



Voices *Of* Charity
Summer 2016

Celebration of Charity
50 years as SCLs
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Re-Markings
South Campus
memories
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A publication of the

SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF LEAVENWORTH



SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH

Mission Statement

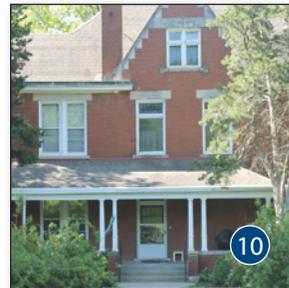
Impelled by the love of Christ,
we, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth,
offer every loving service in our power
to meet the critical needs
of God's people.

Vision Statement

As Sisters of Charity we commit ourselves here and now
to embrace anew the charism given us by Vincent, Louise,
Mother Xavier:

to love the poor,
to love one another,
to live simply,
and to unite the whole of our lives
in the poor and loving Christ.

in this issue



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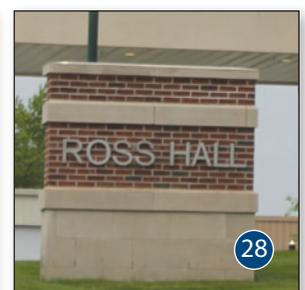
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Community Director



Sister Maureen Hall

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, it is with joy and deep gratitude that we celebrate the Golden Jubilees of five Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

As you read their stories on the following pages, you will come to know these Sisters as bearers of God's mercy and love to the people they have served and continue to serve – each in her own way.

Among this year's jubilarians, we celebrate two missionaries. Sister Elena Mack dedicated 42 years to our Latin American Missions where she served as director and was a leader in formation of both our Hermanas and laywomen. In Peru, she touched many people through her diocesan roles of training religious education teachers and fostering evangelization. Through outreach and pastoral work, Sister Elena ministered even more directly to people in need.

A more recent missionary, Sister Pat Johannsen has returned from South Sudan where she instructed teachers needed so desperately in this war-torn African country. Sister Pat describes education as her vocation within her vocation. This theme weaves through her ministries of teaching in elementary schools and maternity homes, working with troubled youth and providing social services.

Over her 50 years as an SCL, Sister Annie Loendorf has accompanied many on their faith journeys – first as a pastoral minister in parishes and especially through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. She then channeled her energy and gifts toward companioning women on their spiritual life journeys, including those in need of healing from traumatic experiences.

Sister Marie Loretta Modrcin – best known as “Gretta” – has smiled her way into the hearts of students, parents, faculty and staff in high schools where she provided a range of administrative office support. She transferred these talents to the parish setting – another environment she loved. In recent years, Sister Gretta has embraced caregiving for the elderly in their homes.

From her early years as an SCL, Sister Susan Wood was drawn to theology. Her passion became her vocation. Today, Sister Susan is a highly respected theologian and a published author. She's been an associate dean, department chair and professor of university theology students. Sister Susan is also a leading voice in Lutheran-Catholic dialogue and active in ecumenism and work for Christian unity.

As St. Paul wrote, the lives of these five SCLs reflect that “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone” (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

We thank these Golden Jubilarians for sharing their many, diverse gifts and talents with us. We wish them continued blessings in their lives and ministries.



Sister Maureen Hall
SCL Community Director

Celebration of Charity

*As they share their stories in their own words,
this edition of **Voices of Charity** celebrates the
Golden Jubilees of five Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.
Their talents and gifts span 50 years of dedication and service.
With their families, friends, Sisters and SCL Associates,
we extend sincere gratitude and heartfelt congratulations!*

Sister Patricia Marie Johannsen

My journey of life – dirt roads

The journey of my life started on the dirt roads of Montana. Home was a wheat farm in that state. We lived 17 miles from the Canadian border in the shadow of the Sweet Grass Hills. Our property was the homestead of my grandfather who passed it on to my father.

My parents Francis and Alice Godfrey Johannsen moved us to Shelby each fall to attend the Catholic grade school. We always looked forward to moving back to the farm for the summer where there was plenty of fun and adventure! All six of us siblings completed school at St. William's before it closed. The school had double grades, so I started first-grade at age 5 because my mother didn't want my sister Sharon and I in the same classroom every other year. That always made me the youngest in my class including when I entered the novitiate five months after my 17th birthday.

The four of us living siblings are each now in our sixth decade. They include Theresia (Yeager), Sharon (Dolen) and Jane (Frydenlund). My brother, Francis, if he were alive, would be in his 60s, too. My oldest sister Mary Ann (Egoavil) would be in her seventh decade.

The strong faith of my mother, my father's deep, spiritual connection to the land and my Catholic school education



contributed to my call to religious life. I often went to Saturday night devotions with my mom. I remember my dad kicking over the dirt to see if the wheat seeds had sprouted asking, "How can a person believe there is no God?" Or, when I thought going on strike to get higher prices for our grain was a good idea, he told me we were obligated to feed the world.

My vocation within a vocation is commitment to education as a way to serve. This was influenced by Sister Cecilia, a Dominican and my eighth-grade teacher. I was also influenced by the example of Sister Frances Rodina with whom I worked during my mission as a novice in Lee's Summit, Mo. I've had many ministries these past 50 years – all grown out of my educational background. My education has included many facets: intellectual, emotional, psychological and life skills training. I used and strengthened all of these dimensions during 13 years as a primary teacher in four different schools. That prepared me for nine years at Mount Saint Vincent Home, Denver, as a unit manager. In those years, I developed emotional and psychological skills to help the children.

My educational skills came in handy during the five years of ministry at three different maternity homes where I taught life skills. I ministered in emergency assistance/homeless case management at Catholic Charities and in the court system with juveniles in the diversion program. I used everything I had learned! The guidance and mentoring of Sisters Regina Marie Allgaier, Antonella Gonzales and Peg Driscoll inspired and encouraged me. I learned invaluable

Education has been an ongoing learning and teaching experience that comes from a call to serve those in need – the young, vulnerable and those with the least place in society.

— Sister Patricia Marie Johannsen

lessons from them and many others too numerous to mention. Education has been an ongoing learning and teaching experience that comes from a call to serve those in need — the young, vulnerable and those with the least place in society.

I came full circle to dirt road roots and the simplicity of rural life during five years spent in South Sudan. Solidarity with South Sudan Teacher Training College, Yambio, returned me in a powerful way to my elementary education background. Many years ago, Sister Eileen Sheehy had encouraged me to choose science as my area of concentration based on my farming background. At Solidarity Teacher Training College, science became the focus of my teaching. While I was working on my master's degree at Eastern Montana College, I had training in supervising teachers and working with student teachers

who came to Holy Rosary School. Sister Mary Jane Schmitz had encouraged me in this. These activities prepared me to teach professional studies in South Sudan.

Western Equatoria State is described as the breadbasket of South Sudan because of its fertile land and abundant rainfall. It has been for me a breadbasket of learning and appreciation of a simple lifestyle. These resilient people extended welcome with a grateful spirit of acceptance. My learning from the people of South Sudan and Solidarity with South Sudan is immeasurable.

My heart is filled with gratitude to those I have served, to those who have contributed to my knowledge and understanding, to those who have made it possible for me to serve – most especially in South Sudan. Dirt roads – rough and dusty, a journey of joy and inspiration. I'm happy to have dust from the roads of my life on my feet!

Sister Ann Loendorf

Time for Jubilee

August 22, 1966 to August 22, 2016

A time for JUBILEE

A time for remembering

for being intentional

for naming "NAMASTE" moments ...

the Holy breaking through

and saying

I AM HERE!

The centerpiece of Quaker theology is the belief that deep within us there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a Holy Place, a Divine Center, a Speaking Voice that we call a DIVINE SPARK. My Jubilee story will reflect only a few of the moments that have "SPARKED" my journey: persons who companioned me, places I've lived and called home, ministries that have uniquely graced me,

experiences that colored my living! I honor all of these for "growing me up" these 50 years of SCL-ness within 70 years of unfolding the MYSTERY called LIFE!

It all began in the simple rural town of Wolf Point, Mont., on May 21, 1946 at 11 p.m. My first community was the family of George and Helen Tritschler Loendorf, residing at 324 Fairweather Street with my siblings Mary, Jerry, Joe, Greg and Clare. I always loved the smallness and at-homeness of this land tucked away in the corner of northeast Montana.

From there, I journeyed to the place that would totally rearrange my life vision. The community of Carroll College in Helena, Mont., opened me, challenged me, invited me to look beyond me! There was a spirit there that captured



my heart – a faculty comprised mainly of diocesan priests who had SOMETHING that I knew I wanted. Two years later, I felt I had found a community that could make this SOMETHING more tangible for me. Thus, I found myself on a long train ride to Leavenworth, Kan., the birthplace of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. I arrived in the darkness of night.

Throughout my ministerial life, these particular gifts from my parents fueled and graced each experience: a deep faith, an entrepreneurial spirit, love of people, creative genes, passion for reading, poetry and writing, and a gift of being able to vision and see more than what was present!

In 1973, I returned to Helena for what became eight delightful, cherished years of new awakenings and falling in love with pastoral ministry. I was honored to be one of the small faith community that founded Our Lady of the Valley Parish. These folks really GREW ME UP: companioning me, mentoring me, giving me the freedom to stretch and discover ever more deeply that DIVINE SPARK everywhere ... even within me!

I believe strongly that it was this inner sanctuary that gave me the courage to say “yes” to St. Peter’s Parish and the big city of Kansas City, Mo., which has now been home for 35 years. Here I became immersed in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a faith journey that walked me right into the hearts and souls of people cracking open boundaries and borders that profoundly altered me.

In the midst of all of this diversity, a movement began in my heart – a vision for women, a place where “feminine soul-ness” could be dreamed, explored, experienced. We named this holy place “House of Menuha.” This ministry of spiritual life companioning women was most transformative, exciting and a bit scary all at the same time! These women of diverse personal and spiritual backgrounds plunged right into the deep questions of living within the Holy – God whose name was “I AM” – an inclusive God who welcomes all!

