

V O I C E S

A quarterly publication of the
SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF LEAVENWORTH

of Charity

SUMMER 2008



*Painting memorializes
arrival in Leavenworth*

COVER STORY . . . PAGE 14

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SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH
2004 - 2010 DIRECTION STATEMENT

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

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

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

with one another

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

between leadership and membership

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

with the Church

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

with the global community

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

with the earth

by embracing our need for full communion with all creation.

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

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



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COVER PHOTO: Sister Loretto Marie Colwell (right) and Sister Rita Smith (center), two of this year's Golden Jubilarians, with Ernst Ulmer, artist who memorialized the founding sisters' arrival in Leavenworth with his painting, "The Landing."

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OF LEAVENWORTH

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from the Community Director



Sister Joan Sue Miller

Jubilees inside our Year of Jubilee give us pause to celebrate the lives and ministries of individual Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. At this time of year, we honor six Golden Jubilarians whose stories appear in the pages that follow.

We recognize two other beloved sisters – Sisters Frances Cecilia and Jeanne Marie – who are marking 75 years of dedicated service as SCLs. We celebrate others sisters who are observing anniversaries of 25, 60 and 70 years.

These sisters have seen and experienced dramatic changes in our Church, in the world and in our own Community. Their faith, hope and spirit of charity have survived the tests of time and the challenges that come with tumultuous change. As Sister Marie Helen acknowledged in her homily at the observance recognizing Mother House jubilarians, these sisters have helped us live our vows, reminding us that “the beginning and end of our coming together as Sisters of Charity is our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his Church has called us now, in these days, to worship the Father with our whole lives.”

That statement from our SCL Constitution encompasses a sense of past, present and future – all centered in Jesus Christ. Key phrases in the statement reflect a continuum of time. “The beginning” keeps us mindful of our roots and baptismal origins. “Calls us now, in these days” encourages us to live and witness in the present moment. The “end of our coming together” points us to the purpose for which we minister and the future yet to unfold.

Ours is a continuing Jubilee journey. We mark anniversaries of 25, 50, 75, 150 years on the calendar. We celebrate calls to consecrated life; to ministries of education, health care, pastoral care and social service; to “come North” to Kansas; to serve God’s people, with special love for those who are poor; and to be women of faith and hope, and especially to be Sisters of Charity.

From founding to future, we celebrate Jubilee and Jubilees with great gratitude and boundless joy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sister Joan Sue Miller".

Sister Joan Sue Miller
Community Director

The six Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth marking their Golden Jubilees this summer share a spirit of gratitude and joy for their vocations and the people – family, friends and other SCLs – who have supported them through the years. Their ministries have been varied.

The colorful and joy-filled ribbon of God's many blessings runs through their lives and their stories.

Congratulations to them and blessings in abundance for years to come.

Celebration of Charity

Sister Loretto Marie Colwell

I was born in Kansas City, Mo., the youngest of five children of George and Catherine Colwell. Our years were centered in activities of St. Therese, Little Flower Parish. Vacations to the Ozarks were special for us. The Colwell home was a gathering place for our friends, and sports were a major emphasis in our lives.



I met the SCLs at Hogan High. Our class was the first integrated class. The sisters achieved this with the support of the students.

It was at Saint Mary College, in 1956, that I began to develop a deeper appreciation of the sisters. The second semester of my sophomore year, I began to question the path my life would follow.

When I shared this call with my parents, they commented that my siblings had gone through "this phase" in their lives. However, when my mother saw me filling out the application during Easter break, she went to the phone to call dad to say, "She really means it; she intends to enter the convent."

The day I received the letter of acceptance to enter the Community, in fall 1958, brought an inner peace I cannot adequately express.

We were the first junior formation group where we continued our education. I began to realize that I might be assigned to teaching in August 1961. I admire this profession more than any other, but I knew it wasn't for me. I spoke with Sister Mary Camilla Montgomery, our director. I explained that I couldn't see myself as a teacher. With her wonderful dry wit, sister responded, "Neither can we." Sister relieved my anxiety in an instant. I didn't ask any more questions but waited to see what the mission would be.

My first mission in 1961 was at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Denver, Colo., as a business office trainee. Three office sisters taught me everything I could absorb. In 1963, I was sent to Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, Calif., and was there for 19 years. I had various management positions: payroll, admitting, business office, Administrative Council and finally, the new Ambulatory Care Center. I also completed my degree in business administration from Saint Mary College.

During these years, Sister Cornelia Donnelly and sister administrators were teaching me aspects of administration from medical staff committees to the details of construction. In 1982, I began studies for a master of health care administration degree at St. Louis University. On completion, I was sent to St. James Community Hospital in Butte, Mont., as a vice president. In 1985, I was appointed the acting president and then president of the

hospital. During this mission, I also became a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Having lived in metropolitan cities all of my life, I found Butte charming and the people very genuine. It was a joy to see the beautiful mountain ranges up close on a daily basis.

In 1991, I was appointed president/CEO of St Francis Health Center in Topeka, Kan. I had this privilege for about 15 years. The last six years, I was the only SCL in the health center. I wanted to ensure that the SCL spirituality continued into the future. Some directors agreed to formulate how to keep a spiritual focus. Through their efforts, the health center was awarded the international Spirit at Work award.

A cherished memory of my years in health care is the dedication of the sisters. Their fine example spread the Good News without always using words, always tending to mind, body, spirit and the financial needs of the poor. Bless them for what they have given to me and others.

Starting a new career, I was led to Seton Center. The center provides food, clothing, dental services and an alternative high school for the most deprived neighborhood in Kansas City, Mo. Our clients bless us by their presence and remind us daily of the opportunities we have to reach out to God's poor.

I have been graced beyond measure by my family members, my SCL sisters and those with whom I have been privileged to work these past 50 years. I enthusiastically look forward to each new day of service.

Sister Marjorie Feuerborn

On April 16, 1940 at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo., Blanche and Arnold Feuerborn welcomed a baby girl into the world. This was my first introduction to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth who ran the hospital, but it would not be my last.

My family had been connected with the SCLs since 1917 when my mother's sister entered the Community and became Sister Genevieve Tebedo. My family connection continued as I grew up and started school at St. Joseph's School in Grand Junction. Then



when I was a teenager, my father's sister entered the Community and became Sister Mary Nadine Feuerborn. Three years after my birth, my brother Bill was born, and two years later, my brother Clarence came into the world. My family was involved with many of the activities of St. Joseph's parish and school. Attending church services was always a part of our life as my brothers and I grew up.

From the time I was in second grade, in the back of my mind was the thought that I wanted to be a sister. So in 1958, when I was a senior at Grand Junction High School, I applied and was accepted into the novitiate. Sister Laurentia Sullivan told me that no one thought I'd last six months!

Fifty years later, here I am.

Entering during the 100th anniversary year of the Community was an experience not to be forgotten. We worked hard for all the big celebrations at the Mother House and rang the chapel bells many times during that year.

I have been an elementary school teacher since 1960. I have taught every grade from second to eighth, in Montana, Colorado, Missouri, Illinois and Wyoming. I am back in Grand Junction for the third time teaching seventh and eighth grade religion.

I enjoy sports as a spectator, and I am a Broncos, Rockies and Nuggets fan. Other things I enjoy are decorating the house, reading mysteries, singing in the church choir and doing cryptograms and puzzles.

Being an SCL has meant that I have had the opportunity to serve students with the support of the SCL Community. It has given me the chance to develop my prayer life and to pass the faith and teachings of the Church to future leaders of our Church.

When I count my blessings, I start with the wonderful parents that God gave me who passed on to me their faith and love for God. My vocation to the religious life and the ability to pass the faith on to students are also among my blessings. The support of members of the Community has also blessed my life.

There were times when I wasn't sure I'd make it to this celebration. But with the grace of God, six months have turned into 50 years.

As I look back over these 50 years of religious life, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for all the blessings I have received. ■

—Sister Ann McGuire

Sister Ann McGuire

On a cold and snowy Jan. 2, 1939, I was born at Saint Mary's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., to Alexander Felix (Phil) and Kathleen Schorgl McGuire and became their seventh and last child. Our family was living in Lee's Summit, Mo., at the time of my birth, and I was declared the "New Year's Baby" for 1939 in Lee's Summit. I was baptized on Jan. 15 at Saint Mary's Church in Lee's Summit. The story is told that Father Hagedorn had to heat the holy water before my baptism.



My parents named me Margaret Ann, and I joined my four brothers and two sisters in our rambunctious and happy home. All of us are named after relatives and so continues the history of the McGuire, Schorgl, O'Neil and O'Boyle clans. My brothers and sisters in the order of their birth are James Daniel, Mary Therese, Jane Catherine, Alexander Felix (Phil), Thomas Francis and Louis Joseph. We were blessed.

