

# Voices of Charity

Spring 2015

*Heart of the Matter*  
**Time for Taizé**  
pages 3-5



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.

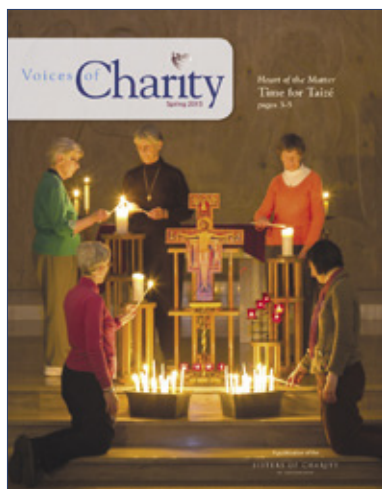
### **Vision Statement**

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: In Annunciation Chapel prior to a recent  
Taizé prayer service, clockwise from left, Sisters Marianna Bauder,  
Kevin Marie Flynn, Susan Chase, Sheila Taylor and Rejane Cytacki.

# in this issue



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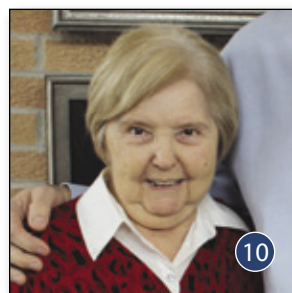
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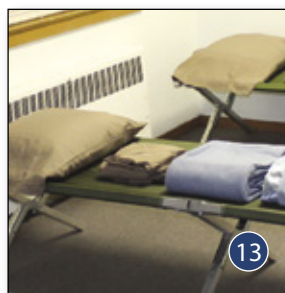
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10



13



14

## From the Community Director

Sister Maureen Hall ..... 2

## Heart of the Matter

Time for quiet, time for prayer –  
 Time for Taizé ..... 3

## Re-Markings

Congratulations, SCL 2015 Jubilarians ... 6  
 Fun, activities, prayer, community  
 on Summer Leadership Camp agenda... 6  
 SCL participates in first-ever  
 Vatican-sponsored symposium ..... 7  
 Of Special Note ..... 8  
*Highlighting special honors  
 and 'in the news' items*

## Leavenwords

Generations of love and appreciation .. 10

## Book Review

'Reason to hope' ..... 12

## Beyond All Borders

Shelter a sign of hope ..... 13  
 Haiti immersion experience  
 transformational for SCLs ..... 14  
 Doing what comes naturally ..... 16  
 Mother House marks day  
 of awareness against trafficking ..... 18

## Vocation Voices

10 suggestions for  
 promoting vocations ..... 19  
 SCL welcomed to Community ..... 19  
 Prayers of thanksgiving turn  
 the tables during  
 National Catholic Sisters Week ..... 20  
 At the House of Charity ..... 20

## Sponsored Ministries

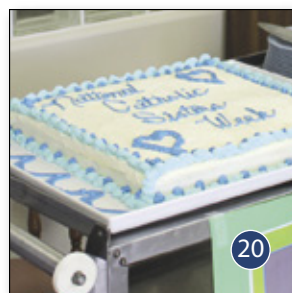
USM creates triple advantage  
 for accounting students ..... 21  
 Board chair role recognized ..... 21  
 New Saint Joseph Hospital  
 continues tradition of excellence  
 and compassion ..... 22  
 Chapel has visual and spiritual appeal .. 22  
 Joint operating agreement further  
 enhances clinical operations ..... 23

## SCL Associates

God's goodness fuels generous spirit... 24

## Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

'Return to your baptism daily' ..... 25



20



21



22

# Community Director

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Sister Maureen Hall

In this Easter season, we celebrate the gifts of new life and joyful resurrection.

All around us, spring is showing its brilliant colors. Grass is greening; flowers blooming; and trees filling out with branches reaching for the sky. Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins captures the experience vividly when he writes, “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”

There are many good reasons for the Alleluias we proclaim with Easter joy. Christ has conquered sin and death so we can be at peace in him. Christ is risen – his open, empty tomb holds promise of bountiful blessings for all of us. Christ lives again – in Eucharist, in our hearts and in our homes, in our relationships with one another. He opens the door to new life and invites us to follow him and to do as he did – to care for the poor, to love one another, to share God’s abundant goodness.

Energized by the profound power of the Resurrection, we are called to be Easter people. This isn’t always easy in the midst of hectic schedules, busy times and many challenges. It wasn’t easy for Jesus as he walked the path of the cross. It hasn’t been easy for generations that have preceded us – the apostles, Mary the Mother of Jesus, the saints, Vincent and Louise, Mother Xavier, our families and friends.

But it’s always rewarding to be Easter people. It’s a joy-filled opportunity to embrace and celebrate our renewal in Christ and to open ourselves to all of creation and humankind becoming new in him.

In another poem, Gerard Manley Hopkins writes, “Let Him easter in us.”

May you be many times blessed this Easter season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Maureen Hall". The script is elegant and cursive.

Sister Maureen Hall  
*SCL Community Director*

Heart of the Matter

TIME FOR QUIET, TIME FOR PRAYER –  
*Time for Taizé*

The cross and  
candles at the  
foot of the  
altar are  
pivotal points  
for the Taizé  
prayer service  
each month  
September  
through May.



## One evening with Taizé

- The service opens with a welcome and the invitation to enjoy homemade cinnamon rolls afterwards in honor of National Catholic Sisters Week.
- A single chime calls everyone to silence and reflection.
- Organ music follows with the singing of a chant:  
*Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, night will soon fall.*  
*Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness.*
- Next, there's time for quiet reflection until another single chime transitions the group to hear words from St. Luke's Gospel.
- More quiet. The chime. A sung chant. Quiet again. The chime. Marimba music for meditation.
- Another reading follows excerpted from a modern author who describes how Jesus respected the poor and vulnerable.
- Chants and chimes follow.
- Then comes the call to offer petitions. Requests include prayers for mental and spiritual peace; for those suffering due to snowstorms; for students travelling on spring break; for prisoners and veterans; for the enslaved and trafficked.
- The group prays the Lord's Prayer.
- Those who choose, come forth to venerate the cross.
- A final chant closes the evening:  
*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*  
*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*

*Already a sacred and serene setting, Annunciation Chapel on the campus of the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth is transformed monthly from September through May for a Taizé prayer service.*

With the simple and single ring of a chime, Sisters, college students and people from Leavenworth and surrounding communities enter a new world where silence prevails between intermittent chants, prayer and readings. Setting the tone for the hour-long gathering, the chapel is mostly dark and lit by candlelight from the focal point at the foot of the altar. There, candles surround the iconic cross that will be venerated as part of the prayer service.

