

Voices *Of* Charity

Spring 2013



*Heart of the Matter:
Focus on Vocations*
pages 3-9

*Beyond All Borders:
Encounters of Faith
from Peru*
pages 21-23



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: Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, SCL vocation director, connects with students from Carroll College, Helena, Mont., during their recent service trip to the Midwest. Left to right, Elyse Ramirez, Sister Vicki, Emma Priddy and Kirsten Rotz.

in this issue



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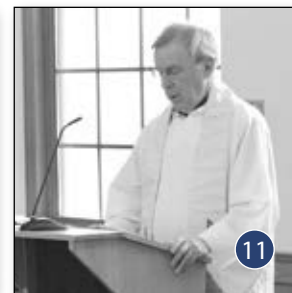
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From the Community Director

Sister Maureen Hall 2

Heart of the Matter

Focus on Vocations

Invite-Unite-Ignite 3

Two introduced as new candidates ... 4

What about vocations today?..... 6

Three 'generations' of
 Denver Xavier Community..... 8

80 years of responding
 to God's call 9

SCL Associates

Living the spirit of the founders 10

Re-markings

SCLs welcome new chaplain
 at Mother House 11

Two opportunities to engage
 young people 12

Summer gathering to celebrate
 community, discipleship,
 special observances 13

Responding to individual needs
 of Ross Hall SCLs. 14

Of Special Note..... 15
*Highlighting special honors
 and 'in the news' items*

Leavenwords

Up for the challenge of
 outlasting expectations..... 17

Beyond All Borders

Immigration policy update..... 18

Grace-filled trip to Haiti 20

Hermanas in Peru share encounters of faith

Lessons from the heart 21

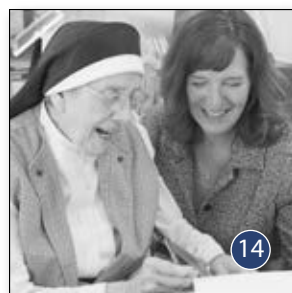
A lived and shared experience 22

Book Review

Called to 'prophetic dialogue' 24

Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

1858–PRESENT
 Mothers Superior, Mothers General
 and Community Directors 25



Community Director



Sister Maureen Hall

St. Paul's words proclaiming that we are a new creation in Christ, that the old has passed away and that new things have come (2 Cor. 5:17) are wonderful reminders of the transformational power of God's love for us.

We live in a world that's constantly changing. There's no standing still as time, events and communications clip along at a rapid pace.

However, our Christian understanding of transformation goes beyond weathering and surviving change. Transformation, as St. Paul and the prophet Isaiah before him have both written, is a process of becoming new and renewed again and again. It's opening ourselves to the realm of possibilities as people of faith and allowing God to shape our lives.

When I read the list of our jubilarians marking anniversaries of 50, 60, 70, 75 and 80 years as Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (page 15), I stand in awe of the breadth and depth of their ministries that have crossed decades and many years. These Sisters have been transformed repeatedly as women committed to Gospel values and our SCL charism. Steadfastness to their faith and vows has energized them to serve the critical needs of God's people.

Earlier this year, we welcomed two young women as new candidates to our Community. Laurie and Rosa are beginning their own journeys of transformation (page 4). In the process, they will transform us – Sisters, SCL Associates and those they serve – into a new Community and new people of faith.

That's the beauty of transformation – it's inclusive, expansive, dynamic, life-giving and hope-filled. It's the Spirit at work in each of us making all things new in Christ. May your days be blessed and your hearts open to the gift and grace of transformation during this season of renewal in our lives and in our Church.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Maureen Hall".

Sister Maureen Hall
SCL Community Director

Focus on Vocations

Invite-Unite-Ignite

by Sister Vicki Lichtenauer
SCL Vocation Director



The Year of the Sister. Doesn't that sound nice? Even though we are in the Year of Faith, why not incorporate a little something "Sister-focused" into our many circles of acquaintances?



Sister Barbara
Schrader



Sister Janice
Steiger



Sister Melissa
Camardo



Sister Jennifer
Gordon



Sister Amy
Willcott



Sister Elizabeth
Youngs

Those of us on the Vocation Network standing committee decided to gather some ideas and invite you to incorporate one or more into your life. Different Sisters around the country have shared their vocation efforts with us that we would like to pass along to you.

Sister Barbara Schrader – Offers a monthly lunch called "Subs with Sisters." This is a time set aside to spend with female students at Bishop O'Hara High School, Kansas City, Mo., where Sister Barbara ministers. Local Sisters come to share their stories and allow the young women time to ask questions about religious life.

Sister Janice Steiger – Approaches young adults who volunteer in the local parish. The Totus Tuus team of young people, who volunteer their summers to give retreats to junior high and high school age students, receive a warm hello from Sister Janice along with our SCL Community brochures.

Sisters Melissa Camardo, Jennifer Gordon, Amy Willcott and Elizabeth Youngs – Host an evening periodically for the female Colorado Vincentian Volunteers. They provide dinner and share their stories and information about the SCL Community.

These are three examples of how you can learn from individuals and groups that are already gathered around a common goal. We are all in relationship with so many people through our ministries, our faith communities or our various volunteer settings. Please consider investigating and making contact with a local high school, college or volunteer group. They welcome guest speakers, especially if you incorporate food into your offering! A plate of homemade cookies opens many doors.

More ideas will be provided at this summer's All Community Gathering. Please contact me if you would like any brochures on the SCL Community, Xavier Community or Heartland Charity Volunteers. Also, use *Voices of Charity* as another introductory resource about the SCLs, and direct young people to our website at www.scls.org.

The Sisters of Charity and Associates are a light to this world.
We encourage you to let your light shine.

Two introduced as new candidates

The new year brought great news as two young women became candidates to the SCL Community.

*Rites of welcome were hosted for **Rosa Yesenia Juárez Amaya** in Peru and for **Laurie Parker** at the Mother House. The two candidates shared their perspectives on what drew them to the SCLs and their hopes for the future.*

How did you come to know the SCLs?

Rosa: A friend invited me to be a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul Center in Piura, and I met the Sisters in 2010. I volunteered as a physical therapist, my profession.

Laurie: My first real encounter, in recent years, with the Sisters was Sister Mary Corita Conlan and members of her house in Topeka, Kan. They worked at Assumption Grade School when I taught music there. Sister Mary Corita was the principal, and I loved and respected her and the other Sisters.



Rosa Yesenia Juárez Amaya (right), new candidate in Peru, received a symbolic candle from Hermana Esther Vilela Gutiérrez.

Laurie: Some of it was practical. I knew I wanted to be near home, at least initially. But I think a lot of what attracted me to the SCLs is the freedom. I appreciate the openness of the SCLs to many styles of prayer and their adaptability in accommodating all the different gifts people bring. There is more freedom, there is more adaptability, but they're still very community-centered. They're still very intentional. They have the best of both worlds.

Rosa: I met the Sisters at a time when I was still denying my vocation. Their welcome, joy and listening helped me consider my call again. I liked their service and commitment to others.