My father was in the construction business, and so he and my mother and each succeeding child moved quite frequently during the 1930s. By the time I was born, the decision had been made to settle permanently in Kansas City to be close to family. We moved to Kansas City and lived in Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish for several years. We then moved to St. Elizabeth's Parish, and this was where we settled.

In April 1944, my father died of a massive heart attack while on business in Tulsa, Okla. My mother then faced the daunting task of raising the seven of us who ranged in

age from 15 to 5. My mom was a fearless woman and my best and truest advocate. She relied on her deep faith, her indomitable spirit and her strict discipline to see her through those tumultuous years. My mom weathered many storms and received many blessings throughout her life. She died in 1982 at the age of 85.

I attended St. Elizabeth's Elementary School along with three of my brothers. School was not my favorite endeavor and didn't make much sense to me at the time. I went because I had to and because of the after school sports programs. The Sisters of St. Joseph were excellent teachers and were very kind to this mediocre student, and I endured. I graduated from elementary school in 1952 and headed for Bishop Hogan High School where I first met the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, and I was blessed. I did not become a good student immediately, but the love and encouragement of the sisters made school more enjoyable and understandable. Sister Mary Beth Kelly was an inspiration and encouraged me in my educational pursuits. She was a phenomenal witness to the Mission of our Community. I graduated from Bishop Hogan in 1956 and immediately went to work as an office assistant at my uncle's grocery store and then as a secretary at a life insurance company.

Religious vocations were encouraged and promoted in my family, and I felt a strong call to enter the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. On Feb. 15, 1959, I entered the novitiate along with five other young women and in August received the habit and the religious name of Sister Kathleen Therese. Following first vows in 1961, I was missioned to the juniorate and attended Saint Mary College full-time.

Early in 1962, I was missioned to Laramie, Wyo., to begin my teaching career and remained there until 1965. My teaching ministry then took me to Helena, Mont.; Joplin, Mo.; Kansas City, Kan.; Chicago, Ill.; and Kansas City, Mo. During the summers, I attended Saint Mary College and then the University of Dayton where I received a master's degree in administration.

Somewhere along the way, I had finally figured out what education was all about and loved it! In 1974, I was missioned to Grand Junction, Colo., as principal of St. Joseph School and with Sister Katherine Franchett worked to unify Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Joseph Schools. Holy Family School was created, and I was privileged to serve as principal until 1984 with a dedicated and fun-loving faculty. For a brief period of time, I worked in prison ministry in Lansing, Kan., and then joined the faculty at Xavier Elementary in Leavenworth. After a year of teaching eighth graders, I became the administrator of Xavier and remained in that position until 1993. In 1991, I received an advanced educational specialization degree from Boston College.

After being in our educational ministry for 31 years, I felt the call to serve the poor more directly and so moved into the health care ministry as the administrator of Caritas Clinics and served in that position until 2005. Presently I am serving as the plant manager for Our Lady & Saint Rose, Blessed Sacrament and Christ the King Parishes in Wyandotte County, Kan. I consider myself blessed!

As I look back over these 50 years of religious life, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for all the blessings I have received. I am blessed by God's unconditional and enduring love. I am blessed by my family, my brothers and sisters and their spouses, my nieces and nephews and their spouses, and my great nieces and nephews who have loved and encouraged me and who now number over 90 members. I am blessed by my Community because of the support, love and trust I have received throughout the years. I am blessed by my friends who truly know me – and love me anyway. I am truly blessed!

Sister Mary Julianne O'Flannigan

I am the oldest of seven born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Flannigan. We grew up in a city that no longer had a Catholic school. There had been one and also a Catholic hospital there before the American Protective Association (APA) got violent in the late 1890s, and Catholics were their main target.

The sisters left Laramie, Wyo., then, and it was several years later that they returned to their very active role in the parish. The school is still operating, but there are no longer any sisters there because of the sister shortage. Hopefully, they will return.

As I was growing up, the only class in religion we had was one that met for one hour on Saturday mornings and was taught by one of the ladies in the parish.

Our mother had three sisters who were Sisters of Mercy in St. Louis. We visited them frequently. (Dad worked for the railroad, and we had passes.) In later years, these sisters came West to visit us. Those were the main contacts with religion we had until we had the opportunity to go away to school.

During my high school years, I was fortunate to win a scholarship to an academy in Boulder, Colo. In 1940, I graduated from Mount St. Gertrude Academy.

During my senior year at school, I thought about being a sister, but it was several years later that I applied to be a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth. All four of the daughters in our family attended Saint Mary College, and it was there that we decided to serve Christ more fully. The three older ones joined the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Pat, the youngest, felt there were enough O'Flannigans in this order, and she applied to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in St. Louis, Mo. She is now missioned in Memphis, Tenn.



Since my profession, I have taught at Bishop Ward High School, Kansas City, Kan.; St. Pius X, Kansas City, Mo.; Hayden, Topeka, Kan.; and Butte Central, Butte, Mont. I had my master's degree in business education from the University of Wyoming, so business courses became my teaching schedule along with a course in religion.

Eventually, my skills were used in being secretary to Sister Macrina Ryan, president of our Health Services Corporation. I was also secretary to Sister Marie Damian Glatt for a short time when she assumed the president's role after Sister Macrina retired. Later, I worked for Sister Mary Julie Casey, SCL treasurer. When she retired, I continued working for her successor, Sister Katherine Franchett, until my own retirement.

I am most grateful to my parents for the love of God and his Church that they instilled in our lives. As I look back, they were truly exemplary Catholic parents. God took five of their offspring for his service – four sisters and one priest.

The older I grow, the more I appreciate the parents we had. They believed in a very good time, but God and his Church were paramount in their thinking. That carried over to us as we grew older. I can say wholeheartedly, "Thank you, dear God, for the home and family you gave us!"

Sister Rita Smith

My parents, James and Sarah Ann Smith, were immigrants to this country, my father coming from the south of Ireland and my mother, the north. They both were in their mid-20s when they entered the United States through Ellis Island, and soon arrived in Kansas City, Mo. It would be 10 years later before they met and married.



There were four children in our family. My brother Jim (deceased) was two years older than the rest of us. I was born a triplet. We were fraternal triplets, two girls and a boy: Rita Ann, Rosemary (me) and John Francis. My brother John Francis died two days after birth due to breathing complications, so Rita and I were raised as twins. We referred to ourselves as twins, but my mother constantly reminded us that we were triplets. Both sets of our grandparents were deceased before we were born. With the exception of one aunt, who came from Ireland to live with us, we only met our aunts, uncles and cousins once in our lifetime. Thus I grew up in a small close-knit family.

The strong Christian values of our parents, our Catholic faith and much family prayer were extremely important in

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—Sister Rita Smith

our lives. Almost all of our “extra-curricular” activities revolved around our parish church, the Catholic school, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and our family. As a child I was exposed to so many lessons: ball teams, piano and, can you believe it, tap dancing! We made trips to Kansas City’s Nelson Art Gallery and, of course, to Irish cultural events. My parents wanted us to have opportunities which had not been available to them.

I began my elementary education at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Kansas City, Mo., and was taught by the Sisters of Loretto. Three years later, we moved to St. Francis Xavier Parish, and it was there that I met the Sisters of Charity, BVM, for the first time. I first met the SCLs when I entered Bishop Hogan High School in the fall of 1954 where I encountered wonderfully warm, caring, fun-filled sisters. They were excellent educators. A sister I owe a lot to, who taught me biology and art, was Sister Mary Ernest Marsh. She was strongly influential in my life and of great encouragement to me in my pursuit of art. I loved her classes and appreciated her friendship.

I continued to have a desire to pursue the study of art and so, following high school graduation, I enrolled at Saint Teresa’s College (Avila) and was exposed to an outstanding art professor, Sister Margaret Reinhart, CSJ. She had just returned from the study of the art of making frescoes in Siena. She was a great mentor, and I loved learning the art of making frescoes from her.

I had been influenced by the Sisters of Loretto, BVMS, SCLs, CSJs, and I had two aunts in Ireland who were sisters: Sister Mary Rita, RSM, and Sister Mary Hilarion, SN. I made the decision to enter our Community in the fall of 1958, after much discernment with the grace of God and my family’s encouragement. I spent three years in formation. It was during that time that I was privileged to have Sister Mary Camilla Montgomery as a director of much of my religious formation and pre-final vow years. I continue to be deeply grateful for her day-to-day example of living out what she believed a true SCL should be. Some 33 years later, when I came to live at the Mother House, we lived across from each other and shared many formation memories. I think about her often. What a great SCL she was!

