USA associates revitalized and inspired

BY JUDITH PLUMMER AND SISTER MARY MARGARET WEBER, CO-DIRECTORS, ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

During the Area of North America Assembly last March, the sister and associate contacts for each of the seven areas of the United States were introduced. These associate communities are gathering and experiencing the dynamic energy that is fueling the reestablishment of the Associates Program. And there have been more significant accomplishments, some of which are posted on the congregation’s Web site in the newly expanded associates’ section.

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Dear Sisters

I was drawn to this quotation—from a prayer service before a pilgrimage I made to El Salvador years ago—particularly now as we enter into theological reflection on right relationships. What I recall vividly from that pilgrimage is that the people of El Salvador, who had experienced such violence from war, possessed a genuine spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation, and a desire to share their stories with those from other cultures.

We, as an international congregation, are called to live interculturally; it is part of the fabric of the future of religious life. Intercultural living is not easy. It challenges us not only to appreciate but also to embrace the gifts in our own culture and that of others, and to be able to critique the limitations in our own culture. It challenges us to open, honest communication, to deep listening, and to extend and accept forgiveness when our efforts to live interculturally fall short of our aspirations.

In a world torn apart by violence, the justification for the violence often is ethnic, cultural or religious differences. Our hope, as expressed in our Chapter Call to Right Relationships, is that our life in community and our relationships with those with whom and to whom we minister may "advance global reconciliation and right relationships" for the life of the world.

As we make this pilgrimage together to live interculturally, step by step and day by day, may we realize what Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau envisioned for Holy Cross living and serving around the globe: "Let us not limit our interests to the narrow confines of a particular house, a province, or our own country... Rather let us be one with all our houses, and regard none as a stranger to the one in which we live" (Circular Letter 174).

Devotedly in Holy Cross,

Joan Marie Steadman, C.S.C.

"If you are approaching another culture, another land, another people—walk gently because the place you are walking is holy and God has been there before you."
We are especially grateful that Sister Paula Goettelmann and associate Jerri Scarzella generously responded to the call to take on leadership roles in further developing the associate community in the Maryland/Virginia/Washington, D.C., area. During the past few months we were struck by the amazing way both Sister Paula and Jerri complement each other with their gifts and insights into what it means to be a Holy Cross Associate. The associate seed has been planted firmly in this area, and we are looking forward to having them as the newest members of our associate leadership team.

Another significant event occurred in June. The leaders of associate groups representing the four Holy Cross congregations—Marianites of Holy Cross, Sisters of Holy Cross, Sisters of the Holy Cross and the Congregation of Holy Cross—met in New Orleans, Louisiana, at Holy Angels Congregational Center to continue networking and getting to know one another, a process that began at last year’s North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

When the branches of Holy Cross gather for any reason, two realities are immediately evident: our diversity and our unity. This gathering was no different. The diversity of how the associates are envisioned, as well as functioning within the four congregations, is held together by the unity of Father Moreau’s vision regarding the shared ministry of religious and associates. Such unity in diversity, and diversity in unity, provided a wonderful backdrop for our sharing. Please go to www.cscsisters.org/vocation/associate to find a link to the full description of this historic meeting in New Orleans. We are looking forward to our next gathering at the 2012 NACAR Conference in Chicago, Illinois. In the meantime, we stay in touch with periodic phone calls and Skype to continue building the relationships among us.

Please pray for the continued development of our associate community. Know that we are eager to help you initiate an associate group in your area if you believe you are called to participate. Once again, if you have any questions or comments, we look forward to hearing from you.
Gardening “greens” budget

BY SISTER COMFORT ARTHUR

The novices of the International Novitiate this year decided to plant more vegetables in our garden to supplement our kitchen. We planted tomatoes, hot peppers, onions, okra, eggplant, red spinach, zucchini, mustard leaves, cucumbers, kale, broccoli, radishes, a variety of beans and different kinds of lettuce.

As an international novitiate with women from different countries and cultures, we have found some things in common as we live life together in community. Some of us have green thumbs or come from farming families. Some have become interested in gardening through other sisters, and now all of us toil together in the garden to cut down on buying so many vegetables from the market.