Sister Susan Chase, retreat director, Marillac Center, says that the SCLs began the Taizé prayer opportunity several years ago, offering it at first for Sisters during retreats. Over time, students from the University of Saint Mary began to participate; more recently, SCLs invited people of all denominations to join the ecumenical prayer experience. Some evenings, as many as 60 persons attend.

"There's a hunger for quiet, reflective prayer," Sister Sheila Taylor, assistant director, Marillac Center, believes. "The simple experience of prayer together and veneration of the cross makes us realize that we are all broken, but that we're all one in the body of Christ. We all are invited to lay our burdens at the foot of the cross."



Connolly Huddleston, University of Saint Mary alumna, venerates the cross.

## Where and when Taizé began

Taizé dates to the 1940s when Brother Roger, a Protestant, moved from Switzerland to the village of Taizé in France. He wanted to shelter refugees and Jews affected by World War II. Brother Roger went into the woods to pray so as not to make the guests feel uncomfortable. Warned about the dangers associated with giving shelter, Brother Roger went to Geneva, Switzerland, where he lived from 1942 to 1944. There, his plans for a community of brothers took shape. In 1944, he returned to Taizé.

Other young men joined the original group. On Easter 1949, seven committed themselves to celibacy and life together in simplicity. In the early 1950s, Brother Roger wrote the Rule of Taizé, expressing for his brothers “the essential that makes the common life possible.”

Over the years, young adults and Church leaders began to travel to Taizé. Key themes came to characterize the community and the experience: prayer, non-violence, peace and reconciliation. Today, the Taizé Community includes over 100 brothers from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds representing 30 nations.

Brother Roger died in August 2005, at the age of 90, murdered during evening prayer. Brother Alois, his successor and current



Brother Roger (right)

prior, wrote the following as an introduction to the book *Choose to Love* (Presses de Taizé, 2006):

*“When he [Brother Roger] was very young, he had already had the intuition that a life in community could be a symbol of reconciliation, a life that becomes a sign. So he thought of gathering a group of people who would seek above all to be reconciled. This is the primary vocation of Taizé, to be what he called a ‘parable of community,’ a small but visible sign of reconciliation.”*

Taizé remains a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples today. ([www.taizefr.org](http://www.taizefr.org))

## Silence, peace, community attract USM students

University of Saint Mary (USM) students and an alumna may have first attended Taizé prayer as a class assignment or out of curiosity. But they have continued to participate because they find it a prayerful, reflective and relaxing experience.

Maggie Stewart, Norman, Okla., appreciates the combination of silence and music as providing time to reflect. She leaves Taizé feeling “relaxed, centered and more trusting in God.”

Jasmine Myazoe, Marshall Islands, describes Taizé as different from any experience she’s had in the past and acknowledges it as a time to meditate. Alumna Connolly Huddleston, Nashville, Tenn., agrees and says that she gets a “community vibe with the Sisters and students” and leaves Annunciation Chapel feeling more at peace.

“Sometimes when I walk back into the real world, I’m kind of upset when I have to go back,” Connolly adds.

Amanda Quantz, USM professor of theology, has sought out Taizé prayer opportunities in eight different cities where she’s lived and worked. She has personally

valued the time for reflection and meditation. Now, she’s happy to give her students the chance to experience something different and enriching through Taizé prayer.



Discussing the importance of the Taizé prayer experience in their lives, left to right, Amada Quantz, theology professor, University of Saint Mary; Jasmine Myazoe and Maggie Stewart, students; and Connolly Huddleston, alumna.

# Re-Markings

## Fun, activities, prayer, community on Summer Leadership Camp agenda

### Congratulations, SCL 2015 Jubilarians

#### 75 years

Sister Mary Denise Sternitzke

#### 70 years

Sister Mary Vincentia Maronick

Sister Michel Pantenburg

Sister Mary Eleanor Schram

#### 60 years

Sister Angela Rose Barbieri

Sister Helen Cheeney

Sister Mary Jo Coyle

Sister Mary Rachel Flynn

Sister Kathleen Marie Henschel

Sister Margaret Hogan

Sister Diane Hurley

Sister Jane Albert Mehrens

Sister Bernadette Marie Teasdale

Sister Paula Marie Tweet

#### 50 years

Sister Mary Jo Anzik

Sister Janet Cashman

Sister Margaret Ellen Johnson

Sister Mary Patricia Johnson

Sister Mary Patricia Lenahan

Sister Rita McGinnis

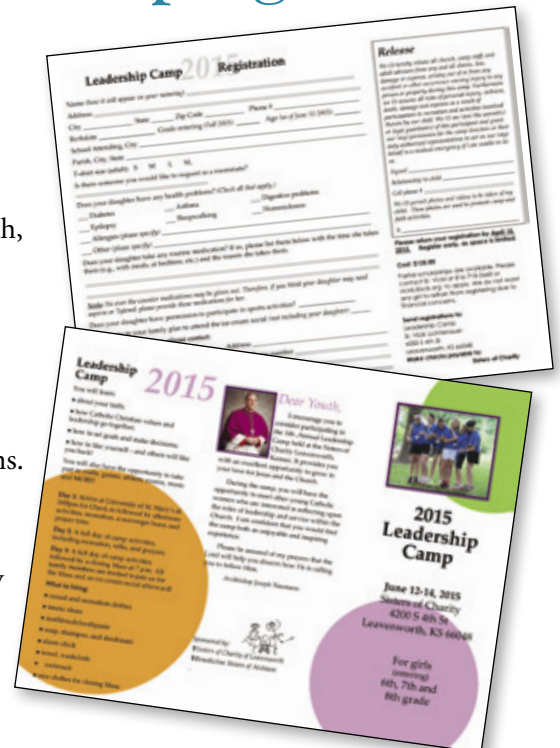
Sister Linda Suzanne Roth

Sister Lucy Walter

SCLs and the Benedictine Sisters of Atchison are hosting the annual Summer Leadership Camp for girls June 12 to 14. This year's camp will be set on the beautiful campus of the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan. Young women entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades will learn:

- How their faith works.
- How Catholic Christian values and leadership go together.
- How to set goals and make decisions.
- How to like themselves — and others will like them back!

They will also have the opportunity to enjoy crafts, games, athletic events, music and MORE!



Contact Sister Vicki Lichtenauer at [vickil@scs.org](mailto:vickil@scs.org)

or 816-718-2660 for more information. Partial scholarships are available.

A view from the south as the new Ross Hall skilled nursing facility takes shape adjoining the Mother House in Leavenworth, Kan.



