

# Voices of Charity

Summer 2015

*Celebration of Charity  
50 years as SCLs*  
pages 3-10

*Heart of the Matter  
Leading up to  
Chapter 2016*  
pages 14-15



A publication of the  
SISTERS OF CHARITY  
OF LEAVENWORTH



## SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH

### **Mission Statement**

Impelled by the love of Christ,  
we, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth,  
offer every loving service in our power  
to meet the critical needs  
of God's people.

### **Vision Statement**

As Sisters of Charity we commit ourselves here and now  
to embrace anew the charism given us by Vincent, Louise,  
Mother Xavier:

to love the poor,  
to love one another,  
to live simply,  
and to unite the whole of our lives  
in the poor and loving Christ.

COVER PHOTO: SCLs marking their Golden Jubilees this year include  
(left to right, front) Sisters Mary Pat Lenahan, Lucy Walter, Mary Pat Johnson;  
(left to right, back) Sisters Mary Jo Anzik, Linda Roth, Janet Cashman and  
Peg Johnson. Sister Rita McGinnis (individually pictured) was unavailable  
for the group photo.



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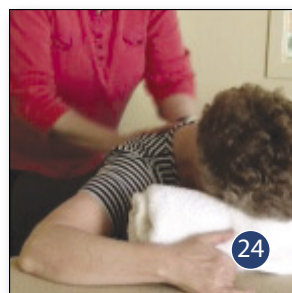
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# Community Director

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Sister Maureen Hall

In the Old Testament tradition, a year of jubilee invited people to return land to its former owners, to free prisoners and slaves, and to forgive debt. It was a time of pardon and demonstrated God's great mercy.

In our Catholic tradition over many centuries, the doors of St. Peter's Basilica have opened to invite the world to observe a year of jubilee with prayer and forgiveness, evoking the Jewish tradition. Pope Francis recently announced a special jubilee on the theme of mercy to begin Dec. 8, 2015 and go until Nov. 20, 2016.

Jesus calls us to be "jubilee people." In Luke's Gospel (Chapter 4:16-21) which we often pray as the roots of our Vincentian charism, Jesus unfurls the scroll and reads from the Prophet Isaiah:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."*

Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus gives expression to what these words mean.

In this Year of Consecrated Life proclaimed by Pope Francis, we pause in joyful celebration to mark the Golden Jubilees of eight extraordinary SCLs. This diverse group – known for their wonderful ability to proclaim the Good News in song – has touched the hearts of many elementary, high school and college students and our Sisters in initial formation. Their gifts of administration have led our Community, educational institutions and a diocese. The spirit of Vincent has called them to serve those who live on the margins, the developmentally disabled and those beyond our borders in Peru, Haiti and South Sudan.

In our Community, jubilee is a time of great, joy-filled celebration and a season of remembrance, profound gratitude and renewed hope. We recall the stories of our SCLs marking anniversaries; we gather with family and friends for prayers of thanksgiving; and we acknowledge these women of many, diverse talents as they renew their vows and continue their journeys.

At this special time of year, we recognize all of our jubilarians – those marking 50, 60, 70 and 75 years – for the gifts they have selflessly shared with our religious Community and with all the people they have served. We thank them, and we bless them for their lifelong witness to humility, simplicity and charity as Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

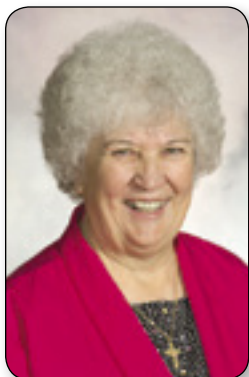
A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sister Maureen Hall". The script is fluid and cursive.

Sister Maureen Hall  
SCL Community Director

# Celebration OF CHARITY

Eight Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth are marking their 50th anniversaries of entering the religious Community – 50 years golden! They joined the Community as the winds of change from the Second Vatican Council were sweeping through the Church. They served and continue to serve in various ministries in the United States and in foreign missions. For their vocations, for their service, for their lives of dedication, congratulations and many blessings!

## Sister Mary Jo Anzik



I was the first one of my siblings to be born at St. James Hospital, in Butte, Mont., followed by Michael, Charles, Rosemary and Dennis. My Grandmother, who delivered many of the children in the McQueen neighborhood, delivered my three older brothers, Joseph, Daniel “Zeke” and William.

Hospitality was the hallmark of our home for family, neighbors and friends. Neighbors would come

for coffee in the morning and visit. Relatives would visit on Sundays and holidays. Holidays and special occasions were festive, and Mother would prepare food and always her specialty – povitica.

Both my parents Mary and Joseph and their siblings were taught by the SCLs. They continued the tradition by sending us to Holy Savior Grade School and Catholic High Schools (Girls and Boys). The Sisters were full of life and truly caring and inspired us, especially Sister Mary Seraphine Sheehan.

My parents were devout Catholics and made great sacrifices in order for us to receive a Catholic education. In her youth, Mother played the organ at daily Mass. Preceding my parents in death were my brothers Joe who died in a car accident when he was 17, and Charles who died at age 2. My brother Dennis passed away in 2005, and Dan in 2010.

Even though I felt I had a vocation in high school, I chose not to respond because I wanted to “experience life.” I worked at the A&W Root Beer Stand, a gathering place for the young, so that I could meet boys. One day, I received a call from the supervisor of Mountain Bell Telephone Company who asked me to come for an interview. I was hired and started work a few days later. So much for my plans. I worked there four years, during which time I was elected treasurer and then president of IBEW Local 65 of the Telephone Operators Division. I enjoyed being on the telephone company bowling team, dated, went horseback riding, fishing and hiking, owned a car, travelled and experienced total independence. Throughout those four years, I knew deep down God was calling me and asking me to do more with my life.

Mom was more than a mother, she was my best friend. When I told her I was going to enter the SCLs, she said she wasn’t surprised. She told me I was born face up, and Dr. Ungerini had said I would probably be a “nun” because I was born looking up to heaven. Mothers do know their children. I entered the SCLs in August 1965. I asked for the name Sister Mary Joseph because of my love and respect for my parents. With the changes in the Community and Church, I shortened my name to Sister Mary Jo.





# Celebration OF CHARITY



I continue to live the mantra of my life as an SCL: With the Lord's presence, let us go forward on the road that has brought us to where we are.

— Sister Mary Jo Anzik

Where did the 50 years go? First, I want to acknowledge that over the years, I worked and lived with many dedicated and prayerful SCLs. I am truly grateful for their friendship, support and encouragement.

I spent over 25 years working in our hospitals. During that time, I served as business office director, where I enjoyed the work and knew that my salary helped educate the Sisters and supported our college. One of my responsibilities was the approval of all charity accounts for patients. In the hospitals, we did take care of the poor in many ways. To be better prepared to meet the challenges of the increasingly more complicated health care requirements, I went to study for a master's degree in business administration (MBA) at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. Afterwards, I was missioned to Saint Joseph Hospital, Denver, as a financial analyst, and I assisted with the computer conversion. When this was completed, I felt I was being called in a different direction.

While I reflected on the Community mission statement "of offering to our neighbor, especially the poor, every loving service in our power," I felt called to work directly with poor families. To this end, I worked with families and seniors in subsidized housing and then as a case manager for homeless families. I "walked the path" with them, assisting them with setting personal goals such as obtaining their GEDs or other education, learning budgeting, finding employment, improving their credit scores and applying for permanent housing, etc. – all with the ultimate goal of becoming economically independent. A year later, I became supervisor of housing case managers and responsible for the grants and contracts for housing at Catholic Charities for Lowry Transitional Housing, Court Yard Commons, Welfare-to-Work Housing, TANF Housing, state and city housing programs, rent and EOC assistance. My prayer is that the 15 plus years working with case managers and families made a difference in their lives.

At this time in my life, I volunteer at several social service agencies and assist individuals in their times of need. Also, I volunteer in my parish, praying with and taking Communion to the homebound weekly. I'm a Eucharistic minister and on the parish list to pray for the sick and those that request prayers for specific or special intentions. While watching baseball games on TV, I knit hats for the homeless and deliver them to shelters in the fall.

And, so, I continue to live the mantra of my life as an SCL: With the Lord's presence, let us go forward on the road that has brought us to where we are.

## Sister Janet Cashman



"There is a time for everything under the sun."

— Eccles. 3:1

There was a time for my entry into this world, Dec. 16, 1946. I joined one brother Richard and later arrived a sister Monalee. It was the time for us to be a family, steeped in the Catholic faith and remembering our Irish heritage. Those were the years of receiving love and support of the family and being educated by the SCLs, first at St. Augustine and then Bishop Hogan in Kansas City, Mo.

In 1965 with graduation from high school, there was the time for a vocation decision. There was the time to decide for religious life as a foreign missionary. My mentor Sister George Towle assured me that, as an SCL, I would be able to serve in the foreign missions as the Community had sent Sisters to work in Peru only two years before. With that assurance, I did not enter the Maryknoll Missionary Congregation. Even though the family had actually prepared me for a religious vocation decision, they were not real happy about it. But they let it happen.

For the Community, it was the time for the beginning of many changes. As I arrived at the Mother House, little did I know how difficult it was for the Sisters to see me and my novitiate companions wearing "street" clothes and not habits. And during the winter time, we wore our colored coats.

Such changes continued. And different times came. There was a time that I prepared for my professional work as a registered nurse before ever being "missioned" to one of our works. There was a time to hone my skills as a nurse.

Finally in 1976, it was the time for departure to Peru. I entered the health care scene in Peru at an exciting moment of great change in the understanding of the best way to achieve health for all.