I was privileged to spend 32 years in the education ministry, four in elementary schools and 28 years of teaching and administration in high schools: St. Pius X, Bishop Hogan and Bishop Ward in the Kansas City area and Immaculata in Leavenworth. I learned and experienced a lot during those early years. After approximately 24 years in education, I took a year off and entered the Boston College sabbatical program. It was a year filled with new opportunities, exposure to some well-known international speakers, theologians and memorable moments. I felt fortunate that year to be in a small prayer group with Dom Sebastian Moore, OSB, from Downside Abbey. That sabbatical year brought new energy to my life, and I thus returned to secondary education and eight years on the staff of Immaculata High School.

During my teaching years, I spent one of my memorable and fun-filled summers at the University of Wyoming. My assignment for eight weeks was to take and develop black and white pictures for a photography class and to draw and paint in watercolor for a composition class. Sisters Mary Pat Lenahan and Noel Nusbaum also were in the photography class. We spent that summer running around the Medicine Bow Range, taking what we thought were prize-winning photos and then developing them. What fun!

I received my master of science degree in secondary administration from Creighton University. The following summer, I went to El Pomar in Colorado Springs to make a 30-day retreat. That was truly a “grace-filled” time for me. I continue to be grateful to all who were instrumental in making that summer of prayer a reality.

My ministry for the last 10 years has been at our Mother House, in housekeeping, maintenance and administration. In the past years, I have witnessed many changes and have felt privileged to daily live, work, minister to, and be a part of so many sisters’ lives. I am grateful for the love, encouragement and support of my parents, family and all the Sisters of Charity. I would be remiss if I did not thank my twin sister, Rita, whose name I took in religion. She has been there for me my entire life. “What the heart has once known, it shall never forget.”

Sister Patricia Toeckes

I first met the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth through summer vacation Bible school. The sisters came from Billings, Helena and Butte to Power, Mont., the town northwest of Great Falls where I was born, raised and attended 12 years of public school. I was one of seven children, born to the late Anthony and Dorothy (Nellis) Toeckes. Three of my brothers and one sister are still living and continue to reside in the Power area.



I remember Sister Mary Jane Schmitz as one of my summer teachers, and Sister Maria Edwards who was very instrumental in encouraging me to join the SCLs. I entered the Community right out of high school.

For 19 years, I was in the classroom, teaching the primary grades. One year, I taught first, second and third all at the same time! My missions were mainly in Montana – Billings and Livingston – except for two years I taught in Excelsior Springs, Mo., and one year at Immaculate Heart in Kansas City, Mo.

I eventually earned my bachelor's degree in elementary education through Saint Mary's, although I held out from taking education courses as long as I could. I figured that experience was the best teacher.

As a teacher, I found myself getting more and more involved in parish and pastoral work. I enjoyed this and wanted to move into this new ministry opportunity. I left teaching and spent a year assisting with helping start the Ancilla Center day care program in Leavenworth until I received permission to pursue additional studies.

In 1981, I began working on my master's degree at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. At the time, Catholic universities were not awarding master of divinity degrees to women. I was in a master's of theological studies program. I spent two full years at St. John's – the first and the last years of my studies – and summers in between, graduating in 1988.

Pastoral ministry was a new field for sisters at the time. My first parish assignment in 1982 was Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Poplar, Mont. From there, I went to St. Mary's Parish, Livingston, and then to Holy Rosary Parish, Bozeman, where I served as assistant pastoral minister for seven years.

In 2002, I received my current assignment as pastoral administrator – appointed by the bishop to Our Lady of the Pines, West Yellowstone, and St. Joseph, Big Sky. I love what I do and the people with whom I work and to whom I minister. I *am* the staff for the two parishes where I do sacramental preparation; arrange for baptisms, weddings and First Communions; serve as bookkeeper; and do maintenance

and whatever else needs to be done. I live and work out of two residences that are 50 miles apart. In my spare time, I do what native Montanans enjoy doing: hiking, camping, cross-country skiing and fishing.

I keep connected with my SCL Community having lunch and getting together with the sisters in Montana. There are 10 sisters at the Mother House who pray for me and my ministry, and I have a special connection with them through these prayers and letters. They keep me informed about everything that is posted on bulletin boards in the Mother House!

Fifty years as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth – I have no regrets. I love it!

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—Sister Patricia Toeckes

Founding to Future

Jubilee Celebration responsive to SCL requests

A spirit of gratitude, time for reflection and socializing, prayer and liturgy, looking to the past and anticipating the future – all will be part of the upcoming July 4-6 Jubilee Grand Celebration as approximately 360 SCL/As, former sisters and guests from the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth gather in Leavenworth.

Harkening to feedback from the survey that preceded planning for the Year of Jubilee, the coordinating committee has honored wishes expressed by SCLs. “In particular,” said Sister Rita McGinnis, one of the co-chairs of the SCL 150th Jubilee Committee, “we have remembered requests that we keep the celebration simple, share one another’s talents and leave ample time for visiting.”

A few last minute changes to the tentative schedule published in the Spring 2008 *Voices of Charity* have freed up more time for visiting and viewing the arts, crafts and local celebration materials that will be on display. “We left the early part of Saturday afternoon more open,” said Sister Melissa Camardo, co-chair of the planning committee. “This will give people the opportunity to visit exhibits, connect with friends or rest and relax.”

Featured speaker for the celebration will be Sister Regina Bechtle, a Sister of Charity of New York. Sister Regina will speak and interact with the gathering both Saturday and Sunday mornings. On Saturday afternoon, the SCL Social Justice Executive Committee will facilitate a session on Jubilee Justice.

Father Ed Hays, priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and brother of deceased SCL Sister Jane Hays, will offer the Sunday, July 6 Jubilee liturgy. Sister Susan Wood will give the homily.

SCL 150th Jubilee Grand Celebration

SCHEDULE – July 4-6, 2008

FRIDAY, JULY 4

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Registration SCL photos SCL updating wills	Ryan Center
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Art, crafts and local displays	See July 5, 1:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	Gathering to remember Procession to Chapel	Mt. Olivet Cemetery
5:00 p.m.	Welcome, prayer	Annunciation Chapel
5:30 p.m.	Supper	Dining facilities
7:00 p.m.	Entertainment, ice cream social	St. Joseph Dining Hall

SATURDAY, JULY 5

7:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Dining facilities
8:00 a.m.	Mass	Ross Chapel
9:00 a.m. - noon	Morning prayer Featured speaker Group discussion	Ryan Center
Noon	Lunch	Dining facilities
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Art gallery Local celebrations' display Market place	Fatima Parlor O'Shea Conference Center Berchmans ground floor
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Presentation on Irish SCLs by Sister Mary Lenore Martin	Ross Chapel
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Jubilee Justice	Ryan Center
5:30 p.m.	Celebration dinner	Dining facilities
7:30 p.m.	Piano Extravaganza Monster Concert followed by refreshments	Ryan Center Berchmans ground floor

SUNDAY, JULY 6

7:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Dining facilities
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Featured speaker with responders	Ryan Center
11:00 a.m.	Liturgy, sending forth	Annunciation Chapel
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Dining facilities

The July 4-6 Grand Celebration will showcase the talents of SCL/As and photos and items from local celebrations. Displays are being coordinated by Sisters Ann Barton and Pam Hinkle. The displays will be open for viewing on Friday, July 4, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday, July 5, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Available times will be posted near the Student Union in Berchmans.

Talents, local celebrations on display in Leavenworth

Art Gallery – Fatima Parlor

Artists and their media on display will include:

Sister Rita Anderson

Paintings

Drew Bodner, SCLA

Watercolor and oil paintings

Sister Joy Duff

Paintings

Sister Carmen Echevarria

Watercolors

Sister Kevin Marie Flynn

Banners

Sister LaVonne Guidoni

(submitted by Sister Roberta Furey)

Paintings

Sister Frances Marie Grady

Watercolors

Sister Bernadette Helfert

Photography

Sister Pam Hinkle

Sculpture

Sister Virginia Jakobe

Photography

Sister Sue Miller

Icons

Sister Marie Michael Mollis

Paintings

Sister Mary O'Rourke

Sculpture

Market Place – Berchmans Ground Floor

Items will be on display and/or for sale.

Sister Rita Anderson

Watercolors

Sister Mary Loretta Beier

Birth of a Church,
book by Joseph Nangle, OFM

Drew Bodner, SCLA

Montana stationery cards;
original paintings

Sister Noel Bruch

Bird houses

Sister Mary Joan Eble

Cards

Sister Carmen Echevarria

Paintings

Christine Eitemiller, SCLA

CD of her recorded music

Sister Peg Finch

Photography cards

Sister Kathleen Marie Henscheid

Baby food jar Christmas tree

Sister Eileen Hurley

Notecards

Sister Patricia Johannsen

Stitchery

Sister Peg Johnson

Quilts, SCL coloring books

Sister Dominique Long

CDs of her recorded music

Sister Mary Jo McDonald

Photography

Sister Mary Vincentia Maronick

Africa angel dolls
to benefit AIDspirit

Peruvian HCLs

Creative t-shirts

Local Celebrations Highlighted – O'Shea Conference Center

Associates

Billings, Mont.

