Given to God, in Community, for the Service of Those who are Poor
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My dear friends in Christ,

There are places in life where faith and love flare up.

Sitting by a campfire on a fall night, I watched as the logs burned and slowly dimmed down to their finish. For the most part there was a soft darkness and quiet around the fire pit. But every once in a while a cinder would fall off baring new wood and at that edge a flame would shoot up, flooding the campsite and surrounding tents not only with the flaring light but with the crackling sound of the burning wood.

Could not this rising and falling light in this autumn fire tell us something of our own journey of faith? Must believers testify that their belief has been a slow burning thing? It’s there but not blazing, more as a background hum than a loud crackle. But every once in a while, some event or other chips off an edge and a flame shoots out. In that moment, the entire night lights up and the half-hidden things take on shape and color. What was there all along in the shadows momentarily flashes out. “How did I not see what was there?” And then it fades.

It’s no accident that this publication about the Daughters of Charity is called “Faith Afire.” It’s meant to highlight the different moments in the lives of the Sisters when that slow-burning faith flares out and lets them and us see “what’s in the room.”

All the stories feature some visibility moments wherein the life and ministry of a given Daughter of Charity knocks an edge off that log, producing a spark which reveals what’s more profoundly going on.

So, pictures of faces lighting up, of caring gestures hitting their mark, of blessings being taken in – aren’t they all sparks jumping off the mostly hidden fire? Aren’t they small and big flames lighting up our Faith?

Both St. Louise and St. Vincent tapped into this image. It’s the “blazing charity of the crucified Christ” which moves us, said Louise. “If love is a fire, then zeal is its flame,” proclaimed St. Vincent.

It is hoped that this issue can do its part to let us notice those sparks and flames of charity in the Daughters of just that Charity and in their many companions on the journey.

Gratefully, in Vincent and Louise,

Father Tom McKenna, C.M.
Provincial Director

Dear friends,

This past July, Daughters from throughout the Province of St. Louise gathered in Detroit, Michigan, for our 2016 Provincial Meeting. While there, we celebrated the Province’s fifth anniversary. Since the unification of the four former Provinces on July 31, 2011, we have remained steadfast as Daughters of St. Vincent, St. Louise, and St. Elizabeth Ann. This summer, we continued to focus on “The Boldness of Charity for a New Missionary Moment.” As a Province, we asked the Holy Spirit to guide us as we responded to the challenges presented to us during the Daughters’ worldwide General Assembly of 2015. More specifically, we were challenged in how we minister to immigrants, the trafficked, and how we fulfill The Holy Father’s Encyclical, Laudato Si’ on care for our common home.

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church, the Daughters continued both corporal and spiritual works of Mercy just as we did in the 1630s. In this magazine, you will learn about an Interprovincial Ministry where our Daughters serve in Arizona and New Mexico. We include news about our work on the Texas/Mexico border and the celebration of Mass by Pope Francis in Juarez. We also share a historic look at the Daughters’ many years of service in Carville, Louisiana with those who suffered from Hansen’s Disease. We have been, we are, and we pray we will continue to be blessed to serve those who live in poverty.

“Blessed are the merciful; for they will be shown mercy.”

Matthew 5:7

Blessings,

Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C.
Provincial

On the Cover:

Sister Marie Raw (left), General Councillor of the English-speaking Provinces of the Daughters of Charity throughout the world, made an official Visitation to the Province of St. Louise in October. During her Visitation, Sister Marie met with many Sisters from New York, to Louisiana, to Texas. In this photo, Sister Marie visits the Roarke Center in Troy, NY, posing with Sister Loretta Hoag. At the Roarke Center (also featured on page 21 of this issue), Sister Loretta teaches painting, ceramics, weaving, and photography. The displayed work, in bronze, sculpted by Sister Loretta, is entitled “Rapture.”

Graphic Designer: Katie Zeller; Advisors: Province Communications Committee.

Faith Afire is published by the Province of St. Louise. Comments, suggestions or address corrections may be directed to Nancy Katich, nancy.katich@doc.org: 314.561.4625; 4330 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63108. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without prior written permission.
Province of St. Louise Marks 5th Anniversary as Daughters Gather for Provincial Meeting

More than 250 members of the Province gathered in Detroit, MI, the last weekend in July to focus on the theme, “Dare to be Bold for the Mission.” Sisters traveled from as far away as Italy and Kenya, to attend. Those gathered, and Sisters who watched from senior Sisters’ residences and in mission houses throughout the world, reflected on how the Boldness of Charity inspires them to respond to those living in poverty with unrestricted readiness.

Through prayer, liturgy, presentations, table discussions, and more, the Daughters wrestled with the realities of the times. Robert Lupton presented “Moving the Poverty Needle through Empowerment.” His presentation dove-tailed well into the Vincentian Family’s emphasis on the need for systemic change.

Sister Marie Raw, General Councillor, traveled from Paris to share her insights on the Boldness of Charity and the Company Today. Sister Marie cited many examples of the early American Daughters of Charity venturing forth into unknown lands in situations replete with difficulties in travel (raging wars, stagecoaches, and mules). In October, Sister Marie returned to the Province for an official Visitaton.