The World Health Organization together with health care leaders from most countries decided that primary health care and the village health care worker model were the best ways forward. Together with Sisters Joan Kilker



# Celebration OF CHARITY



There is a time to pause and reflect and be in touch with deep gratitude for all that has been and to joyfully imagine that which still awaits.

— Sister Janet Cashman

and Josephine Bustos we brought this new vision to life in Talara, Peru, in the local parish. We called the workers “health promoters,” and they served the parish voluntarily. Then I developed the same program for the Archdiocese of Piura, Peru, and was named diocesan coordinator of Pastoral de Salud. Groups of health promoters were organized in every parish. I became regional coordinator for Pastoral de Salud and represented the archdiocese at national Church and governmental meetings.

There was a time to leave this work in the capable hands of others. After a few years in the U.S. at Duchesne Clinic, Kansas City, Kan., there was the time again to depart for the foreign missions. This time it was to Milot, Haiti. For two years, I worked in the program that fed malnourished children. And now I am a tutor/administrator at a school of nursing and midwifery in Wau, South Sudan.

There was a brief time for ministry in a field other than health care. For five years in Gallup, N.M., I assisted immigrants to obtain their legal status and/or become U.S. citizens.

There is a time to pause and reflect and be in touch with deep gratitude for all that has been and to joyfully imagine that which still awaits.

## Sister Margaret Ellen Johnson



In the evening, with the smell of cooking in the air, Mom would say, “Call your sisters in for supper.” And those of us in the house would go to the front door, open the screen, and in two or three part harmony would sing, “Beth, Peggy, Dottie, Joan, come home.” Dad taught us early on how to chord on the piano. He instructed us on a procession of stringed instruments – tenor ukulele, baritone

uke, mandolin and guitar, depending on the size of our fingers. We learned how to sing in harmony from his old Protestant hymnals. Dad would play the fiddle while we would chord and strum away. And when we settled in to have jam sessions and “make music,” neighbors would sit out on their porches and send their kids over with requests. That’s the

way we grew up. Is it any wonder I have an affinity for the hymn “How Can I Keep From Singing”?

Clarence and Dorothy Knapp Johnson, my parents, were born and raised on farms in northeastern Missouri. They were married in Kansas City in 1942 and lived in Holy Cross Parish. Beth was born in 1944, I came along in ’46, Dottie in ’47, and Joan rounded us out in ’51. When Dottie was still a baby, my parents moved to a home they purchased in southeast Kansas City, Mo. We had wonderful neighbors and there were lots of kids. We’d take our wheel toys to the top of the block, make a caravan of tricycles, bicycles, scooters and wagons and go down the block singing all the verses to “Davy Crockett” at the top of our lungs.

As we got older, there would be softball in the street, with tree trunks and the sewer lid for bases. Al Dressler lived across the street from us and because he feared for our lives, offered his empty lot for our use. We played a lot of badminton games there. In the winter, we took a piece of roofing tin that we had dragged on the sidewalk during the fall over to Swope Park where the city provided us with a stupendous toboggan run. During the heat of the day in the summer, Mom would read to us outside under the shade of an elm tree. And if we had to be inside, we played cards and board games.

School was a favorite activity of mine. We all attended St. Louis Grade School and Bishop Hogan High School, staffed by SCLs. Sister Virginia Flanick – then Sister Mary Stanislaus – was my first grade teacher. She read to us about the saints, and I came home and announced that I was going to be an “oystered” nun. She’d actually read to us about a cloistered nun, but I was more used to the word oyster because of all the oyster soup we had on Fridays. I put off thinking that religious life was in my future until I was a high school senior when I made arrangements to enter the Franciscans in Savannah, Mo. That foray to the convent was halted when I was asked to the prom, a sure sign that God had other things in mind for me. So I attended Saint Mary



Sister Virginia Flanick, my first grade teacher, read to us about the saints, and I came home and announced that I was going to be an “oystered” nun. She’d actually read to us about a cloistered nun, but I was more used to the word oyster because of all the oyster soup we had on Fridays.

— Sister Margaret Ellen Johnson



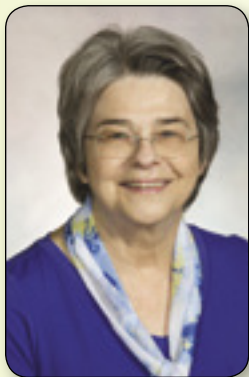
## Celebration OF CHARITY

College for a year, could still hear that invitation to religious life in my heart and decided to enter the SCLs so I could get joining the convent out of my system and go on with my life.

I have "gone on with my life," and it's been a huge adventure. Gratitude for my early music training goes to Mom and Dad who provided us with music lessons. From grade school through college, I was taught by the best: Sisters Anne Callahan, Rose Cecilia Sillers, Dominique Long, Madeleva Ditmars and Rose Tomlin. My degree from Saint Mary College allowed me to teach vocal and instrumental music in grades K-12. Later, I acquired an administration credential and spent time being a vice principal and associate administrator. All told, I was blessed with 34 years in education. My favorite eight weeks every year were those working with the students, drama director and choreographer and producing a musical. Currently I'm in my 11th year of serving on the SCL leadership team as Community Secretary.

When I made final vows in 1975, I asked God to provide good companions for the journey. I have received the hundredfold blessing of love and support from my family, friends and religious Community. Indeed, *how can I keep from singing?!!*

### Sister Mary Patricia Johnson



My parents, Thomas Carl Johnson and Elizabeth Jane Bass, met and were married in Oakland, Calif., and welcomed me into this world on April 13, 1946. Faith and religion played an important role in my family. My Dad, although not a churchgoer, was always supportive of my Mom's Catholic faith. We were all baptized and faithfully attended Mass every Sunday. I did not experience formal Catholic

education until my freshman year at the University of Saint Mary. (It was Saint Mary College then.)

Like many small farm town Catholics, my two sisters, two brothers and I found ourselves in two weeks of summer vacation school whenever available. My introduction to sisters occurred at one of those vacation schools in the summer of my first-grade year when Sister John, a Sister of Humility, prepared me and my other classmates from St. Mark's Catholic Church in Belt, Mont., for our First Communion.

My encounter with Sister John planted the seed of my religious vocation while my early experiences with SCLs both in high school as a "vacation school helper" in Worden, Mont., and as a student at Saint Mary College watered it. I entered the SCL Community in August 1965, and 50 years later that seed is still very much alive and growing!



*I have no doubt I am where God desires me to be, and I am now and will be forever grateful.*

— Sister Mary Patricia Johnson

After two years in the juniorate at our Mother House, a summer at Carroll College in Helena, Mont., and student teaching at St. Pius X High School in Kansas City, Mo., I graduated from Saint Mary College in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in theology and a minor (almost major) in Spanish. My first full-time mission was seven years of teaching Spanish and religion classes at Billings Central High School in Billings, Mont., followed by nine years at Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, Kan., and five years at Bishop Hogan High School in Kansas City, Mo. During that time, I also spent summers studying Spanish at Highlands University in Las Vegas, N.M., and the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyo., and completing a master's in religious studies from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., and a master's in Christian spirituality from Creighton University, Omaha. In addition, having had the opportunity to receive certification in spiritual direction from Creighton University, I have been involved for many years in the ministry of retreat and spiritual direction.

After my years at Bishop Hogan High School, I spent 10 years as pastoral associate at St. Peter's Parish in Kansas City, Mo., and three years as Hispanic resource coordinator for the parishes in the Northeast Deanery of Kansas City, Mo. When we SCLs chose to sponsor Cristo Rey High School Kansas City, I again found myself in high school ministry. Presently I am the director of mission and a member of the Leadership Team. For the last nine years, I have also been a staff member of Souljourners, a three-year ecumenical training program for spiritual directors run by the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kan.

Like many women who entered religious life in the years soon after the Second Vatican Council's call for renewal, my journey has had its challenging times. Those challenges have always been the source of necessary and eventually welcomed transformation. I have no doubt I am where God desires me to be, and I am now and will be forever grateful. It is with this spirit of gratitude I wholeheartedly proclaim with the author of Psalm 73:



*"As for me, I was always in your presence; you were holding me by your right hand. By your counsel you will guide me, and then you will lead me to glory."*



# Celebration OF CHARITY



## Sister Mary Patricia Lenahan



*"Let your joy be  
in the doing and  
not in the end."*

This quote by Mother Xavier Ross, the foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, illustrates a constant theme threading throughout my life. A sense of joy, gratitude and song has always permeated the daily encounters of my life.

My family continues to greatly influence my life and vocation. My Mom and Dad had a patient and positive outlook on life. Laughter, song, faith and loyalty emerge when I think about my family. I have five siblings. We are best friends and enjoy one another whenever we can get together. Along with my parents, Helen and Jim, my siblings – Suzanne, Michael, Therese, Julie and Joanie – continue to have a profound impact on me by their spirit of kindness, generosity, compassion and support of me, my life, my prayer and my ministry.



*Members of my novitiate continue  
to be loving, prayerful, creative and  
talented women of service, and we  
always enjoy our time together.*

— Sister Mary Patricia Lenahan

I grew up in small towns, and I met the SCLs when we moved to KCK, and I attended Bishop Ward High School. I had felt called to be a Sister from a young age, but having SCLs in classes and in extracurricular activities helped me to give shape and respond to that call. When I turned 16, I was able to get a job at Providence Hospital where I got to know even more SCLs. Their kindness, joy, competence, laughter and prayer drew me to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. It was a bit of a shock when I played the Mother Abbess in the "Sound of Music" in the spring of 1965 and then in August, I became a postulant with the SCLs. There were 33 of us who entered together at that time in the midst of profound changes. Members of my novitiate continue to be loving, prayerful, creative and talented women of service, and we always enjoy our time together.