Bishop Ward High School,
Kansas City, Kan.

Denver, Colo.

Grand Junction, Colo.

Helena, Mont.

Kansas City Area

Leavenworth

(library display, pancake breakfast,
St. Patrick's Parade)

Mother House

Peru

Santa Monica, Calif.

Topeka, Kan.

University of Saint Mary

Two SCLs gift Community with their Jubilee music

Music and the arts – long an important part of the SCL heritage – will have a special place in the July 4-6 Grand Celebration in Leavenworth. Not only will participants sing the new song written for the Jubilee by Bob Hurd, they will also learn and sing three new songs composed by two talented SCL musicians.

For the first time in their music ministries, Sisters Dominique Long and Gloria Solomon have collaborated to produce a composition titled, “Dancing Jubilee.” Sister Dominique wrote the lyrics; Sister Gloria, the music. Sister Dominique explained that the verses of the song give thanks and glory to God and bless and rejoice in Jubilee.

“This is very much a jubilant song of celebration,” Sister Gloria said. “Sister Dominique accomplished that spirit with the lyrics, and I tried to convey that musically.”

Prior to last year’s Jubilee launch, Sister Gloria had composed “From Founding to Future.” She described this as a bilingual mantra or refrain that captures the Jubilee theme. This

piece will be incorporated into the Jubilee liturgy and prayer.

Likewise, the Jubilee celebration will premiere another new song – this one by Sister Dominique – “The Lights of the City.” In the words of this song, Sister Dominique used images of lights of the city of God to invite renewal of life in the Spirit and compassion for others.

The two SCLs are also collaborating on production of a CD of music by other SCLs both living and deceased as performed by current Community musicians. “This is a wonderful way to celebrate the legacy of music,” Sister Dominique said, “that has been part of us since the beginning. It also enhances our Mission when sisters can celebrate their gifts by sharing.”

Sister Dominique lives in Livingston, Mont., where she composes music and assists with parish music ministry for children, adults and funeral services.



Sister Dominique Long



Sister Gloria Solomon

She also gives retreats. Sister Dominique has taught at high school and college levels and worked with a Jesuit ministry training program geared for spiritual direction and spirituality and the arts.

Music has been Sister Gloria’s life ministry – first as a teacher in grade school and high school. She transitioned to parish music ministry starting in Evergreen, Colo., and then in Kansas City, Mo., where she continues to reside. Sister Gloria is also involved with prison ministry.

Jubilee Sampler 2008 features SCL/A poetry

Drawing from past and
current poetic talents,

Sisters Marie Carmel Dunning
and Susan Rieke have compiled
Jubilee Sampler 2008.

The two SCLs edited the publication; Sister Ann Barton did the cover design; and Darby O’Neill, graduate assistant at the University of Saint Mary, designed the booklet.

Sister Marie Carmel’s “Ram’s Horn Speaks,” featured in Blessings! ¡Bendiciones! of this edition of *Voices of Charity*, introduces the sampling of poetry from across the country and across the SCL tradition. There is an entry by Mother Xavier Ross. The famed “Faria, Faria, Faria, Ho” by Sister Mary Ernestine Whitmore appears. There are 51 entries by 32 poets.

Copies have been distributed to SCL houses and will be available at the July 4-6 Jubilee celebration in Leavenworth or by contacting Sister Susan at riekess@stmary.edu.

Painting memorializes SCL landing

Ernst Ulmer's "The Landing" of the Sisters of Charity in Leavenworth is a familiar print in SCL houses and institutions. It depicts the arrival of the founding sisters with their trunks as they disembarked the boat on the Missouri River.

Donald Biggs, who was president of Mutual Savings Association of Leavenworth, commissioned Ernst to paint "The Landing" in the late 1980s. Don recalled, "It seemed like the perfect thing to do!"

Mutual Savings had just opened its new office at Leavenworth Plaza on property a developer had acquired much earlier (in 1966) from the SCLs. That and the fact that there had never been an artistic interpretation of the landing led Don to contact Ernst.

"He left the rest up to me," the artist recalled. "His only instruction was that it needed to look realistic."

To accomplish his goal, Ernst read about the sisters and the early years of their history. He knew they had arrived in pioneer territory and that the river was the highway of the day. He imagined that the weather wasn't great, given that it was November.

Ernst did one other thing. He had seen a photograph in a book on Leavenworth, and he followed the photo to Olive Street (presumably near where the SCLs have a house today). "I looked over the river bank, saw weeds and the muddy water," he recalled.

With that background and taking some artistic license, Ernst painted "The Landing." The setting was most likely situated a few blocks north of Olive Street in the vicinity of Leavenworth's current Riverfront Community Center, the former train station.



Ernst and Mary Ulmer visited with Sister Mary Bridget Mullen (right) who knew the family from her Kansas City, Kan., teaching experiences.

In addition to his research, Ernst had personal familiarity with the SCLs. His children had attended Cathedral Grade School and Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, Kan. Ernst said that he had always been around the sisters.

The painting was unveiled on Feb. 28, 1988. Mutual Savings commissioned 500 signed prints that have since spread far and wide where SCLs serve.

Originally from Kansas City, Kan., Ernst attended the Kansas City Art Institute in 1946 after returning from military service as a Navy aviation machinist. Art came easy to him. It was in high school that Ernst realized "this is my life's work." He went on to receive a master of fine arts degree working through the University of Iowa and the University of Missouri.

Ernst's first job was with General Motors in Kansas City, Kan., as an

illustrator for tool design. Then for over 20 years, he did architectural renderings. Always, during this time, he was doing fine art.

An artistic opportunity in Colby, Kan., opened the door for him, and one artistic project led to another. In the meantime, Ernst and his wife Mary (Malloy) had their family of four and built their home and his studio in Bonner Springs. Mary has remained his sales force of one. "I owe her a lot of success," Ernst said.

Today at age 86, Ernst continues to be productive with different media and different subject matter. He attributes 90 percent of what he does to his mental approach. A trip to his home gallery, however, leads an awe-struck observer to believe that another 190 percent is pure artistic talent!

SCL 150TH JUBILEE NEWS NOTES

A busy year of Jubilee in Grand Junction

St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center, Marillac Clinic, and sisters and associates in Grand Junction, Colo., have actively, energetically and creatively planned and hosted a variety of communications and events in observance of the SCL 150th Jubilee. These have included an Advent calendar, a Christmas door-decorating contest, bulletin boards and immersion experiences.

Sister Barbara Aldrich, vice president mission integration at St. Mary's, who has convened the steering committee, said that its purpose has been to "incorporate Jubilee into ongoing and natural happenings at St. Mary's and Marillac as well as plan special ways to lift up the significance and impact of the foundation of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth to our current lives."

Bob Ladenburger, St. Mary's president/CEO and an SCLA, said, "The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth have been part of the Grand Junction community for over 112 of their 150 years. As a result, their 'spirit' has touched the lives of many through both their education and health care ministries. The staff of St. Mary's is both proud and excited to share in this jubilee celebration."

Grand Junction launched the Jubilee Year in November 2007 with internal and external communications. That same month, the steering committee invited employees to submit photographs that exemplified the "in gratitude and joy" phrase of the 150th Jubilee theme. Instead of sending out Christmas cards, the hospital mailed out Advent calendars. An Auxiliary Christmas door-decorating contest evoked creative entries.

The hospital's senior leadership responded to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System's call for immersion experiences and chose to do this in groups. Five members of the team connected with Catholic Charities of the Western Slope and traveled to Glenwood Springs, Colo. They spent time in the food bank, emergency assistance center, the day program for the homeless and the Immigrant Committee advocacy program. The remainder of the leadership group will have an immersion with the homeless at Homeward Bound, the overnight shelter.

This spring, the Jubilee steering committee wrote a series of "Reflections Celebrating the 150th Jubilee." These include single page reflections with a story from SCL history, a brief commentary and an invitation to reflect. Topics include the spirit of conviction, of determination, of faithfulness and others. For a copy of the reflections, email Sister Barbara at barbara.aldrich@stmarygj.org.

There are also monthly Jubilee bulletin boards in all buildings.



Artistic talents were in abundance in the Auxiliary Christmas door-decorating contest at St. Mary's.

Jeopardy rules at the Mother House



Sister Juli Smith controlled the Jeopardy game board at the Mother House.

