Faith Afire

Given to God, in Community, for the Service of Those who are Poor.
Dear Friends,

With this first issue of Faith Afire, we begin a new avenue of communication from the Daughters of Charity of the Province of St. Louise and you. When the four former United States Provinces of Albany, N.Y., Emmitsburg, Md., Evansville, Ind., and St. Louis, Mo., unified late last July, we set to work on the creation of our new website and our new magazine. Through these, we hope to share stories about the many diverse and fulfilling ministries in which we serve. What is more, we hope to share stories about the many people with whom we minister—the ill, the abandoned, the immigrant, the trafficked, and the needy. We also hope to hear from you! The Daughters would like to remember you and yours in our daily prayers. You may share your prayer requests with us via the web or through the mail.

Our Province of 540 Daughters of Charity follow in Saint Vincent DePaul, Saint Louise de Marillac, and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton’s footsteps as we serve in 21 U.S. States, Washington, D.C., Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and as foreign missionaries on every continent of the world except Antarctica. Worldwide, 17,000 Daughters minister to those most in need.

Although our Province headquarters now are based in St. Louis, each of our former Provincial Houses remains open, although they now are named simply “Houses.” Daughters of Charity remain in residence and in service in Albany, Emmitsburg, Evansville, and St. Louis.

Called by Saint Vincent to be ever ready to address the most pressing needs of the world, we heed his sage counsel as we look forward to new missions and new ministries.

“The Sister who has the spirit of a true Daughter of Charity is ready to go anywhere, prepared to leave everything to serve her neighbor. If we love Our Lord, we find Him everywhere.” Saint Vincent de Paul. “The Spirit of the Company,” Conference of February 24, 1653; CCD, v.9 p.474

Blessings,

Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C.

My Friends in Christ,

At the recent Provincial Directors’ Meeting, I gave a talk about Ongoing Formation. One might think formation is only for “religious.” Yet, when we look at its underlying ideas, via a story about a writer and the way she approaches her craft, we can see that formation is for all of us.

“How do you do it?” she was asked. “How do you go about getting those marvelous words and thoughts on paper?” “I do whatever I can,” she responded, “to place myself in the right location where I can listen to the Muse if it passes me by.” She went on, “My writing is me, but in a deeper way it’s more than me. When the right words come out, I know I’ve been in touch with something beyond me that has somehow spoken to me. What do I do to write? I go into a room cleared of distractions, put the pad and pen in front of me—and just wait. If and when the spirit moves through the room, I’m there, in place, ready to hear what it is saying. And of course before that, I’ve done a lot of other things to build up that readiness.”

The most important elements of Ongoing Formation show up in the writer’s response. She’s engaged in what you might call active receiving. Conscious she’s being fed at a deep level, she is also very proactive to opening herself up to take in the nourishment. Not only does she move to the empty room, she’s taken other steps to keep alert. She keeps up a steady diet of reading the great writers. She accepts feedback from critics even when it’s negative. To push her skills and stay in touch with her peers, she attends writing seminars and gives workshops. She considers all of these not only as life-long practices but also as a part of her responsibility to her readers—a piece of her commitment to keep faith with them over the long haul.

Ongoing Formation is about taking clear and constant steps to stay supple before the Spirit of Jesus Christ. It refers to all the things we do down through the years to open ourselves to that energy and inspiration that allows us to get better at bringing the Good News, especially to the poor. “They placed themselves in harm’s way” is an expression used about the military. With Ongoing Formation, we place ourselves in the Spirit’s Way, always with a view to developing ourselves, and, even more so, those we would serve.

Spiritual direction, sabbaticals, new prayer practices, reading groups, seminars, personal counseling, and professional workshops can benefit Ongoing Formation. Each can be one of the necessary steps to place ourselves in that right spot, ready to hear and then do the Word as it passes through. Ongoing Formation: an active and responsible listening to God’s Spirit.