I have been called to serve in ministries that required advanced degrees, so I was asked to obtain additional education to better prepare me to serve in these ministries. Initially, I received my undergraduate degree in English and secondary education. When I was asked to serve in administration, I obtained my master's at the University

of San Francisco, and when I was asked to teach in the education department at Saint Mary College (now the University of Saint Mary), I was asked to pursue a doctorate, which I successfully completed at UMKC. During that time of working on my doctorate, I had the privilege of taking care of my Mom who was quite ill. Those years were difficult and challenging, but I treasure that time as gift and significant in my personal and spiritual growth.

During these 50 years, my ministries have included teaching English, journalism and theology in high schools, being a secondary school principal and serving as superintendent of a K-12 system. Following my service in high schools for almost 20 years, I was asked to serve as a professor in the education department at the University of Saint Mary (USM), which I did for 24 years. During that time, I was honored to receive the Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence. When I was asked to serve in the ministry of working with our newer SCL members in initial formation, I retired from USM as a professor emerita. Currently, I continue as a "companion on the journey" with our newer members as director of initial formation.

During these years of ministry, I have met wonderful people, some of whom I am blessed to continue to call lifelong, best friends. I have appreciated and cherished my students, colleagues and all whom I have encountered. Some other activities and ministry include singing for liturgies, writing, enjoying poetry and music, and reading. I have always loved to learn, so being able to constantly learn, teach and utilize my various talents in Community life and ministry continues to bring much joy to me as well as others with whom I serve.

All of these encounters, experiences and challenges have enriched and continue to enrich my relationship with God and others. I count my many blessings daily. I came to the Community as a shy young woman of 18, and God and the Community have called me forth to be and do more than I ever dreamed possible. I am deeply grateful, and my desire is to follow the prophet Micah's direction from the Old Testament when he invites us, "To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God."

## Sister Rita McGinnis



Pope Francis introduced a devotion to Mary under the title of "Mary, Undoer of Knots." The image that accompanies the title is compelling. It is appealing to me because it's an image that seems to match my sense of what it means to be a Sister of Charity: to be that "undoer of knots" in very real ways in people's very real lives. Throughout these 50 years that



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Throughout my life, I have been greatly blessed by those who have shared the path with me, those marvelous workers in the Lord's vineyard who have been collaborators, partners and friends in all the work we have been called to welcome.

— Sister Rita McGinnis

has taken many forms. The earliest was as a high school teacher of English, speech and theater from Missouri to Montana. Those years held the satisfaction of watching students grow and conquer their fears of public speaking, of encountering great literature, of being vulnerable enough to appear on stage.

Later, after some years' experience in schools, the role of principal offered new avenues, and in Kansas City and Liberty the challenges and joys were not lacking. Working with dedicated teachers, encountering students at the highest and lowest moments in their young lives as well as all those blessed ordinary times, working with parents and all their dreams for their children, and gathering those who supported the whole emancipating process of education at our schools were all delights.

Post high school teaching, the next invitation was to the Diocese of Helena in the pastoral office where collaboration with the parishes, bishop, priests, sisters, deacons and those talented individuals in parish work allowed a broader vision of Church and a very different landscape for ministry. In the end, it was – again and still – the liberating work that the Gospel clearly calls us to embrace.

After a term as a Community Councilor, I am again in Montana with the Diocese of Helena and this time as chancery services director, pastoral planning services and various other functions. This season of my life has been rich, as have all of the preceding. There has been no lack of knots but also no lack of people of amazing ability and goodwill who are well able to join in the work.

Throughout my life, I have been greatly blessed by those who have shared the path with me, those marvelous workers in the Lord's vineyard who have been collaborators, partners and friends in all the work we have been called to welcome. A doctor on one of our hospital boards once asked me, "How goes the journey?" And I remember responding, "Everything I've ever done has prepared me for everything I've ever done." Thinking back, it's still a good answer; Providence has been busy in my regard, and I am grateful.

Serving so many years in Montana, it was tempting for many to assume that I was from there, but I am a proud Kansan, born, raised and SCL-educated in Topeka, the first of six, born to Tom and Mary (Rezac) McGinnis. We are Rita, Steve, Greg, Mary Jo (Hobbs), John and Ed, and were often called to dinner in that order. These were my first formation directors and provided my first window on the world. I am

deeply grateful to them and to those spouses and their children who have swelled and blessed our family through the years.

The image that Pope Francis introduced to us is dated, the imagination of an artist from a different century, but the icon is true. It shows Mary with a long ribbon. On one side, the ribbon is hopelessly knotted, and on the other side, after passing through her hands, it is free. I pray that these last 50 years have been, in some small way, of service to this energizing, healing, freeing and liberating work.

## Sister Linda Roth



"The search –  
for self,  
for wisdom,  
for love,  
for truth,  
for justice,  
for God –

is strenuous and unending.

We need good companions in order to  
persevere in it.

In good company, in a community of conviction,  
the quest never loses its relevance, its urgency  
or its savor."

— Kaye Ashe, O.P.

My first good companions were my Mom and Dad, Mike and Bernice (Stitz) Roth who attempted farming in Paxico, Kan., after they married. By the time I reached school age, Dad took a job with the Kansas Highway Department and gave up farming. For many years, I didn't know he had a choice of places he could live and chose Emmett, Kan., (population never over 200) because he and Mom wanted us to have a Catholic education.

Thus began my encounter with the Sisters of Charity. Holy Cross was a two-room school with just a handful in each grade. Most of my school companions lived in the

# Celebration OF CHARITY



country, so I hung around school after they were on the bus and cleaned classrooms or prepared bulletin boards while chatting with the Sisters. Some days Mom was frustrated by my tardiness to babysit the young Roth kids who just kept growing in number until we arrived at 10: Linda, Patty, Mike, Joe, John, Gary, Steve, Jim, Mary and Judy.

I suppose becoming an SCL was inevitable, but I wasn't thinking about it in my early years. Much later I learned that my early experience was pretty unusual. Piano lessons paid for by the Church to ensure an organist paid off. I played for many high Masses and holy hours and funerals. I rang the Angelus bells with a friend and became a sacristan. I even counted and posted the Sunday collection by myself in my high school years. It was those good companions (SCLs Adrienne Mitchell, Marie Vincent Foster [Mercedes Craughwell], and Mary Georgette Groh) who gave me the confidence I needed when I left Emmett.

After one year at Marymount College in Salina with the Concordia CSJs, I knew where "home" was and headed to Leavenworth in the fall of 1965. After novitiate training, I professed vows in 1968 and began teaching high school Spanish and business for 15 years at St. Pius X in Kansas City, Mo., Sacred Heart in Falls City, Neb., and Immaculata in Leavenworth. My SCL friendships were formed in those early years as we good companions learned from one another how to teach and monitor such things as pep club and cheerleaders.

In the mid-80s, Sister Mary Serena Sheehy asked me to be the Community's first vocation director, a ministry I enjoyed for 10 years. During five of those 10 years, I had the honor and pleasure of working in campus ministry at Saint Mary College with Uncle John (Stitz). It was good to live near him in his final years.

I loved my years of working with young people but found myself wanting to use my Spanish language and work more directly with those living in poverty. My next 13 years at El Centro in Kansas City, Kan., were very stretching for me, moving me into a new culture and environment. My favorite ministry was developing a clerical and job skill training program for un- and under-employed individuals, mostly women. Computers were just coming into being. It was the biggest challenge of my life, and my good companions did the classroom training while I canvassed the city for

potential jobs. I got to be an expert as well in daycare and transportation issues.

From 2004-2010, I had the privilege of being on the SCL Community Council, another stretch for me as I sat at tables on hospital boards and for Community projects. The best part was entering the lives of our Sisters, especially my elders.

I've come full circle and am working with teenagers again as alumni director at our Cristo Rey Kansas City High School. My coworkers provide good company as together we support kids who never would have had a Catholic, college-prep education without us.

I've been fortunate to live close to my parents and siblings through the years. In this best of good company I've shared laughter, tears, faith and lots of good food from one of the world's best cooks, my Mom, who is now in a nursing home in St. Marys, Kan.

I'm grateful to all of you, my good companions, who help me see that "the quest never loses its relevance, its urgency or its savor."

## Sister Lucy Walter



"We may not be called to do great things that make the headlines but we are called to love and to be loved, wherever we may be. We are called to be open

and to grow in love and thus to communicate life to others, especially to those in need."

— Jean Vanier

Though I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, I only claim my California roots. Given life by Albert Walter and Lucy McDonough, I was blessed with unconditional love by my parents and paternal grandparents from the day I was born.

Noreen came two years, nine months later, born a true California kid. She helped to shape me up after being so spoiled. It suddenly dawned on me that I could be replaced!

Living in Los Angeles, Westchester, Calif., across the street from Visitation Church, school and convent, was a blessing and a cross! My parents modeled love into action in the care of their neighbors, as Mom drove the SCLs and Dad used carpentry skills to do repairs at the convent, rectory and school.



I'm grateful to all of you, my good companions, who help me see that "the quest never loses its relevance, its urgency or its savor."

— Sister Linda Roth





# Celebration OF CHARITY

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Entering at the time of Vatican II and in our gray skirts and white blouses, though we experienced lots of changes, we bonded through our love of singing.