*Based on her extensive studies and work in ecumenism, Sister Susan Wood, SCL theologian, was an invited participant in the first-ever Ecumenical Symposium on Consecrated Life coordinated by the Vatican, Jan. 22 to 25 during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.*



Sister Susan Wood

## SCL participates in first-ever *Vatican-sponsored symposium*

**M**ore than 100 men and women religious from various church affiliations – Catholic, Coptic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant – gathered in Rome to share their experiences, pray and promote Christian unity. This unprecedented meeting was an initiative of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

Sister Susan says, “I’m grateful to have attended the symposium. Speakers repeatedly said that we were not ‘doing’ theology, but that the gathering was an ecumenism of encounter.”

Ecumenism has remained a passion and intense involvement of Sister Susan’s over the years. Currently, she serves on the International Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity. This group is studying baptism and the unity of the church. Sister Susan was one of the editors of *From Conflict to Communion* (2013), a document produced by the commission.

She is also involved in the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue and North American Orthodox-Catholic dialogue. In addition, Sister Susan is a member of a task force developing a text titled “Declaration on the Way.” Scheduled for completion by this summer, the document will outline the consensus reached and remaining work regarding discussion between Lutherans and Catholics about church, ministry and Eucharist.

*“I’m grateful to have attended  
the symposium.*

*Speakers repeatedly said  
that we were not ‘doing’ theology,  
but that the gathering  
was an ecumenism of encounter.”*

## OF SPECIAL NOTE

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

### Bishop Ward High School honors SCLs

The **SCL Community** was among honorees inducted into the Bishop Ward High School Class of 2015 Hall of Fame during "Night of Stars," April 12 at the Kansas City, Kan. high school. SCLs received the Father Raymond J. Davern Community Service Award. The event benefitted the Bishop Ward High School student scholarship fund. SCLs taught at and/or administered the school from its dedication in 1931 until recent years.



Ellyn Calvert (left), Bishop Ward development office assistant, interviews Sister Margaret Marie Mitchell about the SCL's experiences as a teacher at the high school.



Sister Julia Golkoski (left), a Bishop Ward High School alumna, shares her perspectives about how her years at the Kansas City, Kan., high school influenced her vocation. Sister visits with Maggie Mohrfeld, director of development.

### SCL candidate recognized

**Mallorie Gerwitz**, SCL candidate, was recognized as the 2014 Employee of the Year by Mosaic, a Kansas City, Kan., care center for persons with disabilities. The director of Mosaic acknowledged Mallorie for her whole-hearted service, her creativity and her friendly, cheerful attitude.



### Butte teacher receives excellence in education award

**Sister Paula Marie Tweet** received the 2015 Jo Ann Harrington-Nobili Award for Academic Excellence in Butte, Mont., earlier this year. The award commemorates Jo Ann Harrington-Nobili, an outstanding, innovative and caring teacher in whose memory the family annually presents the award.

Sister Paula Marie has devoted over 50 years to the education of children – 23 years of those years at Butte Central from which the SCL graduated. In the letter announcing the award, Bud Nobili and sons wrote to Sister Paula Marie, "Your caring and compassion, dedication to students and emphasis on academic achievement have positively contributed to the education and lives of countless students. You serve as a role model for both students and teachers, and you are most worthy of the recognition as the 2015 recipient of this award."



### SCL Chapter 2016



Chapter of Affairs – January 3-9, 2016  
Chapter of Elections – March 11-13, 2016

## Cantwell coworkers celebrate Sister Mary Julitta



Coworkers Janet Seber (left) and Evelyn Lange (center) were among guests recognizing Sister Mary Julitta Doerhoff at the reception in her honor.

**Sister Mary Julitta Doerhoff** “starred” at the Feb. 3 retirement reception in her honor in Leavenworth.

Sister worked 16 years for the Community in Leavenworth helping coordinate record-keeping and accounts in the SCL Health Fund. Sister Jean Anne Panisko, Community treasurer, described Sister Mary Julitta as “very faithful and very good at taking care of us.” Joining the festivities were Carol Cole and Connie Cook. Sister Mary Julitta taught Connie at Immaculate Conception Grade School, Leavenworth; Carol is Connie’s sister.

## Follow the SCLs on

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/sistersofcharity](http://www.facebook.com/sistersofcharity)

**YouTube** [www.youtube.com/sistersofcharityks](http://www.youtube.com/sistersofcharityks)

**Twitter** [www.twitter.com/scleavenworth](http://www.twitter.com/scleavenworth)

**Pinterest** [www.pinterest.com/scleavenworth](http://www.pinterest.com/scleavenworth)

## Associate a featured artist



Her work earned **Linda McCray, SCLA**, recognition as Featured Artist in Los Angeles *Religious Congress Sacred Space*. Linda is currently a consultant and commissioned artist for the new Ross Hall being built adjoining the SCL Mother House, Leavenworth. Linda lives and works in Clancy, Mont.

## SCL named superintendent of schools Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo.

**Sister Elizabeth Youngs** will begin a new ministry as superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo., effective July 1. Sister Elizabeth is currently associate superintendent of Denver Catholic schools.



Jefferson City Bishop John R. Gaydos also announced that Sister Julie Brandt of the School Sisters of Notre Dame will serve as associate superintendent. Both administrators have master’s of education degrees from Boston College’s Catholic School Leadership Program. Sister Elizabeth has a doctorate in Catholic educational leadership from The Catholic University of America.

The new leaders will oversee and support the work of over 600 employees in 37 Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high schools in the Jefferson City Diocese. Altogether, these schools serve about 7,050 students in pre-kindergarten through high school in communities throughout central and northeastern Missouri.

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



Friends and long-time associates, Sister Mary Sharon Verbeck and Joe Monachino Jr., principal, St. Pius X High School.

## Leavenwords

# Generations

*When Sister Mary Sharon Verbeck tells Joe Monachino Jr., principal, that she wants to die with her boots on at St. Pius X High School where she's worked and volunteered for 41 years, he is comfortable enough to quip back, "I hope that it's not in front of all these kids unless it's after school. I want the last voice you hear to be mine!"*

That kind of banter is typical between the petite SCL and the towering former college basketball player, who has known Sister Mary Sharon since he was 9 years old. His Dad taught math and was an assistant principal and coach at St. Pius. Joe grew up at the school, worked there summers as a high school student, and came to know and deeply respect Sister Mary Sharon. Like generations of people associated with St. Pius X High School, Joe continues to hold Sister in high regard.

During a walk through the halls of the Kansas City, Mo., high school, students greet Sister Mary Sharon like a good friend and part of the family. Faculty and staff stop to visit and catch up. They tell her they've missed seeing her. Sister's schedule has been disrupted by health concerns that have kept her from driving and returning regularly to her office at St. Pius.