In His Service,

[Signature]

Father Tom McKenna, C.M.
Provincial Director
In 1928, the Daughters of Charity first arrived at St. Mary’s Parish in Greensboro, N.C. That year, The Holy Cross Fathers formed the Parish to serve African Americans. The Daughters taught in the parish school. In 1938, the Vincentian Fathers accepted responsibility for the parish. The Daughters continued to teach at the parish school until it closed in 1972. Once closed, the Daughters continued serving at St. Mary’s providing social service ministries until their withdrawal in 1992. Fast forward almost 20 years, and the Daughters returned to St. Mary’s.

The parish has grown from the seed of the small close knit group of African Americans to a large multicultural parish where five Sunday liturgies are celebrated: one in Spanish, one in Vietnamese and three in English. This multicultural parish embraces immigrants from 22 countries. The heart of St. Mary’s Parish is the Vincentian Charism leading all to find Christ in each of the diverse cultures of the world represented in our congregation.

In 2011, as the Daughters were engaged in the unification of four U.S. Provinces to form the Province of St. Louise, a new collaborative effort was envisioned to draw Daughters from the former Provinces to establish the first new ministry of the new Province. The new ministry at St. Mary’s was truly a return to a past ministry and an answer to a collaborative Vincentian Family effort.

The Vincentian Community at St. Mary’s Parish includes Pastor Michael Manh Nguyen, C. M.; Father John P. Timlin, C. M., Parochial Vicar; and Father Binh Van Nguyen, C. M., Parochial Vicar.

Plans for the Future
Plans for the future include new programs for the immigrant and refugee population in the parish, additional English as Second Language (ESL) classes, development of Young Adult Ministries, and leadership development for the people of many cultures speaking various languages.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church Website: www.stmarysgreensboro.org

Sister Helen Marie Kling Reflects on her Ministry:
I came to Greensboro not knowing where or how I would serve. It didn’t take long to find a niche that included ESL classes, teaching the music for the new translation of the Mass, liturgy planning, and service with senior citizens. I love parish work and the many cultures we have at St. Mary’s. I especially enjoy working individually with ESL students as it provides the opportunity to learn to know each student personally and to begin to understand the culture of each.

Sister Teresa Daly in her Own Words:
I have had extensive experience in Parish Ministry. Here at St. Mary’s, I am privileged to minister with the Hispanic Community. Currently, we are working toward leadership development with this community. I am also learning about and working with an extensive African community. I have begun a Bible Study Program in the parish for the English speaking people. I am trying to begin a multicultural young adult group. I love visiting the homes of the people. There are many joys and challenges here.

Sister Mary Thurlough Shares:
Since coming to Greensboro in January, I have been working with Catholic Social Services in Winston Salem with the food bank and front desk. As a volunteer at St. Paul the Apostle Church I help as needed with the food pantry, facilitate some workshops on protecting children, and other activities of the parish along with emergency services at Urban Ministries. It has been very enriching working with the many dedicated volunteers and staff here in North Carolina.

Father Nguyen, Father Timlin, Sister Teresa, Sister Helen Marie, Pastor Nguyen, and Sister Mary (not pictured) form the Vincentian Family at St. Mary’s Catholic Church.
May 22, the Daughters established the first Catholic sisters in the United States to honor the wife of Charles Dougherty, the donor of that year, the hospital was renamed Saint Agnes to mark the arrival of Joseph Colt Bloodgood, M.D., as Chief of the Medical Staff. A pioneering physician, surgeon, and medical researcher, Dr. Bloodgood established the Intern Education Program – the second oldest surgical residency in the United States, predated only by the Halstead Program at the Johns Hopkins Hospital where he was trained. Over the next 30 years, Dr. Bloodgood led Saint Agnes into a new era of clinical expertise as he made great advances in diagnosing and treating cancer and other illnesses.

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Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore
Celebrating 150 Years

Stepping Stones

1823 Sisters of Charity from Emmitsburg became the first Catholic sisters in the United States to administer a hospital when they began service at the Baltimore Infirmary, precursor of the University of Maryland Hospital.