During these years, Menuha also opened her doors to women who were living in shelters for recovery and healing from domestic violence abuse, sexual assault

and drug and alcohol addiction. Truly, I was a novice all over again! In the midst of these raw and real stories, I was humbled to sit in sacred circles listening to and feeling with the pain and newfound joy in the freedom of recovery.

All of these Menuha women continue to be my teachers to this day as I companion women on their soul journeys amid the SPARKS shining anew in multi-colors.

So, what is the SOMETHING that I first experienced at Carroll that has “LIFED” me into this Jubilee year?

It is found in my SCL Sisters:

women with whom I have lived and worked;
women of courage, compassion, commitment;
women daily serving the needs of God’s people
in ever-changing ministries;
women open to the NOW!

It is found in all of you who have welcomed me into your lives in all of my weakness and untogetherness while being able to see potential and possibility in my darkest and brightest moments!

It was found during my years of retreating and sharing Sunday Eucharist with the small faith community of Shantivanam (a sanctuary of peace in the woods near Easton, Kan.). My soul found a home there in the silence, simplicity and the company of folks with whom my spirit found such resonance!

Ultimately, I have come to know this SOMETHING as GRACE:

GOD’S EXPANSIVE PRESENCE.

A Presence this Jubilee year

which has evolved

into a grand

COMMUNION

Here and Beyond.

To each of you

I bow

NAMASTE!

Ultimately, I have come to know this SOMETHING as GRACE:

GOD’S EXPANSIVE PRESENCE.

— Sister Ann Loendorf

One of the constants in my life has been the Eucharist as a source of graced transformation and consolation.

— Sister Elena Mack

Sister Elena Mack

The grace of being called and chosen

Grace has led to adventures in my life, and my story includes many gifts in mission.

I was born on Feb. 10, 1948 in St. Vincent's Hospital in Crookston, Minn. Mom (Ethel Laniel Mack) and dad (Joseph Mack) were happy about my arrival. I was the first of their four children.



My sister Frances arrived less than two years later, and my brother Charles was third. We lived in rural Minnesota until I was 7. After a family consultation in which each one of us got a vote, we decided to move to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where dad worked for the Navy. We left our extended family and moved to a new culture, new climate and a new way of living. My youngest sister Michelle was born in Cuba.

Our family moved frequently due to dad's work. We lived in Kennewick, Wash., Winnemucca, Nev., Liberty, Mo., and Salt Lake City, Utah.

My extended family included many religious and priests. I remember trying on a Benedictine wimple at grandma's funeral, but most of all I remember the parties we had when my mother's two sisters who were women religious visited us. My connections and fascination with women religious and their joyful presence in our family led me to think about religious life in grade school.

I knew many religious from our family background and travels, but the SCLs were special. Sister Irene McGrath was my sixth- through eighth-grade teacher. She let us clean erasers and help around the school and invited us to lunch.

I attended St. Mary of the Wasatch High School in Salt Lake City. During a high school retreat, a priest spoke of religious vocation and the importance of knowing a community before entering. And as I knew the SCLs,

I wrote to Mother Leo Frances Ryan for information about the Community and about our newly founded foreign missions. She invited me to visit a local community, and as Rock Springs was near Salt Lake, I spent a long weekend there and loved being with the Sisters who were indeed a happy community. Sisters Maureen Hall, Barbara Aldrich and others were part of the weekend experience. I left knowing that the SCLs were the group for me. I found the application form, filled it out and sent it off.

Our early formation years were filled with changes for us and for religious life in general. We looked forward to receiving the habit and accepted new customs and vocabulary. They were challenging years for us as new members. One of the constants in my life has been the Eucharist as a source of graced transformation and consolation.

I finished undergraduate studies at Saint Mary College and taught for two years at Sacred Heart in Topeka, Kan.

My tertianship [time before profession of perpetual vows] was in Livingston, Mont. Following perpetual vows, I received a mission to Peru and subsequently spent about 42 years in Latin America with a year and a half on our Community Council.

Each experience in mission, ministry and community during these 50 years has been grace- and growth-filled for me. During those years in Peru, I was privileged to serve for 12 years on the Peruvian SCL Formation Team and with the Conference of Religious (Piura) Formation Program. Other ministries included accompanying people in the spiritual exercises as well as on their life journeys. I served as Director of Missions for 12 years in Peru. Offering programs for lay missionary women for the Diocese of Chulucanas as well as workshops for the seminarians in Chulucanas was also part of my mission experience. The religious education program for religion teachers in the Archdiocese of Piura and

the archdiocesan program for evangelization and discipleship formation were wonderful experiences of teamwork and collaboration. Pastoral work and outreach to prisoners, families, seniors and the sick have shown me the presence of God in so many and unexpected ways.

Each experience has indeed been blessed. And I sense blessings as I explore opportunities to minister to the immigrant population in the U.S.

Every ministry has also been enriched by personal

formation which often included travel, studies, encounters with others who share common vision and also by those whose diversity has broadened my vision. I have celebrated many parties/fiestas along the way. And I enjoy my family and Community as I feel their support and love over all these years.

I am continually astounded at the presence and working of the Spirit in me and in others, and for the surprises that come each day ... Mother Xavier said it well, "Look forward to the good that is yet to be."

Sister Marie Loretta Modrcin

Reasons for rejoicing

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice."

Phil. 3:4

I grew up on the hill – Strawberry Hill that is – to George and Katie Ozanich Modrcin. As one of 11 children, second to the youngest, needless to say I was a bit spoiled. Mom and dad's firstborn sons died in infancy. My loss was not knowing them as my brothers George and William. I was 11 years old when my youngest brother Steve was born. He was a wonderful and welcome surprise to our family, especially to me.



Mom and dad came from the "old country" as we called it back then. Dad was from Croatia and Mom from Slovenia – a mixed marriage as we would tease them. They met and married in America and settled on Orchard Street, Kansas City, Kan., in a Strawberry Hill neighborhood.

My parents owned a neighborhood grocery store and raised their family. Although there were some difficult times in the grocery business, we never experienced hunger. It was a gift to have every kind of food available to us, especially candy. Our customers became my

neighbors, playmates, friends and family. Owning a small grocery store in those days was hard and took a lot of my parents' time, but I marvel at how they managed the business and were still able to keep up with us and all of our interests. They both struggled all their lives, and yet their faith in God made them happy and always willing to give whatever was needed to anyone. I grew up seeing mom and dad feeding the hungry and clothing those in need many times. Maybe that was the seed planted in me for my future as a Sister of Charity.

My ethnic heritage remains a big part of my life. It was a community in which people struggled and supported one another to make a better life for themselves and their families. The minute I started to walk, I learned how to polka, and I haven't stopped dancing since. The kitchen in our house was a place to gather for food, laughter and conversations. Sometimes, we would all talk at once, and it was hard to listen to any one conversation, but we managed in spite of it. It was a fun time for all of us as family. I love coming from a big family. Our family get-togethers have always been special to me. My life growing up was rich, not in wealth, but in faith, family and love.

I was blessed to have the opportunity to travel to Croatia and Slovenia in June 2013 to visit nieces and nephews of my mom and dad. To walk the paths they

My life growing up was rich, not in wealth, but in faith, family and love.

— Sister Marie Loretta Modrcin

walked was “holy ground” for me. To experience standing in the kitchen of the house where my dad’s nephew Ivan now lives and where my dad was born, raised and left for America in 1912 brought tears to my eyes and stirred many emotions. Meeting my cousins for the first time took me to another place and time in my life. I appreciated seeing the way they live and the ways their mannerisms match up with my siblings. Meeting family from another part of the world made me realize how connected we really are. Memories of that trip will always stay with me.

I tried to enter religious communities after grade school and high school, so the third time was the charm when I entered the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth on Aug. 21, 1966. I was 24 when I entered and thought I was an “old lady” compared to the others in my group. I came from a large family and into a larger family.

My ministries as secretary, registrar, office manager, faculty assistant, etc., took me to Bishop Hogan High School and St. Pius X High School, Kansas City, Mo., and Bishop Ward High School, Kansas City, Kan. I loved working with the teenagers, faculty and parents. I had wonderful principals along the way who challenged me and helped me to grow. In 1977, I wanted to try another ministry in hospital work. I went to St. James Hospital in Butte, Mont. After three years, I returned to the high school setting. I missed the teenagers and all of the associated activities.

In 1994, I took a sabbatical. For the first semester, I was a secretary at Bishop Ward in the development office and also took computer classes at Donnelly College. The second semester, I went to Mercy Center in Connecticut for a few months. It was a great experience to live with

women of different communities and to realize how much we have in common as religious women. We shared prayers, meals and fun and discussed where we were in our lives back then.

After returning from my sabbatical, I took another different turn in ministry and worked as secretary and office manager at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Kansas City, Kan. The parishioners became my family and friends. For 15 years, my duties there included secretarial work, cleaning, dog-sitting, planning parties, and, yes, even fixing breakfast for my boss, pastor and friend, Father Bill McEvoy. Those were wonderful, challenging and fun years.

In 2009, I felt the need to leave parish work and do something for the elderly. That brought me to CSJ Ministries as a caregiver for the elderly in their homes. Having been a caregiver for my siblings through the years, I was a perfect candidate for this ministry. It is not a job to me but a time to embrace my clients with compassion, prayer, friendship and love. I have come to know them and their families as my own family. My clients have taught me how to “let go” as they accept their journeys of aging. Being with them as companions on their journeys has and still is a blessing in my life. I have ministered to 12 clients in my six years as a caregiver for CSJ Ministries, and I continue to feel blessed and thankful for them as we journey together as companions and friends.

These 50 years, I have been graced and blessed with friends, community, family, adventures, fun, hard times and good times, but in the end I can say, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice” as I look forward to the good that is yet to be.