— Sister Lucy Walter

In high school, times were difficult as Dad, only 47, was dying of colon cancer. I have fond memories of the Sisters and priests visiting Dad, bringing us comforting support. We loved it when Sister Margaret Rose would dig deep into her pockets to pull out oranges, apples and bananas, bringing gifts and laughter into our home. After Dad's death, though Mom had to find work, she managed to send me to college.

Mom desired whatever would make us happy. Though I loved my two years at Saint Mary College, especially the welcoming spirit of the Midwest, the time to "head south" and enter the SCLs was right for me.

I loved my novitiate days with their tears and joys. Entering at the time of Vatican II and in our gray skirts and white blouses, though we experienced lots of changes, we bonded through our love of singing. We can still break into song at a moment's notice! Performing numerous parodies throughout the years, I never hear "Mary Poppins" quite the same.

Henri Nouwen once wrote, "Ministry is first of all, receiving God's blessing from those to whom we minister."

I received so many blessings that contributed to my growth professionally and spiritually, starting with my first of seven summers working with the children with disabilities at the Kennedy Center Day Camp, Santa Monica, Calif. Working

with these special kids, I fell in love with them and discovered my passion for this ministry.

Awaiting full-time teaching at the Kennedy Center, I had wonderful experiences teaching first grade in Topeka, Billings and at St. Martin de Porres in Kansas City, Mo. The first year of the consolidated school and "open classroom" concept stretched everyone, including experienced Sisters Mary Helen McInerney, Regina Marie Allgaier and Carol Wells, as we shared our tears and joys with 125 primary students in one space.

For 13 years, I ministered at the Child Study Center (CSC), Santa Monica, teaching in the state-funded preschool, young adult program and the after-school program for the developmentally disabled. There I learned to work as team – another gift.

So many highlights during those years at CSC, but I particularly enjoyed getting into jogging, training for 10Ks and for the Jimmy Stewart Marathon, a fundraiser for the CSC. Many coworkers participated, and we bonded through workouts and races, despite that I broke my leg at one of the hospital's races!

My heart's desire, after reading Vanier's books, was to live in the first L'Arche Community in Overland Park, Kan. Living in this community was a blessing; I'm very grateful to the SCL Community for allowing me this privilege. Meeting and having a retreat with Jean Vanier in Canada and participating in two of Henri Nouwen's workshops in Canada and at the University of Notre Dame were gift and grace, too. Also, my three years working with Community Living Opportunities in Lawrence, Kan., with adults with profound handicaps taught me much about acceptance and trust. I am grateful to continue my involvement with L'Arche Heartland as board member, spiritual guide and facilitator of 26 years for Faith and Sharing Retreat Weekends at the University of Saint Mary.

Presently, my 15-year ministry as Mother House/Ross Hall coordinator has been filled with transition, remodeling, rebuilding and transformation. Every day holds surprise and grace!

As Vanier said, "We are called to love and to be loved... to be open and to grow in love." My 50 years in the SCL Community have been this for me. I am filled with gratitude.

## Book Review

### Suggestions for mature living as a Christian

*Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity.*

Rolheiser, Ronald, OMI (2014). New York: Image.



by Sister Mary  
Pat Lenahan

**"When one reaches the highest degree of human maturity, one has only one question left. How can I be helpful?"**

— Teresa of Avila

With this quote, Father Ronald Rolheiser begins his reflection on delving more deeply into Christian maturity in striving to "live Jesus" each day. In his book, the author utilizes the comparison of fine wine to represent the soul. Just as wine needs to ferment over time in various vessels as it ages and mellows, so the soul learns and grows in the "crucible of struggles" (p. 3). The journey to deeper maturity is a lifelong process with spurts of growth and setbacks along the way. In his reflection, the author also compares this process to Jacob's experience of wrestling with God with each stage involving "restlessness and humiliation" (p. 4).

Father Rolheiser further emphasizes this struggle by comparing the different seasons of life that have distinct challenges and the various implications and consequences of how we understand what Christian discipleship asks of us in those different times. For instance, Father Rolheiser speaks of Martha and Mary and how, in some seasons, we respond more by doing. While at other times, we are called to focus more on being than doing. There are three main struggles in life when called to full discipleship according to Nikos Kazantzakis, writer and philosopher. He speaks of these as being: "essential discipleship in the struggle to get our lives together; mature discipleship as we give our lives away; and radical discipleship when we give our deaths away" (p. 15).

Throughout this maturing process, Father Rolheiser highlights critical elements of "private prayer and private integrity; charity and justice; involvement within an ecclesial community; and forgiveness and mellowness of heart" (p. 46). This journey of our lives to maturity is meant to invite us and bring us to greater maturity. At one point in the book, the author reminds us that "Jesus doesn't call the ready; Jesus calls the willing" (p. 62).

#### **Pondering, praying, blessing**

Just as activity and service are vital, so are times for pondering and waiting. Father Rolheiser talks about Mary pondering and

"holding the tension" (p. 146) with its silence and its strength. The reader is asked how she/he holds that tension. At one point in his book, the author reminds us that Jesus appeared in the upper room while the disciples were together. On a lighter note, he draws from a quote attributed to Peter Maurin, who worked closely with Dorothy Day to found the Catholic Worker: "When you don't know what else to do, keep going to meetings because Pentecost happened at a meeting" (p. 130). In the upper room there was a "faith circle" of believers together. They and we are able to draw strength from prayer and one another.

The kinds of prayer that Father Rolheiser highlights are liturgical prayer (priestly) and private or devotional prayer (affective prayer). Our liturgical prayer includes the Eucharist and the Divine Office. Our affective prayer listens to hear God say, "I love you" (p. 181).

In the fullest maturity, the author describes the "capacity and willingness to bless others" (p. 212). To bless others is to speak well of them. Rolheiser further outlines a blessing in "seeing someone, speaking well of someone, and giving away some of one's life, so someone has more" (p. 223). Interestingly, he says that blessings are

most effective when they are "top down and from the same gender." He says that "when we act like God, we feel like God" (p. 234) and that "gratitude defines maturity."

Father Rolheiser maintains that "gratitude is the basis for all holiness; to be most loving is to be most grateful" (p. 247). He further states that as we give our lives away with blessing, diminishment is part of the process in maturing the soul. To assist in this aging, "our task is reflection" (p. 299). How will I choose to give my death away? This seems to be the key question for each of us. The author draws again from Kazantzakis in his three kinds of souls and three kinds of prayers:

1. I am a bow in your hands, Lord, draw me, lest I rot.
2. Do not overdraw me, Lord, I shall break.
3. Overdraw me, Lord, and who cares if I break!

This book invites the reader to enter into deeper pondering, reflection and prayer in reviewing some of the stages in reaching adult maturity. It reminds each of us of her/his call to a deeper human and Christian maturity in this individual and collective call to missionary discipleship. Through our aging and physical diminishment, we are ever called each day to closer union with our God and with one another.

We are reminded that we are always "in process" and our call is never finished. "Since formation as religious women is a lifetime process, we assume the primary responsibility for our ongoing formation.

**"We become Sisters of Charity over a lifetime by being Gospel-centered, by constant renewal in Christ, by spending our lives in service to others, by living up to the name we bear: Sisters of Charity."**

— SCL Constitution, 1983

We also recall the words of Teresa of Avila, "When one has the highest degree of human maturity, one has only one question left. 'How can I be helpful?'" As we respond, we ponder the question that the poet, Mary Oliver, asks each of us, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

#### **TEN SUGGESTIONS**

In order to move his reflections into the doable range, Father Rolheiser provides 10 suggestions for mature living. They include:

1. Live gratitude and thank God for life.
2. Be willing to carry more of life's complexities.
3. Transform jealousy, anger, etc., and not give them back in kind.
4. Let suffering soften your heart rather than harden your soul.
5. Forgive all and God.
6. Bless more and curse less.
7. Love in more radical sobriety.
8. Pray affectively and liturgically.
9. Be wide with your embrace.
10. Stand where you are supposed to be standing and let God provide the rest. (p. 245)

## Sense of timing; trust in God



*The day in 1952 that Madonna Fink came to Leavenworth to join the SCLs, she followed the tradition of putting on her new postulant habit.*

*Next, she went to the parlor to see her Mother who had accompanied her on the trip from Montana. Then, the young SCL candidate/postulant walked out to the front porch of the Mother House.*

“I remember the feeling that came over me,” Sister Madonna recalls. “I just knew that I belonged here at the Mother House and with the Sisters. I have never regretted this decision.”

This sense of timing, an unassuming manner and trust in God’s work in her life have characterized Sister Madonna’s ministry.

She grew up in northeast Montana where her parents raised hard, spring wheat not far from the Canadian border. The family attended Mass in Lambert, 12 miles from their farm. There were no Catholic elementary or summer vacation schools in the area. Because Madonna’s parents were very

staunch Catholics who wanted her to have a Catholic education, they sent their daughter to Miles City. She boarded in a dorm in the convent of the Ursuline Sisters who taught at the high school. When the sisters discontinued the boarding arrangements, Madonna transferred to another Ursuline school in Great Falls, Mont.

