



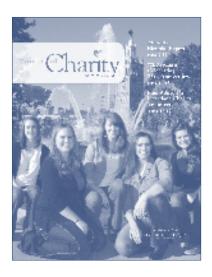
Mission Statement

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.



Community Officers:

Sister Maureen Hall, Community Director
Sister Nancy Bauman,
Community Councilor
Sister Eileen Haynes, Community Councilor
Sister Eileen Hurley, Community Councilor
Sister Jean Anne Panisko,
Community Treasurer

Sister Peg Johnson, Community Secretary

Voices of Charity

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Community Director



Sister Maureen Hall

The prayer we invite our Associates to pray daily begins with St. Paul's beautiful words from the introduction of his letter to the Philippians:

> "I thank my God whenever I think of you; and every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present."

-Phil. 1:3-5

In this 25th year of our Associate program, we thank God for all the wonderful people who share our SCL charism and who join our Sisters in prayer, works of justice and ministries. In this 50th year of our Latin American Missions, we express deep gratitude for the Sisters who have served so faithfully, for our native Hermanas and for the people with whom we partner on our shared faith journey.

In the pages of this Voices of Charity that reflect our 2010-2012 Biennial *Report*, we are grateful for countless blessings, people and opportunities to serve. Our 2010 Chapter Acts have inspired and energized us to set the world on fire with charity.

We can say this of our first Heartland Charity Volunteers, our two Xavier Communities, our Sisters and Associates who respond daily and in diverse ways to the call to serve. They are truly working to spread the Good News. For their diverse and fruitful efforts, we thank God for all of them.

As St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Philippians, we also can express certainty that "the One who began this good work ... will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes" (Phil. 1:6). Our lives are rooted in God's love for us and expressed outwardly through our actions for and with others. As our SCL Constitution says so well and so powerfully, "The beginning and end of our coming together as Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth is our Lord Jesus Christ..."

In a spirit of deep gratitude, we thank God for you as you read this publication, as you move through the holy season of Advent and as you celebrate the gift of Incarnation, the great feast of Emmanuel come to dwell among us.

May the peace of Christ be in your homes, your hearts and your lives.

Sister Maureen Hall

SCL Community Director

Saster Raurew Hall

Over the past two and a half years, with new officers, new mission and vision statements, and new strategic and operational plans, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) have focused on actualizing the direction set forth by our June 2010 General Chapter. Our Chapter Acts document includes statements and actions to help define and inspire our service and ministries. This Biennial Report is organized by the main categories of our 2010 Chapter Acts followed by an overview of our Standing Committees, Sponsored Ministries and Stewardship.

2010-2012 Brennial Rep

Chapter Acts

Relationships with God and one another

- The new Community Officers assumed responsibilities in July 2010 and a month later developed a comprehensive six-year strategic plan based on Chapter Acts.
- The SCL Finance Committee was established to assist the Community treasurer. Members include Sisters Jennifer Gordon, Jean Anne Panisko (treasurer), Charlotte White and Elizabeth Youngs.



At her renewal of vows in 2011, Sister Rejane Cytacki (left) with Sister Eileen Haynes.



The SCL Finance Committee, left to right, Sisters Jean Marian Rilinger (secretary to the committee), Charlotte White, Jean Anne Panisko, Jennifer Gordon and Elizabeth Youngs.

- · We continued to host small group discussions and regional meetings with emphasis on ongoing formation and transformation of religious life.
- Sisters had the opportunity to attend or view presentations on burial options acceptable for Catholics – "Moving into New Life ... Options for One's Funeral" and "Natural/ Green Burials."
- The SCL Community Council initiated study and research in 2011 for the rebuild or reconfiguration of Ross Hall, our retirement/nursing center.
- In 2011, Sister Marietta Huppert pronounced her final vows; Sister Rejane Cytacki renewed her temporary vows.

- Work began in June 2012 to replace pews and carpeting in Annunciation Chapel; project completed for November Founders' Day celebrations.
- Sisters participated in local and national meetings related to enrichment of religious life including "Loving the Two Halves of Life," "The Future of Charity Is Now!" Congress of the Religious Formation Conference, Women Religious Leadership Lab, Giving Voice gathering and Energy for Mission.
- We recruited five young women as the first participants in Heartland Charity Volunteers, our new service program. They began volunteering in ministries reflective of our SCL charism in August 2012. (See article, pages 16 to 17.)

Justice, peace and global needs

(See more under Social Justice Committee, page 7.)

 The religious Community donated \$10,000 to the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fwonda, Haiti, following the earthquake that destroyed their convent and orphanage in January 2010.



Leadership of the Latin American Missions transitioned to Hermana Elena Mack (right) from Hermana Susana Córdova Castillo.

- In May 2011, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth issued a Community Stance on Immigration that advocated for comprehensive immigration reform. In alignment with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, our statement calls for global anti-poverty policies; expanded opportunities to reunify families; temporary worker programs; broad-based legalization opportunities; and restoration of due process with regard to legal rights of immigrants.
- Our Hermanas de la Caridad de Leavenworth marked the 40th anniversary of our mission in Chalaco in 2011, and launched the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of our Latin American Missions in October 2012.



Leading up to adoption of the SCL Community Stance on Immigration, Sisters "cast" ballots demonstrating their support of immigration reform.

- Sister Patricia Johannsen, SCL, joined Solidarity with Sudan for a three-year missionary commitment.
- Sisters and Associates in Leavenworth, Kan., completed a needs assessment of the community, and began hosting meetings with churches and other community groups to discuss opportunities to address needs. (See article, page 30.)

Earth

(See more under Care of Creation Committee, page 6.)

 Approximately 45 Sisters and Associates responded to the call to be involved in a new committee, Care of Creation.
 This committee has developed its own website and hosted presentations relevant to care of the earth.

Vocations

(See more under Vocation Network, page 8.)

 A new Initial Formation Team began its work to continue to promote the SCL charism. Sister Vicki Lichtenauer was named director of vocations; Sister Mary Pat Lenahan, director of candidates; and Sister Sheila Taylor, director of sisters/temporary vows.



On an outreach trip, Sisters Mary Rachel Flynn (second from left) and Vicki Lichtenauer (fifth from left) with Laurie Parker, Kristen Rausch, Laura Gillette, Katie Majerus, Leslie Majerus and Colleen Dunne, campus minister, Carroll College, Helena, Mont.

Church

- Our Sisters have been actively involved attending meetings of the broader Church and Vincentian community including Vincentian Family gatherings, Charity Federation, Company of Charity Federation Personnel and Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).
- The Board of the Charity Federation met in Leavenworth for the first time in March 2012.
- · Sister Jennifer Gordon presented her thoughts on religious life of the future to the LCWR assembly in St. Louis, Mo., in August 2012. At that meeting, Sister Pam Hinkle displayed her beautiful ceramic art work.



Sister Peg Johnson was on the planning committee for the June 2012 meeting of the Charity Federation.



Sister Eileen Hurley represents SCLs on the board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Associates

(See more under Associate Advisory Board, page 7, and articles, pages 14 to 15.)

• Associates developed booklets on "Celebrating the Spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac" for use by small groups.



Sandy Hick, SCLA (left), presented Sister Sharon Smith with a commemorative scrapbook at an event recognizing Sister's service as director of Associates.

- On Aug. 1, 2011, Terri Butel joined our staff as the first lay director of Associates. Terri has been an SCL Associate since 2001.
- An annual retreat and special Mass launched celebration of the 25th anniversary of the SCL Associate program the weekend of Sept. 7-9 in Leavenworth, Kan. With the theme "Companions in Discipleship," the jubilee celebration will continue through the July 2013 All Community Gathering.

Governance

- The Governance Task Force reviewed processes or practices, and decision-making processes to engage the Community; to encourage the practice of principles of mutuality, co-responsibility, accountability and subsidiarity in community life and governance; and explore alternative models of governance.
- · Task force members include Sisters Melissa Camardo, Rosalie Curtin, Margaret Finch, Rita McGinnis, Vickie Perkins, Mary Jo Quinn and Mary Lex Smith.
- · At fall 2012 regionals, task force members presented results of their studies and sought feedback on recommendations.



Sisters Rosalie Curtin (left) and Melissa Camardo are two members of the SCL Governance Task Force.

SCL Standing Committees

Care of Creation Committee

The Care of Creation Committee responded to the 2010 Chapter Acts that challenged us to "educate ourselves and others in the theology and sacredness of creation and to make ecological concerns a key factor in decisions as individuals, local houses, and a community..." All Sisters and Associates, who volunteered to be on this committee, were invited to a part of this endeavor. (See Voices of Charity, Summer 2011, for a list of participants.)

A Catalyst Committee
 was formed to oversee
 planning of interest
 groups for Care of
 Creation Committee.
 This group is now
 referred to as Creation
 Hub and meets regularly
 to track activities of
 interest groups.



- Four interest groups were formed following an initial video conference with members invited to join one of them: Education/Resources, Spirituality/Sacredness of Creation, Practical/Hands-on and Global Impact/Civic. The structure of these interest groups is an organic form of concentric circle governance.
- A website was created that features activities of the interest groups. This site can be accessed at https://sites.google.com/site/sclearthsite/home.
- · Care of Creation has:
 - Encouraged use of Natural Resources Defense Council (www.nrdc.org/action) and Sierra Club (www.sierraclub.org) websites
 - Planned Earth Day prayers and Seasons of the Earth prayers.
 - Organized spiritual opportunities, including:
 - Days of reflection and input: "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium" and "Moments of Grace: Christ's Call to Unitive Consciousness within All of Creation."
 - Prayer experiences: the universe story prayer and the Taizé water ritual.
 - The retreat "Evolutionary Christianity: A New Moment of Grace" directed by Sister Gail Worcelo, sgm.
 - Participated in the U.S. State Department hearing in Kansas through testimony and attendance, sharing information and encouraging advocacy on the Keystone Pipeline.

