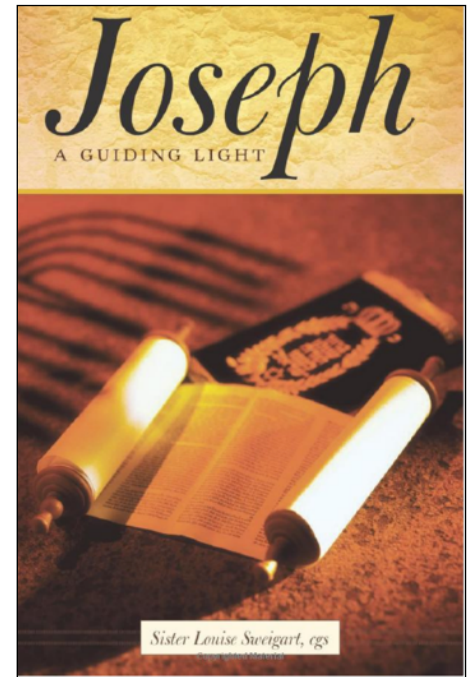
Joseph, the young carpenter of Nazareth has lost his heart to the maiden he has seen coming from the well. Who is this girl? He is expected to marry. He dreams of fatherhood.

But he has a secret, which fills him with conflicting emotions. How is he to reconcile his desires; and will she accept him?

Sister Louise's intent in writing the book is to have the reader plumb the depths of Joseph's heart – to tremble with his love, tingle with his hopes, and be enmeshed by his fears. She wants readers to meet his friends and to understand the maiden who holds his heart captive. She invites readers to "Come, and meet this couple whose hidden lives of fidelity to God have forever changed the course of history."

Sr. Louise's book is available online from multiple sources.

Submitted by Jeanette McDermott



The North America Mission and Values Team met at the Province Center in August to plan the October Gathering in Detroit. l-r: Sr. Anna Tram Nguyen, Nancy Fritsche-Eagan, Celia Ceballos, Lizzie Cody, and Nadia Dias.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL



Lidia Santos



Three St. Louis artists collaborated to curate the exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center in August: Taylor Deed, Matthew Scott, and Jayvn Solomon.

Expressions of the young Black experience

Devan stood gazing proudly at the art on the walls on opening night of the art exhibit at Good Shepherd Arts Center. The 23-year-old artist beamed, "This vibe resonates with me. All of the artists in this show are Black! It's rare that Black artists get an opportunity to exhibit with other Black artists. I love the scene that is unfolding before me."

Dana Sebastian-Duncan connected 21-year-old intellectual conceptual artist Taylor Deed to Sister Glynis when she invited Taylor to exhibit in last year's #ThisIsMyFerguson event at Good Shepherd Arts Center. Sr. Glynis founded and runs Good Shepherd Arts Center. Within minutes she and Taylor were planning how to showcase young Black men and women who use art to tell stories of what has molded and shaped their lives. The exhibit ultimately revealed the nature of art as activism, Blackness as spirituality, and the global, collective, creative revolution ignited by the movement and spirit of Ferguson.

Showcasing new artists

The exhibit ran from August 3-24 and featured eight young artists ages 19-29. 21-year-old Kavan (aka KFlako) said he puts himself wholeheartedly into everything he expresses through art. He often uses the symbol of the eye in his pieces to represent death of the old self giving way to a new self of the subconscious. 25-year-old Lidia Santos said she enjoys using her art form to depict growth and connectedness to nature through soul and body. 20-year-old Yusef Brown uses art to express the duality of the nature of spirituality and balance between the masculine and feminine.

Continued on next page

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Art, *Cont'd from p. 5*

Good Shepherd Arts Center often showcases first-time exhibitors to help them find an audience. Taylor, who curated the show in collaboration with artists Matthew Scott and Jayvn Solomon, said, "Some of the featured artists in this show have never exhibited before. It's exciting to see their works on display!"

Jayven said, "We are literally about elevating artists and their creative expressions. There are enough resources for every artist to succeed in St. Louis."