Sister Susan K. Wood

Vocation as a theologian

I entered the Sisters of Charity in 1966 after my freshman year at Saint Mary College. That seems unthinkable young today, but then I was one of the three “older” members of my novitiate group. I had met the Sisters of Charity at St. Ann’s School in Prairie Village, Kan.,



but lost contact with them after the fifth-grade when we moved. At Bishop Miege High School, my teachers were Paola Ursulines, but I wanted a larger community with more diverse ministries. The spirit of the SCLs and the marvelous women at Saint Mary College attracted me to the Community perhaps more than the Vincentian charism, which in 1966 was not at the forefront of our consciousness as it is today, although it was embodied in the Sisters.

*I remain convinced of my vocation
to be a theologian, discerned at that retreat
in 1973 and tested ever since.*

— Sister Susan K. Wood

After the novitiate, when we were interviewed about what we wanted to study, and I replied “English,” the dean said, “And what else?” “French” popped out of my mouth, and so I became a double major, earmarked to be Sister Mary Vincentine Gripkey’s successor in the French department at Saint Mary College.

In 1973, I made my first directed retreat. One day I said to my director, a good Jesuit, that it had come to me that I wanted to study theology. He said, “That’s a distraction. Put it aside.” I didn’t think so, but didn’t discuss it further. That same summer, I went off to Middlebury College, the first of four summers toward a master’s degree in French. Doing what I could to achieve my goal, I volunteered for and chaired the Religious Activities Committee at Hayden High School and eventually swapped my English responsibilities for the principal’s religion classes when he moved to full-time administration. Fulfilling my desire to teach in college, I was assigned to Saint Mary College in 1977 to teach French.

Every year since 1973 I had filled out a form saying, “What I really want to do is to teach theology.” Finally, in 1981, I was given permission to begin a doctoral program in theology at Marquette University, finishing in 1986. I then returned Saint Mary College to teach theology. French was never wasted, since I wrote my dissertation on Henri de Lubac and have never ceased using this language for research. I’ve only wished that I also knew German as well.

In spite of my love for Saint Mary College, I needed to be where I could develop as a theologian and have the resources for research and writing. In 1992, I arrived at Saint John’s University in Collegeville, Minn. Although this represented a vast change since it was a male rather than female environment and was monastic rather than apostolic in spirituality and orientation, I thrived, matured and blossomed there personally and professionally. I regularly prayed with the monks before school, and

they became a second community for me. I deeply cherish these years and the friendships forged. There, I also developed administrative skills as the associate dean in the school of theology for five years.

The one constant being change, the day came in 2005 when I moved to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisc., where I served as chair of the department for theology for six years and now teach undergraduate and graduate courses and direct doctoral students. For fun, I sing in the Cathedral choir.

I remain convinced of my vocation to be a theologian, discerned at that retreat in 1973 and tested ever since. My theological writing, numbering four books, two edited volumes and numerous articles and book chapters, generally focuses on issues of ministry, sacramental theology, ecclesiology and ecumenism.

A significant commitment has been my engagement with ecumenism and work for Christian unity dating from 1994 when I was appointed to the Joint Commission of Lutherans and Catholics to study the draft of the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification” for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and develop the topic for Round X of the dialogue. I have served on the U. S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue ever since and have also been appointed to the International Lutheran-Catholic Commission on Unity, and the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation. I am one of the co-authors of the “Declaration on the Way” (2016), a document summarizing agreement on church, ministry and Eucharist between Lutherans and Catholics.

I tell my two brothers, Patrick and Michael, that growing up with them prepared me for the rest of my life since my theological and ecumenical world has been a very masculine one. As we grow older together, our bonds only strengthen, as do my friendships in community. I am grateful. God is good.

Re-Markings



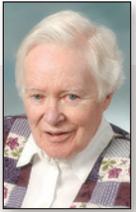
At its current location, South Campus with its beloved screened-in porch.



Sister Bonnie
Bachle



Sister Charles
Marie Beeby



Sister Mary
Ellen Beyhan

South Campus

A STORIED HISTORY

Prohibitive costs associated with addressing needed repairs have led to the decision to demolish the South Campus brick house/convent on the Mother House property in Leavenworth. South Campus has been home to many SCLs since 1971 and prior to that was the chaplains' residence.

In addition to the memories of SCLs who lived there, the house itself has a storied history. Archival records trace the building of the house to circa 1898 to 1900 as a rectory for chaplains. Its first location was in the vicinity of where Berchmans Hall stands on the campus of the University of Saint Mary.

The house was relocated in summer 1929 when construction of Berchmans began. The large brick structure was moved just south of Annunciation Chapel (see postcard below).

Notes from the SCL Archives report, "Father James, OSB, who was one of the chaplains at the time, continued to live in the house while it was moving, and entered the front door by means of a ladder which was placed each day for his use."

In June 1950, the Community arranged for the house to be moved again – this time to its current location on the south side of the Mother House campus. Chaplains continued to live there until 1971 when a new modular building became their home. SCLs began to live in the South Campus house in 1971.

From 1929 to 1950, the brick house was located directly south of Annunciation Chapel on the Mother House campus. Picture postcard from the SCL Archives



If South Campus walls

Breaking new ground

The story goes that when Sister Eileen Sheehy became aware the South Campus house would be vacant and possibly demolished, she asked Mother Leo Frances Ryan if a group of SCLs could take up residency. In 1971, the pioneer SCLs first to occupy the house/convent included Sisters Bonnie Bachle, Mary Ellen Beyhan, Mary Jo Coyle, Carmen Echevarria and Eileen Sheehy.

If the walls could talk they would probably say what a grand group of Sisters enjoyed living in such a wonderful house and kept it going for many more years than expected.

— Sisters Bonnie Bachle,
Susan Marie Newland
and Eileen Sheehy

We watched as the house moved down the hill on rollers over three weeks in motion [in 1950]. Someone had put a glass of water on the table in the house. By the time the house was situated at its new location, water remained in the glass although it had evaporated.

— Sister Mary O'Rourke

We had nothing when we first moved into the house. We were starting a whole new life. We were cooking on a frying pan, and we brought in some furniture. Sister Mary Ellen Beyhan and I had two dogs at the time: Emily and her daughter Amy. Amy had nine puppies, but we couldn't leave them at South Campus all day. So because we were teaching at Bishop Ward High School, Mary Ellen and I packed up the dogs and puppies and transported them back and forth with us every day between South Campus and the house of someone my mom knew in Kansas City, Kan.

— Sisters Mary Ellen Beyhan
and Mary Jo Coyle



Sister Mary Arthel Cline



Sister Mary Jo Coyle



Sister Susan Marie Newland



Sister Mary O'Rourke



Sister Jean Anne Panisko



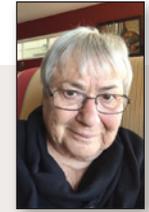
Sister Linda Roth



Sister Eileen Sheehy



Sister Sharon Smith



Anna Totta

could talk: recollections from residents

Guests, good times abound

Hundreds of guests have walked through those doors. There have been numerous guests for meals and some mighty good cooks who have lived there.

I loved the "country feel" when I lived on that top floor. I looked forward to watching the hay get baled in the summertime and the glorious colors of autumn from the trees right outside my room.

— Sister Linda Roth

What a great old house! Some of my fondest memories: morning prayers on the porch, barbecues and birthday parties on the porch, and lots of visiting – on the porch. As you can tell, I loved that porch!

— Sister Sharon Smith

We invented the "Charity Ball" for a Christmas holiday celebration and invited all the Sisters to come "all gussied up" with borrowed costumes or thrift store finery. We had the right staircase for formal introductions of Sisters who were well-adorned as they descended the stairs. It became competitive to recognize who could find the best/worst outfit! Once we used the attic as our dance floor. It was an evening of hilarity. But the Charity Ball also had a serious purpose of raising funds for a specific charity. It was so much fun with the stairwell garnished with plastic Christmas garlands and the rest of our home similarly decorated.

— Anna Totta and Sister Mary Arthel Cline

Unexpected guests

Another early occupant included Geebers the kitten who was quickly enlisted for mouse duty. And then there was the opossum that got into the basement, and the Sisters couldn't quite manage to get it out. They called the security guard who came and nonchalantly picked up the opossum by the tail and proceeded to carry on a conversation with them as the opossum pedaled furiously in an effort to escape.

— Sisters Bonnie Bachle, Susan Marie Newland and Eileen Sheehy

One night we were in the living room praying when motorcycle after motorcycle whizzed by and then came back to park in front of our house. All of us were amazed and a little frightened to see men in black leather jackets walk up to the house in the dark of night. All of a sudden, Arthel jumped up. "What was this?" we asked. "Oh," she said, "the motorcycle club is bringing toys for our families' children for Christmas." (At this time Sister Arthel Cline was working with Ancilla Center providing care and parenting services to extremely poor and at-risk families.)

— Anna Totta

Sister Lucy Walter and I were carrying something downstairs, and at the bottom of the steps we stepped over what we thought was a hose until it started to slither away! It was a huge bull snake, and of course it caused quite a commotion as I bounded up the stairs and left Lucy to fend for herself.

— Sister Sharon Smith

Proximity to Mother House

Living on campus has been a great plus as Sister Noreen Walter was close to Marillac Center if there ever was a problem and Sister Lucy Walter could get to the Mother House quickly if needed. I love having the birds wake us in the morning and walking on campus.

The BEST feature is the screened-in porch on the east side of the house!!! We have eaten out there whenever the weather permits. Lucy was able to have her Jubilee dinner and have her guests inside and outside.

— Sister Jean Anne Panisko

When I was administrator of Ross Hall, it was nice to be that close to work yet far enough away that I could relax. I was privileged to have my 50th Jubilee there; my family loved the house and the screened-in porch; 47 people came. Once, Sister Rosie Kolich had a sleepover for her nieces. It was wonderful to be able to touch our families' lives.

— Sister Charles Marie Beeby

All summed up

Community is at the heart of any living, and joy and laughter are certainly a key part of it. Hospitality to our Sisters, families and friends was an important aspect. Most of all, common sharing and caring for this beautiful place and each other made this convent quite special.

— Anna Totta

Outgoing leaders share experiences of joy

Assignments by geography; connections of the heart

As they assume their roles as SCL Councilors, Sisters in leadership positions accept responsibilities for connecting with and ministering to other Sisters in different geographic areas of this country and abroad.