During her high school years, the young student began to take Latin classes and enjoyed the classical language. Her junior year, a young woman who was graduating shared that she was going to attend Saint Mary College, Leavenworth. When it came time for Madonna to consider college options, she corresponded with the SCLs at Saint Mary. “They wrote back and said, ‘Come, you’ll

like it,’” Sister Madonna remembers. *And she did.*

In Leavenworth, the college freshman felt accepted and welcomed, especially because she intended to major in Latin and be a teacher. After a year, Madonna noticed that some classmates were entering the SCL Community. They seemed happy, and this was something she had considered for her own life. The Christmas of her senior year, she told her parents she wanted to enter the SCLs the following August. *And she did.*

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ABOVE PHOTOS: Sister Madonna Fink pictured in the stacks of the Mother House library. Sister Madonna spent 34 years as a reference librarian at the University of Saint Mary.





The University of Saint Mary named a court in Sister Madonna's honor for her years of prayers and support for the teams.

### Ministry transitions

Sister Madonna began her ministry as an SCL teaching elementary school, but eventually taught high school Latin in Topeka and Leavenworth, Kan., and in Billings, Mont. She earned her master's degree in Latin from Creighton University, Omaha. She also taught English classes and a Western American literature course that she developed while in Montana. When enrollment in Latin classes began to dwindle, an SCL colleague suggested that Sister Madonna might consider library science. *And she did.*

Sister Madonna spent summers working on her master's in library science at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan., and school years

in the library of Billings Central in Montana. An opening in the library at Saint Mary College drew the SCL back to Leavenworth where she served for 34 years. Most of that time, Sister Madonna was the reference librarian – a job that she loved. She had access to all the books, knew the resources and enjoyed working with students one-on-one in an education environment.

Another vacancy led to the need for a Sister to pray with teams before athletic events and games. While she says she's not much of a sports person, Sister Madonna stepped forward and filled the role. She also gained fame and friends by baking cookies for the teams. The students and coaches recognized Sister Madonna by naming the basketball

court in Ryan Sports Center at the college (now the University of Saint Mary) in her honor.

Much as she has known when the time was right in her life for other decisions, Sister Madonna retired from her library position in April 2011. She's quick to add, however, that Sisters never fully retire because there are so many things to do at the Mother House – meetings, discussion groups, classes, retreats, prayers and letter-writing for social justice issues and more.

Reflecting on 63 years of religious life, Sister Madonna says, "Being an SCL is absolutely a whole way of life. I knew that God intended this for me, and I'm glad that I could respond the way I did."

## Leading up to Chapter 2016

*In accord with their Constitution and Canon Law, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth will gather in early 2016 for their chapter, the major meeting of the Community convened every six years to determine future direction and elect leadership.*

**P**reparations are underway through meetings of the Leaven Groups and Leaven Assembly and work of the Chapter Planning Committee.

“Chapter is a spiritual event that will include many processes, rituals and times of prayer,” says Sister Maureen Hall, SCL Community Director.

Conveying the purpose of chapter, Sister Maureen refers to Canon 631 that states, “The general chapter, which holds supreme authority in the institute [religious community] according to the norm of the constitutions, is to be composed in such a way that, representing the entire institute, it becomes a true sign of its unity in charity.”

Making Chapter 2016 this “sign of its unity in charity” is a key task of the Chapter Planning Committee that has focused preparations using contemplative dialogue and communal discernment to facilitate this process. The goal of the highly participative process is to build unity among members, guided by the Spirit, to identify “matters of greater importance” and to shape the

direction of the apostolic work of the Community and its leadership for the next six years.

Through questions and answers, quotes and descriptions, the following provides an overview of what’s leading up to Chapter 2016.

### What is a chapter?

Sister Constance Phelps, chair of the SCL Chapter Planning Committee and a consultant who facilitates general chapters for other religious communities, defines chapter as “a most sacred time in the life of the congregation” and “a collegial, legislative, ecclesial event.” She considers chapter a time for prayer, reflection, dialogue, discernment, evaluation and celebration. “It’s a time of looking forward to the directions and policies that will help the Community and its members respond faithfully and resourcefully to the calls of the Church and the needs of society in the foreseeable future,” she explains.

Furthermore, Sister Constance values this as a time of empowerment when through its actions, the chapter communicates to leaders and members a fresh contemporary spirit of commitment to the charism and vision of the religious community. This spirit can be a source of energy and vitality for the next six years. Chapter also promotes a community spirit among all members.

### What are the canonical purposes of a chapter?

- Evaluation of the life and mission of the Community.
- Setting of direction.
- Election of a new leadership team.

### Who is involved in preparing for Chapter 2016?

- The **SCL Community Council** that oversees the entire process and receives materials from the Sisters.
- The **Leaven Groups** and **Leaven Assembly** that provide the structure and the vehicle for ongoing education and discernment and collaboration with the Chapter Planning Committee in surfacing matters of greater importance.
- The **Chapter Planning Committee** that provides the materials and the process for ongoing education, dialogue and discernment as the Leaven Groups surface matters of greater importance.
- **Individual SCLs** in one of three ways:
  - **Supportive** participation through prayer and participation as able in Leaven Groups and regional meetings.
  - **Collaborative** participation through prayer, preparation and participation in Leaven Groups and regional meetings.

### SCL Chapter 2016



Chapter of Affairs – January 3-9, 2016

Chapter of Elections – March 11-13, 2016

Sister Nancy Bauman, Council liaison to the Chapter Planning Committee, describes the Chapter 2016 logo as symbolizing the lifting up of our gratitude for the river of blessings of our past, our response to the ever-flowing critical needs of today, and our hope for the future that is ever new. Sister Pam Hinkle designed the logo.



At a recent meeting of the Chapter Planning Committee, (front row, left to right) Sisters Carole Shinnick, SSND (facilitator), Nancy Bauman (SCL Community Council liaison), Hermana Lourdes Abad Pulache, Sisters Elizabeth Skalicky, Sheila Taylor, Mary Rachel Flynn (recording secretary); (back row, left to right) Sisters Donna Jean Henson (translator), Constance Phelps (chairperson), Sheila Karpan, Lynn Casey, Noreen Walter and Melissa Camardo.

- **Deliberative** participation through prayer, participation in Leaven Groups and regional meetings and in all sessions, dialogue and discernment and all aspects of the Chapter of Affairs and Chapter of Elections.

#### Key questions leading up to Chapter 2016

- What is God saying through the small group?
- What is the greater common good of the whole?
- To what are we being called?

### Dialogue ► Discernment ► Decision

#### What is contemplative dialogue?

“Contemplative dialogue, deeply grounded in silence, allows us to experience a profound state of shared consciousness as we listen from the fullness of who we are, speak to one another with humility, candor, trust, and vulnerability, and open ourselves to being transformed by what we hear. With practice, we learn to encounter one another’s thinking from the interior level of contemplative listening where we have the capacity to hold multiple perspectives and welcome differences without reactive judgments. This kind of listening creates a liminal space, a sacred threshold, for attending to the movements of our deep communal consciousness as we think together *as one organic body*. ... We are engaging in a dynamic process of communal conversion and transformation that can lead us to a prophetic stance in the world.”

- “Moving into a Deeper Communion: Communal Discernment through Contemplative Dialogue,” Sister Liz Sweeney, SSJ, *LCWR Occasional Papers*, Summer 2014.

#### What is communal discernment?

“Communal discernment is a discipline with clear guidelines and focused practices. It re-enforces the best in us. It helps us to become a spirited, generative people because the group agrees that for this time in this place

for this question they will all do their best to enter the process. They will share faith, listen more than speak, hold their own suggestions lightly. They will sit in silence. They will release their agendas. They will try to stop judging and preparing rebuttals in their heads. They will commit to searching for what God is saying through each person. They will look for the next best steps they can take together.”

- The Discipline of Communal Discernment,” Sister Carole Shinnick, SSND, *LCWR Occasional Papers*, Summer 2014. Sister Carole is facilitator for the SCL 2016 Chapter.

#### What’s different about preparations and about Chapter 2016?

- **Sister Melissa Camardo:** “We have been working under a proposed, new governance model that includes the structure of the Leaven Groups and the Leaven Assembly. This is different. Plus, we will have two distinct Chapters.”
  - Chapter of Affairs for setting direction Jan. 3-9, 2016
  - Chapter of Election for choosing leadership March 11-13, 2016
- **Sister Sheila Karpan:** “It’s been a much more inclusive process involving all Sisters who are able to participate through small groups.”
- **Sister Lynn Casey:** “We’re inviting every Sister into an act of faith, confident that each person’s wisdom and lived experience will be enlivened by the Holy Spirit to let us know God’s desires for our Community.”
- **Sister Noreen Walter:** “The whole process of preparation is different. Before, we had position papers and statements that were brought to the Chapter. Now, we are trying to listen to the Spirit and the movement of the whole group.”
- **Sister Elizabeth Skalicky:** “We are using a different process which invites every Sister to prayerfully discern present and future needs of the times both for our world and our Community. This process encourages all voices to be shared in a contemplative dialogue and setting.

#### What’s so important about this process?

- **Hermana Lourdes Abad Pulache:** “We are women who are looking for the will of God, and we are basing our search on the Gospel.”
- **Sister Sheila Taylor:** “Our emphasis is first on where we are going to go and then on electing those who will lead us in this direction.”
- **Sister Constance:** “We’ve learned and grown into much more collaborative participation. The Leaven Groups are welcoming this opportunity.”



# Teamwork, flexibility key

## Chaplains model teamwork

If they could write books about their experiences, the three chaplains with Catholic Community Hospice in the Kansas City area might title them *Book of Blessings* or *Sacramental Moments* or *Instruments of God's Grace*.