What is it about the SCLs that impressed you to choose to respond to your vocational call?



In Leavenworth, Laurie Parker, new candidate, was blessed during the Rite of Welcome by (left to right) Sisters Kathleen Marie Henscheid, Mary Geraldine Yelich and Mary Pat Lenahan.

What is it that
you hope to do
as an SCL?

Laurie: Teach, work in a parish or health care. I'd like to use my music therapy degree. I would love to work in a hospital or hospice setting. I have a real interest in palliative care and especially being with persons who are dying. To me that is a real privilege: to journey with people when they are at their most vulnerable and their most human.

Rosa: I hope to serve where I am needed. Since I am a physical therapist, my natural leaning is to a health care ministry.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

LAURIE EARNED HER DEGREE in music education from Washburn University, Topeka, Kan., her hometown. She also has a master's of music education from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan., and is working on her master's equivalency degree in music therapy through the University of Kansas.

Her teaching career spanned seven years at Osage City Public Schools in Kansas, and Assumption School (later Mater Dei) and St. Matthew's School, Topeka. The last few years, Laurie has been a professional student. She held a graduate teaching assistant position and is currently working as a peer tutor for graduate writers.

Laurie expects her candidacy to last approximately two years. During this time, she will continue graduate studies while

immersing herself in the history and charism of the SCLs. From June to December, she will be an intern with Kansas City Hospice.

ROSA IS FROM TALARITA in the district of Castilla, Piura, Peru. She graduated from San Pedro University as a physical therapist. She has worked at San Juan Clinic as a physical therapist helper, at San Rafael Center and at Carita Feliz, a center for children with health problems. She has volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul Center, a ministry of the Hermanas de la Caridad de Leavenworth.

Rosa will be a postulant for six months to a year. She will be living in Chalaco, Morropón in Piura, doing mandatory volunteer service at a government clinic in this rural area to be certified for work in the public health sector.

What about

What draws young women to consider religious life? Since there aren't as many Sisters teaching in grade schools and high schools, how do children, adolescents and young adults become familiar with this vocational opportunity? What should religious communities be doing to attract vocations?

CARA report

Issued in August 2009, "Recent Vocations to Religious Life: A Report for the National Religious Vocation Conference" remains the most recent and most comprehensive study of religious vocations in the United States. The study was conducted by the Center for Applied Research on the Apostolate (CARA), Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. It is commonly referred to as the "CARA report/study."

Through surveys of leadership of religious congregations (also called institutes), and surveys and focus groups of new members, CARA received responses from entities and individuals representing 80 percent of all women and men religious in the United States. CARA also connected with particular religious congregations that have had success attracting and retaining vocations.

Findings from the study

- There is variety and diversity among congregations in terms of spirituality, charism, mission, size, composition and presence of new members.
- Those entering religious life are also more diverse in age, racial and ethnic background, and life experience. They often have considerable education.

**Think there's
a vocation brewing
in your family or parish?**

Contact Sister Vicki
Lichtenauer, SCL vocation
director, at **816-718-2660**
or **vickil@scls.org**.

She will connect you with an
SCL in your local community
or provide helpful
resources.

vocations today?

- The average age of entrance for women today is 32.
- Nine in 10 new members were raised Catholic, and 73 percent attended a Catholic school for at least part of their education.
- Sixty-eight percent first considered religious life by the time they were 21.
- A sense of call and desire for prayer and spiritual growth attract candidates. "More than anything else, they were attracted to their particular religious institute by the example of its members, and especially by their sense of joy." (CARA report) They were also drawn by desires to be of service and to be part of a community.

Becoming acquainted with religious communities

- Persons became familiar with the religious community they joined most commonly through an institution where members served. Other ways included recommendation of a friend or advisor, working with a member of the congregation, through a friend of the institute and through print or online materials.
- Some younger members did not know a man or woman religious before they sensed a call to religious life.
- In the early stages of considering a religious vocation, many new members said that they didn't receive much encouragement from their parents, diocesan priests, parishioners, school or workplace.

Rewards of religious life

- The communal dimension was cited most frequently – living, working and praying together or being part of something bigger than themselves.
- For others, deepening their relationship with God and Jesus was deemed the most rewarding aspect.
- Outreach and service were other dimensions identified as satisfying and rewarding.

Hope prevails

- While acknowledging challenges facing religious life today, most new members are hopeful. They recognize that their religious congregations may look different in the future.
- They believe religious life will persevere through the work of the Spirit. "New members are especially attracted to religious institutes that themselves are clear and confident about their identity and hopeful about their future." (CARA report)

BEST PRACTICES IN VOCATION MINISTRY

A number of best practices in vocation promotion surfaced in the CARA study. However, research indicates that ***the example of members and characteristics of the community have the most influence on the decision of an individual to enter a particular congregation.***

Best practices	SCL practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instilling a culture of vocations and involving membership and leadership in active vocation promotion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement of Sisters and Associates to be active in praying for, promoting and supporting interest in vocations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a full-time vocation director and the support of a team and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions of full-time vocation director who works closely with the SCL Vocation Network and the team involved with initial formation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using media, especially websites and Internet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence on website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering discernment programs and opportunities for potential candidates to meet the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of Xavier Communities in Kansas City, Kan., and Denver.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting college students and young adults, high school and elementary students to build awareness about the religious congregation and vocation opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation in college visits and vocation days at different age levels; Summer Leadership Camp; Heartland Charity Volunteers.

Three 'generations' of Denver Xavier Community

There's a generational thing going on at the SCL Xavier Community, Denver.

Sister Amy Willcott considers herself the "grandmother" or "first generation" of the community. Along with another now former SCL, Sister Amy began the first house where non-professed women could live simply, share prayer and be connected with persons of like values. From 1995 to 2002, 10 young women seized this opportunity.

Among them were Sisters Melissa Camardo and Jennifer Gordon, current residents with Sister Amy and the "second generation" of Xavier Community. Both had lived at the house at different times following their respective experiences as Colorado Vincentian Volunteers and before joining the SCLs.

Last year, the Denver Xavier Community re-opened its doors – this time to Mallorie Gerwitz from New York. Mallorie had also come to Denver as a Colorado Vincentian Volunteer. She was assigned to Mount Saint Vincent Home where Sister Amy is executive director. Because of transportation issues, the SCLs extended hospitality to Mallorie who generally spent one night a week at Xavier Community and prayed with the Sisters in the morning. A few transitions later, and Mallorie became the "third

generation" currently living at the house. Sister Elizabeth Youngs rounds out the circle of community.

Mallorie appreciates the supportive environment, the commitment of the SCLs, the chance to share their prayer life and to learn from their example. For her, the Sisters demonstrate that "there's something bigger we're all contributing to with our lives."

Even with their hectic schedules, the Sisters and Mallorie pray weekdays at 6:30 a.m., and they have dinner together as frequently as possible. "We find value in being together," Sister Jennifer adds.

From the very beginning, discernment for religious life has not been a requirement of the young women who choose to live at Xavier Community. But for those who may be considering becoming vowed religious, what better partners to walk with them than the SCLs with whom they live?

