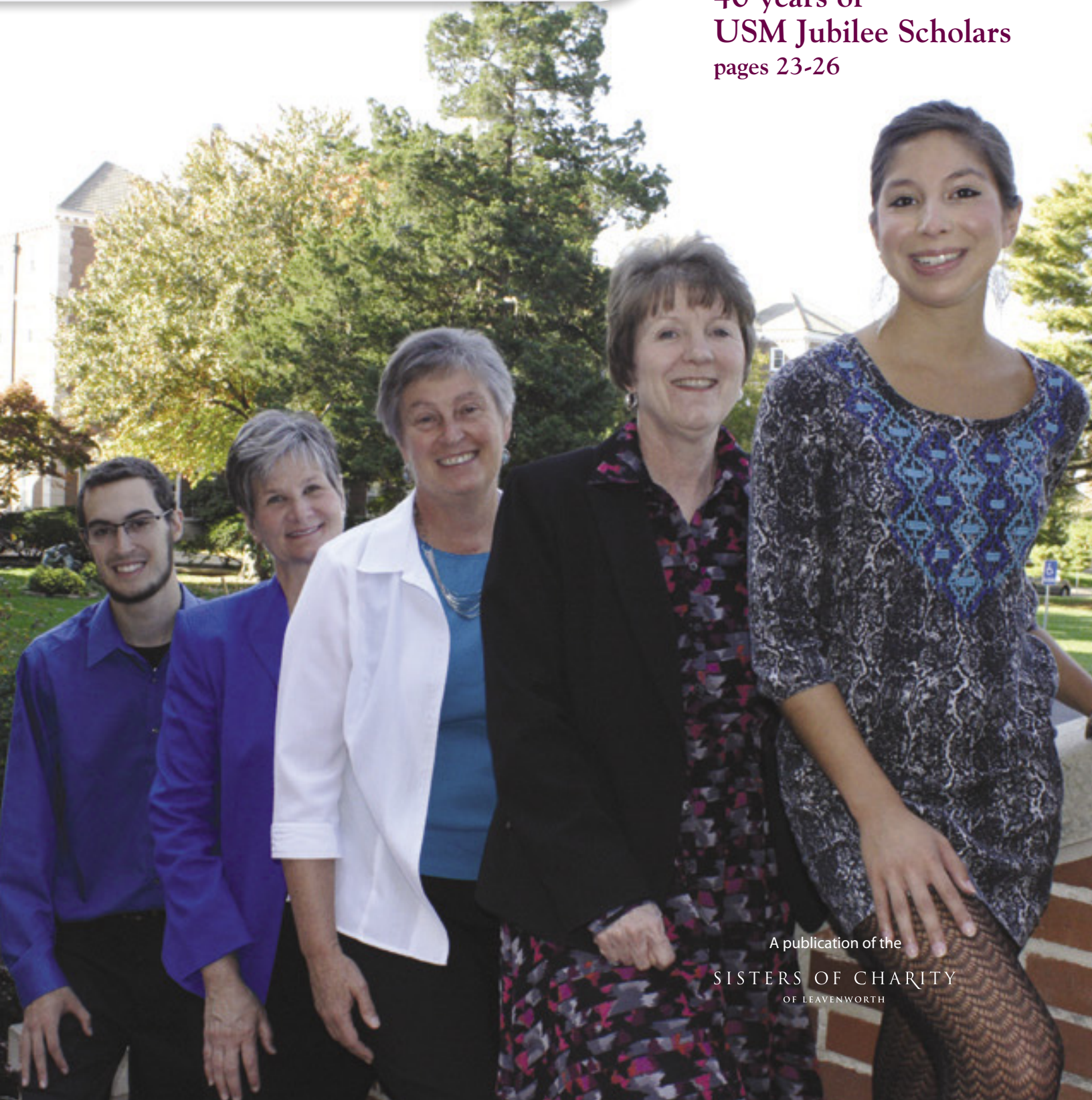


Voices of Charity

Fall/Winter 2014

2012-2014
Biennial Report
pages 3-15

Heart of the Matter
40 years of
USM Jubilee Scholars
pages 23-26



A publication of the
SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF LEAVENWORTH



SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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

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

COVER PHOTO: Among past and present University of Saint Mary (USM) Jubilee Scholars (left to right), Nathan Petty, Sister Rosie Kolich, Sister Diane Steele, Mary Dorr and Sarah Chavez. *See Heart of the Matter feature, page 23*, celebrating 40 years of Jubilee Scholarships presented to USM students by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

in this issue



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 Sister Nancy Bauman,
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 Sister Eileen Haynes, Community Councilor
 Sister Eileen Hurley, Community Councilor
 Sister Jean Anne Panisko,
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Voices of Charity

published by the
 Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
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 Leavenworth, KS 66048-5054
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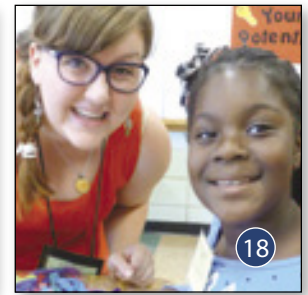
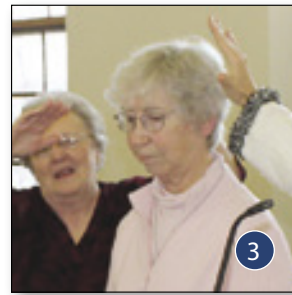
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Community Director



Sister Maureen Hall

With joyful expectation and with yearning hearts, we cry out,
“Come, Lord Jesus. Come.”

Come, Lord Jesus, to our nation as we struggle against our sins of racism.
Come, Lord Jesus, to those who live on the margins: the homeless,
the hungry, the lonely. Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts to make us
creators of peace and messengers of hope.

A few weeks prior to Advent, we celebrated the life of our own Sister Jeanne Marie Zeugin and her embrace into the arms of our loving God. At 99, Sister Jeanne Marie was our oldest living Sister of Charity of Leavenworth. In fact, she was anticipating turning 100 and cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of our new Ross Hall nursing facility in spring 2015. She walked through another door to eternal life!

A consecrated woman religious for 81 years, Sister Jeanne Marie understood that along with joyful expectation, people of faith have deep hope and trust that God will provide. Mother Xavier Ross, our foundress, described this hope as looking toward “the good that is yet to be.” Hope of this sort springs eternal for those with their eyes and hearts fixed on Emmanuel.

In this spirit of hope, we have just begun the Year of Consecrated Life proclaimed by Pope Francis. Men and women religious around the world are called to renew their commitments and share and celebrate our consecration to service of God’s people. We give thanks for our shared lives in the deep heart of charity. This year calls us in a special way to invite and encourage young people to join our journey.

May this holy season be filled with joyful expectation and blessed by those you love and hold in your hearts, and your New Year brim with hope and grace.



Sister Maureen Hall
SCL Community Director

• 2012-2014 • *Biennial Report*

As Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) and Associates have focused on transformation as a recurring theme, the past two years have included transitions, introduction of new ministries and continued service in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac and Mother Xavier Ross. This *Biennial Report* is a celebration and accounting of the activities and events occurring from fall 2012 through November 2014. The report is organized by categories of the 2010 *Chapter Acts*, SCL standing committees, sponsored ministries and stewardship.

Chapter Acts

Relationships with God and one another

- ▶ Sisters at the SCL Mother House welcomed Father Dennis Schaab, CPPS, a member of the Precious Blood community, as their new chaplain in January 2013.
- ▶ LCWR Region 13 leaders met at Marillac Center, Leavenworth, Kan., April 8-10, 2013, hosted by the SCL Community Council. This group includes leadership teams of religious communities in Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma.
- ▶ Sisters and SCL Associates gathered in Leavenworth, July 4-7, 2013, for the All Community Gathering that included prayer, liturgies, speakers and social time. During the event, the Community celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Peruvian missions, the 25th anniversary of the SCL Associate program and profession of perpetual vows by Sister Rejane Cytacki.



The new Ross Hall takes shape on the SCL Mother House campus to provide updated facilities for Sisters in need of extended care.



Hermana Clorinda Timaná Martinez (left), the new director of Latin American missions, receives a symbolic candle from Sister Maureen Hall, Community Director.

- ▶ SCLs vacated Ross Hall nursing facility in early August 2013 to make way for demolition of this building and construction of the new home for Sisters in need of extended care.
- ▶ Sister Kathleen Mary Connelly represented the SCLs at the first Sisters of Charity Federation Archivists Conference Oct. 25 and 26, 2013, in Emmitsburg, Md.
- ▶ Hermana Clorinda Timaná Martinez was elected director of Latin American missions with her term beginning April 2, 2014.
- ▶ The Community adapted the Heartland Charity Volunteers program to accommodate service requests of young women willing to commit as volunteers in the Midwest for varied lengths of time.
- ▶ Sister Maureen Hall, Community Director, has been making canonical visitations with each Sister, an expectation of the SCL Constitution to occur once during her term.
- ▶ The SCL Chapter Planning Committee began its work in late September 2014 to guide the process leading to Chapter 2016. (See article and photo, page 17.)

Justice, peace and global needs

(See additional information under the report of the Social Justice Committee, page 9.)

- ▶ The SCL Community received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award in Denver in 2013. The award is presented by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission.
- ▶ Hermanas de la Caridad marked the 50th anniversary of the SCL Peruvian missions with special celebrations in 2013.
- ▶ After 16 years as the SCL liaison to the Charity Federation NGO, Sister Marie de Paul Combo retired from this position. Sister Eileen Haynes began serving in this role in June 2013.
- ▶ Sister Janet Cashman became the second SCL to respond to the mission call in South Sudan. She and Sister Patricia Johannsen continue to serve in this African country.
- ▶ Sisters Katherine Franchett, Eileen Haynes, Elena Mack and Mary Jo Quinn traveled to Haiti, Jan. 15-22, 2014. Sister Katherine was recognized by the Sisters of St. Anthony for her presence, commitment and support over the past 10 years.
- ▶ Stemming from the 2010 Chapter, the Leavenworth Needs Task Force – with the collaboration of volunteers, members of civic groups and spiritual leaders – opened the doors of Welcome Central on Jan. 27, 2014. Located in downtown Leavenworth, Welcome Central is a clearinghouse assisting those who live in poverty to find the help they need. The task force also facilitated partnering with area churches to provide community meals for persons in need.
- ▶ Spring 2014 regional meetings focused on systemic change and Vincentian spirituality.



There were two large celebrations in Peru to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the SCL Latin American missions. Hermanas gathered at Santa Rosa Parish, Piura, on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013 for a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a reception.



Sister Janet Cashman was commissioned for her mission in South Sudan during a ritual in Ross Chapel by Sisters Eileen Hurley to her left and Sister Maureen Hall at the podium.

- ▶ Corita's Corner Sandwich Ministry – named in memory of Sister Mary Corita Conlan – received a Peace and Justice Builders Award from the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice in April 2014.
- ▶ Sister Mary Lex Smith became a member of the core team of the House of Charity, New Orleans, in 2014. The House of Charity is an initiative of the Charity Federation through which volunteers continue rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Earth

(See a more extensive report by the Care of Creation Committee, page 6.)



Rabbi Moti Rieber discussed moral implications related to climate change during a presentation at the SCL Mother House.

- ▶ Rabbi Moti Rieber, coordinator of Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, discussed climate change and associated moral issues in a presentation at the Mother House in January 2014. The SCL Care of Creation Committee and the Global Studies Institute of the University of Saint Mary hosted the event.
- ▶ The work of the Care of Creation Committee (page 6), the SCL Water Filter Project (page 29) and other initiatives carried out the spirit of the 2010 Chapter Acts relevant to preserving the sacredness of Earth.

SCLs and Associates

At the time of publication of this report, there are:

- 237 Sisters.
- One novice.
- Two candidates.
- 222 Associates.
- Eight persons in their Associate Come and See Year.

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Vocations

(See a more extensive report by the Vocation Network, page 10.)



Hermana Nery Lourdes Abad Pulache (left), formation director, with Hermana Rosa Yesenia Juárez Amaya, a novice in Peru.