It is interesting to see how we all enthusiastically go to the garden to work when it is needed. Everyone is doing something to support this effort with energy and joy. We love to work in the garden because we believe it is a way to contribute to green budgeting. We are cutting our grocery bill by growing our own vegetables. We also are rewarded with freshly harvested produce, which makes some of us feel more at home by reminding us of how we lived and worked on our families' land. As an added bonus, we use the peelings and garden waste to help with our composting.

Harvesting has already begun, which makes us happy because we can see and eat the fruit of our labor.
BY SISTER M. MADELINE THERESE (WILHOIT)

Thirty-six sisters and laypersons attended a June 29 workshop on a documentary film about the life of Archbishop Óscar Romero y Galdámez presented by Father Robert S. Pelton, CSC, in the Lillie O'Grady Center at Saint Mary's. The archbishop of San Salvador during a time of brutal political turmoil in El Salvador, Romero became known as the "bishop of the poor" for his work defending the Salvadoran people.

The film, Monseñor, The Last Journey of Óscar Romero, which was crafted by Father Pelton and his production team, emphasizes how the plight of the campesinos (the poor and unjustly treated farmers and farm laborers of El Salvador) inspired the archbishop to fight for their cause to the point of martyrdom. It depicts Romero's life from his installation as archbishop of San Salvador in 1977 to his murder on March 24, 1980, as he celebrated Mass at a hospital chapel. His total dedication to the cause of justice for the campesinos infuriated government leaders and the elite of society, and he was shot and killed by a paid government assassin. Soon afterward, El Salvador was immersed in a civil war that would last for 12 years and claim 75,000 lives.

Those who attended the workshop and viewed the film were moved by the life and spiritual conversion of Archbishop Romero as he realized the plight of the poor and became their dedicated advocate.

"It is not only a news and biographical documentary," states the study guide that accompanies the film, "but also an inspirational film intended to move others to use the Gospel to fight against injustice and to dissipate poverty. Romero is captured as a spiritual and ethical giant who never loses his easy way of being with people."
Kasoa enjoys happy returns

BY SISTER MARY ELIZABETH BEDNAREK

It has been a very busy few days—a week of "returns"—in Kasoa, Ghana. I returned Monday night, August 15, from Saint Mary’s, where I joyously celebrated my golden jubilee. On Tuesday and Wednesday I met with Sisters Esther Adjoa Entsiwah and Margaret Mary Nimo, who were back from meetings at Saint Mary’s also. On Wednesday evening, Sisters Evelyn Ntiamoah and Martina Dery returned from a women’s camp in the north of Ghana, which they visited at the request of the Congregation Justice Committee. Thursday I traveled to the Brazilian embassy in Accra. Our candidates began arriving on Friday from their home visits. Also, Sister Catherine Before returned from a month-long leadership program that took place at the Institute for Continuing Formation in Vroomdorp near Elmina. Sister Scholastica Elizabeth Ampadu arrived from Takoradi. By Friday night we were a full house once again and it felt good!

In the morning and early afternoon of Saturday, August 20, we had our "country" meeting for reconnecting and sharing updates from congregational meetings, home visits and house affairs. Sister Esther shared highlights of the International Renewal Program (Tertian Program) at Saint Mary’s, which she loved, and Sister Catherine reported on the intensive leadership course she attended, which was organized by the African Sisters Education Collaborative/Sisters Leadership Development Initiative.

Sister Martina shared justice issues which were discussed at the Congregation Justice Committee meeting at Saint Mary’s. She also described the visit that she and Sister Evelyn paid to a “witch camp.” There currently are six witch camps that exist in the northern region of Ghana. These camps are home to women who have been accused of witchcraft and driven from their communities. Life is difficult and painful for these women. They have no support since few of their family members, if any, will help them.

