

VOICES

OF CHARITY

Spring 2018

A publication of the SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF LEAVENWORTH



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preserve the past**
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SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF LEAVENWORTH

Chapter 2016 Directional Statement

*“...we are called
ever to renew and recreate
our works and our witness
uniting justice and charity in our lives
as servants of the poor.”*

SCL Constitution, Norm 6

We, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, affirm our call to communion and mission as women of the Church. In the spirit of our heritage, we continue to seek the path of charity and justice in our day.

Impelled by our baptismal commitment, we claim as our own the prophetic mission of Jesus and our call to discipleship.

In collaboration with those who also embrace Gospel values, we affirm our evolving charism and re-envision our ministry and sponsored works to sustain our mission.

Mindful of the fragility of the earth and of the suffering of God's people, especially the exploited and marginalized, we commit ourselves to address these critical needs and their systemic causes.

ON THE COVER

The histories of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) and the University of Saint Mary (USM) are integrally connected – as demonstrated by the story of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Oratory (pages 4-5). Pictured in this small prayer chapel at the Mother House, Danielle Dion, USM librarian (left), and Tonya Crawford, SCL head archivist, have roles in historic preservation on behalf of the university and religious Community today.



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From the Community Director



Sister Constance
Phelps

The articles in this issue of *Voices of Charity* caused moments of remembering and moments of blessing for me. The stories about people making contacts and encountering strangers that led to unintended opportunities, collaborations and partnerships have benefitted many of us. Often those connections occurred in unexpected circumstances. Yet, opportunities were evident because of the skills, talents and/or gifts each had to share.

We all can remember such encounters. I recall a happenstance encounter some years ago in our Mother House dining room. Arriving rather late, I joined a table with one of our Sisters and her guest. As we conversed, our shared interests and curiosities led to my small part in one of his creative projects. From a lunch table encounter, an initial bond formed that grew into a friendship that remains to this day.

These chance encounters enrich us and stretch us. From our interactions with one another, our known world expands. We learn to see with new eyes, increase our capacity to dialogue with those with different perspectives and from diverse cultures. These initial interactions, in turn, lead us to make new connections. By stopping and listening, we connect with one another, and true community is born.

As I reflect from an entirely different perspective, considering universal relationships, I realize all that exists is entwined. Every person's existence is connected to others. No life form can be analyzed if considered alone. As Pope Francis said, "... life is about interactions" (TED Talk 2017).

Perhaps, no encounter is happenstance, coincidental or by chance.

Sister Constance Phelps
SCL Community Director



Heart of the Matter

Commitments to preserve the past yield rich history, teaching moments

Both the Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and the Special Collections of the University of Saint Mary (USM) play important roles in the preservation of the past to help inform, educate and inspire current and future generations through the sharing of history and stories.

The SCL Archives provides a historical record of the lives and work of the Sisters and serves as the institutional memory. Its goal is to perpetuate the history, heritage and charism of the Community. This will allow the Community of the future to be able to look back and see how the SCLs of different eras expressed the spirit of the founders and created a continuum of charism.

The USM De Paul Library's Special Collections makes its holdings available for use by undergraduate and graduate classes, community programs and the public. This encompasses opportunities for an introduction to the overall special collections; tailored, topic-specific courses; consultation for course planning or research; and prescheduled tours.

This "Heart of the Matter" section of *Voices of Charity* features a multi-faceted story from the Archives involving both the SCLs and USM; an overview of the university's diverse special collections; and an article about the most recent inventory of artifacts and art across the campus.

*History cannot give us
a program for the future,
but it can give us a fuller
understanding of ourselves,
and of our common
humanity, so that we can
better face the future.*

— Robert Penn Warren, American poet

*If history were taught
in the form of stories,
it would never be forgotten.*

— Rudyard Kipling, English poet



▲ Scribed in a Benedictine monastery in France in the 1200s, the Craig Codex contains manuscripts of the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles and Epistles of St. Paul.

◀ Historically, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth have had great devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help commemorated in this painting by Lino Lipinsky.

It's all about connections

Editor's note: The following article conveys a story re-collected from notes in archival files supplemented with contemporary fact checking.

A distinguished artist from Italy with a Polish surname. Two appreciative men from Butte, Mont. A college president. A prisoner in the federal penitentiary. Precious art. Inlaid wood. Gold leaf. Jeweled crowns. Etched glass.

What could be background notes for an international thriller are key components of a story of multiple connections that resulted in the creation of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Oratory (small prayer chapel); its religious art and furnishings; and the glass etching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux – all located on the first floor of the SCL Mother House, Leavenworth.

Link with Europe

The year was 1938. Sister Mary Vincentine Gripkey, French instructor at Saint Mary College, received a scholarship to spend a year at the University of Milan and to work at the Vatican Library. As was the custom those days, she travelled to Italy with

a companion – Sister Theresa Fagan, art instructor at the college.

While in Rome, Sister Theresa studied under an Italian artist of Polish and Jewish descent named Sigmund Lipinsky. Sigmund had an academy of painting, graphics and drawing. Chances are that during this time, Sister Theresa met and studied under Lino (born in 1908), Sigmund's son and an artist in his own right. The family had strong ties with the Catholic Church. The parish priest who baptized Lino as an infant advanced through Church hierarchy to become Pope Pius XII in March 1939.

Back in the states, the SCLs blessed the site for the new Mother House on May 18, 1939. Amidst rumbles of war that same month in Europe, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini allied himself with Adolf Hitler. Given developments in Europe and in Italy, his Polish-Jewish descent, and an uncle who was a resistance leader in Poland, Lino made plans

to flee to the United States. Virtually penniless, he arrived in New York in February 1940. Sigmund died of a stroke within hours of learning that Lino had reached the United States.

Possibly through contacts with Church officials or because he had met Sister Theresa in Rome, Lino connected with the SCLs. Mother Mary Francesca O'Shea agreed to sponsor him to produce some works of art for the new Mother House. The SCL Community paid for his transportation to Leavenworth and provided room, board and an art studio at Saint Mary College (today's University of Saint Mary).

Creative work in progress

Construction on the Mother House was progressing. Two brothers from Butte, Mont. – Thomas J. and Frank C. Walker – donated partial funding for the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Oratory. The SCLs had a history of devotion to this representation of Mary, the mother of Jesus, including recitation of a novena.

The Walkers' gift was in memory of their parents and deceased family members. They also wanted to recognize Sister Mary Xavier Davey and others who had taught them at Butte Central High School.

Lino coordinated the design of the interior of the oratory (dimensions: 13 feet by 14 feet). He painted the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help with the Child Jesus, the focal point of the small chapel. Dr. Arthur M. Murphy, president of Saint Mary College at the time who did woodworking as a hobby, made two crowns from wood for the image. Lino finished the art in gold leaf and ornamented the crowns with jewels (many of which have since fallen to the bottom of the glassed frame).



◀ Lino Lipinsky cuts a dashing figure in what may have been his studio at Saint Mary College while he created art for the new SCL Mother House.



◀ This undated photo from the SCL Archives shows the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Oratory with decorative borders around the windows and on walls – features not present today.

Lino also painted the 14 Stations of the Cross for the oratory, and he designed the stained glass windows on either side of the small altar; Jacobi of St. Louis crafted the windows.

In addition, Lino drew the picture of St. Thérèse (see photo, p. 4) that artisans in Chicago sandblasted into plate glass for display in another space nearby in the main hall of the Mother House. The SCLs dedicated the image of St. Thérèse in memory of Jean Carroll, 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Carroll. Maurice was the architect for the Mother House and other buildings on the campus. His daughter died in 1940 when her Halloween costume caught fire.

SCL archival records indicate that the woodworking in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Oratory was the handiwork of an inmate at the federal penitentiary. He was serving a life sentence for shooting a superior officer.

According to a military prison historian, it is more likely that the woodworking represents the efforts of several inmates who rotated through the prison workshop. The small chapel features inlaid wood of walnut and maplewood in the

kneelers, wainscoting of the lower walls, the altar, frame and canopy.

Legacy continues

The Sisters dedicated the new Mother House on Nov. 11, 1940, Founders' Day. Installation of the Stations of the Cross and the stained glass windows in the oratory came later. A headline from the *Eastern Kansas Register* diocesan newspaper signifies the beauty of the entire new building and conveys part of its continued appeal for SCLs and visitors: "Beautiful Shrines Outstanding Features of New Mother House of Charity Sisters."

After teaching in Ohio and Michigan and continuing his art, Lino was curator of exhibits and design of the Museum of the City of New York from 1959 to 1967. He next served as curator of history at the John Jay Homestead State Historic Site in Katonah, N.Y., until his death in 1988. Art – paintings, etchings and illustrations – occupied a good portion of his life with a subsequent focus on history.

Both Frank and Thomas Walker were attorneys and public servants.

Frank had different roles during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, including U.S. postmaster general; Thomas was a federal judge with the United States Customs Court in New York.

Over his architectural career, Maurice Carroll designed more than 160 churches and hospitals in the Midwest. In recollections he gave in 1983 for the 125th anniversary of the SCLs, Maurice mentioned that he had engaged Lino to design windows and art for some of his other buildings. Maurice also expressed gratitude for his long and continuous association with the SCLs.

As for the prisoner(s) who did the woodworking, the SCL Archives continues to research this dimension of the small chapel's story. (An undated note in the archival files suggests that the Sisters remember this man in prayer each time they visit the oratory.)

Through connections with the SCLs, this distinct and unique cast of characters contributed to the beauty of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Oratory that remains a welcoming place of prayer today.