Matthew believes in taking the egalitarian view when curating art shows. He said, "We want people to feel welcome when viewing artists' works, not cliquish. Artwork demonstrates that we are all interconnected, even though we may think we are isolated from one another."

Good Shepherd Arts Center is holding a fundraiser in September. All donations will be matched 1:1, up to \$5,000, from an anonymous donor. Help give budding artists and established local artists more opportunities. [Donate today!](#)



Yusef Brown



Stajah's spiritual journey led her to create cosmic imagery that depicts the creation of the Universe.



Left: 23-year-old Kyla Hawkins (r) has been exhibiting her artwork for two years in St. Louis, Atlanta and Chicago. Her paintings often reflect the somber reality of young Black men who see it as a milestone if they reach the age of 25 without being murdered. Dolores Goerger (l) purchased three of Kyla's pieces at the art opening.



Ferguson visual artist Kavan (aka KFlako, left) and his friend since high school, rapper Danien Rose. The 21-year-old men are collaborating to meld Kavan's art with Danien's rap lyrics.

MINISTRY NEWS



ZEAL

Good Shepherd Volunteers complete orientation

Good Shepherd Volunteers (GSV) is a joint ministry of the provinces of Mid-North America and New York/Toronto. Sisters of the Good Shepherd established the program in 1992 as a way to invite lay volunteers to share in their charism.

New GSVs join the Good Shepherd family each year and attend a 5-day orientation in August. They commit to serving for a year in a sponsored ministry in the United States or Southeast Asia.

This year's volunteers attended orientation from August 19-24 at Loyola Jesuit Center, a retreat house in Morristown, New Jersey. Sister Barbara Beasley welcomed the GSVs and spent the first day of orientation with them. She shared the founding story of Good Shepherd, spoke about the congregation's core values, and discussed what it means to respond to the call to ministry.

"The volunteers were enthusiastic. I believe they enjoyed hearing the stories and making the connection of how some of the historical events of Good Shepherd relate to events from their own stories," Sr. Barbara said.

Good Shepherd Volunteers agree to live in community with other GSVs in the areas where they are assigned. For some, this presents a situation they may have never have encountered before.

"These women give a year of their lives and seem to do it with a lightness of spirit and sense that this is simply the norm and nothing out of the ordinary for them. They are witnesses to generosity and commitment," said Sr. Barbara.

Sisters from Mid-North America and the New York/Toronto Province assisted in orientation. Sister



The 2019-2020 Good Shepherd Volunteers with GSV staff. Sr. Fran Lomeo (white pants) served as spiritual director throughout GSV orientation.

Barbara, who lives in community in Los Angeles, said, "It will be such a treat to get to know the volunteers who will come to the Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles, and to share who we are as well. The Sisters always make sure to invite the GSVs to dinner regularly and send them home with lots of good food."

Following orientation in August, the GSVs went to their assignments in Los Angeles, New York City, and New Jersey.

Good Shepherd Volunteers maintain a blogsite at <http://justlovegsv.blogspot.com> and have a website at <https://www.gsvvolunteers.org>.



Lr: Madi and Annie form the GSV community in Los Angeles.

MINISTRY NEWS

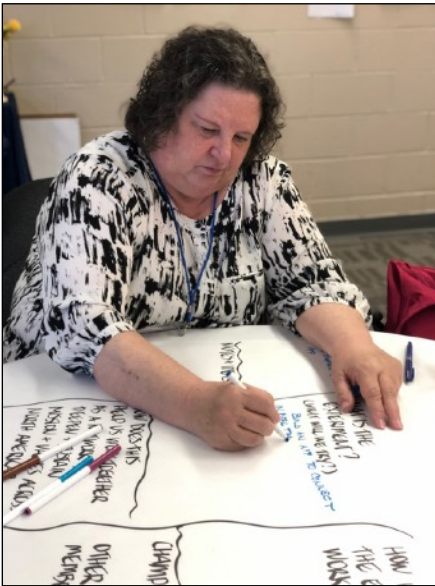


ZEAL



Long time Mission Partner embarks upon new journey

Cheryl Cutrona started with the Good Shepherd Mediation Program (GSMP) 32 years ago as a volunteer. She became Executive Director four years later. It is with deep gratitude and a great deal of sadness that we say goodbye to Cheryl as she begins her new life as a private consultant in Philadelphia. Her last day with Good Shepherd was August 30.