Typical of many ministries, the three chaplains agree that they receive as much or more than they give through their visits and interactions with families. But Sister Judith Jackson, Tracy MacClement and Maureen Kelly add to their blessings the fact that they have one another as a team along with the other persons with whom they work through the hospice sponsored by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

In fact, it was meeting Sister Judith and Tracy that solidified Maureen's decision to join the team last September. "You don't always get the feeling of teamwork in your jobs or roles," Maureen says. "But you do here at Catholic Community Hospice."

While each chaplain has her own patient caseload, the chaplains meet frequently to share experiences, debrief,

get advice, and listen to and laugh with one another. Each chaplain is a member of multiple core hospice teams that include a nurse/case manager, social worker and home health aide. Music therapists and massage therapists supplement the core teams. Well-trained and spiritually sensitive hospice volunteers add to the mix to cover all bases of this specialized service.

### 'Sensitive to the Spirit'

Each week begins with a memorial service on Mondays to remember patients who have died. The chaplains set their own schedules yet recognize that flexibility is key to responding to needs that arise.

Sister Judith says her caseload could include two persons who are closer to actively dying. This helps determine how she will allocate her time between

nursing centers or individual homes that she visits. Sometimes, as many as three people might die in the course of one day, or another person might have a prolonged death. Tracy says this could require being with the person and family a whole day. "We need to be sensitive to the Spirit in determining whether we move on or stay," she adds.

The chaplains and the entire hospice core team are there to be with patients and families to minister and to serve through the dying process. The chaplains listen a lot. "We accompany people at times of great vulnerability," Sister Judith observes, "not only the person who is dying but their family members and spouses. We are helping people as they accept limitations, long for the gift of peace, grieve their separation from loved ones and let go into the arms of our loving God. This ministry requires a lot of spiritual and emotional energy."

The chaplains attend and sometimes preside at memorial services for the deceased. Catholic Community Hospice has a bereavement service to follow up with the family for 13 months after the loss of their loved one.

### God's grace in sacred space

Sister Judith appreciates the words of wisdom she received when she began her hospice ministry from Sister Kathryn O'Neill who had been a long-time public health nurse. Sister Kathryn advised Sister Judith, who had worked in hospital chaplaincy for 20 years, that hospice ministry would be different in that she would be entering the sacred space of families' homes.

"I've always prayed that I can be an instrument of God's grace," Sister Judith concludes. And judging from notes of appreciation from families and the respect and admiration of her coworkers, she is doing just that.



Catholic Community Hospice chaplains value their ministries and one another. Left to right, Maureen Kelly, Tracy MacClement and Sister Judith Jackson.

# to hospice ministry

## Music as prayer and therapy

Music has been a lifelong gift and love of Sister Laurie Parker. She sang all the time as a young child and started piano lessons at age 6 and voice lessons in middle school. It's no wonder that the SCL novice is right at home as a music therapist for Catholic Community Hospice of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

“I like the people,” Sister Laurie says, “and I believe very strongly in hospice ministry. This branch of holistic health care is incredibly helpful to patients and their families. It’s a privilege to be part of their lives at a time when people are thinking about what’s meaningful to them.”

And Sister Laurie loves that she can use music to achieve therapeutic outcomes that support this process. Before she visits a patient, Sister Laurie calls to ask about music preferences and any background in music. She also takes into account the patient’s diagnosis when planning the course of therapy. How she proceeds with a music therapy session will be different if the patient has cancer or dementia.

### Music tailored to patients

She tailors the music to meet patients’ preferences and needs. For example, if a patient seems anxious, she may start by playing the person’s preferred music at a faster tempo and louder dynamic level and gradually get softer and slower to try to calm the individual. Sister Laurie keeps the desired therapeutic outcome in mind during her visits.

Music therapists have options to offer patients. While patients frequently just prefer to listen to music, they will often sing along or use the music as a jumping off point for reminiscence. They might even play instruments. Sister Laurie points to research demonstrating that people keep their musical memory long after other memories fail them. She often plays a song or hymn that might link with childhood faith, family musicality or going out dancing. “The Old Rugged Cross” and “Cheek to Cheek”

are songs she plays frequently. Other music therapy techniques she uses less frequently include improvisation, composition and music-assisted relaxation.

And Sister Laurie will pray with patients, particularly when they are not responsive to the music. At the same time, she believes that music itself is a prayer.

Sister Laurie works as part of the interdisciplinary hospice team. She takes clinical notes that become part of the patients’ medical records. She also shares relevant observations with the hospice nurses, social workers or chaplains. This could include changes in the patients’ body position, facial tension, breathing, verbalizations or behaviors.

### Background

Board-certified in music therapy, Sister Laurie earned her master’s degree in this discipline through the University of Kansas. She also has a master’s in music education from Emporia State University and taught for seven years in Topeka area schools. Sister Laurie became a candidate with the SCLs in January 2013 and a novice in January 2015.

Her full-time novitiate studies limit her hospice ministry to one day a week. But it’s time that Sister Laurie values as she taps into music she loves to help patients and families make important life and death transitions.

Ken Williams,  
president and CEO  
of Catholic Charities,  
says of both Sister  
Judith Jackson and  
Sister Laurie Parker,  
“Having these two  
women religious on  
staff is an incredible  
blessing for our  
patients and our  
staff. They bring  
peace, comfort and  
understanding to  
the dying and their  
family members  
during a very  
difficult time.”



Sister Laurie Parker plays both the piano and the guitar, but the latter is her “travelling instrument” for her hospice ministry.

## Compelled by the charism

*Susan Nyp is one joy-filled SCL Associate. She laughs a lot and is not afraid to laugh at herself. Take for instance the way she came to be an Associate. Susan says, "I'm probably the only one who ever asked to join [the Associates]!"*



Susan Nyp, SCLA

She had thought about becoming an Associate, what she could give the SCL Community and whether she was worthy. Susan was eager to be more associated with the Sisters. So, she asked to join the Associates! Once she understood the process of being sponsored and discerning, Susan wondered if she would become the stone the builders rejected!

With her talents, zeal and deep interest that wasn't going to happen. With Sister Judith Jackson as her sponsor, Susan completed her "Come and See" year and became a bona fide SCL Associate. She began a special journey when that happened.

"As I've matured as a woman and as a Christian, I deeply value the SCLs," Susan says. "Becoming an SCL Associate has helped me recharge spiritually and given me structure and support to work constantly on living the charism of humility, simplicity and charity. These words sound simple, but this is very complex and challenging."

### Pop quiz; keep trying

Every time the window opens at Corita's Corner Sandwich Ministry in Topeka where Susan volunteers weekly, she feels like she's presented with a pop quiz with the question, "How can I reach out and perfect

living the charism when I'm face-to-face with people who come to the window for a sack lunch?"

Like so much in her life, Susan's committed to keep trying. She attributes her understanding of discipleship to the SCLs who have been her teachers and mentors. "I've always had the Sisters in my life in one way or another," she says.

Susan attended eighth grade at Holy Name School, Topeka. During high school at Hayden, she was a candy striper and also worked at St. Francis Health Center into her college years. Susan's first job as a registered nurse was in the Topeka hospital's labor, delivery and recovery unit. When she and husband Randy began their family (four boys in seven years), Susan worked part-time in pediatric emergency nursing at Stormont-Vail, also in Topeka. Randy's hospital administrative positions – several with SCL Health System – kept the Nyps connected with the religious Community. Along the way, Susan earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and taught in a nursing program.



Susan Nyp, SCLA, is proud that her granddaughters Ryleigh, 7, and Sydney, 9 (left photo), and Amelia, 7 (right photo), have helped serve at the sandwich ministry in Topeka.





Randy and Susan are “practicing grandparents” of their “12 apostles”: bottom row, Matthew, Eleanor, Abby, Allison, Sydney, Pyper, Tyler, Maryn, Wyatt, Grant; top row, Pa Pa Randy, Amelia, Ryleigh and Grandma Susie.

In August, she and Randy will mark their 40th wedding anniversary. She’s proud of her “twelve apostles” – the name Susan’s given her dozen grandchildren, ages 7 months to 10 years. She’s a “practicing grandma” and is ready to help when her sons and daughters-in-law need assistance and support. Susan has also become a master gardener and volunteers with demonstration gardens and at the farmer’s market in Lawrence where the Nyps now live. She has special interest in the medicinal use of plants. In addition, this woman of many talents is taking a welding class with the goal of creating yard art from iron.

### Living out the virtues

Susan travelled to the House of Charity, New Orleans, with Terri

Butel, SCL Associate director, to help with repair work and rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina damage. She takes art classes from Dan Dakotas, another Associate. At the sandwich ministry, in addition to serving at the window, Susan assists with fundraising, ordering, and writing receipts and thank you notes.

Summing up her life as an Associate, Susan says, “What I’ve experienced as an Associate carries over to everything that I do. It spills into my entire life. Trying to live the virtues of humility, charity and simplicity is what I do. It’s an exercise every day – not just one hour. It’s a way of being to check myself and always ask: ‘Where’s my center? Where are these virtues?’ It’s not about being perfect; it’s about trying to live out the virtues.”



Part of the Corita’s Corner Sandwich Ministry team, front, Sister Marjorie Cushing, Carolyn Zimmerman, SCL Associate; back, Susan Nyp, Ann Strecker and Judy Wohletz, all SCL Associates.

## MY PILGRIMAGE TO NAZARETH

For two and a half years, Jo Ann Paulin, director of Associates for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCNs), and I had tried to identify a mutually possible time for me to visit that community's Mother House in Kentucky. The perfect opportunity arose to experience an SCN Associate candidate formation weekend in February and to spend time with Jo Ann seeing a few of the sights in and around the Mother House before heading home.