- Participated in the Union of Concerned Scientists,
 White House and EPA briefings, and protested against
 Koch Industries, Wichita, Kan.
- Showed "Theme of Life" DVDs on the beauty of creation.
- Pursued the possibility of donating trees to Haiti.
- Posted information, events and advocacy needs on the Daily News.
- Purchased water filtration systems for purification of water in developing countries (Water With Blessings).

Ongoing Formation

- The committee began posting Ongoing Formation goals, minutes of meetings and readings (updated and available to the Community on the SCL website).
- SCLs were surveyed on topic priorities and preferred modes of learning for ongoing formation.
- The committee prepared, hosted and presented Spring Regionals 2012: "A Passion for Possibilities: Naming Our Desires – 'What do you want me to do for you?' Mark 10:51." The regionals encompassed prayer in the lectio divina style, exploration of our openness to radical transformation, and stories of individual and communal transformation.
- Ongoing Formation reviewed and recommended an SCL Community audit of our culture and welcoming of diversity and openness.
- Through the committee, several opportunities were available for ongoing formation including: "Biblical Foundations for Consecrated Life"; "Welcoming the New



Members of the Ongoing Formation Committee during a recent meeting at the Mother House: Seated, Sisters Phyllis Stowell, Eileen Hurley; middle row, left to right, Sister Sue Retherford, Mary Lane, SCLA, Sisters Kathleen Wood, Noreen Walter and Mary Agnes Hogan, Heidi Gainan, SCLA, Sisters Mary Ann Theisen and Cele Breen; back row, left to right, Sisters Carol Depner, Margaret Hogan and María de los M. Orozco Olaya.

Roman Missal" online catechesis; the Religious Formation Conference National Congress "Prophetic Religious Life: if not now...when"; CDs were made available and the Religious Formation Conference "Transformation of Religious Life" theme incorporated into regional meetings and readings.

Ongoing Formation welcomed new members: Sister Phyllis Stowell, chairperson, and Sisters Noreen Walter and Cele Breen. Outgoing members were Sisters Ann Lucia Apodaca, Lynn Casey and Diane Steele.

SCL Associate Advisory Board



Members of the SCL Associate Advisory Board after the Sept. 9, 2012 luncheon at the Mother House, Leavenworth, Kan., (left to right) Terri Butel, director of Associates, Mary Carol Rachac, Jan Cassel, Heidi Gainan and Sandy Hick. Other members include Sister Nancy Bauman, Council liaison, Sister Susan Chase, Marlene Link, Misty Prater, Bill Roth, Dan and Ruth Schukman-Dakotas and Carolyn Zimmerman.

- Associates held vigils to pray for a successful 2010 Chapter. Some Associates attended several Chapter presentations.
- The Associate office hosted an Associate retreat in Marillac Center in September 2011 on the theme, "The Spirituality of Vincent de Paul."



Bob Schimoler, SCLA, gave testimony about what being an Associate means to him at the Leavenworth, Kan., fall 2012 regional meeting.



Ron Cox, SCLA, Sister Celine Kobe and Ed Simons, SCLA, following Mass on Sept. 9, 2012 to launch celebration of the 25th anniversary of the SCL Associate program.

- An Associate Advisory Board committee Sandy Hick (chair), Misty Prater, Sandra VanHoose and Ellen Viens produced a prayer booklet series for SCLs and Associates based on articles written for the 350th anniversary of the Vincentian family. The series is entitled "Celebrating the Spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac."
- The Associate Advisory Board drafted the SCLA Operational Plan, 2012-2016, outlining goals for the next five years.
- Plans are underway for celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Associate program with the theme, "Companions in Discipleship."
- The Associate office recently revised the St. Vincent de Paul formation document for Come and See candidates.
- Associates are participating in SCL committees including Care of Creation, Social Justice, Vocation Network, Ongoing Formation and Leavenworth Needs.
- Associate Therese Horvat was named executive director of Leaven Ministries, the sponsor of SCL Health System.
- Currently, there are 219 Associates and 22 persons in their Come and See years.

Social Justice

Working for systemic change of unjust structures

- In addition to its major work developing the Community Stance on Immigration, the Social Justice Committee was involved with and encouraged advocacy on a state level around immigration policy. Special concern focused on Montana's November 2012 ballot referendum asking for a vote on "denying or not denying state services to illegal aliens." Montanans voted to deny certain state services to those who cannot prove they are "lawfully present."
- The committee continued to call on Congress to pass the DREAM Act affecting undocumented youth.
- The Mother House hosted several immigration-related prayer services and films.



Kitty Bronec, SCLA, demonstrated how the water filtration system – promoted through Water With Blessings – works.

Deepening understanding of the sacredness of creation

- The Social Justice Committee advocated for ratification of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START); ratification occurred in December 2010.
- The committee signed onto Pax Christi's public statement in the April 2011 National Catholic Reporter, asking that nuclear weapons in the U.S. and Russia be taken off hair-trigger alert.
- The Social Justice Committee is a member of Peace Planters, the Kansas City group resisting opening of the plant that produces parts for nuclear weapons in south Kansas City, Mo.
- The committee led advocacy against Keystone Pipeline.
 Sister Therese Bangert gave testimony in opposition to the pipeline at the Kansas State Department's hearing in Topeka in August 2012.
- Home energy audits and Water With Blessings were other endeavors.



At one of the protests at the plant in the Kansas City metro area that will produce parts for nuclear weapons, Sister Therese Bangert voiced concerns during a local television interview.

Peru

- Sister Ruth Reichman files a report on Peru for each Social Justice Committee meeting. She kept the committee informed regarding Peru's June 2011 presidential election.
- She shares details of ongoing struggles (that often include violence) related to mining companies coming to Peruvian land.

Charity Federation

 As SCL Charity Federation liaison, Sister Marie de Paul Combo shares alerts with Sisters and Associates. She also writes an annual *Voices of Charity* article on a topic the Charity Federation NGO is addressing within the United Nations. (See her article on drones, page 28.)

Vocation Network

From grade schoolers to college students to young women in discernment, Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, vocation director, and the Vocation Network have introduced the SCL charism across the country. The SCL Vocation Network meets three times annually and includes SCL Associates among its membership.



Outside Cantwell Hall, Leavenworth, Kan., members of the Vocation Network, front row, left to right, Sisters Maureen Hall, Carolyn Gloege, Vicki Lichtenauer, Sheila Taylor; middle row, Sister Jennifer Gordon, Maureen Gregg, SCLA, Anne Osdieck, SCLA; back row, Sisters Mary Pat Lenahan and Elizabeth Youngs.

 Sister Vicki connected with college students through orientation sessions, informal meetings, service trips and retreats. She has interacted with students and campus ministry staff of Avila University, Carroll College, Creighton University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Notre Dame University, Rockhurst University, University of Kansas, University of Saint Mary (USM) and Washburn University. She also attended the Kansas Catholic College Student Convention.

- SCLs and USM students are matched for the academic year in the Prayer Partner program. This includes fall and spring dinners/prayer nights with participants.
- Xavier Community, Kansas City, Kan., continues to play an important role as a discernment opportunity and for young adults to meet SCLs. Xavier hosts monthly "People of Hope Dinners." College groups are welcomed at Xavier Community house during their spring break service trips in the Kansas City metropolitan area.
- Leadership Camp for middle school female students has continued annually in collaboration with the Benedictine Sisters, Atchison.
- Sister Vicki visited Kansas City area high schools for Vocation Day presentations and luncheons. In the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, she was involved with Service in the City and "Teen Extreme" Camp.
- For the January 2011 Vocation Awareness Week, the Vocation Network provided the Community and parishes with materials and encouraged local presentations.
- In collaboration with the Charity Federation, Sister Vicki travelled to New Orleans for a "Come-n-serve" weekend.

- Visits continued with young women from across the country who are discerning religious life.
- Rounding out the schedule were Mother House tours for young women and parish groups, presentations to the Serra Club and participation in national meetings.



In her role as SCL vocation director, Sister Vicki Lichtenauer shares information with young students in Denver.

SCL Sponsored Ministries

Health Ministry

• In 2011, the SCLs transferred sponsorship of Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System to Leaven Ministries, a new public juridic person recognized by the Catholic Church. The five Members of Leaven Ministries



Jim Roscoe, Billings, Mont., is one of two lay members of Leaven Ministries, the new sponsor of SCL Health System.

include three SCLs and two Catholic laypersons, who were commissioned in September 2011 and met for the first time in October 2011.

 Also in 2011, ownership of Mount St. Vincent Home – a residential facility for youth in Denver – transitioned to SCL Health System.

Centro Pastoral San Vicente de Paul, Piura, Peru

- In 2010, workshops were held with high school students to train leaders. Twenty-five men and women from three educational institutions participated.
- In September 2011, personalized basic computer courses were customized to help reinforce mathematics for fifth and sixth-grade students.
- In 2011, the center provided physical therapy services in 5,139 sessions; 923 sessions in reflexology; 579 massage therapy treatments; and 862 blood pressure checks. Physical therapy services more than doubled over 2010.
- The Center purchased a projector and laptop to reach more people for evangelization and training.
- Center volunteers visited homes of persons who are frail and elderly for evangelization with good outcomes.