Sources

- *Guide to Antiques and Art Objects in the Mother House*, 1978
- *Furniture, paintings, sculpture, etc. of historic significance, Saint Mary College Campus*, compiled by Sister Mary Mark Orr, 1974
- SCL Archives
- Interview with Lino Lipinsky de Orlov (son of Lino Lipinsky)
- Various websites

Special collections at USM represent diverse topics, learning opportunities

Credited for its impressive holdings for a university its size, the De Paul Library Special Collections at the University of Saint Mary (USM) includes rare and one-of-a-kind texts and artifacts. These range from a lock of President Lincoln's hair to original illuminated manuscripts of Scripture from 13th century France; from books and papers about women spies during the Civil War to a Wizard of Oz book series.

Based on its mission statement, De Paul Library Special Collections serves "the university, local community and society at large by collecting, preserving, disseminating, providing access to research, instructional use, and interpreting the primary source historical material donated, selected, and held within our collections."

Danielle Dion, director of the library, says that among criteria for accepting special collections from donors, she and her staff consider their relevance as primary sources for helping students learn. The library team also strives to determine what makes a particular collection "special." As guidelines, the Association of College & Research Libraries Division of the American Library Association lists market value, rarity and scarcity, date and place of publication, physical and intrinsic characteristics, bibliographic and research value, and condition.

De Paul Library's Special Collections is currently undergoing renovation with a completion date projected for August 2018. The

newly designed area on the mezzanine of the library will provide enhanced space for research, digitization of the collections, preservation and conservation, and viewing of special collections (described below).

Bernard H. Hall Abraham Lincoln Collection

Bernard H. Hall, MD, donated the Lincoln Collection in 1969. He was former director of psychiatry at the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kan. For over 40 years, he was also a lecturer, author and collector of Lincolniana. Mindful of Lincoln's campaign visit to Leavenworth in 1859, Dr. Hall wanted the collection to be located in the city as a memorial to the president.

Highlights of the more than 10,000 items include:

- One of the 15 known original copies of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution – the document that made slavery illegal.
- One of President Lincoln's last messages to his wife, a telegram written on April 2, 1865.
- A lock of hair purportedly taken from Lincoln's head at the time of his death.
- An 1882 letter penned by the president's eldest son Robert Lincoln while he was secretary of war, concerning indigent soldiers and sailors in Kansas.
- A broad assortment of books and pamphlets on Lincoln's life and work.



▲ Among many items in the USM Lincoln special collection is this poster of the 16th president of the United States.

John and Mary Craig Scripture Collection

Based on a chance encounter in New Orleans in 1939, John and Mary Craig of Tulsa, Okla., cultivated a friendship with the SCL Community. John was from Ireland as was Mother Mary Francesca O'Shea, Mother General from 1938 to 1950. The Craigs had 10 children, one of whom joined the SCLs: Sister Maureen Craig. John developed the hobby of collecting art and rare books. The Craigs grew their collection with purchases from established book dealers, contributions from other donors, and the acquisition of materials that were duplicates from the Vatican Library. Over the years, they donated much of their Scripture collection to USM.

An assessment concluded that the pre-19th century materials in



- ▲ Danielle Dion explains the uniqueness of the Antwerp Bible that dates to 1569. It is polyglot with five languages represented: Hebrew, Aramaic, Syrian, Greek and Latin.

the collection are not widely held in America generally and typically not at all in the Midwest. The study further identified the Craig materials as unique due to bindings, provenance markings and marginalia (notes added in the documents), and for all these reasons significant for scholarship. The collection features:

- The Craig Codex – manuscripts of the Gospels, the Acts of the



- ▲ First published in 1475, the Nuremberg Chronicle is an illuminated collection of sermons that draw on the Bible and the lives of common people.

Apostles and the Epistles of St. Paul scribed on 70 vellum leaves in handmade ink, featuring 64 red and blue illuminated capital letters; created at the Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Bertin in Saint Omer, France in 1228.

- Twenty-five Bibles from the 16th century.
- Volumes perhaps not held by other American libraries.
- Bound volumes of elaborately illustrated books with etchings by Bernard Picart, 18th century French engraver, depicting the world's religious customs.

Bobby D. Lawrence Civil War Collection

Bobby Lawrence lived in rural Leavenworth County, worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, was a volunteer firefighter and loved Civil War history. He died in 2013. A few years later, his family offered to donate the 3,000 items in his collection to USM. Library staff and volunteers spent two days packing and transferring the materials, the majority of which Bobby had categorized. Then came the task of determining which items fit special collections criteria and which to place in general circulation. USM dedicated the new collection on Sept. 22, 2016. The collection includes:

- Local papers.
- Books on women's work in the Civil War dating to 1867.
- Confederate currency and bonds.

Steve Capps Oz Collection

Steve Capps, a career Army officer and civil servant, became



- ▲ Frank Baum wrote many more books and stories than *The Wizard of Oz*, including these from the collection held by De Paul Library at the University of Saint Mary.

enamored with the Land of Oz and Frank Baum's other magical places as a young man. Steve assembled his collection as both a child and an adult. At the suggestion of his wife, a graduate of the University of Saint Mary and past librarian at the De Paul Library, Steve donated his collection to the university. Among items, it includes:

- Original Land of Oz maps.
- First editions of the entire Frank Baum Oz collection.
- Secondary sources related to the Oz series.

For more information about USM Special Collections, visit De Paul Library on the university's website at www.stmary.edu or call 913-758-6306.

(The University of Saint Mary is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and is located on a campus adjoining the SCL Mother House.)

Inventory catalogs treasure trove of art

Over the span of almost five years, the diligence and dedication of two Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth contributed to a recent, comprehensive inventory of art and artifacts at the Mother House, Ross Hall, Cantwell Hall Offices and University of Saint Mary.

Sisters Jean Martin Dawson and Marie Damian Glatt began this massive undertaking in January 2013, a month after Sister Marie Damian relocated to the SCL Mother House from Billings, Mont. SCL leadership at that time assigned Sister Marie Damian the task of the inventory with the assistance of Sister Jean Martin.

It was common to see the two SCL friends walking the hallways with clipboards and phone in hand – making notes, taking photographs of art or historic furniture. Huddled at the desk in Sister Jean Martin's office at the Mother House, they poured over previous inventories and entered data into the computer.

They also faced challenges. Prior inventories did not always provide details to help match items listed with photos taken, particularly in the case of donated collections. In addition, the two SCLs could not locate several items that may have been given away over the years. For 224 items, Sister Jean Martin completed the extra step of an extensive accession process as



▲ Sister Jean Martin Dawson with a mosaic replica of the “Annunciation,” originally painted as a fresco by Fra Angelico. The mosaic hangs in the Madonna Parlor of the SCL Mother House.

Sister Marie Damian Glatt ▶



requested by the SCL Archives for artifacts that came from Nashville with the founders and for original art created by Sisters. In the midst of this project, the former Ross Hall underwent demolition. When the new skilled nursing facility opened, it featured all new art.

Sister Marie Damian's health became more fragile. She died in January 2016. Sister Jean Martin continued and completed the inventory in October 2017. The results include a wealth of SCL history compiled into two very large binders that contain photos and narrative descriptions. Sister Jean Martin also cataloged a number

of items in a database of the SCL Archives.

She says that moving around the entire campus, engaging in the history, interacting with a wide variety of people, and becoming informed about the specifics gave her a sense that this is a very special location. She sums up, “It was a rich experience and a needed project.”

She also admits that the day she documented completion of the inventory, it became outdated. Someone removed one piece of art from the new Ross Hall and replaced it with another, leaving the former “without a home.” “The future, God guides,” Sister Jean Martin concludes.



Re-Markings

Volunteer service a change of pace, a valued role

The poignancy of encountering a big, strapping man in tears because his wife didn't recognize him cemented Sister Irene Skeeahan's commitment as a volunteer for the Senior Behavioral Health Center of Saint John Hospital, Leavenworth, Kan.

Three and sometimes four days a week, Sister Irene arrives on the unit around 3:30 or 4 p.m. – “sundowners time” for persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The approach of late afternoon or evening seems to heighten restlessness, agitation and confusion for these patients.

Sister Irene's role is to be a calming presence. In the quiet time before dinner with no scheduled activities, she plays music or visits with patients. If individuals become overly anxious, she will take them to a quiet section away from other patients. She's also there for staff and for family members.

“I smile a lot, hold hands, have one-on-one conversations,” she sums up. “The staff members seem to think it's more peaceful when I'm there.”

Lifetime of service

This is a definite change of pace for an SCL who has led a lifetime of very active ministry compatible with her outgoing personality. She taught grade school and high school and then was among the first five SCLs sent to begin the Community's Latin American missions in Talara, Peru. She developed her “social justice soul” as she wrote catechism lesson plans for grade school students and translated them into Spanish. She also created teaching models for parent-directed classes for sacramental preparation.

Back in the states, Sister Irene turned to theological studies and instruction in high school and at the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth. She earned her master's degree in theology at the University of San Francisco.

Subsequent transitions engaged her in parish ministry often with responsibility for social justice concerns. In these settings, she accompanied parishioners on mission trips to Guatemala; participated in a collaborative



Staff of the Senior Behavioral Health Center Escie K. (left) and Sarah H. (right) enjoy a visit with Sister Irene Skeeahan. (Photo by Saint John Hospital Communications)

program with inner city parishes; and put her musical talents to good use in liturgical roles. Sister Irene also had the opportunity to continue to apply her language skills as director of religious education and liturgy for a parish with a growing Spanish-speaking population.

Being bilingual was critical in her next position where she translated and taught the Spanish track in a ministry training program for adults. Translation and outreach to Spanish-speaking families were Sister Irene's focal points in her subsequent role as administrative assistant in an urban high school.