1862 May 22, the Daughters established the first Catholic hospital in Baltimore, Saint Joseph’s Hospital of the City of Baltimore, on Lanvale Street. Later that year, the hospital was renamed Saint Agnes to honor the wife of Charles Dougherty, the donor of the property.

1876 The hospital moved to its current location on Caton Avenue, on land donated by Lady Elizabeth Caton Stafford, granddaughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

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Today, Saint Agnes is a 296 bed, full-service teaching hospital with residency programs in a number of medical and surgical specialties.

Six Daughters currently serve at Saint Agnes Hospital. They are Sister Vincentia Goeb, D.C., Sister Ellen LaCapria, D.C., Sister Kathleen Shannon, D.C., Sister DeSales Wisniewski, D.C., Sister Mary Louise Zollars, D.C., and Sister Ellen Eisenberger, D.C.

Over the years, Saint Agnes Hospital has been on the cutting edge and has made its mark on medical care in Baltimore and beyond. In 1981, Saint Agnes opened the first Chest Pain Emergency Center in the world. Saint Agnes was the first hospital in Maryland to offer patients tomotherapy, a state-of-the-art radiation oncology treatment now standard in the industry. Since the early 1980s, Saint Agnes has led the way in multi-disciplinary treatment of cancer and wrap-around services combined with the very latest medical, radiation, and surgical treatments.

The Saint Agnes Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is rated by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services (MIEMS) as a Level IIIB NICU facility, one of only seven in the state. Its Primary Stroke Center has received the prestigious Gold Plus Recognition Award for excellence in stroke care, given by the American Heart/American Stroke Association.

Community Outreach

Red Dress Sunday In 2005, Saint Agnes began “Red Dress Sunday” with three African American churches in Baltimore. By 2011, more than 130 churches across Maryland and beyond had joined the Red Dress Sunday movement that aims to educate African American women and their families about their risk of cardiovascular disease and how to best prevent it.

Esperanza Center For fifty years, Catholic Charities of Baltimore has provided a wide range of services to the Hispanic and immigrant population of the Baltimore Metropolitan area. High-quality health care is provided through a collaborative partnership with Saint Agnes Hospital, The Johns Hopkins Medicine, and the University of Maryland Dental Schools.

Saint Agnes Hospital Website: www.stagnes.org
Juan Diego Academy opened its doors to the first freshman class in August of 2011. When it did, two Daughters of Charity were there to welcome the students. The Daughters, however, were not newcomers to the Upper Rio Grande Valley. Late in the 1970s, the Daughters purposefully began serving in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. This Diocese, with more than one million Catholics, borders Mexico and includes four of the poorest counties in the United States. Eighty-six percent of the population is Hispanic; 53 percent of the adults do not have high school diplomas. The area has suffered because of the violence occurring across the border and has become a haven for human trafficking and drugs.

Serious efforts to build a Catholic high school in the area began in the early 1990s. In 2007, a parcel of land was offered by the Burns Family, as a site for a school to be named “San Juan Diego Catholic Regional High School” (now “Juan Diego Academy”). A Board of Trustees was formed and the school was incorporated.

In 2010, the Diocese of Brownsville, under the leadership of Bishop Daniel E. Flores, offered, as an alternative site, 40 acres of land and four buildings that had formerly housed the Diocesan seminary. This offering of buildings and land, along with a monetary pledge, brought the dream of the high school to reality. Funds from a capital campaign were used to renovate the existing buildings and to construct a new math and science building.

The entire Catholic community was involved in making this dream of a Catholic high school come to life. The local pastors allowed board members to make presentations at Sunday masses and encouraged pledges. These pastors are personally supportive and provide tuition scholarships to families needing assistance. Many parishioners gave generously of their time and talents, working on landscaping, painting, cleaning and preparing for opening day. Much of the furniture, with the exception of student desks and technology, was donated. When Juan Diego Academy opened to its first freshman class in 2011, it was with the intention of adding another grade in each of the next three years.