Sister Elena Mack (fourth from left) provided spiritual guidance on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Staff of the center offered reflexology courses in holistic health that included treatment primarily with the feet. There were 85 learners and volunteer patients involved. This therapy brings healing to patients and opportunities for entry into the job market for students.

- · Community of fellowship was held every three months with 60 elders for their birthdays.
- In 2010, students of nursing at the National University of Piura began doing internships at the pastoral center. They treated patients and helped control blood pressure levels. The students also visited families in their homes to determine needs so that they could provide health education.



A special area was opened for physical therapy for children.



Thirty-two expectant mothers learned the importance of prenatal care.

- Manicure classes were offered to 35 women in collaboration with the local Lions Club and the Ministry of Health of the Archdiocese of Piura.
- The center was instrumental in gaining scholarships for two young people at the University of San Pedro.
- In 2012, three new services opened: workshops for expectant mothers in collaboration with the Health Center of Santa Julia; basic computer, pedicure and manicure courses; and a play room for children in collaboration with the regional government.
- The center has completed a strategic plan for 2013-2018.

Cristo Rey Kansas City High School (CRKC), Kansas City, Mo.



Cristo Rey graduates celebrated their achievements and bright prospects for the future.

- The Kansas City, Mo., high school celebrated its inaugural graduation ceremony on June 4, 2010 with 59 students graduating, all of whom were accepted to college.
- In July 2010, CRKC was officially accredited by AdvancEd (formerly North Central).
- Dr. Kathleen Hanlon succeeded Sister Vickie Perkins as president of CRKC in 2011.
- In 2011, Dancing with the KC Stars, Cristo Rey's major fund-raising event, raised \$700,000, which included over \$200,000 donated through the Sister Vickie Perkins Scholarship Fund.

- Cristo Rey hosted its Founders' Day Celebration in November 2011 honoring the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Sister Vickie Perkins, Bernadette and Dick Miller, Marny and John Sherman, and Mary Lou Jaramillo. In 2012, CRKC recognized Dunn Family Foundation, Hall Family Foundation, Thomas Hynek, Mary Kallman, SCLA, and Andrew Stith, SCLA.
- Members of the 2011 graduating class were offered over \$2 million in scholarships to advance their education.
- In March 2012, CRKC launched its 21st Century Learning Initiative that includes the first 1:1 iPad program in Kansas City schools. A lead gift of \$1 million was secured from an anonymous donor.
- The 2012-2013 school year opened with six new, stateof-the-art classrooms at CRKC.

Marillac Center, Leavenworth, Kan.

- In 2010 and 2011, Marillac Center offered six preached retreats, two guided retreats and eight directed retreats. Marillac staff members gave individual directed retreats throughout the year.
- From June 2010 through May 2012, Marillac served 6,105 overnight guests. Day attendance (which included the overnight guests) was 13,022.
- Among special programs at Marillac Center since 2010, Lisa Wagner offered a Dorothy Day Retreat; Rev. Kevin Cullen, SJ, Advent Day of Prayer; Dr. Richard Johnson, "Discovering Your Spiritual Strength"; Sister Noreen Walter and Cathy Newton, "Living in Full Swing"; Sister Ann Loendorf "Our Work Is Loving the World," a Lenten Day of Prayer; Sister Maureen Hall and the SCL Community Council, "Come Lord Jesus Come, The Promise Fulfilled," an Advent Day of Prayer.
- "Linger over Coffee" was introduced as a new program that continues to be offered twice annually on different
- In addition, Marillac Center hosted meetings of local, national and international groups throughout the year, and staff offered spiritual direction. National groups included the National Religious Vocation Conference, Religious Formation Conference; Prisoner Visitation Service; L'Arche International; and Religious Sisters of Charity International Formation meeting.

University of Saint Mary (USM), Leavenworth and Overland Park, Kan.

- To better ensure success of students, USM established the new Student Success Office and launched the First Year Experience for newcomers in summer 2010.
- In 2010, Sister Susan Rieke, SCL, a 1966 USM graduate and chair of the university's language and literature department, was named holder of USM's inaugural,

- fully-endowed faculty chair, the Sister Mary Janet McGilley Endowed Chair in Liberal Studies.
- In August 2011, USM earned approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer a doctorate program in physical therapy. Marking the culmination of years of effort, the inaugural class in USM's first-ever doctorate program arrived for studies in June 2012. (See article, page 25.)
- In the largest expansion of its athletics program since creation of its football and baseball teams, USM debuted three new squads during the 2011-2012 academic year – cross country, track and field, and a combined co-ed cheer and dance team.



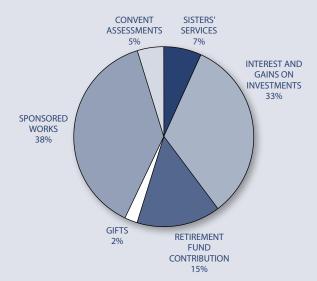
USM students and community members packaged meals for delivery overseas in a Statewide International Packaging Event (SWIPE) in 2011.

- In 2011, USM added an online track for its MBA program, allowing students to earn their MBA entirely online or to add online classes to their traditional face-to-face path.
- · Building on the university's commitment to service, in fall 2011, USM participated in a Statewide International Packaging Event (SWIPE) to combat hunger in Africa. Students and community members gathered in McGilley Field House to package several thousand meals for delivery overseas.
- Based on a space utilization study, summer 2011 brought the relocation of many university offices in Saint Mary and Mead Halls. The changes included bringing together the business office, financial aid and registrar into the Student Services Office, a one-stop shop for students. Moving student life and campus ministry into Saint Mary Hall has been a major boon for both, as more students are spending time in these offices between classes.
- In spring 2012, the USM education programs again earned accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.
- New health care programs at USM include an accelerated track for the existing, well-regarded bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program that allows second degree seekers to complete their nursing degrees in just 12 months. The new health information management (HIM) degree is designed to help students excel in a high-demand field.

SCL Stewardship Report

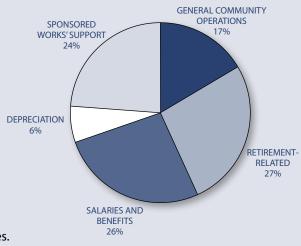
Sources of Income 2010-2012

- ► Sisters' services Primarily includes incomes of SCLs who work in sponsored ministries.
- ▶ Interest and gains on investments Investment income that is separate from the retirement fund.
- ▶ Retirement fund contribution Contribution from the retirement fund to reimburse for all expenses related to SCLs who are retired.
- ▶ Gifts Miscellaneous donations to the religious Community.
- ▶ **Sponsored works** Fees and contributions from the sponsored ministries.
- ▶ Convent assessments For cars, FICA and also year-end balances.



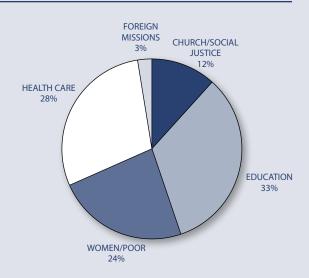
Categories of Expenses 2010-2012

- ► **General Community operations** Support of the infrastructure to operate the Mother House, Ross Hall, Marillac Center and Cantwell Hall; the Charity Fund; major medical expenses; and all other expenses not designated on the chart.
- ▶ **Retirement-related** Housing, health care and all living expenses for retired SCLs at the Mother House, Ross Hall and other locations.
- ► Salaries and benefits Salaries and benefits of employees who work at the Mother House, Ross Hall, Marillac Center and Cantwell Hall.
- ▶ **Depreciation** A non-cash expense which reduces the value of an asset due to the wear and tear, age, etc.
- ▶ **Sponsored works' support** Major SCL gifts to sponsored ministries.



Charitable Contributions 2010-2012

- ► Church/social justice SCL donations to Catholic Relief Services and other causes directed toward justice and peace.
- **Education** Donations to schools where SCLs teach and/or with which the religious Community has been associated.
- ▶ Women/poor Contributions to agencies and organizations that work to improve the well-being of women, the poor and persons who are oppressed.
- ▶ Health care Contributions to SCLHS clinics for the uninsured and to SCL Mission Funds at SCLHS hospitals.
- ► Foreign missions Contributions to religious communities in other countries, and to our own St. Vincent Pastoral Center in Piura and other programs in Peru.





rad Grabs believes it was Providence that brought him and Dawn, his wife, together. "Few people could say they met their wives at a men's homeless shelter!" he says, recounting that the two were volunteers at Shalom House, Kansas City, Kan., at the time.

That's also where the Grabs together encountered the SCLs and their lived commitment to social justice. Subsequently, both became Associates – Dawn first, followed by Brad.

"We love being Associates," Dawn says. "I like being connected with a larger Catholic community outside of our parish, Our Lady and St. Rose, Kansas City, Kan. And we share a lot of values with the Sisters that lead to social justice in action."

Brad agrees. "Being associated with the tradition of these women who are real champions of the poor allows us to be part of something bigger than ourselves. I like to think we share in the SCL mission and are part of the Sisters' ministry as laypeople," he says.

Vincentian and SCL values run deep to the core of the couple's lives. In their post-college years, before they met, both had participated in Catholic volunteer programs. During a time of discernment, Dawn had considered living at Xavier House, the SCL intentional community in Kansas City, Kan. In 1999, Brad was first impressed with the SCLs during a protest at a nuclear test site in Nevada. Through the years, the couple developed an environmental awareness, evidenced in part this summer – in spite of the drought – by the garden on the front terrace of their home and rain barrels connected to drain spouts.