Cheryl Cutrona, Executive Director of Good Shepherd Mediation Program, has retired.

Cheryl said her 32-year history with GSMP, from volunteer to board member to executive director, has been a rewarding journey.

“GSMP has provided me with memories that I will cherish forever. My horizons were expanded beyond what I expected as the director of a small community mediation center,” Cheryl said.

As Cheryl stepped out onto her new path, she reflected on her years with Good Shepherd Mediation Program

and said, “I have had the blessing of working with the kindest employers in the world: the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.”

Cheryl’s commitment to constructive conflict management is steadfast. Her plans for the future include embarking on a new journey into an encore career in alternative dispute resolution.

“I have had the blessing of working with the kindest employers in the world: the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.”

Neighborhood justice center

Good Shepherd Mediation Program is Philadelphia’s only neighborhood justice center. 2019 marks the 35th anniversary of the program. Sister Brigid Lawlor founded the program in 1984 to empower Philadelphia community residents. She saw conflict as an opportunity for growth, understanding and transformation.

People in conflict come to Good Shepherd Mediation Program voluntarily to resolve their disputes through mediation. The program has received awards for its creative approaches to helping people find meaningful and lasting solutions to their conflicts without resorting to crime or violence.

Each year for the past 13 years, GSMP has given a “Shepherds of Peace” award to leaders in the community who are working to build a more peaceful Philadelphia and make lives better.

Each nominee must have a history of promoting peace and social justice in Philadelphia and demonstrated dedicated and compassionate service ensuring the health, safety and welfare of Philadelphia’s children, youth and families. This year’s Shepherds of Peace Dinner and Awards Ceremony will take place on October 18.

Gratitude

Cheryl said her time with GSMP has given her much for which to be grateful:

- attending law school with the inspiration, encouragement and support of Sr. Brigid
- being on the cutting edge of new areas of practice: pre-hearing conferences for dependency matters, conflict coaching and restorative justice
- curriculum development, training and consulting for individuals and organizations across the United States as well as in South Africa shortly after apartheid ended; “Just Listening” on both sides of the Green Line in Israel; and with Inafá Maolek in Guam; and walking in the footsteps of Saint Mary Euphrasia in Angers, France
- Working with and learning from some of the world’s finest dispute resolution practitioners: Tricia S. Jones, Doug Frenkel, Bernie Mayer, Zena Zumeta, Joe Folger, Kay Pranis, Susan Raines, Tim Hedeon, Ed Blumstein and Jim Rosenstein
- working with great staff, volunteers and other people who have contributed to the support of GSMP.

COMMUNITY LIFE



ZEAL

Match made in heaven

It has been nearly nine months since Good Shepherd Sisters in Normandy left Immaculate Heart Convent to move into Mason Pointe Care Center. The move seems to have been a match made in heaven. "I love it here," said Sister Michael Maguire.

Sisters Patricia O'Sullivan and Rosalinda Sobremisana are beguiled by the tiny exotic birds in the aviary at Mason Pointe and the hummingbirds who come to the feeders in the outdoor balcony garden. Sister Pauline Billbrough maintains the balcony garden that she and Sr Michael planted.

Other Sisters at Mason Pointe are enlivened by the fellowship they share with residents on other floors. Bingo is a favorite past time that some of the Sisters enjoy with their new friends. Assembling puzzles also ranks high. Sisters are also free



Sister Monica Duong likes to surprise the Sisters with special treats from a fruit farm in Belleville, Illinois.



Sister Pauline Billbrough tends the balcony garden at Mason Pointe Care Center. She and Sister Michael Maguire established the garden as a haven for hummingbirds and respite in nature for the Sisters.

to attend outdoor concerts and other social events and activities.