Next, four candidates—Callista Tetteh, Cynthia Bieana, Monica Assifuah-Nunoo and Renatta Jutta Essien—each told us an experience from her home visit. Sister Maggie then helped us reflect on issues from the Extended Leadership Team meeting and ministry proposals. After much listening and discussion, we opened our theological reflection materials on right relationships and watched the DVD on forgiveness. By then it was almost 2 p.m. and the fufu* and goat-meat stew were ready.

That afternoon Callista’s mother, who was in town with her Methodist church group, came to visit us for the first time. By 6:30 p.m. we were ready for our prayer service and the renewal of vows ceremony. Afterward there was much drumming, singing and dancing, followed by a light supper. It was a wonderful and fulfilling day in Holy Cross, Kasoa.

*FUFU IS A GOOEY BALL OF POUNDED CASSAVA, YAM OR PLANTAIN THAT IS MOST OFTEN SERVED IN A LIGHT SOUP OR STEW.
Trio celebrates 80 years of service

BY SISTER M. JOHN MARGARET (DIETZEN)

The year was 1928. A new group of postulants headed for Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana, to enter the novitiate of the Sisters of the Holy Cross—each following a call from the Lord to be a sister who would minister to God's people wherever she might be sent.

Years went by. The sisters made their first profession on January 6, 1931, and their perpetual profession on August 15, 1934. Through those years they were growing in grace, age, wisdom, service and love as they ministered in a variety of ways—in schools as teachers and principals, in religious education or Christian formation programs, in parish ministries, in hospitals, to family members, or to the sick and homebound.

As they “retired” to Saint Mary's, they continued to give service in a variety of ways, the most important of which is the ministry of prayer for the community, church and world.

Many years have passed since that day when they vowed to live in Holy Cross and, over time, some from their group went home to see their God face-to-face. Three, however, with God’s grace, have lived long lives: Sister Aloysia Marie (Mulcaire) celebrated 102 years on July 16; Sister M. Rose Veronica (Mattingly) rejoiced on June 6 when she celebrated 101 years; and Sister M. Francis Rose (Ruppert) had a joy-filled 101st birthday on June 18.

But the celebrations did not end there. On August 15, on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, a special day for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, these three women each celebrated 80 years of professed life at the 11 a.m. liturgy in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto. Father James Bracke, CSC, chaplain, gave a beautiful blessing, and all present raised their arms in blessing and prayer. May God continue to bless them with great joy and peace.

ON OCTOBER1, SISTER ROSE VERONICA WENT HOME TO GOD. HER LOVE OF COMMUNITY WAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED BY HER 80 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT. SHE WAS A GRACIOUS LADY WITH A SIMPLE AND DEEP LOVE OF GOD THAT SHE SHARED WITH ALL. MAY SISTER ROSE VERONICA REST IN PEACE.

Sisters M. Francis Rose (Ruppert), M. Rose Veronica (Mattingly) and Aloysia Marie (Mulcaire) celebrate their 80th jubilee.
Art discovery leads to questions

Anjie Brenda, administrative assistant for facilities at Saint Mary’s College, discovered an interesting piece of artwork while cleaning out a storage room. Recognizing there were Holy Cross sisters in the pencil and ink drawing, she gave it to the congregation. It was then framed and hung in Lourdes Hall at Saint Mary’s, across from the Copy and Mail Center. However, the artist remains a mystery.

The drawing brings to mind a quote from Sister M. Georgia (Costin)’s book Priceless Spirit: “On his first arrival at Notre Dame, Father Sorin had found a band of Indians, whose ancestors had been converted by Jesuits two generations before, awaiting the ministrations of a ‘blackrobe,’ and for some time Father Sorin had tried to get permission to devote his life entirely to that apostolate. He and other priests of Holy Cross juggled the mission to the Indians along with the work at Notre Dame....”

In 1845, Sisters Mary of the Crucifixion (Angot) and Mary of the Holy Cross (Sweeney) were sent to the village of Pokagon to teach religion and English to the Potawatomi Indians. The sisters’ mission in Pokagon lasted about eight years.

The artwork seems to depict the early days of Holy Cross in Indiana. Father Edward Sorin possibly could be pictured on the left of the drawing. And that could be Father Theophilus Marivault on the right, who was sent from Notre Dame to the Native American mission, or perhaps it is Father Louis Baroux, who succeeded him.