Provincial, Sister Louise Gallahue, began the formal discussion about the election of her successor and the next Council, all of whom will begin their terms of governance in the summer of 2017. By the end of calendar year 2016, the next Provincial should be named. Then, in early 2017, the names of the Councillors will be announced.

Sister Margaret O’Dwyer (NGO intern at the UN NGO office) and Sister Catherine Prendergast (NGO Representative at the UN) helped the Daughters to understand “The Trinity of Laudato Si’, the Inter-Assemblies Document, and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals” as they relate to the Daughters’ worldwide service.

Sister Teresa George, Provincial Treasurer-elect, recognized outgoing Treasurer, Sister Jane Graves, with a special prayer service in her honor. Others in attendance shared fond memories of Sister Jane’s many years as Treasurer—for the Province of St. Louise and for the former Northeast Province.

July 31, the 5th Anniversary of the Province of St. Louise, the Daughters gathered for Sunday Liturgy in thanksgiving. Those celebrating significant jubilees were recognized during the Liturgy for their many years of service. The Sisters departed Detroit with renewed spirits and a deepened commitment to those living in poverty.

Daughters in Detroit

Today, there are eight Daughters of Charity who live and serve residents of the Detroit metropolitan area. The Daughters first arrived in Detroit in 1844 at the urgent plead of Coadjutor Bishop Peter P. Lefevre of Detroit who had travelled to Emmitsburg that May. The Sisters initially served in education at one private and two free schools. Since that time, the Sisters have served in many varying ministries from education, to social work, to healthcare. Today, Sister Cecilia Ann West serves at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers; Sister Joan Drega serves at Providence Health Foundation; Sister Therese MacKinnon serves at Corpus Christi Parish; Sister Vincent Louise Wilcox serves at the Franciscan Outreach Program; Sister Sharon Hagen ministers at Samaritan Counseling Center and Providence Hospital Behavioral Medicine; Sister Kathleen Stafford serves at Christ the King School; Sister Mary Louise Stubbs directs the Daughters of Charity International Project Services; and Sister Mary Ellen Thomas ministers at St. Charles Lwanga Parish.
Sister Isabel Fierro, Diocese of El Paso’s Liaison for Religious, shares about the February day when Pope Francis celebrated Mass for pilgrims from three Catholic Dioceses—Cuidad Juárez, El Paso, and Las Cruces. Sister Isabel, along with Daughters of Charity Sisters Consuelo Tovar and Doris Clippard, journeyed with Sisters of other congregations and friends across the border to Mexico. Sister Consuelo serves in San Antonio at Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio and Sister Doris serves as a nurse practitioner at Centro San Vicente.

The morning of February 17 was cool as we gathered at the Daughters’ residence to begin our pilgrimage. There was much excitement as we gathered wraps, food, and water and got into two cars. We parked at St. Francis Xavier Parish and began the walk over the Bridge of the Americas to Juárez. We met few people along the way until a group of energetic teenagers accompanied by a priest and several adults caught up with us. They had travelled from the interior of Mexico the day before and were bursting with energy in the anticipation of seeing Pope Francis.

The 2 ½ mile walk across the bridge to the fairgrounds was filled with new experiences for the group: Sisters Maria Teresa Telles, Religious of the Assumption, Mary Kay Mahowald OSF; Consuelo, Doris, Lillian Fernandez (Sr. Mary Kay’s assistant at the Detention Center) and me. Along the way, we stopped to view the huge Mexican flag blowing in the wind that welcomed us to Ciudad Juarez, and in the distance, the large “X” monument located on the Plaza de la Mexicanidad (Center of Mexican Culture). We walked around the Chamizal Park and then took the ramp to the boulevard leading us to the fairgrounds.

There were many people along the boulevard including vendors selling an array of Pope Francis mementos, families who had camped in the park during the night, and many pilgrims anxious to get to the fairgrounds, now called “El Punto,” (the Point). As we got closer to the venue, we were directed to a soccer field where the security stations were set up. We enjoyed breakfast in the security line! We passed the security check, received a green bracelet corresponding to our section and proceeded to the fairgrounds. More and more people were gathering and we finally made it to the green zone, where we were told to go into any section and find a spot. It was 9:15 AM and the Mass was scheduled at 4:00 PM! We were in the midst of “a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language.” (Rev. 7:9) It was an incredible feeling being among so many people jubilant with excitement in the designated square that was to be our ‘place of being’ for the next eight hours! We were here for one purpose: to share the coming of Pope Francis, the pilgrim from Rome, who would touch us with his words of mercy, love and peace.

Unexpectedly, I caught sight of a young boy and his grandmother Juana, whom I have known for many years. She was rushing toward me to let me know that her family had made it. She had expressed a desire to see “the great Father” who was coming from far away. But she had no illusions about being able to see him, as she assumed “the tickets were only for the rich;” she was totally overwhelmed the week before when I presented her with four tickets for herself, her 16-year-old daughter and her two grandsons. Life has been a challenge for this woman, a Tarahumara Indian who has been on her own since she was 11 years old.