Sister Marcella Ewers, D.C., former Diocesan Superintendent of Schools and a founding member of the Juan Diego Academy Board of Trustees, was appointed President of the school. In August 2010, Bob Schmidt was named Principal. Sister Marcella reflects, “I have been in Catholic education for my entire community life. I believe that education is truly the best way to help change the cycle of poverty.”

“In addition to helping students become rooted in their faith, I believe a Catholic school must help young people recognize their responsibility to reach out to those less fortunate, to use their talents and gifts to make the world a better place,” adds Sister Marcella. “At Juan Diego Academy, we try to acquaint the students with Daughter of Charity ministries in other countries such as Kenya and Mexico. For their Lenten project, they collected funds for our missions in Kenya.”

Sister Sheila Carney, D.C., also serves at Juan Diego Academy as the Business Manager.

Juan Diego Academy students come from the surrounding cities of Mission, McAllen, Edinburg, Rio Grande City, and even from Mexico. Half are from Catholic elementary schools and the others from local public schools. Approximately 35 percent receive tuition assistance. Looking to the future and the school’s expanding student enrollment, Sister Marcella knows demands for tuition assistance will certainly grow. “With twice as many students enrolled for the 2012-2013 school year, student financial aid awards will also double.”

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Juan Diego Academy Website:
http://www.juandiegoacademy.org/
Members of the Sisters of Charity Federation Share Hospitality and Community in New Orleans

The House of Charity in New Orleans welcomes volunteers who travel to New Orleans to serve those in need, many of whom are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina some seven years after it devastated the Gulf Coast. The House is a joint venture of the Sisters of Charity Federation. The Federation is comprised of 12 women religious congregations, representing more than 4,000 members, who recognize their particular charism and spirit in the charism of the tradition of Charity founded by St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Early in 2010, the Sisters of Charity Federation opened The House of Charity with Sisters Monica Gedulier, S.C., Cincinnati, Claire Regan, S.C., New York, and Renee Rose, D.C., Evansville, as the pioneers members. Focusing on hospitality as one facet of the Charity Charism, these Sisters welcome young adults and adults coming to New Orleans to provide service to non-profits or parishes. Most of the service work consists in the rebuilding of homes that were damaged by storms and floods. The House of Charity can host 15 volunteers at a time. Participants live in community with the Sisters. Community sharing includes breakfast, morning prayers, work/service, a hot evening meal and reflection together after supper. The goal is to give the volunteers an opportunity to be part of a Christian community and to reflect on their experiences of service in the Vincentian tradition.

Sister Renee Rose, D.C. is one of the pioneers to first serve at the House of Charity. “I view my ministry in first implementing the concept of House of Charity as a Federation ministry shared equally by the communities that comprise the Federation,” explains Sister Renee. “Our initial efforts focused on organizational structures such as budget and finance, policies and procedures for the groups we would host, evaluation processes and division of labor. My primary role is overseeing house maintenance, and planning and cooking meals for the groups.”

In September 2010, the Sisters learned they needed to find a new location for the ministry since the current Charity House property would be part of the Archdiocese strategic plan and no longer available. A new facility is being constructed for the House of Charity. It is just a short walk from the current location.

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Sister Renee continues, “In the two years that I have been here, I have felt God’s guiding hand directing this collaborative ministry. The Sisters and young people who have come and shared community with us and each other have expressed how meaningful their experiences have been in learning and deepening their understanding of the charism of St. Vincent, St. Louise and St. Elizabeth Ann.”

The following come from the American Vincentian Rule (adapted by Elizabeth Seton, Bishop Carroll and Sulpicians, Bishop David et al for American Church). They have an indirect connection to Elizabeth Ann Seton.