Since 2002, Brad has worked with and now directs The Learning Club, an after school and summer program for high-risk first through 12th-graders in urban Kansas City, Kan. He describes it as a "caring ministry for kids who need extra encouragement and support." Volunteers tutor and offer life enrichment opportunities for youth. Brad had earlier taught theology

at Rockhurst High School, Kansas City, Mo.

With a background in information systems, Dawn has worked for Wells Fargo and the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. Now her full-time job is Mom to John, 2 ½, and Emmanuel, almost 9 months. SCLs volunteer to babysit the boys so Dawn and Brad can grab a date night.

Dawn is a member of the SCL Social Justice Committee. The couple has participated in People of Hope gatherings at Xavier Community. They believe they've been enriched spiritually through their relationships with the SCLs, many of whom they consider friends and role models of charity.

Plus, the Grabs enjoy good times with the SCLs. Brad's favorite is "Ground Dog Day" at the house of Sisters Marie de Paul Combo, Mary Jo Downey and Peter Parry. The ritual includes standing in a circle, dancing, singing and waiting for the dog – of which there have been a few through the years – to see its shadow. All in the good spirit of charity!

Associates, SCLs celebrate YEARS

as 'companions in discipleship'

wenty-five years, four directors and many commitment services later, the SCL Associate program is alive and well as it celebrates being "companions in discipleship" with the religious Community during this silver jubilee year.

From the pilot program that began in 1987 to this year's regional meetings that launched local celebrations of the 25th anniversary, Sisters and Associates have keyed on recurring themes of charism, community and shared commitments to social justice and spirituality. What began small has evolved into a dynamic relationship of mutual support.

In the beginning

Records show that there was discussion of an Associate program during the 1980 Chapter. It was six years later that the concept resurfaced.

SCL lore has it that the proposal for the Associate program evolved from discussion between Sisters Carmen Echevarria and Mary Vincentia Maronick preceding the 1986 Chapter. When Sister Mary Vincentia left to catch a plane, Sister Carmen was left to write the proposal that progressed through the Chapter!

A year later in 1987, the SCL Community Council appointed a task force to develop the pilot



Len and Kitty Bronec

Associate program. Members of the task force included Sisters Nancy Bauman, Marie Brinkman, Linda Roth and Mary Vincentia.

Staying connected

Some of the earliest Associates still remain very engaged with the SCLs and their ministries. Kitty and Len Bronec, Gladstone, Mo., are active with Care of Creation and Social Justice Committees and are involved in encouraging support of the Water With Blessings initiative.

"What I love about the Sisters and their works," Len explains, "is their compassion for people and how they respond to needs of the poor and immigrants, and inner city education."

As a single parent at the time she was invited to become one of the first Associates, Carol Alexander

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE SCLAS

- The program began as a pilot in 1987 based on a proposal submitted to the 1986 SCL Chapter.
- There have been four directors of Associates. The first three were part-time and Sisters; the fourth, full-time and a laywoman.
 - 1989-1993 Sister Patricia Orlowski (today Pat Orlowski, SCLA)
 - 1993-2002 Sister Noreen Walter
 - 2002-2011 Sister Sharon Smith
 - 2011-present Terri Butel, SCLA
- Associates are partners in ministry and prayer with the SCLs. They share common values and kinship with the characteristic spirit of the religious Community.
- Sisters invite individuals who share their charism to become Associates.
- Associates agree to spend a year of discernment and formation in the "Come and See" initiation process.
- There are currently 219 Associates and 22 persons in their Come and See years.

For more information about the program, visit the SCL website (www.scls.org) or contact Terri Butel, 913-758-6519 or tbutel@scls.org.



Spearheading the pilot project that led to formation of the Associate program in 1987 were (left to right) Sisters Marie Brinkman, Nancy Bauman, Linda Roth and Mary Vincentia Maronick.



Carol Schmidt

Schmidt, Leavenworth, Kan., recalls feeling that, "I was at the heart of what was happening. I always felt accepted."

Today, she continues to value

the relationships. "I think it really enriches your life to be associated with such wonderful people as Sisters and Associates," she says.

Susan Butchart recalls that the early Associate program wasn't formulated as much as today's is. While living in Leavenworth after her graduation from the University



Susan Butchart

of Saint Mary, Susan was also one of the first persons invited to become an Associate. Now residing outside Hamilton, Mont., she stays in contact with Sister Marie Brinkman, her sponsor. Otherwise, she stays connected through mailings.



Barbara and Jim Beatty

Of the Associate program, Susan says, "It's been a joy to me and changed my life entirely."

Other early Associates, Barbara and Jim Beatty, Kansas City, Kan., credit the SCLs with enriching their lives, especially by their example. Yet mutuality has always existed. "They taught us, and we taught them," Barbara says.

Jim grew up in Blessed Sacrament Parish, Kansas City, Kan., where the Beattys still live. He says that Sister Mary Adrian Mitchell, his third-grade teacher, turned his life around – from one of hating school to being productive. Jim also credits the SCL prayer chain with pulling him through some serious health challenges.

Focus on justice appeals

"I appreciate how the Sisters and their charism have influenced our daily lives," Barbara says. "They serve the poor and people in need, and this is what I think Church should be about."

As the Sisters are focused on social justice and environmental concerns, Kitty believes it helps her focus and keeps her grounded. "I've always been an environmentalist," she says. "Being an Associate and working alongside the Sisters has cemented my awareness that this is what Jesus would do."

Len agrees and says, "We like being connected to a Community that has focus. In addition, the Sisters have genuine interest in us as individuals and in others with whom they serve and whom they serve."

From former directors of Associates

"I went to our Sisters and asked them, 'Who are these wonderful people with whom we minister?' We can call them forth as Associates and



expand our Community, and together realize the charism of Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac and Mother Xavier Ross."

> — Pat Orlowski, SCLA Kansas City, Kan.

"I think it was good that we let the program evolve and not box it in. This helped make the program what it is today. It led to the integration of



the Associates with the Community, the inclusion of Associates on committees, transitioning the director to a full-time position and appointing an Associate to this position. This was a big step, and it feels so right for the program."

> - Sister Noreen Walter Leavenworth, Kan.

"As the program matured, Associates began to call us to a deeper reflection on our relationship. We began to see what really connected us was our



Vincentian charism, and that this charism was already present in many who came seeking the Associate program."

> — Sister Sharon Smith Pryor, Mont.

Heart of the Matter

Miranda Caulkins (left) shows Rebecca Summers, director of marketing and communications, the Style Standards booklet she developed for Cristo Rey Kansas City High School.



Shala Steffes (left) meets with Kaela McWherter, Student Success coordinator, at University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan.



Working out of Church of the Brethren in Kansas City, Kan., Mary Gillette helps persons who are homeless or in need navigate systems and bureaucracies.

'Pioneer' volunteers serve in the heartland

Much like the first Sisters of Charity's call to "Come North," the first Heartland Charity Volunteers (HCVs) responded to the invitation to come to the Midwest this summer.

owever, unlike the pioneer SCLs, the five young women arrived by automobiles and airplanes and with iPads and laptops; they came from four different states and different life experiences; and they didn't know each other until they arrived.

Four months into their year of service, the Heartland Charity Volunteers are immersed in their ministries, learning that "being community" can be more challenging than they thought and enjoying life in the Kansas City metro area where they live and serve. The first group of volunteers includes Miranda Caulkins, Peoria, Ill.; Matea daRosa, Boise, Idaho; Mandy Ebert, Wamego, Kan.; Mary Gillette, Miles City, Mont.; and Shala Steffes, Billings, Mont.

Varied volunteer ministries

As Heartland Charity Volunteers, each of the young women has been assigned to a ministry associated with the SCLs or the Vincentian charism. They agree to serve for a year for which they receive room, board and a small stipend.

Matea teaches fourth-grade at Our Lady of Angels School, Kansas City, Mo., where 84 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunches, and 74 percent are Latino. "It's exactly the volunteer assignment I wanted," Matea says. "It's been a blessing where I'm able to combine my passion with gifts that God's given me and weave them together in a holistic fashion in my classroom."

Mandy splits her time between the Mother House, Leavenworth, Kan., and Seton Center, Kansas City, Mo. A massage therapist by training, she offers this service to Sisters from the Mother House and Ross Hall two days a week. The other days, Mandy works in the food pantry at Seton Center. From rural, northeast Kansas, Mandy says of her food pantry experience, "I didn't grow up around this kind of poverty. I've come to realize that people often need help not due to anything that's their own fault. It's not for me to judge who needs assistance."

Developing relationships with students is what Shala enjoys most about her volunteer service at University of Saint Mary (USM), Leavenworth. Shala works between campus ministry and the Student Success program. In campus ministry, she interacts with students through service projects and trips, weekly Masses and prayer services. She's available in the campus ministry lounge area where students hang out, have coffee and snacks, visit and mingle. Through Student Success, she tutors and mentors college youth to help them be successful.

Relating with persons in need by taking them to doctors' appointments or to complete applications for disability income is Mary's Heartland Charity Volunteer role. She works with Companion Ministries in Kansas City, Kan., and offices in Church of the Brethren. Many of the persons she serves live with their families or in public housing. They need support navigating systems and connecting with resources. Mary likes working closely with and getting to know her clients as individuals. She also tutors at Cristo Rey High School, Kansas City, Mo.

Assigned full-time to Cristo Rey, Miranda is putting her talents to work in the advancement/ development office where she does graphic design and video projects. She also helps students with "credit recovery" - ensuring that the high-schoolers are on task if they need to make up courses. What appeals to her is being able to work with teams of people to get tasks accomplished – like redesigning the website or assisting students.