Jeopardy was the Jubilee game of the evening as Mother House SCLs gathered on May 6 to test their knowledge of history, quotations and people in the Community's heritage. Sister Juli Smith was the brain child behind the Jeopardy questions and game board; Sister Nancy Bauman was the game show host. There were spotters to monitor winning responders – a difficult task since friendly competition quickly prevailed. The evening began with a prayer service and concluded with refreshments.



Lively and spirited competition sparked the event as SCLs raised their paddles to try to score Jeopardy points. Sister Ann Lucia Apodaca was quick on the draw with questions.



The HCL Chalaco community: Hermanas Deidy Abad, Ruth Reischman, Laura Rumiche and Elena Mack.



Friends of the hermanas gathered for the celebration in Piura.

Hermanas celebrate Jubilee

Across miles and cultures, Hermanas de la Caridad (HCLs) have observed the SCL 150th Jubilee in the local areas of Peru where they have their houses.

"From our founding in the Vincentian charism to these times," the hermanas wrote, "we celebrate 150 years of our following of Jesus as the congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth." The HCL community of Santa Rosa, Piura, celebrated Mass with people from Santa Rosa and Santa Julia Parishes followed by a sharing of dance. During the past year, the hermanas also made presentations about the significance of the 150th Jubilee.

HCLs in Chuschi had a triduum with the community. Hermana Clorinda Timaná prayed the rosary with the group and reflected on the arrival of the hermanas in Chuschi. Hermana Lourdes Abad spoke about the first sisters coming to Peru. The congregation came together for Mass on Nov. 11, 2007.

In Chalaco and later in Yamango (another sector of the parish), people gathered for the Eucharist and heard the life of Mother Xavier Ross and the first sisters recounted in the homily. Following Masses, there was dancing, and artisans displayed their crafts.

The HCL Peruvian communities are planning additional Jubilee celebrations this year.



Señorita Iris Manucci, volunteer of the Center of St. Vincent de Paul, at the lectern in Piura.



The community of Santa Rosa, Piura: Hermana Esther Vilela; Roxana Nuñez, aspirant; Hermanas Susana Córdova, Liduvina Dominguez and Julia Huiman.



Celebration of the Eucharist in Piura with Father Lucho Arrasco.



The community of Chuschi: Hermanas Clorinda Timaná, Regina Deitchman and Lourdes Abad.



SCLs turned out in good numbers for the celebration in Lawrence, Kan., on April 22.

School dedicates SCL garden

St. John the Evangelist School in Lawrence, Kan., hosted a dual celebration on April 22 honoring the SCLs for their 150 years as a Community and the 50 years of SCL presence in the school.

The celebration started with Mass. The students cantored and served as lectors. The entire student body attended along with parents and parishioners.

After Mass, the group processed outdoors for dedication of the SCL garden. This space has a wrought iron bench and a granite plaque recognizing the service of the sisters.

Guests went indoors for refreshments, sharing of memories and viewing

scrapbooks. The halls also had many pictures of the sisters who had served at the school. Sixteen SCLs who were former teachers and principals attended.



Among her many duties, Mother Xavier Ross (a.k.a. Sister Maureen Hall) had the honor of cutting the cake at the reception at St. John the Evangelist School, Lawrence, Kan.



The stone marks the spot where St. John the Evangelist School dedicated the SCL garden.

Article featured SCL Montana health ministry

The May 16, 2008 edition of *The Montana Catholic* featured the article "SCLs heal the sick in Montana" by Sister Dolores Brinkel, Diocese of Helena archivist. In the article, Sister Dolores chronicled the SCL health ministry as it developed in Helena, Deer Lodge, Virginia City, Butte, Anaconda and Billings. (In more recent years, Miles City became an additional SCLHS hospital location.) Sister Dolores highlighted the November 1881 opening of St. James, Butte, and wrote, "These sisters of the Victorian era were building and managing in a mining camp when most women stayed home."

She recounted the story of Mother Irene McGrath who served as superior/administrator of St. James. "A local gentleman called for the superior of the hospital. When she entered the parlor, he greeted her, 'I just want to look at you. I heard a woman ran this huge establishment and I wanted to see her for myself.'"

Hospital SCLs host Vincentian Volunteers

To honor St. Vincent DePaul and to extend the SCL 150th Jubilee Celebration, the 11 sisters working at Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver, Colo., reached out to the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers (CVV). In late January, the SCLs hosted a meal for this year's 12 CVVs. These are college graduates from throughout the United States who are volunteering over 25,000 hours of service to the poor of Denver through 14 local non-profit sponsors.

Fun, discussion and stories sparked an evening of laughter. Sister Renee Washut prepared the delicious meal. A "Getting to Know You" round broadened the "foundation to future" Jubilee motif for both sisters and the volunteers.

Memorial Day observance by Denver SCL/As

by Sister Marie Paula Hardy

We remember

Twenty-two sisters and nine associates gathered at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Denver, Colo., on Memorial Day to remember the 82 SCLs buried there. In a gentle falling rain, all were reminded of the saying, "Happy the grave the rain falls on."

Sister Mary Siefken made a preliminary trip to Mount Olivet to find and check the graves of the sisters listed by the Mother House archives staff. She then researched information about the SCLs.

A touching prayer service compiled by Sister Marie Michael Mollis opened

with the song, "This Is Holy Ground." All assembled prayed fervently, "O Lord of the living, who visited Jesus within his grave and filled him with the fullness of eternal life, hear our prayer this day as we come to this holy burial place of our beloved sisters. With reverence, we visit the sacred shrine where their bodies were placed within the womb of the earth to await the final day of glory." All paused while silent reflection united the living with the dead.

The song, "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place," drifted over the tombstones and filled the wide expanse of the graveyard. We raised full hearts in invocation, "Lord, we come on this pilgrimage of prayer to keep the flame of love for them alive within our hearts. As we listen to each of their names, we rejoice because her name has been written for all ages in the palm of your divine hand."

Following an introduction by Sister Mary Siefken, 10 SCLs (Mary Jo Anzik, Melissa Camardo, Rejane Cytacki, Roberta Furey, Rosella Mary Hehn, Mary Loretto Lyons, J. Vianney Martinez, Jean Anne Panisko, Renee Washut and Elizabeth Youngs) announced eight names each with facts about each sister regarding entrance, death and Denver missions. As the reader concluded each set of names, all responded, "We thank you for their faithful lives."

After the reading of the names, all responded, "May the breath of creation that surrounds these graves – trees, grass

SCLs – Denver's Mount Olivet Cemetery

- There are 82 SCLs buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Denver, Colo.
- The first SCL burial in the cemetery occurred in 1893. Other sisters died in 1896 and 1898, and two in 1899.
- Thirty-eight sisters buried in this cemetery were listed as being born in Ireland. One was in the "first forty" who arrived in the U.S. in 1895, and four were in the "second forty" who came in 1903.
- Four sisters died in the 1918 flu epidemic.



Participants placed a sunflower with the 150th Jubilee theme on each SCL grave.

birds and sun – join us in prayer. Holy are these graves, holy this earth that has held in gentle embrace the bodies of our dear sisters. Loving God, with reverence, we leave a remembrance of our 150th Jubilee on each of their graves as we pray. Father of eternal life, you whose love is beyond the touch of death, we are most grateful for the fidelity and service of all these, our sisters, who have gone before us and now help prepare a



Sisters and associates in the Denver area gathered at Mount Olivet Cemetery.



A procession of SCLs marked graves to remember their sisters in Community.

place for us. May all of them be blessed forever in the splendor of your divine light and love.”

Each sister and associate took two flowers and placed one in the earth before each individual tombstone marker. Sister Roberta Furey had prepared the sunflowers with the attached Jubilee slogan. Music and song floated over the gathering, umbrellas and silent witnesses. Sister Mary Clarita Sternitzke and Christine Eitemiller, SCLA, had made the lovely recordings.

We repeated the same prayers and songs at the second set of more recent graves. A concluding prayer begged, “Loving Father, we ask your blessing on the holy graves of our beloved sisters who rest here. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for their lives of service and for the SCL legacy they have left here in Denver.”

We celebrate

The procession left Mount Olivet and proceeded to the SCL DePaul house where the sisters generously opened their lovely convent for a barbeque and potluck picnic. Sister Melissa heroically cooked the hamburgers – singin’ in the rain. Steve Blalock, associate and chef, produced delicious ribs. Stories, laughter and fun-filled remembrances dating from 1938 to the present rocked the crowded rooms. Many had lived with the sisters memorialized in the prayer service and voiced tragic, mischievous and time-honored happenings. Unrecorded oral history surfaced.