In her first 12 years on the Community Council, Sister Maureen Hall was liaison with SCLs in Colorado, Kansas City, Kan., Kansas City, Mo., the Leavenworth area, Mississippi, Missouri and North Carolina. Over her 12 years in leadership, Sister Nancy Bauman interacted with Sisters in the Mother House, California, Greater Kansas City, Leavenworth, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina and Wyoming. Since 2010, Sister Eileen Hurley has been the liaison with Sisters at the Mother House and in Oakland, Calif., Lansing, Kan., Montana and Wisconsin.

Three Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth are completing their terms as leaders of the Community Council. Leaving their positions, effective July 20, are Sister Maureen Hall, Community Director, and Councilors Sister Nancy Bauman and Sister Eileen Hurley.

As the three reflected on their respective roles, they shared common experiences of the joys of journeying with the Sisters and Associates and interacting with other women religious through the Charity Federation and the Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR). They expressed good wishes and support of the incoming Council members, and they anticipated some relaxation and discernment before transitioning to new ministries.

Sister Maureen Hall



Connectedness a gift of leadership

With her gift of storytelling, Community Director Sister Maureen Hall has loved sharing the story of Mother Xavier Ross and the founding of the SCL Community with many people. That story has continually evoked her deep appreciation of the pioneer founders and the many heroic Sisters of Charity since those early days. And, she adds, “The story continues to this day.”

Sister Maureen is completing her third term on the Community Council. From 1992 to 1998 and from 2004 to 2010, she was a Councilor; since 2010, she has served as Community Director. Sister Maureen credits two former Community Directors – Sister Kathleen Stefani and Sister Sue Miller – as her mentors with different but effective leadership styles.

As she concludes her term as Community Director, Sister Maureen feels privileged to have heard the stories of many Sisters. Over the past six years in particular, in

her canonical visits with each SCL, Sister Maureen listened as Sisters expressed their life stories, joys and concerns.

“Their deep faith shone through,” she says. “Even in the presence of many uncertainties, our Sisters have an abiding trust that, as Julian of Norwich says, ‘All will be well.’ I see an honest searching among our Sisters to live an authentic religious life in these times.”

As she encounters people taught by the Sisters or with whom they may have served, Sister Maureen values the connectedness of all the years and being part of this great connection of being. Likewise, through service on various boards, she’s felt connected with outstanding men and women of faith and commitment to the Gospel and healing ministry of Jesus. She’s experienced this with SCL Health and Leaven Ministries, its sponsor; with the University of Saint Mary (USM); and with the Charity Federation and LCWR.

“We are absolutely blessed by dedicated people who commit themselves to our sponsored works – USM, Cristo Rey Kansas City and St. Vincent Center in Peru,” she adds.

Among the challenges of leadership, Sister Maureen points to the pain of letting go. SCLs have “let go” of the health ministry through transfer of sponsorship to Leaven Ministries and more recently of three hospitals originally founded by the Sisters. “This occurred with grace and trust in God,” Sister Maureen reflects, “and a deep awareness that we want what’s best in the long term for the healing ministry of Jesus.”

On another level, Sister Maureen has experienced the loss of many Sisters who have died – 59 over the past six years. As Community Director, she has the privilege of placing a copy of the SCL vows into the hands of the deceased Sister during the vigil at the Mother House – “a sign of their covenant response to God’s love for them,” she says. “Having known these Sisters personally, I have felt overwhelmed by their holiness and the grace of the moment.”

Sister Maureen expresses her deep gratitude for the Community Officers that formed the leadership team of these past six years. “We prayed, and we played. We planned and pursued together a future full of hope,” she says.

Sister Maureen envisions many graces ahead for the new Community Council. “May they meet grace daily with a deep trust that God will be with them during this time,” she says.

As to her future plans, Sister Maureen’s prayer is that she can give flesh to the recent SCL Chapter Directional Statement. She hopes that it will shape her and her response to the SCL Mission Statement as she looks for new ministry opportunities to continue “to meet the critical needs of God’s people.”

Sister Nancy Bauman



Landmark observances source of joy

With 12 years on the SCL Community Council and 13 as Initial Formation Director, Sister Nancy Bauman feels many times

blessed by her experiences of people, places and events.

Among the joys of these years, she counts meeting with and visiting with Sisters in this country and Peru. She believes that her role in formation was great background for leadership as she travelled to different locations and got to know individual Sisters by name and introduce them to the candidates and novices and vice versa. Sister Nancy also values the opportunity to encourage and empower Sisters to use their gifts to help meet the critical needs of others.

Likewise, Sister Nancy is heartened by her work as liaison to the SCL Associate Advisory Board. “I am so impressed to hear the stories of the Associates and witness their enthusiasm and desire to share the Vincentian charism,” she says. “So many Associates meet the critical needs of God’s people in quiet and unassuming ways.”

Transitioning from initial formation to leadership, Sister Nancy anticipated the gifts of connectivity and involvement with the Sisters. What was unexpected were assignments to health care and other boards of directors and the challenge of learning new terminology and dealing with decisions related to mission and business.

In addition to valuing the opportunity to walk with individual Sisters on their journeys, Sister Nancy has fond memories of several special occasions over the past 12 years. Among these, she lists the 150th jubilee of the SCLs, the 50th anniversary of the Latin American Missions and the 25th year of the SCL Associates. “These observances were sources of great joy as we recognized and celebrated the many gifts our Community has received through all these years,” Sister Nancy says.

More recently, Sister Nancy

identifies the 2016 SCL Chapter as a very special event for the Community. She was Council liaison to the Chapter Planning Committee and acknowledges the immense effort that went into creating something new through contemplative dialogue and communal discernment. She believes the process moved the Community to a deeper level and a sense of oneness.

As for next steps in her life, Sister Nancy is planning to take some time off for just “being.” This will include reflection on the years past and looking toward what’s ahead.

She wishes joy for the new Community Council as they interact with Sisters and Associates. And Sister Nancy wants the Councilors to know of her support as they assume their new roles.

Sister Eileen Hurley



Journeying with SCLs, teamwork valued

When Sister Eileen Hurley began her role as SCL Councilor six years ago, she anticipated that connecting with Sisters would be a large part of her responsibilities. That opportunity evolved into the greatest joy that she experienced during her leadership tenure.

“Walking their journeys with the Sisters is what this position is really all about,” she observes. “This has involved listening, affirming, sometimes challenging, supporting the Sisters in tough decisions and being present to them.”

continued on page 14

Outgoing leaders

continued from page 13

While it's been a challenge to watch Sisters face deteriorating health due to aging, it's also been heartwarming for Sister Eileen to see them make their own decisions about retiring to the Mother House, transitioning to Ross Hall skilled nursing facility or even recognizing that they need extra help. Sister Eileen arranged companions in transportation for some of the Sisters who were no longer able to travel alone. This allowed them to take trips to visit their families in the company of other SCLs. "This was a real gift for the Sisters," she says.

Another joy for Sister Eileen in her leadership ministry has been working as a team with Sisters Maureen Hall, Nancy Bauman and Eileen Haynes. Oftentimes, this group expanded to include Secretary Sister Peg Johnson and Treasurer Sister Jean Anne Panisko. Team members prayed, played and worked together and challenged each other in their roles.

Sister Eileen also greatly appreciated connecting with other religious communities through the Charity Federation and LCWR. She valued getting to know so many other women religious and came to recognize how they work for the same good: to help those who are poor and vulnerable. As chair of Region 13, Sister Eileen served as an LCWR board member during the trying time of the Vatican doctrinal assessment of the membership organization.

As she looks ahead to time to relax, pray and ponder what's next in her life and ministry, Sister Eileen's wish for the incoming SCL Community Council is that "their lives might be as enriched as much as mine has been and that they, too, will enjoy journeying with the Sisters and forming a team that works and dreams together."

Re-Markings

OF SPECIAL NOTE

In this section, *Voices of Charity* highlights Sisters, Associates and friends who have earned special honors or been in the news.

SCL theologian prominent on ecumenical front

Continuing her contributions to Catholic-Lutheran dialogue, **Sister Susan Wood** has been immersed in several recent efforts.



In early May, Sister Susan gave the concluding lecture at a three-day Catholic-Lutheran international seminar in Rome. Leading up to commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017, the conference was entitled "Signs of Forgiveness, Paths of Conversation, Practice of Penance: A Reform That Challenges All."

Sister Susan spoke on the theme "From Conflict to Communion?" In an interview with Vatican Radio, Sister Susan noted that for the first time in history, the anniversary of the Reformation is being celebrated from the perspective of 50 years of ecumenical dialogue. She added that divisions need to be healed at their roots which were doctrinal at the time of the Reformation in 1517. Sister Susan said this makes theological work for ecumenism vital alongside the

grassroots work of promoting dialogue through friendships and shared mission. (Vatican Radio website)

In early September, Paulist Press is publishing a new book co-authored by Sister Susan and Timothy J. Wengert, historian of the Reformation – *A Shared Spiritual Journey: Lutherans and Catholics Traveling toward Unity*. Sister Susan was also one of the authors of the ecumenical document "Declaration on the Way" that assesses the current status of agreements by Catholics and Lutherans on church, ministry and Eucharist. Additionally, she is drafting documents for both the International Lutheran-Catholic Commission on Unity, the U. S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue and the North American Catholic-Orthodox Theological Commission.

As a member of the Lutheran-Catholic Commission on Unity, Sister Susan plans to attend the 500th anniversary of the Reformation observance in Lund, Sweden, in October. The Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity are hosting this gathering.



Sister Judy Hayes recognized

Based on the nomination of the entire group of Northland Catholic Schools in Greater Kansas City, **Sister Judy Hayes** received recognition as their volunteer of the year. The honor celebrated her many years of dedicated service as a teacher. Each year, the Northland Chamber of Commerce hosts the largest education banquet in the state of Missouri. The awards banquet was held on Wednesday, April 27. Sister Judy was selected by the Chamber to receive the award from the hundreds who were nominated.