Reactions to the program

As the first participants in Heartland Charity Volunteers, the five came with different expectations. They thought they might experience more frugal lifestyles or be discouraged from exploring the city. Neither has been the case.

Matea admits that forming community was harder for her than she expected. "I'm more independent than I thought," she says.

The group eats four meals and prays four times a week as community in the house they share in eastern Wyandotte County, but the volunteers are together more often throughout the week. They have been invited to participate in SCL and Associate activities, events and celebrations.

Every week, they meet with the program's coordinators – Sisters Vickie Perkins, Irene Skeehan and Therese Steiner – for a meal, prayer and discussion. To a person, the volunteers appreciate the support and assistance they've received from these SCLs and from other Sisters and Associates for work done to prepare the house for their arrival and for prayers.

"Sisters Vickie, Irene and Therese have given us guidelines and helped us form community," Shala says, "but then they've left it to us."

The SCLs have also come through in a clutch. Like the time the volunteers' vehicles were all on the blink, and Sister Irene arrived in her pajamas to take them to work!

"We laugh a lot," Shala says. And adds, "It's just amazing to me that people we've never met before have taken such an interest in our lives."



In the food pantry at Seton Center, Kansas City, Mo., Mandy Ebert prepares sacks of groceries for individuals and families.



Matea daRosa has the attention of students at Our Lady of Angels School during religion class.



Re-markings

Two SCLs mark

Every day a joyful 'yes'

While **Hermana Esther Vilela Gutiérrez** waited until she was sure of what she was committing herself to before joining the SCLs, there's no doubt in her mind today that this is the life to which God has called her.



Hermana Esther Vilela Gutiérrez enjoys the opportunity to spread God's word among youth.

s she celebrates her 25th jubilee year, Hermana Esther says, "My 'yes' is no longer a fearful 'yes.' It's more firm and made out of conviction. It's a joyful 'yes' that's confirmed each day. I know that Jesus has consecrated my life and will be with me as I serve."

Hermana Esther first met the SCLs when she was in a youth group in her hometown of Piura, Peru. She studied to be an executive secretary, and along the way, she met representatives of other religious communities.

But it was the SCLs to whom she continued to be attracted and who renewed her interest in religious life. Hermana Esther admired the way they interacted with one another and their service to the poor. She was struck by the fact that the U.S. Sisters had left their homeland to work in Peru. All of these elements appealed to Hermana Esther.

Reflecting on 25 years, she says, "God took the initiative. I responded to the call. It's a grace."

Her pastoral work as an SCL has been youth ministry. Hermana Esther teaches religion in a high school in Piura, assists with preparation for Confirmation and ministers to youth outside the classroom through retreats, workshops and informal meetings. She sees herself as journeying with young people as they seek and discover their faith. "I share my life with them," Hermana Esther says. "I learn from them as they learn from me."

Enjoying her ministry to youth may come naturally to Hermana Esther who is the fifth of eight children and the oldest of three daughters in the family. Before joining the SCLs, she volunteered in youth ministry. As a Sister of Charity, she served in Chalaco and in Trujillo where she completed her teacher's training, specializing in social sciences and religion. In Trujillo, she also helped with catechetics while studying. Hermana Esther next transitioned to teach high school in Talara. She received her bachelor's degree at the University of Marcelino Champagnat in Lima and her licentiate from the University of Caesar Vallejo in Piura.

When she's not doing youth ministry, Hermana Esther is reading, listening to music, meeting with friends and "looking around the countryside." Plus, she's an avid and wonderful cleaner who loves housework – a trait that's surely appreciated by the four SCLs with whom she lives.

On Feb. 18, Hermana Esther celebrated her silver jubilee with the community, family and friends during Mass in Santa Julia Chapel. A festive meal followed.

silver anniversaries



'Connecting the dots' ministry

While she's served in many different ministry capacities,

Sister Barbara Schrader thinks that

the title that may best describe

what she does is "connecting the dots."

Sister Barbara Schrader is at home in the classroom at Archbishop O'Hara High School where she completed her secondary education.

he connected the dots for SCL Health System clinics for the uninsured in Wyandotte and Leavenworth Counties in Kansas – linking donors to needs of patients and facilities in her role as director of development. As director of the corporate work study program at Cristo Rey Kansas City High School, Kansas City, Mo., Sister Barbara enlisted employers to provide job opportunities for students. And now at Archbishop O'Hara High School, Kansas City, Mo., she's hoping to create deeper awareness of the presence of God among students in her religion classes and through campus ministry, and to assist in fund development.

As a silver jubilarian, Sister Barbara has experienced many "firsts." She was one of the first SCL novices to attend a Charity Federation meeting, even before the Community had joined the organization. She helped introduce social accountability reporting to other SCL Health System hospitals as special projects coordinator at St. Francis Health Center, Topeka, Kan. On Nov. 11, she was the first SCL to celebrate her jubilee in the refurbished Annunciation Chapel on the Mother House campus, Leavenworth, Kan.

Sister Barbara dates her thoughts about a religious vocation to the first-grade. This interest recurred in a prayer class in the room next to her current classroom at O'Hara where Sister Barbara attended high school. She studied at Longview Community College, Lee's Summit, Mo., and University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan. As a young career woman, she applied her business degree working in a securities and investment firm.

During this time, she also began to discern her vocation with the SCLs. When Sister Barbara was promoted assistant to the vice president of the firm, she had already been accepted to the Community. She entered with one other person who left after a short while. Sister Barbara was in a "class of her own" in the United States, and she believes that being an only child acclimated her for this journey.

It also points to another role that has preoccupied her time and attention over the past five years: parent ministry. Her master's in health administration from the University of Kansas and health care experience have helped Sister Barbara navigate medical issues and care of her parents. Her Father died on Christmas Day 2010; her Mother lives in her own home in the Kansas City area and at age 85 continues to drive and remains active.

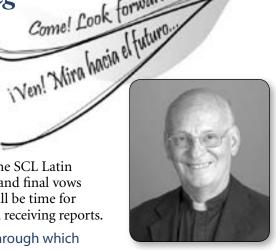
"This is probably the most difficult ministry I will ever do," she says, "but as hard as it has been, I would never avoid this opportunity."

Again, she's been connecting the dots – returning to her parents the love they shared with her – and grateful to the SCL Community for its ongoing support and prayers. 'Come, look forward...'
to 2013 All Community Gathering
isters and Associates: mark your 2015

isters and Associates: mark your 2013 calendars for July 4-7 and make plans to attend the All Community Gathering in Leavenworth, Kan., to celebrate community and one another. "Come, look forward..." is the theme of the weekend with featured speaker Rev. Anthony Gittins, CSSp, PhD. Father Gittins, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans), will speak and facilitate discussion on Saturday, July 6, on the topic, "What on earth is discipleship?"

The weekend will include three celebrations: the 50th anniversary of the SCL Latin American Missions; the 25th anniversary of the SCL Associate program; and final vows commitment of Sister Rejane Cytacki. Throughout the weekend, there will be time for prayer, reflection, reuniting with Sisters and Associates, sharing talents, and receiving reports.

Watch for announcements in coming months; a survey early in 2013 through which you can volunteer to assist with the events; and registration materials in the spring. Any questions, email thorvat@scls.org or call 913-758-6541.



Rev. Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp, PhD

Friendship crosses years, continents

In 1960, **Sister Irene McGrath** was principal of St. James Elementary School where she taught sixth, seventh and eighth-grades – all in one classroom. **Sister Elena Mack** had just moved to town with her family and began sixth-grade at St. James in February.

Sister Elena remembers Sister Irene as a good teacher and that penmanship was important along with poetry and spelling bees. "With three grades in a classroom, I wondered how she did it," Sister Elena says. "She left us on our honor a lot, but we heard the rattling of rosary beads announcing Sister's return to the classroom."

A friendship that began in a grade school classroom in Liberty, Mo., has spanned 52 years and many miles for two SCLs who get together when they can to catch up on life at the Mother House and in Peru.



Sister Irene recalls Sister Elena (then Helen) as a very dependable student. "She was smart and intellectual and showed leadership in the classroom," Sister Irene says. One time in particular, Sister Elena was the judge in a mock courtroom. She issued fines to classmates for playground offenses or leaving the school grounds.

When her family moved to Salt Lake City, and she began high school, Sister Elena started corresponding with Sister Irene. Sister Elena had thought about being a Sister for a long time, and she shared this with Sister Irene, who sent her information about communities other than the SCLs.

Luckily, Sister Elena followed a high school retreat master's suggestion that she enter a community that she knew. Sister Elena contacted the SCLs and asked if they had foreign missions. That was 46 years ago, and today Sister Elena is director of Latin American Missions for the SCLs where she has served for 39 years.

The two SCLs reunited this summer in Leavenworth when Sister Elena returned for a visit.

"I remember Irene as being very important in my decisions about my vocation," Sister Elena says. "She was the model of a person who adjusted to the times."

"She's a missionary at heart," Sister Irene says of her friend.

REFLECTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE Centennial Class of 1958



he "centennial class" of SCLs included 32 young women who entered the Community in August 1958 and four the following February (during the 100th anniversary of the founding of the congregation). With tremendous changes in the Church, religious life and society during the decades that followed, a number chose to leave the Community.

Over the past several years, however, this group of Sisters and former SCLs has come together for reunions, one of which occurred this past July at Marillac Center, Leavenworth, Kan. During that time, they caught up with one another and reconnected with other SCLs at the Mother House. Sisters Ann McGuire and Rita Smith, members of the class of 1958, hosted the group.

"We were young when we met. Looking at our 70-year-old faces, I see the same spirit."