- ▶ In 2013, the Community added three new candidates: Rosa Yesenia Juárez Amaya in Peru and Laurie Parker and Mallorie Gerwitz in the Kansas City area.
- ▶ Sisters Rejane Cytacki and Sheila Karpan professed perpetual vows in summer 2013.
- ▶ In Peru, Hermana Rosa, now a novice, and Hermana Nery Lourdes Abad Pulache, formation director, relocated to Lima in 2014 to participate in a multi-community novitiate.
- ▶ Two SCLs and two candidates attended the January 2014 Giving Voice 20s/30s gathering in Phoenix. Sharing in the networking opportunities were Sister Rejane Cytacki, Sister Jennifer Gordon, Mallorie Gerwitz and Laurie Parker.

Church

- ▶ SCL leadership hosted the Charity Federation for its annual meeting in Leavenworth, June 12-17, 2013.



Sister Mary Helen Richstatter visits with Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, following a January 2013 Mass at the Mother House.



Members of the Charity Federation learned about the SCL Water Filter Project in a presentation by Sister Ann Barton (left).

- ▶ Sister Rejane Cytacki was named SCL point of contact with The Vincentian Family, made up of all congregations or associations whose apostolates are guided by the Vincentian charism of service.
- ▶ The SCLs participated with other religious congregations in observance of the first Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, 2014.
- ▶ Sister Eileen Hurley completed her term as chairperson of LCWR Region 13 and as a member of the LCWR National Board in 2014.
- ▶ Sister Susan Wood is currently serving as president of Catholic Theological Society of America. *(See article, page 16.)*

Associates

(See a more extensive report by the SCL Associate Advisory Board, page 8.)



As SCL Associates prepared to go to their own session during the All Community Gathering, Dawn Grabs received a candle to light the way from Sister Letitia Lenherr.

- ▶ The SCL Associates launched their 25th Jubilee with a retreat in Marillac Retreat Center Sept. 7-9 and Mass on Sept. 9, 2012 in Ross Chapel. The celebration continued during the fall 2012 regional gatherings in Bozeman, Mont.; Denver; and Leavenworth. These meetings featured a PowerPoint, "A History of the SCL Associates," and festive luncheons. The 25th Jubilee year culminated with a prayer service and ritual blessing during the July 2013 All Community Gathering.

Governance

(See the report from the Governance Task Force, page 7.)

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 be part of this endeavor.

- ▶ Four interest groups continue to meet and decide what activities and events can be planned and accomplished for care of creation. The groups include Education/Resources, Spirituality/Sacredness of Creation, Practical/Hands-on and Global Impact/Civic.
- ▶ Sister Jo Anne Sistrunk developed a virtual tour of our Mother House land. The article "Earth Spirit Living" by Ann Marie Holmes was emailed to Sisters and Associates. They were encouraged to spend time walking the holy land of our campus or using the virtual tour to get in touch with memories, present hopes and dreams in partnership with our land.
- ▶ In January 2013, the Care of Creation Committee conducted an online survey regarding environmental sustainability and care of our Leavenworth campus.
- ▶ "Spirituality of Soil" was emailed to Sisters and Associates as a Lenten prayer experience in 2013.
- ▶ During the All Community Gathering in July 2013, the Care of Creation Committee had a display of its various events and activities. There was also a DVD presentation made by Sister Paula Rose Jauernig that gave a pictorial history of the farm that was on our land.
- ▶ Photographs and poetry were emailed to Sisters and Associates to remind them of the beauty of creation.
- ▶ During times of national and local elections, the committee posted portions of the Earth Charter as well as "Faithful Citizenship" from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as references on our website.



Sister Eileen Haynes (left) and Sister Patricia Johannsen at a display during the Sisters of Earth Conference hosted on the campus of the University of Saint Mary.



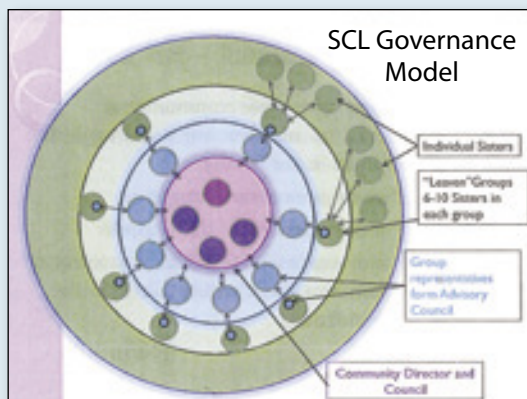
Sister Jean Anne Panisko explains plans leading up to construction of the new Ross Hall. The Care of Creation Committee affirmed the Ross Hall Core Building Committee for exploring the use of solar energy for the new facility.

- ▶ Sister Rejane Cytacki became part of the University of Saint Mary (USM) staff to help further address care of creation needs of this sponsored ministry.
- ▶ On behalf of the SCL Community, Sister Maureen Hall signed the "Holy Land Energy Vision Statement" written by the Sisters of Loretto, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Dominican Sisters of Peace.
- ▶ The committee continues our work opposing the Keystone Pipeline.
- ▶ DVDs on the beauty of God's creation have been shown at the Mother House.
- ▶ Operation Wildlife came to the Mother House on April 28, 2014. This organization rehabilitates wildlife that has been injured and returns creatures to the wild.
- ▶ Sisters of the Earth held their conference on the USM campus July 10-13, 2014.
- ▶ The committee became an active member of Kansas Interfaith Power & Light.
- ▶ A guided prayer experience was offered to those in the Midwest titled "Silence – the Winter Name of God."
- ▶ Committee members shared a midday prayer on "Wonder-ful God" in Ross Hall and the Mother House. They also took Sisters outdoors to see local beauty during spring and fall and used "nature" psalms in Mother House small groups.
- ▶ Members brought nature into the barrenness of prison life and brightened cells with pictures of nature to help overcome "sensory deprivation" of prisons.
- ▶ The committee is beginning to take steps toward an energy audit at the Mother House.
- ▶ Sister Mary Jo McDonald is involved in a court case in Butte, Mont., in which the name of Silver Bow Creek is at issue. Sister Mary Jo is one of those asking the court to establish the name of the creek so that the state and others will be responsible for cleaning the creek from mining residue. The state would like the creek named "Butte Metro Storm Drain" and thus bear no responsibility for clean-up. A decision is awaited from the court.

Governance Task Force

Over the past two years, the Governance Task Force continued its work based on the Chapter Acts. Its goals have been to develop decision-making processes so that the Community can participate as appropriate; practice the principles of mutuality, co-responsibility, accountability and subsidiarity in Community life and governance; and explore alternative models of governance.

- ▶ At the All Community Gathering in 2013, SCLs formed themselves into small groups called Leaven Groups. One Sister was chosen from each group to represent the group.
- ▶ Representatives of the 24 Leaven Groups formed an Advisory Council. The SCL Community Council is part of this group.
- ▶ The Advisory Council chose three Sisters to be on the Steering Committee assigned the task of raising issues and creating the agenda for the Leaven Groups.
- ▶ Each Leaven Group meets twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Likewise, the Advisory Council meets twice annually for feedback from the Leaven Groups who, in turn, send input from their meetings to the Advisory Council.



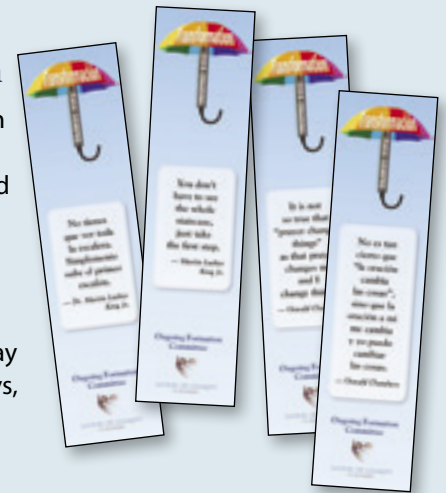
- ▶ The Governance Task Force plans to observe and evaluate this model of governance to gain sufficient information to recommend its continuation to the Chapter of Affairs or to consider another model.
- ▶ This process provides greater transparency at all levels of decision-making; serves as a vehicle to surface Community issues, ideas, etc.; and presumes willingness on the part of the Sisters to give time and study to important issues.

Example of the new governance model at work

Many Leaven Groups expressed the need to separate the Community Chapter into two parts: Chapter of Affairs and Chapter of Elections, with some months between sessions. After further discussion by the Leaven Groups, this plan was agreed upon for Chapter 2016. (This was a major decision involving the Community.)

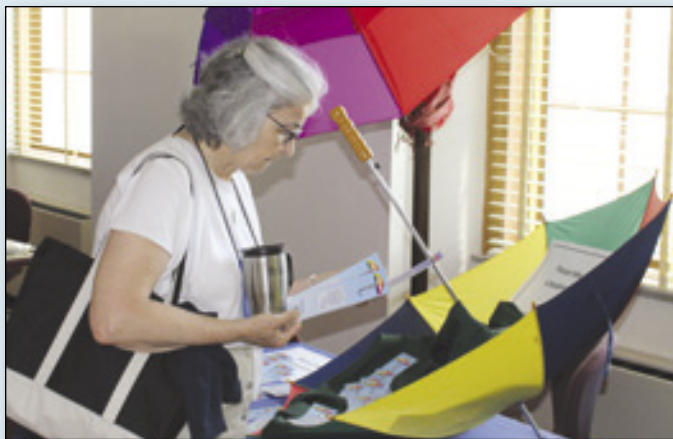
Ongoing Formation

- ▶ The Ongoing Formation Committee has worked diligently to explore and use a variety of media to provide resources to SCLs and Associates, including the SCL website, Web Wednesday announcements, surveys, social media and distribution of printed materials.
- ▶ The committee sponsored Sister Susan Wood's presentation on the Eucharist in 2012.
- ▶ Sister Noreen Walter, committee member, was appointed to the National Formation Conference representing region 10 in 2013.



During the 2013 All Community Gathering, the Ongoing Formation Committee hosted a display depicting transformation as the umbrella for all other committee actions. Bookmarks were distributed with various quotes addressing transformation.

- ▶ Ongoing Formation invited representatives of other standing committees to meet during our spring 2014 session to develop plans to coordinate efforts on behalf of the Community and to support one another in reaching Chapter goals.
- ▶ Believing it is important that we practice what we are suggesting to the larger Community, committee members planned an opportunity for personal transformation experiences, specifically conversations with persons of different ages, ethnicities, cultures, etc.
- ▶ In 2014, the committee determined to track SCL website statistics for data on which to base future decisions regarding communication with the larger Community. At the same time, the committee continues to examine other effective ways of distributing information about events across our various geographic areas.
- ▶ The committee agreed to use the Web-based community calendar and the special "Year of Consecrated Life" calendar developed by Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, director of vocations.
- ▶ To deepen members' understanding and clarification of the purpose of the committee, we decided that we ought to be doing "formation" – beyond education, thus leading to a process of moving from information and experience to reflection/prayer and into action.



Irma Napoli, SCLA, chooses bookmarks from the "transformation" umbrella.

- ▶ With this sharper focus, we decided that celebrating our baptismal call will be the committee's focus for the next two years. The committee has developed and will use a template for a reflective process focused on our baptismal call that is integrated with Scripture, liturgical seasons, national events and holidays, etc. The themed reflective process opportunities will be posted on our website page each month.
- ▶ We will also post information on the website about ways Sisters and Associates participate in opportunities for personal, spiritual transformation in various geographic areas. This is to encourage Sisters and Associates to continue their journeys toward personal, spiritual transformation.
- ▶ Between the fall 2012 and spring 2014 meetings, these individuals completed their terms of service on the committee: Sisters Lynn Casey, Rosalie Curtin, Margaret Hogan, Maria Orozco, Sue Retherford and Diane Steele.
- ▶ During that same time, new members included Mary Lane, SCLA, Sister Lin Sayatovic, Hermana Esther Vilela Gutiérrez and Sisters Noreen Walter and Kathleen Wood.