Celebration honors ‘Belles of St. Mary’

Sisters at the Mother House and Ross Hall in Leavenworth gathered on Saturday, April 30, for Mass, lunch and a program to celebrate 14 SCLs marking anniversaries of religious life.

In her reflection at the Mass, Sister Kathleen Wood asked the Sisters to think of all the lives they have touched and all the experiences they’ve had. “For you, this has been your daily life,” she said, “but it’s been an extraordinary life.”

She recalled the words of Mother Leo Frances Ryan who used to tell the Sisters, “God is just crazy about you.” Sister Kathleen encouraged the jubilarians to “enjoy the lavish love of God” on their special day and to be aware of this love every day.



Marking 75 years as Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, left to right, Sisters Michael Blossom, Mary Lillian Landauer and Kathryn O’Neill.



Celebrating 60 years in the SCL Community, left to right, Sisters Genitha Regan, Delia Lawless and Sue Miller.



Among 70-year jubilarians: seated, left to right, Sisters Mary Bridget Mullen, Mary Rita Winter; standing, Sisters Mary Willoughby, Regina Deitchman and Mary Sharon Verbeck. Not pictured: Sisters Mary Loretta Beier (who died in Ross Hall as the program was beginning), Mary Ellen Beyhan and Margaret Marie Mitchell.



All 14 “Belles of St. Mary” were featured on table decorations during the luncheon at the Mother House.



Sister Genitha Regan (right), 60-year jubilarian, thanked Sister Mary Rita Smith for her creativity in developing table decorations that featured the “Belles of St. Mary.”

First vows professed in Peru



Hermana Rosa Yesenia Juarez Amaya (foreground) professed her first vows as a Hermana de la Caridad (HCL) in Piura, Peru. Pictured to the right, Hermana Clorinda Timaná Martinez, Director of Latin American Missions, and behind, Sister Nancy Bauman, SCL Councilor.

Family, friends, Hermanas from Peru and SCLs from the United States celebrated profession of her first vows with **Hermana Rosa Yesenia Juarez Amaya** on April 2 at Santa Julia Parish, Piura, Peru. A fiesta followed. Working with Hermana Lourdes Abad Pulache, Formation Director, Latin America, Hermana Rosa was the first HCL/SCL in Peru to participate in a formation program in Lima with members of other religious communities.

If we’ve overlooked an item of importance, please email (thorvat@scsls.org) or mail information to Communications, Cantwell Hall, 4200 South Fourth Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048-5054.

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The classroom was and remains “home” to Sister Mary Monica Peterson.

God’s providential hand at work in Sister Mary Monica’s life

Life has been an ongoing conversation with God for Sister Mary Monica Peterson. And she believes strongly that God has had a hand in many decisions and occurrences in her life.

Things weren’t always easy growing up on the farm, moving from Nebraska to Minnesota to escape the drought, being the oldest of six, tending outdoor chores and meeting homework obligations. Sometime before becoming a teenager, young Dorothy was feeling somewhat depressed. One day, while out herding the cattle, she suddenly felt overwhelmed with the presence of God’s love for her. Exhilarated with this joy, she promised God she would do whatever He wished of her. From then on, a call to religious life became more resolute.

An SCL for 69 years

As she considered religious life, Dorothy didn’t have much frame of reference. She had only met the Polish sisters who taught vacation school for two weeks each summer in the parish church. When her family moved to Minnesota, Dorothy finished eighth-grade in a Catholic school with the Franciscan sisters.

After high school and the move back to Nebraska, Dorothy received a recommendation about the SCLs from a priest friend of the family. Through reading religious publications, she learned of another

community that interested her. She had applications and information about the SCLs and the other community. “I asked God’s advice as to which one,” Sister Mary Monica recalls.

In the meantime, her Uncle Louis was marrying a woman in California named Louise Sillers. Louise had two sisters who were SCLs (Sister Rose Matthew and Rose Cecilia). “I took that as my answer from God,” Sister Mary Monica says, “and here I am today.”

She came to Leavenworth and entered the SCLs sight unseen in 1947 – 69 years ago. After vow day, she taught first- through fourth-grades in elementary schools for 14 years. From 1963 to 1968, Sister Mary Monica was a seamstress at the Mother House in Leavenworth and taught novices how to make their habits.

Changes were in the wind with the Second Vatican Council and freedom to modify and modernize the traditional, long habits worn by Sisters. In her fourth summer as seamstress, Sister Mary Monica was a member of the SCL Habit Committee. She remembers wearing an experimental habit into the Mother House dining room and hearing some Sisters say it was too short while others said it wasn’t modernized enough. Everybody seemed to have different ideas.

The Community’s decision that Sisters could purchase appropriate clothing from area stores or modify their habits freed Sister Mary Monica to return to elementary teaching. Through the years, she has chosen to continue to wear a modified veil.



Sister Mary Monica Peterson with Jenny Moilanen, fifth-grade teacher for religious education at St. Joseph Parish, Leavenworth.

Ministry transitions

After 15 more years in the classroom, Sister Mary Monica transitioned to ministries serving older adults. In Laramie, Wyo., she visited homebound residents and those in a nursing facility where she had a Communion service weekly. She also began a program for seniors that included Mass, anointing, lunch and time for visiting. Sister responded to other needs that developed, particularly giving instructions to those who wanted to become Catholic or receive the Eucharist.

Following seven years in Laramie, Sister Mary Monica moved to southern California where her siblings and parents had relocated. She tutored at a Catholic school for two years. For the next several years, she assisted with caregiving. Sister Mary Monica first cared for her sister Rita Marie Stransky and for Rita’s youngest grandson Zachary. As Zach grew older, he demonstrated an interest in craft work. Even as her health declined, Rita could enjoy watching him and motivating him. Today, Zach is taking art classes in college.

After Rita’s death, Sister Mary Monica assisted her sister Monica Everling in the care of their mother who died shortly after 9/11. Their father had died a few years earlier. “I consider my time spent living and working with and among my family members a great blessing,” Sister Mary Monica reflects.

In 2002, she returned to the SCL Mother House. Sister Mary Monica worked for four years in the U.S. Post Office located then at the University of Saint Mary. For the next nine years, she sorted and delivered mail at the Mother House. Sister Mary Monica also accepted the invitation to assist with prison ministry. In addition, she has taught religious education at St. Joseph Parish, Leavenworth, for over 10 years.

“Being back in the classroom makes my day as it is good to work with children again,” Sister Mary Monica says. Recently, Sister transitioned to an assistant teacher role.

Through all of these experiences, Sister Mary Monica says with the confidence of her deep faith, “I know that God’s behind all of this. I’ve always known I can count on Him.”

Book probes transformed reality of religious life

Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM (2013). *Buying the Field: Catholic Religious Life in Mission to the World. Volume 3 of Religious Life in a New Millennium*. New York: Paulist Press.



by Sister Mary
Pat Lenahan

In the preface to this book, Sister Sandra Schneiders, IHM, states, “It is the underlying presupposition of this work that for Religious Life and those who live it in faith there is indeed a future full of hope (cf. Jer. 29:11). But if that hope is to be realized, Religious must do the difficult work of rethinking their life in the radically new context of a new millennium, which many cultural critics are characterizing as postmodern. I say this is a difficult work precisely because the context is complex ... it must be examined and articulated anew and in depth” (pp. ix-x).

Religious life an alternate world

The preface prepares the reader for what lies ahead in breaking open this text. This book is the third in a series by the author that also includes *Finding the Treasure* and *Selling All*. In this last installment in the trilogy, the three parts include a theological context, evangelical poverty (the economics of the reign of God) and prophetic obedience (the politics of the reign of God).

The author’s concluding volume speaks of transforming renewal explained in this project which

required 12 years to complete. It contains “an examination, interdisciplinary analysis, and spirituality oriented theological interpretation of Catholic Religious Life as it has emerged and is continuing to develop from the renewal of Vatican II, and is now manifesting itself with ever-increasing confidence as a renewed and transformed reality in the Church” (p. 597). With this introduction of the third volume that spans 658 pages with 74 pages of notes and 13 pages of references, the reader might surmise that this read is not for the faint of heart. However, the rich, biblical references, pertinent historical context and relevant, critical connections threaded to today’s lived experience provide a breadth and depth to better understanding these vows professed within religious life.

Sister Sandra writes of religious life as “community in the alternate economic world,” highlighting “possessionlessness and total interdependence” (p. 243). She contrasts the “commodity economy” (p. 248) with the “gift economy” (p. 248). The author further states,

“If Religious Life is to be an alternate world in which money does not have the absolutely dominant role it does in the world at large, if it is to witness to the possibility of another way of living together ... then the gift economy must be understood, spiritually appropriated, and freely embraced in practice by all the members” (p. 248).

Prophetic witness

The author further undergirds her premise by stating, “What Religious **are**, individually and corporately, is at least as important as what they **do**” (p. 248). This is always at the heart of the matter! Elaborating on the gift economy, Sister Sandra says, “However, if the economy of gift is the root of the common life of mutual interdependence, then a person’s contribution to the community’s survival and flourishing belongs at least as much to the sphere of poverty as to that of obedience” (p. 249).

Sister Sandra reiterates the importance of the “liberty of choice” and the “capacity for self-determination” (p. 448). She believes that the religious life

...the rich, biblical references, pertinent historical context and relevant, critical connections threaded to today's lived experience provide a breadth and depth to better understanding these vows professed within religious life.

commitment “to be valid, must be freely chosen” (p. 448), which demands the process of ongoing, prayerful discernment. The author also emphasizes the gift of prophecy. In one section of the text, Sister Sandra defines prophecy as “bearing witness to God and God’s Reign in the concrete and particular circumstances of the cultural and ecclesial setting in which it occurs. The prophet mediates a three-way encounter between God, God’s people, and the socio-cultural context” (p. 465).