As one formed by the Leavenworth Charities (SCLs) since first grade, I've associated Nazareth with "first home" – where our Mother Xavier began her religious life as a young woman named Ann Ross. As I shared with SCLs in Leavenworth

that I was traveling to Nazareth, I witnessed two reactions: a knowing smile and assurance that I would love being on the sacred ground, or a sad face and some expression that circumstances had not yet permitted those Sisters to visit there. Invariably, I was asked to convey the Leavenworth Community's love.

### **Determined in spite of delays**

As I waited in O'Hare Airport for my delayed connecting flight to Louisville – and waited – Jo Ann called to say that she would have to cancel the formation weekend due to freezing rain and sleet predicted for Saturday. She suggested that I check to see if I could get a refund for the remainder of the flight. That idea didn't resonate at all, and so I continued to sit in my chair at the

by Terri Butel,  
*Director,  
SCL Associates*



gate, bundling up whenever another plane arrived and the wind gusted through the jet way. I began to pray to Mother Xavier Ross for an open heart. I had waited so long to make this trip; I was disappointed not to be able to learn how the SCN Associates experience formation before their first commitment, and it was a letdown not to hear Sister Simone Campbell speak. Jo Ann called back; I said, "I'm coming anyway, and if the weather is too bad for you to pick me up in Louisville, then I'll spend the night until you can get there."

As my plane was nearing Louisville, I caught a glimpse of the "black moon," a new moon that sets at sunset and is usually not visible. But in the early dusk, it was there, huge and hanging with a sliver golden edge. Only the first of many treasured sights!

Jo Ann was waiting when I arrived; after a quick dinner, we drove home to Nazareth. The snow was progressively deeper as we neared Nazareth, and as we turned into the drive leading to the Mother House – what a lovely sight, warm light spilling over the snow!



The original Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Mother House in Bardstown, Ky.





In Heritage Hall at the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Mother House, three "sister dolls" model habits of former years.

### Vincentian charism

At Mass the next morning, we heard the reading from Isaiah 58:6-8:

Is this not, rather, the fast that  
I choose: releasing those bound  
unjustly, untying the thongs  
of the yoke; setting free the  
oppressed, breaking off every  
yoke? Is it not sharing your bread  
with the hungry, bringing the  
afflicted and the homeless into  
your house; clothing the naked  
when you see them, and not  
turning your back on your own  
flesh? Then your light shall break  
forth like the dawn...

It was wonderful to hear this Old Testament passage that is foundational to our Vincentian charism proclaimed in this place!

I visited the archives and perused the contents of the box labeled "Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth." The third item I viewed was a commemorative of the first time our Peruvian Sisters traveled to Leavenworth, and it included a photo of Sister Susan Yerkich about whom I read a Community email that morning, letting us know she was still gravely ill, on a ventilator in ICU. In the photo, she was young and preparing to do liturgical dance, something she loved. I immediately stood up and took a photograph to keep her near.

In the afternoon, Sister Mary Ann Burkardt gave a tour of Nazareth Home, an SCN facility in Louisville which provides short- and long-term, personal and memory care units. It is lovely and expansive.

Then it was off to a Friday night fish fry in a nearby parish and back home to Nazareth. During the night, the freezing rain moved in and continued. Throughout Saturday, it rained like the April rains in Missouri – on top of the eight inches of snow! I was treated to lunch with Sister Mary Ellen Doyle, whom I heard when she came to the Leavenworth Mother House to speak about Mother Catherine Spalding and Mother Xavier in her early days in the Nazareth community. I was delighted to hear of Sister Mary Ellen's participation in the march to Montgomery during the civil rights movement, and fascinated to learn how it became a turning point in her life. I left with a treasured copy of *The Kentucky Standard* article about her involvement.

I spent hours that afternoon in the lovely Heritage Center, photographing treasures from history, all evidence of the vast spreading out of this community. At dinner that evening, Jo Ann and several SCN Associates and I shared how our Associate experiences are similar and different. It is a gift to experience the ever-expanding horizons of the Vincentian family!



In her review of historic materials at Nazareth, Terri Butel found this article documenting the first time the Peruvian Hermanas de la Caridad traveled to the SCL Mother House in Leavenworth.

### Connections across time

At Mass on Sunday, I was invited to proclaim the First Reading:

"God said to Noah and to  
[the people] with him:  
'See, I am now establishing  
my covenant with you  
and your descendants  
after you ...'"

— Gen. 9:8-15

I could not help but think of the many descendants of this Mother House....of all of the good that had its origin here. We sang "Deep Within" and at the words,

"I will bring you back,  
you will be my own,  
and I will be your God!"

Continued on next page.



## MY PILGRIMAGE TO NAZARETH

continued from page 21

I felt a deep connection to our young Ann Ross whose Mother generously permitted God to bring her back to the Nazareth Mother House after both parents had removed her. Sister Mary Ellen remarked that she often wondered what price Ann's Mother paid for letting her return to the Mother House, in clear defiance of her husband's wishes.

After brunch, Sister Rita Davis met us at the Visitor Center, and I watched a video about the community – not leaving without purchasing some delicious homemade candy to take back to Leavenworth!

Jo Ann then braved the snow and ice and did a quick driving tour to the original Mother House at St. Thomas Parish, Gethsemani Monastery, and back to Louisville to see the place where Thomas Merton is said to have had his enlightenment (at the crossroads of Thomas Merton Square and Muhammad Ali

Boulevard!) and the historic marker where the original Galt House Hotel stood – the very place where Ann Ross and her Mother had their no doubt anguished conversation before Ann embraced her vocation for good. It is right at the edge of the Ohio River and 45 miles away from the original Mother House!

I am so grateful to Jo Ann for her welcome and all the time she allowed me to dawdle, snapping photos, asking interminable questions like a child, and to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, for their generous welcome and hospitality. All members of the Charity Federation are so very blessed to live in this age of collaboration, sharing and solidarity, which evidently had its roots in ages past.

I am reminded of one of the items I saw in the SCN archives, referencing a letter sent by Sister Mary Aurelia Ferry, SCL, to Father Thomas Kinsella announcing that Mother Mary Berchmans, SCL, had



Like the Heritage Room at the SCL Mother House, Nazareth's Heritage Hall features a spinning wheel from years past.

received news of Rome's recognition of the Leavenworth Community's Constitution on Jan. 25, 1915:

*"Nazareth will rejoice with us in our great joy, for to their sisterly assistance, especially that of Mother Eutropia and Sister Marie, both now gone to their reward, are we indebted for the expediency with which this cherished boon became ours. It is strange that I who knew not Nazareth should find my thoughts many times today reverting to the home of our origin and particularly to Mother Catherine Spalding, and it pleases me to think that in heaven today she, even more than Mother Xavier and our dear ones there, is especially happy because her Leavenworth as well as her Kentucky children are recognized by Rome."*



Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and of Nazareth share the charism of St. Vincent de Paul who has a place of honor in this exhibit at the Kentucky Mother House.

# Deep ties with SCL history, link with founding Sisters

*Coincidental with her 70th year as an SCL and in her 90th year, Sister Mary Vincentia Maronick has dug deeper into an important and historic connection between her family and early members of the religious Community. It's very likely that Sister Mary Vincentia's Grandmother Lizzie O'Neil knew Mother Xavier Ross, SCL foundress.*

When Lizzie was 18 months old, her Mother died in Fort Buford, N.D. In 1874, her Father took Lizzie to the Sisters in Helena who raised her at St. Vincent's Academy. It was at St. Vincent's Academy that Sister Josepha Sullivan took Lizzie under her wing. Eventually Sister Josepha took Lizzie to Leavenworth to attend school. In a letter dated 1947 to Sister Mary Vincentia, her Grandmother wrote: "I was at St. Mary's [Academy] where I learned to play the harp on the one that was there. Mother Josepha wanted me to learn how to play it and I did. I played at programs where Mother General was present." Sister Mary Vincentia speculates that this could well have been the harp that the founding Sisters brought to Leavenworth.

Lizzie graduated from the Academy in 1891. Mother Josepha served as leader of the Community from 1886 to 1892. Mother Xavier died in 1895. Chances are good that when Lizzie provided music for many programs, Mother Xavier could have also been present.

Mother Josepha served as a "mother" figure for Lizzie. When Lizzie graduated from high school she went to Denver to teach music at Mother Josepha's request. Lizzie eventually settled in Helena, Mont., where she taught at St. Vincent's Academy. In time, Lizzie married Tom Laughlin. Their daughter, Marguerite, who was Sister Mary Vincentia's Mother, grew up thinking she was raised by the Sisters. In a letter to Sister Mary Vincentia, her Mother wrote, "I personally remember Mother Josepha because after my Father died (I was 4 months old) my Mother went back to St. Vincent's and taught piano. I used to be around there, and Mother Josepha was always taking me to the dress makers and downtown with her. Mother Josepha always kept a sunbonnet on me (which I hated!) because I'd get freckled!"

After the death of her first husband, Lizzie later married Fred Ashall. Sister Mary Vincentia remembers

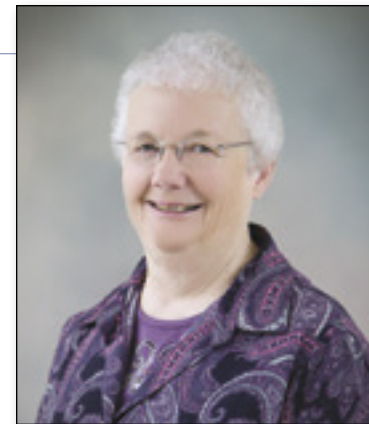


▲ Old photographs and letters link Sister Mary Vincentia Maronick with the SCL founding history and her family history.