“Teach me to show great gentleness toward all and to imitate your goodness in welcoming all.” – St. Louise de Marillac

Service Statistics

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>February – June 2010</td>
<td>4 groups</td>
<td>60 volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2010 – June 2010</td>
<td>11 groups</td>
<td>136 volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011 – March 2012</td>
<td>10 groups</td>
<td>116 volunteers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Sisters of Charity Federation Congregations:

In 1850, some of Mother Seton’s original Sisters based in Emmitsburg became part of the Daughters of Charity, an international institute founded by Vincent De Paul and Louise De Marillac in France in 1633. Eight other congregations trace their roots to Elizabeth Ann Seton and the American Rule:

- Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul of New York
- Sisters of Charity of Mount St. Joseph (Cincinnati)
- Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception (New Brunswick, Canada)
- Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul (Halifax, Canada)
- Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth (Convent Station, New Jersey)
- Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (Greensburg)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha (Antigonish, Canada)
- Religieuses de Notre Dame du Sacre Coeur (New Brunswick, Canada)

The following come from the American Vincentian Rule (adapted by Elizabeth Seton, Bishop Carroll and Sulpicians, Bishop David et al for American Church). They have an indirect connection to Elizabeth Seton.

- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (Kentucky)
- Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy (Charleston)
- Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (Kansas)

“Teach me to show great gentleness toward all and to imitate your goodness in welcoming all.” – St. Louise de Marillac

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2012 January - August Jubliarians

Province of St. Louise
Celebrating 2,150 years of Serving Christ in Those in Need

During the first eight months of 2012, January through August, 38 Daughters of Charity from the Province of St. Louise celebrate Jubilees.

75 Years Vocation
Sister Virginia Metz, D.C.
March 14, 1937
The local community bookkeeper and assistant to the regional Sister Support Specialist, Sister Virginia lives in Albany, N.Y.

Sister Michael Friese, D.C.
June 19, 1942
A former Nurse, Sister Michael serves in the Ministry of Prayer; she resides in Evansville, Ind.

60 Years Vocation
Sister René Fischer, D.C.
June 19, 1942
Sister René served in nursing educa-
tion, administration and mission effectiveness; today she serves in the Ministry of Prayer. She lives in Evansville, Ind.

Sister Maria Capobianco, D.C.
June 24, 1952
Sister Maria Capobianco serves in the Ministry of Prayer; she lives in Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Mary Raphael Collazo, D.C.
June 24, 1952
Sister Mary Raphael Capobianco served as a Parish Home Visitor at St. John the Baptist Parish, she resides in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sister Dorothy Keenan, D.C.
January 25, 1952
Sister Dorothy serves at Catholic Charities Outreach and as Moderator of the Ladies of Charity in Nashville, Tenn., where she lives.

Sister Rosaria Raidi, D.C.
August 28, 1952
Sister Rosaria serves in the health-care ministry, she lives in Indianapolis, Ind.

Sister Mary Jo Swift, D.C.
August 28, 1952
Sister Mary Jo serves as a hospital volunteer, Sister Mary Jo lives in Evansville, Ind.

50 Years Vocation
Sister Kathryn Bechtold, D.C.
June 25, 1962
A foreign missionary, Sister Kathryn serves in Masanga, Tanzania.

Sister Patricia Beyrou, D.C.
June 25, 1962
Sister Patricia ministers in pre-primary education as a foreign missionary in Chepnyal, Kenya.

Sister Patricia Connolly, D.C.
June 5, 1962
Sister Patricia serves in the Ministry of Prayer. She resides in Albany, N.Y.

Sister Margaret Dougherty, D.C.
June 25, 1962
Sister Margaret Dougherty serves in the Ministry of Prayer. She resides in Albany, N.Y.

Sister Mary Catherine Dunn, D.C.
June 5, 1962
Sister Mary Catherine Dunn, D.C.
June 5, 1962
Sister Margaret Dougherty, D.C.
June 25, 1962
A former educator, Religious Educator, Sister Margaret serves in the Ministry of Prayer. She resides in Albany, N.Y.