“It is about the discernment of God’s will in complex and ambiguous situations where answers often are not clear-cut but decision and action cannot be deferred” (pp. 465-466). Sister Sandra describes religious life as “a prophetic vocation, a particular following of Jesus the prophet, because Religious make the same life choices, and for the same purpose, that enabled Jesus to accept and fulfill his prophetic vocation” (p. 468). She says that “contemplation ... is at the heart of their life, retaining an absolute priority no matter how pressing ministry becomes” (p. 468).

Ongoing discernment required

Intimacy with God and contemplation are critical to religious life. Sister Sandra purports that “the question facing Religious ... is deeply spiritual: does God’s mission in the world need the prophetic witness that Religious Life in the Church [models] as the People of God and, if so, are we willing to pay the price Jesus did to embody that witness in our own time and within our own religious tradition?” (p. 545). This ongoing discernment, Sister Sandra maintains, “is always communal in the sense that a valid conscience decision must take into account the persons and groups to whom one is related in ways relevant to the situation” (p. 563).

There is a large amount of information for the reader to digest and reflect upon in this text. It is lengthy and challenging. However, the reader will discover many critical and connecting threads. In articulating her thesis, Sister Sandra concludes, “The conviction underlying this entire trilogy is that, in its deepest reality, ministerial Religious Life is a Christian mystical-prophetic lifeform, given to the

Church by the Holy Spirit for the sake of the world, and constituted by perpetual Profession of consecrated celibacy, evangelical poverty, and prophetic obedience lived in transcendent community and ministry” (p. 615).

If one is to be true to this lifelong commitment of religious life, as in any life choice of relationship and fidelity, one must continually study, evaluate and renew on an ongoing basis in order to live with faithfulness and joy that original spark of passion that precipitated the initial life path. Rather than ingesting the trilogy all at once, this reviewer would suggest the reader may wish to approach parts of the trilogy over time to extract its full benefit and potential for reflection.

Even though this book and entire trilogy would be enriching for anyone wishing to better understand religious life, it would be especially important for newer members in religious life who are in initial formation as well as those who are already perpetually professed to reflect upon and daily renew their lifelong commitment and total, joyful investment in “Buying the Field.”

Vocations

All about relationship

Sister Vicki Lichtenauer (center) with Saint Louis University students.



Each spring, Anne Osdieck, SCLA, hosts Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, SCL vocation director, for a presentation to Saint Louis University students.

Anne invites students who have volunteered throughout the year with shelter and outreach programs. Anne reserves the “Think Tank” room at a local restaurant within walking distance of the campus and buys the dinner.

“It is such a delight to be invited to these events,” Sister Vicki says, “because Anne already has a relationship with these women. She is so accommodating to college-age discerners with the selection of the gathering place, time and length of the event, usually 6 to 8 p.m.”

Plus, Anne has already introduced the students to the Vincentian charism. When Sister Vicki arrives, common ground already exists. Discussion topics have included the SCL founders, Catholic Social Teaching, short- and long-term volunteer opportunities and discernment for religious life.

“We hope that more fruit will grow from this fertile ground,” Sister Vicki adds.

Over the past two years, one of the women from these gatherings has joined Sister Vicki for the Come and See and Serve Weekend in New Orleans over Labor Day. Another guest at the dinner is considering moving into the Kansas City Xavier House based on landing a job following graduation.

“This is the reality of spreading the charism,” Sister Vicki believes. “Anne puts into practice the fact that each SCL and SCLA is a charism and vocation promoter in their own way in their own setting. It is all about relationship.”

A teacher

When students at Bishop Ward High School ask Mary Lane how long she’s been teaching, the SCL Associate tells them, “I’ve been teaching since Jesus was a sophomore.”

That question resolved, she helps them tackle bigger matters like morality and truths of the Catholic faith in a classroom filled with some of her favorite religious symbols and artifacts – a large carved wooden rosary and pictures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Of all the classes she teaches, Mary likes teaching morality the best. “With many of their families living at the edges of society, these kids need to have an understanding that God loves them no matter what,” Mary says.

She also believes students at the Kansas City, Kan., high school need the love, assurance and affirmation of their teachers. She strives to be there for these teenagers through their losses, tragedies, successes and good times.

“They’re the reason I’m here. I try to be the heart of Christ’s compassion and comfort for them,” Mary adds.

Recurring themes

At her very core, Mary is a teacher. She grew up with the SCLs and the Jesuits in St. Marys, Kan. She describes her family as Catholic with a capital “C” and very proud of its Irish heritage. The only



Be a charism and vocation promoter

If you are interested in hosting an event to convene young adults to learn about the Vincentian charism and the SCLs, please contact **Sister Vicki at vickiL@scls.org or 816-718-2660.**

through and through

non-religious art in the family home was a photograph of President John F. Kennedy. In this setting, Mary developed a deep and lasting devotion to the Sacred Heart and a love of all things Irish.

The Lanes lived two blocks from the parish where Mary played the organ and helped clean the convent in preparation for the school year arrival of the Sisters. She decided at an early age that she wanted to be a teacher and went on to earn her degree at Emporia State University. While student teaching at a parish school in Emporia, Kan., Mary took religion classes so that she could teach CCD (religious education). Teaching school and teaching religion became recurring patterns in her career as did some twists of fate in her job placements.

When her first job offer in Emporia fell through, a totally unrelated phone call to her family home in St. Marys led to a teaching position for Mary. In Marysville, Kan., she taught fourth-grade and high school religious education. Her experience making a Cursillo during this time helped Mary affirm at age 22 that she wanted to work for the Church for the rest of her life – a promise she’s kept.

Mary spent the next few years teaching grade school in Shawnee, Kan., and directing religious education programs in two Denver parishes. Her parents’ health and her desire to teach high school theology drew Mary back to the Midwest. For a second time, the job that interested her didn’t materialize. However,

again, fate or faith intervened. A personal contact linked Mary with Sister Rita McGinnis at Bishop Ward High School. That was 1986, and Mary has taught theology at the school since then.

She’s also coached the award-winning Academic Decathlon Team, worked with cheerleaders, the pep club and student council, and been a class sponsor. Mary was head of the theology department for 15 years and has resumed that role again. She teaches six classes a semester.

Becoming an SCL Associate

While teaching at Bishop Ward 12 years ago, Sister Irene Skeehan invited Mary to consider becoming an SCL Associate. Mary followed through and values being part of this larger praying community. She has spiritual mentors among the SCLs whom she feels comfortable calling when she’s in a dry spell or floating. “I can talk with these Sister friends and vent,” she explains. “They listen, understand and are non-judgmental.”

Mary also appreciates meeting, praying, attending Mass and socializing with other Associates who gather monthly in the Kansas City area. In addition, she’s very active at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Kansas City, Kan., where Mary serves on the pastoral council, lectors, is a Eucharistic minister, counts money and does bookkeeping for the parish fiesta.

Time for travel, dogs and reading

When she’s not in the classroom, Mary enjoys spending time with



SCL Associate Mary Lane’s life revolves around her students at Bishop Ward High School. She’s pictured here in a study session with Jaden Hutchingson, sophomore.

good friends. She reads a lot. She dog-sits and has a reputation of being able to handle testy animals. She does the latter to help support her other interest: travel and specifically, travel to Ireland.

Mary’s been to the Emerald Isle 26 times! She and Barbara Scherer, an English teacher at Immaculata High School, Leavenworth, coordinate an annual trip for students and adults. They vary the itinerary each year and work with a former teacher in Ireland who assists with arrangements. The trip is educational, faith-filled, fun and enriching. That also sums up life for Mary Lane, SCL Associate.

She’s been enriched by her faith, her students and her relationships with family and friends. She’s been on a continuous journey of learning. And through it all, Mary’s given back one hundredfold to those she serves and with whom she serves.

Cristo Rey Kansas City senior makes a double play

by Rebecca Summers
Director of Institutional Advancement, Cristo Rey

THE MANY SMILING FACES OF MIKAYLA



Storied rags-to-riches author Horatio Alger didn't write about Mikayla Bridgewater, but he could have. The 19th century serial novelist garnered fame chronicling how everyday people overcome adversity and achieve the American dream.

Mikayla has had her share of hardships. "My parents were never ready to be parents – and they still aren't," she says. As a result, she has moved from household to household in her extended family. A 2016 Cristo Rey Kansas City graduate, she openly admits that she, "Loved every minute of going to school, because I am curious, and school is where life is normal."

Perseverance rewarded

Mikayla's love for school and learning paid off, earning her not one but two prestigious national scholarships. Annually, the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans recognizes promising college-bound high school seniors. Honorees demonstrate courage in overcoming personal obstacles to

gain academic success. Out of more than 40,000 applicants, Mikayla is one of 106 students in the nation to receive the scholarship. The award comes with a \$22,000 scholarship and supports for higher education. Through the program, she can access mentoring, financial aid counseling and opportunities to participate in seminars and conferences designed to ensure degree completion.

The Dell Scholar program defines G.P.A. as *Grit, Potential and Ambition*. Ranked first in her class and staking her claim on the title of valedictorian, Mikayla exudes the grit it takes to overcome personal challenges, embodies the potential of students who seek academic rigor, and clearly has the ambition to persevere through college. Well beyond the financial support of \$20,000, a laptop and textbook credits, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation also provides ongoing support and assistance to address the emotional, lifestyle and financial challenges that may prevent students from completing college.

Glowing resumé

Mikayla is no stranger to the hard work that Horatio Alger chronicled. Her Cristo Rey resumé documents perseverance: National Honor Society, first honors, Senior Christian Leader and numerous community service projects. With a goal of becoming a chemical engineer, just to be sure, she made five trips to the campus of Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. She also was chosen to attend the Georgetown University Summer College Immersion Program, which gives a select group of high school students a taste of college life.

As a Cristo Rey Kansas City student, Mikayla was enrolled in college-preparatory coursework and worked one day per week in the school's Corporate Work Study Program. During the first two years of high school, she worked at Science City in Union Station. As a junior, Mikayla was on the job at Cerner, and her senior year was spent in work study at Retina Associates. Classes are scheduled so that students do not miss class time when they are working, and employers pay salaries to offset approximately 50 percent of the cost of education at the private Catholic high school in Kansas City, Mo., sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

"I am very proud of Mikayla," says Dr. Kathleen Hanlon, school president. "Her hard work and focus on academic achievement have been rewarded. She is a true inspiration for the entire Cristo Rey community."