Sister Ann McGuire and Patty Flanagan Petersen.

— Patty Flanagan Petersen San Ramon, Calif.

Evers; seated, left to right, Jude Guillot LaClaire, Lynn Wilhite, Marcella Luckett Ishum,

"I am overjoyed to be here and glad to see folks who are forever friends."

> — Betty Swan Solberg Lakewood, Wash.

"Who I am today is all because of my life's journey in which the SCLs played a tremendous part."

> — Dolores Oviedo Sillimon SCLA, Lee's Summit, Mo.

"I felt like I never left. I'm still part of the Community that is here; the Sisters make me feel that way."

> — Marcella Zerr Kansas City, Mo.

"No matter our divergence, we are all women who want to see change in the world and to minister. We share a commonality of friendship, love of the Community and one another as we strive to be people for others."

> Sister Rita Smith Leavenworth, Kan.

"I'm grateful to the SCLs for the impact and influence they had on my life and now for being an Associate which has given me a perspective on the charism I didn't absorb in the novitiate."

> — Ellen Corkle Viens, SCLA Fort Collins, Colo.



Called and calling others to education profession

The beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year had a different feel for **Sister Frances Juiliano**. For the first time in approximately 50 years, she wasn't in the classroom, at an elementary school or at the University of Saint Mary (USM), Leavenworth, Kan.

fter serving as an elementary school teacher, a college professor and then chair of the education department at USM, Sister Frances retired at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 academic year. Following a much deserved break, she'll be looking for a new ministry – just not one as time-intensive as her immediate past position that Sister Frances loved but that also required many hours and much energy.

"What kept me dedicated to my role in teacher education," she says, "was looking into the faces of people so committed to education at the beginning and end of their student teacher semesters. It was inspiring to see that even with all the demands on teachers today, individuals still feel called to this profession."

Sister Frances entered the SCLs in 1960, thinking that she wanted to teach Latin or math. As a young SCL in training, she went for academic advising and ended up in elementary education! She taught in Wyoming, Kansas and Missouri.

While teaching, she earned her college degree - as most SCLs did in those years – by attending classes in the summer. "As a new teacher, I relied on other Sisters for ideas and

encouragement," Sister Frances says, acknowledging that living with educators was very helpful on-the-job training.

In the 1970s, Sister Frances discovered her interest in the evolving field of teaching students with learning disabilities. She earned her master's in learning disabilities

in fall 1998. During her tenure, she saw large numbers of students enroll in distance learning to achieve their master's of arts in teaching degrees. The education department experienced growth in faculty and successful national accreditation visits.

In recent years, however, teacher education has taken several hits with

"What kept me dedicated to my role in teacher education was looking into the faces of people so committed to education at the beginning and end of their student teacher semesters. It was inspiring to see that even with all the demands on teachers today, individuals still feel called to this profession."

from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. Sister Frances worked with youth with special needs in the resource room at Most Pure Heart of Mary School, Topeka, Kan., and began teaching part-time at USM.

As she developed a concentration in learning disabilities, Sister Frances came to USM full-time and began her doctoral studies at the University of Kansas. She received her doctorate in spring 1990 and was named chair of the USM education department

student achievement challenges, poor salaries for teachers, fewer education students and alternative paths to certification.

"I'm confident all of this will turn around," Sister Frances says, "and we'll see the pendulum swing. I'm very grateful for all of my years in education. I had wonderful students and worked with marvelous people in the department at USM. There was a spirit of cooperation with everyone taking on whatever needed to be done."

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 in presidential line for Catholic Theological Society of America

A member of the Catholic Theological Society of America since 1986, **Sister Susan Wood** was elected vice president of this largest society of theologians in the world in June. She will advance to president-elect in June 2013, and



president one year later. Sister Susan has served on several committees of the 1,300-member society and had an earlier term as a board member.

As president-elect, Sister Susan will be responsible for leading efforts to plan the society's convention, its signature annual event. An estimated 400 to 500 participants attend this meeting that facilitates communications among theologians.

"We face challenges today in terms of negotiating ideological differences in the Church," Sister Susan says, "and we are making the effort to be inclusive of people with different perspectives among our membership."

Sister Susan is professor and chair of the theology department of Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis. She entered the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in 1966.

Caritas Award honors Sister Maureen Craig

Congratulations to Sister Maureen Craig, who received the Caritas Award presented by Saint John's Health Center Foundation at its gala on Oct. 13. Sister Maureen is marking her 60th jubilee as an SCL this year and her 25th year at the hospital in Santa Monica, Calif. At the event, presenters acknowledged Sister's exemplary leadership in living out her personal commitment to the health care ministry. During her tenure at Saint John's



Jan Tarble (left) and Sister Maureen Craig were recently honored by Saint John's Health Center Foundation, Santa Monica, Calif. Jan represented the Tarble Foundation that received the Spirit of Saint John's Award. Sister Maureen received the Caritas Award.

Health Center, Sister Maureen has been a goodwill ambassador with patients, the foundation, the Irene Dunne Guild and employees. She authored a history of the hospital, *The Golden Promise*, and has published a book of poetry (featured in Spring 2012 *Voices of Charity*).

Composition critiqued at national conference

Kudos to **Sister Gloria Solomon** whose original composition "As the Deer" was critiqued by a panel of published composers during the National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) conference this summer in Pittsburgh, Pa. "I felt honored that my composition was chosen," Sister Gloria says.

While she's not interested in publishing her music, Sister Gloria appreciates that persons who "know what works or sells" did the critique. In the composers' forum breakout session, all critiques were done anonymously with reviewers unaware of the composers' names. Sister Gloria's composition was the first reviewed.

"When they finished their critique, the reviewers asked the composer to stand up," she recalls.

While they had nothing negative to say about Sister Gloria's music, there was a suggestion that she change some chords – a suggestion she won't be adopting. "It's what I want," Sister Gloria says.



Sister Gloria Solomon

Artwork raises more than expected to benefit the poor

Sister Joy Duff was pleased when Martha Cooney, a popular artist in Butte, Mont., commented favorably about the SCL's oil painting of snow-covered mountains, a lake and pine trees. Sister Joy was happily astounded when her artwork brought in \$2,000 during the



auction at St. James Healthcare's gala this year. Proceeds go toward serving persons who are poor.

Sister Joy has painted for several years. She served in nursing and pastoral ministry at St. James and other SCL and SCL Health System facilities. She continues to give Communion to patients at the Butte hospital when needed to supplement volunteers and staff.

Reunion celebrates Sister Peg Driscoll



Former employees of McCune Residential Center came to the Kansas City metro area for a reunion to recognize Sister Peg Driscoll, director of the facility for seven years (pictured front row, second from right).

They called it the "McCune Reunion," but activities on Sept. 22 primarily focused on honoring Sister Peg Driscoll who, from 1974 to 1981, was director of the residential facility for juvenile boys in Jackson County, Mo. Former employees returned to Kansas City from as far away as Portland, Ore., and Jefferson City, Mo., to recognize Sister Peg.

Sandra Crawford – one of those employees – says, "Sister Peg may be one of the most influential people in my life. She showed loving kindness, had a good head on her shoulders along with common sense and was very bright."

The reunion day began with a tour of McCune and sharing stories as the group walked the campus. What thrilled Sister Peg most was hearing that current facility staff had built on programs that her team had developed.

Following lunch, the group gathered at Hilltop Residential Center in south Kansas City, Mo., where the day culminated with a reception. Sister Peg received a plaque and a dozen roses from her former co-workers and two proclamations – one from the Jackson County Circuit Court and the other from the Family Court administrative judge.

Sister Catrina goes 'over the edge'



It took spunk, energy and perhaps a leap of faith on Aug. 23 when **Sister Catrina Bones** rappelled 19 stories down the face of Montana's tallest building. She was one of 82 individuals who participated in this fund-raising event in Billings for Special Olympics, Montana.

To qualify for the opportunity to rappel, each person had to raise \$1,000 or more. "Over the Edge" is a U.S.-based company that specializes in creating unique fund-raising events for non-profit organizations. First Interstate Bank Tower was the scene of the rappelling.



Sister Catrina,

vice president, mission integration, St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings, says she felt well-prepared and confident the exercise was safe. "The most moving part," she said, "was when the Special Olympians placed the medal around my neck."

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

Sponsored Ministries

USM dedicates first doctorate program in memory of beloved SCL

by John Shultz USM director of public relations

Sister Mary
Kathleen Stefani
was one of the
guiding lights of the
Sisters of Charity
of Leavenworth –
a talented teacher,
a dedicated and
focused leader,
and a great friend.



Sister Mary Kathleen Stefani

On Oct. 26, friends and supporters of University of Saint Mary (USM) and Sister Mary Kathleen gathered in the university's newly-renovated Berchmans Hall to honor her with the blessing and dedication of its first doctorate program, the Stefani Doctor of Physical Therapy, in her name.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, on hand to lead the blessing, welcomed the addition of USM's new doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program. "The respect, the reverence we show patients distinguishes Catholic health care," he said. "Physical therapy is a very important part of the health sciences, and it is truly wonderful that young men and women can come here not only to learn the science of it, but also learn physical therapy with Catholic health care values."

USM selected Sister Mary Kathleen as the namesake for its first doctorate program due to her lifelong dedication to education, her love of science and her years of leadership. Sister Mary Kathleen made her profession of vows with the SCLs in 1945 and graduated from USM (then Saint Mary College) in 1951 with a degree in chemistry. She went on to earn master's degrees from both USM and the University of Notre Dame.