Her last hurrah before she retired placed Sister Irene on the ground floor of helping establish Cristo Rey Kansas City as an SCL-sponsored ministry. “I was thrilled to work with Sister Vickie Perkins, the founding president of the high school,” Sister Irene says. Sister Irene served as director of missions at Cristo Rey for five years. During that time, she began volunteering at Providence Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan., and was one of three SCLs who began and coordinated the Community's Heartland Charity Volunteer program (see related article, p. 10).

Sister Irene retired to the Mother House in 2014. It was then that she began volunteering at Saint John's. At first, she thought the volunteer assignment in the Senior Behavioral Health Center would be something she couldn't do. Now she says, “It's important for me to be there.”

A flash from the near past:

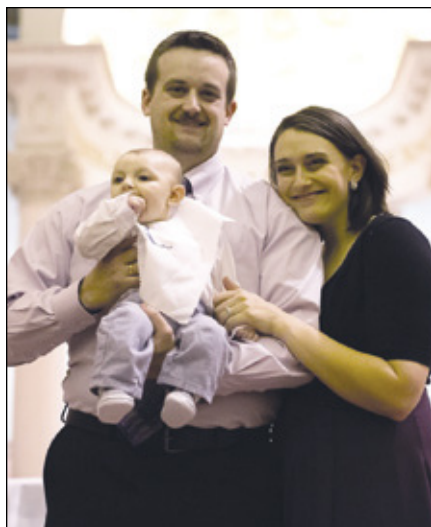
update from the Heartland Charity Volunteers

In 2012, the SCLs launched Heartland Charity Volunteers to give young women the opportunity to share community, prayer and service in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. Five individuals made up the inaugural group. At the conclusion of their 11 months of service, all agreed they had meaningful experiences.

While the entire group of the Heartland Charity Volunteers hasn't reunited since the members concluded the program, weddings have drawn some together, and they communicate via Facebook and texts. Four responded to the request to share where they are today –more than five years later – and to describe the lasting benefits from the program. Sisters Vickie Perkins, Irene Skeehan and Therese Steiner coordinated the volunteers. The program is no longer operational.

Mandy Ebert Carlton

Originally from Wamego, Kan., and now living in Topeka, Mandy's experienced many significant landmark events since 2013. She received her bachelor's degree in social work; got married; completed her National Guard service; and took a full-time civilian job doing drug and substance abuse prevention for the organization. More recently, Mandy and her husband welcomed baby boy Glen on July 20, 2017.



Mandy, her husband and son

As a Heartland Charity Volunteer, Mandy served in the food pantry at Seton Center, Kansas City, Mo. This experience opened her eyes to how intensely society marginalizes the poor. In her second volunteer role, Mandy, a trained massage therapist, offered this service to Sisters at the Mother House and Ross Hall. The stories of faith she heard from the SCLs strengthened Mandy's own



This cover photo from the fall/winter 2012 edition of *Voices of Charity* features the first Heartland Charity Volunteers on the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Mo. Left to right, Mary Gillette, Shala Steffes, Miranda Caulkins, Mandy Ebert and Matea daRosa.

faith. "They helped me remove the limitations I wanted to put on God," she says.

She also emphasizes the commitment the Heartland Charity Volunteers had to one another. She recalls, "We were obligated to each other in a really special way as we worked to try to improve society in our individual roles."

Miranda Caulkins

As the only non-Catholic among the initial group of volunteers, Miranda had never met women religious previously. For her service as a Heartland Charity Volunteer, she did graphic design, video and other projects for Cristo Rey Kansas City, an SCL-sponsored high school. She believes that opportunity and the chance to get to know the Sisters helped her land her current job.

After volunteering with the SCLs, Miranda moved to St. Louis and spent an additional year with the Episcopal Service Corps. She worked at a settlement house in



Miranda

North City St. Louis. In 2014, she became a communications associate for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Miranda continues in this position, now working remotely after returning to Peoria, Ill., her hometown.

Miranda considers the other four Heartland Charity Volunteers among her lifelong friends and appreciates their time together in Kansas City. “I made a connection with four women who would be there for me if I asked,” she summarizes. “That’s pretty neat.”

Mary Gillette Petesch

Mary felt a similar kinship when Mandy, Miranda and Shala Steffes travelled to Helena, Mont., for her wedding in mid-2015. “Even though



Mary and husband

we hadn’t been together for two years,” she recalls, “it was as though no time had passed. They were still my community that always cared for me.”

She remembers living in community with the other Heartland Charity Volunteers as the most difficult part of the experience for her, but also the most rewarding. “I’m glad I had the opportunity to be challenged by my community.”

She also appreciates that the SCLs taught her to be compassionate to the poor and to care about them in a loving way. While in the Heartland Charity Volunteers program, Mary worked with persons who were homeless or in need and helped them navigate systems and bureaucracies.

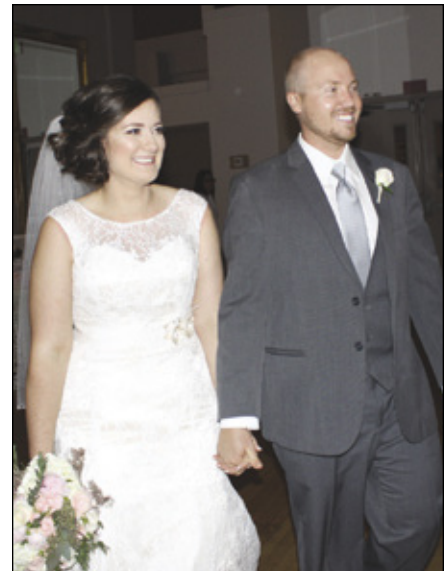


Catherine and Joseph Petesch

Today she is applying many of the life skills and compassion learned in a different setting as wife to Matthew and stay-at-home mom to Joseph, almost two, and Catherine, an infant.

Matea daRosa Schindel

While she lives in Meridian, Idaho, where she grew up, life looks very different today for Matea than it did five plus years ago. She’s a wife and the mother of a 1-year-old boy who is the light of his parents’ lives. The family traveled to Europe last summer, and the infant received a kiss from Pope Francis.



Matea and husband

As a Heartland Charity Volunteer, Matea served at an elementary school. She remains a grade school teacher and reports that she absolutely loves what she does. She is also nearing completion of her master’s in English as a second language.

Of her time as an SCL volunteer, Matea recalls how the group worked so diligently to make community living a positive and lasting experience. They budgeted, planned meals and kept house – things that Matea finds herself doing today. She credits the SCL program coordinators with providing the group with connections and opportunities to have an authentic experience.

“I remember how warm and inviting all the Sisters were,” Matea says. “I often think of how important it was for me to see what community and religious life looked like. God ended up calling me to marriage, but so many of the values I saw in religious life I have implemented in my marriage.

“I am forever grateful for my time with the SCLs,” Matea sums up, “and carry so much with me to this day.”

NASA astrophysicist credits SCLs with getting him off to a good start

From his youth, John Baker wanted to be a scientist. By middle school, he was considering the field of theoretical physics. Interested in the fundamental nature of things, he developed a fascination with the way the natural world works.



John Baker

(Photo: NASA/David Friedlander)

As a college undergraduate, John vacillated between philosophy and science. In the end, he pursued the mathematical, more rigorous approach and earned his bachelor's and doctoral degrees in physics. Postdoctoral studies took him to the Albert Einstein Institute, Potsdam, Germany, and to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

Since 2004, John has worked as an astrophysicist for NASA. He is an expert in black holes and gravitational waves, the latter being what he describes as a completely new way to understand the universe.

All of this from an individual who remembers himself as a difficult kid who likely frustrated his teachers, including the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth who taught him at St. Charles Grade School, Kansas City, Mo. "I was regarded as very smart and very bright," John remembers, "but also as an underperformer."

Looking back, the NASA researcher suspects he had a form of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. He had a hard time keeping track of assignments; writing challenged him; and daydreaming was a common occurrence.

John recalls two SCL teachers at St. Charles who met him where he was. In first-grade, Sister Julia Golkoski called him aside to convince him to wear socks to school. More importantly, her teaching style allowed students to work independently at their own pace. Part way through second-grade, John completed second-grade level English and math.



Sister Julia Golkoski

By seventh-grade, he figured out that he needed to have mastered algebra in order to take calculus in high school. Sister Karen Guth, the seventh- and eighth-grade math teacher, also let John work at his own speed to accomplish



The Goddard Numerical Relativity Group at NASA contributed to achievements of three scientists who received the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics. Members of the Goddard Group (pictured several years ago) include (left to right) Joan Centralla, Sean McWilliams, Bernard Kelly, Jim van Meter, Darian Boggs and John Baker.

(Photo: NASA/Pat Izzo)

this goal. He thinks this required extra work on Sister's part, but it was extremely valuable to John and the career path he pursued.

"The Sisters at St. Charles were part of my community growing up," John says. "They got me off to a good start and influenced my career."



Sister Karen Guth

Over the past several years, his work has included being part of the NASA team that made predictions for detecting signals of gravitational waves produced when two black holes merge or remnants of stars collide or explode. The team used equations developed by Einstein, implemented them with a super computer program, and predicted what the signals would look like. This and the efforts of many other researchers supported the development of an instrument to do the actual measurement – an achievement for which three scientists received the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Whereas most of what humans understand about the universe is what they see with light, John says that gravitational waves introduce a different channel of information. "We are not only looking at the sky," he explains. "We are hearing it as well through the vibration of the waves across time and space."

These discoveries are exciting for astronomers and scientists. Continuing his youthful fascination with the natural world through the lens of astrophysics, John finds the real glory in understanding the world in new ways – a childhood dream come true in a universe that continues to unfold.



Sister Catherine Ann Bones receives a blessing from Father Joe Hannappel, pastor, and the St. James Community during the parish observance of her SCL golden jubilee.

Pastoral ministry holds many firsts for SCL

As pastoral associate at St. James Parish, Kearney, Neb., Sister Catherine Ann Bones draws upon the rich experiences of past ministries and accepts new challenges to serve the faith community of 1,200 families and people of the surrounding area.