SCL Associate Advisory Board

- ▶ Seventy-six SCLAs attended the All Community Gathering, July 4-7, 2013 from points near and far: Colorado, 13; Idaho, 1; Illinois, 1; Kansas, 40; Missouri, 12; and Montana, 9. The Associates attended all events on Thursday and Friday, including the keynote presentation on discipleship by Father Anthony Gittins, CSSp, PhD. On Saturday, the Associates met separately and discussed systemic change following a presentation by Ruth Schukman-Dakotas and Dan Dakotas, SCLAs, about their support of St. Anne's girls' school in Kenya. Ideas for creating space for prayer were shared via a PowerPoint of contributed photographs from Associates nationwide. A ritual blessing ceremony in Annunciation Chapel concluded Saturday's observance.

- ▶ Terri Butel, SCLA, director of Associates, published mindfulness and action ideas in September 2013 for the 40 days of fast, prayer and advocacy for meaningful immigration reform.
- ▶ Terri began meeting with Associates individually in October 2013, with a goal to meet all by fall 2016.
- ▶ Twenty-seven SCL Associates wrote reflections that were emailed to the SCL/SCLA Community during Advent 2013.
- ▶ In January 2014, Associates were invited to write new SCL Associate commitments to challenge them into the future.
- ▶ The first Associate Build occurred in New Orleans in concert with the St. Bernard Project. Susan Nyp and Terri Butel, SCLAs, participated with Charity Associates from Cincinnati in February 2014.
- ▶ Two SCLA Come and See formation articles about Mother

Sister Linda Roth (left) and Joyce Rauth-Fears, SCLA, co-chaired the July 2013 All Community Gathering in Leavenworth.



SCL Associates in Billings, Mont., regularly participate in preparing sandwiches for persons in need. Pictured, left to right, Kathy Usuriello, Cathy James, Deacon Tom Landry and Jan Cassel.

Xavier Ross and the founding of the SCLs were combined, and additional material provided from Sister Kathleen Wood's talk on Founders' Day 2013.

- ▶ Associates are participating in SCL committees including Care of Creation, Social Justice, Vocation Network, Ongoing Formation and Leavenworth Needs.



In November 2012, a "Welcoming America" dinner was held at the Mother House. Persons from countries around the world gathered to share a meal and stories. Sisters Rose Dolores Hoffelmeyer and Frances Russell chaired this event.

Social Justice Committee

Empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit

Immigration

- ▶ The committee has encouraged ongoing advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform. Justice for Immigrants, LCWR and NETWORK have been sources of reliable information. Advocacy has included distributing postcards for SCLs/SCLAs to send to national leaders and emails with information and phone numbers to contact members of Congress and President Obama.
- ▶ We emailed a Pentecost novena to the entire Community to encourage praying and acting for comprehensive immigration reform. Mother House Sisters have continued to participate in gatherings for both prayer and education about immigration issues.
- ▶ In July 2014, Sisters Ruth Reischman and Therese Bangert attended the Bishops Migration Conference in Washington, D.C.

Peace Subcommittee

- ▶ The Community and Associates received education and calls for advocacy regarding drones.
- ▶ Sister Cele Breen spoke to the committee about her civil disobedience at the nuclear parts plant in Kansas City, Mo., in summer 2013. The committee also reflected on Sister Cele's essay responses that she submitted to the court.
- ▶ Planning is in progress to work with the Immigration Subcommittee on human trafficking issues.

SCL Water Filter Project

- ▶ This project has continued under the leadership of a subcommittee that includes Kitty and Len Bronec and Sister Marie Michael Mollis with assistance from several interested Sisters and Associates. (See article, page 29.)
- ▶ We have left our affiliation with Water with Blessings and have been purchasing filters directly from Sawyer, the manufacturer and supplier.

Abolition of the death penalty

- ▶ Alerts have been sent to Sisters and Associates with opportunities to advocate for the replacement of the death penalty with a sentence of life without parole in California, Colorado, Montana and Kansas.

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Two transitions

- ▶ At the September 2012 Social Justice Committee meeting, the Care of Creation Subcommittee moved from the Social Justice Committee to the Community's larger Care of Creation Committee.
- ▶ Sister Marie de Paul Combo transitioned both from her role as justice liaison to the Charity Federation and from being assistant to Sister Therese Bangert. Sister Marie De Paul was celebrated at the March 2014 Social Justice meeting.



Sister Marie de Paul Combo received a sari/scarf from the Charity Federation for her long service as SCL liaison to the United Nations NGO.

Social Justice Office

National organization memberships/donation/advocacy support

(Partial list)

American Friends Service Committee
Bolivian Missions
Bread for the World
Catholic Relief Services
Center for Justice and Accountability
Innocence Project
Jubilee USA
Latin American Working Group
National Catholic Rural Life
NETWORK
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Oxfam
Pax Christi
SHARE – El Salvador



In advance of her plans to protest the plant in Kansas City that produces parts for nuclear weapons, Sister Cele Breen (right) receives a blessing from Sister Therese Bangert at the All Community Gathering.

Peace: "...advocate for nuclear disarmament"

- ▶ Sister Therese Bangert attended the December 2013 trial of Sister Cele Breen in municipal court for trespassing on grounds of the new nuclear weapon parts plant in Kansas City, Mo.

Sister Simone Campbell

- ▶ The Social Justice Office was part of a team that planned and promoted Sister Simone Campbell's Aug. 7, 2014 presentation in Kansas City, Mo. Sister Simone, a Sister of Social Service, addressed an estimated 600 people and covered topics including Medicaid expansion and growing economic disparity. The SCL Community was a sponsor, and over 40 SCLs attended the event. Sister Therese was one of four respondents to Sister Simone's presentation. Sister Simone is founder of Nuns on the Bus.



SCLs from the Mother House and Father Dennis Schaab, CPPS, chaplain, formed their own "nuns (and priest) on a bus" to travel to the presentation by Sister Simone Campbell, who founded the national Nuns on the Bus movement.

Women religious in Kansas

- ▶ The Social Justice Office has provided leadership to help strengthen the collective voice of women religious congregations in Kansas about immigration policy in the nation and the state.

SCL Charity Budget

- ▶ We requested and received funds from the SCL Charity Budget to provide donations to Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, death penalty coalitions at state and national levels, deferred action (DACA) fee assistance for young immigrants and National Resources Defense Council.

Vocation Network

The SCL Vocation Network meets three times annually and includes SCL Associates among its membership.

- ▶ Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, vocation director, 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), Saint Louis University and Washburn University.
- ▶ Sister Vicki attends the Kansas Catholic College Student Convention each year and presents breakout sessions on discernment.
- ▶ At USM, Leavenworth, activities centered on freshmen orientation with "Rocking and Rolling with the Sisters" – an afternoon of music, "speed dating" with students and Sisters, raffles and ice cream. Sister Vicki has also coordinated the freshmen service day at sites throughout Leavenworth.
- ▶ Xavier Community, Kansas City, Kan., continues to play an important role as an opportunity for discernment and for young adults to meet SCLs. Young women come for short and long-term live-in stays to discern religious life and to experience intentional community living. Xavier Community welcomes college groups during their spring and fall break service trips. The house also hosts monthly People of Hope dinners.



Hosting displays at events is one of Sister Vicki's responsibilities as director of vocations.

- ▶ Sister Vicki extends outreach and support to young adults doing year-long service programs in Kansas City with the Precious Blood Volunteers, Lasallian Volunteers, Jesuit Volunteer Corps and Catholic Worker House.
- ▶ Nun runs are offered once or twice a year for high school and college-age women.
- ▶ 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, charism and mission promotion, nachos with the nuns, service days and luncheons.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Charity Federation, Sister Vicki travels to New Orleans for a "Come-n-serve" weekend every Labor Day, Come and See and Serve every January and the Future of Charity in August.
- ▶ She is on the planning committee and participates in the annual September Vincentian online retreat with women from all over the country, also coordinated through the Charity Federation.
- ▶ Visits continued with young women from across the country who are discerning religious life.
- ▶ Sister Vicki attends the National Catholic Youth Conference biennially in Indianapolis.



Rocking and Rolling with the Sisters brought out Sister Marie Carmel Dunning (in red jacket) and Sister Barbara Sellers to meet with students at the University of Saint Mary.

- ▶ Sister Vicki offers tours of the Mother House for young women, Girl Scouts and parish groups and has given Serra Club presentations.
- ▶ The Vocation Network is increasingly using social media and the SCL website for communication and outreach.
- ▶ Sister Vicki is the Region 9 vocation coordinator of the National Religious Vocation Conference, assisting with planning and presenting at annual meetings.

SCL Sponsored Ministries

Health ministry

- ▶ Leaven Ministries, the sponsor of SCL Health, transitioned ownership of Providence Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan., and Saint John Hospital, Leavenworth, to Prime Healthcare Services in spring 2013.
- ▶ In early 2014, the sponsorship of Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, Calif., was transferred to Providence Ministries.

Centro Pastoral San Vicente de Paul, Piura, Peru

- ▶ From June to December 2012, services included 236 reflexology sessions; 2,779 physical therapy and rehabilitation treatments; 248 massage sessions; 43 Healing Touch sessions; 77 visits for the service of our partnering doctors of psychology; 434 blood pressure readings; 548 sessions in the playroom for children; 164 sessions for expectant mothers.
- ▶ In 2013, a reflexology workshop was conducted involving 12 women.



Physical therapy for adults and children is one of many services offered by the St. Vincent de Paul Pastoral Center in Piura.



Hermana Laura Rumiche Morales has served as director of the pastoral center for several years.

- ▶ In 2013, services included 200 reflexology sessions; 275 massage sessions; 6,160 physical therapy and rehabilitation treatment sessions; 209 psychology sessions; 45 Healing Touch sessions; 272 sessions for pregnant women; games for 201 children; and 199 blood pressure readings.
- ▶ The center initiated a weekly service of early stimulation for growth and development of infants in 2013. The program served 41 infants and toddlers, 0-2 years.
- ▶ Forty-one adult women participated in a computer course for which they received certificates in 2013; another 40 persons received certificates in May 2014.
- ▶ In May 2014, the center hosted a workshop titled, "Anatomy and Biomechanics Applied to Diagnostic Clinical Physiotherapy" presented by Alexander Silva Garcia, a licensed medical technician from Lima. Fifteen students from various schools of physical therapy attended.
- ▶ The center acquired a special bed in May 2014 that allows better attention to neurological patients suffering from paralysis. This bed is used in a vertical position.
- ▶ In June 2014, Fabiola Morante Dominguez joined the pastoral center as administrator.
- ▶ Two portable and one electric TENS units connected to a computer now serve many patients by stimulating muscles to alleviate pain and to relieve pain from facial paralysis. The units were acquired in July 2014.
- ▶ For two years, the center has been using an advanced therapy called "magnet therapy." A second magnet therapy machine has been acquired.
- ▶ The center is affiliated with universities that have a specialty in physical therapy, The Catholic (University) in Chulucanas,

San Pedro and Alas Peruanas in Piura. There are two full-time interns and 10 students who volunteer at the pastoral center.

- ▶ In October 2014, a "Strengthening Families" workshop was launched with parents in partnership with the Home School Emilia Barcia Boniffatti in Santa Julia. This was presented in the auditorium of the center in six weekly sessions. Psychology interns facilitated the sessions aimed at guiding parents and making them aware of their important roles in the development of their children. Each session involved 40 mothers.
- ▶ On Oct. 25, a retreat was held for the Vincentian volunteers involving 23 volunteers from the center and three participants from Chalaco.
- ▶ Three students are receiving scholarships to cover their university studies in physical therapy.
- ▶ January through October 2014, the pastoral center has had 221 reflexology sessions; 303 massage sessions; 884 physical therapy and rehabilitation sessions and 6,949 assessments; 185 speech therapy sessions; 295 psychology sessions; 40 computer class participants; 216 blood pressures measured; and 16 infants receiving stimulation.
- ▶ Currently, an average of 40 patients per day use services of the center.

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

- ▶ In June 2012, Cristo Rey partnered with the University of Missouri School of Allied Health to introduce students to healthcare careers. Fifteen Cristo Rey students spent three days on the MU campus in Columbia being introduced to multiple healthcare career opportunities.
- ▶ Cristo Rey celebrated its largest graduation class with 75 seniors receiving diplomas on June 1, 2012.



On Dec. 28, 2013, the CRKC girls' basketball team won the Penn Valley Holiday Tournament and, later, the Great Plains Conference championship.

