

V O I C E S

A quarterly publication of the
SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF LEAVENWORTH

of Charity

OCTOBER 2005



Witness value
attracts vocations.

COVER STORY . . . PAGE 8



Sponsored Ministries NEW SECTIONSEE PAGE 14

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH
2004 - 2010 DIRECTION STATEMENT

We, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth,
who love the poor,
hear a cry and feel an urgency in these times
to unite our voices and to speak out,
to live and move as women of hope.

Charged by the spirit born in us of Vincent, Louise and Xavier,
and strengthened by our life together in community,
we step into our future with a renewed sense of mission.

As women called to risk for the reign of God,
we choose to nurture relationships of hope:

with one another

by creating authentic communities that welcome,
support and challenge
by strengthening our South-North connections
by clarifying and enriching the SCLA-SCL relationship

between leadership and membership

by developing community structures that lead to more
participation, collaboration and accountability
by learning about our community's sponsoring role
and works

with the Church

by sustaining dialogue with and by caring for the Church
by engaging in theological reflection and study among
ourselves and with our neighbors

with the global community

by responding to human and environmental issues
through personal choices and communal actions
by joining our voice with justice-centered organizations

with the earth

by embracing our need for full communion with all creation.

As a community of believers, we open ourselves
to the presence of the Sacred in each of these relationships.

As Sisters of Charity, rooted in Christ and united in our convictions,
we claim our responsibility as gospel-centered women
and stand with all who suffer, who grieve, who hope.



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Community Officers:

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Sister Linda Roth, *Community Councilor*
Sister Nancy Bauman, *Community Councilor*
Sister Marianna Bauder, *Community Councilor*
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COVER STORY

Heart of the Matter



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SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF LEAVENWORTH

COVER PHOTO: At Saint Vincent Clinic, Leavenworth, Kan., where they minister, Sisters Pam Hinkle and Jennifer Gordon with Roger Nichols. Sister Jennifer is one of the SCLs currently in formation and featured in this edition.

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from the Community Director



Sister Joan Sue Miller

In the history of our religious community, August was traditionally a vibrant time at the Mother House. The sisters were “home,” awaiting mission assignments to schools and different ministries. The halls buzzed with conversation and joyful expectation.

This most recent August reclaimed its place as a special month for the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth as we celebrated several women in the early stages of entering our religious community. In the United States, there are eight women in formation and one who recently professed final vows. In Peru, one sister made final vows in March, and two women are in formation.

This *Voices of Charity* highlights these women and their sister companions on the journey. At a time when vocations to religious life have dwindled, this rekindling gives us cause for joy and hope. It is heartening to receive new affirmation that what Mother Xavier Ross began in 1858 has relevance that has survived the rigors of time and trends.

The women in formation and newly professed sisters have reaffirmed the witness value of consecrated life. They perceive their lives and those of other sisters as public statements of faith, as calls to justice in a world of inequities and as commitments to simplicity and humility. They are eager to serve.

We welcome them; we congratulate them; and we wish them Godspeed on their journeys of discovery, faith and service. They believe that God in infinite mystery and boundless goodness has chosen them. We, in turn, are grateful that they have chosen us!

They have chosen us, in large part, because of our spirit of charity and the “voices of charity” they have experienced and heard among our sisters and Associates. Join us as we continue to celebrate that spirit and raise those voices throughout the pages of this publication.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Sue Miller". The ink is dark and the script is fluid.

Sister Joan Sue Miller

Re-markings

Marillac Center flourishes in response to needs

It is beautiful, comfortable, functional and highly conducive to prayer and reflection. It is sacred space that has been extremely well-received based on utilization and feedback.

Since 2003, Marillac Center has literally “grown itself” as word has spread about the facility conveniently located at the south end of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Mother House. Contributing to Marillac’s popularity are the beauty, artistry and versatility of the space, the hospitality of the sisters who staff the center and the diversity of programming offered.

Sister Noreen Walter, director, is convinced that Divine Providence also has had an influential hand in guiding Marillac’s success. “Just as the Sisters of Charity have responded to needs of the times throughout our history,” she explained, “this type of center is needed today. I believe that’s why Marillac has taken off beyond what we ever expected.”

Marillac offers a space for people to come for renewal in their whole life, including spirituality. The center has three floors with the main meeting facility located at street level. The main floor houses the large Marillac Assembly, Our Lady Chapel, the Elizabeth Seton Library, smaller meeting rooms and a dining/refreshment area. The other two floors have living accommodations with 32 rooms and a total of 48 beds. Attractive lounges on these floors frequently host meetings or small retreats.

The center has state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, a variety of attractive artwork and large wooden statues tastefully restored to their original beauty after years in storage. The



▲▲▲ TOP: Sister Noreen Walter, Sister Angela Rose Barbieri, Sister Elizabeth Skalicky.

▲▲ CENTER: Blessing ceremony during a day of prayer at Marillac Center.

▲ BOTTOM: Sister Mary Loretta Beier, director of retreats.



architectural design of the space provides ease of access to outside sitting areas and maximizes use of exterior light to bring the outdoors into the facility.

Word of mouth has been the main means of marketing to date, said Sister Noreen. The center has welcomed a number of religious communities for extended retreats, other groups for days of prayer and renewal and SCLs for a variety of purposes. Among services offered, Marillac staff is available for individual spiritual direction and directed retreats. For the future, Sister Noreen and staff plan to develop additional programming and to market events through parishes and other avenues.