"There's a life-giving nature to community," Sister Melissa says. "We share meals, prayers and doing fun things. There's time for laughter, tears and everything in between."

"My experience at Xavier Community taught me that I didn't have to be perfect to be an SCL," Sister Jennifer recalls. "It was okay to just be myself."

For more information about the Denver Xavier Community, call 303-394-3975 or email jengor@juno.com.

For information about the Xavier Community in Kansas City, Kan., call 816-718-2660 or email vickil@scls.org.

Members of the Denver Xavier Community pictured with the statue of Mother Xavier Ross at the SCL Mother House, left to right, Sisters Jennifer Gordon, Amy Willcott and Melissa Camardo, and Mallorie Gerwitz. Not pictured, Sister Elizabeth Youngs.



80 years of responding to God's call

Sister Jeanne Marie Zeugin has spent 80 of her 98 years responding to God's call as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth. As a young woman, she remembers, "I felt the call to follow Our Lord in whatever was going to be my lot in life."



That call led her to diverse ministries as a teacher, dietitian, director of food service, human resources director and pastoral care associate. When people ask Sister Jeanne Marie how she adjusted to these transitions, she says, "I didn't think about it at the time. Each new thing was a challenge, and I liked what I did."

Even in her 80s and early 90s, Sister Jeanne Marie was visiting the sick in their homes and nursing homes with her now-deceased second cousin Sister Mary Ellinita Uhlrich or with Sister Mary Carlo Colibraro. "We were on the road all the time," she says, "little old ladies going out in all kinds of weather, cleaning snow off our car until I pestered Sister Mary Kevin [Hollow] into giving us a garage parking space!"

Originally from Leavenworth, Sister Jeanne Marie grew up knowing the SCLs as a student at Sacred Heart Grade School and Immaculata High School. She entered the Community following graduation in 1933.

Sister Jeanne Marie marvels at how the SCLs have responded to changing needs over the years. When she was a young Sister, health care, teaching and working in orphanages were the

*"I am not afraid of tomorrow
for I have seen yesterday,
and I love today."*

— Sister Jeanne Marie's favorite quote
Source unknown

traditional ministries. As needs have intensified or new ones developed, she believes SCLs have been responsive. "Our mission is to help people as needs arise, and we've done this through AIDS ministry, clinics for persons who are poor, our missions in Peru and many other ways," Sister Jeanne Marie says.

Among highlights of her 80 years

as an SCL, she includes the fact that two of her nieces are members of the Community – Sisters Marianna Bauder and Helen Bristow. She also treasures the memory that she was an arms length away from Blessed Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Denver in 1993. "I reached out and touched the arm of a future saint," she says.

Among her many blessings, Sister Jeanne Marie counts her good health and her large family, many of whom remain in the Midwest. For her recent March 15 birthday, she had at least four parties with different family members!

Her vocation has brought Sister Jeanne Marie tremendous joy as she's been able to participate in the sacraments, attend Mass and share prayer life with a group of women dedicated to the same ideals and values. She's especially thankful for her "closeness to Our Lord that has grown through the years."

What more could a person ask from accepting her lot in life 80 years ago?

Living the spirit of the founders

When Mary Kallman and Andy Stith received word last fall that each would be receiving Founders' Awards from Cristo Rey High School Kansas City, both were surprised and honored.

Andy admits that, at first, he was also a little troubled and confused. "I didn't think of myself as a founder – I thought that was someone who was old or dead!" he says looking back.

In a real sense, however, both Associates were founders, having been at Cristo Rey in its formative year before the high school opened in Kansas City, Mo. Mary has been principal of the school since 2005; Andy was development director from 2005 until last summer. In addition, both exemplify the values and spirit of the founders in their service and dedication to the mission of the high school. Cristo Rey, an SCL-sponsored ministry, provides college preparatory education for youth whose families face economic challenges.

As Associates, Mary and Andy have experienced deepening of their commitments. For Mary, becoming an Associate was a formal confirmation of her relationship that already existed with the SCLs and continued connection with people and the ministry she cares about. "Being part of the SCL ministry is so empowering," she says. "My relationship with the Sisters has



Andy Stith



Mary Kallman

made me more of a person of prayer. It's also helped me focus my own ministry and service to people with economic need."

His Associate experience gave Andy a greater depth of understanding of the SCLs. "It provided a faith dimension to the work I was doing; I approached my work in a deeper way," he says.

He's carried this philosophy forward in his new role as feasibility study director at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis. In this position, Andy is coordinating the study to determine whether there's sufficient need and support for a Cristo Rey High School in Milwaukee.

"I try to live out the spirit of joyful service that I saw demonstrated by

the Sisters," he says.

He also continues to find value in the Vincentian concept of building bridges among the rich and poor, people from different backgrounds and with different needs. He believes, "This emphasizes that you need everyone and that you can move things forward when you connect people who share a common goal."

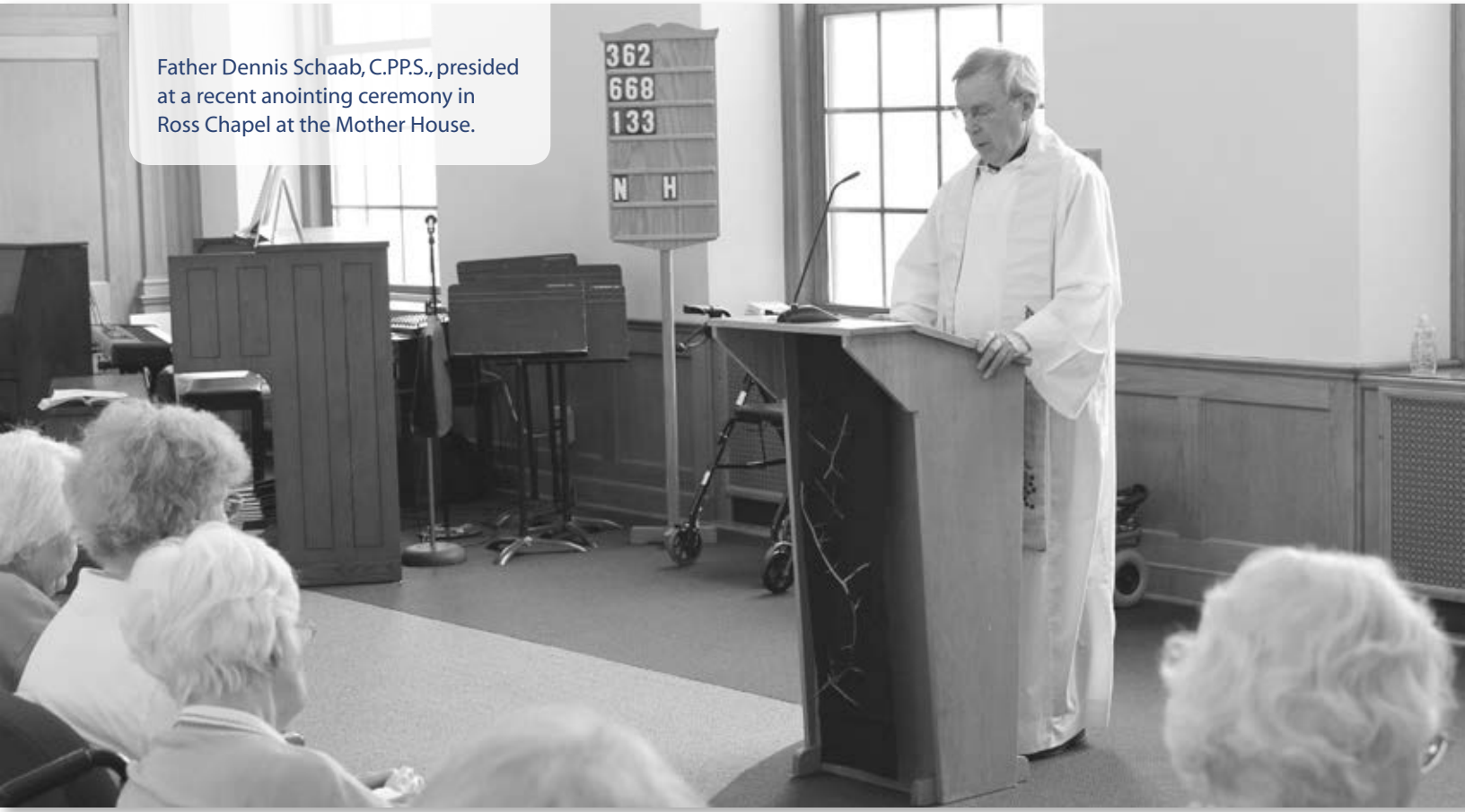
Andy is originally from Mundelein, Ill., and received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He, his wife and three children now make their home in the Milwaukee area.