- ▶ In August 2012, students got their first look at six new classrooms on the third floor at CRKC. Each student was also issued an iPad to use within the curriculum each day.
- ▶ CRKC boys' soccer team went undefeated through the regular season with an 18-0 record in November 2012.
- ▶ That month also, the Viviano Variety Show raised over \$30,000 to benefit CRKC.
- ▶ In January 2013, Cristo Rey senior Edna McCrary was named a Horatio Alger Scholar, one of 105 in the U.S. The award included a \$20,000 scholarship.
- ▶ CRKC's Dancing with the Kansas City Stars event was a record success raising \$689,000 in March 2013.



Lynn Gant and Bynae Coleman, Cristo Rey Robotics Team members, with Dr. Kathleen Hanlon, CRKC president.

- ▶ El Salvador Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez spoke at CRKC in March 2013. The continuing struggles of El Salvador since its civil war, violence and the interconnectedness of the U.S. with Latin America were themes of his talk.
- ▶ The CRKC Interact Club, sponsored by the Plaza Rotary, conducted a school-wide toy drive in April 2013 to collect toys for Children's Mercy Hospital.
- ▶ CRKC celebrated its fourth graduation with 47 graduates on May 31, 2013. All graduates were accepted to college and earned more than \$1.7 million in scholarships.
- ▶ CRKC boys' soccer team had a great season and was again the district champion in November 2013.
- ▶ In November 2013, Cristo Rey recognized eight local companies as founding business partners of the Corporate Work Study Program.
- ▶ In December 2013, CRKC received word that the school had been awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to repair the gym roof. This was the first public money grant that the school has received. Further good news came when the Redemptorist community agreed to match the CDBG grant dollar for dollar.

- ▶ In February 2014, Cristo Rey sponsored its first robotics team that competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge. Vanessa Steger, a Precious Blood Volunteer, coached the team.
- ▶ CRKC's Dancing with the Kansas City Stars in March 2014 was sold out for the third straight year and raised over \$733,000.
- ▶ Senior twin sisters Viola and Kiva Donahue were named Hale scholarship winners by the *The Kansas City Star* in May 2014.
- ▶ Senior Dallas Parker and junior Carlos Bahena traveled to California in June 2014 to participate in a program called MINDDRIVE. Participants spent their Saturdays during the school year building an electric car and documenting the entire process. The experience culminated in a road trip that showcased the students' work to several audiences.

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

Growing healthcare

- ▶ The USM Stefani Doctor of Physical Therapy program is now in its third year and will see its first cohort graduate in May 2015.
- ▶ The health information management program is working toward accreditation.
- ▶ Other new developments include the fully online Master of Science in Nursing degree that launched in 2013 and a soon to launch 3+3 program – human biology – that will see successful Saint Mary students enter chiropractic college following completion of their third year at USM.



In the USM physical therapy lab, students get hands-on practice learning techniques in this popular degree program.

Supporting students

- ▶ The University of Saint Mary kicked off the 2014 school year with two significant announcements. USM landed prestigious federal grants – \$1 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and \$600,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) – to help fund scholarships for deserving and needy students who want to fill major needs in the region's workforce.



At a reception to announce USM's new *Círculo de Cuidado* program, (left to right), Dr. Bryan Le Beau, academic vice president, visits with Robert Barrientos, senior advisor, Latinos of Tomorrow, and Irene Caudillo, president and CEO, El Centro.

- ▶ The HRSA grant is funding USM's new *Círculo de Cuidado* (Circle of Care) scholarship program aimed at benefiting qualified Hispanic and Latino prospective nursing students from Wyandotte County, Kan. As part of the program, students can receive scholarships and living stipends to pursue nursing degrees at USM. The program will be geared toward helping them find nursing jobs in Wyandotte County, a federally designated area of need for trained bilingual nurses. USM is bringing aboard two dedicated staff members and will initially partner with Bishop Ward High School, Kansas City, Kan., to help prepare promising students for the *Círculo de Cuidado* program. The first students to benefit from the scholarships should arrive in fall 2015.
- ▶ The NSF grant will help fund \$10,000 scholarships for needy area students who want to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The scholarship will be highly selective and will benefit incoming freshmen or transfer students who want to major in the pure sciences or math or who want to go on to graduate schools in those fields.

Boosting athletics and school spirit

- ▶ Related to the university's plans to grow enrollment is the addition of new men's and women's lacrosse teams, which will take the field – as club-level squads – in spring 2015. The lacrosse program will go varsity during the 2015-2016 school year and has already helped draw students from regions outside of our typical recruiting zones, particularly the Northeast.
- ▶ USM is also exploring developing a pep band to help provide musical support at both athletic and various community events and to further foster school spirit among students and alums.

Growing USM's global presence

- ▶ In 2013, USM brought aboard Dr. Karenbeth Zacharias as the new director of the Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI). Dr. Zacharias immediately turned her attention toward building GSI's presence in the larger Kansas City community.
- ▶ GSI has been a sponsor of several significant community events, including a major exhibition of Middle Eastern history and art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum.
- ▶ GSI was also instrumental in developing a key partnership in 2013 with Benedictine College, Atchison, Kan., that helps USM students study abroad for a semester in Florence, Italy. As part of the arrangement, Saint Mary students live and study at Benedictine's location in Florence. The first Saint Mary students went to Florence in August 2014.



Alma Habib, USM alum and avid global community volunteer, presents on Syria for a Founders' Day observance at the university.

Honors of note

- ▶ Since August 2010, USM has annually been honored by *G.I. Jobs* magazine as a "Military Friendly School." The award puts USM among top schools in the country for veterans.
- ▶ USM also repeatedly was named "Best Midwestern College" by *The Princeton Review* with 2014 marking the university's 10th consecutive award.

Graduate programs continue to grow

- ▶ As mentioned earlier, USM launched the online MSN program in 2013.
- ▶ Also that year, USM unveiled a Master's in Elementary Education that offers teacher certification as part of the program.
- ▶ The university's MBA has added a seventh concentration in 2014: the leadership and organizational health concentration.

Commitment to service

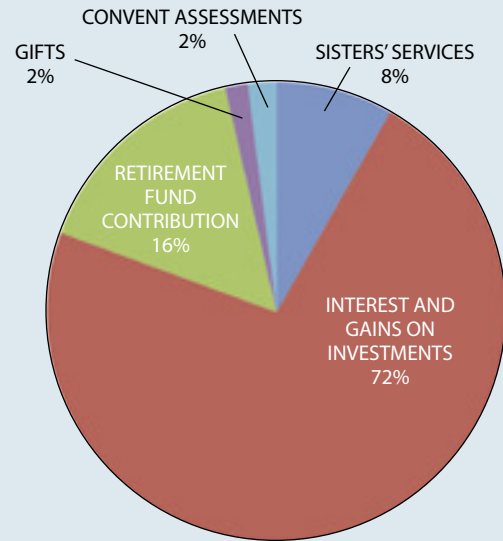
- ▶ USM's annual anti-hunger food packaging event that started with SWIPE in 2011 continues to thrive and grow. Each fall, dozens of students and community members gather in USM's McGilley Field House to package several thousand meals for delivery overseas.

SCL Stewardship Report

JUNE 1, 2012-MAY 31, 2014

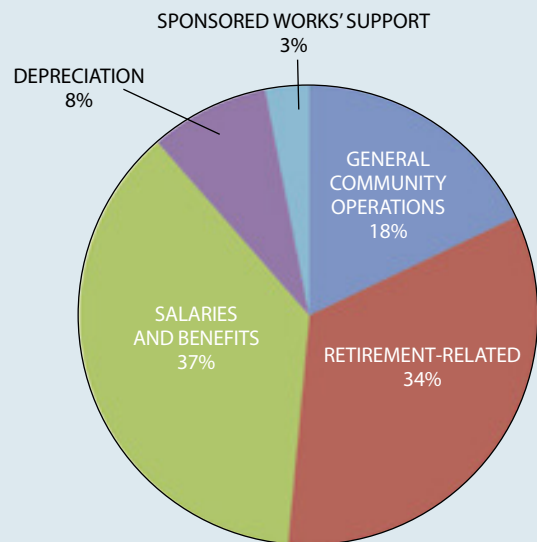
Sources of Income 2012-2014

- ▶ **Sisters' services** – Includes incomes of Sisters.
- ▶ **Interest and gains on investments** – Realized and unrealized investment income gains experienced due to improved market.
- ▶ **Retirement fund contribution** – Contribution from the retirement fund to reimburse for expenses related to SCLs who are retired.
- ▶ **Gifts** – Miscellaneous donations to SCLs.
- ▶ **Convent assessments** – For cars, FICA, Health Fund and retirement of Sisters.



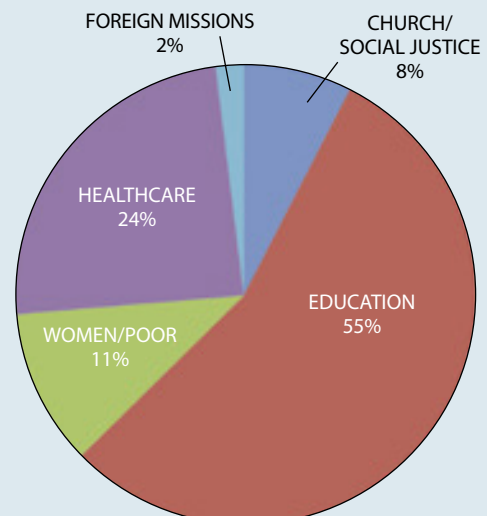
Categories of Expenses 2012-2014

- ▶ **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, healthcare 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 wear and tear, age, etc.
- ▶ **Sponsored works' support** – Major SCL gifts to sponsored ministries.



Charitable Contributions 2012-2014

- ▶ **Church/social justice** – SCL donations directed toward justice and peace.
- ▶ **Education** – Donations to schools where SCLs teach and/or with which the religious Community has been associated, or scholarships for students.
- ▶ **Women/poor** – Contributions to agencies and organizations that work to improve the well-being of women, the poor and persons who are oppressed.
- ▶ **Healthcare** – Contributions to SCL Health clinics for the uninsured and to SCL Mission Funds at SCL Health 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.



SCL leads Catholic Theological Society of America



Sister Susan Wood at the fountain
at the SCL Mother House, Leavenworth.

Since June 8, Sister Susan Wood has been serving as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the largest theological organization in the world. She had previously been president-elect and vice president.

Sister Susan describes the theological society as a professional organization that provides a forum for Catholic theologians to network with one another, present and discuss papers, and receive updates on

theological scholarship. The society hosts a large annual convention in June, scheduled in Milwaukee in 2015 where Sister Susan will give a plenary address and the reflection at Mass.

In October, she presided over a board meeting where discussion focused on the convention, budget, relationship to other theological societies and business matters. A second board meeting precedes the annual convention.

Professor in the theology department at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Sister Susan remains very active in the study of ecclesiology and in ecumenical dialogue. She has given recent presentations including “Liturgical Ecclesiology,” Catholic Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium, Boston College, Boston, Mass., Sept. 6; and “‘Return to Your Baptism Daily’: Baptism and Christian Life,” The Ecumenical Luther, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind., Aug. 11.

Pope Francis proclaims Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis has declared 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life to be celebrated throughout the world. This specially designated observance began on the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 2014. It will close on the World Day of Consecrated Life, Feb. 2, 2016.

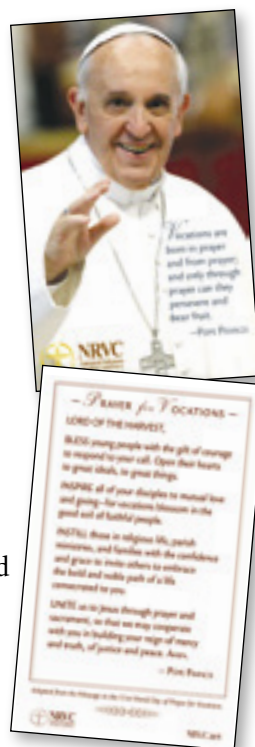
The Vatican has announced that the year has a three-pronged focus:

- Renewal for women and men in consecrated life.
- Thanksgiving among the faithful for the service of sisters, brothers, priests and nuns.
- An invitation to young Catholics to consider religious vocations.