While Marillac serves this very useful purpose at the present time, it was also designed to accommodate possible future needs of the SCL religious community. A space study of the Mother House and Ross Hall (retirement facility) projected that additional extended care beds might be needed for aging members of the community. Marillac was built to meet Medicare specifications and with versatility of design in the event that need materializes.

In the meantime, Marillac Center is well used, much appreciated and very responsive to current needs.

*For more information about the center,
space available and programs scheduled,
call 913-758-6552 or visit the website at
www.MarillacCenter.org.*

▲ ABOVE: Sister Noreen Walter, director of Marillac Center,
with Sister Mary Rita Winter, director of hospitality.

MARILLAC CENTER STAFF

Sister Mary Loretta Beier, *director of retreats*
Sister Linda Dean, *receptionist*
Sister Catherine Rose Grimm, *volunteer working
with director of retreats*
Sister Karen Guth, *assistant director*
Sister Darlyne Kern, *volunteer librarian*
Sister Patricia Sullivan, *spiritual director*
Sister Noreen Walter, *director*
Sister Mary Rita Winter, *director of hospitality*

*Many other Mother House Sisters
who volunteer to meet guests and
assist with other duties*

LCWR observes 50th anniversary

The annual assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in Anaheim, Calif., marked the opening of the organization's 50th anniversary year. Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth attending the session included Sisters Marianna Bauder, Nancy Bauman, Maureen Hall, Joan Sue Miller, Constance Phelps and Linda Roth.

LCWR dates to 1956 when, at the initiative of the Vatican, leaders of religious orders came together in national associations to explore how to serve the needs of the Church most effectively. In her address to the recent assembly, Sister Christine Vladimiroff, O.S.B., LCWR president, said, "Our foremothers and founders have shown us the way through the past. Now it is our time, the only time we have – the present. The future of religious life is in our hands to shape for those who will follow us.

"The prophetic quality of religious life calls us to a selective marginality for the purpose of engaging the culture so as to change it," she continued. In those areas where the dominant culture is the antithesis of jubilee, we need to work for transformation."

LCWR has more than 900 members who are elected leaders of their religious congregations, representing approximately 73,000 Catholic sisters. The conference develops leadership, promotes collaboration within Church and society and serves as a voice for systemic change.

(Copy excerpted from LCWR press release.)

Fall 2005 Regional Wisdom Gatherings

"Building relationships of hope" is the theme of the Fall 2005 Regional Wisdom Gatherings for SCLs and Associates.

The gatherings are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on the following dates (please note exception on Sunday, Nov. 6):

- Saturday, Oct. 15 Exempla St. Joseph Hospital, Denver, Colo.
- Saturday, Oct. 22 Holy Rosary Parish, Bozeman, Mont.
- Saturday, Nov. 5 Mother House Dining Room, Leavenworth, Kan.
- Sunday, Nov. 6 Ross Chapel, Mother House
(abbreviated session, 1 to 3 p.m.)
- Saturday, Nov. 12 Donnelly College, Kansas City, Kan.

SCL/As can register by returning the registration card or emailing scrip@scls.org. A \$10 fee covers refreshments and lunch.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

In this section, the Voices of Charity will highlight sisters and Associates who have earned special honors or been in the news.

Sister designated 'Pillar of St. Pius'

Sister Sharon Verbeck has earned a place of honor on the "Pillars of St. Pius" donor wall unveiled at St. Pius X High School, Kansas City, Mo., this summer. Sister Sharon has served the high school in several roles for the past 32 years and is currently registrar at St. Pius.



The wall recognizes recent donors to the high school's capital campaign. "It is most fitting as we look to the future and the celebration of our 50th anniversary in 2006, that we also take time to honor the past and those people who helped get us where we are today," said Joe Monachino, principal, during the dedication ceremony.

Music ministry recognized

Sister Mary Depner received recognition for her 18 years of ministry as organist at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral, Billings, Mont., during the regional convention of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) in June. The recognition in her honor included a chamber music concert presented in the recently renovated



cathedral. The cathedral and the Depner family co-sponsored the concert.

Sister Mary has been a member of the Yellowstone AGO Chapter in Billings for over 25 years. For the past five years, she has been secretary of the executive board. The American Guild of Organists is the national professional association that serves and promotes the organ and choral fields.

Three SCLs accredited for support of housing



This past year, **Sisters Ruth Ann Hehn, John Vianney Martinez and Mary Clarita Sternitzke** received the prestigious Accredited Resident Manager (ARM) designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management. The Sisters had taken classes, studied and passed their exams the previous year.

Sister Ruth Ann has worked in housing since June 1990, managing Holy Trinity Manor in Cheyenne, Wyo. She continues to do creative ministry with the seniors there.

Sisters John Vianney and Mary Clarita began working in this ministry in July 1990. They served the elderly at St. Martin Plaza, Denver, Colo., for one

year. After the first year, they became family site administrators with Archdiocesan Housing in Denver. In that capacity, they served families from 20 different countries. They ended their role in this ministry in December 2004.

Sister ahead of the times with alternative transportation



Even before gasoline prices skyrocketed in late summer, **Sister Eileen Marie Johnson**, Anaconda, Mont., was on top of a solution to the predicament. She purchased an electric scooter for transportation as she serves the community. The scooter can travel nine miles between charges and is street legal with horn, lights and blinkers. Sister Eileen wears a protective helmet while driving. As an additional precautionary measure, she had her scooter blessed the weekend before Memorial Day during a parish ceremony fostering travel safety.