Mary earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth. She has been an educator for 34 years.

For a more in-depth article, visit <http://www.scls.org/Join-Us/As-An-Associate.aspx>.

Re-markings

Father Dennis Schaab, C.P.P.S., presided at a recent anointing ceremony in Ross Chapel at the Mother House.



SCLs welcome new chaplain at Mother House

Father Dennis Schaab, C.P.P.S., is grateful for what Sisters in the United States have done for the people they serve – forming them and giving direction to their lives. In this spirit of gratitude, the Precious Blood priest is happy to express his appreciation through his appointment as chaplain to the SCL Mother House.

Originally from Fort Wayne, Ind., Father Dennis grew up around members of the Precious Blood order. He attended their minor seminary, college and seminary, and was ordained in 1968. His first mission was as a high school teacher in Liberty, Mo., where he first met the SCLs.

Parish assignments followed with Father Dennis serving in Sedalia and Warsaw, Mo. He next ministered at Whiteman Air Force Base and Central Missouri State

University, both in Warrensburg, Mo. He spent his last four years as pastor in Centerville, Iowa, and retired from parish work in summer 2012.

Since January 20, 2013, Father Dennis has become immersed in life and liturgy at the SCL Mother House. This includes daily Masses, weekly holy hours, monthly anointings, funerals, availability for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and “listening to the Sisters if they want to talk.”

As someone who loves the outdoors, Father Dennis appreciates the campus of the Mother House and the University of Saint Mary. Plus, he likes basketball games and says he is getting “lots of culture through music and plays.”

“I enjoy wherever I am,” Father Dennis concludes. And for now, he’s happy to be in Leavenworth!

Two opportunities to engage young people



Heartland Charity Volunteers

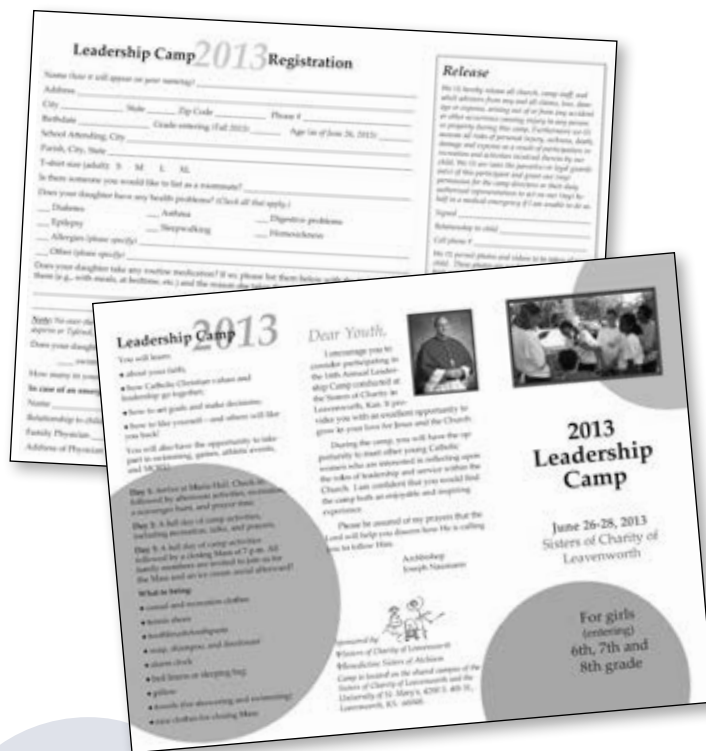
Heartland Charity Volunteers, the volunteer program of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, is now accepting applications from young women for the August 2013 through June 2014 service commitment. This program offers the opportunity for single women, ages 21 to 30, to commit to a year of volunteer service, live in community and learn to pray more deeply. The volunteer program is based in the Greater Kansas City Area with placements in educational, social service and health ministries associated with or reflective of the values of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Applicants must have a college degree or equivalent work experience and demonstrate willingness to live simply and participate in community living, shared prayer and reflection. They must also have a commitment to work with those who are poor. Room and board, medical insurance and a stipend are provided during the service experience.

Applications are being accepted through June, or until all volunteer openings are filled. In addition to a completed application file, acceptance requires a personal interview with a member of the Heartland Charity Volunteers Leadership Team.

Sister Irene Skeehan, one of the team members, said, "Our first five volunteers have found this an invaluable life experience and appreciate the opportunity to serve and to live in community with other young women who share their values."

For more information or an application, call 913-912-1038; email heartlandcharityvolunteers@gmail.com; visit <http://www.scls.org/Join-Us/As-A-Volunteer.aspx>; or become a fan on Facebook.



Summer Leadership Camp

Girls entering sixth, seventh or eighth-grades are invited to attend the 2013 Leadership Camp scheduled June 26-28 on the campus of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan. The Benedictine Sisters of Atchison co-sponsor this event. Registration deadline is May 13.

The Leadership Camp provides opportunities for participants to learn about their faith, how Catholic Christian values and leadership go together, and how to set goals and make decisions. Recreation, talks and prayer are built into the three days that conclude with Mass at 7 p.m.

Registration fee is \$125.00 and covers room and board, meals and a t-shirt for each participant. Partial scholarships are available.