Sister Mary Kathleen was a well-respected teacher, instructing and working as an administrator at schools in Billings and Butte, Mont.,

Denver and Hayden High School in Topeka, Kan. Sister was elected SCL Community Director in 1986, a post she held through 1998. Sister Mary Kathleen's colleagues praised her leadership style.

"She was very focused, that's probably the best word for her," said Sister Anita Sullivan, a close friend of Sister Mary Kathleen. "Whatever she did, she did perfectly."

Sister Mary Kathleen died in 2010 at the age of 84.

As part of the ceremony, a portrait of Sister Mary Kathleen was hung in USM's Berchmans Hall by her sister, Doreen Strizic, of Butte, Mont., and Sister Anita.

Sister Maureen Hall, SCL Community Director, said Sister Mary Kathleen would be honored by the university's decision to name the DPT program for her. "Science was beloved to her," Sister Maureen said. "I can't think of a better person that we could name our Doctor of Physical Therapy for than our Sister Mary Kathleen."



Leavenwords

To this day at age 94, Sister Regina Marie Allgaier remembers that as a child what impressed her most about the SCLs was their joy, happiness and friendliness. Sister Ann Elizabeth Shea, her first cousin, and Sister Rose Dominic Gabisch, would visit the Allgaier family in Joliet, Ill.

Sister Regina Marie treasures joyful spirit of Community



Sister Regina Marie Allgaier with a favorite icon, a gift from a friend.

henever they came, the Sisters were always so happy," Sister Regina Marie says.

That happiness was contagious. Sister Regina Marie entered the Community in 1936. When she was first missioned to teach in Wyoming, her Mother thought she "had gone to the end of the world." For Sister Regina Marie, it was the beginning of a lifetime ministry of teaching. From Wyoming, she went on to teach first and second-graders in Montana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado and Nebraska.

She had a strong dislike for workbooks, believing they stifled creativity. Instead, Sister Regina Marie used them for writing lessons in her classrooms.

She spent several summers at Mount St. Vincent Home, Denver, to test her ability to work with youth who were emotionally disturbed. Upon completion of her master's degree in special education, Sister

Regina Marie immediately was missioned to the home. "I enjoyed teaching the children at Mount St. Vincent Home," she says. "I felt like they knew I loved them. It was more person-to-person."

In 1990, Sister Regina Marie returned to the Mother House. She oversaw the craft room, and she helped with activities for Sisters in Ross Hall. "I am artistic," she explains, "but I'm not an artist."

She's always liked being outdoors, and in good weather, Sister Regina Marie travels the Mother House paths on her motorized chair. Challenging her 94-year-old mind, she plays Scrabble on her own and admits to cheating rather easily! She also likes to read.

Sister Regina Marie attends Mass, prayer services and everything else she can to keep alert and active. She relies on natural remedies like cinnamon and honey to remain healthy.

"It's wonderful to grow old in a Community like this," she sums up. "There's nothing like our Community – it's a happy one!"

Beyond All Borders

Ministry of hospitality, working for justice



Sister Cele Breen provides a bus ticket to Irma, a regular guest at Holy Family House.



At Charlotte Street House (left to right), Sister Theresa Maly, ND, Brother Louis Rodemann, FSC, and Sister Cele Breen are a system of support for workers at the nearby Holy Family House.

n the spirit of Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day, founders of the Catholic Worker movement, Holy Family House provides hospitality and meals for persons in need in urban Kansas City, Mo. In fact, it was Dorothy Day herself who encouraged establishment of this Catholic Worker location that opened in 1974. And when it came time to purchase a home for this purpose, it was the SCLs and a wheat farmer in Kansas who made no-interest loans.

Works of mercy are only one dimension of the Catholic Worker movement, explains Brother Louis Rodemann, FSC, who staffed and served in a leadership role at Holy Family House from 1982 to 2010. "Our whole intent is to go beyond just handing out food," he explains. "This is about developing relationships."

It's also about works of justice. "We do what we can to care for people's needs, but we also confront structures that create poverty and systems that make people poor," says Sister Theresa Maly, ND, who works part-time with the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging.

Sister Cele Breen, SCL, has volunteered at Holy Family House for over 25 years, first once a month while on staff at the Center for Pastoral Life and Ministry, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., and then weekly after leaving her position. In August 2010, Sister Cele moved into Charlotte Street House around the corner from the Catholic Worker house.

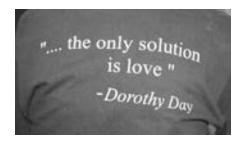
All three religious give witness to the works of mercy and of justice. They volunteer at specific times at Holy Family House, serving breakfast, cooking an evening meal, greeting guests and providing hospitality. In May 2011, they were among the 60 persons arrested for peaceful protest at the site of the plant in south Kansas City, Mo., that will produce nuclear weapon parts. From arrest and lock-up through handcuffs and holding tank, it was 12 hours before they were released and reunited with other Catholic Workers.

The Charlotte Street House where Sisters Cele and Theresa. and Brother Louis live is one of the extended communities that strives to provide a close support system for the team that staffs the actual

hospitality house. "I love it that the young people who are involved at Holy Family House feel free to stop over at our house," Sister Cele says.

Over the years, Holy Family House has served meals and provided overnight shelter. As other agencies and churches have developed programs to respond to needs, the Catholic Worker house has modified its schedule and services. Today, Holy Family House serves breakfast four mornings a week and dinner on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday nights with the help of a dedicated and large network of volunteers from churches, businesses and other organizations.

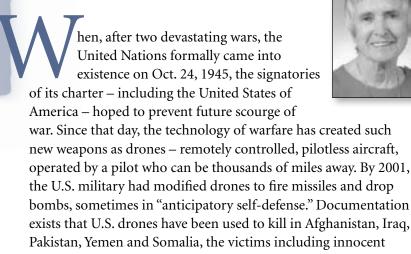
Holy Family House remains a beacon of hope and hospitality for friends from the neighborhood who have come there for years and for others who – due to the economic downturn - have needed to reach out for help.



Could the United Nations charter foresee drones?

by Sister Marie de Paul Combo SCL social justice assistant coordinator

Nations charter?

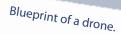


Article 2 of the charter prohibits use of force by one country against another. Article 51 allows necessary self-defense until the UN Security Council authorizes use of force of one country against another. This article requires that means taken in self-defense must be immediately reported to the Security Council. Further, use of force in self-defense must be proportionate to the attack and not punitive in nature.

civilians. How does such action relate to principles of the United

Sixty-seven years after the birth of the United Nations, the thriving technology of warfare continues to deliver new threats to peace and to life on earth. Information on U.S. illegal use of drones can be requested from Quigley77@gmail.com. Meanwhile, the UN articles noted above, declaring the sovereign equality of states and prohibiting unauthorized use of force, remain in effect. Since 1945, the United Nations has continued to assert its charter principles in the face of the tremendous global transformations that, in the 21st century, are confronting humankind.

Consult the user-friendly UN website for full details of related sections of the charter, such as 42 and 53 (http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/).



Second SCL to South Sudan

In her ministry as an SCL, the foreign missions have repeatedly beckoned Sister Janet Cashman.

o it's no surprise that she will be traveling to South Sudan in January 2013 for assignment in a hospital where she will train health care workers. As a participant in the Solidarity for South Sudan initiative, Sister Janet will serve in a different part of the country than Sister Patricia Johannsen, the first SCL to join this mission.

Prior to entering the SCLs in 1965, Sister Janet had what she calls a "hankering to go to the missions. I realized that I had been given so much, so why not share with others who don't have as much."

However, through her 19 years as an SCL serving in Peru and other missions, Sister Janet says, "I learned that it's all about what the people teach me, about their faith, about their living in challenging situations and still maintaining their spirit and joy."

A nurse by profession, Sister Janet spent 19 years in the Peruvian missions working in a well-baby clinic in Talara and then coordinating the Piura diocesan health program and working with health promoters throughout parishes in the area. She anticipates that her role in the hospital in Wau, South Sudan, will be similar to the health promoters' training but a little more sophisticated with practicum experiences for those going through the program.

Sister Janet also was a missionary in Haiti from 2001 to 2003 in a nutrition center for small children. She returned to Peru for continued work with the health promoters. She has also been clinic manager at Duchesne Clinic, Kansas City, Kan., and spent a six-month internship in Washington, D.C., with the Center of Concern and NETWORK.



Sister Janet Cashman

Sister Janet recently left her job as coordinator of immigration services for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gallup, N.M. In this role for five years, she offered legal services for immigrants.

Because of her experience in intercultural and multi-cultural ministries, Sister Janet won't be required to attend special training for her new role in South Sudan. She's looking forward to a continuation of being enriched by people of different cultures and their faith lives.

Habitat for Humanity recognition

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth were recognized as the featured "Donor of the Month" for August by Habitat for Humanity KC ReStore, Kansas City, Mo. This included an announcement on Habitat for Humanity's website home page. Furniture from the Mother House and pews from **Annunciation Chapel** were donated to ReStore. ReStore is a public retail outlet that sells quality new and used surplus building materials, appliances and other items that are priced at 20 to 80 percent off retail.



Sisters Mary Arthel Cline and Marianna Bauder and Ed Simons, SCLA, presented findings from the Leavenworth needs assessment to Sisters and Associates gathered at the Mother House.

Leavenworth needs assessment leads to collaboration

t's been as much of a learning experience as a needs assessment. It's been a process of discovery and collaboration. And it continues to introduce SCLs, Associates and community partners to opportunities to work together to serve people in the Leavenworth community.

While not a specific Chapter Act, there was sufficient discussion at the 2010 SCL Chapter to prompt local interest in conducting a needs assessment in Leavenworth, Kan.