Sr. Nora Pat O'Flannigan has found a niche praying with men and women of other faiths who wish to do so. She also takes communion every day to Catholic residents at Mason Pointe who are unable to attend Mass in the Good Shepherd Chapel to receive it. The chapel is a

connecting point for all of the Sisters at Mason Pointe.

The Sisters especially look forward to visits by Mission Partners, including routine visits by the Sisters who live in community at the Province Center and St. Louis and occasional surprise visits from lay staff they once saw daily while living at Immaculate Heart Convent.



Sisters gather as community in the dining room at Mason Pointe. The menu always offers good choices.



Sister Patricia O'Sullivan has become an avid bird watcher since moving to Mason Pointe Care Center.

JUBILEES

Feelings overflowing
in my heart

By Sharon Rose Authorson, RGS

In many ways July 22, 2019, began as any other Monday at Maria Droste. We prayed a beautiful morning prayer together, had our breakfast and separated to accomplish our different responsibilities.

Sister Agnes and I worked together in the Altar Bread department packing and labeling orders to be shipped that day. As I look back on my day, in some ways I might have been a bride doing what was familiar so as not to be too nervous about pronouncing her wedding vows. I had a deep joy in doing “ordinary things,” and my heart was already re-committing myself to renew the vows I had made 60 years ago.

Sr. Beth was quietly and secretly decorating our convent for my Jubilee party. I had peeked into the dining room and couldn't help smiling with delight – it looked like the “Queen's Banquet!” The chapel was already arrayed with St. Mary Magdalen's icon lovingly placed before the altar. Sister Anna Tram was arranging flowers to put the finishing touches in our chapel. Sister Beth created little hand-made butterflies and was distributing them where we would gather later in the evening. Her theme for our special day was “Fly while you still have wings,” taken from Joyce Rupp's lovely book about her mother.

Of course the Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Ron Chochol was the highlight of our day. We were blessed to welcome many of our Apostolic Sisters from all around our area and even from Mason Pointe. Singing was full and beautiful. As I prepared to renew my vows I hoped that I had endeavored to live in union with Jesus, the Good



Sister Sharon Rose renews her vows on her 60th Jubilee.

Shepherd, striving to continue His redemptive mission.

I renewed my vows with a heart filled with gratitude for God's goodness to me. My vow of Zeal “to live and pray for the salvation of persons, especially those served by our congregation” is what motivates my every breath and every prayer each day. At the end of Mass I tried to express the feelings overflowing in my heart.

Years ago a priest told us that we sign a *blank contract* when pronouncing our first vows and we, together with God, will fill it out as the years go by. So many memories came to mind with thankfulness all during this day. I would not be where I am today were it not for the Good Shepherd Sisters who showed me God's love. They introduced me to our Foundress, St. Mary Euphrasia, and through their own dedicated, faithful lives helped me realize and believe that each of us is indeed of “Individual Worth.”

We still had a delicious, festive meal waiting for us to enjoy and celebrate

together. Trish, our cook, with the help of Sr. Beth and Sr. Agnes, had prepared a banquet for all of us. We had International food with a special, very unique Filipina dish. Laughter and joy permeated our Maria Droste convent and this will be a feast that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I think St. Mary Magdalen and Saint Mary Euphrasia were rejoicing with us too. Again, I say from my heart “thank you Sisters.”



Sister Beth Garciano's handcrafted butterflies.

JUBILEES



70 years of service

By Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS

Seventy years ago on August 22 five young women pronounced their first vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and zeal for the salvation of souls. Sisters Mary of St. Raymond Bernert and Mary of St. Louise McCoy were two of those women. Today they are known simply as Sister Alena and Sister Louise.

Their jubilee celebration took place on the feast of St. John Eudes and began with a luncheon that their dear friends catered. Phyllis Cable, Linda Guy and Linda Bickering made the day so special — from the table settings to the food, which everyone agreed was delicious. Good Shepherd Sisters in Cincinnati are very grateful to these three friends for the tender care they give us by hosting birthday and feast day parties almost every month.