If you recall information about this piece of art or recognize who the artist might be, please contact Congregational Archives and Records at archives@cscsisters.org or (574) 284-5572.†
There is never a lack of activity at Holy Cross Center for Women in downtown Fresno, California. This is especially true during summer months, when young children and teens participate in the center’s enrichment programs. The center offers two free summer programs—the Children’s Literacy Program (ages 4–8) and the Junior Enrichment Program (ages 11–17).

Thirteen children completed the six-week Children’s Literacy Program. Activities focused on helping children with their reading, spelling and math, and familiarizing those who have not yet attended school with expected behaviors and basic learning skills.

A total of 20 young adults completed this year’s eight-week Junior Enrichment Program. Thanks to support from groups like Saint Agnes Men’s Club, these juniors not only experienced one-on-one educational lectures with the Fresno Police Department, local gang experts, fire fighters, and a nutrition expert—just to name a few—but they also were treated to local getaways like the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, Arte Américas, the Downing Planetarium and Museum, California State University, Fresno, and many more.

“We have developed and continue these programs to help young people not only with their scholastic education, but to stimulate ideas about possibilities for their future,” says Sister Mary Clennon, director, Saint Agnes Holy Cross Center for Women.

This article appeared in the September 2011 issue of The Scene, the newsletter for employees of Saint Agnes Medical Center, Fresno, California. It is used with permission.
Investing for the future

BY SISTER MARGARET ANN NOWACKI

The internationality of the congregation is one of the most encouraging aspects of the growth of our Holy Cross congregation. Having so many young sisters in the International Novitiate at Saint Mary’s has added life and spirit into the community. Their presence has energized the lives of all here as they joyfully enter into the liturgies and various activities of the local community. The liturgical music and ceremonies have been enriched with the injection of song, dance and various musical instruments from cultures across the world that enhance and invigorate each of these events.

There are two sides to the advantage of having these young sisters here at Saint Mary’s; first, the local community becomes enriched by the generous sharing of their time and talents and, second, these novices have many educational opportunities for their own spiritual and intellectual growth through the numerous programs and institutions that are available. Bringing these bright young women here is an investment in the future of the congregation.

The program designed for the sisters in the International Novitiate is comprehensive and focused on developing a depth of spirituality that will sustain them throughout their religious life. Living with sisters from many different countries and cultures is a unique and wonderful experience for them. The first year is one of intense study of religious life, the vows, prayer, Scripture, the Constitution and Statues, General Chapter documents, community history, including the charism of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau—all part of the novitiate’s rich curriculum. In addition, the novices have the advantage of participating in the Intercongregational Community Novitiate (ICN) program in Chicago, Illinois.

The ICN is recognized as an outstanding intercongregational formation program in the United States. Sixteen formators, including Sisters Brenda Cousins and Mary Tiernan, represent 17 different congregations and serve as planners and facilitators. The novices are privileged to join the group of 50 participants at the weekly lectures and workshops.

The second year of the novitiate continues to build on the curriculum of the first year, but also...
gives the novices the opportunity to experience religious life in a mission setting. Each sister is assigned to a welcoming local community for a three-month period of active ministry. This is always an exciting time as they embark on this new phase of their formation.*

The investment for the future of the congregation extends beyond the novitiate to sisters who have been chosen to advance their education at Saint Mary’s. This past month Sister Arpita Rozario from Bangladesh, Sister Joysline Mary Lyngkhoi from India, and Sister Theresia W. Mbugua from Uganda arrived on campus to begin educational programs that will serve as an excellent preparation for their return to ministry in their own countries.

Before beginning their college courses, Sisters Arpita and Joysline are taking advantage of a newly designed two-semester program at Saint Mary’s College titled “English Language for the Non-English Speaker.” The sisters are in the advanced section of this program because of their level of fluency.

Sister Theresia, as coordinator of the Holy Cross Family Ministries Office in Uganda, has been involved in the radio program, “Voice of Tooro,” in Fort Portal. She is attending Saint Mary’s College in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in communications.