She has been in this role since Aug. 1, 2016 and acknowledges a number of “firsts.” It’s the first time in her 50 years as an SCL that Sister Catherine has lived in Nebraska where she grew up. It is also the first time she has had close proximity to her family, although the closest family member is 100 miles from Kearney. She considers it a blessing that she can be present and supportive as needed. She has also renewed acquaintances with people she grew up with and knew in McCook, Neb.

Sister Catherine describes St. James Parish as one of the most definite experiences of the universal Church that she has ever had. The parish family includes a multicultural population with members from Mexico, Latin America, Central America and Vietnam. Fostering a welcoming spirit is among Sister’s responsibilities. Sister shared that at Pentecost, she loved having intercessory prayers in Arabic, Spanish, Vietnamese and English. Even better was the experience that followed the Pentecost Mass when individuals volunteered to give intercessory prayers in French, Hebrew and Greek for a future liturgy. She added that having the University of Nebraska in Kearney offers the possibility of

stretching this idea even more for Pentecost 2018.

Diverse responsibilities

While she’s been involved in planning ecumenical services in the past, Sister Catherine had a stretch goal last year in coordinating an event hosted by the parish to celebrate Thanksgiving. “This Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation,” she explains. “St. James had not hosted such a service for several years, and we wanted it to be uniquely special.”

This was a huge undertaking and required Sister Catherine to reach out for expert help. She found a willing partner in Sharon Campbell, a parishioner at St. James who serves on the Liturgy Committee and is Sister Peg Johnson’s cousin. Sharon sang a solo at the service and helped coordinate the music bringing choirs together from various churches. Over 300 persons attended the prayer service deemed a great success.

With a diverse number of responsibilities, Sister Catherine finds it necessary to prioritize and make choices in the allocation of her time and energy. She’s involved with the pastoral council, liturgy committee, faith formation, Catholic Social Teaching formation, outreach to social service organizations, and a grief committee. During a given day, her schedule could encompass a retreat for high school teachers, presiding

at a Word and Communion service, helping plan a funeral, and interacting with families in their homes.

Where God wants her to be

She values that she is part of a pastoral team and staff who are strong in faith and dedicated to the Gospel. Sister Catherine finds parishioners amazing in their generous volunteer service; a number of volunteers are full-time. She appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with Father Joe Hannappel, pastor, and Father Art Faesser, associate pastor, as well as other team members and parishioners involved in ministry and service.

Sister Catherine observed her 50th anniversary as an SCL in 2017. She began her ministry as a high school teacher then moved to St. Paul’s Newman Center Parish, Laramie, Wyo., in the role of pastoral associate. For 18 years, she was vice president of mission integration for five SCL Health hospitals.

“I draw on what I did in the past all the time,” she says. “It all comes together in this pastoral ministry role that is enriching and dynamic. I have loved each of the ministries in which I have been privileged to serve, but at St. James in Kearney, I feel that I am exactly where God wants me to be at this point in my life.

“The ministry feels so right, and I am privileged to support my sister, Francie, and her family during Francie’s illness. Indeed God has gifted again!”

New ministry is fulfilling and fun

She may be getting dishpan hands, but Sister Peg Johnson is having a great time as a relatively new team member at the House of Charity, New Orleans, an initiative of the Sisters of Charity Federation. Her role is full-time hospitality ministry to groups that come for service trips to rebuild houses post Hurricane Katrina and the recent floods and tornadoes.

"We're a team," Sister Peg says of herself and the three other Sisters who form the core staff and share household chores. Team members also have responsibilities outside the House of Charity. Sister Peg is serving as a Communion minister at a diocesan-sponsored nursing home. In addition, she is mentoring two diocesan seminarians as they progress through pastoral ministry training in housing for low-income seniors.

Among other team members, Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, also an SCL, goes to the build sites and continues to serve as the vocation director of the SCL Community (see related article, p. 29). Sister Monica Gundler, a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, takes care of organizational aspects and coordination with groups coming to the House of Charity. She also is vocation director for her community. Sister Claire Regan, a Sister of Charity of New York, assists with menu planning, grocery shopping and cooking. Outside the house, Sister Claire is active in pastoral visiting and bereavement ministry.

At the House of Charity, Sister Peg occupies herself primarily with household duties. At 6 a.m., she and Sister Claire set out breakfast items and coffee, and brown bags and



Music remains an important part of Sister Peg Johnson's life as she jams (at right on the keyboard) with young adult volunteers at the House of Charity.

sandwich bags so the volunteers can make their lunches. Everyone gathers for morning prayer. By 8:15 a.m., the volunteers – most of whom are college-aged or young adults – have left for the work sites. Sister Peg gathers towels, does laundry, cleans bathrooms and straightens up public spaces.

Much as she finds traffic and driving challenging in New Orleans, she ventures out for grocery shopping, Mass at different churches, the library, and most recently the quilt shop. She's become very familiar with streetcar lines to deal with the traffic, drivers who don't use blinker lights and others who drive with their horns.

Mid-to-late afternoon, dinner prep is on the agenda along with a team meeting to plan, review and tweak what's working or not with a volunteer group. Volunteers return to the house, and there's time for visiting. Supper follows as does more time for talking, reflection or a game of cards. Core team members alternate days when they plan morning and evening prayers.

"Being with the young adults

is similar to being a grandmother figure," Sister Peg says. She likes baking cookies and rolls for the volunteers, listening to their stories, and affirming their talents.

After serving as SCL Community Secretary for 12 years, Sister Peg was on sabbatical during which she discerned what her next ministry would be. She considered a return to teaching; she ruled out foreign missions.

In her SCL leadership position, Sister Peg had multiple interactions with the Charity Federation and its members. She had also made two trips to the House of Charity. She appreciated the shared Vincentian charism that characterizes the spirit of the house. Unbeknownst to Sisters Peg and Vicki, both SCLs applied for the two open positions on the core team, and they both got the jobs.

Sister Peg is in her element with the music and parades of New Orleans. She has her trombone ready for when she locates and joins a community band. "I'm doing what I enjoy doing," she concludes, "plus there are all the added benefits of jazz and blues in the parks."



Re-Markings

OF SPECIAL NOTE

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

Two exhibits recognize contributions of SCLs

Over the past several months, two special exhibits have recognized the contributions of the **SCL Community** to the healthcare ministry in Butte, Mont., and Santa Monica, Calif.

Efforts of the Mission Council of St. James Healthcare, Butte, Mont., an SCL Health hospital, led to the development of a video and the local exhibit that highlighted the SCLs and encouraged the continuation of their spirit. On Nov. 9, the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives opened the exhibit titled "A Call to Care within Our Community: An Historical Overview of St. James Healthcare That Celebrates the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth." The video, "From Founding to Future: Our Mission Calls Us Forward," premiered at the opening of the exhibit that ran through mid-December.

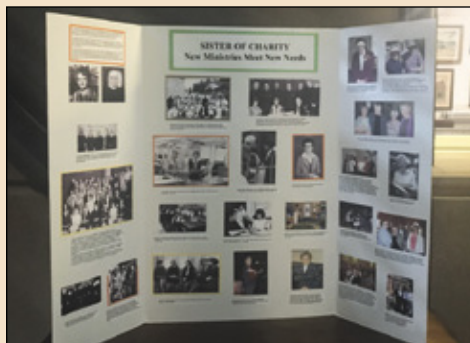
Tracy Neary, vice president mission integration, Montana Region of SCL Health, and an SCL Associate, credits several people with contributing to the exhibit. They include **Sister Dolores Brinkel**, archivist, Diocese of Helena; Laurel Egan, information specialist, St. James Healthcare; **Tonya Crawford** and **Sister Kathleen Mary Connelly**, SCL Archives; and staff of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives.



Exhibit items included nursing pins from the Butte hospital's history and dolls in the former SCL habit.



Instruments and uniforms depicted the development of medical and nursing professions.



The exhibit highlighted the service of SCLs to the Butte community.

The Santa Monica History Museum exhibit highlighted the 75 years of healing provided by Saint John's Health Center and the service of the SCL Community that established the hospital in the spirit of Mother Xavier Ross, SCL foundress (pictured above left). (Photo by Glenn Marzano)



From mid-November through the end of January, the **Santa Monica History Museum** paid tribute to Saint John's Health Center and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth who opened the hospital 75 years ago. "Saint John's Health Center: 75 Years of Healing, Discovery and Service to the Community" was the name of the exhibit.

The culminating event for the exhibit was the Jan. 20 panel discussion about the history of the hospital. The panel included **Sister Maureen Craig**, the hospital's archivist; John R. Sellman, MD, orthopedic surgeon and past chair of the health center's board of directors; and John M. Robertson, MD, director of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery.

The museum's main exhibit hall featured a display of hospital photos, documents, stained glass window reproductions, time capsules and medical devices. Bing Crosby's 1947 fundraising medley for the hospital, "Ode to Saint John's," played in the background. There is discussion of displaying some objects in a public area of the health center for future viewing by patients, families, employees and the community.

Among those involved with development of and contributions to the exhibit were Sister Maureen and **Tonya Crawford**, head archivist, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Now named Providence Saint John's, the hospital is sponsored by the Providence St. Joseph Health Co-Sponsors Council.



Photos, religious items and documents reflected the spirit behind the SCL heritage of Saint John's Health Center. (Photo by Glenn Marzano)

Saint Vincent Award honors Sister Roberta



For her years of service and dedication to children at Mount Saint Vincent, Denver, **Sister Roberta Furey** received the Spirit of Saint Vincent Award presented at the Silver Bell Ball on Saturday, Nov. 11. Kirk Ward, executive director of Mount Saint Vincent (MSV), describes Sister Roberta as “one of a kind.” She is in her 41st year with the organization. Co-workers and those familiar with the SCL say that love of God and love of people are driving factors in her life. They consider her a free spirit and an individual who embodies the characteristics of St. Vincent de Paul who was a friend to the poor and to children.