Sister Alena added humor to the Jubilee luncheon. She began a speech with the words “Act your age,” to which she pantomimed a feeble elderly person. She ended with the words “A penny for your thoughts,” which is what their novice mistress said to them while urging them to be brief when they came in for spiritual direction. Everyone laughed at the clever way she laced her memories with funny



Sisters Alena Bernert (l) and Louise McCoy celebrate their 70th Jubilee. Smiling behind them is Sister Noreen Sheedy.

stories. Sister Alena said she is humbled to have been blessed to live life as a consecrated religious.

Sister Louise said she also feels blessed to be a religious of the Good Shepherd. Her first mission is her favorite memory. She chose to be a Sister of the Good Shepherd because she did not want to be a teacher or a nurse, so of course she was assigned to teach girls in high school. She also

became second mistress, a position she liked as she observed how gifted the first mistress was with the girls. Sister Louise said all she had to do was clap her hands and the girls would instantly become silent.

With deep gratitude in our hearts, we congratulate and pray for these dear sisters as they celebrate 70 years of service and love seeking out those lost to the chaos of our times.

Announcements and News Tidbits

Sr. Caridad's email address is:
caridadtamayo15@gmail.com

The dates for Assembly are October 28 through November 1 at King's House in Belleville, Illinois. We will report on it in the December issue of *Items of Interest*.

Dates for The Gathering in Detroit are October 15-18, 2019. We will report on it in November.

PMNA has closed on the Baltimore property. We are getting closer to closing on the LA property and transferring the ministry.

Celebrate with NAC on its 18th anniversary and Larry Couch's 80th birthday September 19, 2019. <https://bit.ly/2MLOXwS>

Tell us your stories! Deadline for photographs and articles for the October issue of *Items of Interest* is September 20

NAC NEWS

Good Shepherds rally to end ICE raids

Good Shepherd Mission Partners joined people across the United States in August to protest ICE raids against immigrants.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is an agency within the Department of Homeland Security. It was created in 2003, as a part of the government's reorganization after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Largest worksite raid in US history

Protests against ICE increased this summer when television viewers watched as ICE arrested approximately 680 immigrants in Mississippi. It was the largest worksite raid in U.S. history.

Detaining these men and women left terrified children to fend for themselves, relying on neighbors or strangers for food and shelter. More than 380 immigrants who are still in custody have been shipped to detention facilities in southwest Mississippi and Louisiana.

Many advocates of worker rights believe that the raids are meant to deport immigrants of color and, therefore, silence vulnerable workers who might seek to challenge unsafe or discriminatory working conditions.

One raided company paid \$3.75 million to settle a class-action lawsuit. The lawsuit charges the company with sexual harassment, national origin and race discrimination, and retaliation against Latino workers at one of its Mississippi plants.

NAC stands with immigrants

Larry Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center, (NAC)



Top: Larry Couch and Sr. Brigid Lawlor (right) join a rally protesting ICE raids. Bottom: Sr. Brigid holds a rally sign outside government offices in Washington, DC. Larry is the Director of National Advocacy Center, and Sr. Brigid is its founder.

and NAC Founder Sr. Brigid Lawlor participated in a peaceful demonstration and rally in front of ICE headquarters in Washington, D.C. on August 16. Larry and Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley engaged in civil disobedience in July to protest the separation of immigrant children from their parents. [Items of Interest](#) reported on their action in last month's issue.

"Our message is strong and clear: We will stand with immigrants until attacks on their families and communities end," Sr. Brigid said.

What you can do

We can each help bring about a more just system for immigrants. Collaborate with justice and peace groups and get involved. Be a Good Shepherd in Action. One easy and effective way to do an action is to respond to the Action Alerts that go out to all Mission Partners on NAC's database. Contact NAC at <http://>



bit.ly/nacsignup or send an email to Fran Eskin-Royer (eskin-royer@gsadvocacy.org) to add your name to the NAC mailing list.

NAC NEWS



ZEAL

Take Action for human trafficking survivors

By Fran Eskin-Royer

The National Advocacy Center (NAC) hosted a Human Trafficking Conference on June 26. The event began with a morning of educational presentations and ended with participants meeting in legislators' offices on Capitol Hill in the afternoon.