Article and photos compliments of Cristo Rey Kansas City

USM graduates over 400

The University of Saint Mary (USM) celebrated the close of another academic year with its 2016 commencement ceremony on May 7 in Leavenworth. The event honored the university's 414 graduates – a group composed of 221 undergraduate degree recipients, 154 master's degree recipients and 39 doctoral degree recipients.

Earlier at its annual Spring Convocation Honors and Hooding Ceremony on April 26 in Annunciation Chapel, USM recognized outstanding achievements of students. Among the students honored was Elizabeth Walden, Oxford, Miss., who had worked part-time as a help desk assistant in the SCL information technology department. Liz won the top student service honor – the Mother Mary Ancilla Award for Service.

During her time at USM, Liz accepted the challenge to charter a new service organization called "Rotoract," a partner to Leavenworth's Rotary Club. She became the inaugural president of the group – while also coordinating after-school reading initiatives for local youth, leading beautification projects at Ray Miller Park and spearheading Backpack Buddies, a program that packages food for children in need.

USM also honored Dr. Karenbeth Zacharias, director of the Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute, with the coveted Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence at the 2016 commencement ceremony. The award is presented to a full-time faculty member who has made a distinct difference in the teaching climate at USM. The Sullivan Award was created in 1990 and named for the late Sister Mary Louise Sullivan, former academic dean. The winner is nominated by students, faculty and staff.



It was all smiles at commencement when Liz Walden (left) received the Mother Mary Ancilla Award for Service from Sister Diane Steele, president of the University of Saint Mary.

Photo compliments of University of Saint Mary

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS IN STYLE



Mount Saint Vincent, Denver, broke out the party hats to celebrate Sister Roberta Furey's 80th birthday this spring. Kirk Ward, executive director, presented Sister Roberta with an official Colorado Rockies jersey personalized with name and "number." She also received a photo of herself that was autographed by nearly everyone at Mount Saint Vincent.



Photos compliments of Mount Saint Vincent

Long ties with prison ministry in Leavenworth

In July 2015, Sister Rose Dolores wrote a history of the “Involvement of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in Prison Ministry” for the SCL Archives.

The following excerpt covers early years of this history in Leavenworth.



by Sister
Rose Dolores
Hoffelmeyer

With reason, Leavenworth has sometimes been referred to as “Prison City, U.S.A.” because of the penal centers located within or adjacent to its perimeters. These include LCF (Lansing Correctional Facility), formerly known as Kansas State Penitentiary, which has housed prisoners since 1868; the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, the only maximum security military prison in the United States, begun in 1874 and rebuilt in 2002; the USP Federal Penitentiary, founded in 1903; and CCA (Corrections Corporation of America), established in 1992 as the first privately run maximum security prison with a direct contract with the U.S. Government.

The Sisters of Charity, whose pioneer founders first arrived in Leavenworth in 1858, have had a long and varied ministry with the incarcerated here and elsewhere. The earliest history of the Community mentions that its various charitable works included visitation of prisoners in Wyoming¹ and Missouri.² It is reasonable to assume that if Sisters were visiting jails in those locations as early as the 1870s and 1880s, they were probably doing so in other missions as well.

However, there are no records of early contacts with prisoners and their families in Leavenworth.



Sister Vincent Marie Berry succeeded Sister Celestia Brady in prison ministry. (No photos of Sister Celestia exist in the SCL Archives.)

Catechism, correspondence, connections

The first recorded semi-official prison ministry began at the turn of the 20th century. Just four years after its opening as a maximum security prison in 1903, Sister Celestia Brady began visiting prisoners and holding weekly catechism classes with the men at the Federal Penitentiary. She continued this for the next 14 years until her health began to fail. Not content with teaching the men for a few hours a week, she also advised and directed many individually. Moreover, she contacted numerous publishing houses and Catholic newspapers, obtaining valuable instructional materials as well as literature for entertainment. In the same way, she solicited religious articles from church-goods houses, thus providing the prisoners with rosaries, medals, etc.

According to extant correspondence, she was instrumental in establishing a St. Vincent de Paul branch of the Holy Name Society in the penitentiary. Officers of this group wrote, thanking her for her zeal and the practical help she had given in “enabling men to leave the penitentiary true sons of the Church, better men, more loving husbands, more thoughtful sons, and kinder fathers.”³

Even after she had to curtail her visits to the prison (first made by streetcar, then by taxi), she continued her correspondence with some of the men who had been released and thus helped in their readjustment and/or rehabilitation. She also maintained an extensive correspondence with some of the families of the prisoners, offering them encouragement. She placed all these missionary activities under the protection of the Little Flower and even secured a large picture of St. Therese for the prison chapel.

When she could no longer continue her ministry because of her advanced age and infirmity, Sister Celestia was succeeded by Sister Vincent Marie Berry who had

accompanied her for some time. Sister Vincent Marie continued to instruct at the penitentiary until January 1930, when it was felt that the appointment of a full-time chaplain negated the need of the Sisters' teaching.

Music ministry, ballgames

In the 1960s and 1970s, Sisters from Saint Mary College and the Mother House sang for Masses at the Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, on special feast days such as Christmas and Easter. They sometimes socialized with the men following the liturgies. In the 1970s, while Father George Bertels was chaplain at the Federal Prison, he invited Sister Anne Callahan, professor of music at Saint Mary College, to take charge of the choir for the Catholic services. From 1975 to 1985, Sister went to the prison on Saturday mornings for choir practice and returned on Sundays for Mass. She even went the further mile and stayed to play for and direct the music at the Protestant call-out following the Catholic services, if that group had no musicians of its own. As a consequence of this service, Sister Anne has maintained a correspondence with several of the ex-prisoners who had been among her choir members.⁴

About the same time, especially in the early 1960s, some of the younger members of the Community, perhaps 10 to 12 at a time, played ball with women at the east site of the State Prison. Among those who participated were Sisters Donna Lynn Casey, Dorothy Jean Casey, Katherine Franchett, Julia Golkoski, Bernadette Helfert, Mildred Hufnagel (organizer) and Ann McGuire. Another group of these junior Sisters, organized by Sister Joella Stimac, took along guitars and had sing-along sessions some evenings. Sister Ann McGuire related that, while she was later teaching at



SCLs sing for the Leavenworth federal inmates in 1969.



Photos compliments of the SCL Archives

Sisters James Mary Killoy and Anthony Marie (Regina) Deitchman return home after a teaching session at the Kansas State Women's Prison, Lansing, 1965.

St. Patrick's, Horanif, she visited one of the women whom she had come to know during game nights. According to Sister Mary Bridget Mullen, she and about eight other Sisters also played softball at the women's prison in the 1970s or 1980s.

Also in 1963, when Father Dennis Sculley, chaplain at the Kansas State Prison in Lansing, requested someone to teach religion to the women imprisoned there, Mother Leo Frances Ryan assigned Sisters Magdalen Ford and Anthony Marie (Regina) Deitchman to do so. In fall 1964, Sister James Mary Killoy replaced Sister Magdalen. Women coming for instruction varied from two to 15 to 20 later on. Some were Catholic in name only, some were seeking baptism, and some were merely curious. Sisters James Mary and Nicholas Marie Lawless also went to the prison for Mass each Thursday to participate with the women prisoners. On special occasions, such as Christmas or Easter, other Sisters added their voices and helped sing high Masses. At the request of the Sisters, some of these women began making baby clothes and coverlets for infants served by the SCL mission in South America.

- 1 Buckner, Sister Mary, *History of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth*, Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co., Kansas City, Mo., 1898, 285.
- 2 *Ibid.*, 304.
- 3 Folder on Prison Ministry, Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kan.
- 4 Conversations with Father George Bertels and Sister Anne Callahan, Leavenworth, Kan., 2014.



HOPE is at the heart of striving

What began as an immersion experience following the 1998 SCL Chapter has evolved into a strong connection shared by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and the Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa, Haiti.

SCLs who traveled to the island nation earlier this year draw parallels between this 20-year old religious community and the pioneer Sisters of Charity who settled in Leavenworth. “This was like looking back on the early days of the SCLs,” says Sister Charlotte White, “except that the Haitian sisters have been planted in poorer soil.”

Sister Amy Willcott agrees, “I kept imagining how our foundress Mother Xavier and our early Sisters started out. Like them, the Haitian Sisters are powerful and capable, and they will continue to do great things.”

The third SCL who traveled to Haiti in January, Sister Marie Michael Mollis, observes, “I was impressed with all their many works with so few Sisters. They are trying so hard to meet every vital need of the people to help them become self-sufficient.”

Strengthening connections

Sisters Charlotte and Marie Michael were in Haiti, Jan. 12 through 19. Sister Amy, who had also been there in 2015, requested a longer immersion experience of six weeks during her sabbatical between ministries. Sister Amy returned to the U.S. convinced that the SCLs are connected with the Sisters of St. Antoine for the long term. She’s personally committed to identify ways to strengthen the relationship even further and help the Sisters even more.

The Sisters of St. Antoine have served in the midst of tremendous poverty, in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2010 and in spite of what appear to be insurmountable odds. Sister Charlotte recalls traveling over impassable roads to see a farm that had been given to the Sisters. They have four cows and five goats. They had planted by hand two types of brush – one that produces beans to harvest for people and one that the livestock can eat.

“What I remember so well is the hope that I heard in the Sisters’ voices as they looked forward to being able to help support themselves and feed people from that small farm,” Sister Charlotte says.

Sisters Charlotte White (right) and Marie Michael Mollis walk on the farmland of the Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa.

for self-sufficiency

Like the people of Haiti, the Sisters live in poverty, and they, too, are working to become more self-sufficient. Donors and grants fund everything they do. This includes operating an orphanage for 65 children, a K-12 school for 600, and a professional school for job training. They are also involved in nutrition education.

“The Sisters are so generous with their own time and resources,” Sister Amy says, “that they use the money that may come to them first to help others.”