All of these efforts by the congregation reinforce Father Moreau’s statement on the formation of teachers in his Circular Letter 77:

“…there is urgent need, it seems to me ... to the training of well-informed professors with advanced degrees, who will be prepared, not merely for the ordinary instruction required in our colleges, but called to higher studies as well.” This striving for excellence in preparation for ministry has always been true in the congregation, and recognized and acknowledged by students who over the years have been the beneficiaries.*

*L to r: Sisters Joysline Mary Lyngkhoi and Arpita Rozario pause on their way to their new class in English for the non-English speaker at Saint Mary’s College, prior to pursuing their formal degrees.

Sister Theresia W. Mbugua spends many hours at her desk in Saint John’s Convent preparing for her classes as a full-time student at Saint Mary’s College.

**THE CURRENT MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE SECOND-YEAR NOVICES WERE PRINTED IN THE SEPTEMBER 2 ISSUE OF “ANNOUNCEMENTS” AND CAN BE FOUND UNDER PUBLICATIONS IN THE MEMBERS AREA OF THE CONGREGATION’S WEB SITE.
Dudley performs for sisters

Jumping over gates and through hoops, popping bubbles and crawling on the ground, 3-year-old cocker spaniel Dudley gave his first public performance for the sisters at the “Friday by the Fountain” event August 12. Fridays by the Fountain has become a mainstay of the summer activities season for the sisters on campus. While sisters gather in the shade around the Holy Family fountain outside Saint Mary’s Convent, they are served watermelon, lemonade or ice cream and are entertained by dancers, singers or musicians on Friday afternoons.

Volunteers Darcey Kellenburger and her daughters Payton and Marshall host these Friday events. Inspired, Darcey also invited her mother to come to Fridays by the Fountain with her trained dog. Dudley was a gift from Darcey to her mother, Barb Pliske, a nurse in Valparaiso, Indiana. Barb trained Dudley herself and was pleased with his first public show. “I didn’t know how he’d react with so many people,” she said, “but he did well.”

After the performance, while watching Dudley take a long drink from the fountain, the sisters reminisced about their own pets. “I love dogs and I like cats,” said Sister Theresa Jane Bellner. “In Texas we had five cats and two dogs.”

The sisters enjoyed Dudley’s tricks and he enjoyed the sisters. Sister M. Elena (Malits) had special treats for him, and Sister M. Dorine (Nichols) invited the 28-pound dog on her lap. “America’s Got Talent,” said Lee Ann Moore, director of activities and volunteer services, repeating the name of the reality television show, “but we’ve got Dudley!”

ABOVE: Dudley jumps through hoops held by volunteers Payton and Marshall Kellenburger.
LEFT: After shaking Dudley’s paw, Sister M. Carmen (Davy) says to her new friend, “Give me a big kiss.”
Life and death along the border

BY SISTER ELEANOR SNYDER

There is, as we all know, a cruel separation between two neighboring countries—the United States of America and Mexico—symbolized by a huge wall built to keep the southern neighbors out. However, there is no wall that can separate the forces of death and life all around us. Let me explain a bit of the reality.

There are a tremendous number of Mexicans and Central Americans returning from the United States to the land of their birth. Some hardly speak Spanish, having spent most of their lives in the United States. Some have no families, and others, while happy to be seeing some of their family members, are anguishing about those they left on the other side. Some have been guilty of crimes; others were simply hard-working sources of income for their Latino families; some are a mixture of both. All feel insecure with no prospects for employment, and with fear of the organized criminals and of criminally involved security forces. Most arrive with no money, or Mexican documents, since these have been confiscated by the U.S. immigration officers.

There are random shootings and horrible massacres, especially of migrants in Mexico. Some innocent people are offered a choice: kill or be killed. (Who knows if this is a desperation tactic since the criminals’ ranks are diminishing or just an intensification measure?)

This is a very superficial picture of this complex and tragic reality. What is amazing is that with all of the uncertainty and insecurity, most people, while feeling bewildered and very cautious, are carrying on with their routines, looking for work and being caring and concerned neighbors.