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

Long-time friends of Saint John's Health Center recognized

The SCLs recognized Jerry and Pat Epstein, long-time friends and benefactors of Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, Calif., during the couple's visit to the Mother House in Leavenworth, Kan., on Friday, Aug. 26. Sister Joan Sue Miller, community director of the SCLs, acknowledged the generosity of the Epsteins and presented them with a glassblown sculpture and copies of the histories of the religious community.

Jerry Epstein currently chairs Saint John's Foundation Board. He has been a member of the Health Center's Board of Directors and involved in fund development at Saint John's for more than 40 years. This has included a campaign that raised more than \$12 million for the Ambulatory Care Center; the establishment of the Jimmy Stewart Marathon; and more recently, chairmanship of the Building Committee for the campaign to rebuild the hospital following the 1994 earthquake. Pat Epstein is a long-time member of the Irene Dunne Guild. The Epsteins make their home in Los Angeles, Calif.



RIGHT: Sister Joan Sue Miller, Pat and Jerry Epstein "visit" with a friend – Mother Xavier Ross statue on the Mother House grounds.

Good Samaritan Project marks 20th anniversary

The Good Samaritan Project, an AIDS service organization in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area, observed its 20th anniversary in September. Sister Kevin Marie Flynn is spiritual coordinator of the organization.

A candlelight ceremony honored persons who died during the worst years and succeeding years of the epidemic. The "night of remembrance" included music, prayer, poetry and remarks. Sister Kevin Marie has ministered through Good Samaritan for 17 years.



'Fitness friends' featured in hospital publication

Sister Noreen Walter and Katie Schlatman, SCLA, share a friendship that dates to their college years at the University of Saint Mary. More recently, their shared fitness efforts were

featured in the April/May/June 2005 publication of Saint Luke's Health System in the Kansas City area. Sister Noreen and Katie had teamed up for a heart health assessment screening and planned to modify their nutrition and exercise habits accordingly. Friends for life, their goal is to be fit for life!

SCL published in Review for Religious

"Invisible – Even to Ourselves" is the title of an article by Sister Marie Brinkman published in the most recent (64.3, 2005) quarterly *Review for Religious*, a journal of religious community life. Coming out of her writing of recent SCL history, Sister Marie proposes several opportunities for congregations of women religious to foster understanding of their renewal.

Among them, she lists finding common ground for ministries in the Church's mission of transformation;



creating a community culture that is welcoming and visible to young women committed to the gospel; making community communications a ministry; and seeking collaborators in the art of bridge building between people of means and those with needs.

Sister Mary Jo trailblazer in publishing ministry

Sister Mary Jo Quinn is working in a ministry new to SCLs. She is workshop manager for Oregon Catholic Press (OCP). She oversees the management of 400 workshop offerings a year and networks with diocesan and national church music offices and organizations. OCP publishes the music books and missalettes used by parishes around the country. Sister Mary Jo is also published herself, most recently with an article in the Sept. 4-Nov. 27 edition of *Today's Liturgy*, entitled, "The Assembly Deserves Better."



Heart of the Matter

Vitality, joy, witness attract women to SCLs



Deidy Rosario
Abad Pulache



Nery Lourdes
Abad Pulache



Elizabeth Adams



Erica Berg



Melissa Camardo



Rejane Cytacki



Jennifer Gordon



Juli Smith



Ckarina Huaygua
Sandoval



Vicki Lichtenauer



Ann Kontor



Clarita Hotop

In a flurry of vocation activity, unprecedented in recent years, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth community has welcomed and celebrated several women in the early stages of formation for consecrated life: eight in the United States and two in Peru. Two sisters have professed their final vows this year.

These women range in age from 18 to 41 years. They come from diverse backgrounds and with different talents and gifts. They share a belief in the witness value of a religious vocation and an attraction to the simplicity, joyfulness and vitality of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs).

They are part of a happy phenomenon that the community has prayed for, networked to encourage and wholeheartedly welcomed. They are open to the mystery of God's Providence that continues to unfold as they embrace becoming Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

CALLED . CHOSEN .

How is it that vocations to consecrated life occur?

What specifically has attracted women to the SCL community?

Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, who made final vows on Aug. 7, had never met a woman religious until she was in college. It was then that she realized that “they have something I desire, something that could help me be the ‘best Vicki’ I could be.” In subsequent years, she traveled the country visiting different religious communities before she chose the SCLs.

It was the joy and wonderful relationships of the SCLs that appealed to her. “They are very diverse, not cookie-cutter personalities,” she said.

Sister Clarita Hotop, who recently advanced to the novitiate phase of her formation, agreed. “I feel not only grateful but lucky everyday to be part of a group of women who command respect, always gently; who give you a hand up, not a hand out,” she commented, “and who make you want to be better without making you feel like you were less.”

For Sister Erica Berg, it was the fact that the SCLs are “so down to earth and real, so joyful in their service.” Sister Erica had thought about religious life “randomly, but never seriously.” However, much as she tried to forget the prodding of the Spirit, her call rang true in what the SCLs profess and witness. Sister Erica made first vows in early August.

*It is wisdom to pause,
to look back and see
by what straight or twisting paths
we have arrived at the place
we find ourselves.*

—MOTHER XAVIER ROSS
SCL FOUNDRESS



▲ Sisters Clarita Hotop, Mary Beth Minges.