Mother house needed

One of Sister Amy’s goals is to help the Sisters build a mother house – a place where they can live, gather and welcome the many young women interested in joining the religious community. The 16 current members live in scattered locations and often in dilapidated, moldy housing.

Sister Marie Michael understands that there are at least 15 women who are begging to enter the community, but the Sisters have no suitable or large enough space to house them. “They need a mother house very badly,” she adds.

While in Haiti, Sister Amy served as “administrative assistant” to Sister Claudette Prevot, the Community Director. In that volunteer capacity, Sister Amy researched grant opportunities, wrote letters to donors and taught Sister Claudette computer skills. In addition to building the mother house, the Sisters also want to start a preschool and a clinic and enhance job training in the professional school.

“This is a new and thriving community of wonderfully committed and delightful women,” Sister Amy sums up. “It was a privilege to be with them and to pray with them.”



Sisters Christlene (left) and Amy Willcott in the Sisters’ community room in Fondwa.



Sister Marie Michael Mollis (with walking sticks) and Sister Claudette Prevot, Community Director, Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa.

Memorable for the SCLs traveling to Haiti

Sister Marie Michael Mollis



- ▶ The Sisters live so simply: no hot water and only one shower for all who live on their compound. It’s important to them to have a simple chapel in each of their places.
- ▶ The people and the children walk miles, gladly, to go to school, to church or anywhere, often carrying heavy loads on their heads.

Sister Amy Willcott



- ▶ In spite of what their daily lives are like and the great poverty, the Haitian people are so warm, welcoming and kind. Relationships are important to them, and they take time for one another.
- ▶ There’s such a dichotomy between what we have here in the U.S. and the poverty in Haiti – economic poverty, food poverty and more.

Sister Charlotte White



- ▶ So few have accomplished so much. The Sisters have addressed many needs with few resources, and they continue to be excited about meeting future needs.
- ▶ Haiti has so little, so few resources to trade for needs. The faith and commitment of the Sisters to help the people is more than inspiring.

For ways to help the Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa, see the inside back cover.

SCLs recognized for care of earth

The SCL Community has been named a runner-up in the national Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) "Cool Congregations Challenge."

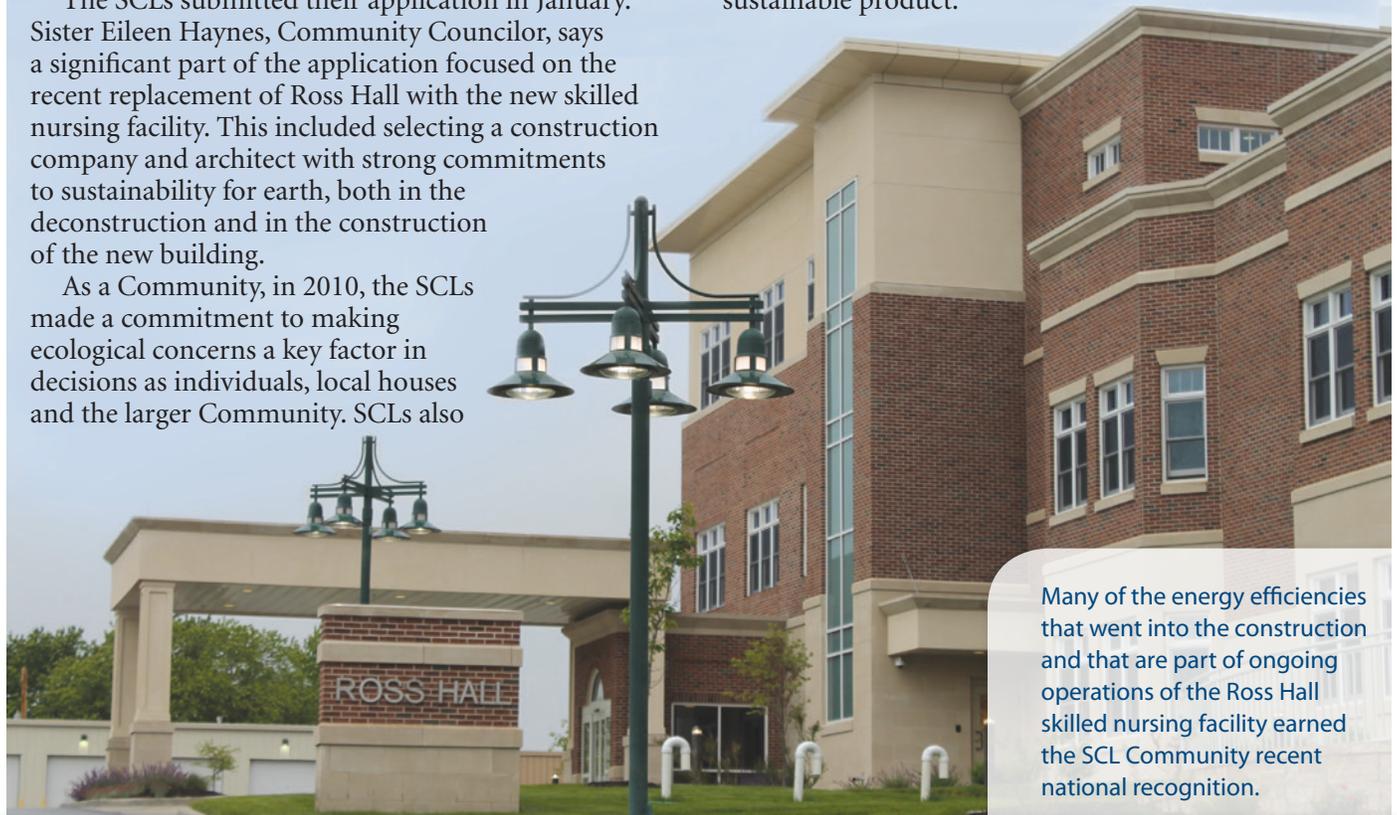
The Cool Congregations Challenge is an annual contest by IPL to recognize and inspire congregational leadership in the energy and climate arena. It represents a united effort by faith congregations across the country to address global warming by reducing their carbon footprint and by becoming inspirations to their members and communities. Winners were selected from five categories: Cool Planner, Sacred Grounds Steward, Energy Saver, Renewable Role Model and Community Inspiration. The SCLs and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth were both runners-up in the Energy Saver category.

The SCLs submitted their application in January. Sister Eileen Haynes, Community Councilor, says a significant part of the application focused on the recent replacement of Ross Hall with the new skilled nursing facility. This included selecting a construction company and architect with strong commitments to sustainability for earth, both in the deconstruction and in the construction of the new building.

As a Community, in 2010, the SCLs made a commitment to making ecological concerns a key factor in decisions as individuals, local houses and the larger Community. SCLs also

strive to educate themselves and others in the theology and sacredness of creation.

The new Ross Hall is an example of this commitment. The skilled nursing facility uses the most efficient heating/cooling system, windows that are energy efficient (including non-glare tint), insulation that is of the highest quality, a "live green roof" for half of the building, and landscaping that is hardy. Energy-efficient light fixtures are a combination of LED lights and compact fluorescent/Linear T12 or T8 fluorescent bulbs. The plumbing fixtures are low-water usage. The building also features bamboo floors which are a very sustainable product.



Many of the energy efficiencies that went into the construction and that are part of ongoing operations of the Ross Hall skilled nursing facility earned the SCL Community recent national recognition.

Shelter receives award

The Leavenworth County Human Service Council awarded the **Leavenworth Interfaith Shelter of Hope** the Humanitarianism Award on May 16 at the Leavenworth Library. This award is given annually to an organization for outstanding work in human services. About 30 of the shelter's 200 volunteers were able to be present at the ceremony. Sister Vickie Perkins accepted the award on behalf of the shelter, sponsoring churches and the SCLs.

Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

Interested in helping the Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa?

In reflecting on her time in Haiti, Sister Marie Michael Mollis expresses her pride that the SCL Community has had such a hands-on impact on the work of the Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa through financial support, education and other ways. “We need to let others know about all they do and about their dreams for doing more in the future so that many will be moved to help them,” she says.

Sister Amy Willcott echoes those sentiments, “As Sisters and SCL Associates, there’s a way for all of us to help and support the work of the Sisters.”

If you have specific interests related to supporting the Sisters of St. Antoine in the 20th year of the religious community, email Sister Amy your thoughts and suggestions: a_willcott@hotmail.com.

Needs of Sisters of St. Antoine of Fondwa

- ▶ **Preschool in Tomgato** – \$20,000 for construction
The nearest school is too far for the little children to walk. The preschool will be on the grounds of the Sisters’ postulant house. Two Sisters will be the teachers.
\$300 sponsorship will provide a year of education for one preschooler.
\$3,000 will complete a water system for the children.
- ▶ **Fatima Orphanage**
Sixty-five children ages 5 to 20 are cared for by the Sisters of St. Antoine. They provide a loving home, food, clothing, shelter and education. Donations make this possible.
\$1,000 year will provide one year of care for a child.
- ▶ **Clinic in Kafelompre** – \$25,000 for construction
This will be on the grounds of the Sisters’ novitiate house. They have a malnutrition program already, serving 25 children. The nearest medical clinic is very far away. Two Sisters are trained nurses and will staff the clinic.
- ▶ **Sustainable farm**
The Sisters of St. Antoine were gifted with three acres of land in the Central Plateau. They already have four cows and five goats. They need six cows and five goats to begin to create a sustainable farm to help feed the orphans, the school children, the Sisters and all those they welcome to their table.
 - Cows – \$800/cow (need 6 more)
 - Goats – \$80/goat (need 5 more)
 - Seeds for the farm
 - Vegetable seeds (\$1,500)
 - Fruit seeds (\$500)
 - Beans (\$1,500)
 - Grass seed (\$1,000)
- ▶ **Professional School scholarship** – \$400/year per student
The Sisters of St. Antoine Professional School includes a sewing and cooking program to teach people skills so that they can become self-sufficient. A scholarship of \$400 provides one year of training and materials for students who cannot afford to attend.



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