In the midst of this tense scenario, stands what used to be the Clinica Santa Cruz in the neighborhood of Ampliación Solidaridad. Built with donations and used by Sister Barbara Korem, it has been turned into the Centro de Acción Solidaridad, a spiritual center for women, to inspire and keep alive her spirit of service and dedication. (Sister Barbara Korem died in May 2010.)

On May 23, the first anniversary of Sister Barbara’s death, the center officially was recognized and blessed. A large number of friends and neighbors came to remember, to pray, to cry, to share and to laugh about Hermana Barbarita and the mark she left on all of us.

The center’s leadership team, with my support, planned and organized this joint celebration of a death and the new life that hopefully will rise up with neighbors helping neighbors. The center already has some activities en marcha (in process) and others waiting to be launched, such as a Fundación Ecológica and different courses and services on formation and well-being. Yes, death and life are part of our daily lives. Our prayer is that this center will be a beacon of light and hope in the midst of so much violence and death.
Things we do for life

BY SISTER M. ROSE MARTIN (TRAGESSER)

Much of what we do in ministry in Paraná, Brazil, promotes environmental protection and sustainability, as well as lifestyle changes that are respectful of all life on Earth.

Our weekly meetings of our 34 mothers’ clubs (about 2,000 women) focus on education, orientation and mobilization for action. We have studied biodiversity and transgenics (genetically modified foods and organisms) and have promoted organic foods. We commemorate special days for water, land, women, health, trees and ecology. A monthly bazaar, "Used Yet Useful," supports simplicity: to use, recycle, recreate and share. The proceeds keep our work going.

As part of my ministry, I encourage community building and cooperation between city, state and federal programs. I am active in the Territory, nine counties in the state of Paraná that work together for sustainable development, and am a member of the City Security Council and vice president of the Human Promotion Center. I serve with a group that is deliberating the compensation for 38 islands, 135 properties, 233 families, 160 diamond- and gold-panning miners and 23 fishermen that are affected by the Mauá hydroelectric project on the Tibagi River, as well as water and biodiversity damages. I also provide a presence and material support for small chapels and those seeking land settlements. Since July 2010 we have settled 780 families.

I collaborate with local communities and their involvement in Direct Local Purchasing, a state program in which contracts are made between local small-scale farmers and social-educational entities to purchase food at a reasonable cost. Prices are agreed upon, and money is deposited monthly by the state in the farmers’ accounts. Begun in 2005, this project has led to federal legislation for school food programs; each county must buy a minimum of 30 percent and may buy up to 70 percent from their county or adjacent counties for school programs.

After the bishop’s Fraternal Lenten Campaign, the community in Imbau decided that the highway that cuts through the center of the city had degraded the landscape. Imbau is a small, impoverished area where most of the industry is related to farming and tree logging. Members of the community asked me to help them organize and meet with the Rodonorte Consórcio (road authority). We were given permission, on a provisional basis, to plant and beautify the area.

Of course, my community services ministry also focuses on other social justice issues such as human trafficking. I now provide a presence and material support for 60 children of Imbau, who are considered high risk for exploitation (sex, violence, work).

I value all the things, large and small, that we can do for life—for all life on Earth.
Sister M. Agnes Anne (Roberts) was reelected to her first three-year term as a member of the Saint Mary’s College Board of Trustees at its spring board meeting. Her term began June 1, 2011, and will end May 31, 2014. She previously served two years of a partial term. Sister Agnes Anne graduated from Saint Mary’s College (SMC) in 1951 and later served as its director of facilities planning.

Other sisters serving as SMC trustees include: Alma Mary (Anderson), Catherine Kamphaus, Judith Hallock, Kathleen Reilly, Mary Louise Full and M. Rose Anne (Schultz); Sister Rachel Anne Callahan is a trustee emerita.

Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, is one of the best among the colleges and universities in the Midwest, according to the Princeton Review. The education services company selected the school as one of 153 institutions listed in the “Best in the Midwest” section of its Web site feature, 2012 Best Colleges: Region by Region, which was posted August 1. The college has held the “Best in the Midwest” designation every year since the Princeton Review began the “Best Regional Colleges” categorizations nine years ago. The Princeton Review, which is not affiliated with Princeton University, is known for its tutoring and classroom test preparation courses, books, and college and graduate school admission services.

In addition, U.S. News & World Report listed Saint Mary’s College among the “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges.” Saint Mary’s ranks 90th, up from 93 last year. The rankings can be found at www.usnews.com/colleges. The U.S. News college rankings, which group schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, is a tool for students and parents considering higher education opportunities.
Over 2,000 Catholic school principals, teachers and staff from across the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., gathered August 22 to open the school year with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Immediately following the Mass, a recognition ceremony was held to honor teachers and principals celebrating significant years of service, as well as schools marking 50 or more years of serving the community.

Sisters Maris (Bonnett) and Vivian Mary Mastromatteo—the only two in their category—were both honored for 60 years of service as teachers in the archdiocese. Sister Marietta (Simpson) was one of four teachers honored for 55 years of service. Each received a certificate of appreciation during the liturgy.

Sister Kathryn Callahan was named the recipient of the Utah State History’s 2011 Charles Redd Center for Western Studies award for her article, “Sisters of the Holy Cross and Kearns-St. Ann’s Orphanage,” published in the summer 2010 issue of the Utah Historical Quarterly. Sister Catherine Kamphaus accepted the award on behalf of Sister Kathryn at the Utah State History’s 59th annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 9.
Musings on the Le Mans pilgrimage

BY SISTER KATHERINE KASE

On Day 7 of the 2011 International Session in Holy Cross Spirituality, I experienced Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau’s vision of unity and mission. Traveling to Chartres in a very comfortable bus with picture-view windows opening to the magnificent cloud formation in the skies of France, I mused about the 45 individuals in our pilgrimage who came from nine countries—Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Ghana, Haiti, Uganda and the United States of America. Each came to Le Mans from a ministry site inspired by Father Moreau. Diversity marked life experiences, languages, cultures and ages. I appreciated sisters separated by history yet joined in love of Holy Cross. I empathized with priests and brothers struggling with reorganization for ministry or community in changing times. I found among lay colleagues deep faith and, yes, joyous commitment to the work and heritage of Holy Cross.

As the sun danced through the clouds, I recalled the interplay of sorrow and joy when Sister Marian Teresa (Gomes) went home to God. In the two days following her death, the group gathered to pray and to honor her faith and ministry. Many shared stories of a last conversation or laugh or kindness. With new recognition of life’s fragility, a deeper community spirit evolved. Thoughts of Circular Letter 14 called forth new rhythms of life without feelings of being overwhelmed by Moreau’s enormous hope for the family of Holy Cross.

In my musing, I imagined the zealous Father Founder and the prayerful leader of the Marianites, Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors, traveling to Chartres in various moments of crisis to pray for the Congregation of Holy Cross.

On this June day in the 21st century, in an air-conditioned bus, the pilgrimage prayer centered on Mary, Notre Dame, as written in our collective Holy Cross Constitutions. While listening to the different excerpts, I heard a wonderful variety of expressions of the same Holy Cross spirit and mission. “We have as our model of faithfulness our Mother of Sorrows who, full of compassion for the world ... united with her son in the work of salvation.” I was filled with the grace of appreciation for Holy Cross foremothers and forefathers in villages or cities, in institutions or unique ministries around the world.

Finally, we arrived at the crypt of the Chartres Cathedral. In the celebration of the Eucharist, I felt keenly the sacredness of the space, the holiness of all those gathered and the urgency of the Gospel. Here the family of Holy Cross had roots, globally and intimately. I felt Moreau’s vision of unity and mission as the Body of Christ. I recognized the universality of the Holy. In this ancient crypt Christians had reverenced the Virgin Mary, the patroness of Chartres, since the fourth century. Even earlier, according to legend, in a pre-Christian world, the druids believed Chartres to be a place of spiritual energy. Now I felt the presence of international generations of pilgrim people. I prayed in gratitude for friends, relatives and colleagues in ministry. I felt connected and energized by all the men and women, lay and religious, in Holy Cross, past, present and, most confidently, future.
Fe y Alegria 25, a secondary school sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross, is located in Canto Grande in east Lima, Peru. Its name means "faith and joy," which is what the school hopes to bring to its students. Sisters Giovanna Carmona Chávez and Patricia Mary Crane minister at the school.