Sister Charles Lagg, D.C.
June 25, 1962
A High School Mathematics Teacher at Elizabeth Seton High School, Sister Charles resides in Bladenburg, Md.

Sister Kathleen Murray, D.C.
June 5, 1962
Sister Kathleen Murray, D.C.
June 5, 1962
Sister Kathleen is a resident of Edinburgh, Scotland.

25 Years Vocation
Sister Martha Barat-Kovach, D.C.
July 5, 1987
Sister Kathleen Murray, D.C.
June 5, 1962
Sister Kathleen serves as the Provincial for the Eastern Province of the Vincentians, Sister Margaret resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

Sister Joanna Whalen, D.C.
May 5, 1987
Sister Joanna Whalen, D.C.
June 5, 1962
Sister Kathleen serves as the Provincial for the Eastern Province of the Vincentians, Sister Margaret resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

Sister Teresa George, D.C.
August 31, 1987
Sister Teresa George, D.C.
August 31, 1987
Presidential and COO of Dell Children’s Medical Center Central Texas, Sister Teresa is a resident of Austin, Tex.
New York City—

Daughters Hold Residents of the Big Apple Close in Their Hearts

When one thinks about New York City, many images come to mind—Broadway, 9/11 and the Twin Towers, taxi cabs, the financial district, and, perhaps, the Statue of Liberty. Yet, the heart of this big city is the people who live here. Those are the New Yorkers the Daughters of Charity began to serve 196 years ago. The first Sisters (then called Sisters of Charity) to serve in New York City were sent from Emmitsburg in 1826 to minister at the New York Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. The Sisters served at the Orphan Asylum for 20 years.

Today, Daughters of Charity continue to minister in New York City. At St. Mark’s House, next to St. Mark the Evangelist School and Parish in Harlem, four Daughters of Charity live together in community and carry on the ministry of care begun in 1826. Catherine Hagen, D.C., assists is the principal at St. Mark the Evangelist School. Sister Patricia Connolly, D.C., a teacher, principal, and NGO representative, is awaiting her next mission. These Daughters are all called to New York to serve and to care. Their ministries are varied, but their ability to reach out and collaborate with, teach and care for others is at the root of their service to other. As Sister Catherine shares, “the children at St. Mark’s are not predominantly Christian, yet alone Catholic, yet we strive to provide them with the best education possible. We teach them much more than just classroom subjects. We teach them about care and respect for all of God’s creation and about care and respect for each other.”

The Sisters work in four different locations. Sister Serena Branson, D.C., founder and first administrator of Kennedy Child Study Center, with one of the children; photo circa 1960.

http://www.saintmarkschool.org/
www.sisters-of-charityfederation.org
http://www.setonpediatric.org/john-coleman-school

Daughters Work to End Human Trafficking

Left, Sister Mary Jo explains the signs of trafficked victims during a talk at a local parish. Right, Sister Carol prepares for a meeting of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

The exploitation of humans is an international scourge with an estimated 27 million victims around the globe. The 2009 General Assembly of the Daughters of Charity called for concerted action to address human trafficking. Sister Mary Jo Swift, D.C., from Evansville, and Sister Carol Durkin, D.C., from Emmitsburg, work tirelessly to end trafficking in the US. Other Daughters of Charity throughout the Province also champion efforts to end trafficking and aid victims. Sister Mary Jo carries her message to organizations throughout the Midwest. “Unless people are informed, they are not going to look for the signs and the victims are not going to be freed,” Sister Mary Jo explains. “Sister Carol serves on the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force formed by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maryland and the Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City. Sister Carol also serves on the Victim Services and Public Awareness committee.

Every state in the US now has laws against human trafficking with the exceptions of Wyoming and West Virginia. The latter has introduced legislation. ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) has introduced a Code of Conduct to encourage motels, hotels, and airlines to sign a pledge to prevent human trafficking in their organizations and to educate their workers. Truckers against Trafficking is a grass-roots organization arising from truckers’ witnessing the selling of girls at truck stops.