Contact Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, SCL vocation director, to apply at vickil@scls.org or 816-718-2660. Visit www.scls.org for a brochure with application.

Summer gathering to celebrate community, discipleship, special observances



SCLs and SCL Associates can expect a rich experience of celebrating and sharing community with special focus on discipleship during the July 4-7, 2013 All Community Gathering in Leavenworth. Highlights will include:

- A Fourth of July welcome.
- Presentation on "What on earth is discipleship?" by Father Anthony Gittins, CSSp, PhD.
- Displays of art, crafts, poetry and standing committees along with music by Sister and Associate composers.
- Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the SCL South American missions and the 25th anniversary of the SCL Associate program.
- Perpetual vows profession by Sister Rejane Cytacki.
- Continued discussion on governance by SCLs.
- Sessions on prayer and systemic change topics for Associates.
- The SCL Council report on the 2010 Chapter Mandates.

Registration deadline for Sisters and Associates planning to attend the gathering is April 22.

Responding to individual needs of Ross Hall SCLs

With a degree in therapeutic recreation, Jill Kruse brings special talents to her role as activities programmer for Ross Hall, the SCL nursing facility at the Mother House. At the same time, she admits to learning considerably from the Sisters as she experiences their wisdom, laughter and gratitude.

“**T**hey bring out my creativity as I look for ways to respond to their needs with individualized activities,” Jill says.

This occurs through one-on-one and group interactions using crafts, cooking, games, exercise, reminiscing and other stimulating activities. Generally, Jill schedules activities in the mornings and afternoons. But she says, “Nothing’s typical, and I like the flexibility.”

Monday brings the Ross Hall Sisters together for movies. Daily exercise groups often conclude with a mentally stimulating activity such as a word game or trivia. Other scheduled activities include weekly visits from Sister Peg Driscoll and her dog Joey. A small dog and its owner from the community also make rounds to Sisters who like animals. Sing-alongs are an enjoyable group activity. A recently added interest for the Sisters is Tai Chi lessons given by an expert instructor. Other activities center on engaging Ross Hall residents in planning seasonal and holiday parties. Students from the University of Saint Mary are regular volunteers during the academic year and assist Jill with groups and individual projects.



Sister Mary Lillian Landauer enjoys a crafts activity led by Jill Kruse, Ross Hall activities programmer.



Everyone gets into the act during a crafts group at Ross Hall – University of Saint Mary (USM) students who volunteer, staff and the SCLs. Pictured left to right, Sarah Chavez, USM; Jill Kruse, activities programmer; Logan Crowther, USM; and Sisters Agnes Ann Kneib and Mary Lillian Landauer.

Weather permitting, Jill accompanies the Sisters outdoors as often as possible for both visual and auditory stimulation. She’s licensed to drive the SCL mini-bus and takes Sisters to look at changing leaves and Christmas decorations and on scenic trips.

Jill’s greatest satisfaction comes from seeing what the activities can do for the Sisters. She recalls one Sister who didn’t speak, but who said a full sentence when brought into the multi-sensory room.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, Jill spends time “looking for a need.” For example, there may be a resident with dementia, who wanders or becomes agitated. Jill works with the individual Sister to help her become more focused or calmer.

“I love the Sisters,” Jill says. “They are an admirable group of women. They’ve committed their lives to being SCLs and helping others. I hope to give them a fraction of what they have given to others to enhance the quality of their lives. There’s so much laughter and joy here. I really enjoy my job.”

OF SPECIAL NOTE

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



Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann received offertory gifts from Sisters Dorothy Marie Rilinger and Jean Marian Rilinger during a Mass he offered in late January at the Mother House.



Before leaving for her new mission to South Sudan, Sister Janet Cashman (center) was commissioned with words and blessings by SCLs including Sister Eileen Hurley (left) and Sister Maureen Hall at the lectern.

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth 2013 Jubilarians

Congratulations to SCLs marking landmark anniversaries of their dedication to religious life this year.

80 YEARS

Sister Jeanne Marie Zeugin

75 YEARS

Sister Virginia Flanick
Sister Ann Winifred McGarry
Sister Agnes Eileen Dunn
Sister Margaret Pfennigs
Sister Mary Cecilia Carig

70 YEARS

Sister Ann Louise Eble
Sister Mary Vincent Fritton
Sister Marie Paula Hardy
Sister Rita Orleans
Sister Mary Helen Richstatter

60 YEARS

Sister Dolores Ann Brinkel
Sister Mary Carlo Colibraro
Sister Julia Golkoski
Sister Rosella Mary Hehn
Sister Mary Kenneth Messina
Sister Gloria Solomon
Sister Katherine Mary Westhues
Sister Roberta Furey
Sister Lillian Maguire

50 YEARS

Sister Therese Bangert
Sister Judith Jackson
Sister Eileen Marie Johnson
Sister Susan Yerkich

SCLs receive Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award in Denver

The impact of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) on the Denver community was recognized on Jan. 15 when the religious community received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award. The award honors individuals, groups and organizations that have helped realize Dr. King's dream of an equal chance for all persons to build better lives, regardless of their race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability. The award is presented annually through the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission.

The evening included a reception, awards program and concert by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and Spirituals Gospel Choir. Sister Melissa Camardo accepted the award on behalf of the SCL Community. Attending the reception were other Denver-based SCLs, Sisters Regina Ann Green, Jennifer Gordon and Maureen Kehoe; and Sister Eileen Haynes, SCL Community Councilor.



At the event where the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award in Denver, left to right, Sisters Regina Ann Green, Maureen Kehoe, Eileen Haynes, Jennifer Gordon and Melissa Camardo; and Mallorie Gerwitz, Denver Xavier Community resident.

Pioneer stories featured

The website of the Diocese of Helena, Mont., is featuring a multimedia series titled "From the Archives." **Sister Dolores Ann Brinkel**,



diocesan archivist, revisits the days and tales of frontier priests, pioneer sisters and laity, people who formed and laid the foundational building blocks of this Montana diocese. Part I of the Pioneer Sisters stories tells the story of the Sisters of Charity of Providence coming to the diocese. Part II is devoted to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. In parts III and IV, the Ursuline Nuns of the Roman Union, the Good Shepherd Sisters and other congregations' histories in the diocese are narrated. Visit www.diocesehelena.org.

Editor selected for FaithWalk

Therese Horvat, SCLA, SCL communications director and editor of *Voices of Charity*, was selected by the *Kansas City Star* to write four FaithWalk columns over a year's time. Her second column appeared in February and paid tribute to Sister Mary Corita Conlan, who had died New Year's day. Sister Mary Corita influenced Therese's love of writing during her eighth-grade year at the former St. Rose of Lima School, Kansas City, Kan. The column also pointed to the sense of gratitude Sister Mary Corita encouraged – whether in times of joy or sorrow.

Online donation option available

Persons wishing to make donations to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in memory of a loved one or to honor

someone, have the option of doing this electronically through www.scls.org. Click on the Contact Us button in the top navigation bar, and you will see the Make a Donation dropdown button.