“Our brothers and sisters in Christ living consecrated lives make great contributions to our society through a vast number of ministries,” said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). “They teach in our schools, take care of the poor and the sick and bring compassion and the love of Christ to those shunned by society; others lead lives of prayer in contemplation for the world.”

The USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations is promoting “Days with Religious” initiatives and resources to help families learn about the consecrated life of religious men and women. Activities will focus on sharing experiences of prayer, service and community life with those committed to consecrated lives.

For more information and resources, visit usccb.org or vocationnetwork.org.



WAKE UP THE WORLD!

— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

What is consecrated life?

Consecrated life is a gift given by Christ who chooses a person individually to respond to his great love in a special relationship. Christ asks persons to leave some aspects of the world (such as marriage and following secular goals) to put themselves at the service of their brothers and sisters. Consecrated life is a vocation just as marriage and diocesan priesthood are. Both men and women can choose to consecrate their lives to Christ as a way to seek an intimate relationship with him. These men and women give witness that Christ is ultimately the one to whom we are called to be united. Those in consecrated life generally join a religious order. Consecrated life is most often shared in a community which is united to live out a common mission together.

(Office of Vocations, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas)

SCLs begin planning toward Chapter 2016

The Chapter 2016 Planning Committee gathered for its initial meeting on Sept. 26-27. Sister Maureen Hall, SCL Community Director, welcomed and thanked the Sisters and introduced Sister Carole Shinnick, SSND, facilitator for the 2016 Chapter sessions. Members participated in a commissioning ritual.

Sister Carole cited three canonical purposes of the Chapter convened by the SCLs every six years: evaluation of the life and mission of the congregation; direction setting; and election of a new leadership team.

After discernment, the group asked Sister Constance Phelps to serve as chair, and she accepted the role. Timelines were established for meetings and for processes such as the preparation of the Community for the Chapter, identification of critical issues and appointment of committees.



Members of the SCL Chapter Planning Committee include left to right, front row, Sisters Elizabeth Skalicky, Melissa Camardo, Sheila Taylor; middle, Nancy Bauman, Constance Phelps, Lynn Casey, Carole Shinnick, SSND (facilitator); and back, Sheila Karpan, Donna Jean Henson, Mary Rachel Flynn, Nery Lourdes Abad Pulache and Noreen Walter.

Pluses add up in volunteer service

*Xela Warmer, Heartland Charity Volunteer (HCV),
says that her expectations of the program have been met and then some!*

The May 2014 college graduate from Billings, Mont., wanted to be pushed out of her comfort zone and that has definitely happened. Furthermore, she wanted to live in intentional community, and likewise, she is experiencing this.

Xela (pronounced Shay-lah) began as an HCV in Kansas City, Kan., on Aug. 4. She serves in two ministries, both of which are led by SCL Associates: Companion Ministries headed by Charles Carney and The Learning Club under the direction of Brad Grabs.

Sister Mary V strikes again

Following her May 2014 graduation as a religious studies major from Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash., Xela was in search of a volunteer program. She considered the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and the Peace Corps. Xela's Mother had been in contact with Sister Mary Vincentia Maronick, who formerly ministered in Billings

but now lives at the SCL Mother House in Leavenworth. Sister Mary V mentioned the Heartland Charity Volunteers program to Xela's Mom.

Xela became intrigued with this volunteer opportunity and pursued it. "I was kind of hooked, and it all fell into place," Xela remembers.

**Xela likes being
behind the scenes
of the two non-profits and
seeing how they function.**

Sister Mary V had also been instrumental in recruiting one of the original Heartland Charity Volunteers, also a Shala and also from Billings. Shala Steffes is currently attending the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth.

Creating a 'plan of hope'

From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and all day Friday, Xela works with seven or eight participants through Companion Ministries, Kansas City, Kan. Similar to Welcome Central, the SCLs' new ministry in Leavenworth, Companion Ministries helps people navigate a variety of systems.

While she has had no experience as a social worker, Xela appreciates being able to "walk with people unfamiliar with the bureaucratic stuff." Most of her participants are homeless and between the ages of 50 to 60. She helps them submit applications for public housing, apply for Medicaid or address other diverse needs.

"We create a plan of hope based on what each individual wants to accomplish," Xela explains. "I'm walking with them, not leading and not fixing. I ask each person, 'What do you want to do?' It's much more effective to address what matters to them."

Admitting that she thinks linearly, Xela says that these interactions are the furthest from her comfort zone. She's a "do this, do that" kind of person. But that doesn't work in helping transform someone who is homeless and struggles with daily existence.

The Learning Club

With The Learning Club, Xela helps coordinate volunteers who tutor kids in housing for low-income

Heartland Charity Volunteers (HCV)

is a program of the SCL Community that gives young women, ages 21 to 30, the opportunity to serve in the Midwest and to experience intentional community. Customized placement of volunteers is a priority of the small, intimate program. Former volunteers describe the experience as one that transforms hearts and changes lives.

For more information or to apply, visit heartlandcv.org.



One of her duties with The Learning Club is to tutor students, which Xela Warmer, Heartland Charity Volunteer, enjoys.

families and at a community center. The Learning Club currently has four sites that serve first- through ninth-graders. Local businesses provide the volunteers, and, if needed, Xela steps into this role also.

Young participants receive points for themselves and for group behaviors to earn prizes. The kids can “cash in” their points any time, but tutors and program coordinators try to impress them with the concept of saving.

Other pluses of being an HCV

In addition to her hands-on volunteer service, Xela likes being behind the scenes of the two non-profits and seeing how they function. She also enjoys living in the intentional community of Xavier House, Kansas City, Kan. “This is not just a household,” Xela says. “It’s a group of dedicated people committed to helping each other.”

Coming from Montana’s rugged individualist mentality, Xela says the community feeling of Kansas has been wonderful. People want to make connections and reach out and help. The hardest thing for Xela is letting go of her volunteer service and concerns about her participants when she goes home each day. Living in community has helped her grapple with this, place it in prayer and not be totally stressed out.

Xela checks a resource list in the office of Companion Ministries, Kansas City, Kan.



A steady presence in Livingston hospital

When the new hospital opens in Livingston, Mont., in October 2015, Sister Virginia Jakobe thinks she might like to volunteer.

After all, she knows the staff, many people in the community of 7,000 and a lot about healthcare. Until her recent (Oct. 20) retirement, Sister Virginia had worked as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) at Livingston Healthcare (formerly Livingston Memorial Hospital) for 30 years.

"I really, really enjoyed it – working with people, helping them get well, interacting one-on-one," Sister Virginia says. "I feel like I've contributed a lot, and I've grown, too."

Sister Virginia appreciates that as an LPN in a small hospital, she had extensive opportunities to put her education to good use and to use a variety of skills. In the early days, she helped the hospital develop its hospice program. Over the years, she primarily worked on the medical/surgical units. She assisted with medications and IVs, wound care and ostomy education. When she retired, Sister Virginia was a unit coordinator – taking orders from doctors, keeping staff informed and providing secretarial support – or as she jokes, "Just bossing everyone around!"

Sister Virginia entered the SCLs in 1960. She had nursing on her mind. But the need for elementary school teachers led her to 20+ years in the classroom including in Livingston where Sister Virginia taught for a couple of years.

Her interest in nursing persisted, however, and Sister Virginia returned to school and graduated as an LPN in 1983. She worked briefly at St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings, Mont., where she had earned her degree. On Sept. 4, 1984, Sister Virginia began her job at the Livingston hospital.

Over the past 30 years, most everyone knew she was a Sister; they called her "Sister V" or "Virginia." Her coworkers often asked her to sit with persons who were dying.

Prompted by her peers, she had discussions with them about what it means to be a Catholic in today's world. She also explained what a sister is and the commitment of sisters to serve God's people.

In addition to being a loyal, long-term employee, Sister Virginia was an important presence of a Christian and a woman religious in the hospital and in the community. As she enjoys her "semi-sabbatical," chances are good that Sister Virginia will remain that steady presence as she opens doors to new ways to serve.



Sister Virginia Jakobe participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the new hospital in Livingston, Mont., in October 2013.



Her love of caring for patients kept Sister Virginia in nursing for 30 years.



Bren Lowe, CEO, Livingston Healthcare, recognized Sister Virginia's years of service during a reception at the hospital on Oct. 16.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

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

Sister Arthel retires from Friendly Visitors

After 12 years directing Catholic Charities Friendly Visitors program in Leavenworth, Kan., **Sister Mary Arthel Cline** retired at the end of August. She was recognized with a reception on Aug. 25. Allen Ohlstein, formerly a chaplain with Catholic Charities Community Hospice, is the new director.

Sister Mary Arthel began the Friendly Visitors program in Leavenworth 12 years ago as a co-director. She was its director for the past 10 years. The program connects volunteers with homebound persons and fosters relationships.

Sister Mary Arthel Cline (center) with Friendly Visitors Kathy Roemer (left) and Lee Alexander, Leavenworth.



Royals' fever at the Mother House/Ross Hall

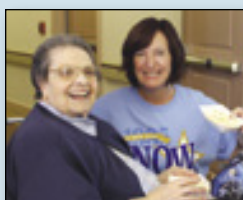
When the Kansas City Royals were in the play-offs and World Series this past season, SCLs at the Mother House and Ross Hall were among their avid fans and supporters.



Did anyone ever solve the mystery of who put blue coloring in the fountain at the front of the Mother House during the post-season?



A diehard baseball fan, Sister Margaret Marie Mitchell pulled for the KC Royals right to the finish.



At one of several Royals' watch parties, Sister Josephine Bustos (left) enjoyed refreshments with Jill Kruse, activities director.

SCL does ice bucket challenge

Sister Jo Anne Sistrunk, who has faced her own health challenges, wanted to demonstrate that people with disabilities and those who are older could take the ALS ice bucket challenge and do just fine.

So she did. On Sunday, Aug. 31, Taylor, Sister's niece, did the honors and poured the water while other family members videoed and photographed the experience. Sister Jo Anne survived with great spirit, challenging her family to donate to the cause.

"I like supporting various causes," Sister Jo Anne says, "and I wanted to encourage people to not be afraid to step outside the box."

Or, in this case, under the bucket!



Sister Jo Anne Sistrunk took the ALS ice bucket challenge this summer, assisted by her niece Taylor.

Clínica Tepeyac recognizes SCLs with Community Partner Award

Attending the Clínica Tepeyac event and receiving recognition on behalf of the SCL Community were (left to right) Sisters Maureen Kehoe, Carol Depner, Renée Washut, Paula Rose Jauernig, Amy Willcott and Eileen Haynes.



The **Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth** received the Outstanding Community Partner Award for their steadfast support of the mission of Clínica Tepeyac, Denver, at the organization's Sept. 27 Fiesta on the Plaza. At the event, Clínica Tepeyac celebrated 20 years of service to Denver's medically underserved community.

"Twenty years ago, before we even opened our doors, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth stepped up and offered every measure of support one could imagine," said Jim Garcia, Clínica Tepeyac's executive director. "Sister Marianna Bauder, who was CEO of Saint Joseph Hospital at the time, was an absolute Godsend – she intuitively knew what our needs were and just made things happen," Jim added.

Top honors for ministry at Seton Center

On Oct. 25, **Sister Marie Madeleine Shonka** received the Ascension Health Individual Mission and Values Award at the health system's convocation in Nashville, Tenn.



This award is given to the person who is living the mission and values of Ascension Health at the highest level. Ascension Health has over 130,000 associates so this was an outstanding honor for Sister and for Seton Center, Kansas City, Mo., where Sister Marie Madeleine coordinates the food pantry. Sister was described as "a tireless advocate for and friend to those in need in the neighborhood."

Philanthropy awarded



Terry Armstrong, SCL Associate (center), and her husband Ed were named 2014 Philanthropists of the Year at the Heroes Ball hosted by the foundation of St. Mary's Medical Center, Grand Junction, Colo. Teri Cavanagh, foundation chair, presented the award.