“The Daughters of Charity consider human trafficking a high priority,” adds Sister Mary Jo. “People think it doesn’t happen in the US, but it does. We need the states to work together so that there is not a ‘safe’ state where traffickers can run.”

More information about stopping human trafficking can be found on these websites:
• www.freetheslaves.net
• www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
• www.antislavery.org
• www.stophumantrafficking.org
• http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/
• usccbresponse.shtml
• http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs

Can you spot the signs?

• Is the person accompanied by a controlling person/boss or never speaks on his/her own?
• Does the person lack control over personal schedule, money, ID, travel documents?
• Is the person transported to/from work or live and work in the same place?
• Does the person owe a debt to employer?
• Is the person unable to leave his or her job?
• Does the person seem afraid, depressed or overly submissive or have bruises or other signs of physical abuse?
Senior Sisters Throughout the Province of St. Louise: Celebrating Wisdom, Age, and Grace

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.  

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Sister Mary Walter Boyle

“As a Daughter of Charity I have had 62 rewarding years… in nursing, hospital administration, boards, sister servant, formation, fund raising for hospitals… also mission trips to Jamaica, Haiti and Bosnia to help build two hospitals.

In my eighth year at St. Louise House, I now travel in my ‘red scooter chair’ to visit Sisters, and attend Bible and book clubs, “We Care … We Share Committee’ and do e-mails, Facebook, and feed birds on my window sill!”

Sister Eileen Kinnarney

“Years ago, I gave myself to God as a Daughter of Charity. The giving has not been mine, but a daily acceptance and living of God’s gifts to me. The surprise and gifts include serving in the Seminary, ministering in healthcare and administration and nursing in Thailand. Now, I volunteer in Pastoral Care and pray for Sister Evelyne Franc and the Province of St. Louise.”

St. Veronica Kuzma

“Nursing was my ministry before entering the Community. After ten years of nursing in the States, God called me to health care in Bolivia for 33 years. God blessed me with the gift and skill to care for patients with Hanson’s disease. In 1987, I returned to the States to minister in health care for ten years. In 2010 I came to St. Louise House where I serve by companionsing my Sisters and praying for Bolivia.”

Sister Ann Charles Martin

“I entered the Community in 1948. Following my Seminary I taught children for over 50 years. “The children were my love.” In 2007, my health declined, I came to St. Louise House. Now my ministry is prayer, especially for Vocations. Recently I began helping the staff and Sisters by working with the “We care… We Share” program.”

The residences where the aged and infirm Daughters of Charity reside are truly the Powerhouses of Prayer supporting every Sister and every mission throughout the Province of St. Louise. These Sisters live daily the Constitutions of the Daughters of Charity that state:

By their prayer, the offering of their sufferings, and the witness of their lives, the sick and elderly Sisters truly share in mission. The community surrounds them with care and affection and helps them to accept, in peace and serenity, their limitations of age and health as a form of service. C. 35 b

Each of these sisters is formally commissioned to pray for the Sisters and the works of a specific local mission in the province. In every issue of Faith Afire, we will introduce you to Daughters who reside in one of the Senior Sister Residences throughout the Province. This issue, we highlight a few Sisters who live at St. Louise House in Albany, NY.

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1
Sister Meg Missioned

Sister Meg Kymes, D.C., completed her Seminary formation and, following a retreat and a special evening prayer service at the Provincial House, was Sent on Mission on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1, during an evening mass. Her first mission is at Mother Seton House in Emmitsburg. Sister Meg serves part-time at Mother Seton School and part-time at Seton Center.