MSV is a Denver, Colorado-based treatment center for children, 5 to 12, facing severe behavioral and emotional challenges due to trauma, mental illness, abuse or neglect. MSV provides behavioral health services to children and their families, helping children reach their full potential within their homes, schools and communities. Established by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Mount Saint Vincent is now a ministry of SCL Health. (Photo by David Ordway Photography)

SCLs’ contributions to education recognized

At Taste of KCK, its signature fund-raising event, on Saturday, Jan. 27, Resurrection Catholic School, Kansas City, Kan., recognized the **Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth** for the Community’s continuing history of service to education. The event featured food and entertainment representing different ethnic groups in the city. **Sister Rosemary Kolich**, chair of the English department at the University of Saint Mary, spoke briefly on Catholic education; Lynda Higgins, principal, gave an update on the school. Located at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Resurrection serves children from five parishes in eastern KCK. **Sister Kathy Atkins** is full-time math teacher for middle school students.

Celebrating 25 years as an SCL



All instrumental in her formation as an SCL, three friends were among guests at the 25th jubilee celebrated by Sister Carolyn Gloege. Left to right, Sisters Noreen Walter, Carolyn, Nancy Bauman and Nancy Svetlecic.

Sister Carolyn Gloege celebrated her 25th jubilee on Sunday, Nov. 12 with Mass in Ross Chapel followed by lunch in the Mother House dining room. Guests included her brother Louie Gloege from Helena, Mont.; **Sister Nancy Svetlecic**, Santa Monica, Calif.; her SCL Community; and SCL Associates. **Sister Nancy Bauman** gave the reflection during Mass. Sister Carolyn does pastoral ministry in Ross Hall and the Mother House.

Two Councilors fill LCWR leadership roles



Sister Eileen Haynes



Sister Amy Willcott

Sister Eileen Haynes is among members of the new board of directors of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) that assumed office Jan. 1. With approved reorganization of its governance structure, membership of LCWR elected nine sisters in leadership to serve on the organization’s board of directors. **Sister Amy Willcott** is currently serving as treasurer of LCWR’s Region 13. The region encompasses Colorado, Kansas, western Missouri and Oklahoma. Sisters Eileen and Amy are both members of the SCL Community Council.

Cristo Rey spotlight on SCLs and past president

Sister Sue Retherford was among the SCLs recognized during the Founders' Day observance at Cristo Rey Kansas City. Stephen Clifford, chair, Cristo Rey Board of Directors, made the presentation.



Cristo Rey Kansas City High School hosted its annual Founders' Day prayer service and program that recognized seven Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and Dr. Kathleen Hanlon, immediate past president. Students, faculty, staff and guests gathered in Redemptorist Church, Kansas City, Mo., for the occasion on Nov. 10. Receiving awards were Kathleen and **Sisters Mary Rachel Flynn, Jane Jackson, Mary Pat Johnson, Vicki Lichtenauer, Sue Retherford, Linda Roth and Irene Skeehan.** Following the program in the church, guests went to the school gymnasium for the legacy dedication of two designated seats with nameplates in honor of Sister Vickie Perkins, founding president, and Kathleen.

SCL Associate director named to national board

Terri Butel, director of SCL Associates, is a new board member of the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR). NACAR is an inter-congregational professional membership organization designed to support and promote the associate way of life; to serve and support associates and vowed members as associates proclaim their call to live the charism of the religious congregation; and to support the professional and spiritual growth of members and member organizations. Terri's term is three years. Terri says, "It is an honor to have been invited, and I look forward to working with the talented men and women who make up the board."



Terri Butel

SCLs receive St. Teresa of Calcutta Awards

Several Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth were among the women religious who received the St. Teresa of Calcutta Award at the annual Celebration of Hope Gala of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo. The Nov. 4 event placed the spotlight on contributions of women to the diocese and the Kansas City metropolitan area. SCLs among honorees included **Sisters Ann Barton, Cele Breen, Loretto Marie Colwell, Kevin Marie Flynn, Clare Gappa, Judy Hayes, Kathleen Marie Henscheid, Mary Pat Johnson, Annie Loendorf, Vickie Perkins, Marie Madeleine Shonka, Irene Skeehan, Diane Steele, Anita Sullivan, Mary Sharon Verbeck, Mary Barbara Wieseler, and Charlotte White.**

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If we've overlooked an item of importance, please email (thorvat@scsls.org) or mail information to Communications, Cantwell Hall, 4200 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048-5054.



Book Review

Invitation to examine vows with new insights

O'Murchu, MSC, Father Diarmuid (2016).

Religious Life in the 21st Century: The Prospect of Refounding.

Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.



by Sister Mary Pat
Lenahan
SCL Candidate/
Novitiate Director

“Can our vision ever be big enough for the creative Spirit, who blows where she wills? It is better to err on the side of largess than to run the risk of minimalizing the surprises that await us at every new refounding horizon that the Spirit co-creates” (O'Murchu, 2016, p. 230). How big is our vision? In this book, the author provides an evolutionary context for religious life as a process, demonstrating paradigm shifts and creative approaches throughout the history of religious life. Responding to paradigm shifts and the needs of the times, dispositions of receptivity have prompted responses within an evolutionary and creative consciousness.

These responses in faith have demanded ongoing discernment and openness to new possibilities. O'Murchu purports that within their allegiance to the reign of God and responding to the needs of the people of God, “the integration of Religious Sisters into the pastoral life of the church in the years after Vatican II was a move of mixed blessings, with Religious Sisters adopting a kind of pseudo-clerical role that often undermined their prophetic identity” (p. 15). At the end of each chapter, the author presents some provocative questions, inviting readers to further reflection, prayer and conversation. Hopefully, these questions will challenge readers to engage in further dialogue, evoking deeper reflection and pondering, leading to action through re-envisioning and to refounding within a prophetic stance.

Challenges with refounding

Throughout the book, the author invites readers to listen deeply to the stories in order to consider creative possibilities and to be open to the unfolding – evolving the bigger narrative and possibly being poised to

anticipate coming shifts. As O'Murchu provides rationale for refounding (revitalization, rebuilding anew), he also outlines some of the complex challenges with this as noted by Father Gerald A. Arbuckle, SM. These obstacles include the need for a coherent, founding vision; the human reluctance to engage with chaos and grieving; inability or unwillingness to discern what is authentically new; and the lack of courageous risk-taking to consider new possibilities (p. 25) within a relational weaving of connections. “Our survival and growth are determined throughout our lifespan by how we appropriate and negotiate the web of relationships to which we intimately belong” (p. 34).

O'Murchu weaves the thread of the call to be prophetic throughout this text. He reminds readers, “... nor must we ever forget that the call to be prophetic is a gifted grace, never given for our own sanctity or salvation but always for the benefit of mission – not merely to the church but to God's entire creation” (p. 50). He continues to quote Abraham Heschel who says, “In contrast, prophetic inspiration is for the sake, for the benefit, of a third party. It is not a private affair between prophet and God; its purpose is the illumination of the people rather than the illumination of the prophet” (p. 50). The historic overview of religious life also reveals the cyclic patterns of communal foundations as women and men responded to the call of the Holy Spirit and to the critical needs of the times within each time period. By reviewing the history of religious life, readers can better understand the evolution and challenges that confront congregations as they receive their charism as a gift of the Spirit for the good of others.



“Hope is not the conviction
that something will turn out well
but the certainty that something makes sense,
regardless of how it turns out.”

— Vaclav Havel

Change differs from transformation

Within the natural evolution of religious communities, O'Murchu points out that these times of change do not necessarily mean transformation. The author quotes Brother Sean Sammon, “Change and transformation are not the same. Change happens at a point in time; transformation happens over time. Change is a new beginning; transformation begins with an ending” (p. 79). So, the history of religious life demonstrates both change and illuminates elements of transformation. Within the points of this change, the elements governing religious life were primarily created by men and reflected masculine values such as rationality, exclusion and control, while feminine values such as feeling, imagination and inclusion were often subverted. The author continues to elaborate upon some of the many feminine gifts of women religious by highlighting individuals such as Clare of Assisi, Angela Merici, Louise de Marillac, Mary Ward, Rose Philippine Duchesne, Catherine McAuley, Mary MacKillop, and Katharine Drexel.

Throughout the history of the Church, religious life continues the “capacity to rebound, a historical resilience that defies any and every historical explanation. However, it is the cultural significance of the vowed life, rather than its history, that defines its durability, and this is a dimension that has received scant attention till relatively recent times” (p. 123). These last several years, there have been several articles describing these present times as “liminality, from the Latin word *limen*, which means ‘threshold, marginal space, new frontier, being at the cutting edge’” (p. 125). During this challenging time and space, religious women and men are called to renew and discern what their vows mean and how to be authentic in living them through engagement in daily life in the

world and in the encounters to which Pope Francis calls us all. The author suggests that another vow could be called for: relatedness, relationality.

Articulating the meaning of vows

O'Murchu suggests that vowed religious are called to create a new narrative to better articulate the current meaning of the vows to be authentically in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, and to work tirelessly to challenge and change those forces of oppression that take advantage of those who are trapped in poverty (p. 161). He indicates that those in the vowed life are meant to be in service through their vows of mutual sustainability (poverty), mutual collaboration (obedience), and mutual relationality (celibacy).

This text provides an interesting overview of the history of religious life. It also invites and challenges us individually, collectively and communally within congregations to renew and re-envision the possibilities for examining the vows with fresh and creative insights and energies that could reinvigorate religious life.