"We have been in Leavenworth over 150 years and very involved in many initiatives," says Sister Nancy Bauman, SCL Council liaison to this process. "This recent needs assessment is opening up exciting, new opportunities to collaborate in ministry with organizations, churches and individuals committed to serving the Leavenworth community."

Throughout 2011, Sisters Mary Arthel Cline and Marianna Bauder and Ed Simons, SCLA, spearheaded the needs assessment by first researching whether any comprehensive assessments existed – none did. They conducted one-on-one interviews with agency and organization representatives, and published their findings in a report. They next presented their findings to Sisters

and Associates and invited expressions of interest for further involvement.

Needs that rose to the top of the assessment included:

- Transportation.
- Health care services for the uninsured and underinsured.
- · Housing.
- Schools that serve low-income students.

In spring 2013, Sister Vickie Perkins assumed responsibilities as director of the Leavenworth Needs Task Force. Two meetings with Leavenworth pastors yielded information about the number of programs churches sponsor. This and other information-gathering opened the door for SCLs and Associates to volunteer to help serve Meals-on-Wheels and to gather crafts, games and books for an after-school program. Education and information-sharing have continued as representatives from the school district and city government have made presentations at the Mother House.

"Our whole focus is on what we can do together," Sister Vickie says. "We don't want to go in and say, 'Here's what needs to be done.' We want to listen and be supportive of one another."

Book Review

Called to 'prophetic dialogue'

Bevans, S.B., and Schroeder, R.P. (2011). Prophetic Dialogue: Reflections on Christian Mission Today. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.

On the cover of *Prophetic* Dialogue: Reflections on Christian Mission Today, three figures are holding hands and dancing. This illustration sets the tone for the contents of this book with the message that the heart of prophetic dialogue is the Christian community centered on Jesus and led by the Spirit of God. It is truly an expression of mission.

The authors draw upon Thomas Aguinas' description of "God as pure act" (p. 9) and see God as a "relationship, a communion" (p. 10); and state that "God is mission" (p. 10). Within this fluid concept and movement, the authors describe "listening and speaking, challenging and being challenged" as instances... "of prophetic dialogue" (p. 8).

They explain that within the early Christian community, the disciples experienced "Jesus as alive in their midst" and "guiding them by the Spirit." Then, "the mission began to have a church" (p. 13). This reminds the reader that "all Christians, though, are called to minister in ordinary and extraordinary ways in their daily lives, both within the Church and in the world" (p. 16).

Because of God's presence in the world from the first moment of its creation, all of us are called to honor that presence through dialogue: openness, listening and care for all God's creatures (p. 18). What a powerful connection to our commitment to our Care of

Creation efforts. The authors further remind us that "we are also called to be God's prophets; calling creation to its complete fullness" (p. 18).

The authors speak of "dialogue as a 'spirituality,' a sense of 'contemplation' that enables the minister or

By drawing on documents from Vatican II, encyclicals, Scripture, the parables of Jesus, the history of the Church, others' witness of mission, and lived experience, the authors provide a viable and lively context in which to reflect on prophetic dialogue and mission.

missionary to perceive a particular context in a new way" (p. 22). That is what called Mother Xavier Ross and our pioneer Sisters to envision their mission. As Francis of Assisi is often quoted, "Preach always and, if necessary, use words" (p. 36). We live Jesus; we live mission in the "every dailyness" of our love and our lives.

Within the text, the authors highlight examples of "inspirations for mission as dialogue" (p. 34) as well as some characteristics including respect, openness, willingness to learn, attentiveness, vulnerability,



by Sister Mary Pat Lenahan

hospitality, humility and frankness (p. 29). How timely that this text reinforces our own individual and Community focus on continual transformation as these same dispositions are pivotal in our daily growth in seeking to live Jesus!

During these challenging and polarizing times, personal witness is key to mission. The authors draw from Revelation 21:1-5 which exalts that "mission ultimately is witness to the hope of a new heaven and a new earth" (p. 71) and that, as Gerard Manley Hopkins so powerfully reminds us, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God" (p. 100).

By drawing on documents from Vatican II, encyclicals, Scripture, the parables of Jesus, the history of the Church, others' witness of mission, and lived experience, the authors provide a viable and lively context in which to reflect on prophetic dialogue and mission. Vatican II said that "the church is missionary by its very nature" (p. 1). However, since we are the Church, the people of God, as Archbishop Oscar Romero proclaimed, we continue God's mission through prophetic dialogue as co-workers and missionaries in communion, in community and in a spirit of theologian David Bosch's description of "bold humility" (p. 2).

Vocation Voices

SCLs participate in 1970s Beyond

"Women of Charity for a Global Age" was the theme of the 1970s & Beyond gathering drawing 75 members of the Sisters of Charity Federation to the Nazareth Retreat Center July 26-29. The event was hosted by Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCNs), Nazareth, Ky., during their 200th anniversary year.

articipants came from across the United States as well as eastern and western Canada. The gathering also included SCNs from India, Nepal and Belize (Central America). Enriching the international presence were South Korean Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (Greensburg, Pa.) who are now based in the U.S.

Representing the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth were Sisters Jennifer Gordon, Vicki Lichtenauer, Barbara Schrader and Ann Schumacher, Sister Jennifer was on the planning committee.

Sisters who entered since 1970 are invited to the gatherings hosted every three years by different Federation member congregations. The Federation includes 11 congregations of Sisters of Charity and two provinces of Daughters of Charity. With a common charism, members share the heritage and spirituality of Sts. Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac and Elizabeth Ann Seton.

In Kentucky, presenter and facilitator Sister Caroliean Willie said, "Our goal is to dream together" and re-vision religious vows for the 21st century. "There is something new being born in religious life today," added the Sister of Charity



Sister Jennifer Gordon (second from right) was among those greeting guests at the 1970s & Beyond gathering.



SCLs attending the 1970s & Beyond gathering in Nazareth, Ky., this summer included (left to right) Sisters Barbara Schrader, Jennifer Gordon, Vicki Lichtenauer and Ann Schumacher.

of Cincinnati who is the Federation's non-governmental organization representative at the United Nations.

With extensive international ministry experience, Sister Caroljean highlighted evolving social, ecclesial and global trends calling for awareness and response. Sharing a variety of PowerPoint presentations, she also invited participants to engage in musical and artistic expression as well as small group conversation.

Sister Caroljean explored the vision of Church transformation called forth by the Second Vatican Council. Quoting from the council's teaching on religious life in the document "Lumen Gentium," she said while religious life belongs to the life of the Church, it is of "divine rather than ecclesiastical origin."

Challenges beckoning women religious today include widespread social inequalities and environmental degradation, she noted. "Today we're in a very different planetary consciousness. At what point do we say 'enough'? We have to look at the social, environmental and economic consequences of our actions," she said.

Sister Caroljean also said growing cosmic awareness inspires new understanding about interdependence and divine creativity. "We can no longer talk about religious life apart from the universe of which we are a part," she added.

During the gathering, fun was also on the agenda with a choice of group outings in the area and a banquet served by SCNs in their mother house dining room. As the event drew to a close, Nazareth Sisters blessed each participant called forth members of the 11 congregations represented at the gathering.

Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

Vatican II continues to shape the Church

o honor the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, as well as the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Pope Benedict XVI called for a Year of Faith, beginning Oct. 11 and ending Nov. 24, 2013, to strengthen the faith of Catholics and draw the world to faith by their example.

Blessed Pope John XXIII convened Vatican II on Oct. 11, 1962; it continued through 1965, producing 16 documents over its four sessions. Over 2,000 bishops from around the world participated.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, offers "10 Ways Vatican II Shapes the Church Today" to help Catholics appreciate the Council and the way it relates to the Year of Faith.

Vatican II presented a renewed vision of what it means to be Church. Both "Lumen Gentium" and "Gaudium et Spes" refer to the Church as the People of God, reflecting a new appreciation of laypeople that surfaced repeatedly at the Council. The Church is described as a light for the world and source of salvation.

- 2 It called the Eucharist the source and summit of the faith. In the Eucharist, Catholics encounter the person of Christ. In this way, Eucharist truly is the foundation of the Church.
- 3 It reformed the liturgy. Changes to the Mass promoted "full and active participation," which led to the Mass being translated into local language and celebrated as a dialogue between celebrant and congregation.
- 4 It said every Catholic is called to holiness and to be a missionary. The document on missionary activity, "Ad Gentes," expanded the view of the way the Church evangelizes with all Catholics playing a role in evangelizing through their lives.
- 5 It emphasized the importance of the family. According to "Lumen Gentium," the family is the "Domestic Church."
- 6 It reshaped the Church's relationship with other Christians and other religions. At Vatican II, the Church adopted a spirit of respect and dialogue toward other faith traditions.

- 7 It promoted collaboration. The document "Christus Dominus" encouraged "collegiality," or collaboration within the Church.
- 8 It updated the Church...
 Pope John XXIII saw Vatican
 II as a chance for renewal in
 the face of "signs of the times,"
 and said he called the Council
 to open a window and let
 in fresh air. This resulted in
 reforms to make the Church
 more accessible to the
 modern world.
- 9...but it also returned the Church to its roots. Vatican II reformed the Church through a back-to-basics approach with renewed appreciation for Scripture, the Church Fathers and restoration of ancient traditions such as the permanent diaconate.
- Then-Father Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) played a significant behind-the-scenes role.

 Among brilliant theologians who assisted bishops at Vatican II was Father Ratzinger who helped draft speeches, shape documents and define the overall trajectory of the Council.



OF LEAVENWORTH

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