◀ Lizzie O'Neil, Sister Mary Vincentia's Grandmother.

summers in Helena with her Grandmother who painted china and did water colors. Lizzie died in 1952. But the association she had begun with the SCL Community continued.

Sister Mary Vincentia entered the convent in 1945. For over 40 years, she served at Saint Mary College (now the University of Saint Mary) in Leavenworth. Sister Mary Vincentia occupied some of the same space her Grandmother must have walked and visited. "My Grandmother planted roots for me to be here," she says. "I feel blessed to have this link with the founding Sisters."



Sister Eileen Marie Johnson

## Massage therapy as ministry

*Sister Eileen Marie Johnson knows in her heart that she's where she's supposed to be – doing massage therapy for persons who are homeless in San Francisco's Tenderloin district. She believes that she's doing what St. Vincent de Paul would want done for persons who are poor.*

**V**alidating Sister's ministry are the facts – not coincidences – that she walks up Leavenworth Street to get to her volunteer service and that Kansas Street runs parallel to a church near where she lives in Oakland, Calif.!

Even more affirming are the comments she's received from the people she serves. One person told Sister Eileen Marie, "You are Christ for me today." Another said, "I feel like you massaged a prayer in my body." And still another, "You have the Spirit" – to which Sister Eileen Marie responded, "And so do you," and the man left the building smiling.

Sister Eileen Marie is among seven volunteers who serve with the Care Through Touch Institute in San Francisco. Three to four times

a week, she gives chair massages in three-hour stints at the St. Vincent de Paul Wellness Center, a hospitality house and other locations that serve persons who are homeless.

The former educator and youth and music minister came to consider massage therapy as a ministry during an immersion experience while on sabbatical in Berkeley, Calif. Sister Judith Jackson invited Sister Eileen Marie to the experience that took them into the Tenderloin district. Paired with a massage therapist, Sister Eileen Marie's interest in this healing opportunity began to grow. She subsequently learned that the spiritual director she had chosen in her sabbatical program was also a massage therapist. With permission from the Community, Sister Eileen Marie attended Oakland Massage

School and became licensed and certified in massage therapy in California.

She has been an SCL for 52 years. Sister Eileen Marie joined the Community because she appreciated the blend of the contemplative and the human among the Sisters she came to know while working in the cafeteria at Saint Mary College. She's had twin threads of music and sports running through her life. As a youth minister in Anaconda, Mont., she took high schoolers to Mexico to volunteer to make bricks and build houses.

Now she's happy to be serving God's people in a different way. Sister Eileen Marie doesn't believe in coincidences but rather that the Spirit works in people's lives and continues to work in and through hers.



The St. Vincent de Paul Wellness Center in San Francisco is one location in the Tenderloin district where Sister Eileen Marie Johnson volunteers to do massage therapy for persons who are homeless.



## OF SPECIAL NOTE

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

### SCL photo gallery – a busy spring



The Learning Club was inducted this spring into the MidAmerica Education Hall of Fame sponsored by the Kansas City Kansas Community College Endowment Association. Pictured left to right, Sister Nancy Bauman, SCL Councilor; Brad Grabs, director of the Learning Club, and Dawn, his wife; and Sister Maureen Hall, SCL Community Director. Both Brad and Dawn are SCL Associates.



Sisters Mary Rachel Flynn, Therese Bangert and Vicki Lichtenauer were among guests who generously volunteered to assist at a recent special event to benefit Saint Vincent Clinic, Leavenworth, and Duchesne Clinic, Kansas City, Kan. In early May, nearly 140 community supporters and friends of the clinics gathered at the Celebration of Health and Hope Breakfast hosted at the Kansas City Kansas Community College Technical Center. The event netted \$78,000 for the clinics' ministry of providing primary health care for persons who are uninsured.



Gretchen Gore, SCL Associate, received the President's Award in recognition as an employee who has gone above and beyond to advance philanthropy and the mission of St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction, Colo. Gretchen is pictured with Warren, her husband, also an SCL Associate.



Among SCLs at the Bishop Ward High School Hall of Fame induction on April 12, left to right, Sisters Judith Jackson, Mary Pat Johnson, Rosie Kolich, Maureen Hall, Marie Loretta Modrcin, Julia Golkoski, Mary O'Rourke, Therese Steiner, Mary Pat Lenahan and Frances Juiliano. The SCLs received the Father Raymond J. Davern Community Service Award. There were 63 Sisters who have graduated from Bishop Ward since 1917, nine who served as principals, and many more who were teachers directly affecting the lives of many students.

## Mother House Jubilee celebration

It's always a joy-filled celebration with a special Mass followed by a luncheon and capped off by a delightful program of musical parodies to recognize the SCLs at the Mother House and associated ministries marking significant jubilees. "Feathers, Flowers and Flutterbys...a Fanfare to Our Jubilarians" was this year's program theme on April 25 under the creative direction of Sister Barbara Wieseler.



Marking their 60th anniversaries, left to right, Sisters Diane Hurley, Helen Cheeney and Jane Albert Mehrens.



Sister Diane Hurley (left) is a 60-year jubilarian. She's pictured with Sister Eileen Hurley, her sister, who gave the reflection at the Jubilee Mass.



Seventy years of ministry and service won accolades for Sisters Eleanor Schram (seated), Michel Pantenburg (standing, left) and Mary Vincentia Maronick.



Each jubilarian had her moment in the spotlight to don a celebratory hat! Sister Mary Pat Lenahan is the center of attention for her 50 years in the Community.



Sister Mary Denise Sternitzke is celebrating 75 years as an SCL with her friend Sister Michel Pantenburg who is marking her 70th anniversary.

### Follow the SCLs on

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

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



## Sponsored Ministries



## USM breaks ground for 'Campus for Tomorrow'

*Marking the start of the university's most ambitious campus improvement vision to date, the University of Saint Mary held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 17 for the multi-million dollar Campus for Tomorrow plan.*

ABOVE PHOTO: Sister Maureen Hall, SCL Community Director (left), and Sister Diane Steele, president of the University of Saint Mary, participated in the program for the groundbreaking of the new Berkel Memorial Stadium (named in memory of Charles Berkel whose photo was displayed).

The groundbreaking focused on the centerpiece of the plan – a \$7 million athletic complex that will provide a new state-of-the-art home for the university's football, soccer, lacrosse and track teams – that was funded largely by a generous gift from long-time Saint Mary supporter Charles J. Berkel, who passed away in November 2013. The new Berkel Memorial Stadium, slated to open in time for USM's homecoming game in October, has been named in his honor.

The university's overall expansion plans will be rolled out in three phases through 2020. The first phase – which includes Berkel Memorial Stadium as well as a new softball field and additional facilities for baseball and softball – will also feature a \$1.5 million renovation of Saint Joseph Dining Hall to create a food court experience for students (ready by the Fall 2015 semester) as well additional efforts to develop a new campus union, improve parking, and restore and enhance parts of campus.

Future phases will include the transformation of De Paul Library into a modern learning center, a new showcase for the university's storied Bernard Hall Lincoln Collection, renovation to the Miega Hall science and business classrooms, and a new residence hall on campus. As part of the overall Campus for Tomorrow vision, the university is also launching several academic programs, including the Triple Advantage Accounting program (BS, MBA and CPA), a pre-engineering program in partnership with UMKC, and new health care programs to supplement the university's growing health care specialty.

Go to [www.CampusForTomorrow.com](http://www.CampusForTomorrow.com) to learn more or support the University of Saint Mary Campus for Tomorrow plan.



## CRKC – ‘No place for hate’

*Joining only nine other schools in Missouri, Cristo Rey Kansas City High School achieved designation by the Anti-Defamation League as a “No Place for Hate” on May 8.*

Over this past school year, the student body studied and took action on issues of bigotry and discrimination that affect students, the community and the nation.

The initiative encourages racial and religious tolerance and shows students how to confront bias and prejudice that they encounter among their peers. Participants sign a “Resolution of Respect,” with statements such as “I believe that one person can make a difference. No person can be an ‘innocent bystander’ when it comes to opposing hate.” To achieve the designation, participating schools agree to sponsor three anti-bias activities that engage large numbers of the student body.

As a sign of solidarity with the diverse racial, ethnic, economic and faith groups present in our world, the Cristo Rey student body and community partners participated in a Unity Walk for Justice on May 8 from the school to the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial. On the steps of the memorial, student organizers prayed and shared reflections on topics ranging from care of the earth to economic security for the marginalized and from respect for the diverse peoples in the community to relationship violence.



Sister Sheila Karpan does an interview with a local television station.



Making the Unity Walk for Justice, left to right, Michael Gonzalez Benzor, Luis-Angel Beltran del Rio, David Miller and Virginia Stallworth.



Standing for justice, left to right, Jacqueline Gaytan-Conde, Sisters Mary Arthel Cline, Linda Roth, Vickie Perkins, Therese Bangert and Cele Breen, and Samantha Ramirez Ramirez.



Blessings! ¡Bendiciones!

# Celebrating Earth Week with God's creatures

*You never know who (or what) you might run into  
or have as a visitor at the SCL Mother House!*

**E**arth Week brought some of God's creatures into the O'Shea Conference Room on April 13, compliments of Operation Wildlife. Sister Jo Anne Sistrunk captured the moments as she does so many times with her gift of photography!



A fine-feathered bird observed by an interested Sister Catherine Rose Grimm.





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