Time passed quickly as we joined in the singing, cheering and learning of the theme song for Pope Francis, “Francisco Es,” which was to be sung as he entered the fairgrounds. On the multiple screens set up throughout the venue, we were able to see the arrival of Pope Francis at the Juarez airport and to appreciate the tremendous welcome he received. Emotions ran high as the long-awaited Holy Father became a reality. We watched Pope Francis as he arrived at the Cereso prison and met with the men and women imprisoned there, the administrative and operational staff, and families of the detainees.
The presence of Pope Francis brought great hope to the incarcerated as he said, “Celebrating the Jubilee of Mercy with you means learning not to be prisoners of the past, of yesterday. It means learning to open the door to the future, to tomorrow; it means believing things can change. Do not ask why you are here but rather for what purpose are you here. You have known the power of sorrow and sin but do not forget that within your reach is the power of resurrection, the power of mercy which makes all things new.”

At noon we had the privilege of viewing Pope Francis in his meeting with the world of labor, the administrators, managers, and the working poor from the maquiladoras (multinational factories) in Juarez. He spoke eloquently about the dignity of work, of just pay, and the injustices suffered by workers and their families because of inadequate and inhumane policies and compensation, too low to provide for the families’ needs. He concluded with, “I want to invite you to dream, to dream of a Mexico where a father can have time to play with his son, where a mother can have time to play with her children. And that can be achieved through dialogue, confrontation and encounter, by coming to the table and negotiating, losing at times so that all may win. I invite you to dream of a Mexico where there is no one of first, second or fourth class, but a Mexico that recognizes the dignity of a child’s purpose are you here. You have known the power of sorrow and sin but do not forget that within your reach is the power of resurrection, the power of mercy which makes all things new.”

As the time of the Pope’s arrival approached, the now subdued crowd came alive with song and chant, “Se ve, se siente, el Papa esta presente.” (See him, feel him, the Pope is present here). The crowd went wild as the Pope mobile was seen by the people closest to the street and mobile was stopped at the Migrant Cross and Pope Francis prayed in silence. He then blessed three small crosses that were to be given to each of the three dioceses located on this border. The Holy Father gave a blessing to the nearly 600 people sitting or standing on the levee of the Rio Grande on the El Paso side, the Pope’s VIPs: the immigrants, refugees, victims of trafficking, homeless, as well as, people who accompanied them from various organizations including clergy and religious.

Many people wept as they witnessed this special remembrance of those who await the process that may enable them to stay in the country. Everyone was ready for the Mass as the choir sang and the entrance procession led the Holy Father to the altar, specially constructed for this day. In his homily, Pope Francis addressed the people of Juarez, who like the people of Ninevah, are “self-destructing as a consequence of oppression, degradation, violence and injustice.” In God’s mercy, Jonas, the prophet, was sent to the people to call them to repentance and to encourage them to change their lives. “Divine mercy appears in every situation in order to transform it from within.”

Pope Francis invited us to pray for the gift of tears, “to cry over injustice, degradation and oppression, for it is through tears that we will be transformed, through tears that we will be lead to conversion. We cannot deny the humanitarin crisis that in recent years has increased the migration of thousands of persons, a forced migration that is now a global phenomenon.”

At the end of his homily, Pope Francis greeted the people in the Sun Bowl at the University of Texas of El Paso, who were accompanying us simultaneously on the other side of the border. He thanked our Bishop Mark J. Seitz for facilitating the transmission, “Thanks to the help of technology we can pray, sing and celebrate together the merciful love that the Lord gives us and that no border can keep us from sharing. Thank you, brothers and sisters of El Paso, for making us feel like one family and one same Christian community.”

It was an inspiring, fruitful, joyous day for the 250,000 people in the fairgrounds in Juarez and the nearly 30,000 people at the SunBowl, along with the countless numbers of people who watched the events on TV and heard it on radio. What a memorable day! God had visited his people and given them hope!
Serving in the Southwest

Interprovincially

Formed in 1940, the Diocese of Gallup was designed specifically to minister to Native Americans throughout seven reservations in Northeastern Arizona and Northwestern New Mexico. Covering approximately 55,000 square miles, the diocese includes five social centers, 13 schools, and 53 parishes, creating ample opportunities for involvement. It was in 1996 that the first Daughters of Charity moved here to begin new ministries.

At the time, three sisters arrived in Tuba City, AZ—located on the northwest corner of the Navajo Reservation—and began working with the Vincentian priests at St. Jude Church in Tuba City and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Page, AZ. Two additional sisters lived in Gallup, NM, serving as the Director and Co-Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Gallup. Twenty years later, the Daughters of Charity from the two United States Provinces are still active within the diocese. Currently, there are six Sisters residing within the diocesan borders—three in Tuba City and three in Gallup. Each Sister has her own ministry, aimed at assisting the Native Americans who call this area home.