NEWEST MEMBERS – WOMEN IN FORMATION

Hermana Lourdes Abad Pulache	Final profession	March 19, 2005
Sister Vicki Lichtenauer	Final profession	Aug. 7, 2005
Hermana Deidy Rosario Abad Pulache	Temporary vows renewal	March 19, 2005
Sister Elizabeth Adams	Temporary vows renewal	Aug. 12, 2005
Sister Melissa Camardo	Temporary vows renewal	Aug. 12, 2005
Sister Jennifer Gordon	Temporary vows renewal	Aug. 28, 2005
Sister Erica Berg	First profession of vows	Aug. 6, 2005
Sister Clarita Hotop	Canonical novice	Aug. 12, 2005
Ckarina Huaygua Sandoval	New candidate	April 2, 2005
Rejane Cytacki	New candidate	Aug. 14, 2005
Ann Kontor	New candidate	Aug. 14, 2005
Juli Smith	New candidate	Aug. 14, 2005



▲ Sisters Mary Lou Mendel, Vicki Lichtenauer, Joan Sue Miller.

Prior to entering the community, Sisters Vicki and Clarita participated in “Come and See” weekends at the Mother House in Leavenworth to get a taste of consecrated life. Other young women currently in formation experienced the Xavier Community or met the SCLs while serving as Vincentian Volunteers.

First offered in Denver, Colo., and now in Kansas City, Xavier houses provide an intentional community that gives women the opportunity to live in community with vowed women religious. Sister Jennifer Gordon, currently in her second year of temporary vows, found the Xavier Community a good environment for discernment of her religious vocation.

Sister Melissa Camardo, also under temporary vows, met the SCLs while serving as a Vincentian Volunteer in Denver. She was struck by their vitality. “I saw the sisters as a group of Gospel-centered women with a vitality of spirit, dedicated to serving God and growing in understanding, yet not having all the answers,” she noted. “The community has allowed room for me to add my voice to be heard.”

“I couldn’t be anywhere else right now,” said Sister Jennifer. “This is exactly where I need to be. I want to be able to put the gifts I’ve been given to good use. Being in community will help with this.”

SCL PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving and generous God,
you chose me to be a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth
to follow the way of Vincent, Louise and Mother Xavier.
I am grateful for this gift.

As you have called me
to unite my life with the poor and loving Christ,
to serve those who are poor,
to embrace a life of humility, simplicity and charity,

May your voice be heard in my words and actions, inviting others
to embrace a life of prophetic witness,
to live as a visible sign of your love in this world,
to answer the call to vowed religious life.

Be with me as I encourage and invite women
to listen and to respond to your call,
to share in community, in ministry and in faith
as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth.

Amen.



▲ Newest candidates and sisters, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in the United States: front row, Sister Clarita Hotop, Sister Jennifer Gordon, Sister Melissa Camardo, Rejane Cytacki; back row, Sister Elizabeth Adams, Juli Smith, Sister Erica Berg and Sister Vicki Lichtenauer. Not pictured, Ann Kontor.

V O C A T I O N A S W I T N E S S

*“Why religious life, and why a religious vocation?”
the world might ask. Why choose simplicity when materialism
and complexity abound? Why live in community?*

Sister Melissa attributed the renewed interest in vowed religious life to the search for meaning she believes young adults are making as they examine their own lives and the world. She said, “We are called [as sisters] in a special way to be God’s presence, love and justice with integrity and faithfulness to others who don’t choose this way of life.”

That prophetic witness resonates with Ann Kontor, one of the new candidates to the religious community. “To be a sister in today’s world is so counter-cultural, to take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience is considered bizarre,” she said. “But when people see sisters going about their work and doing it joyfully, they know the sisters stand for something genuine – a testament to God’s presence here on earth.”

The SCLs’ particular dedication to persons who are poor and underprivileged further defines the witness value for Rejane Cytacki, new candidate. Her sentiments are echoed by Juli Smith, also a new candidate, who said, “Being a religious in today’s world means to break the norm of society and to stop, thank God and be with God.”

The desire to serve God in the poor was also a strong motivation for Hermana Deidy Rosario Abad Pulache. Hermana Deidy believes that the name of the religious community – the Sisters of Charity – truly reflects the heart and spirit of the ministry.

Sister Elizabeth Adams, who recently renewed her temporary vows, noted that the very nature of being in community also has witness value. “We care for each other regardless of who we are and what we bring to the table,” she said. “Community life demonstrates that it is possible to be different yet to be together. It also means belonging to something greater than myself.”

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

—“THE ROAD NOT TAKEN”
ROBERT FROST



▲ Sisters Vicki Lichtenauer, Jennifer Gordon.

IT TAKES COMMUNITY

*As Sisters of Charity
of Leavenworth,
we view community
as essential to our lives.*

— SCL CONSTITUTION

**VOCATION NETWORK
COMMITTEE**

Sister Erica Berg, *Denver, Colo.*
Sister Helen Bristow, *Kansas City, Kan.*
Sister Jennifer Gordon,
Kansas City, Kan.
Sister Maureen Hall, *Leavenworth, Kan.*
Sister Clarita Hotop, *Leavenworth, Kan.*
Sister Eileen Marie Johnson,
Anaconda, Mont.
Sister Margaret Ellen Johnson,
Leavenworth, Kan.
Sister Rosemary Kolich,
Leavenworth, Kan.
Sister Mary Lou Mendel, *Billings, Mont.*
Sister Mary Beth Minges,
Leavenworth, Kan.
Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, *St. Louis, Mo.*
Sister Barbara Schrader,
Kansas City, Mo.
Sister Sharon Smith, *Leavenworth, Kan.*
Sister Therese Steiner, *Gillette, Wyo.*
Sister Sheila Taylor, *Mission, Kan.*
Sister Barbara Wieseler,
Lawrence, Kan.