Visits with elected officials focused on two pieces of legislation that illustrate NAC's long-standing commitment to women, children, and those on the margins, and its growing focus on Central America and U.S. policies that impact other countries where Good Shepherd ministers.

Savanna's Act

Savanna's Act ([S. 227](#) and [H.R. 2733](#)) aims to strengthen the federal government's ability to respond to the high number of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women. Many of these women have endured shocking levels of sexual abuse and other violence.

The Central American Women and Children Protection Act

The Central American Women and Children Protection Act ([S. 1781](#) and [H.R. 2836](#)) would authorize appropriations for the State Department for the next three years to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. If passed, the legislation would increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities. Passage of the act would also reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault. No funds would go directly to any of the "Northern Triangle" governments of



The June 26 Maryland delegation that discussed trafficking legislation in a joint meeting with the Offices of Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen.

Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The legislation provides options to suspend all funding.

This Act seems tailor made for NAC, especially with Director Larry Couch's recent visits to Good Shepherd communities in Honduras and El Salvador and his strong interest in and study of the root causes of migration. What's more, one of the 2019 human trafficking conference's Honorary Congressional Co-Chairs, Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), introduced the legislation into the House of Representatives in May 2019 with Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA).

We urge readers of *Items of Interest* to take action with your legislators on these two bills. Using our quick and easy advocacy tool, you can support NAC's efforts in two ways:

1. Ask your Senators and Representatives to support and co-sponsor Savanna's Act. Just [click here](#) or type www.congressweb.com/gsnac/257 into your web browser and fill out NAC's pre-formatted letter. It will be emailed

automatically to the congressional offices.

2. Likewise, please ask your legislators to support and co-sponsor the Central American Women and Children Protection Act of 2019. [Click here](#) or type www.congressweb.com/GSNAC/256 into your browser and complete the form.

We thank you for your support and assistance on behalf of those who are vulnerable to trafficking and other forms of violence. **Your voice makes a difference.**

Pre-formatted letter to support the Savanna Act.

GREEN CORNER



ZEAL

Creation, *Cont'd from p. 1*

[Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), one million species are threatened by the human lifestyle. She said, "There are 1.2 billion Catholics on Earth; one in every seven people is Catholic. Can you imagine if all Catholics held an event for the Season of Creation? That's a powerful tide of prayer and action to protect our common home."

Global Catholic Climate Movement embraces the Season of Creation and works within the Catholic Church to better care for the earth. Inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* encyclical, the website for Global Catholic Climate Movement states, "As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are on a pilgrimage to better care for all of creation."

To this end, volunteers of all Christian traditions organize celebrations in their local communities, ranging from prayer services to litter clean-ups to advocacy actions. The momentum continues long after the season ends through ongoing prayer, changes in lifestyle, and advocacy.

How Season of Creation began

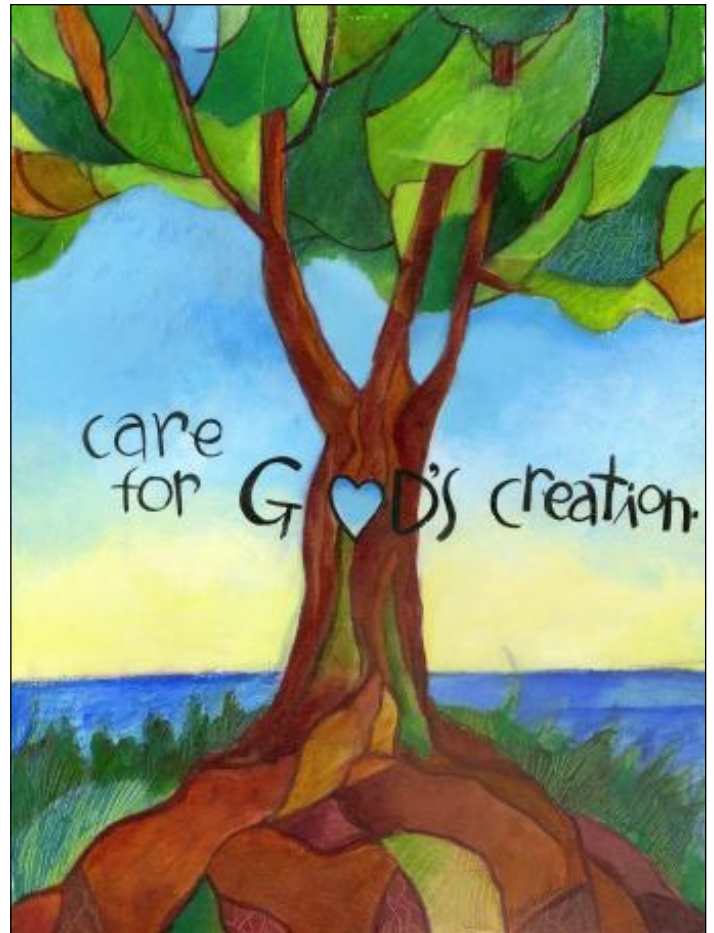
What started as an ecumenical day of prayer for creation in 1989 became a season of prayer 13 years later. Pope Francis established Season of Creation for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. Each year a prayer coincides with the theme. This year's prayer follows:

Creator of Life,
The Earth is full of Your creatures,
and by Your wisdom you made them all.
At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants
yielding seed of every kind
and trees of every kind bearing fruit,
the waters teemed with swarms of living creatures
of every kind, and the world was filled
with every kind of winged bird, walking animal,
and creatures that creep upon the ground.
Mountains, plains, rocks, and rivers
shelter diverse communities,
and through the changing seasons
Your Spirit renews cycles of life.
During this Season of Creation,
open our eyes to see the precious diversity
that is all around us.
Enlighten our minds to appreciate the delicate balance
maintained by each creature.
Inspire us to conserve the precious habitats that nurture
this web of life.
In the name of the One who came to proclaim
good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Caring for creation is important to Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The congregation has a Position Paper on Integral Ecology that you can read and download at <https://bit.ly/2U9oLbL>.

The National Advocacy Center of Sisters of the Good Shepherd maintains an Environmental Stewardship Blog at <https://www.gsadvocacy.org/stewardship>. John "Jack" Lawlor, Jr., writes the blogs. He is Professor of History Emeritus at Reading Area Community College in Pennsylvania. Jack firmly believes that all people have an obligation to be good stewards of the earth, hand down a healthy planet to the next generation, and prepare them to do the same.

The Eco-Zeal for Mission group in Province of Mid-North America engages Sisters in conversations that lead to a deeper understanding of what care of creation means, its relationship to our Good Shepherd mission, and its call for each one of us to make personal and communal choices that do no harm to creation.



ACROSS BORDERS



ZEAL



Sister Paulette LoManaco makes NY Times headline

Fifty years ago Good Shepherd Sister Paulette LoManaco went to work as a house mother at a group home for girls in crisis in New York City. That small social services agency — called [Good Shepherd Services](#) — now employs more than 3,000 people. Sr. Paulette has been serving as its Chief Executive Officer since 1979.

A recent article in the *New York Times* features a Q&A with Sr. Paulette as she veers toward stepping down from the organization she built. Here are a few of the story's impressive highlights:

- Within a decade after being hired as a house mother, Sr. Paulette was running the organization, building it into a one-stop services provider with a budget of almost \$100 million.
- Sr. Paulette worked with the city to shape its pilot after-school program, and was also a force behind [transfer high schools](#), which offered adult dropout students a second chance.
- She also had a hand in reshaping the city's foster care system, shifting the emphasis from removing children from

troubled homes to propping up those families to keep them together. Along the way she wrangled with five mayors and the archdiocese over matters of birth control and sexuality.



21st century nun

The article goes on to address multiple issues, including those of a personal nature, such as Sr. Paulette's relationship with the Catholic Church and what drew her into it. When asked what a 21st century nun looks like, she said, "I hope it's somebody who looks like me. Real. Happy. Compassionate. Mission-driven. It's very annoying that whenever they want to describe

a nun in the media, it's always somebody with a habit and veil. I wish that the media could have a more up-to-date visual of a Sister."