Terry Armstrong, SCL Associate, and her husband Ed were named 2014 Philanthropists of the Year at the Heroes Ball hosted by the foundation of St. Mary's Medical Center, Grand Junction, Colo. Teri Cavanagh, foundation chair, presented the award. Following her work as a nurse at the hospital, Terry served on the St. Mary's Foundation board for six years, both as an officer and chair of the PR Committee. She next served six years on the board of the hospital. Terry also was a member of the St. Mary's Community Benefit Steering Committee. She currently serves on the board of Marillac Clinic. Ed has been involved with a number of civic and professional organizations.

Duchesne Clinic acknowledges SCL support

The Nov. 18 celebration of Duchesne Clinic's 25th anniversary in Kansas City, Kan., included special acknowledgment of the **SCL Community** for its leadership in founding the clinic and continued support.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, celebrated the Mass and gave the homily. Sister Maureen Hall, SCL Community Director, offered the reflection following Communion. Sister Charlotte White and Therese Horvat, SCLA, served on the Mass Planning Committee. A reception followed the Mass at St. Mary-St. Anthony Parish.

Duchesne Clinic is part of Caritas Clinics that includes Saint Vincent Clinic, Leavenworth. Both clinics serve only persons who are uninsured. They are care sites of SCL Health.



On behalf of the SCL Community, Sister Maureen Hall (left), Community Director, received a plaque from Duchesne Clinic at its 25th anniversary celebration. Presenting the recognition was Amy Falk (center), clinic executive director, and Judy Scott, board chair. The celebration followed Mass on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at St. Mary-St. Anthony Parish, Kansas City, Kan. (Photo by John Caulfield)

Follow the SCLs on

 **Facebook** www.facebook.com/sistersofcharity

 **YouTube** www.youtube.com/sistersofcharityks

 **Twitter** www.twitter.com/scleavenworth

 **Pinterest** www.pinterest.com/scleavenworth

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

Scholarships have long-lasting effects

When Saint Mary College, today named the University of Saint Mary (USM), marked its Golden Jubilee in 1973, the SCL Community expressed appreciation with a gift that's had lasting power and that continues today. On Founders' Day (Nov. 11) 1973, Mother Leo Frances Ryan wrote to the Sisters, "As a token of the community's gratitude for the degrees awarded to the sisters, we, the Board of Trustees of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, have established a scholarship grant."

Forty years later, students continue to be designated Jubilee Scholars at USM. Alumnae, who have benefited from these scholarships, credit the financial assistance and the well-rounded education with affecting their careers and their lives.

Education a great gift

Patricia Regan ('74) was in the first group of Jubilee Scholars. She was a senior at USM in 1973-1974 when she received this special scholarship support. Pat was also the first in her family – including 60 cousins – to attend college away from home and graduate. She came from a family of eight and recalls that escaping her siblings may have been part

of her grand plan for coming from St. Louis to Leavenworth for college.

In retrospect, Pat says that she often thinks that the "SCLs gave us a great gift with our education, and we didn't know it at the time. Being a 'Saint Marian' affected everything in my life," Pat continues. "The liberal arts taught me how to think in the different professions I pursued – I could be analytical and also be creative."

Pat has done a variety of things since graduating. She was an au pair in Germany for one year and a registered stockbroker for eight years on her return to the U.S. Next, she gave up everything she owned and became a missionary volunteer in Alabama doing pastoral ministry and outreach.

For the past 26 years, Pat has done fund development for the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, known as Trinity Missions. In 1998, she became executive director of development. Today, she administers a staff of 13, a 150,000 donor list and a huge direct mail operation from an office in the Washington, D.C. area. Working full-time, Pat also earned her master's degree in theology with a focus on mission studies from Washington Theological Union.

Recalling her college years, Pat remembers that she worked in the USM fund development office with Sister Mary Vincentia Maronick – a precursor of careers to come! Pat was among students who gave tours and learned how to serve properly for lunches hosted for the "blue hairs" – older female alumnae who were potential donors.

Pat says that her USM college experience imbued her with Vincentian spirituality. Her current work and ministry allow her to continue to live that spirituality – for which Pat remains full of gratitude.

Both sides now

Sister Rosie Kolich never dreamed that she would be a USM professor and an SCL when she attended classes in the English department at the University of Saint Mary from 1976 to 1980.

She came to what was then called Saint Mary College on a Jubilee Scholarship. "When I received the Jubilee Scholarship, I never gave any other college another thought," she says.

"I had outstanding teachers at Bishop Ward High School, many of them SCLs. I realized that if the Sisters were staffing the college, that I would



Pat Regan reviews the latest website changes with Father Stephen Giorno, ST. Together, they are responsible for Trinity Missions' fundraising efforts.

40th anniversary of Jubilee Scholarships prompts outreach

Early last spring, as the SCL Jubilee Scholarship Selection Committee met to choose the two scholarship recipients for the 2014-2015 academic year at the University of Saint Mary (USM), Leavenworth, Kan., Sister Rosalie Curtin noted that it was the 40th year that the Sisters had provided these scholarships. To mark this milestone, the group determined to try to connect with individuals who had received Jubilee Scholarships through the years.

"We want to hear their stories and invite the Jubilee Scholars to reflect on the impact that receiving the scholarships has made in their lives," Sister Rosalie says. "This seemed like a perfect time to hear their stories, as the university was observing its 90th anniversary year."

Over the past 40 years, an estimated 115 persons have received Jubilee Scholarships.

If you were one and want to share your story, please contact Sister Rosie Kolich at rosemary.kolich@stmary.edu or 913-680-5534.



Sister Rosie Kolich is right at home in the USM classrooms where she is a professor in the English department.

receive a quality education, as well as personal attention, at Saint Mary. I owe a great deal to the Sisters.”

Sister Rosie both appreciated and felt honored to be a Jubilee Scholarship recipient, although she admits that she didn’t realize the magnitude of the award at the time. Sister Rosie came from a family of 12. Her father died when she was 9. She remembers that her Mother pledged to get all of the kids through high school, but that for college, they would be on their own.

“My Mom made it very clear that due to tight finances we had to take responsibility for our higher education,” Sister Rosie recalls. “In the same breath, however, she did everything in her power to encourage us to go to college. I was excited to receive the Jubilee Scholarship; my Mother was ecstatic.

“I had excellent teachers at Saint Mary. Most of them were SCLs,” Sister Rosie says. “They truly engaged us. What was so transparent was their love of teaching and their commitment to us as students and as individuals. I hope I model the same for my students.”

Sister Rosie entered the SCL Community in 1982. She taught secondary school for 17 years then joined the faculty at USM. She received her master’s degree from Middlebury College in Vermont, and her PhD from

Gratitude prompts start-up

The SCLs established the Jubilee Scholarship at USM (then Saint Mary College) in 1973 to commemorate the college’s 50th anniversary and to acknowledge the institution for the education of 739 SCLs who had received degrees there.

Initially, the fund awarded four scholarships annually to Catholic students. Scholarships covered the total cost of tuition, room and board for four years.

Criteria included:

- Demonstration of need for financial assistance.
- Nomination by a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth.
- Graduation preferably from an SCL high school.
- Satisfaction of regular admissions requirements.
- Potential to make a valuable contribution to society.

Today, while Sisters can still nominate candidates, students typically apply for the Jubilee Scholarships themselves. The scholarships cover tuition for the entire four years and go to two outstanding students each year who have demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership and service to others. Academic requirements include two of the following: 3.7 cumulative GPA; top 10 percent of their class; or an ACT college entry score of 26. Students submit essays that reflect their commitment to learning, goals and perspectives on leadership and service. Two letters of recommendation are also requested.

On average, 25 to 30 prospective students apply each year. A committee of Sisters and Associates reviews the applications and essays and narrows the process to telephone interviews with eight candidates. Five final candidates come to the Leavenworth campus for interviews.

Deadline for applications for the 2015-2016 academic year is Jan. 12, 2015. For more information, contact Kitti O’Donnell, USM director of admissions operations, 913-758-6304 or kitti.odonnell@stmary.edu.

Saint Louis University. In 2010, Sister Rosie merited USM’s Sullivan Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is a member of the committee that selects SCL Jubilee Scholarship recipients.

“Funny how life comes around and turns out,” she says. “It surprises us!”

Return on investment

Mary Dunnebecke Dorr (USM ’78) knows a lot about the value of financial aid. For the past 33 years, she’s directed community college offices that administer this important function. She is currently director of financial aid for Kansas City, Kansas Community College.



Mary Dorr (right) with Jenny Counter, financial aid professional assistant, in the financial aid office of the Kansas City, Kansas Community College.

“There’s no way I could have gone to Saint Mary College without being a Jubilee Scholar,” Mary says. “I would have had to work in Denver and attend community college.”

Yet Saint Mary’s was part of her family tradition and rich stories. Mary’s Mom and six aunts attended USM. One of her aunts – Sister Mary Liguori Horvat – was an SCL and a professor there. Mary’s encounters with SCLs in the Denver area had been positive. Sight unseen, Mary had her heart set on attending the Leavenworth college.

“The day we got the Jubilee Scholar letter, my Mom cried with joy,” Mary says. “It was a little scary for me because I’d never been to Leavenworth before. Plus, the idea of my going to Leavenworth from Denver wasn’t too popular with my friends.”

Mary majored in home economics education at USM. When she was a senior, Jubilee Scholars were tapped to serve as ambassadors for the college. This role led to a job offer for Mary. She became assistant director of admissions and worked with Sister Susan Rieke.

Mary was on the admissions team that takes collective credit for recruiting a certain high school student from Butte, Mont., to attend USM. That student – Diane Steele – went on to become a Jubilee Scholar herself and an SCL, and today is president of the university. (See article, right column.)

Being a Jubilee Scholar gave Mary a sense of responsibility – not only to pay back her alma mater, but also to serve the broader community. “I believe that the Sisters made an investment in me for four years,” she says. “I know what college costs, so I try to contribute as much as I can to USM.”

Mary volunteers at her parish and was involved with school activities when her two daughters were younger. She also supports Special Olympics. “I learned a lot at Saint Mary – a spirit of service and hospitality and the value of faith,” she says.

Formed by SCLs

Attending USM wasn’t an easy decision for **Terri Butel** (’79). At first, she was a runner-up for the Jubilee Scholarship; then she was notified that she was selected. As thrilled as her Mom and Dad were with this needed financial support, Terri didn’t want to attend an all-girls’ school, which USM was at the time.



Terri Butel outside her office at Cantwell Hall, Leavenworth, Kan.

During a retreat a few weeks later, Terri realized that she could attend USM for a year and change schools if things didn’t work out. This recognition was a relief and a joy, even though as a young person, Terri says, she was naïve about the expense associated with college.

Her initial misgivings transitioned into a great experience. Terri believes

that she received a top-shelf education at USM. She recalls there was slight additional pressure to maintain good grades so as not to forfeit the scholarship; but it was her nature to strive for excellence.

Terri values that she had the opportunity to get to know more SCLs, many of whom had a lifelong impact on her. “As things happened in the world, events were filtered for me through the Sisters’ awareness,” Terri says. “I was formed by their reflections on what was happening in the world. I began to perceive things differently.”

Following graduation, Terri became a medical technologist; she increasingly advanced in this field to management and administrative positions in the Midwest. On Aug. 1, 2011, she became the first full-time and first lay director of the SCL Associate program.

Terri’s takeaways from being a Jubilee Scholar include the awareness that she needs to contribute to the Jubilee Fund so that others can experience an excellent education. The greatest gift she received from the scholarship fund? “Formation as a person and as a Christian,” Terri sums up, “the realization that I’m not the center of the world.”

Grateful for opportunity

Being among the first Jubilee Scholars was a major opportunity for **Alice Vargas** (’76) when she attended USM. “It gave me the chance to go to college without financial struggles and a lot of loans,” she says.

Plus, Alice believes that her education at USM prepared her well for graduate studies. She was a good student in high school, but she remembers that classes were not easy at USM. “After that experience, going to graduate school was not as difficult,” Alice says.

At USM, Alice double majored in sociology and psychology. She went on to earn her master’s degree in education



Alice Vargas

through the University of Missouri at Columbia and taught special education for a year and half. Ever the inquirer, Alice wanted to know why kids had the problems they did. That led her to the University of Notre Dame on a fellowship where she earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology.

With her combined background in education and psychology, Alice worked as a therapist for school districts. She also served in clinics and hospitals.