Over 52 percent of the people in Peru live in poverty, with 26 percent living in extreme poverty. Family violence, the disintegration of the family, and the presence of gangs are some of the challenges faced by the city’s youth.

Two thumbs up for Video Forum

BY RUTH JOHNSON, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

“I felt that above all it was the fact that someone was willing to listen to them (and encourage them to) voice their opinions and ideas, without judgment or censure. They also have few spaces in their lives for relaxation that is healthy and fun.”

—Sister Patricia Mary Crane

Sister Patricia Mary Crane (center) with some of the Video Forum participants from Fe y Alegria 25 in Lima, Peru.
To help promote positive values, as well as to develop analytical thinking skills, Sisters Giovanna and Pat developed the Video Forum, an elective class open to third-, fourth- and fifth-year students that meets on Saturdays to view and discuss movies on DVD. The students themselves choose which movies they want to see from a preselected list and agree upon the qualities for which they want to be held accountable while in the class. They decided that to be in this class would require active participation in the discussions, punctuality, respect and silence during the film. These were significant choices and in direct contrast to the behavior modeled for them by their parents, as well as their peers.

Analysis is not a part of their educational system; the methods used are based largely on memorization and repetition. By participating in these discussions, students are able to see consequences of certain thought processes, both positive and negative, and to draw parallels with current news stories as well as from their own experiences. As the class progressed, it became clear that the experience of living in an environment of safety and respect was having an impact. Two students who had previously been hesitant to speak out in class began to respond voluntarily. One student, who had been known to be disruptive, made visible modifications in his behavior.

About 40 students accepted the invitation to the Video Forum, which also included a field trip to dinner and a film at a local movie theater. Some of them had never been to a movie theater before. Those who completed this fun and thought-provoking course were rewarded with a trip to the Magic Water Park, a popular attraction in Lima that currently holds the record for the largest fountain complex in the world.

After the course ended, some of the students commented:

"It was a pleasure to participate in the program, Video Forum."

"It was a time of relaxation and also we were able to give our ideas, which we shared with all present."

"We could share our opinions and listen to others because the environment was open and we felt that we were heard."

Sister Pat modestly said of the success of the class: "I felt that above all it was the fact that someone was willing to listen to them (and encourage them to) voice their opinions and ideas, without judgment or censure. They also have few spaces in their lives for relaxation that is healthy and fun."

Perhaps the most telling comment of all came from the newly elected student body president, who asked if the Video Forum would continue in the new school year. And thanks to the Ministry With the Poor Fund, it definitely will!†
Meet and greet

Sister M. Jean Ann (Smith)

Although born in Ohio, Sister M. Jean Ann (Smith) was raised in Batavia, New York, where she was first educated by the Sisters of Mercy and "reached prominence" by playing Mother Catherine McAuley, that congregation’s founder, in a school pageant. Later the family moved across town, and she transferred to Saint Mary’s Grade School, which was staffed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

"Life took us Smith kids back to Ohio, and the Cleveland area became home," says Sister Jean Ann. "Another wonderful group of women entered my life, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, who added to the lessons of faith and dedication first steeped by Holy Cross. As much as I admired them, I knew I was being called to Saint Mary's." She entered Holy Cross on September 10, 1965.

Over the years Sister Jean Ann has served in education, college admissions and health care. After 17 years at Mount Carmel East Hospital, she left Columbus, Ohio, in 1999 to care for her ailing parents.

Currently, Sister Jean Ann ministers in the field of medical records at the Capital Park Family Health Center in Columbus. The clinic began as a branch of Mount Carmel’s outreach to the underserved of Columbus and today serves Somali, Latino and African-American communities.

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