We believe

Sisters and associates who participated in the day’s events were firm in their praise, thanksgiving and belief that those who organized the prayer service

and gathering should be congratulated. From the faith of the first Denver burial of Sister Joseph Maria O’Connor, who came from Ireland and entered the Community in 1889 and died in 1893, to the last sister buried on June 17, 2007 – Sister LaVonne Guidoni, a Butte, Mont., legend – Christ’s kingdom is coming and his will is being done in heaven as it is on earth. On this legacy and foundation, the future continues the charism of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac and Mother Xavier Ross as the sick, the poor, the uneducated and the children are cared for in justice and charity.

(P.S. Sister Roberta made enough flowers for graves in Leadville. Sister Maureen Kehoe visited the cemetery there. Sister Carol Depner placed flowers on SCL graves in the Grand Junction area.)

Editor’s note: Please send articles and photos from Jubilee Year events for upcoming editions of *Voices of Charity* to thorvat@scls.org. Depending on timing, we will post these to the SCL website or include them in the publication.

Walking a way of life for Sister Madonna Stehno



Sister Madonna Stehno figures that if she would have been tracking her miles, she would be close to having gone around the earth twice by now – walking that is, day in and day out, as she loves to do and has been doing for many years.

As it stands today, on the pieces of paper on which she has logged her distances since 1955, Sister Madonna has recorded 19,000 plus miles. She has also befriended college students, enjoyed nature, met wonderful people, found lost wallets and collected coins from the ground on her frequent treks.

She had a setback in 2003 when problems with her ankle required surgery, a lengthy regimen of physical therapy and a long recovery. Two years ago, Sister Madonna got a new walker with wheels, and she was out and about again, racking up the miles.

In her youth in Kansas City, Kan., Sister Madonna was athletic and enjoyed the outdoors. She played volleyball and basketball and also participated in the Catholic Youth Organization league on a team with two other young women who joined the SCLs – Sisters Regina Deitchman and Sharon Verbeck. During her senior year at Bishop Ward High School, Sister Madonna was president of the Girls' Athletic Association.

While she loved sports, high school and her friends, God's call beckoned Sister Madonna to life as a Sister of Charity. She turned 17 in March, graduated in May and entered the SCLs in August 1947. "I can never thank God enough," she said with sincere joy in her voice. "I'm glad he called me."

Sister taught primary grades as her life's ministry and served as a principal in three schools while she continued to teach. For a brief period, as a young 25-year-old sister, she was missioned to an SCL orphanage where she was responsible for 20 girls, ages nine months to 15 years. She returned to teaching and over the years taught in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma and Wyoming. At the Mother House, she worked in the transportation department.

In her spare time, guess what? Sister Madonna walks! She also enjoys Word Find games, and she has a large family in the Kansas City area with whom she keeps in touch. In the winter, she bundles up for outdoor walks or walks the Mother House halls if ice is on the ground. Recently, she's the proud sponsor of Drew and Joanne Bodner, two new associates.

"I'm going to keep going," she said – counting 12 blocks to a mile, not trusting a pedometer and making many friends along the way.

Re-markings

Counting their blessings for 75 years

For half as many years as the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth have been a religious community, Sisters Frances Cecilia Domme and Jeanne Marie Zeugin have been SCLs.

Each has devoted 75 years to a consecrated religious life of service. They have experienced 75 years of blessings. They also have witnessed and been part of 75 years of significant changes in the Church and in the world.

The two young women entered the Community in 1933, just in time to mark the SCL 75th Jubilee. Sister Jeanne Marie said that the postulants waited tables for the Jubilee celebration. Among her keepsakes, she has the newspaper the SCLs produced for the observance.

There were 31 members in their class; Sisters Frances Cecilia and Jeanne Marie are the remaining SCLs. In succeeding years, four left the Community – one of whom is still living.

Sister Frances Cecilia was one of the “Eight Beatitudes” – seven from the class of 1933 and one other SCL, all of whom went into nurses’ training. She went on to do all types of nursing, specialized in surgical nursing and was an operating room supervisor. Sister Frances Cecilia enjoyed the togetherness of the sisters who worked in the hospitals and helping care for SCLs who were hospitalized.

Sister Jeanne Marie spent 11 years as a teacher and then became manager of the Saint Mary College dining room. She studied dietetics, became a professional dietitian and worked in SCL hospitals. In subsequent years, she established the personnel and pastoral care departments at Saint John Hospital, Leavenworth, Kan., where she ministered until 1994. Since that time, she has continued a ministry of visiting residents of nursing homes.



Sister Jeanne Marie Zeugin (left)
with Sister Frances Cecilia Domme

Both sisters are 93 years old. Mother Mary Olive Mead was the Mother General when they entered the Community. Franklin D. Roosevelt was just beginning his term as president of the United States. Pius XI was Pope.

Sisters Frances Cecilia and Jeanne Marie have lived through great change, “almost too much,” Sister Jeanne Marie said of the turbulence she has seen in the Church and the challenges of history and natural disasters.

She countered quickly, however, that “We have a loving God who is looking after us” and quoted lines from a favorite poem:

*“God’s in his heaven –
All’s right with the world.”*

—“Pippa Passes”
Robert Browning

‘Hats-off’ salutes Mother House jubilarians

Hats of all sorts were the attire of the day as Mother House SCLs gathered to salute jubilarians marking major anniversaries this year.



Sisters Kathleen Wood and Patricia Connolly made a definite fashion statement in their wide-brimmed hats at the Mother House celebration.

The May 3 celebration began with Mass in Ross Chapel. Sister Marie Helen Grieshaber preached the homily and invited the congregation to “sing of the Lord’s goodness” in remembering the 16 SCLs being honored. She said, “We see sisters who have made us aware of our own gifts, our responsibilities, and, yes, have put smiles on our faces... By observing them, we are reminded to love and care for each other and those who enter our doors.”

At lunch following Mass, guests donned their hats of different shapes, sizes and symbolism and brightened the Mother House dining room with a festive spirit. Each honored jubilarian received a “hats off” salute in song along with a specially designed hat commemorating her ministry or life interests.



Stunning to say the least: Sister Rose Anthony Perko.



Music surrounds Sister Anne Callahan, celebrating her 60th anniversary.



Seventy years an SCL finds Sister Virginia Flanick beaming with joy.

PLAN TO ATTEND

Marillac Center to host two special presentations

Learn to 'live in full swing'

Learn to maximize your mind/body/spirit performance with purposeful risk-taking by attending the program, "Living in Full Swing," scheduled for two dates at Marillac Center, Leavenworth, Kan.

Cathy Newton, PRT Consulting, and Sister Noreen Walter, Marillac Center, will give the program on Tuesday, Aug. 5, and repeat it on Thursday, Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both dates. The seminar is open to anyone interested in self-improvement or development. It is especially targeted to registered nurses, other nursing and allied health personnel, and other persons in service-oriented professions. The course is approved for six contact hour credits applicable for nursing relicensure.

The fee of \$40 includes lunch and a copy of *Living in Full Swing* by Cathy Newton. The book and the course focus on practical strategies and purposeful risk-taking required to achieve innovation, influence, immediacy, integrity and inspiration.

To register online, go to http://www.providence-health.org/pmkckscms/health/health_classes.htm.

For more information, call 913-758-6552.

'Compassionate presence' topic of Joyce Rupp presentation

Joyce Rupp, award-winning author and retreat and spiritual director, will offer "Becoming a Compassionate Presence" on Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marillac Center. Joyce will discuss a view of compassion from Christianity and other spiritual and literary sources, as well as her own lived experience. This day will provide inspiration and encouragement, offer hope and comfort to those who are hurting, and seek to spiritually re-energize those who accompany others experiencing difficulties.

Early registration is \$40 and includes lunch. After Oct. 15, the cost will be \$50. Scholarships are available for those unable to pay the entire cost.

Joyce is a member of the Servants of Mary community. She describes herself as a "spiritual mid-wife" who assists others in birthing an ever fuller and deeper faith life.

Joyce has written numerous popular books including *Praying Our Goodbyes* and *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons on the Camino*, which received a first place award from the Catholic Press Association in 2006.

To learn more about Joyce, visit www.joycerupp.com.

To register, email retreats@scls.org or call 913-758-6552.



OF SPECIAL NOTE

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

Sister Mary Jo honored for service at clinic

Sister Mary Jo Downey was recognized as a 2008 United Way voluntary honoree in Wyandotte County this spring. Sister received the award for her volunteer service at Duchesne Clinic, Kansas, City, Kan., where she had previously been employed as a physician's assistant. Sister Mary Jo volunteers to assist patients with their medications. She may provide counseling on their medications, possible side effects and the importance of using the prescription as directed. She takes time with each patient and answers questions and concerns.



'Celebration of Caring' recognizes Sister Marie Madeleine

Sister Marie Madeleine Shonka and Judge Aviva Bobb were honored for their lifelong accomplishments on Saturday, May 17, at the Wise and Healthy Aging "Celebration of Caring" in Santa Monica, Calif. The event marked the merger of two organizations centered on the life of older adults – WISE Senior Services and the Center for Healthy Aging.