*The young women entering the religious community
and the sisters who are instrumental in their formation
agree that vocations are very much a call – an invitation
to each individual person to be in special relationship with God.*

For some people, this means marriage; for others, the single life; and for still others, a consecrated life as a sister, priest or brother.

While God is perceived as the ultimate source of the call, human instruments support and reinforce the invitation! Sister Sharon Smith, SCL vocation director, acknowledged the tremendous involvement of the entire community – sisters and Associates – in efforts to foster and promote vocations. This has taken several forms including renewed and heightened awareness of the sisters' own roles in encouraging vocations.

The SCLs have had a Vocation Network Committee for several years that has provided helpful materials and suggestions about how to connect with young people and introduce them to religious life. The network also prompted the development of a performing choral group of SCLs, called Charity Notes, that hopes to connect with young people through music.



▲ Sister Mary Beth Minges, Ann Kontor, Juli Smith, Sister Joan Sue Miller, Rejane Cytacki, Sister Sharon Smith.



▲ Oliver Steele, SCLA, used his woodworking skills to make vocation crosses that were shared across the SCL community last year.

A number of sisters write reflections on spirituality, prayer, vocation and other related topics. Sister Sharon mails these monthly to a targeted group of young women who have expressed interest in the religious community. The sisters have also focused energies on connecting through prayer time and devotions with the students at the University of Saint Mary whose campus adjoins the Mother House in Leavenworth, Kan.

Last, but hardly least, there has been a strong intentionality about prayer for vocations that has engaged both SCLs and Associates. The first Monday of each month has been designated as a day of fasting and prayer for vocations. Wooden vocation crosses (crafted by Oliver Steele, SCLA, Butte, Mont., and father of Sister Diane Steele) circulated to every house in the religious community during the past year.

Sister Mary Lou Mendel, director of the program for sisters under temporary vows, described this intentional prayer as very enlivening for the entire community. "It was something tangible that we could do," she said.

And – in combination with a number of other significant factors – it appears to be working! "We have people at every stage of formation," said Sister Mary Beth Minges, director of initial formation."

Sister Elizabeth Adams summarized, "This is very exciting. There is hope and enthusiasm for the future."



◀ Sisters Elizabeth Adams, Melissa Camardo, Marianna Bauder, Rev. John Waters.

Sponsored Ministries

WHAT IS SPONSORSHIP?

In a future edition, *Voices of Charity* will probe the topic of sponsorship and changing models in today's Church. Sponsorship describes the relationship of the religious community to its incorporated ministries. Sponsorship has two basic obligations: to assure and further each institution's Catholic identity, its mission, philosophy, spirit and purposes; and to assure good stewardship and administration of the institution's physical and financial resources.

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth religious community has four "sponsored ministries":

- Cristo Rey Kansas City;
- Mount Saint Vincent Home;
- the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System; and
- the University of Saint Mary.

Voices of Charity will routinely feature news and updates about the sponsored ministries.

Face-lift at USM

Modernization while retaining the history and charm of the older buildings was the theme as the University of Saint Mary Leavenworth campus underwent a makeover this summer. The ground floor of Berchmans Hall, one of the oldest buildings on the campus, now features new carpeting, the student union and a 24-hour fitness center. The theater in Xavier Hall also received new carpeting, new seating and a completely rebuilt stage. Still to come in the theater is installation of a new curtain and the apparatus to raise and lower it. These renovations occurred as the result of the successful "Touching Three Centuries" fund development campaign; continuing renovations are planned.



▲ New theater seats will bring a round of applause at USM during the upcoming performing season.

Progress continues with newest sponsored work

The news from Kansas City is that developments are progressing steadily with Cristo Rey Kansas City, a Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth High School. Sister Vickie Perkins, president, reported that a group of approximately 30 sisters and Associates volunteered at a work day in late August. Their efforts, combined with those of the Christmas in October workers, led to renovation of office space for Cristo Rey staff at the former Redemptorist High School building in Kansas City, Mo.

The Christmas in October crew has now shifted its attention to the site of the former Guardian Angels Grade School. Classes for students currently attending St. Louis Grade School at the Redemptorist facility will transition to Guardian Angels in late December. Then, the workers will return to complete renovations of the Cristo Rey facility.

Summer months were also spent meeting with neighborhood residents to discuss Cristo Rey, the school and recruitment of students; preparing admissions materials in English and Spanish; and fund development.

Cristo Rey Kansas City received a \$500,000 challenge grant for renovations from an anonymous donor that was generously matched by the religious community. The high school also received \$150,000 from the Cassin Foundation for operations.



RIGHT: Sister Clarita Hotop ►

FAR RIGHT: Who is this masked woman? ►

Sister Mary Beth Minges smiling as she volunteers at Cristo Rey!

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System (SCLHS) is involved with a major initiative called careQuest that will transform and standardize care delivery processes across its eight hospitals with the support of advanced information technology.

