Dear Friends,

This issue of inSpirit comes to you as the Sisters of the Holy Cross embark on the journey of preparing for General Chapter 2019. This important event, held every five years in the life of the Congregation, is an ecclesial and global event where the Congregation commits to a particular direction for its ministry and mission. We have chosen as the theme for General Chapter 2019, “Transforming Love – for the Life of the World.”

The stories in the pages of this inSpirit speak boldly of the many ways our sisters and those with whom we serve have been the presence of transforming love. We have joined hands and hearts with each other first, to celebrate God, who is Transforming Love, and then to commit ourselves ever more deeply to be that love as we engage in the work God has entrusted to us.

For the next 18 to 20 months, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Holy Cross Associates and our colleagues will engage in a variety of processes to be at one with the heartbeat of our God and the world, to listen to what they are asking of us. We will discern what needs to be transformed in our lives, and seek to articulate more clearly what God is calling us to be and do for the life of the world. You who share in our ministry through reading inSpirit and who support us in so many ways are invited to join us on this journey by praying for and with us.

I encourage you to pray with us as you are able. Simply sit quietly for a moment or two and allow yourself to be embraced by God’s Transforming Love. Then ask that God embrace with love the Sisters of the Holy Cross and all whose lives touch ours. At the end of your time of reflection, consider offering this prayer: May I listen for the steady heartbeat of Life that you breathe into the world/cosmos, O Transforming Love. Inspire the Sisters of the Holy Cross to become more deeply your presence in the world, to articulate more clearly what God is calling us to be and do for the life of the world. You who share in our ministry through reading inSpirit and who support us in so many ways are invited to join us on this journey by praying for and with us.

May the stories shared in inSpirit energize you as they energize us to be God’s love in the world.

Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC
President, Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross

Rejoice and be Glad
Two sisters profess perpetual vows in Monterrey, Mexico

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Sister answers call of those in criminal justice system

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inSpirit is published three times annually by the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Sisters of the Holy Cross

Founded in 1841 in Le Mans, France, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross is an international community of women religious whose motherhouse is located in Notre Dame, Indiana. We are called to participate in the prophetic mission of Jesus to witness God’s love for all creation. Our ministries focus on providing education, health care services, eradicating material poverty, ending gender discrimination, and promoting just, mutual relationships among people, countries and the entire Earth community.

To learn more, visit www.csccisters.org.

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Holy Cross Sisters Areli Cruz Hernández, left, and Esperanza Jacobo Acevedo, share a moment of prayer after making their perpetual profession of vows at Parroquia Nuestra Madre Santísima de la Luz in Guadalupe, Monterrey, Mexico.
Housing & opportunity

School dormitories are a precious gift to students and staff

For many of the 364 students at Moreau Nursery and Primary School in Kirinda, Uganda, just getting to school—let alone arriving safely and regularly—is a challenge. Rutted dirt roads, limited transportation options and overcrowding on boda bodas (motorcycle taxis) are everyday issues facing families who desire a good education for their children. But thanks to the generosity of donors, grant opportunities and the commitment of parents, teachers and the Sisters of the Holy Cross, new housing soon will be springing up adjacent to Moreau School.

By February 2018 two dormitories—one for girls and one for boys—will be available, each two-story building housing 78 students and two staff members. This means students who live far from Kirinda no longer will have to make a potentially hazardous trek to school. And, with teachers residing on the campus, students will have more opportunities to seek tutoring assistance outside of the classroom. In addition, the students’ living arrangements will help foster a deeper sense of community and lasting bonds among housemates.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross are excited about the dormitories. They will no longer have to worry about the safety of students who travel long distances to school. The sisters recognize that schools with student housing attract new pupils and help boost enrollment, which means more children will benefit from a Holy Cross education. In turn, higher enrollments can generate economies of scale and reduce operating expenses, which will help Moreau School become a self-sustaining ministry.

The students are especially excited about another advantage to living near their school: new football (soccer) and volleyball fields where they can play—that is, after all their homework is completed!

Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh renewed, expanded

The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh, developed in response to the April 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory in Savar, has been renewed for a second term. The Congregation’s General Leadership Team signed on to an investors’ statement in early April calling for the Accord to be renewed (see inSpirit, spring/summer 2017). The extension includes a provision for workers’ rights to freedom of association, which investors also had requested.

“It is encouraging to have coordinated action, in the form of an investors’ statement, achieve such immediate success,” said Sister Florence Deacon, OSF, congregation justice coordinator for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. “This is very good news, indeed!”

A June 29 press release announcing the renewed agreement reads in part: “Companies and global unions have agreed on a 2nd Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh (‘Accord’). The agreement will enter into effect when the current Accord expires in May 2018. The Accord is an unprecedented, legally binding agreement between companies and trade unions to make factories in Bangladesh safe.”

Clarification

Editor’s Note: Due to an editing error, the second paragraph of the article, “Building a society of justice and love: Investments help shape a safer garment industry,” that appeared on page 19 of the spring/summer 2017 issue of inSpirit, contained incomplete information. The following is the corrected paragraph. We regret the error.

After the Rana Plaza tragedy, the Congregation joined with other members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) to use their investments as a catalyst for change. Participants in the collective used their investments as influence, and called for Bangladesh’s garment industry to implement reforms to ensure safe and healthy work environments and conditions. As a result of such pressure, garment manufacturing companies and trade unions signed and implemented the five-year, legally binding Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh to both protect and empower garment workers.