Sister Marie Madeleine received the Jim Clayton Community Service award.



Sister served as president/CEO of Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, for more than 30 years. She currently chairs Saint John's Legacy Project, which raises funds for the hospital's endowment program. Sister has also served on many philanthropic, hospital and health care-related boards, including the Hospital Council of Southern California, The California Hospital Association and Blue Cross of Southern California.

The Maurice D. and Lois Schwartz Humanitarian Award honoree, Judge Bobb, is the supervising judge of the probate departments in the Los Angeles Superior Court. As an advocate for the rights of the elderly, she is recognized as a "builder of programs."

Sister Susan contributed to Charity Federation publication

Sister Susan Rieke contributed to the Spring 2008 edition of *Charity Connections*, the publication of the Sisters of Charity Federation. In the article, "Walking with Wise Women," Sister Susan wrote about Mother Xavier Ross, SCL foundress. Also featured were Mother Aloysia Lowe of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill and Mother Emerentiana Handlovits of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity.



Sisters in Denver Colo., from Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital and other ministries, went westward ho! as guests of a fundraiser for the foundation of Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center. The sisters are pictured with Dave Hamm, Good Samaritan CEO. The event was the "boot scootin' Peach Blossom Ball" held at Anderson Farms in Erie, Colo.



Bishop Michael W. Warfel of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings celebrated Mass at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Mont., this spring. Pictured left to right: Walt Furlong, vice president business development and strategy; Sister Catrina Bones, vice president mission integration; Bishop Warfel; Steve Shandera, vice president clinical and support services; Maryann Reese, chief operating officer; and Jim Paquette, CEO and SCLA.

St. Vincent Healthcare hosts new bishop

Bishop Michael W. Warfel, new bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Mont., made his first pastoral visit to

St. Vincent Healthcare on April 4. Bishop Warfel presided at liturgy that day; met chaplains, SCLs and patients; and had lunch with the hospital's leadership team.

Sister Catrina Bones, vice president mission integration, said, "Since Bishop Warfel is new to the Great Falls-Billings diocese, we are making efforts to welcome him and get acquainted with him."

The bishop had visited St. Vincent's earlier this year for a Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting held at the Billings hospital. More recently, he attended an ethics conference on May 16 on the topic of stem cell research which was hosted by St. Vincent and the Northwest Research and Education Institute.

Bishop Warfel is the seventh bishop of eastern Montana, succeeding Bishop Anthony M. Milone who resigned for health reasons in July 2006. Bishop Warfel assumed his ministry in January 2008.

Bishop Ward High School marks centennial

Long a part of the Bishop Ward High School tradition in Kansas City, Kan., SCLs joined in the school's 100th anniversary celebrations. Sisters were invited to a Mass on April 13 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. During the Offertory, each decade of the high school's history was represented by someone carrying a flower to the altar. **Sister Julia Golkoski** represented her decade.

Following Mass, Bishop Ward hosted an open house. **Sister Kathy Atkins** created two display boards that were among the memorabilia. One displayed photos of SCLs who had served at the high school through the years; the other, photos of SCLs who had graduated from Bishop Ward. These will be on display during the July 4-6 celebration in Leavenworth. SCLAs **Anita Gregory** and **Mary Lane** were also very involved with the festivities.



SCLAs in the Denver, Colo., area gathered on March 31 to welcome three new associates: Steve and Megan Blalock and John Laur. Back row, left to right: Sheila Bennett, Mary Maher, Jane Comer, Steve, John, Ron Cox, Pat Falk, Christine Eitemiller and Imee Guardiano. Front row, left to right: Leontine Rowe, Ellen Viens, Megan, Doris Roche and Margaret Faciszewski.



Sister Juli Smith (second from right) with novices of the Daughters of Charity.



The shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md.

Following the 'Way of Elizabeth'

Every novitiate year, SCL novices have participated in the Way of Elizabeth sponsored by the Charity Federation. This is one of the ways the Community continues to collaborate with other congregations within the Federation. This year **Sisters Nancy Bauman, Juli Smith and Sharon Smith** were participants in this pilgrimage.

Their visit began in Emmitsburg, Md., where Elizabeth Ann Seton founded

the Sisters of Charity in 1809. She, her children and other family members came with her from Baltimore. Sister Betty Ann McNeill gave presentations on Elizabeth Ann's life, spirituality and her legacy. The participants had time to walk and reflect on the holy ground of Emmitsburg. They visited and heard stories about the founding sisters in their original houses and reflected with women in initial formation from the Daughters of Charity and the Sisters of Charity from Moncton, Nova Scotia.

During the second week, the pilgrims walked in the footsteps of Elizabeth Ann in New York City. They saw and prayed in her holy places where she matured as an Episcopalian woman, wife, mother, widow and convert. Each day, the participants reflected on what they saw and heard and shared how Elizabeth Ann's life related to theirs.

Sisters Juli, Sharon and Nancy expressed gratitude to the SCL Community for the privilege of being part of the Way of Elizabeth.

SCLA earns award from Santa Monica Chamber

LaTisha Starbuck, vice president mission integration, Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, Calif., and an SCLA, received the 2008 Chairman's Award presented by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. Her involvement and various contributions to the Chamber earned Tish this recognition. The award was presented at the Chamber's 83rd Installation Dinner on June 5.



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

Sponsored Ministries

USM graduates 275; record crowd attends

Of the 275 students graduating this year, 130 received bachelor's degrees, 144 received master's degrees, and one received an associate's degree. One hundred fifty-five participated in the commencement ceremony. This was the first time since 1994 that Saint Mary graduated nursing students. USM launched the bachelor of science in nursing program in 2006 to help address the nation's critical nursing shortage. Thirty-four nursing students comprised USM's nursing class of 2008.

One graduate stepped foot on the Leavenworth campus for the first time, having completed her master of arts in teaching degree completely online from

Despite the threat of rain
and a tornado warning to the south,
the newest class of Saint Marians
made the traditional outdoor
procession across the Leavenworth
campus on Saturday, May 10,
and graduated before
2,000 people, the largest
commencement crowd to date
at McGilley Field House.

Anaheim, Calif. Resident international students from Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, Trinidad-and-Tobago, and West Africa also graduated.

USM also honored a faculty member and administrator during commencement. Dr. Patricia Carnahan, associate professor of education, received the Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence, the university's highest teaching honor.

A special honor was bestowed upon Dr. Sandra Van Hoose, retiring vice president and dean of academic affairs. Sandra, an associate, was named professor emerita of education, a life-long honor, given to distinguished full-time faculty upon retirement. She has worked at USM for 28 years, serving the past decade as academic vice president and dean.



Website highlights Denver health care

Learn more about developments in Denver health care by visiting a new website that includes an introductory letter by Bill Murray, SCLHS president/CEO; the history of SCL ministries in Colorado; and other news and updates.

Visit www.healingdenverhealthcare.org.

USM nursing award named in honor of Sister Mary Erwin Baker

by Bob Uhlar, USM

Jacquelyn Asherman,
recipient of the nursing award,
expressed gratitude
for the inspiration
Sister Mary Erwin provided.



Sister Mary
Erwin's winning
smile has
radiated
through the
years!

The University of Saint Mary (USM) nursing department presented a new award this year in honor of Sister Mary Erwin Baker for her ongoing work to use her disease as a teaching tool for nursing students. The “Sister Mary Erwin Baker Award for Caring Behaviors” was given to the graduating nursing student who best exemplified the 5Cs of Caring – compassion, competence, confidence, conscience and commitment. Jacquelyn Asherman, Kansas City, Kan., received the inaugural award at the nursing pinning ceremony on May 9.

Soon after Sister Mary Erwin retired as a member of the USM faculty in 2000, she was diagnosed with ataxia, a neurodegenerative disorder. She has kept a journal of her symptoms and produced a PowerPoint presentation to teach nursing students about the disease. She also allowed students to use her as a live “patient” for health assessment and transfer from her motorized scooter to a hospital bed.

The award in her name acknowledges that Sister Mary Erwin Baker continues her compassion for life, commitment to learning and competence in educating others.



Bryan Busby, emcee, addressed Cristo Rey students on stage after their performance. (Louis Bar, choreographer and dance instructor, in background.)

Cristo Rey the real winner as stars dance in KC

by Andy Stith, Cristo Rey

Kansas City stars came out Friday, April 18, to dance the night away in support of Cristo Rey Kansas City High School's second annual "Kansas City Dances with the Stars" fundraiser. Six hundred guests enjoyed performances by local celebrities, the Swingsters and students from the high school. The event netted \$140,000 for the school – about double last year's net total.