Due to personal health problems, Alice chose early retirement when her husband’s job transfer brought the couple to Denver. She’s happy now to volunteer in the Women and Family Center at Lutheran Medical Center, Wheatridge, Colo., a hospital of SCL Health. Alice does whatever she can to help families and the staff. She’s known as the “cookie lady” for her assignment to bring fresh-baked cookies from an oven on the nursing unit to the families.

When she lists who and what formed and influenced her life, Alice includes her Mother, a single parent with six children; a mentor, Pat A., in a fabric distribution center where Alice worked during high school; a professor, Dr. Samora, at the University of Notre Dame; Tim Kaiser, PhD, her husband of 30 years; and very much, the University of Saint Mary.

“I’m very thankful that I went to USM,” Alice concludes. “I got a lot from being there – from my professors, the Sisters and best friends that I made.”

From USM student to USM president

Growing up in Butte, Mont., **Sister Diane Steele** (’83), USM president, says that the SCLs were always part of her family members’ lives. The Sisters operated the hospital and the schools. In fact, one of the Sisters who taught the nursing students was nearby when Sister Diane was born. Sister Diane’s Mom told her that the SCL wanted Mrs. Steele to delay delivery so the students could see a breach birth. “Mom wasn’t into the ‘teachable moment,’” Sister Diane says.



In full academic regalia, Sister Diane Steele addresses an official gathering at the University of Saint Mary where she is president.

When time came to choose a college, Sister Diane's decision to attend USM was pretty cut and dry. "I didn't have money for college, and Saint Mary offered me a full ride," she says. "Without the Jubilee Scholarship, I would not have come."

Reflecting on her college experience, Sister Diane says USM was a great place for her to learn and grow. She made good friends and had wonderful, challenging professors who were demanding and understanding. She graduated from Saint Mary with a degree in English and a certificate in secondary education.

"More importantly, I learned to think and write which prepared me for the various missions I have had as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth," she explains. Sister Diane has spent her entire life either teaching or in educational administration. And she loves it.

Sister Diane considers Saint Mary a key influence in her life. It was during her college years that she realized she wanted to become an SCL. She learned social justice from the late Father John Stitz, USM chaplain. "My world was broadened, and my faith was deepened," Sister Diane summarizes.

"I owe a debt of gratitude as a Jubilee Scholar," she continues. "This scholarship provided my education and fostered my vocation. I spend my days trying to 'pay it forward' to the next generation of students."

Current students reflect on being Jubilee Scholars

Current USM Jubilee Scholars agree that applying for this special scholarship was definitely a process, but it's one that's been well worth the time and the energy they expended.

Current scholars include:

- Seniors: John Cothren, Leavenworth, medicine; and Jennifer Nye, Leavenworth, nursing.
- Juniors: Sarah Chavez, Lawrence, Kan., nursing; and Maggie Stewart, Norman, Okla., elementary education.
- Sophomores: Julie Hopkins, DeSoto, Kan., chemistry; and Nathan Petty, Smithville, Mo., IT.
- Freshmen: Alexis Hayden, Weatherford, Okla., nursing; and Marissa Martin, Tonganoxie, Kan., biology.



Current USM Jubilee Scholars include (seated) Nathan Petty; standing, left to right, Julie Hopkins, Marissa Martin, Alexis Hayden, Jennifer Nye, Maggie Stewart and Sarah Chavez. Not pictured, John Cothren.

The students had USM among their college options for different reasons. Sports attracted some; the nursing program drew others. "I really wanted to come here," Maggie says. "I felt I would fit in here. I had a good feeling about the campus and the people." Sarah shares those sentiments.

The Jubilee Scholarships were deciding factors for several of the students. "It was going to be boom or bust for me," Nathan says. "If I didn't get the scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to attend USM."

Reflecting on the process of the application, the essay submission and the interviews, Sister Susan Rieke, a member of the selection committee, says that all steps are important to help determine if each student is a fit as a Jubilee Scholar and with USM. Sister Rosie Kolich, also on the committee, said the final selection is always a difficult decision.

What the Jubilee Scholars remember most about the process are the actual announcements of their awards. Jennifer wondered why she had been called into the high school counselor's office – something that had never happened before. That planned diversion gave time for her family to arrive in the classroom and for Jennifer to return to receive the good news about the scholarship.

Alexis heard the announcement during an all-school assembly. The words about an important scholarship being awarded by the SCLs sunk in, and Alexis realized she was the one! Julie got called to the front of a large class only to see her parents and two USM admissions counselors walk in with balloons and cupcakes.

Fun aside, the students feel some pressure being Jubilee Scholars. There's the need to maintain grades, and there's also peer pressure related to the recognition. All agree it's still worth it. Learning about the origin and history of the Jubilee Scholarship made them even more appreciative of being recipients.

Appreciation abounds in Sister Marie Damian's life

As Sister Marie Damian Glatt looks back on her life, she gratefully acknowledges that the “hand of the Lord is in so much of what we do.” Her friends would agree that when it comes to Sister Marie Damian's life, the Lord has had a busy and full schedule!

Sister Marie Damian Glatt was regularly seen with her clipboard as she took notes to inventory Mother House artifacts.



Rising to the top

Since entering the SCLs in 1949, Sister Marie Damian has served as an elementary school teacher and principal, an advocate, an assistant superintendent, a planner and a health system executive. She's been a member of the SCL leadership council, a consultant and a mission leader. She returned to Leavenworth in 2012 and has worked on a special project in partnership with Sister Jean Martin Dawson to inventory the many artifacts in the Mother House.

Whatever Sister Marie Damian has done, she seems to rise to the top of the charts. She served three years as assistant director of the Montana Catholic Conference where she advocated for policies that affected Catholic education. For seven years, Sister Marie Damian was president/CEO of Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health Services Corporation (SCL/HSC, today called SCL Health). During that time, she oversaw restructuring of governance, acquisitions, growth of the clinics for the uninsured and introduction of mission leaders in health system hospitals.

At the time Sister Marie Damian left the health system, Sister Judith Jackson said, “The harvest of the SCL health ministry has a long and rich history. For her contributions to the harvest, may Sister Marie Damian experience the joy of work well done.”

Humble beginnings

This is quite a life and ministry story for someone whose family relocated from a German settlement in South Dakota to Montana during the depression. As a 6-year-old, Loretta Glatt only knew German. She attended her first day of school with a note from her Mother pinned on her clothing that read, “This is Loretta Glatt. She is 6 years old, and she does not speak English.” An eighth grade student worked with her with flash cards, and the language barrier disappeared.

As a young woman, the first time Sister Marie Damian met the SCLs was at St. Patrick High School, Billings. “When my Mom saw the Sisters, she knew I had to attend this school,” Sister Marie Damian recalls. “When I saw their long habits, I thought, ‘I don’t want to go to school with people who dress like that!’”

But her outlook changed, and Sister Marie Damian joined the SCLs after high school. She intended to become a nurse but was assigned to teaching instead. Many years later, healthcare beckoned – not as a nurse, but in administration. Sister Marie Damian received her master's degree in health administration from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She was director of new program development at St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings, and next joined the health system as its first vice president of planning. From 1992 to 1999, Sister Marie Damian was SCL/HSC president.

“I’m very grateful for all of my experiences,” she says. “I’ve been privileged to have worked with students and to have served in healthcare during a time of great change. Cataloging all of the Mother House artifacts has made me appreciate what people have done for us over the years and all of the Sisters who have gone before us.”

Beyond All Borders



A large group helped with transportation, refurbishing, preparing notions, checking bobbins, repairing scissors or generally giving good advice! Left to right, Sister Ann Barton, Jeff deHerrera, Joe Fink, Sister Rosella Mary Hehn, Tim Scanlon, Sister Anita Sullivan, Sister Janice Steiger, Sister Margaret Finch and Ken Beckner.

SEWING MACHINES DESTINED FOR HAITI

Following the Vincentian charism of linking persons of means with those in need, the SCLs reached out to Leavenworth and Lansing parishes in August and September for what's been dubbed "the sewing machine project" to assist the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa, Haiti.

The appeal resulted in an outstanding response that included six Singer treadle sewing machines, refurbished cabinets and small sewing boxes with supplies – all of which are being shipped to Fondwa by Heart to Heart International. Sister Ann Barton, who coordinated the initiative stateside, says the purpose of the "sewing machine project" is to help the sisters in Haiti develop a sustainable supplementary income in support of ministry and community needs. They are beginning a new activity of sewing school uniforms, women's dresses, and vestments and altar linens for parishes, as well as household items. Because electrical power is intermittent in Haiti, the request went out for the old-fashioned treadle machines that don't require electricity.

Many people help

Sister Ann acknowledged the generosity of the following individuals who donated sewing machines: Janet Bergman, Barbara Hagemeister and

Clare Vanderstaay, Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph Parish; Sister Paula Rose Jauernig; Evelyn Lange, who works for the SCLs; and Chris McManaman of Cave Man Crafts, Topeka, Kan. Chris happened to be in the J and M Sewing Center, Holton, Kan., the day Sister Anita Sullivan was there purchasing belts for the machines for the project. In their conversation while waiting, Chris generously offered to contribute a machine to the cause.

Sister Ann says that J and M Sewing Center has been very helpful with advice. Two new machine heads were purchased from the company that will also go to Haiti. The new heads – while still being basic – offer a number of fancy stitches the sisters will enjoy using for their project.

Tim Scanlon and Joe Fink (alumni of Immaculata High School) collected the sewing machines along with Cheryl Highman and Tom Waller of the SCL transportation department. "Our maintenance department, particularly Jeff deHerrera, refurbished the machines, which now run like 'tops'!" Sister Ann says.

Various SCLs donated items for the small sewing boxes to accompany each machine. Heart to Heart International will ship the machines and supplies. Sister Ann has written several foundations requesting funding to purchase fabrics and notions. Sister Claudette Prevot,

CSSAF, superior of the congregation in Haiti, is leading this new development project. Sister Mickelsie Boujour, CSSAF, has been taking sewing classes and will instruct other members and assist Sister Claudette.

Connection with Haiti

The Sisters of St. Anthony were founded in 1996. The SCLs met the new community in 2001 when a group of SCLs and an SCL Associate traveled to Fondwa in response to directives of the 1998 Chapter/meeting of the Sisters. The thrust to experience life with those daily facing poverty led to a study of the works of the Sisters in Fondwa and the Association of Peasants under the direction of Father Joseph Philippe, CSSP.

The earthquake of 2010 claimed the lives of one of the members of the new religious community and the orphaned infant whom she was attempting to rescue. The elementary/secondary school, sisters' quarters, guest house and much of the infrastructure of the Fondwa area were completely destroyed. Against many odds but with great faith and hope, the Sisters of St. Anthony and the entire community of the Fondwa area continue the work of reconstruction and transformation, Sister Ann concluded.

SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGHS WITH SCL Water Filter Project

A new, simplified water filter system and ease of transport abroad are potential major boosts for expanding the reach of the SCL – Safe, Clean, Life-giving – Water Filter Project.

Sister Marie Michael Mollis and Len and Kitty Bronec, SCLAs, form the subcommittee of the Social Justice Committee that is spearheading this initiative. They credit the generosity, interest and support of many SCLs, Associates, families and friends who have made this expansion possible.

The three are thrilled with the prospects of the new water filter system that uses two heavy-duty nylon bags with a filter to clean the water rather than a bucket with a filter. The nylon bags appear to be more durable and practical. The Bronecs and Sister Marie Michael are awaiting feedback from South Sudan where Sister Patricia Johannsen is distributing the new filter system.

They are also anticipating word as to whether the Catholic Medical Missionary Board that works in South Sudan can help facilitate the transport of water filters into the country. This would reduce some of the expense associated with transport and enable more filters to be shipped.

Here's a recent update on the status of placement of filters:

- South Sudan currently has 126 filters.
- The total in Peru is 225.
- SCLs at the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana have 10 kits that are either in use or ready for distribution.
- Two filter kits are in Haiti.
- Grand total: 363 in the field.

"Wherever there was a need, St. Vincent de Paul did something about it to the best of his ability," Sister Marie Michael says. "Every little bit that we do helps."