Currently living in Tuba City, Sister Mary Frate, a member of the Province of St. Louise, arrived in Tuba City in January 2015, Father Jay invited her to “loiter with a purpose.” Formally, she is the Coordinator of Parish Outreach which involves various roles such as visiting parishioners at home or in the hospital, praying with them or simply keeping them company. Sister Catherine also serves as the spiritual advisor for the parish and regional Society of St. Vincent DePaul.

Sister Elizabeth Riddell, a member of the Province of Los Altos Hills, is the third Sister residing in Tuba City. For the past two years, she has worked as the director of St. Jude Food Bank. In her role, she oversees daily operations, including supervising the staff and forming them the Vincentian charism of service. Additionally, Sister Elizabeth assists in meeting the primary goal of the food bank—to help locals to become self-sufficient by offering budgeting tips and healthy eating alternatives. She does so by studying the root causes of poverty in the area and working with other local community organizations to craft new ways to provide assistance to those in need.

Three hours away in Gallup, NM, Sister Elizabeth Racko, a member of the Province of St. Louise, performs her primary ministry at local prisons. Sister Elizabeth is no stranger to the diocese as she has served in the Diocese of Gallup for almost 20 years. During this time, she has spent significant time in prison ministering to the Native American and Hispanic cultures in the prison populations and promotes Restorative Justice in each. Sister also maintains a large spiritual correspondence with inmates in many different prisons and trains volunteers for this ministry also. She spends much of her time outside of the prisons advocating for prisoners’ rights.

The fifth Sister serving in the Diocese of Gallup, Sister Catherine Clemons of the Province of St. Louise, has been doing so since August 2014. Sister Catherine serves as a Volunteer Teacher and Teacher Aid at two schools on reservations, St. Michael’s Indian School and St. Anthony School. At St. Michael’s, Sister Catherine splits her time between the first and second grade classrooms, working with the teachers as well as the students. Recently, she has helped with improving transition time from one subject to the next, discipline, and one on one academic help with the students. Her time spent at St. Anthony School is focused solely around the children. Here, Sister Catherine works in the pre-kindergarten classroom teaching religion lessons, building a curriculum, and performing all of the children’s Kindergarten Readiness Screenings.

“To work in these two schools, with two very different tribes is truly a learning experience for me. I feel so very blessed to have been so accepted by the people of both tribes,” Sister Catherine says about her ministry. “I feel enriched being present among them. I thank the Lord every day for allowing me to serve Him here. It is truly a beautiful, blessed and sacred place to be in ministry. I have no desire to be anywhere else.”

In August 2016, Sister Marie Rachelle Cruz, a member of the Province of Los Altos Hills, joined Sisters Elizabeth and Catherine in Gallup. Sister Marie Rachelle has just completed her Masters’ Degree in Pastoral Theology. Her job description is still being crafted but Sister Marie Rachelle assists with developing spiritual programs at Sacred Heart Retreat Center, offering individual spiritual direction, and assisting with spiritual care at local hospitals.

Despite its hardships, Sister Mary sees this opportunity as a blessing. “The challenge for those of us that come here to minister is to listen to the people, to respect their choices, their traditions, and their dreams without imposing our personal values,” she says. “Sometimes, in our eagerness to help or to fix things, we want to give money…however, this often merely creates an unhealthy dependency and does not help people move forward in their lives.”

Sisters Catherine Clemons, Catherine France, Elizabeth Riddell, Elizabeth Racko, Mary Frate, and Marie Rachelle Cruz.
Province of St. Louise
Celebrating 2,915 Years of Serving Christ in Those in Need

During 2016, 46 Daughters of Charity from the Province celebrate Jubilees.

80 Years Vocation
Sister Elizabeth Ann Baldino, D.C.
May 30, 1936
A Child Care Provider, Teacher, and Pastoral Minister, Sister Elizabeth Ann has served in Michigan, Maryland, New York, Virginia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

Sister Gertrude Levy, D.C.
October 13, 1936
An Educator, Community Relations and Development Director, Mission Coordinator, Volunteer Director, Guest and Patient Relations Manager, and Volunteer, Sister Gertrude has served in Mississippi, Alabama, California, Louisiana, Texas, and Indiana. Sister currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Edith Stricker, D.C.
September 7, 1936
Sister Edith has served as a Teacher, Parish Minister, and Director of Religious Education. She has served in Virginia, New York, Michigan, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Maryland. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Mary Paul Vardigan, D.C.
April 30, 1936
Sister Mary Paul has served as a Nurse, Nurse Supervisor, Pastoral Associate, and Chaplain. She has ministered in Louisiana, Illinois, Texas, and Missouri. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in New Orleans, LA.