### At home at St. Pius

The students love Sister Mary Sharon; their parents love her; and their grandparents love her. And the feelings are mutual.

Sister Mary Sharon is very happy and very much at home when she's at the high school. She first served there as secretary to the

# of love and appreciation



St. Pius X High School is a close-knit community where generations mix and mingle. Left to right, Marcia Witheron, cafeteria manager and 1984 alumna; Anita Palmentere, senior; Marissa Hearn, senior; and Sister Mary Sharon Verbeck.

principal in 1972. This included multiple responsibilities that Sister juggled with ease: managing the office and bookstore, supervising study hall and the cafeteria, and completing a detailed state report.

Sister Mary Sharon loved every minute of this mission assignment. She was at Pius from 1972 to 1981, and returned from 1984 through 2007 when a seizure (thought to be a stroke) interrupted her routine. A benign brain tumor was the culprit that led Sister Mary Sharon to relocate to the Mother House. Following that experience, she began commuting to a volunteer post at the high school – still performing some of her familiar duties. Recovery from a back fracture in 2014 has kept Sister Mary Sharon from her regular routine. She's eager to get

back on schedule to tend to plans for graduation and to tally statistics for reports.

Through the years, Sister Mary Sharon has loved meeting new young people, watching them mature and celebrating successes with them. At age 86, she doesn't want to slow down.

## Life at its fullest

Sister Mary Sharon entered the SCL Community in 1946 following graduation from Bishop Ward High School, Kansas City, Kan. She'd met the Sisters earlier as a student at the nearby former St. Mary School. Sister Mary Sharon's Mother complained that her daughter was never home helping her; instead, she was either at the convent or on the ball diamond. Sister was on

champion sports teams throughout her grade and high school years.

She held clerical jobs before she entered the convent. Because she wanted to be a teacher, she tried to keep her office work a secret from the Sisters. "They found out," Sister Mary Sharon confesses, noting that while she did get to teach, she spent summers as a young Sister assigned to clerical positions.

Sister Mary Sharon taught every grade, one through eight, and every subject in schools in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma and Wyoming. "I loved teaching. I loved the children. I love people," she says.

"I've loved everything I've done and all that I've been asked to do," she says. "Everything about being a Sister makes me happy. In the gospel, Jesus says that he came so that we can have life to its fullest. I am blessed to be able to enjoy life to its fullest!"



Nuns on the run and having fun on Sister Mary Sharon's desk at St. Pius X High School.

## Book Review

### 'Reason to hope'

*New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity.*

Johnson, M., Wittberg, P. and Gautier, M.L. (2014). New York, New York: Oxford University Press.



by Sister Mary  
Pat Lenahan, SCL

In the introduction to this book, the authors state that the "life of a group can't be taken for granted" (p. 2). How true this is for the viability of any effective relationship! The authors further state that those who truly discern experience two realities: their relationship with God and the societal context in which they find themselves (p. 6). This is where historical and social contexts, I believe, are so critical in understanding the reason behind events.

The authors approach the changes in Catholic religious life as well as changes in the universal Church from a larger sociological context. Even though Vatican II has had and continues to have a seismic impact on religious congregations, the authors recognize and present their research from a global, societal viewpoint for better understanding the commitment of Catholic sisters today.

#### Responding to needs

From their foundations, religious congregations have always responded to the needs of their times. In this country, the many needs of immigrants in the 19th and 20th centuries evoked the apostolic, ministerial responses of religious women. These women attended to the practical, educational and spiritual needs of the people. Catholic sisters today continue to serve those on the margins of society – the poor, refugees, ill and disenfranchised.

Most congregations of women religious trace their roots to European foundations. Even though the charism of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac fires us, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth are an American congregation.

The authors note that 90 percent of religious in the U.S. are white and non-Hispanic (p. 19). More diversity is evident today, representing a global population with the greatest numbers emerging from Africa and Asia.

Even though many evaluate today's numbers of those entering religious life against the larger numbers of sisters entering in the 1960s, those years represented an anomaly in the history of religious life. The authors consider the "decline

and revitalization of women's religious institutions as being one of the most serious issues facing the Church" (p. 20) today.

#### Ebbs, flows and challenges

One of the quotes I found most pertinent came from Teilhard de Chardin who said, "The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope" (p. 24). This, I believe, is the crux of the text and the message most powerful for those of us in religious life and in service of the mission of Jesus.

In reviewing the identity of religious life, the authors opened up the changes that erupted during and following Vatican II. There was encouragement and recognition of lay gifts and contributions. Young women who may have previously responded to religious life pursued ministries as lay members. Many other external factors emerged as challenges to those discerning religious life.

Some of these challenges included discouragement of religious vocations by families, educational debt, immigration issues, educational prerequisites, and many not practicing the Catholic faith (p. 29). The authors also name the impact of being a "culture of choice" (p. 31). Even though religious life is a public profession of living the vows in a religious congregation, Vatican II emphasized the importance of lay ministry, and so the challenge arose for distinguishing religious life from other ways of life in the Church (p. 31).

In the history of the Church, religious life appears to have often experienced an ebb and flow in numbers. In response to God's call and the needs of the times, many congregations developed. Some grew, others vanished, and still others emerged as new foundations (p. 34). This is the history of religious life as well as our own congregation's history. As an apostolic community, ours engages in the world, merging contemplative prayer and community living with serving the mission of Jesus and the needs of the Church.

#### Growth through pain

Likewise, there seems to have always been tension among the hierarchy, the administrative needs of the Church and those in religious life called to be prophetic as we try to respond to the needs of the times. This is painfully illustrated by the Apostolic Visitation initiated by Rome in recent years as well as the criticism of LCWR and NETWORK. However, God's Providence continues to evoke good and growth from the anxiety and pain.

Any external pressure has the power to spur internal reflection, review and deepened growth. The authors of *New Generations of Catholic Sisters* remind the reader of five criteria for personal and communal evaluation with the last one being most important in that "renewal is never finished" (p. 48). There is also wisdom in the authors' reminding the reader that our congregational charism is the source and gift of the Holy Spirit in the present day and not merely our attachment to the past (p. 49).

It is also helpful to note the brief outline of societal differences identified (p. 62) to better understand generational perspectives as well as the generational differences in the Church (pp. 63-64). The authors encourage utilizing media to reach discerners and to clearly articulate prayer styles, practices and ministries of the congregation. For an apostolic community, the challenge persists of balancing contemplative and communal prayer with meeting the needs of the people through service in ministry.