Health System embarks on transformation initiative

“With careQuest,” said William M. Murray, president of the Health System, “we will actualize both our mission and our vision. This initiative captures the intent and spirit of our core values: response to need, respect, wholeness, excellence and stewardship. careQuest is focused on patient care that is highly responsive to needs of patients and families and that is safe, trustworthy, appropriate and best of practice.”

Richard T. Lopes, M.D., SCLHS chief clinical transformation officer, explained, “careQuest will allow us to standardize treatment protocols across the Health System; apply information technology to facilitate ease of access to information for both patients and clinicians; enhance care delivery and ensure improved patient safety and quality outcomes; and lead to the advent of the electronic medical record.”

careQuest will touch and impact virtually every clinical, business and information technology function across the Health System. It will encompass entering orders for diagnostic tests,



▲ Members of the team of consultants and staff from across the Health System in a careQuest work session at the SCL Mother House: Donna O'Meara, Kathleen Thompson, Kareem Younes, Shelley White, Tim Bader, Donna McCarthy, Cheryl Johnson.

medication administration, risk management and case management, admissions/discharges/transfers, billing and collection, and the management of health information.

“Through careQuest,” Dr. Lopes concluded, “we will redesign our clinical

and patient administrative system, using SCLHS and health care industry best practices as the model. Then we will apply information technology – a suite of applications standardized across the Health System – to support the new processes we have designed.”

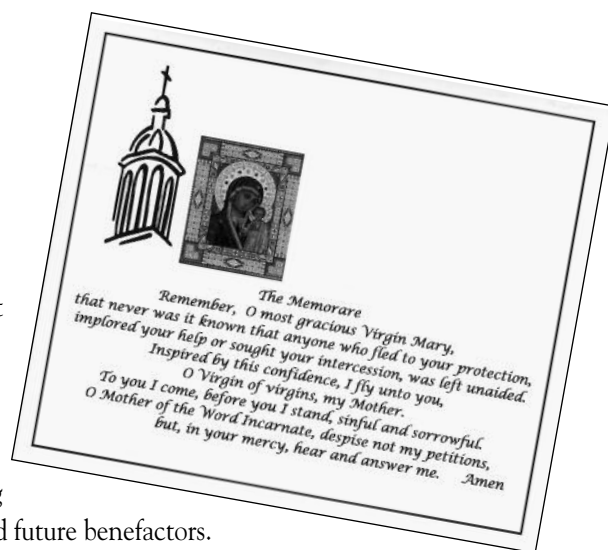
Sisters support USM with prayer ministry

Recognizing the power of prayer, a group of SCLs has initiated a special prayer ministry in support of the University of Saint Mary (USM). Leading the effort to invite private prayer commitments by Mother House and Ross Hall sisters are Sisters Mary Edwin DeCoursey, Helen Forge, Rita Smith and Lucy Walter.

Sister Helen said that sisters have been invited to pray the Memorare daily for two purposes: to increase the number of USM students and in thanksgiving for the university's current and future benefactors.

Each participating pray-er receives a prayer card imprinted with an icon of Mary and the child Jesus, words of the Memorare and the USM spire logo. The Memorare was selected because the university, a sponsored ministry, is dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The prayer ministry invitation has also been extended to SCLs and Associates in the Leavenworth area and to others who wish to volunteer for the commitment. For a prayer card, contact Sister Helen at 913-758-6587 or hforge@scls.org.



▲ ABOVE: Prayer cards invite and encourage a prayer ministry for the University of Saint Mary.

News from Mount Saint Vincent

Sister Amy Willcott, executive director, reports that Mount Saint Vincent Home, Denver, Colo., is preparing for its major fundraiser, the Silver Bell Ball. Scheduled on Dec. 1, the event will feature the Charity Notes, the SCL performing choral group.

As Mount Saint Vincent deals with news of cuts in Medicaid reimbursement for residential treatment, the home is planning a new program. The step-down or transition program will serve children in residential treatment and waiting placement in a foster home. The second floor of the main building (where the sisters formerly lived) will be used for this program.

‘Pushing 80,’ loving her ministry

A visit with Sister Mary Carlo Colibraro is a high-energy adventure fueled by her excitement about her “caring ministry,” her outgoing personality and her dedication as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth.

She likely got her gift of gab from her Italian-born father, her namesake, who enjoyed talking, according to Sister Mary Carlo. From her Italian-born mother Felicia, Sister inherited a generous spirit.

The summer Sister Mary Carlo was to enter the novitiate, her father died unexpectedly from a heart attack in Casper, Wyo. Her brothers were both in seminary. Puzzled over what she should do, the young woman listened to the counsel of a priest who told her, “Do whatever your mother says.”

Mrs. Colibraro said, “You must go. You have your whole life to live.”

And live it Sister Mary Carlo has as an SCL for 52 years, as a loyal daughter, a proud sibling and as someone always willing and ready to step into the next phase of her life’s journey. She may say that she is “pushing 80,” but what Sister Mary Carlo is really doing is being revitalized everyday as her SCL ministry continues to unfold.

Before she entered the convent, Sister Mary Carlo earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees and taught business courses in Wyoming and at Saint Mary College (now the University of Saint Mary), Leavenworth, Kan. As a young sister, she taught at Saint Mary’s and at high schools in Butte, Mont., and Topeka, Kan. In 1977, she requested a sabbatical to explore other ministry options. That sojourn introduced her to pastoral care in a hospital setting which

became her life’s work for the next 10 years at St. Joseph (now Exempla St. Joseph) Hospital in Denver, Colo.