I would encourage readers to delve into this book as a provocative and reflective read for further prayer and conversation. For a broader and deeper understanding of the vowed religious life within an historical context, present challenge, and future hope, this would provide a thought-provoking and timely invitation. “Can our vision ever be big enough for the creative Spirit, who blows where she wills?” (p. 230). O'Murchu prods us to ask, “Are we willing now, at this time in our history, to risk together by collaboratively sharing our dreaming and our visioning as we share our prayer, our lives and our ministries to refound religious life in the 21st century as servants of the people of God for the sake of God's kingdom?”



‘God always comes through’

As a student attending school in Seneca, Kan., Sister Dorothy Marie Rilinger never raised her hand when teachers asked who was considering a religious vocation. Growing up in a farm community and as one of 11 children, she was ready to experience life.

After one year of college, she moved to Topeka, Kan., where she took a job, enjoyed dating and developed friendships. She became fast friends with another young Catholic woman in the apartment house where they lived. They attended Mass, socialized and vacationed together. In their conversations, the two discovered they both had religious vocations in the back of their minds.

“We thought we had better check this out and get it out of our system,” Sister Dorothy Marie recalls. Through another acquaintance, she and Charlene Race arranged a visit to the SCL Mother House. They liked the experience and the Sisters they met; they applied and subsequently entered the SCL Community in 1954. Even then, Sister Dorothy Marie thought she would likely get the idea out of her head, leave and get on with her life.

Almost 64 years later as an SCL, she marvels that God has taken such good and constant care of her. During the first 10 years of religious life, she alternated between teaching and hospital office work in California, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Montana and New Mexico. She loved teaching primary grades, but health problems prevented full days in the classroom. For a while, she lived out of a suitcase as she substituted for other Sisters in hospitals and schools.

In 1966, Sister Dorothy Marie returned to Leavenworth to assist in the Community Treasurer’s Office. She paid bills, helped orient new Treasurers and did other tasks required of the position. It was a special time in that her youngest sister, Sister Jean Marian, had entered the SCL novitiate.

Sister Dorothy Marie retired from the Treasurer’s Office in 2007, but she still assists as needed for projects. In her retirement, she has made it a practice to identify one Sister at a time to visit daily in the Ross Hall skilled nursing facility. Sister Dorothy Marie takes care of that person’s needs as they arise. Often, those Sisters ask Sister Dorothy Marie to be with them as they are dying. When her Sister friend “goes home to Jesus,” she selects another to visit.

Since the 1950s, Sister Dorothy Marie has made rosaries. She accumulates 10 to 12 in a drawer, and then a call comes in that someone needs them.

That’s the way her life has been. God always comes through for Sister Dorothy Marie. She’s happy as an SCL. She enjoys life. She relies on Divine Providence and remains fascinated with the way God takes care of her.





Ministries

Partnership helps bridge digital divide



The New Year began with the exciting announcement of a partnership between T-Mobile and Cristo Rey Kansas City High School. Left to right Jonathan Doll, network engineer, and Paul Kircher, government account manager, T-Mobile; and from Cristo Rey, Dr. Smitha Edulakanti, director of instructional technology; John O'Connor, president; and Sister Maureen Hall, director of mission.

Despite a 1:1 technology program that puts a device in the hands of every student at Cristo Rey Kansas City High School, 60 percent of the student body goes home each night to a dwelling without internet access.

On Jan. 4, T-Mobile representatives made an announcement that will dramatically change this. Every Cristo Rey student is receiving a mobile hot spot and waived line service fees to use the internet at home and off campus.

Through its EmpowerED™ program, T-Mobile is providing wireless devices – hot spots – and service plans to help students and the schools succeed. Neither students nor families will pay for the devices or wireless service, and each student will receive a mobile hot spot. Cristo Rey's administration submitted documentation of the critical need and received approval from T-Mobile for participation.



Lydia Jumonville

SCL Health names new president

In October 2017, Lydia Jumonville assumed responsibilities as president and chief executive officer of SCL Health. She had served in this leadership position on an interim basis since May, when Mike Slubowski resigned to accept a leadership role at Trinity Health in Michigan.

Lydia joined SCL Health in June 2010 as senior vice president and chief financial officer. She led all financial and accounting functions, as well as supply chain and real estate for the system. She formulated a comprehensive strategic financial planning and budgeting process that has had a profound impact on the health system's ability to fulfill its mission and continue to invest in care sites and communities.

Prior to joining SCL Health, Lydia served in financial leadership positions with Baylor Health Care System and Arthur Anderson LLP, both in Dallas. She graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and is a certified public accountant.

SCL passionate

about health ministry



From clinics for the uninsured to hospitals to the system office, Sister Jennifer Gordon has served in different roles across the range of health care settings operated by SCL Health. Rather than a conscious decision on her part to pursue a ministry in health care, Sister Jennifer believes that the field and God's promptings chose her. In response, she continues to choose and remain passionate about this ministry that she finds dynamic and fast-paced.

In June 2017, Sister Jennifer assumed the position of vice president, mission integration, at Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver. This is her first executive leadership role, and she admits to a steep learning curve. There's no such thing as an average day, and that can prove both challenging and interesting.

Sister Jennifer says that a large part of her responsibility is getting to know and support the 2,200 staff members called "associates" by the health system, along with physicians, volunteers, patients and families. This happens in hallways, in department meetings, in patient rooms and at events. It also occurs in her role as the executive sponsor of a number of groups, including those dealing with history and

heritage, environmental stewardship, staff and physician wellness, and community benefit.

In addition, the Ethics Committee and ethics consults come under the purview of mission integration as do community benefit, volunteer services and spiritual care. Sister Jennifer has direct reports who oversee the latter three functional areas. Saint Joseph Hospital has 380 volunteers who dedicated more than 19,000 hours of service in 2017. The hospital has four full-time chaplains and several others who are available as needed to ensure that spiritual care is available 24/7. In terms of direct contact with patients and families, Sister Jennifer and other hospital leaders do "rounding" with staff and with patients and

their families. She adds that in the huge, complex new building that opened in December 2014, she also frequently interacts with visitors who need directions – and sometimes a listening ear.

Sister Jennifer remains in awe of the passion and dedication of staff at Saint Joseph Hospital. "The spirit and culture here are palpable," she explains. "Our associates go out of their way to take care of patients, their families and one another."

Through graduate medical education and programs for students in other health professions, the hospital also trains the next generation of caregivers. "We are able to introduce them to our mission and help them learn to live out that mission in all that they do," she says.



Supporting staff is an important part of Sister Jennifer Gordon's ministry as vice president, mission integration, at Saint Joseph Hospital. She visits with Madison Lewis, BSN, RN (left), and Alison Marien, BSN, RN, clinical manager (right), both with the medical cardiology unit.

While she wishes there were more SCLs in health care, Sister Jennifer credits Saint Joseph Hospital and SCL Health with helping ensure continuation of the spirit and the passion of the Sisters. She gratefully acknowledges those who have preceded her at the facility and the three SCLs who currently volunteer there: Sisters Carol Depner, Maureen Kehoe and Renée Washut.

"The people at Saint Joseph continue to love and respect the Sisters," Sister Jennifer says. "This is heartening. Even more important is the reality that our staff, physicians and volunteers are prepared to carry on the mission and charism of the SCLs."



Sister Jennifer shares a light moment with Greg Slate, manager, spiritual care, Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver. (Photos by Kyle Garratt, SCL Health)

Program aims to perpetuate

Ensuring that the charism of charity continues to inform and shape higher education institutions rooted in Vincentian spirituality is the goal of a new formation program launched last fall.

Representing four colleges/universities, a cohort of 11 faculty, staff and administrators gathered in Leavenworth, Kan., for the first session in late September 2017 with the second planned for mid-March 2018.

After attending the opening session, Cia Kessler, director of two scholarship programs at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Bronx, N.Y., says, “I gained a depth of understanding I didn’t have previously.”

Cia explains that she was more familiar with the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to whom the Sisters of Charity of New York, sponsor of Mount Saint Vincent, trace their founding. Through the

new formation program, she now has a better sense of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac and their contributions. She also appreciates the opportunity to connect with other colleges in the Setonian-Vincentian tradition.

Other current participants represent Seton Hill University, Greensburg, Pa.; College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, N.J.; and the University of Saint Mary (USM), Leavenworth.

Sister Diane Steele, USM president, had a lead role in the program’s development. She initially invited colleges/universities sponsored by member congregations of the Charity Federation to a planning

meeting in October 2016. A draft curriculum evolved from that gathering. The formation program seeks to provide participants with tools, content, mentoring and experiences to deepen their own spirituality, self-knowledge, understanding of the Catholic faith tradition and its particular expression in the lives of the founders of the Vincentian family.

Instilling a culture of charism

“Whereas we historically had many Sisters on faculty or in administrative roles, that’s no longer the case,” Sister Diane says. “Going forward, we hope that the Charity Heritage Formation Program will help ensure that the charism of charity guides our interactions with students, families, faculty and staff; informs strategic plans, operations and finance;



Members of the team planning and coordinating the Charity Heritage Formation Program for universities include (clockwise from left) Joe Snyder and Sisters Kathleen Wood, Charlotte White and Diane Steele.

the charism of charity



Sister Diane, president of the University of Saint Mary, has been a driving force behind creation of the Charity Heritage Formation Program. (Photo from USM Marketing)

and continues in rituals on our campuses.”