Water filters for Peru and Sudan

Missions in Peru and South Sudan being served by SCLs benefited from Christmas 2012 generosity of Sisters, Associates and friends. Funds totaling nearly \$29,000 went toward purchasing water filters for distribution in these countries. This amount includes individual contributions, matching funds from the SCL Council and a grant secured by Sister Ann Barton. In a future edition of *Voices of Charity*, we will report on the difference these filters are making to the people being served.

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

When Sister Virginia Flanick left Butte, Mont., in 1938 to join the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, her brother wondered what she was going to do in the convent, and her Mother expected to see the 19-year-old back home within two weeks.

Up for the challenge of outlasting expectations

Seventy-five years later, Sister Virginia says it was the work of the SCLs that initially drew her to the Community. The joy of her ministry has remained her greatest source of happiness.

Sister Virginia entered the SCLs hoping to work in an orphanage. The closest she came to this was an assignment to teach at the school embedded into the former St. Vincent Home, Topeka, Kan.

She taught first-graders in SCL schools for 50 years. Sister Virginia loved the children's wholesomeness and innocence. "I experienced great joy when they could read a whole book without help," she recalled.

Her first mission assignment was Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Kansas City, Kan., a predominantly Black parish. "Coming from Butte, I had never seen a Black person in my life," Sister Virginia recalled. "I came to love these kids a lot."

From there, her ministry took Sister Virginia to Topeka, the Kansas City area, Oklahoma, California and Falls City, Neb., her last teaching assignment. Among her illustrious students, the former teacher counts Sisters Jane and Judith Jackson, Peg Johnson and Susan Marie Newland.

When her teaching ministry ended, Sister Virginia spent a brief time doing office work at Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, Calif. – long enough to experience the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Then it was back to the Midwest and a new ministry distributing Communion to homebound parishioners of Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady & St. Rose Parishes in Kansas City, Kan. Sister Virginia commuted from the Mother House to do this for 10 years.



In retirement, between time for prayer and visits with other SCLs, Sister Virginia reads, completes word searches and enjoys all sports. She takes pride in being alert and active for her age.

Sister Virginia long outlasted her Mother's expectations. Today, she remains determined to stay ahead of setbacks. When her leg "crumbled" – as Sister Virginia describes what led to a fall three years ago – she had no intention of being confined to a wheelchair.

"Family, friends and employees at Ross Hall can't get over how much I do," she says of her recovery – one more time proving that where there's a will, there's a way for Sister Virginia!

Immigration

POLICY UPDATE



by Sister Therese Bangert
SCL Social Justice Office

Any update that I provide will very likely be outdated by the time *Voices of Charity* reaches your eyes, but this is where the struggle for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) stood at the end of February.

- The “Gang of 8” in the United States Senate is beginning to piece together details of a CIR bill. Members are developing specifics around such areas as high-skilled visas, the green card backlog, making more doctors and nurses available in rural areas and providing a legal avenue for low-skilled/agricultural workers.
- The timeline presented for the U.S. Senate debate was to have a CIR bill out of the committee by the third week of March. A floor debate in the Senate would then be planned for April or May.
- Actions by the House of Representatives would follow with the most desired outcome being debate of a CIR bill on the House floor before the August recess.



One thing is not a moving target!

There is a great need for the Catholic community across the nation to raise its voice to members of Congress. The continuing best way to know how to do this and about immediate issues is to frequent the Justice for Immigrants (JFI) website: www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

In mid-February, 5,000 persons had sent e-postcards from the website. The goal is to have 50,000

sent. In late February, JFI reported that the anti-immigrant group, Numbers USA, facilitated their members sending 100,000 faxes to Senator Marco Rubio to share their dissatisfaction with his stance on immigration. JFI warns that CIR is not a “done deal.” I again invite you to raise your voice and to repeat your messages to Congress as long as it takes.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, *pray for us.*

“For 152 years, the love of Christ has impelled members of the Sisters of Charity to provide leadership in the education, pastoral and health care needs of many who were immigrants. Based on long-standing Catholic social teaching, we now also raise our voices, urging our elected officials to effect Comprehensive Immigration Reform.”

SCL Community Stance in Support of
Comprehensive Immigration Reform, May 2011

Kansas specific news

On Feb. 13, the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee held a hearing on immigration policy in the state. Sister Therese Bangert was one of a team of presenters who addressed legislators. She provided a briefing on in-state tuition. This school year, 630 students who are aspiring citizens are attending Kansas regents' institutions at the in-state tuition rate. (The total enrollment of state universities is 189,000.) Sisters Nancy Bauman, Eileen Haynes and Jean Anne Panisko attended the Topeka hearing.

Resources to help immigrants

At Duchesne Clinic in Kansas City, Kan., Sister Helen Bristow uses the following resources to assist immigrants. Similar local resources are likely available in communities across the country.

- If an undocumented person is abused by someone who is a citizen, the victim can receive help and possibly qualify for a line to residency and citizenship through the Victim's Assistance Unit. Sponsored by the local police department, this team also helps find housing for women who need to escape abusive situations.
- El Centro helps with paying medical bills, job counseling and getting through legal systems and domestic abuse.
- La Luz at Catholic Charities offers bilingual legal assistance.
- An outreach worker assists Spanish-speaking, homeless men at Shalom House with accessing services of the clinic.

Working together,
we can make a difference!

Grace-filled trip to Haiti

Periodically, Sisters have the opportunity to experience the Community's missions in Peru or travel to Haiti to visit the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa whom the SCLs have assisted for the past several years.

In January, Sisters Therese Bangert and Judith Jackson, lifelong friends, made the trip together to Haiti. Sister Therese went because of her SCL social justice role; Sister Judith, a hospice chaplain, because she had accompanied Sister Marie Carmelle Voltaire of Haiti through her illness and death at the SCL Mother House last year.

The Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa are a new religious community with 10 professed members and nine Sisters in formation. "Being with these women, who are not unlike our own Community in its early years, was its own grace," Sister Therese said. "I tell people I witnessed much joy and much misery during this trip."

The misery came from the fact that Haiti is a poor nation with distress magnified by the 2010 earthquake. The SCLs were in Port-au-Prince for the third anniversary of the quake and went to the site of the crumbled cathedral. Sister Therese said a group that kept growing in size was there praying the rosary and later participated in Mass amid the rubble.

In making the trip, Sister Judith said, "My singular desire was to honor Sister Marie Carmelle and the legacy of her life as reflected in the culture of her people, in the spirit of her young religious community and in the individuals to whom she ministered, particularly, the children in the orphanage and school."

Sister Judith, too, commented about the losses from the earthquake. "At the remaining tent 'cities,' we witnessed not just poverty, but misery," she said.

But both SCLs were buoyed by the faith of the Haitian people and their hope for the future and by the incredible spirit and resolve of the Sisters and Father Joseph Philippe, CSSp, their founder. The youth, vitality and dedication of the young Sisters struck Sister Judith.