I would highly recommend this book to the reader. It further illuminates presentations on the CARA study shared last year throughout the Community. It also further invites and exhorts us, especially during this Year of Consecrated Life, to renew our hearts and our lives as consecrated, vowed women to be joyful and thankful for our vocations, and to invite others to consider religious life as we also deepen our love of God and one another. As Teilhard de Chardin reminds us, "The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope" (p. 24).

# Shelter a sign of **HOPE**

*"I was a stranger, and you took me in."*

(Matthew 25:35)

From Dec. 15, 2014 when it opened through March 15, 2015, a new service in Leavenworth, Kan., provided cots 491 times for persons from 2 to 60 years old for a good night's rest and shelter from the elements. The Leavenworth Interfaith Shelter of Hope is a collaborative effort of the SCLs, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and churches, agencies and individuals in the surrounding community.

Over three short months of planning, a group of dedicated and determined Leavenworth area residents bonded to create this shelter for persons who are homeless. Sister Vickie Perkins, coordinator of Welcome Central, marvels at the speed with which the initiative progressed from an idea to a reality. Welcome Central is a clearinghouse to help people connect with needed services. It was here that Sister Vickie encountered at least 58 persons who were homeless.

That statistic pointed to the need for a shelter and led to an initial meeting to explore interest. From that first meeting attended by 70 people, the initiative mushroomed. Forty people committed to work on different aspects of developing a shelter, including finding a building.

Catholic Charities stepped forward to provide the second floor of its building in northeast Leavenworth for the shelter. Volunteers pitched in for the initial clean-up. Everything – from cots to towels to sheets to blankets – has been donated.

And the goodwill has continued. Individuals from approximately 25 churches and the community have agreed to volunteer weekly to help staff the shelter and have received training. A non-profit organization is being formed so that the shelter can seek funding support from different sources.

Leavenworth Interfaith Shelter of Hope is open from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Paid staff do intakes and assign rooms and cots to the guests. The shelter is open to men, women and families and accommodates 20 persons. It provides shelter only, not meals, showers or laundry facilities.

"It has been an inspiring venture to work with so many churches and individuals," Sister Vickie says.



The simple setting of the Leavenworth Interfaith Shelter of Hope provides a comfortable night's rest for guests.

## A story from the shelter



by Sister Vickie Perkins

A family came in from Texas with no connection in Leavenworth. The family members stayed with us for over a week while looking for housing. Catholic Charities helped them find housing.

The 9-year-old wrote a thank you note when they left. One of the volunteers framed the note and posted it at the shelter.

I ran into the Father about a month later, and he was smiling from ear-to-ear and said they were doing great.

For more information, to volunteer or make donations,  
contact Sister Vickie at 913-530-4535.

# Haiti immersion experience



Sister Mary  
Rachel Flynn



Sister Eileen  
Haynes



Sister Vicki  
Lichtenauer



Sister Amy  
Willcott

*The relationship between the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa, Haiti, advances to a new level each time SCLs have the opportunity to travel to the island nation for an immersion experience. In January, Sisters Mary Rachel Flynn, Eileen Haynes, Vicki Lichtenauer and Amy Willcott made the journey and returned to the U.S. deeply impressed by the goodness of the people who live in extreme poverty.*

**Sister Eileen**, SCL Councilor, is liaison between the SCLs and the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa. She had traveled to Haiti previously and says she truly looks forward to visiting with the Sisters. “I was struck deeply, once again, at the profound poverty intertwined with the profound beauty of God’s creation,” she says. “Poverty is everywhere and can be seen on the faces of children, young adults and the elderly as they slowly walk down the dirt road – tired. This year, I was able to begin to realize the impact that we make upon one another consciously or unconsciously.”

## Reflections on the experience

**Sister Vicki:** The most profound experience was to look into the eyes of the people. As I experienced Haiti through my privileged American eyes, I saw such extreme poverty and lack of resources including those to meet basic needs. The condition of housing, sanitation, education, roads was pitiful. I wondered, “How do they do it? How can they be so grateful for each day of life and as they said, feel so blessed?”

They are the most creative people, using whatever they have to get by. They threw nothing away. I saw a young boy take a shell of a toy truck and make an axle out of a stick and wheels out of some kind of jar lids. I saw people break off a piece of bread or a banana to share what limited food they had.

**Sister Amy:** At the orphanage where some of the Sisters work, there are 65 kids and six staff. That doesn’t seem like enough staff to me, coming from our ministry at Mount Saint Vincent [Denver]. I didn’t really see toys other

than a headless Barbie doll, a bottle cap and two pieces of broken playground equipment.

The earthquake destroyed part of the orphanage that is in the middle of being rebuilt. It is located on a mountain, close to the edge of a cliff, where the bottle cap rolled downhill without much help. There isn’t flat land on which the children can play. This was such a stark contrast to my experience at Mount Saint Vincent where we are so regulated by licensing rules, blessed with spacious land and gifted with toys for our children.

**Sister Mary Rachel:** We were told that this experience would be a life changer. Indeed! At times I felt that everyone there was trapped in a situation with no reachable remedy. Yet the Sisters were looking forward – educating individual Sisters in religious formation, sewing, nursing, accounting, teaching and helping several Sisters finish their high school education. They do what they can now for the orphaned, the uneducated, the sick, their neighbors. With cupboards that are grossly bare by our standards,



Left to right, Sisters Eileen Haynes, Mary Rachel Flynn and Amy Willcott, all SCLs, with Sister Claudette Prevot, a Sister of St. Anthony of Fondwa, and students.

# transformational for SCLs

“There was a strong spirit within the people we met in Haiti. They have overcome so much – and each day is a challenge that we can’t even begin to imagine, yet they have strength and perseverance that are amazing. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit Haiti. It was a profound and life-altering experience for me.”

— Sister Amy

they encourage, companion and attract help.

## Hopes for the future of the SCL/Haiti partnership

**Sister Vicki:** I hope to continue deepening my relationship with the Sisters in Haiti. They are a true inspiration to me. I hope to expand the circle of their support community by education, advocacy and fundraising. I hope to be able to take a group of young adults to Haiti to expose them to the reality of an underdeveloped country and the daily challenge of existence. I do not know what this



The children of Haiti stole the hearts of SCLs who visited the island nation.

will look like yet, but stay tuned, more details to follow during 2015.

**Sister Mary Rachel:** I hope that we, as individual Sisters and SCL Associates, with our friends, families and supporters can continue to grow in relationship and in tangible support of this partner religious community in Haiti. Ideas and proposals are taking shape. The Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa will be 20 years old in 2016.