75 Years Vocation
Sister Mary Albert Berry, D.C.
December 15, 1941
A Teacher and Pastoral Care Associate, Sister Mary Albert has served in Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., New York, and Pennsylvania. Sister currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

Sister Veronica Kuzma, D.C.
March 10, 1946
A Teacher, Social Minister, Nurse, Foreign Missionary, and Volunteer, Sister Veronica has served in Massachusetts, Maryland, Bolivia, New York, and Pennsylvania. Sister Veronica presently serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

Sister Josephine Murphy, D.C.
April 7, 1946
A Child Care Provider, Social Worker, Local Community Superior, Administrator, and Pastoral Associate, Sister Josephine has served in Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and South Carolina. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Louise Gettemeier, D.C.
December 2, 1946
An Elementary and Secondary Teacher, Foreign Missionary, Guidance Counselor, Mission Integration Coordinator, Provincial Councillor, Local Community Superior who has ministered to senior Sisters, Sister Loretto has served in Louisiana, Texas, Japan, Iowa, and Missouri. Sister currently serves in Parish Ministry and lives in St. Louis, MO.

Sister Mary Grace Higgins, D.C.
December 5, 1946
A Teacher, Social Minister, Parish Minister, Local Community Superior, who also served in Archives, Sister Mary Grace has ministered in Massachusetts, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

Sister Veronica Kuzma, D.C.
March 10, 1946
A Teacher, Social Minister, Nurse, Foreign Missionary, and Volunteer, Sister Veronica has served in Massachusetts, Maryland, Bolivia, New York, and Pennsylvania. Sister Veronica presently serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

Sister Josephine Murphy, D.C.
April 7, 1946
A Child Care Provider, Social Worker, Local Community Superior, Administrator, and Pastoral Associate, Sister Josephine has served in Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and South Carolina. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Louise Roseman, D.C.
January 25, 1946
Sister Louise has served as Teacher, Counselor, Principal, Provincial Secretary, Local Community Superior, and in Social Work and Parish Ministry. Sister served in Missouri, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Bridgeton, MO.

Sister Yvonne Thrasnow, D.C.
November 15, 1946
A Teacher, Social Worker, and Local Community Superior who has served in Formation, Sister Yvonne has ministered in Illinois, California, Missouri, Louisiana, Indiana, and Tennessee. Sister currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Gertrude Levy, D.C.
October 13, 1936
Sister Gertrude has served in Mississippi, Alabama, California, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

60 Years Vocation
Sister Lawrence Marie Calahban, D.C.
March 22, 1956
A Teacher, Social Minister, Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, and Medical Coordinator who served many years in HIV and AIDS Ministry, Sister Lawrence Marie has served in New York, Maryland, Michigan, Florida, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Joanne Caso, D.C.
January 25, 1956
Sister Joanne has served as a Teacher, Principal, Superintendent, Administrative Assistant, Local Community Superior, and Director of Religious Education. Sister has served in Missouri, Louisiana, Alabama, Illinois, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Today, Sister Joanne serves in Missouge Education in Mobile, AL.

Sister Claire Debes, D.C.
March 22, 1956

Sister Mary Katherine Heenan, D.C.
January 25, 1956
Sister Mary Katherine has served as Teacher, Social Worker, Executive Director, Administrator, Local Community Superior, and Volunteer. Sister has served in Missouri, Illinois, Texas, and Louisiana. Today, Sister Mary Katherine serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Joann Keating, D.C.
March 22, 1956
Sister Joann, a Teacher, Principal, Administrator, Local Community Superior, and Provincial Councillor, has ministered in New York, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Lawrence Marie Callahan, D.C.
March 22, 1956
A Teacher, Social Minister, Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, and Medical Coordinator who served many years in HIV and AIDS Ministry, Sister Lawrence Marie has served in New York, Maryland, Michigan, Florida, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Joanne Caso, D.C.
January 25, 1956
Sister Joanne has served as a Teacher, Principal, Superintendent, Administrative Assistant, Local Community Superior, and Director of Religious Education. Sister has served in Missouri, Louisiana, Alabama, Illinois, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Today, Sister Joanne serves in Missouge Education in Mobile, AL.

Sister Betty Keppers, D.C.
January 25, 1956
Sister Betty has served as a Business Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Computer Programmer, Parish Minister, and in Pastoral Care, Archives, and Fund Development. Sister served in Missouri, Louisiana, California, Nebraska, and Texas. Today, Sister Betty serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Barbara Riely, D.C.
May 19, 1956
A Teacher, Director of Religious Education, Parish Minister, Local Community Superior, and Patient Representative, Sister Barbara has served in Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois, Indiana, Alabama, Tennessee, and Michigan. Sister currently serves in Evansville, IN, at St. Mary’s Health System.

Sister Theresa Peck, D.C.
August 12, 1956
Sister Theresa has served as a Nurse, Health Care Administrator, Health System Executive, Local Community Superior, in Governance, and as Provincial Councillor and Treasurer. She has served in Texas, California, Illinois, and Indiana. Today, Sister Theresa serves in Governance in Evansville, IN.