Sister Marie Michael Mollis



Kitty and Len Bronec, SCL Associates and members of the Social Justice Committee, demonstrate the new water filter being provided to SCL missions through the generous support of friends and benefactors.

FILTERS AT WORK IN SOUTH SUDAN



During the two-year program in which she trains teachers, Sister Patricia Johannsen has a unit on health with emphasis on clean water. She demonstrates use of the water filter in the class. When students graduate from the program, Sister Pat gives each of them a filter kit for use on return to their home villages. This means she will need upwards of 80 filters a year.

In South Sudan, Sister Patricia Johannsen gives water filters to her students upon their graduation. Newer filter systems are replacing the bucket systems.

Vatican II Reflections

These final reflections on the impact of Vatican II on the Catholic Church and Catholic life come from interviews with two SCL theologians: Sister Diane Steele, president of the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan.; and Sister Susan Wood, professor, department of theology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisc., and president of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

Pastoral roots, message of hope



Sister Diane Steele While most Church councils were called to correct errors, Sister Diane Steele considers the Second Vatican Council as having promoted a sense of hope about the Gospel of Jesus and the notion that the Church does not exist for its own sake; it exists to serve the people of God.

Sister Diane was a toddler when the Vatican II convened in Rome. But through the lens of her theological studies and her experience as an SCL, she values the council for encouraging a humbler Church and moving it from being against the

world to making the hopes, fears and joys of the world those of the Church.

Major changes she credits to the council relate to the Church's understanding of religious freedom, salvation, relationships with other religions and empowerment of the laity. "The Council invited lay people to a baptismal call beyond pay, pray, obey," she says. "The document addressing the role of laity pointed to the priestly, prophetic and kingly roles of all baptized in the Church. With this come gifts and responsibilities."

In terms of its impact on religious life, Sister Diane believes that the council called communities to their original charisms and to living those charisms. "The message was: your

spirit and the way you live your lives are what identify you, not your head gear or habit," she says.

Today, she sees Pope Francis attempting to reclaim Vatican II and honoring it and its spirit. He has demonstrated this by leading by example, by his fearless sense of living the Gospel, and by challenging others to do the same. Sister Diane also cites the Pope's simultaneous canonization of Pope John XXIII (who convened the council) and Pope John Paul II as a symbolic nod to the value of Vatican II.

"The Gospel of Jesus and people are what are most important to Pope Francis," Sister Diane concludes. "The institution should serve our ability to care for the people."

Vatican II: immeasurable impact



Sister Susan Wood Sister Susan Wood entered the SCL Community in 1966 – a year after the conclusion of Vatican II. "The council's impact on religious life was immeasurable,"

Sister Susan believes.

Before the council, many religious congregations were very similar in nature. The lives of religious were largely governed by the Canon Law Code of 1917. The Vatican Council encouraged communities to return to their roots and unique charisms. For example, where previously the SCLs had observed monastic practices of periods of silence

throughout the day, their focus turned more outward as an apostolic community to serve as Vincent, Louise and Mother Xavier had done.

Reform in liturgy was the first real change most Catholics experienced as a result of Vatican II. In addition to changes in the Mass, the council restored the catechumenate in the Church with the RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Parishes changed their models of catechesis. "Church life in general changed with Vatican II," Sister Susan says. Although the phenomenon of lay ministry was not foreseen by the council, it followed naturally from the council's renewed theology of the laity.

She attributes the ecumenical movement to the council's affirmation of positive elements in other Christian communities. Bilateral dialogues initiated immediately to identify and begin to work out differences. Related to the ecumenical movement, the Declaration on Religious Freedom stressed that faith is a gift, and that belief can't be coerced.

Sister Susan senses a breath of fresh air with Pope Francis who is not denying traditional values in the Church, but rather reprioritizing them in terms of justice, care for the poor and mercy. "Even people with different beliefs than Pope Francis walk away with an impression of him as a pastoral, spiritual leader," Sister Susan says.

Vincentian charism fosters systemic change

Vincentian Family's Commission for Promoting Systemic Change.

Seeds of Hope: Stories of Systemic Change.

St. Louis, Mo.: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 2008.



by Sister Mary
Pat Lenahan, SCL

"More and more, the various sciences share a common conviction: the unified nature of reality. All recognize that reality is complex, but at the same time all affirm that 'everything is connected to everything else'" (Maloney, p. 1).

These words appear in the prologue to this book. Since this text was recommended by the SCL Ongoing Formation Committee and a substantial part of the 2014 Spring Regional focused on systemic change, this book seemed an appropriate and timely choice for reading and review. The entire book is composed of "projects that have significantly changed the life circumstances of the poor." Several projects are explained within the context of each situation, and each chapter includes pertinent excerpts from Catholic social teaching as well as quotes from Sacred Scripture. An additional draw of the book is that it is gathered and compiled by the Vincentian Family about ministries flowing from the Vincentian charism.

Defining systemic change

In the text, the authors define systemic change as change that "aims at transforming a complete series of interacting elements, rather than just an individual element. It also inevitably requires changing attitudes that have caused the problems which a group hopes to solve. So, to use a phrase often attributed to Albert Einstein, systemic change thinking helps us 'to learn to see the world anew.' It provides tools focusing on the relationship among a system's elements, interprets a group's experience of that system, and promotes structural change within it (p. 3)." How timely as a focus of our SCL congregation and Associates these last few years has been transformation: personal, communal and global!

Each project described in the text presents a step-by-step process whereby systemic change occurs looking at long-range impact, sustainability, replicability, scope and innovation (p. 9). By utilizing these criteria, the outcomes involve changing life conditions, providing permanent changes in the lives of those who are poor, adapting the process in order to solve problems and address challenges in other

places, looking at the change spreading beyond the initial situation and being able to transform traditional or acceptable practices for a positive result.

Creating more just structures

In 1972, Pope Paul VI called Christians "to commit themselves to enter into 'the very heart of social and political action and thus get at the roots of evil and change hearts, as well as the structures of modern society'" (p. 5). Decades later, his words continue to exhort readers to create more just structures with transparency as well as to eliminate corruption for the good of others. Sadly, many who experience poverty may not always be aware of opportunities and assistance available from religious-sponsored institutions and other private organizations. ("Brother Roger de Taizé: Poverty is to have no one on whom one can lean when all is lost," p. 12.)

Some of the principles accepted and utilized by those working toward systemic change include respecting the dignity of each person, focusing on education for children and educating the family as a unit. As St. Vincent once said, "Love is infinitely resourceful" (p. 20). This demands a reflective sense and process of prayer, so that those seeking systemic change are able to recognize the key priorities and needs of people and engage them fully in planning, process and sustainability.

In 1986, Pope John Paul II addressed the General Assembly of the Congregation of the Mission where he said, "Search out more than ever, with boldness, humility, and skill, the causes of poverty and encourage short and long-term solutions — adaptable and effective concrete solutions. By doing so you will work for the credibility of the gospel and of the Church" (p. 8). How is each of us called, impelled to seek and work for systemic change?

Strategies for change

According to the text, in order to recognize the greatest needs, certain strategies need to be adopted including listening to those who are poor, following through on what is needed, calling upon the young, showing deep respect

for each local culture and realizing that, "The spark of God resides in all and moves the human heart to go beyond our limited daily horizons" (p. 29). Whether the reader finds him/herself in a ministry similar to those outlined in the text or not, these are provocative questions for all to consider in reflection and prayer for service.

Reflected in the strategies utilized by those seeking just, systemic change, the Vincentian charism is central in that it calls us to (pp. 73-74):

- Listen to people and plan according to each local situation.
- Address needs in a holistic manner.
- Foster access to education and health.
- Partner with those who are poor.
- Remain respectful.
- Promote leadership of the people.
- Seek to transform unjust situations.
- Promote respect for human rights.
- Act locally, nationally and globally.

Seeds of hope

In the epilogue, the authors speak of hope as "a tiny seed that contains the germ of life. When watered, it sprouts up and generates sturdy plants, beautiful flowers, fruit, bushes, and trees." In all projects outlined in this book as well as the processes for systemic change, hope emerges as a strong and effective seed of transformation.

Each of us is called to seek and actively work for systemic change in the local areas in which we find ourselves. A quote from Emily Dickinson reminds the reader of the power of hope and the tenacity required, "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all" (p. 189).

Our world is in desperate need of hope. This book presents concrete ways in which seeds of hope have taken root and flourished. I recommend this book as a strong illustration of hope within the spirit of the Vincentian charism and in the heart of charity. It also provides a concrete process for actively working for systemic change in our own daily lives and in the lives of those with whom we minister.

SCL Associates



Growing into understanding of being an SCL Associate

*Some people think that
Lisa Cherry lives on risk.
The SCL Associate's (SCLA)
perspective is that she
lives on faith!*

ABOVE PHOTO:
Lisa Cherry, SCLA, loves her job
at Cristo Rey Kansas City where
she works as office manager.

Lisa once applied for a supervisor's job with the Kansas City Police Department (Missouri) where she had worked a few years. She didn't get the job at first. However, a sergeant who had interviewed her, but not selected her, followed up with Lisa. He recognized her strengths and made suggestions about skills she needed to develop. Six months later, Lisa was an assistant supervisor.

Then, because she believed in the mission of the SCLs and Cristo Rey Kansas City, Lisa took even bigger leaps. She began working part-time at the college prep high school while continuing at the police department. In 2008, Lisa left the police department for Cristo Rey, working part-time until a full-time opportunity became available. In 2012, she became officer manager for the school.

Lisa initially met the SCLs as a student at Bishop Hogan High School, Kansas City, Mo., where Sister Vickie Perkins was her principal. While president of Cristo Rey, Sister Vickie became Lisa's SCLA sponsor. "I felt so honored," Lisa says. "This meant a lot to me."

Lisa continues to grow into her understanding of what it means to be an SCL Associate. She describes the experience as sharing community and spirituality and supporting the SCL mission. "As a kid, I looked at the Sisters as 'the nuns,'" she says. "I didn't realize I would become friends with them or share in their mission."

In her free time, Lisa is busy tending to Sayde, a new puppy and "a little dog with a big personality." Lisa bought her first home four years ago and enjoys landscaping and planting flowers. She loves to read, cook and spend time with her family and extended family.

And she really likes her job at Cristo Rey. "I enjoy the students," she says, "I like to watch them mature and grow. It's a blessing to be at Cristo Rey, to be part of the Sisters' mission."

Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

Spirit of Jesus at heart of Vincent's spirituality

Drawing from the writing of Robert P. Maloney, CM, Sister Kathleen Wood describes the spirit of Jesus as being at the heart of St. Vincent de Paul's spirituality. She shared her insights during the Oct. 4 day of reflection for SCL Associates meeting at the Mother House, Leavenworth.

Sister Kathleen proposes that first we need to understand what spirituality is. Father Maloney says it is an energizing vision, a driving force, the way a person is rooted in God and enabled to transcend himself/herself. As St. Paul said to the people of Athens, "In him, we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Father Maloney asks, "How do we live Christ?"

Vincent himself had to grow in his understanding of his call to follow Christ. He was a trained theologian, but not a theory person. So it was the example of Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth, filled with the Spirit and sent to bring the Good News to the poor (Luke 4:18) that became the motivation for Vincent's life. This spirituality expresses itself in love and reverence for the Father, compassionate love for those in need and trust in divine providence and in the spirit of humility and simplicity.

"This becomes a cycle of love/charity – God's love made visible



With an icon of St. Vincent de Paul as the backdrop, Sister Kathleen Wood brought the saint's spirituality to the forefront during her presentation to SCL Associates.

in Jesus Christ, energizing Vincent and his followers so they might allow that divine love to flow through their lives as they reach out to those in need, and in whom they find the face of Christ," Sister Kathleen explains.

Vincent nurtured his life of charity by prayer, union with God and great devotion to the Eucharist.

At the same time, he was practical, saying, "We must love God, but let it be in the work of our bodies, in the sweat of our brows." His spirituality was incarnational: always aware of Christ's presence in our world, "... serving the poor, we are serving Christ." And he was a bridge-builder, connecting people to help other people in this spirit of Christ's love.

The Way of Vincent de Paul : a Contemporary Spirituality in the Service of the Poor
by Robert P. Maloney, C.M., published 1992.



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Voices ^{of} Charity

A publication of the

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