When her mother’s health began to fail, Sister Mary Carlo returned to Wyoming in 1988 to minister to the woman who had graciously supported her daughter’s decision to become an SCL. While there, Sister Mary Carlo developed a Caring Ministry at the parish her two brothers co-pastored for a time. Under her enthusiastic leadership, volunteers swelled from 20 to 120 persons who visited the homebound and provided transportation and other services.

Sister Mary Carlo returned to Leavenworth in 1996 and established an SCL Caring Ministry that she continues with great dedication. She visits residents in a different nursing home each weekday in Leavenworth and Lansing. Once a month, she coordinates a trivial pursuit game at the Veterans Administration nursing facility. Sister Mary Carlo arranged a Mother House tour for some of these veterans, a visit that has transitioned to an every other month lunch with Ross Hall SCLs and a friendly trivial pursuit competition.

“When I entered the community 52 years ago,” she said, “I thought I would be teaching school until I couldn’t stand up. The exciting thing is that I have done different things: been a teacher, a chaplain, a caregiver, a visitor.”



Most recently, Sister Mary Carlo has accepted yet another new responsibility – one that warms her heart. She is the Mother House sponsor of Rejane Cytacki, one of the new candidates to the religious community. Her role is to host Rejane at the Mother House and share her ministry and experiences with the young woman.

“When I looked at Rejane at the ceremony to welcome the new candidates,” Sister Mary Carlo said, “it brought tears of happy remembrance to my eyes as I recalled my own entrance to the community. We had everything to choose from, and we chose to answer God’s call.”

As it has turned out – that choice has been a blessing on many counts: for Sister Mary Carlo, for the SCLs and for the many people whose lives she has touched.

▲▲ TOP: Sister Mary Carlo enjoys a visit with Luther McInnis.

▲ BOTTOM: Thelma Grafe and Sister Mary Carlo with her hands in motion!

Beyond All Borders

U.S. BISHOPS SPONSOR CAMPAIGNS TO COUNTER DEATH PENALTY AND FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

In separate, well organized campaigns, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has provided comprehensive materials on two contemporary social justice issues: the end of the death penalty and support of immigration reform.

Sister Therese Bangert, SCL social justice coordinator, and the SCL Social Justice Executive Committee invite SCL/As to become familiar with the campaigns and suggest action steps reprinted below. Websites are also provided to obtain additional information and resources.



Sister Therese Bangert ►

DEATH PENALTY

Catholic Campaign to End Use of the Death Penalty

We Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth,
as a community, oppose the use
of capital punishment
and pledge ourselves to support efforts
to abolish the death penalty.

— Promulgated by SCLs
World Peace Day – Jan. 1, 1989

As part of the Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty, you can:

- **Pray for victims** of crime and their families, those who have been wrongly convicted and those awaiting execution.
- **Learn about Catholic** social teaching, U.S. criminal justice policies and the policies in your state. Visit the website listed below for more information.
- **Educate people** in your parish or community about Catholic social teaching and the criminal justice system. The website includes Vatican and U.S. bishops' statements on the death penalty and statements from individual bishops and states' Catholic Conferences.
- **Advocate by contacting** your elected officials. Discuss Catholic teaching on the death penalty and what steps could be taken at the state and national levels to curtail or end its use.

For a wide range of resources to help individuals, parishes and dioceses participate in the campaign, go to www.ccedp.org.

I M M I G R A T I O N R E F O R M

Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

“Justice for immigrants: a journey of hope” is the name of the initiative of the U.S. bishops to make comprehensive immigration reform, with special emphasis on legalization, a major public policy priority within the Church.

The goals include educating the public about Church teaching on migration and immigrants; creating political will for positive immigration reform; enacting legislative and administrative reforms; and organizing Catholic networks that enable qualified immigrants to obtain the benefits of reform. You can use helpful tools and links provided on the “justice for immigrants” website to:

- **Email your U.S. senators and representatives** to support the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005.
- **Call your senators and representatives** to encourage their support by using helpful talking points provided on the website.
- **Inform the media** about this important legislation and encourage their informed and balanced coverage of the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005.

For more information, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

SCL SOCIAL JUSTICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sister Elizabeth Adams, <i>Denver, Colo.</i>	Sister Eileen Haynes, <i>Kansas City, Kan.</i>
Sister Therese Bangert, <i>Kansas City, Kan.</i>	Mary Jackson, <i>SCLA, Lansing, Kan.</i>
Sister Nancy Bauman, <i>Leavenworth, Kan.</i>	Judy and Bob Johnson, <i>SCLAs, Grand Junction, Colo.</i>
Sister Janet Cashman, <i>Piura, Peru</i>	Sister Mary Jo McDonald, <i>Butte, Mont.</i>
Sister Mary Arthel Cline, <i>Leavenworth, Kan.</i>	Mary Rau, <i>SCLA, Lawrence, Kan.</i>
Sister Marie de Paul Combo, <i>Kansas City, Kan.</i>	Sister Ann Schumacher, <i>Denver, Colo.</i>
Jean Deroo, <i>SCLA, Grand Junction, Colo.</i>	Carolyn Zimmerman, <i>SCLA, Topeka, Kan.</i>
Sister Carolyn Gloege, <i>Great Falls, Mont.</i>	

Sisters of Charity anticipate new convent in Chuschi, Peru

By the end of this year, the Sisters of Charity expect to occupy a new convent near the Sweet Child Jesus parish church in Chuschi, Peru. The sisters have had a mission in Chuschi since March 19, 2004. They rent a house in the village that they share with other families.