Sister Dorothy Ann Pyle, D.C.
March 22, 1956
Sister Dorothy Ann has served as Teacher, Social Worker, Program Director, Case Worker, Outreach Coordinator, and Parish Minister. Sister ministered in Washington, D.C., New York, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, West Virginia, and South Carolina. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Patricia Rehm, D.C.
May 19, 1956
A Secondary Teacher, Principal, Guidance Counselor, Local Community Superior, Pastoral Care Associate who also served in Social Ministry and Elderly Ministry, Sister Patricia has ministered in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Indiana. Today, Sister Patricia serves in the Ministry of Prayer at Seton Residence in Evansville, IN.

Sister Barbara Riely, D.C.
May 19, 1956
A Teacher, Director of Religious Education, Parish Minister, Local Community Superior, and Patient Representative, Sister Barbara has served in Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois, Indiana, Alabama, Tennessee, and Michigan. Sister currently serves in Evansville, IN, at St. Mary’s Health System.
Sister Frances Ryan, D.C.

January 25, 1956

Sister Frances, a Social Worker, Parish Minister, Parish Administrator, Counselor, Local Community Superior, and College Professor who has served in Development, Mission Advancement, and as Ladies of Charity Moderator, has served in Missouri, Louisiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Mississippi, Indiana, and Illinois. Sister Frances now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Anne Marie Schreiner, D.C.

March 22, 1956

Sister Anne Marie has served as Teacher, Parish Minister, Parish Administrator, Activity Director, and Librarian. She has ministered in Maryland, Ohio, Delaware, Connecticut, Alabama, and Indiana. Sister currently lives and serves in Washington, D.C.

Sister Mary Ellen Schwartz, D.C.

March 22, 1956

Sister Mary Ellen, a Teacher, Assistant Administrator who has also served in Special Projects, has ministered in Ohio, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Today, Sister Mary Ellen serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

50 Years Vocation
Sister Martha-Hélène Aristizabal, D.C.

May 31, 1966

Sister Martha-Hélène, a native of Colombia, South America, Sister has served in Education, Social Work, Parish Ministry, Vocations, Pastoral, Foreign Mission, and Hispanic Ministries. Missioned to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, since 1999, Sister currently serves at Saint-Germain Parish.

Sister Mary Ann Azar, D.C.

March 17, 1966

A Nurse and Nurse Midwife, Sister Mary Ann has served in Healthcare, Social, Hispanic, and Immigration Services Ministries. She also has served in the Foreign Missions, as a Provincial Councillor, and Local Community Superior. Sister has served in Maryland, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, Florida, and West Virginia. Sister currently ministers in Immigration Advocacy in El Paso, TX.

Sister Nancy Cassidy, D.C.

March 17, 1966

Sister Nancy, a Teacher, Administrator, and Local Community Superior, has served in Education and Parish Ministry. She has been missioned to Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Today, Sister Nancy serves in Social Services New Salem, Pennsylvania.

Sister Ann Mary Dougherty, D.C.

March 17, 1966

A Teacher, Foreign Missionary, Secretary at the Motherhouse in Paris, and Editorial Assistant of the Vincentian Translation Project, Sister Ann Mary has served in Maryland, New York, Paris, Cameroon, Africa, and Delaware. Sister Ann Mary currently serves as the English Secretary at the Vincentian Curia in Rome, Italy.

Sister Kathleen Driscoll, D.C.

March 17, 1966

A Teacher and Catechist, Education Coordinator, Deaf Minister, and Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Sister Kathleen has served in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, New Mexico, and Louisiana. Today, Sister Kathleen has ministered in New Orleans, LA, at DePaul USA.

Sister Sharon Haskins, D.C.

August 14, 1966

Secondary Teacher, Counselor, Campus Minister, Parish Associate, and Local Community Superior, Sister Sharon has served in Missouri, Michigan, Mississippi, Indiana, and Missouri. Sister currently lives in St. Louis, MO, where she serves at The Sarah Community.

Sister Mary Frances Hildenberger, D.C.

March 17, 1966

Sister Mary Francis, a Teacher, Principal, Local Community Superior, Provincial Councillor and Treasurer, and Executive Director, has served in Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, West Virginia, New York, and Georgia. Sister Mary Frances currently serves at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, MD.

Sister Bonnie Hoffman, D.C.

August 14, 1966

Sister Bonnie, a Nurse, Nursing Administrator, Provincial Councillor, Vice President of Mission, and Local Community Superior, has served in Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Today, Sister Bonnie lives in New Orleans, LA, where she ministers as the Vice President of Mission Integration for the Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans.

Sister Anne Marie Lamoureux, D.C.

March 17, 1966

A Teacher, Local Community Superior, Parish and Pastoral Care Minister, Sister Anne Marie also has served in Vocation Ministry. Sister has ministered in Maryland and New York. Today, Sister Anne Marie serves at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Catherine Mary Norris, D.C.

June 5, 1966

Sister Catherine, a Teacher, House Mother, Social Worker, Director, Provincial Councillor and Local Community Superior, has ministered in Texas, Michigan, Alabama, Louisiana, Illinois, and Indiana. Sister Catherine Mary currently lives in Macon, GA, where she serves the homeless and disadvantaged at Daybreak Center.