## Immersion experience leads to partnership

Following up on the call of the 1998 Chapter to participate in immersion experiences to understand the plight of people living in poverty, a group of SCLs traveled to Haiti. They met Father Joseph Philippe, CSSp, and the fledgling community of the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa. That first trip sparked a relationship that has spanned 17 years. Annually, the SCL Community Council invites a group of Sisters in the United States to travel to Haiti for a brief mission experience.

## A story from Haiti from Sister Eileen Haynes

As I sat outside waiting for my travel companions, a young 15-year-old boy came and sat next to me. I noticed that his shirt and shorts were well-worn and that the pink wooden clogs on his feet were at least one size too small.

His mastery of the English language was very impressive. We visited about his dream to finish high school and then go on to university to study agronomy. However, he did not have enough money to pay for his books.

As our conversation continued, I realized that this young man, like many others in our world, was condemned because of poverty. If he had been raised in a different environment (i.e., middle class), he more than likely would have had the opportunity to finish high school and university, working to improve his country’s sustainability through agronomy. However, his dreams will probably be only that – dreams. This young man continues to “walk with me” reminding me that we do not live independently of one another: my decisions, attitudes and way of life affect him and many others.



The Mother House of the Sisters of St. Anthony of Fondwa is in dire need of repair, but its condition and other hardships don’t deter the Sisters from their mission of service.

# Doing what comes *naturally*

If Sister Dorothy Henscheid had her druthers, baking soda and vinegar would be standard household products due to their cleaning and healing properties.



**I**tching and aching with poison ivy? Before splurging on an expensive tube of ointment, try non-pasteurized apple cider vinegar purchased from a natural products store. Called “vinegar with mother,” this product will have a slimy, gelatinous sediment at the bottom of the container. Over several applications in one day’s time, this liquid can heal poison ivy very quickly.

“Grocery vinegar has been pasteurized. In its pure form, vinegar with mother quickly dries up poison ivy,” Sister Dorothy says from personal experience and from sharing this remedy with others. Vinegar with mother is inexpensive – less than \$3 a pint.

And not to worry! “The vinegary odor leaves quickly, so you won’t smell pickled,” Sister Dorothy adds. After all, she remarks, the pioneer women had to have some remedies up their sleeves before our modern era of medicines and salves. They often used vinegar.

Soaking glasses, dishes and flower pots in a white vinegar solution will remove the calcified white crust that develops. After soaking, wash and put the items away.

Silver need polishing? Sister Dorothy says that chains, pins, medals, dishes, etc., can be replated

with silver by heating them in a solution of water and baking soda in an aluminum pan. Using silver polish actually removes the silver from the item.

Cucumbers are great in salads, but they also have other uses. Cucumbers will not only clean windows, but rubbing the vegetable over a mirror will keep its surface from fogging up.

Bee stings and bug bites? Aloe vera is the answer. For serious burns, cool with water and apply slightly scrambled egg white over the burn. The egg white contains healing nutrients, and it will prevent blisters and scars. Get to the ER or your doctor for follow-up care.

Necessity has led Sister Dorothy to learn about these environmentally friendly hints. She also believes that God’s hand in nature makes nature the friend of humankind. “God put everything on earth that we need to be healthy,” she says.

## Where to find more helpful hints

Sister Dorothy Henscheid’s best advice? Google baking soda, cucumbers, corn starch and vinegar to discover their environmentally safe attributes and applications.

She also recommends a series produced by Bottom Line Books® and written by Joan Wilen and Lydia Wilen, among them:

- *Best-Ever Kitchen Secrets*
- *Best-Ever Home Secrets*
- *Secret Food Cures & Doctor-Approved Folk Remedies*

Another publication in Sister Dorothy’s library – that she obtained at no expense – is Consumer Reports® *How to Clean Practically Anything*.





## MOTHER HOUSE MARKS DAY OF AWARENESS AGAINST TRAFFICKING

The violence and injustice associated with human trafficking and trafficking's connection with the issues of immigration were the focus of displays at the SCL Mother House on Sunday, Feb. 8, the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

The day was the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was sold into slavery as a child and later freed. She eventually became a Canossian nun. She was declared a saint in 2000.

The International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking was an initiative promoted by the Pontifical Council of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant

People, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and the International Union of Superiors General. Coordinating the observance at the SCL Mother House were Sisters Dolores Erman, Rose Dolores Hoffelmeyer, Ruth Reischman, Frances Russell and Mary Geraldine Yelich.

Following Mass in Ross Chapel, the SCLs distributed cards with information about trafficking and a prayer to Josephine Bakhita. Among facts shared:

- 20.9 million human beings are trafficked worldwide.
- 17,500 human beings are trafficked each year into the United States.

▲ This group of SCLs organizes events and social justice opportunities for Sisters at the Mother House, such as observance of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Left to right, Sisters Rose Dolores Hoffelmeyer, Mary Geraldine Yelich, Ruth Reischman, Dolores Erman and Frances Russell.

# 10 SUGGESTIONS

## for promoting vocations

by Sister Vicki Lichtenauer



*I am often asked by parents what they can do to promote vocations among their own children, nieces and nephews. I would like to share some ideas provided by the Vocation Network. As we know, parents are the first to teach and instill the faith into their children. We take our hats off to parents and thank you for loving and raising our future sisters, brothers and priests.*

1. Pray daily as a family in thanksgiving, for guidance and forgiveness.
2. Talk with your children about their worries and concerns, hopes and dreams.
3. Share meals together as often as possible.
4. Tell stories about your family history – the good and the bad. Talk about how you became a family and the day your child was born.
5. Decide together your family goals and your biggest do's and don'ts.
6. Be active in your parish and your community. Encourage your children to participate in the ministries of the parish.
7. Teach family members to fight fair and to forgive easily.
8. Talk about your faith and the men and women including sisters, brothers and priests who have had an important influence on you.
9. Work to reduce stress among all family members. Have fun and play together each day.
10. Encourage your children to be creative and compassionate and know that those are the greatest of God's gifts.

For more resources go to [vocationnetwork.org](http://vocationnetwork.org)



## SCL welcomed to Community

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, family and friends welcomed Sister Laurie Parker (right) into the SCL novitiate during a Rite of Acceptance in Ross Chapel on Sunday, Jan. 11. Sister Maureen Hall (left), Community Director, led the gathering in applause for the new novice.

# Prayers of thanksgiving turn the tables during National Catholic Sisters Week

*As the Catholic Church observes the Year of Consecrated Life proclaimed internationally by Pope Francis, March 8-14 marked the second annual National Catholic Sisters Week in the United States.*

During National Catholic Sisters Week, leadership of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) invited members of the religious Community to pray for persons with whom they have ministered and with whom they continue to minister and for individuals served by the Community over the past 157 years since its founding.