Hermana Susana Córdova Castillo, director of the Latin American Missions, said, "We are with the families, but our style of life is different from theirs. We share life, but we need a house where there are spaces for community and for private and community prayer."

This year, there are three sisters at the Chuschi mission (called San Jose): Hermanas Susana, Nery Lourdes Abad Pulache and Regina Deitchman. The house is being constructed to accommodate four sisters. In addition, there is a meeting room for use of the parish, catechists, youth and other groups.

At present, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth religious community has provided funds for the construction. However, Hermana Susana said that Archbishop Luis Abilio Sebastiani Aguirre, S.M., has sought financial support from a diocesan contact in Germany.



Hermana Susana Córdova Castillo

Ministries, individuals respond to needs of hurricane victims

As Gulf Coast communities struggled for survival and residents began new lives in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, SCL ministries demonstrated the spirit of charity with a variety of relief efforts.

RIGHT: Michael Rowe, SCLHS chief financial officer; Michael Tarry, Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross; Sister Judith Jackson, SCLHS vice president sponsorship.



The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth religious community made a contribution to Catholic Relief Services and has sent contributions to Catholic Charities, to SCLs working in Mississippi assisting the evacuees and to the Daughters of Charity who sustained many losses in their ministries in New Orleans. Many local communities are also sending contributions to several different agencies. Additionally, the Community Council made national contacts to offer temporary housing at the Mother House in Leavenworth for sisters without shelter.

The University of Saint Mary agreed to provide free tuition to students who were enrolled in colleges and universities impacted by the hurricane and from the Gulf Coast region. At the time *Voices of Charity* went to print, two students from the Gulf Coast area were enrolled in classes at USM.

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System deployed rapid response teams of nurses from different Affiliate hospitals to staff a hospital in Poplarville, Miss. The health system has also collected funds, including paid time off donations from staff, through each of its hospitals and matched the first \$100,000. To date, more than \$350,000 has been raised. SCLHS also directly donated \$5,000 to Catholic Charities USA and \$5,000 to the American Red Cross at the outset of the disaster. In addition, SCLHS hospitals have sent truckloads of needed medical supplies.

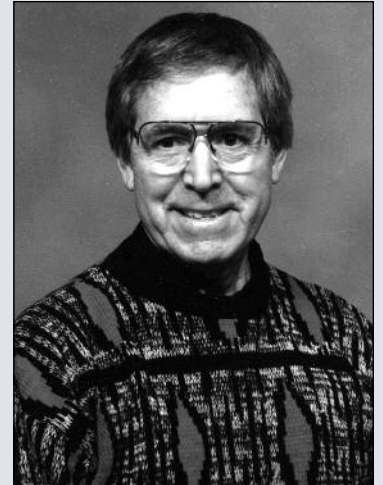
SCLs in northern Mississippi expressed appreciation for the calls, e-mails and prayers that came their way. Sisters Eileen Sheehy, Bonnie Bachle and Susan Newland reported that their community had very minor damage compared to the Gulf Coast. They hosted some New Orleans families for meals at the parish church and supported other local relief efforts.

Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

Remembering a friend, prophet, advocate

The life and dedicated ministry of Rev. John Stitz were celebrated at a Mass of Resurrection in Annunciation Chapel at the Mother House on Aug. 1. Father Stitz, uncle of Sister Linda Roth, SCL community counselor, was a long-time chaplain at the University of Saint Mary and a friend of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. He died on July 26, 2005.

Rev. Michael Hermes delivered the homily at the Mass and gave thanks for Father Stitz and “for all he did for each one of us. What an impact he had on all of our lives.” The following excerpts from the homily, reprinted with Father Hermes’ blessing, capture the reasons why.



“What I really think motivated John and directed his life and his choices, more than anything, was his love for Jesus. John had a very personal relationship with Jesus, and he truly believed in him as the way forward to the Kingdom, toward eternal life. I think all of John’s points of view and decisions came from his relationship with Jesus.

“Remember a few years ago, they came out with the ‘What would Jesus do?’ bracelets? Well, John was asking that question many, many years before it became a fad. I remember watching the news with John about the war in El Salvador, and John would ask in frustration, ‘What would Jesus say about all of this?’ Or about a new official Church decree or decision. ‘What would Jesus say?’ Or even, ‘What would Jesus say about the price of wheat? What about a fair price for farmers?’

“What would Jesus say? Good question!

“Sometimes...John would get frustrated and even down about the course of world events and the direction of our

Church...I wondered how he kept going forward and kept being faithful during some of those times. The answer, I believe, is that he always kept his faith in and his eyes on Jesus Christ, the Alpha...and the Omega.

“He and I talked about this a lot over the years. How do we go forward to our goal? How do we get there and stay relatively positive? Father John believed in progress. He believed we are moving forward, all of us, toward the ultimate goal. Maybe not as well or as fast as we should. But, at least, we are heading in the right direction.

“Father John had that kind of faith in Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. And it was that faith that allowed him to live the kind of life he believed in and be the kind of priest he was. That strong faith in the Lord Jesus sustained him and kept him going forward in love and hope, all the way.”

Each edition of the publication will feature a closing story, news item or reflection offered as a final blessing/bendición.

V O I C E S

of Charity



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