Sr. Paulette is retiring because she says she is tired. "I'm going to be 76. This is a grueling job," she said. She will stay with Good Shepherd Services until the end of the year, and then is going to help with fundraising.

"This administration wants low income housing to have community centers attached, but they haven't figured out how to give us money for operations. So we have no money to turn on the lights. That's a problem I have to fix," she said.

"I also want to fix summer day camps, because for some reason, this mayor never includes summer day camps for middle schools in the city budget. And middle school is when our kids first start getting attracted to gangs."

It's obvious to anyone who reads this article that Sr. Paulette's zeal for the Good Shepherd mission will not be diminished in retirement.

You can read the *New York Times* story in full at <https://nyti.ms/2ZrRHE6>.

Good Shepherd blogs and links

Winifred's blog from the United Nations
<https://gsijpoffice.com/>

Larry's blog from National Advocacy Center
<https://www.gsadvocacy.org/>

NAC environmental blog by Jack Lawlor
<https://www.gsadvocacy.org/stewardship>

Blogs from Good Shepherd Volunteers
www.gsvolunteers.org

GSJIP Prayer Network
<http://rgs.gssweb.org/v4/justice-peace/prayer-network>

Want to share your blog? Submit your URL.

LEADERSHIP TRAVEL

ZEAL

NAME	DATES	LOCATION
Sr. Sharon Rose Authorson	Sep 8-14 Sep 14-18	Love at Heart of the Universe retreat, Carrollton Visit with friends, Pittsburgh
Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez	Sep 7-14 Sep 22-27 Sep 28	Love at Heart of the Universe retreat, Carrollton Apostolic Council meeting, St. Louis Travel to San Francisco
Sr. Beverly Hedgecoth	No travel	No travel
Sr. Maureen Johnson	Sep 1-8 Sep 9-15 Sep 19-Oct 3	Cincinnati Love at Heart of the Universe retreat, Carrollton St. Louis
Sr. Dolores Kalina	Sep 1-8 Sep 9-15 Sep 19-Oct 3	Cincinnati Love at Heart of the Universe retreat, Carrollton St. Louis
Sr. Maureen Kunz	Aug 30-Sep 8 Sep 14-16 Sep 21-28	Love at Heart of the Universe retreat, Carrollton Gracenter Gala, San Francisco Apostolic Council meeting, St. Louis
Sr. Mary Carolyn McQuaid	Sep 23-27	Apostolic Council meeting, St. Louis
Sr. Madeleine Munday	Sep 5 Sep 8-15 Sep 19 Sep 23-27	Mission Effectiveness, DeNeuille Learning Center, Memphis Love at Heart of the Universe retreat, Carrollton National Advocacy Center fundraiser, Silver Spring Apostolic Council meeting, St. Louis

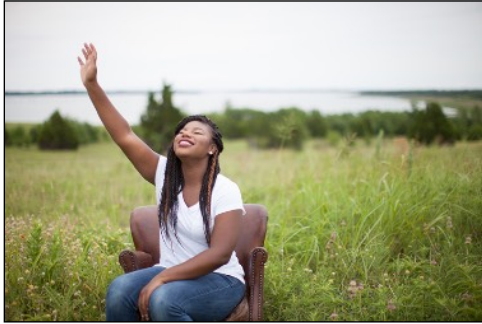
Welcoming September

For many people, the month of September signals the end of summer, the beginning of autumn, and the start of a new school year. For others, it means time to enjoy the benefits of a national holiday. And yet for others, September signals the Season of Creation (see story on page 1). Those who are born in September can claim the vibrant aster as their birthday flower. Asters provide an abundance of large blooms in late summer and early fall, and pollinating insects love them! We can all do our part to better care for creation by simply growing flowers for pollinating bees and butterflies and beauty for ourselves.



PROVINCE CONTACT

ZEAL



*"You are in the love of the Good Shepherd. Channel this love to others.
Share the bread and milk of divine grace."*

St. Mary Euphrasia

Contact us

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

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