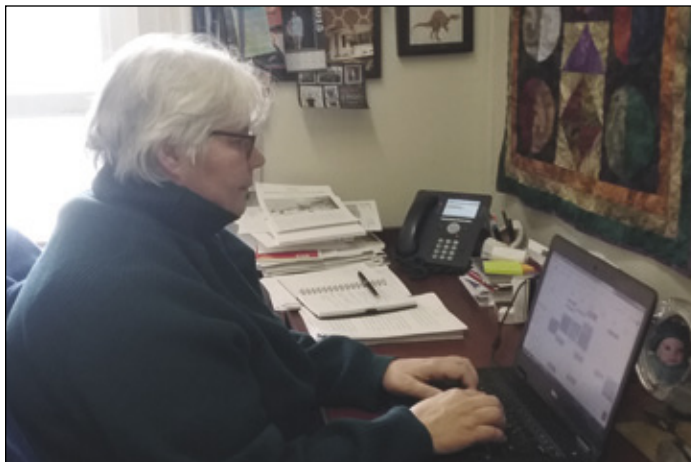
Coordinating the program with Sister Diane are Joe Snyder, facilitator, and Sisters Charlotte White and Kathleen Wood, assistant facilitators. Sister Kathleen is the presenter; Sister Charlotte oversees prayer and rituals; Joe helps keep the program on track. Together, the

team works to foster community among participants.

As former chair of the USM Board of Trustees and a lifelong educator, Joe sees great value in the program. “The uniqueness of our institutions stems from the extent we can reach down to our roots as the basis of our spirituality and have this continue to influence and guide us,” he elaborates.

Sister Diane agrees, “If this charity heritage can become part of the bedrock of our schools and ingrained in our faculty and staff, it will seep into the culture as we teach the mission not only by presentations but by our lives and interactions.”

Cia took the mandate from the first formation session seriously and on her return to the College of Mount Saint Vincent met with the provost to identify ways to help faculty, staff and administration understand their importance to the institution’s mission. “We all have to look for ways to continue the charism,” she believes. “It is such a gift.”



Cia Kessler, College of Mount Saint Vincent, Bronx, N.Y., has found great value in the Charity Heritage Formation Program.

Overview of Charity Heritage Formation Program

Curriculum themes

- ▶ The Call – stories of reflection and discernment
- ▶ Response to the Call – Vincent and Louise; today’s critical needs
- ▶ The American Story – Elizabeth Ann Seton; institutional stories
- ▶ Charity in Action – Catholic Social Teaching; the Vincentian family

Schedule, location

- ▶ Four sessions of three days each over two years
- ▶ Marillac Center, retreat center of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

Areas of study and growth

- ▶ Spirituality
- ▶ Theology
- ▶ Heritage



Beyond All Borders

news notes

International delegates discuss intercultural living

Sister Constance Phelps, SCL Community Director, and Sister Patricia Siemen, OP, represented Constellation 3 (the United States) for the meeting of the Council of Delegates of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) in Manila, the Philippines, Nov. 5 through 11. “Building Community in an Intercultural World” was the meeting theme.

Established in 1965, UISG promotes deeper collaboration among women’s congregations of apostolic religious life. UISG includes 1,960 members worldwide within 36 regional constellations. Membership expresses the diversity of charisms and cultures while promoting the common identity of those who follow Christ in the apostolic religious life. Every three years, the entire UISG membership meets; in 2017, only the delegates – two from each Constellation – convened in Manila.

Speakers addressed the need to grow in cultural awareness and appreciation, the challenges of different languages and diverse communication patterns, and the various preferences in food and ways of sharing prayer and faith together – all of which contribute to the need to develop skills for



Sister Constance Phelps, SCL Community Director (center), exchanges ideas with other delegates during the November 2017 meeting of the International Union of Superior Generals.

intercultural living. Defined as intentional engagement with each other, intercultural living requires communication skills and willingness to set aside cultural biases. Community members work to understand and value the differences to enjoy the richness of being in communion with each other.

Members of the U.S. Constellation will meet in August for further discussion of these themes.



Pieces of cloth symbolic of happenings in UISG Constellations around the world served as a graphic focal point for the meeting.

SCL Associate an advocacy fellow

Long active on the advocacy front, Carolyn Zimmerman, a Topeka SCL Associate, is participating in the 2018 Advocacy



Fellowship Class sponsored by the Sunflower Foundation of Kansas. Fellows represent a diverse group of Kansas professionals whose responsibilities include a variety of activities throughout the state. Carolyn’s personal advocacy includes working for repeal of the Kansas death penalty along with immigration and poverty issues, all compatible with the SCL Community’s concerns.

Grant to benefit patients of St. Vincent Center, Piura

The Catholic Human Services Foundation has awarded a grant to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth to purchase physical therapy equipment for the St. Vincent de Paul Pastoral Center, Piura, Peru. Based in Pittstown, N.J., the foundation promotes and enhances quality of life for persons in need with a primary focus on health and human services.



◀ SCL Associates (left to right) Bobby Lavinder, Linda McCray and Marion Johnson launched the recent Warm Hearts drive in December 2017 with the distribution of decorated boxes to churches in Helena.

‘Warm Hearts’:

a division of labor and love in Helena

This winter, three SCL Associates mobilized an interfaith groundswell of support to benefit the poor of Helena, Mont. “Warm Hearts: blanket and towel drive to gift the poor on Valentine’s Day” engaged 13 churches representing people of all ages from second- and third-graders to quilters to other members of the congregations.

These generous, collective efforts resulted in the donation of 187 blankets and 355 towel sets (bath and hand towels and washcloth). On or before Valentine’s Day six agencies received the items for distribution to clients as needed throughout the year.

The response exceeded the expectations of Marion Johnson, Bobby Lavinder and Linda McCray, the Helena area SCL Associates who spearheaded and coordinated Warm Hearts. It was a division of labor and of love for the threesome who organized the drive over a year’s time. They contacted churches inviting their participation; decorated and delivered boxes for the collection of items; and gathered, sorted and distributed blankets and towels to the agencies.

There were heartwarming experiences throughout the collection drive that began in late December and concluded on Jan. 29. Second- and third-graders from St. Andrew School did chores to raise funds toward the purchase of towels. They presented

the towels during a weekday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Helena. The quilters at St. John’s Lutheran Church donated beautiful quilts.

“I was overjoyed and grateful for the generosity of our involved ecumenical church members,” Linda says. “Witnessing the generosity of our ecumenical community while picking up donation boxes was a mystical high. The entire year of working on Warm Hearts has been a very spiritual time for us. We truly felt the Holy Spirit with us on this journey!”

The three SCL Associates conducted a smaller scale collection drive the previous year. The plan now is to make Warm Hearts an annual event.



The volunteers sort towel donations into sets that include a bath towel, hand towel and washcloth. Marion Johnson (left) helps Linda McCray tie the bow on one of the towel sets. Bobby Lavinder is in the background working on blankets.

Participating Helena churches included:

- ▶ Cathedral of St. Helena
- ▶ Churches of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (2)
- ▶ Covenant United Methodist
- ▶ First Christian Church of Helena
- ▶ First Lutheran Church
- ▶ First Presbyterian Church
- ▶ Headwaters Covenant
- ▶ Our Lady of the Valley
- ▶ St. John’s Lutheran Church
- ▶ St. Mary Catholic Community
- ▶ St. Paul’s Methodist
- ▶ St. Peter’s Episcopal Cathedral

Donated items are being distributed through the following organizations:

- ▶ Florence Crittenton Home
- ▶ God’s Love
- ▶ Good Samaritan Ministries
- ▶ Rocky Mountain Development Center
- ▶ The Friendship Center
- ▶ YWCA



Grand opening reflects spirit propelling Community of Hope

Nearly 200 people gathered on Jan. 22 for the blessing and opening of the new building of the Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope.

Some might call it the “Miracle of 3rd and Kiowa.” However, the new building represents the combined efforts of the Leavenworth-Lansing community (individuals, churches, businesses and government), dedicated volunteers and generous donors who brought this project to fruition over a relatively short span of time.

In October 2016, an alliance of 35 local churches working to help the poor and disadvantaged announced plans to build the new facility to house Welcome Central, the Community Day Shelter and the Shelter of Hope under one roof. Volunteers raised over \$700,000 in cash and in-kind support from community residents and businesses. Volunteers also designed and helped build the new facility.

Sister Vickie Perkins, executive director, noted that the dedication of volunteers and the charity of donors were extraordinary. “It was truly inspirational to see how members of the community worked together to make our new center a reality,” she said.

Sister Vickie has been involved with the project since its beginning. “The new building will allow us to more efficiently and effectively serve persons in need,” she said. “The Shelter of Hope provides safe, comfortable overnight accommodations for the homeless. Welcome Central assists clients with employment, training and medical care. It provides transportation to enable those we are helping get to appointments. The new building also includes a Day Center that offers a location that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer.”

Since opening Welcome Central in 2014, Leavenworth Interfaith Community’s 300 volunteers have helped over 3,000 Leavenworth-Lansing residents move from dependence to independence. “We look at our mission as providing those who are disadvantaged with the help they need to become productive citizens,” Sister Vickie said. “We are building a future of hope for our clients.”

Activities and services at the new center are open to all Leavenworth residents.



Sister Vickie Perkins, executive director, Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope, acknowledged the tremendous support of the capital campaign and building initiative. At left is Father David McEvoy, OCarm, pastor, Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph Parish.



At the blessing ceremony to open the new Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope building, left to right, Sister Irene Skeehan led the singing; Eric Campbell received a blanket, socks and coffee mug from church representatives as symbolic gifts of comfort, companionship and caring; Rev. Lynn Dickson welcomed and served as master of ceremonies; and Sister Constance Phelps offered the blessing prayer.

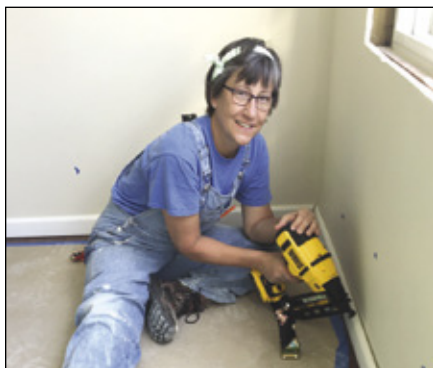
Melding two ministries with like purposes

Since late August 2017, Sister Vicki Lichtenauer has had dual responsibilities that complement one another. She continues her role as the SCL vocation director.