Sister Kathleen Driscoll, D.C.

March 17, 1966

A Nurse, Nurse Supervisor, Local Community Superior, and Hispanic Minister, Sister Margaret has served in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Texas. Sister presently ministers at Projecto Juan Diego in Brownsville, TX.

Sister Catherine Prendergast, D.C.

August 24, 1966

Sister Catherine, originally from Ireland, served in Provincial Leadership for the Daughters of Charity, Province of Ireland for nine years. She currently serves as the Daughters of Charity NGO Representative at the United Nations in New York, NY.

Sister Carol Schumer, D.C.

June 5, 1966

An Elementary and Secondary Teacher, Principal, Pastoral Associate, and Program Facilitator, Sister Carol has ministered in Louisiana, Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. Sister currently lives in St. Louis, MO, and serves at Strengthening Families.

Sister Mary Kay Tyrrell, D.C.

June 5, 1966

Sister Mary Kay, a Nurse, Midwife, Foundation Director, Vice President of Mission, Provincial Councillor, Local Community Superior, who has served in Governance, has ministered in A Teacher, Indiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Illinois, and New York. Sister lives in Niagara Falls, NY, where she serves at Heart, Love and Soul Soup Kitchen.

Sister Mary Walz, D.C.

June 5, 1966

A Social Worker, Director of Social Services, Administrator, Local Community Superior, Provincial Councillor, and Visitatrix, Sister Mary has ministered in Missouri, Texas, and Arkansas. Currently, Sister Mary serves as a Provincial Councillor and lives and works in St. Louis, MO.

25 Years Vocation
Sister Mary Bader, D.C.

June 29, 1991

Teacher and Principal, Sister Brenda has served in Alabama, Mississippi, and Maryland. Today, Sister Brenda lives in Emmitsburg, MD, and serves as Principal at Mother Seton School.

Sister Susan O’Neill, D.C.

April 12, 1991

A Nurse, Certified Hospital Massage Therapist, Sister Susan has served in New York and Pennsylvania. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.
With Love in Their Hearts, the Daughters of Charity in Carville

A glimpse at one of the hundreds of past missions of the Daughters of Charity

The title of this article was the theme of a gathering in April 2006 to celebrate the 110 years that Daughters of Charity served in Carville.

Since biblical times the diagnosis of leprosy has struck terror. Today’s leprosy is different and is technically known as Hansen’s Disease, recognizing the Norwegian Doctor G. Armauer Hansen, M.D., who in 1873 discovered the causing bacillus. This disease attacks nerve endings and destroys the ability to feel pain. Injuries can thus become infected resulting in severe deformities in the hands, feet and face.

The 19th century attitude of ignorance and fear led the Louisiana legislature in 1874 to mandate that all persons with leprosy be isolated and hospitalized in an old smallpox hospital known as the Pest House. More an asylum than a hospital, patients received minimal care. In 1894, the legislature created a Leprosy Control Board that designated an abandoned plantation 85 miles from New Orleans as the new Louisiana Leper Home. After an 18 hour trip by steamer to the old Indian Camp, the first 20 patients found seven dilapidated slave cabins that would serve as their new home.

The appointed physician/administrator was soon overwhelmed. Familiar with the Daughters of Charity at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, the Board set out to seek Sisters to serve these patients. Many volunteered for this mission and four were chosen: Sister Beatrice Hart for administration, Sister Annie Costello for nursing, Sister Mary Thomas Stockum for nutritional services, and Sister Cyril Coupe as designated housekeeper. Two rooms of the immense abandoned plantation mansion were “repaired enough” as the Sisters’ abode but the rats, snakes, and bats that held residence there could not be dislodged. Each Sister kept an axe by her bed to kill the water moccasins nested in the broken plaster.

The arrival of the Sisters was balm from heaven for the patients. Sister Beatrice reported in a letter:

“We went to each one separately and tried to make them feel we were come to be one with them, to care for them, to make them happy… to show them the goodness of God their Father providing for them in their suffering and lonely condition…”

With assistance from the Sisters, the patients planted a garden and planned evening entertainments with singing and Punch and Judy shows.

While most patients were from Louisiana, by 1916 others had come from St. Louis, Florida, Mexico, Germany, Italy, France, Denmark, Hong Kong, and Norway. In 1921 the Federal Government bought the Louisiana Leper Home and renamed it the United States Marine Hospital No. 66, the National Leprosarium. There were then 90 patients and six Daughters of Charity.

In 1941 the drug sulfone effected dramatic changes in the side effects of Hansen’s Disease and in 1947 a Medical Discharge policy permitted patients to return to society. While outpatient treatment became common, many patients chose to remain at Carville, the only home they knew. In 1959 cottages were provided for married couples.

Over the years, Carville was the home to 4,500 victims of Hansen’s Disease. More information can be found at: http://www.knowla.org/entry/57 and http://www.phase.com/septembermorn/carville
Province News

Daughters Recognized

Sister Nora Sweeney received the Compassion in Action Award for outstanding assistance and commitment to compassion in action from Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.