Federation Meets

The 2012 meeting of the Charity Federation was held June 14 – 17 in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. In attendance from the Province of St. Louise were Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C., Visitatrix, Sister Mary Beth Kubera, D.C., Councillor, and Sister Mary Catherine Warehime, D.C., Councillor, Sister Denise LaRock, D.C., Vocation Directress, and Sister Patricia Collins, D.C., Federation NGO Liaison, for the NGO portion of the meeting. The theme of this year’s meeting was “Called to Collaborate-Challenged to Commit-Courageous Charity.” Sister Julie Cutter, D.C., Executive Director of the Federation, opened the meeting with a shared snapshot of the Federation’s history which was originally founded to promote the canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. All 12 member communities trace their American roots to St. Elizabeth Ann. Sister Louise invited Federation members to collaborate in the Global Health Partnership initiative—an effort intended to engage community leaders in developing countries to create integrated healthcare systems to serve their citizens.

Visitatrix Encounter Held in Paris

Once every six years, the Visitatrixes from the worldwide Provinces of the Daughters of Charity gather in Paris for an Encounter to prepare for the next General Assembly. In May, Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C., Visitatrix of the Province of St. Louise, joined Visitatrixes from 70 other Provinces and one Region (Albania) at the Mother House in Paris. Those gathered represented 17, 743 Daughters of Charity from 93 countries. Father Patrick Griffin, C.M., Director General, opened the Encounter with a retreat themed, “An Undivided Heart.” The Sister attendees met in small work groups with other Sisters who spoke the same language. For Sister Louise, these included Sisters from Eritrea, Nigeria, India, Ireland, Indonesia, and Japan.

In Memory

We remember the 23 Daughters of Charity who have gone to their Eternal Home since the Province of St. Louise was established.

“ Remain faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.” Rev 2:10

Sister Mary Helen Edelen
July 5, 1917
August 2, 2011
74 years vocation

Sister Agnes Silvestro
March 9, 1918
September 15, 2011
74 years vocation

Sister Ruth Mahar
July 27, 1915
October 6, 2011
78 years vocation

Sister Helen Miller
September 14, 1939
October 18, 2011
53 years vocation

Sister Colette Braudis
October 6, 1915
October 19, 2011
75 years vocation

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53 years vocation

Sister Colette Braudis
October 6, 1915
October 19, 2011
75 years vocation
July 25, 1922
March 14, 2012
71 years vocation

July 25, 1928
April 5, 2012
66 years vocation

September 28, 1921
April 13, 2012
55 years vocation

November 29, 1914
April 25, 2012
79 years vocation

May 11, 1945
April 8, 2012
46 years vocation

January 24, 1915
May 4, 2012
79 years vocation

September 22, 1914
June 4, 2012
80 years vocation

January 11, 1919
December 2, 2011
73 years vocation

November 28, 1927
December 16, 2011
64 years vocation

July 29, 1928
December 1, 2011
53 years vocation

October 1, 1933
January 12, 2012
60 years vocation

March 21, 1919
February 21, 2012
75 years vocation

November 21, 1922
February 21, 2012
80 years vocation

February 6, 1935
November 1, 2011
55 years vocation

July 28, 1916
November 14, 2011
77 years vocation

July 29, 1928
December 1, 2011
53 years vocation

May 31, 1920
May 25, 2012
69 years vocation

March 21, 1919
March 1, 2012
75 years vocation

May 31, 1920
May 25, 2012
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November 1, 2011
55 years vocation

November 14, 2011
77 years vocation

December 1, 2011
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February 21, 2012
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Interprovincial Seminary Opens in St. Louis

On March 19, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul from the Province of St. Louise and the Province of the West dedicated and blessed their new residence for initial formation—the Daughters of Charity Interprovincial Seminary. Located in south St. Louis City, the Seminary brings new life to the former St. James the Greater Parish Convent that had been vacant since 1992. Father John Johnson, Pastor of St. James the Greater, blessed the convent as Daughters gathered on the warm sunny day.

Local Pastor Father John Johnson, St. James the Greater Parish, opens the Blessing Ceremony of the Daughters’ new Interprovincial Seminary as (left to right) Sister Maureen Schmalzried, D.C., Sister Elizabeth Merkel, D.C., Sister Margaret McDonnell, D.C., Sister Meg Kymes, D.C., and Sister Nora Gatto, D.C., look on.