At the same time, she is a team member of the House of Charity, New Orleans. The latter is a collaborative initiative of the Charity Federation that engages volunteers in rebuilding post Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters, and that offers opportunities for vocational discernment.



Members of the House of Charity core team include (left to right) Sisters Peg Johnson and Vicki Lichtenauer, SCLs; Monica Gundler, SC; and Claire Regan, SC.



On the job at one of the rebuild sites, Sister Vicki actively ministers with young adult groups that volunteer through the House of Charity, New Orleans.

BOTH MINISTRIES INCLUDE

Constantly *inviting* participants.
Being a *presence* to YOUNG ADULTS.

THE TWO MINISTRIES REQUIRE

Creativity. Flexibility. Commitment to *GOSPEL VALUES*.

Prayer. Collaboration with others.

Education about who the Sisters of Charity are *today*. Networking.

REACHING OUT to potentially interested participants –
locally, nationally and internationally. Social media.
Sharing the Vincentian charism.

Supporting young adult “year-long” volunteer programs:
Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Americorps, Colorado Vincentian Volunteers.
Including other women religious.

Baking.

DISTINCTIONS OF SISTER VICKI'S VOCATION MINISTRY AND HOUSE OF CHARITY MINISTRY INCLUDE

House of Charity

- Intentional *community living*
- Volunteers of **ALL AGES** 18+
- **MEN** and **WOMEN**
- *Community* networking
- *Neighborhood* presence
- *Parish* presence

Vocation ministry

- Short and long-term *journey*
- **WOMEN**, 18 to 40
- Cultivation of relationships on college and high school *campuses*
- **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY** campus ministry
- Some *hands-on efforts* with youth under 18, e.g., gardening projects
- Potential *diocesan opportunities*
 - Young adult ministry
 - Catholic young professionals
- Volunteering at sites where other volunteers may be potential discerners

**For more information
about the
House of Charity
or about vocations,
contact
Sister Vicki at
vickiL@scls.org
or 816-718-2660.**



Following her head and heart keeps SCL Associate on path of charity



◀ Margaret Richards, SCLA

the Bethany Prison Ministry. She did this all four years of college and remains an active member of the group today.

After she graduated from USM with a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science, Margaret anticipated advanced studies. To explore career paths, she worked three years as a litigation analyst for a large law firm. That experience pointed Margaret to law school with the intention of an eventual job prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases. Exposed to these cases, she learned they involved a mix of social work, investigation, counseling and law.

That reality – combined with the need to earn a living – set the law school graduate on a different course. She worked for a small firm for almost four years and then transitioned to a larger firm as an environmental lawyer. At both firms, Margaret was able to do pro bono work to represent the interests of minors.

A web of connections

Early in 2017, her head and heart signaled something was missing. “I felt a pull,” Margaret says, “so I listened and prayed for direction with my career.” In October 2017, the week of a landmark birthday, Margaret had her first interview for a promising and appealing job. In November, she began the brand new position as director of pro bono services for Husch Blackwell,

Margaret Richards tends to listen to both her head and her heart; she knows when things “fit” and are right for her life. With this mindset, she has made lasting friendships and commitments that span years across her relatively young life.

Born in Chicago and raised in Montana, the SCL Associate has primarily made her home in the Kansas City area since graduating from the University of Saint Mary (USM), Leavenworth, Kan., in 2000. The exception was three years at Thomas M. Cooley Law School,

Lansing, Mich., where she earned her law degree.

Attending a college in northeastern Kansas was not on Margaret’s radar as a high school senior. However, while touring colleges she and her mom visited a family friend at USM. Unbeknownst to Margaret, the friend arranged a tour of the campus by George Steger, political science professor/departments chair. George’s convincing sales pitch and the “home away from home” feel of the campus sealed the deal.

To fulfill her USM community service requirement, Margaret looked for an opportunity outside the norm. At the time, she became the only student volunteering for

Photos below: As a member of the board of Friends of St. Anne's, Margaret Richards has travelled to Kenya to visit the school and experience the culture.

a firm based in Kansas City with 700 lawyers in 18 offices across multiple states. Margaret connects attorneys with pro bono activities. Consistent with the firm's ideals, she matches lawyers to people with needs. "I get to do what I'm passionate about," she sums up.

That same passion has kept Margaret engaged with the Bethany Prison Ministry group that goes inside the state penitentiary for weekly faith sharing with inmates. "We see the good in these men and discuss ways to grow our faith," she explains. Margaret considers the Bethany volunteers a strong spiritual support group and akin to being her local family. "These weekly gatherings are a chance to grow spiritually, give

back to our community, and break bread among 'family,'" she adds.

The Bethany group introduced Margaret to the SCL Associate program. SCL Bethany volunteers served as sponsors for Margaret and for Dan Dakotas and Ruth Schukman-Dakotas during their Come and See year. The SCLs included Sisters Nancy Bauman, Marie Brinkman, Mary Arthel Cline, Rose Dolores Hoffelmeyer and Gloria Solomon.

Margaret views being an Associate as a way to connect at a deeper level with the Sisters and other Associates. "We can support the Sisters in their ministry and mission, and at the same time learn from them and one another," she adds.

Her SCL Associate connection also introduced Margaret to St. Anne's Girls' High School in Kapkemiah, Kenya, an initiative in which Dan and Ruth are very involved. Margaret has travelled to Kenya and serves on the Friends of St. Anne's Board. In addition, she's a member of the American Lung Association local board. Her family – her mother, four brothers and spouses, nieces and nephews – remains very important to her as do her six godchildren. In her spare time, Margaret participates in triathlons and enjoys concerts and traveling.

With a lifetime ahead of her, she is on the road to set the world ablaze with charity.





Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

Giving *Louise* her due

The international observance of the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian charism in 2017 centered around pivotal events in the life and faith of St. Vincent de Paul that defined his ministry and that of his followers from 17th century France to the present day. Many might argue that equally important in the grand scheme of Divine Providence was the meeting of Vincent and Louise de Marillac in late 1624 or early 1625.



St. Louise de Marillac

Different personalities; unified mission

Vincent was asked to be Louise's spiritual director. This was not a match of like spirits. Vincent came from peasant stock. Louise was from a wealthy noble family, the widow of a man with an important position in the queen's court, and the mother of a 12-year-old son. She had experienced personal pain, loss and depression. Vincent was busy with the Congregation of the Mission

(priests) and other groups he had founded. In addition, he was spiritual director for other women and was not eager to assume guidance of another, potentially high-maintenance personality.

In the end, "Louise accepted being directed by Vincent, this priest so filled with good sense and so close to God and the poor. And Vincent accepted this anxious, worried woman and would help free her from her anguish and find peace

in God."¹ In spite of their differences, their love of God and commitment to serve the poor unified in their mission of charity.

Tapping into Louise's organizational skills, Vincent entrusted her with the management and coordination of the Confraternities of Charity he had begun in 1617. These were groups of women organized in parishes to meet the needs of the poor. Over time, Vincent relied on Louise more and



Louise was an efficient worker and an independent thinker; she had a missionary's zeal for going into the small villages and city streets; and she instilled confidence and aroused enthusiasm.

more, including for interactions with the Ladies of Charity, wealthy women who supported charitable works. Louise was an efficient worker and an independent thinker; she had a missionary's zeal for going into the small villages and city streets; and she instilled confidence and aroused enthusiasm. Vincent was the visionary and more intuitive, not prone to rush into things.

Start of a new community

When the Confraternities spread to Paris, direct service of the poor did not fit the lifestyle of the Ladies of Charity. In 1633, Louise began to take uneducated, country girls into her own home to provide this outreach to the streets of Paris. A community began to form, and Louise provided the spiritual, professional and social training.

She also began to realize the promises of the "Pentecost" prayer experience from a few years prior in

her life. At that time, she felt assured by God that in the future she would get a new spiritual director, and she would live in a community where there was much coming and going. As the new community developed, Louise was eager to formalize this group around rules and a charitable mission.

However, this idea of a totally new community without a cloister or monastery was a radical concept for the Church in 17th century France. Because he had seen other such plans squelched, Vincent encouraged Louise not to run ahead of Providence.

Louise professed vows in 1635 followed by other women in the growing community in 1642. For 22 years, Louise persisted in convincing Vincent of the need for this new form of vowed religious life. He was not against the idea but rather was concerned about the timing. The Church approved and

ratified the rules of the Daughters of Charity in 1655. Their motto was "The love of Jesus Christ crucified urges us on." Daughters of Charity and Sisters of Charity in the United States trace their roots to these beginnings.

A rich partnership

In their final years, neither Vincent nor Louise was able to walk. They lived in houses across the street from each other and wrote letters back and forth. The eventual translation of this and other correspondence revealed the richness of Louise's life and the partnership she had shared with Vincent. Louise died in 1660 a few months before Vincent.

Louise and Vincent were friends and collaborators for 35 years. Together, they were of "incalculable significance for the Church, for the poor and for their own personal growth in holiness."²

¹ "A Woman Named Louise: 1591-1633," Kieran Kneaves, DC; *Vincentian Heritage Journal*, Volume 12, Issue 2, Article 3.

² "The Hands of Providence: Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, and Feminine Charitable Activity in France, 1617-1660," Louise Sullivan, DC; *Vincentian Heritage Journal*, Volume 14, Number 1.

Article based on interview and materials provided by Sisters Noreen Walter and Kathleen Wood, SCLs.



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