Sister Frederica Dunn was honored by Lourdes Hospital, Binghamton, NY, with the dedication of its new hospice wing in her name, The Sister Frederica Dunn Center for Grief and Loss.

Sister Carol Keehan recently was recognized by Dignity Health Foundation as recipient of its First Humankind Award for her contributions advocating for accessible and affordable healthcare.

Sister Maggie Scally was honored recently as Runner-Up in the American Counseling Association Essay contest for Graduate Students. Her essay, which focused on the recharging of multicultural and social justice issues by the political climate, was written as Sister Maggie pursues her graduate degree in Counseling.

Sister Mary Bader (left) was honored by Mother Seton Academy in Baltimore, MD, with the Founders Award given in recognition of an adult whose services to Mother Seton Academy embody the mission and vision of the founders.

Sister Frederica Dunn

Sister Maggie Scally

Sister Mary Bader

Sister Carol Keehan

Preeminent Seton Biography Available Online

The digital version of Annabelle Melville’s Elizabeth Bayley Seton 1794-1821 (2009 ed.), is now posted on DePaul University’s Via Sapientiae. http://via.library.depaul.edu/seton/ Via Sapientiae supports DePaul’s goal of academic enhancement by collecting, organizing, and providing open access to scholarly works produced by the University’s faculty, staff, centers, institutes, and students. Via Sapientiae also showcases DePaul’s unique Vincentian heritage texts and published scholarship of members of the Vincentian Family.

Life and Works of Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton

Provincial Archivist Recognized

Denise (Dee) Gallo, Ph.D., Provincial Archivist, is the 2016 recipient of the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award given by the Society of American Archivists in conjunction with the Society of Southwest Archivists. Created in 1974, the award honors an archivist who has made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives.

Roarke Center Artists Create Mosaic

Clients from Roarke Center in Troy, NY, under the guidance of Sister Loretto Hoag and a trio of artists, recently completed the Center’s mosaic. The Wall Memorial, 13 by 12 feet, is a reflection of the community and belonging found at the Roarke Center and celebrates the Center’s 20 years of service in Troy. The mosaic was completed with the help of many in the local community.

More than 1,400 Baltimore Catholic School Educators at Basilica

Teachers and Administrators from Baltimore area Catholic schools were in Emmitsburg, MD, August 25 for a Back-to-School Mass celebrated by Archbishop of Baltimore, William E. Lori. Archbishop Lori reminded the educators to create a space where young people can “grow in grace and wisdom.”

Daughters of Charity Host Sisters of Charity Federation Annual Leadership Meeting

In June, the leaders of the two US Provinces of the Daughters of Charity hosted the leaders of the 11 Sisters of Charity congregations for the Federation Leaders’ annual meeting. More than 100 attended “Deepening Charity for the Life of the World” was the theme for the gathering in Emmitsburg where Sisters from as far away as Korea and Belize were in attendance to pray, learn, and share.

New Superior General Elected

Father Tomaz Mavric, C.M., was elected the 25th Superior General of the Company of the Daughters of Charity and the Congregation of the Mission in July.
In Memory

We remember the 16 Daughters of Charity who, in recent months, have gone to their Eternal Home.

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

Sister Ellen Hensberry
April 4, 1927
February 15, 2016
69 years vocation
Educator, Local Community Superior

Sister Evelyn McCarte
September 27, 1935
March 5, 2016
62 years vocation
Educator, Social Worker, Local Community Superior, Provincial Councillor

Sister Caroline Lennox
September 25, 1921
February 15, 2016
64 years vocation
Hospital Business Manager

Sister Brigid Donoghue
January 22, 1931
March 24, 2016
67 years vocation
Teacher

Sister Julia Walsh
February 27, 1917
April 29, 2016
77 years vocation
Nurse, Nurse Instructor, Administrator

Sister Mary Ann O’Brien
December 7, 1927
March 28, 2016
70 years vocation
Teacher, Nurse, Administrator, Docent, Local Community Superior

Sister Joanne Whalen
December 28, 1930
April 30, 2016
53 years vocation
Teacher, Educational Therapist, Social Services Coordinator

Sister Grace Berger
June 9, 1945
August 12, 2016
46 years vocation
Social Worker, Parish Worker, Fund Developer

Sister Xavier Ballance
October 22, 1933
August 26, 2016
59 years vocation
Nurse, Health Care Administrator, Governance, Provincial Councillor
Daughters Under 10 Years Gather; Two New Sisters Welcomed

Daughters of Charity from the Province of St. Louise and the Province of Los Altos Hills, CA, who are under 10 years in Community, above, gathered in Evansville in June. The theme of their gathering was “The Prayer of Apostolic Contemplatives.” Right, Sister Kara Davis and Sister Michelle Hoffman were incorporated into the Community in August. Following a very warm and blessed welcome, the Sisters entered Seminary in St. Louis, MO.