The star-studded event mirrored the ABC hit TV show, "Dancing with the Stars." Emceed by Bryan Busby, KMBC 9 chief meteorologist, the evening featured five local celebrities who competed for votes by performing everything from the tango to the disco. This year's local celebrity dancers were Rev. Jim Shea, pastor of Redemptorist Parish, Kansas City, Mo.; Allan Kayser, best known for his role as Bubba on "Mama's Family"; Maria Antonia, Emmy award-winning news reporter on KMBC 9 News; Dianne Cleaver, community civic leader; and Johnny Rowlands, KMBC's NewsChopper 9 pilot and traffic reporter. At different points throughout the evening, audience members were able to purchase votes for their favorite "star" so that a winner could be named at the end of the night. Maria Antonia claimed the prize.

The Cristo Rey Kansas City students received the evening's only standing ovation for their surprise swing dance performance to "You Can't Stop the Beat" from the musical "Hairspray." "It was a wonderfully entertaining and successful evening," noted Sister Vickie Perkins, president of Cristo Rey Kansas City. "We are so grateful for the outpouring of community and business support for our students and our school."

Holy Rosary merits Mother Xavier award

by Michele Latta, SCLHS

Holy Rosary Healthcare, Miles City, Mont., has received a \$50,000 grant from the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System (SCLHS) to provide continued support for the Rural Montana Tele-Radiology Project. This project enables the hospital to partner with critical access facilities in rural Montana to provide radiology services locally.

The hospital is the recipient of the 2008 Mother Xavier Ross Award presented by SCLHS in support of innovative initiatives to benefit persons who are underserved. Greg Nielsen, Holy Rosary CEO, gratefully acknowledged the grant and anticipated that it will benefit many patients in the surrounding communities. Greg said that diagnostic imaging is a cornerstone for providing reliable health care services, yet it is difficult to access in rural Montana.

Sister Judith Jackson, SCLHS vice president sponsorship, commended the work of the hospital and called the project promising and highly responsive to need. "The project was chosen based on its collaborative nature, its ability to impact significant numbers of patients throughout eastern Montana, the tremendous need of critical access hospitals and the uninsured, and its financial sustainability," she said.



Sister Judith Jackson, SCLHS vice president sponsorship; Greg Nielsen, Holy Rosary CEO; and Bill Murray, SCLHS president/CEO and SCLA.

Beyond All Borders

IMMIGRATION REFORM UPDATE

In summarizing proposed legislation, debate and testimony on the issue of immigration, Sister Therese Bangert, SCL coordinator of social justice, said that the Catholic Church in the United States has been at the forefront of advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform. She noted that recent advocacy has focused on reform that would include sufficient work visas to meet labor needs, family reunification, a path to citizenship for law-abiding workers and securing this country's borders.



“Congress has been unable to agree on any comprehensive policy,” Sister Therese observed. “Many states have had bills introduced in their legislative process that would impact immigrants. Most of the bills introduced would make life even more difficult for the immigrant community.”

In December 2007, the Catholic sisters in leadership in Kansas and members of LCWR Region 13 met with Governor Kathleen Sebelius. The sisters expressed their concerns about anti-immigrant rhetoric and the proposed legislation being introduced for the Kansas legislative session.

Through her justice ministry in the SCL Community and in the Kansas Catholic Conference, during the Kansas legislative session, Sister Therese met with legislators, worked with others concerned about many aspects of the proposed legislation and gave testimony at a committee hearing. “Our Church has big arms,” Sister Therese reminded the lawmakers. “We stand with the suffering immigrant, and we stand with the suffering business people who cannot find workers for their businesses. We are not naive about the abuse of some workers at the hands of their employers, but we know that this is not all employers.”

Sister Therese noted that there was excellent teamwork to address the issue by Kansas’ faith community. The eight bishops of the state – representing Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans,

Methodists and Presbyterians – issued a joint statement opposing the legislation as it was initially introduced.

The Most Rev. Joseph F. Naumann, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, gave powerful testimony before one of the committees. He said, in part, “Our Church shares the frustration of everyone in this room that our federal government has been unable to fix a failed immigration policy. We understand the fear and anxiety that this broken immigration policy engenders in the hearts of many Kansans...”

“Some of the proponents of legislation, which focuses exclusively on punitive measures, have referred to undocumented immigrants as invaders,” the archbishop continued. “If so, this is the strangest invasion in history where the invaders clean our houses, harvest our crops, care for our lawns and do many of the jobs that are considered less than desirable.”

Because a majority of Kansas legislators could not agree on any new policy regarding immigrants in Kansas, the 2008 session ended without new laws that would impact the immigrant community.

“The Catholic sisters in Kansas and the Kansas Catholic bishops are committed to continue the advocacy for our sisters and brothers who are immigrants,” Sister Therese said.

SCL leaders participate in orientation to UN



Left to right, Meik Fischer, intern with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur; Sister Sue Miller; Morgan O'Brien, representative of the U.S. mission to the UN; Peggy Kerry, NGO liaison of the U.S. mission to the UN; and Sister Peg Johnson.

Sisters Sue Miller, Maureen Hall and Peg Johnson attended orientation days to the United Nations, May 14 to 16, to learn more about the workings of this international organization. Sisters Linda Roth and Marianna Bauder attended a similar program in 2006. The Partnership for Global Justice coordinated the sessions.

The orientation is designed to provide basic information regarding the UN system including participation of the secretariat, the nation states and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other groups that form the UN community. The 13 participants had the opportunity to meet with NGOs and to discuss their interests in the UN community.

Topics included indigenous people, sustainable development, Iraq, trafficking, Millennium Development Goals, poverty and homelessness. Among ideas that struck Sister Peg

was the message of a poster to mark UN International Human Rights Day that stated, "It's not wrong to be different, it is wrong to be treated differently if you are."

Among optional sessions, Sister Peg attended one on the International Day of Families that emphasized the important role fathers play in the lives of families and children around the world. The session noted that "at the international level, migration forces many fathers to often face separation from their families...These challenges all highlight the deep and universal need for positive father figures in families."

Sister Maureen said, "I was proud to be a woman religious. Thirty (plus) NGOs, whom we call 'sisters,' advocate for the 'poorest of the poor' in the human family. We met dedicated and knowledgeable people who re-instilled in me the belief that peace is a possibility."

USM hosts second annual High School Global Human Rights Conference

by Bob Uhlar, USM

One hundred nine students from eight high schools in the Kansas City area discovered that negotiating peace in Darfur is more complicated than they first thought.

They participated in mock negotiations led by University of Saint Mary (USM) students to bring peace to the Darfur region of Sudan. The negotiations were the focus of the Second Annual High School Global Human Rights Conference at USM on Tuesday, April 22. USM's Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI) organized the annual conference that is becoming more and more popular each year.

Students from Cristo Rey, a sponsored work of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, returned for the second year to attend the conference. Atchison High School, which also participated in last year's conference, informed USM that so many students wanted to come this year that they had to draw names to determine who could attend.

USM students from the Advanced International Peace Building course, taught by Dr. Natalya Reigg, professor of political science and global studies, facilitated the conflict resolution exercises. Students from each high school advocated for an interested party in peace negotiations regarding the Darfur conflict.

The conference was the culmination of a series of guest lectures and book discussions presented by the GSI designed to raise university consciousness about the scourge of genocide and particularly about its latest resurgence in the horror of the crisis in Darfur.

This fall, the institute will present a new lecture series based on a diaspora theme.



Students from eight area high schools participated in mock negotiations to bring peace to the Darfur region of Sudan. The conference was sponsored by the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth on April 22.



Participants in the Human Rights Conference assembled peace sign puzzles after mock negotiations to bring peace to the Darfur region of Sudan.

Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

Ram's Horn Speaks

Lev. 25: 8-9, 12a

Listen

We have been alerted. It is time.

Time we plan. Time we think.

Time we become

Jubilee!

It's more than celebration of the date:

More than remembrances of a past:

It's a pregnant pause of present

On becoming a Sabbath.

Jubilee!

It's a call to cease fevered activity.

Time to let fallow that inner ground of being.

Time to rest in triumph taking stock.

Jubilee!

Good works do not cease but the focus changes.

We are called to new justice – release

From tension – tension of the times,

Wars, abundance, and senseless suffering.

Called to freedom through forgiveness –

A deliverance and a delivering to be

Jubilee!

Hear the Horn

Calling us to surrender control;

Calling us to quiet absorption;

Calling us in freedom to worship

"From Founding to Future."

Jubilee!

A ram's horn is not melodious

Does not innervate nor rally to action.

It's a stark reminder GOD IS.

We are! Called to hear, hold, heal, hush and happen.

A summons to return to vocation awareness

Calls us home to be

Jubilee!

— Sister Marie Carmel Dunning

V O I C E S

of Charity



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