The children also captivated the SCLs. They visited the Fondwa school that has 520 students. The earthquake completely destroyed the former structure, and the people erected temporary buildings within 12 weeks so classes could resume with the academic year. The children – some of whom walk four hours one way to get to classes – were in sparkling clean and pressed uniforms. They were eager to learn for their future.



- ▲ ▲ During her trip to Haiti earlier this year, Sister Judith Jackson saw hope in the children like this young boy who is an orphan and lives with the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa.
- ▲ Members of the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa with Father Joseph, their spiritual director and founder.

Three young boys who are orphans live with the Fondwa Sisters. Meal time at the convent was joyous. Sister Judith observed, "Sisters, children and young adults enjoyed ample food, lively conversation in French and Creole, and a circle of love and support."

On the final day of their visit, Sisters Judith and Therese received words of gratitude from Sister Claudette Prevot, superior of the Fondwa community, who said, "I want to thank you and your Community for all the ways you have helped us – the loving care given to Sister Marie Carmelle, the donations to our community and our works, the trips to our country, your coming to visit us. I speak not only for myself, but for all of the Sisters. We feel that your visit was very much like the Visitation, Mary visiting her cousin, Elizabeth, in the hill country."

HERMANAS IN PERU SHARE ENCOUNTERS OF FAITH

Lessons from the HEART



by Hermana Susana
Córdova Castillo

Martha Fernandez Capcha is 78 years old and from the area of Chuschi. She is one of the women who come every day to the comedor (dining hall) where lunch is served. She is blind and walks one mile from her house to the comedor each Monday through Friday. The road is full of rocks, ditches filled with water, but she walks gently and carefully.

The road passes near the house of another woman who cannot come to the comedor because she has severe pain in her legs. Martha generously stops to pick up a container to collect food to bring to this woman.

Martha likes to visit with all of the senior citizens at the comedor, with the Hermanas and with the lady who prepares the food. She leads the prayer and gives thanks to God for the food received. She also asks each and every one of us how we are doing. Martha likes to interact with others and talks of the reality in Peru as if she has eyes to see.

Martha is a woman convinced that God is in her life. She is a woman of faith.

One day the priest came to the comedor. Father Flores Miguel Angel Rivera is our pastor, and he is able to speak Quechua, the language of that area and the language that Martha speaks. My desire was to present Martha to him.

When they met, the priest knelt in front of her. They talked for half an hour. I was so happy that Martha had these special moments to talk with someone in a personal, one-to-one conversation.

Martha has taught me how to serve beyond doing a job. She taught me to serve in my ministry and that we must learn to see with the heart. The gesture of the priest kneeling before Martha was the act of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples – a gesture of serving another.

These testimonies teach me how to serve. Thank you, Martha, who without seeing, teach me from your heart.



A lived and shared experience

For the full version of Hermana Lourdes' reflection, visit www.scls.org, How We Serve, What SCLs Do.



by Hermana
Lourdes
Abad Pulache

Iban is the coordinator of the area of El Naranjo, a small town in Chalaco. He is a simple man, cheerful and passionate about the mission. He feels called to share the Good News of the Kingdom, loves his daughters and son, is very loving to his wife and is a man of God.

On Thursday, June 14, Hermana Julia contacted me to tell me that Iban had arrived in Lima with his only child, Kelvin, who was hospitalized in Neoplasicas (Institute of Neurology) and was likely to have cancer. The next day, I was able to visit them. It was there that I encountered the brushstrokes of God that I am going to search for; the God of Jesus, who loves life and is in the midst of us.

When I visited the hospital, I found a boy asleep in the ICU and a Father who was very concerned for the health of his child. He welcomed me with an overflowing heart, nothing but love. From that day on, I began to experience love in the midst of pain and uncertainty. The Father's

love for his son and the son's love for his Father – a love that crossed distances – and the Mother who from a distance could communicate with her child thanks to technology.

Iban told me that Kelvin's health had worsened. There had been moments when the boy spoke without making sense, started yelling and asking that his Father take him home. When Kelvin regained composure, he apologized for his behavior that day.

This first day, we talked a lot, cried and expressed our hopes for the child and also for the community in Chalaco. The Father asked me, "Sister, for July 1 (Mission Day throughout the diocese) will my son be all right because I want to go to accompany my people in the mission?" I just smiled, and I realized that his love was authentic because it was big and unlimited – that his pain did not restrict him from being able to look at the broader picture nor limit his capacity to give of himself totally.

In our conversations, one of Iban's comments was so full of hope and faith. "Only a miracle can save my son," he said. I believe that his whole being was willing to receive what God would send. He was waiting for a miracle, but mostly he was waiting for the miracle of God's last word.

Pain and acceptance

There were days that I found him very content with a steadfast hope. And there were other days where his heart was heavy, and Iban cried. One day he said to me, "God has given me so much joy that I will not accept this test, because this was a test that would measure my faith. I am with God, and he is with me through the good moments and the difficult moments, as in marriage."

On Thursday, June 21, I found Iban crying inconsolably because the doctor told him that his son had no chance to live. He asked me to find a priest to visit his son. The hospital chaplain was not available, so I called a friend, Father Gioberty, OSA, who lives in Lima. He came to the hospital the next day and gave Kelvin Communion and the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Iban could not attend because he was looking for the doctor. When he learned that the priest had given the sacraments to his son, Iban's face beamed. They said that Kelvin was aware of receiving Communion, and everything seemed to react favorably.

His operation was two days later. When the surgery began, the doctor realized he could do nothing because there were many tumors. The diagnosis was cancerous tumors in the liver, spleen and brain.

From that day on, Kelvin's health worsened. Iban's faith was firm, but he was very overwhelmed by the pain that his only son experienced. He looked for answers, talked to God and continues to do so. Our dialogues were simple and profound. He spoke with freedom that impressed me and expressed his innermost feelings. I encouraged him to cry and not to fear or hesitate. He answered me, "Sister, every day when I am in bed, I cry for 15 minutes, and then I talk to God. And he says, 'What does Iban say?' I answer him, 'It is good that you help me to accept this situation. Give me the strength to continue until the end.'"

Journey of faith

A week later at the hospital, Iban appeared very dejected. He said, "My son is dying. Sister, go see him." We visited, and Iban told me that in the morning he had been in the hospital chapel. He had given God permission to take his son. Also, he told his son to wait in heaven because he was the first to be there. Some days prior, he said his son had talked about the pain he was suffering and how Jesus, who had also suffered, was one with him. Iban said he did not know where he got so many words and so much serenity to talk to Kelvin.

I confess that I was reluctant to go to the boy's room because it is painful to see someone suffer and be unable to do anything. I was praying with Kelvin for about 10 minutes and wondering about the pain God the Father had when Jesus, his son, was suffering. Kelvin's face was pink with fever, and he was breathing with great difficulty. I suddenly felt the floor shaking, but since nobody was alarmed I assumed it was my imagination. A few minutes later, a bell rang on the monitor and then they asked me to leave because the boy had just died. They asked for his Father. When I returned to see the boy once again he was pale and

lifeless. That feeling of helplessness, that mystery of life and death. Iban rose. I could not comfort anyone. I was upset. I didn't know what to do, looking at Iban with so much pain, almost dying himself from the loss and very affected by his son's death.