“While we appreciate the recognition of National Catholic Sisters Week, we wanted to use this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to those who have shared in our ministries and those with whom and for whom we have served,” says Sister Maureen Hall, SCL Community Director. “Our prayers of thanksgiving extended across the United States and around the world during this special week.”

Across the world, SCLs serve in education, health care, social services, pastoral and prayer ministries. They are



SCLs enjoyed a surprise treat during National Catholic Sisters Week this year: a decorated cake to mark the special observance. Sister Mark Friday (left) and Sister Mary Bridget Mullen sneak a peek prior to lunch.

in missionary roles in Peru and South Sudan, on Native American reservations in Montana and with rebuilding efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. They are strong advocates for social justice and care of creation and against human trafficking.

SCLs are leaders. They serve on boards of directors and in other administrative roles. They are innovators.

“We have outstanding women in our Community who have served in many different ministries,” Sister Maureen adds. “Each SCL has heard and responded to the call to serve as an individual and as a member of our Community. We have been blessed with these talented and generous women of faith.”



## AT THE HOUSE OF CHARITY

Sister Peg Johnson traveled to the House of Charity in New Orleans with guests from Rockhurst University. The group participated in a Come and See and Serve event, complete with home repair, prayer and discernment. This is a Charity Federation event that SCLs help plan and participate in every year. Sister Mary Lex Smith is currently serving as staff at the House of Charity where volunteers reside while assisting with rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Sister Peg Johnson (front left) and Sister Mary Lex Smith (front right) with guests at the House of Charity, New Orleans.

## Sponsored Ministries

### USM creates triple advantage for accounting students

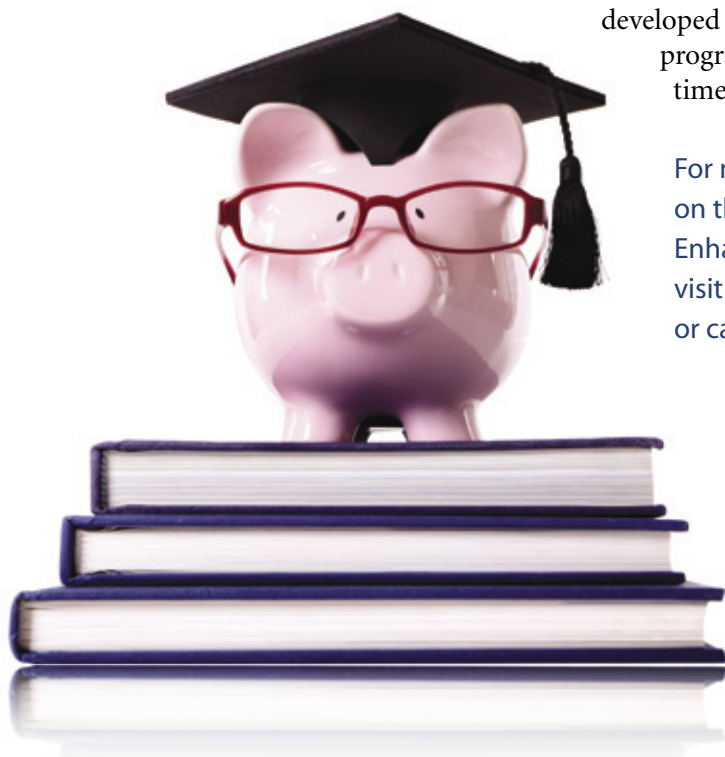
University of Saint Mary (USM) accounting students now have a unique opportunity to graduate not only with their bachelor of science in accounting, but to earn a master of business administration (MBA) and meet the academic requirements to sit for the certified public accountant (CPA) exam.

For undergraduates, the Enhanced Accounting program takes up to six years to complete — four of which go toward the bachelor's degree. State regulation mandates 150 academic credit hours to sit for the CPA exam. Students earn enough credit to sit for the exam, along with receiving CPA exam prep, after just three additional semesters, or 22 hours (summer, fall and spring) of graduate-level coursework at USM's Overland Park, Kan., campus. Students complete the final 18 hours to graduate with their MBA in three part-time semesters. If a student chooses to work through the program at an accelerated pace, faculty will create an individualized course of study.

This program is also open to graduate-level students with an accounting degree from an American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) recognized university.

An individualized course of study is developed for every student in the program — saving the student time and money.

For more information on the undergraduate Enhanced Accounting program, visit [stmary.edu/cpamba](http://stmary.edu/cpamba) or call 913-345-8288.



### Board chair role recognized



The SCL Health Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team recently recognized **Sister Lynn Casey** for serving as board chair for the past two years. She has been a board member for three and a half years.

During the Jan. 27 meeting in Broomfield, Colo., Sister Maureen Hall, board member, commended Sister Lynn's gifts of "sight and insight" and described the board chair position as one of spiritual leadership. Sister Lynn, Helena, Mont., remains an active board member. Knute Knudson succeeds Sister Lynn as board chair.

# New Saint Joseph Hospital continues tradition of excellence and compassion

*After more than three years of detailed planning, trying to anticipate every possible situation and arranging each detail to relocate patients safely and to provide peace-of-mind for patients' loved ones, the new Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver, opened on Dec. 13, 2014. The response has been tremendous; there have been no major glitches; and, most importantly, the legacy of excellence and compassion continues where the SCLs began the ministry: in the heart of the urban community.*

Bain Farris, president and CEO of the hospital, credits a great team for bringing the major project to this point – slightly ahead of schedule and under budget. He acknowledges the incredible support of the construction crew, architects, engineering firms, SCL Health, senior leaders and staff.

"We started with a clean sheet of paper and redesigned every patient care process as we planned the new Saint Joseph Hospital," Bain says. "The new Saint Joseph Hospital was designed to be a model for 21st century hospitals, with patient-centered care a primary focus of the new design."

The new Saint Joseph Hospital features:

- A smaller footprint than the old hospital due to more efficient use of

space and resources (831,321 new sq. ft. vs. 1.1 million sq. ft. in the old hospital).

- 365 patient rooms (all private).
- 42 private emergency room beds with 15 dedicated to observation patients.
- Direct access of every floor to fresh air and outdoor space.
- A green design focused on spiritually nurturing spaces and a healing environment, inside and out.

Sister Melissa Camardo, vice president of mission and sponsorship, explains that there were four principles that drove design of the new facility. "We strived to ensure that the hospital would be patient- and family-centered; provide a healing environment; be mindful of natural resources; and retain the trust of the community around us."

Saint Joseph Hospital was founded in Denver in 1873 by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth as the first private hospital in Colorado. Today, it continues as the largest private teaching hospital in Denver. The hospital has a tradition that includes compassionate caregivers, stellar clinical expertise and an active partnership with Kaiser Permanente and community physicians. Saint Joseph Hospital is nationally recognized for its clinical performance.



## Chapel has visual and spiritual appeal

During the 50 tours and open houses and even now as people come to Saint Joseph Hospital, the new chapel has special appeal. It features windows and a skylight from the former hospital chapel along with new stained glass windows made in Colorado.

Greeting visitors in the hall at the entry to the chapel is a bas relief sculpture of the Visitation donated by the SCL Community. Madeline Wiener, stone carver, designed and created the bas relief of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Carved from limestone, the sculpture is 8 feet tall by 5 feet wide.

This bas relief, commissioned by the SCLs and the hospital, is one of 100 works of art placed throughout the facility. These pieces represent over 80 artists and galleries predominantly in Colorado.

Pictured in front of the bas relief outside the chapel of the new Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver, the SCLs who attended the dedication Mass in December. Seated, left to right, Sisters Elizabeth Youngs, Roberta Furey, Mary Jo Anzik; standing, left to right, Sisters Reneé Washut, Carol Depner, Jennifer Gordon, Melissa Camardo, Maureen Kehoe and Maureen Hall.



One of the operating rooms at the new Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver.

# Joint operating agreement further enhances clinical operations



Signage at the entrance represents the important linkage of Saint Joseph Hospital and National Jewish Health.

National Jewish Health, known worldwide for its treatment of patients with respiratory, cardiac, immune and related disorders; Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver's largest private teaching hospital, and its nonprofit parent, SCL Health, entered an operating agreement last summer to create and jointly own a new entity to expand and enhance high-quality, affordable health care for patients and families.

"This agreement presents an incredible opportunity to bring together two of Denver's leading hospitals to further improve our

ability to deliver patient-centered, innovative health care," says Michael Salem, MD, president and CEO of National Jewish Health. "The strong outpatient approach of National Jewish Health complements the focused inpatient expertise of Saint Joseph Hospital. By leveraging our deep clinical expertise and unique patient care experience, our charitable missions and our focus on excellence, as well as strengthening our commitment to education and research, we will provide more effective health care to those in need. This partnership, in conjunction with our existing relationships with

several other important institutions, will increase our ability to manage patients along the full continuum of care."

National Jewish Health, Saint Joseph Hospital and SCL Health will retain other components of their respective businesses operating outside the new patient care-focused joint entity. For example, SCL Health will solely operate its other hospitals in the Denver area and in other states. Both organizations retain their fundraising efforts separately from the new jointly managed venture.

## God's goodness fuels generous spirit

From her childhood through young adulthood, Denise Kagie, SCL Associate, had severe epilepsy. So much so that doctors at the Mayo Clinic told her parents she would never amount to anything. She was hospitalized in Montana's state mental hospital – the treatment setting for this neurological condition at the time. Denise underwent shock therapy based on the premise that this treatment would erase her memory, and she would no longer have epilepsy. Later, she briefly lost her ability to walk and had to relearn and regain ambulatory mobility.

When Denise began walking and working again, she was taking medications four times a day for the seizures associated with epilepsy. Then one day, she started skipping her 4 p.m. medicine. There was no pop/soft drink machine where she worked to purchase a beverage to wash down the medication. To her Mother's dismay, Denise continued the pattern of skipping her meds once a day.

And gradually, the seizures ceased.

To this day, Denise believes she had a progressive healing. "I haven't taken medications for epilepsy for 45 years," she says. "I haven't had a seizure for 47 years."

The Butte, Mont., resident attributes this healing to God's goodness. Denise didn't realize that she was different with epilepsy in her life; she just continued living. She's always had great belief that the Lord would take care of her. And she knows firsthand that God did and that God continues to care for and about her.

### Gratitude expressed

In turn, Denise has given one hundredfold in gratitude for God's many blessings in her life. She and a friend started an epilepsy foundation chapter in Butte. They succeeded in changing outdated laws regarding driver's license restrictions; they worked to heighten public awareness of this disorder.

Denise went from clerking in a Salvation Army thrift shop to managing a St. Vincent de Paul Society store to filming documents for Montana Power, the job from which she retired in 2000. Today, the Associate is an administrative assistant at St. Ann's Parish, Butte.

And that's not all! She's an active member of Toastmasters International and describes this as a confidence-building experience for her normally shy personality. Denise is also in the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Daughters of Isabella. At St. Ann's, she's on the pastoral council, in the choir and on the RCIA team. She works for betterment and environmental safety in her neighborhood and community. She's served as captain of a public rosary rally for the past seven years.

Denise has been an SCL Associate for four years. Sister Paula Marie Tweet is her sponsor. Denise enjoys the camaraderie of the monthly Associate meetings in Butte. She appreciates the support of other Associates and has gained knowledge and friendships.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to meet with people and to learn about St. Vincent and St. Louise," she says. "And it's a great reminder to help the poor and to be a voice for them."



▲ Denise Kagie, SCL Associate, is an administrative assistant at St. Ann's Parish, Butte, Mont.

▼ All things Irish appeal to Denise.



## ‘Return to your baptism daily’

*Sister Susan Wood, SCL theologian and professor at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisc., discussed “Living out the Baptismal Call to Communion and Mission” in a presentation to SCLs and Associates on Saturday, Feb. 14.*

Citing Scripture, Sister Susan linked the baptism of Jesus with the “great commission” of Matthew 28:19-20. “We are told to go forth and teach everything that Christ has taught us,” she said. The summary of what Jesus taught is the law of love of God and love of neighbor – messages emphasized today by Pope Francis.

“In baptism, we become members of Christ, who is priest, prophet and king,” Sister Susan continued. She explained that this means being part of the priestly community, speaking truth and love, and serving as leaders.

Keying on a quote from Martin Luther – “Return to your baptism daily” – Sister Susan said that doing this helps build our consciousness of baptism and the recognition that our relationship with God is capable of growth. Inauguration into Christian life through baptism involves being made holy and carries with it the responsibility to die daily to sin. “Walking daily in Christian life, we assume a Christian ethic that leads to sacrificial service,” she observed.

Christians are also called to communion as one people and to life in community through faith and through baptism. “As Church, we are called to mission, not to self-maintenance,” Sister Susan said. Quoting Alan Hirsch, author and mission strategist, Sister Susan left the audience with the statement that “Every Christian is a sent one. There is no such thing as an unsent Christian.”



Implications and the significance of the baptismal call of Christians were themes of Sister Susan Wood’s winter presentation to SCLs and SCL Associates.



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