Iban was crying inconsolably as he experienced abandonment more deeply. Kelvin died at 3:50 p.m. approximately. At 6:30, the hospital issued the death certificate and then did the paperwork so Iban could take the body home. At 11:20 p.m., Iban began his return to Piura, Chalaco, with Kelvin's body, and finally to El Naranjo. I have understood that on Sunday, July 1, when the whole parish was involved with the mission, from the early hours of the day, people waited to accompany Iban and his dead son to the home. Iban arrived around 10:00 p.m. The trip took about 23 hours.

I continue to communicate with Iban at Hermana Susana's suggestion. Iban was very happy with the Mass celebrated in honor of his son. He told me that he wondered how he would react to burying his son, if he would have the strength to do it. Despite the deep pain he felt for his son's death, there was no pain but rather joy because of all the people who accompanied his family, and

especially because he could have a Mass celebrated.

Lessons learned

Iban showed me that it is possible to love without possessing. God is totally other than we have been and are. God walks with us and surrounds us with his grace that accompanies us through pain and suffering. But he has given us the ability to transcend death because he loves us.

Iban closed circles. Kelvin was his son, but Iban didn't try to keep him. He was able to say good-bye and gave permission to God to take his son. He didn't hide his feelings, didn't try to avoid suffering and continued praying and was concerned about others. He was concerned for those who, like him, suffered because of their loved ones in the hospital and for his brothers and his local community. God is free, and Iban is like that because he could give permission to God to take his son. Because of that, he said good-bye, and his son could say good-bye days before he died. I did not do more than witness the presence of God so real, so intense in these people and realize that each experience is GRACE, each day, every encounter, each person.



Called to 'prophetic dialogue'

Schmidt, J. F. (2012). *Walking the Little Way of Therese of Lisieux: Discovering the Path of Love*. Frederick, Maryland: The Word Among Us Press.

"From her early years, Therese had desired to be a saint and the primary focus of her life was to walk the path of love, to discover the science of love, to do God's will" (p. 15). With this introduction, the author invites all readers to walk the "Little Way" of St. Therese of Lisieux with him.

Father Joseph F. Schmidt, FSC, retains an authenticity of Therese's presence and spiritual journey by weaving her own words throughout the text, connecting her way with the reader's journey. One of the questions that recurred throughout Therese's life and one the reader may ask himself/herself daily is, "Am I on the path of authentic love?" (p. 15). St. Therese followed this path by living the "everydayness" of her life in simplicity and humility, and by responding to those whom she met throughout each day.

Wisdom through suffering

Therese was born in 1873, canonized in 1925 and declared a doctor of the Church in 1997. Though very young and without a great deal of "official theological or scriptural training" (p. 25), it is evident that "her wisdom teaching comes from the understanding and empathy of one who has suffered and who offers compassion without condemnation" (p. 27). In a complex and chaotic world of war, suffering and discrimination that continues to seek peace, healing and justice, hers is a voice that can teach us humility, simplicity and charity.

She was very young when her mother died and was often plagued with feelings of abandonment, loneliness and self-doubt. Seeing the seeds of violence in "hostility, retaliation, and self-righteousness"

(pp. 28-29), Therese struggled with wanting to alleviate the suffering of others. The author relates that Therese felt that love is "incompatible with the toxic thoughts and feelings of fear, hostility, and self-centeredness that are at the root of external violence and that do internal violence to the spirit of those who cultivate these attitudes" (p. 30).

The reader will find a kinship and connection with Therese as Father Schmidt reveals the saint's own insights and spiritual struggles expressed in her own words. "Through prayerful self-reflection on her spiritual journey, Therese came to know the depths of her self-centeredness, the extent of her God-inspired desires, and the role and significance of her thoughts, acts, and feelings in the spiritual life" (p. 33).

'School of love'

Father Schmidt reveals various facets of Therese and those dearest to her by illustrating that "her life became a microcosm of love; her teaching, a school of love" (p. 33). Her personal heroine was Joan of Arc; she also identified with Mary Magdalene. The focus of her life was Jesus Christ, and Therese needed "to become more deeply her true self" (p. 54) and be "the person that God called her to be" (p. 54).

Within the cloister of her Carmelite community, "she developed the practice of noticing the needs of the sisters and then creatively responding, not only in prayer, but in acts of patience and accommodation" (p. 101) thus following her Little Way. God's love comforted Therese, strengthened her and kept her focused on her path. She "expected God to carry her when she was too feeble to walk alone" (p. 187). What simple, yet profound trust!



by Sister Mary
Pat Lenahan

Even in the midst of bouts of scrupulosity, insecurity and loneliness, her resolve never faltered; "she experienced prayer as a surge of the heart" (p. 155), and Therese never stepped from her path of love. St. Teresa of Avila reminded her and the reader that "goodwill and selfless good works of justice and charity were the fruits of prayer and of self-surrender into God's will" (p. 189).

Included in Father Schmidt's text are the main qualities that guided Therese on her path of love and that illuminate and shine a light on her soul. The reader will not be disappointed in the author's insights into Therese and her spirituality as he breaks open these qualities with her own reflections and words. Even though each person's relationship with God is unique, the author enriches and draws the reader into Therese's longing and love for her God as each individual discovers God in his/her own way, following the path to wholeness and holiness.

We seek God through personal and communal transformation and desire a deeper experience of reflection and contemplative prayer at the center of our apostolic ministries and communal living. As SCLs and SCL Associates continue to pray daily for the people of our world and their needs, for those discerning their own individual calls, and more vocations to religious life and to our own SCL congregation, it seems most appropriate that we recall Therese's exhortation, "O Jesus, my Love...I have found it...My VOCATION IS LOVE!...I shall be Love!" (p. 251)

Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!



SISTERS OF CHARITY

OF LEAVENWORTH

1858–PRESENT • MOTHERS SUPERIOR, MOTHERS GENERAL AND COMMUNITY DIRECTORS



Mother Xavier Ross
1858-1862
1865-1877



**Mother Mary
Vincent Kearney**
1862-1865



**Mother Josephine
Cantwell**
1877-1886



**Mother Josepha
Sullivan**
1886-1892



**Mother Mary
Peter Dwyer**
1892-1898



**Mother Mary
Regis Speak**
1898-1904



**Mother Irene
McGrath**
1904-1907



**Mother Mary
Olive Mead**
1907-1913
1928-1934



**Mother Mary
Berchmans Cannan**
1913-1928



**Mother Mary
Josepha Geary**
1934-1938



**Mother Mary
Francesca O'Shea**
1938-1950



**Mother Mary
Ancilla Spoor**
1950-1962



**Mother Leo
Frances Ryan**
1962-1974



**Sister Mary
Kevin Hollow**
1974-1986



**Sister Mary
Kathleen Stefani**
1986-1998



**Sister Joan Sue
Miller**
1998-2010



**Sister Maureen
Hall**
2010-Present



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