“Several companies have now signed the renewed agreement with IndustriALL Global Union and UNI Global Union,” according to the press release. “Many more companies are expected to sign in the coming days.”

Highlights of the renewed agreement include:

• The Accord will continue its independent safety inspections and remediation program at existing and new factories covered under the agreement.
• The Safety Committee and safety training program will be extended to all factories.
• The renewed agreement includes additional commitments to ensure that workers’ rights to freedom of association are respected to protect their own safety.

Visit the Bangladesh Accord website at http://bangladeshaccord.org to read the press release in its entirety as well as the renewed agreement.

Accord Website: http://bangladeshaccord.org
REJOICE
and
BE GLAD!

On June 17, Sister Areli Cruz Hernández, CSC, and Sister Esperanza Jacobo Acevedo, CSC, made their perpetual profession of vows at Parroquia Nuestra Madre Santísima de la Luz in Guadalupe, Monterrey, Mexico. We rejoice with Sisters Areli and Esperanza as they commit themselves to live a vowed life in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and in consecrated service to the Church. Share in their joy by reading their reflections on the next page.

Sister Areli Cruz Hernández

I commend myself to God’s grace

When I began my journey in the “Come and See” program, I wasn’t quite sure of what I was doing or where I was going. The only thing I was sure of was my desire to do something different with my life, for I had a strong feeling to serve others. I believe God sent a Holy Cross sister in my path to remind me about my call. I was attracted to the Congregation by the love and compassion this sister showed to people and the ministry she was doing with the poor. I saw joy and happiness in doing it, so I said to myself, “I want to become one of them.”

I had no idea how my life was going to be, but she told me to trust God and to listen to His calling through my heart. After a few years of discernment and formation, I made my initial vows. As a Holy Cross sister, I have had the opportunity to show love and compassion to people in various ways, especially to children and adolescents who have suffered all kinds of violence. I have been able to walk with those who have been neglected by their families and society.

On the day of my perpetual profession of vows, I reaffirmed my commitment to God by saying “yes” to go and bear fruit that will remain—for it was not me who chose him, but he who chose me to live this way as a sign of hope and love in this fragmented world. I give thanks to God for entrusting to me this mission and to those who were, and still are, part of my journey, my community as well as family and friends. Thank you all for the love and support I received. I commend myself to God’s grace and to your prayers to continue showing God’s love, compassion and mercy to all creation.

Two sisters profess perpetual vows in Monterrey, Mexico

Sister Esperanza Jacobo Acevedo

Finding the pearl of great price

When I started my discernment 10 years ago, I asked for God’s guidance. I trusted her and I can say she has been faithful all these years. It was in 2005 that I met the Sisters of the Holy Cross. They inspired me to think about religious life. They helped me to experience God’s love by showing respect for my culture and my personality and their dedication to my people. They were the reason I decided to live the experience of “Come and See,” where I only wanted to see. I told my family that it was a three-month retreat, because I did not know how to explain the program. God, however, had another plan and I am here after 10 years with great joy searching for the hidden treasure.

The life of Jesus—a peasant born in an environment of poverty, violence and ignorance—not only inspires me, but also challenges me to live a life that according to (the teaching of) Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau extends preference to the most needy. As the person who bought the pearl of great price, I am willing to sell everything in order to attain something more valuable. I believe that in solidarity and love is found liberty, joy and strength to support the well-being of others. During my short time as a Sister of the Holy Cross, I have had experiences in ministry that have changed my life, and I give thanks to God for all of them. It is thanks to my own experiences in life, such as poverty, limited education and death in my family, that I can accompany others, such as immigrants to the United States and Mexico, or patients in hospitals, through their difficulties. Who understands the pain of another human being? Those who have passed through similar difficulties.

Today, the day of my perpetual profession, is a joyful celebration of my beautiful journey as a woman. I am responding to God’s unconditional love by choosing religious life above all other good lifestyles. I want to thank my family for their supportive love; my sisters in Holy Cross for all their ways of expressing God’s love in their lives; my friends for walking with me; and above all God, for her love and infinite mercy.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one of great value, he goes and sells all he has, and buys that pearl.”

—Matthew 13:45-46

Left to right: Holy Cross Sisters Joy O’Grady, Joan Mader, Patricia Mary Crane, Areli Cruz Hernández, Patricia Anne Clossey, Suzanne Brennan, Esperanza Jacobo Acevedo and Patricia Rodríguez Leal gather to celebrate the perpetual professions of Sisters Areli and Esperanza in Monterrey, Mexico, June 2017.
For 42 years, the pot of money managed by Sister Susan Kintzele, CSC, has kept refilling, like a recirculating system. The account is used to help bail out individuals in the St. Joseph County Jail, in South Bend, Indiana. For as long as the fund has existed, Sister Sue, director of the South Bend Bail Bond Project, has thoughtfully tended it—and its recipients—with a normal, daily life. They are typically poor, disadvantaged and underserved, and, living in confinement, they exist beyond the scope of society's normal, daily life.

Sister Sue regularly devotes herself to a population of people for whom most of society spares little thought. They are just emerging,” Sister Sue says, and the group wanted to do something cooperatively. Her regional superior asked if she would like to represent the sisters on the center’s staff. “I thought, ‘Why not? Who knows where it will go?’”

The group opened the center in downtown South Bend in the early 1970s. As one of its first ministries, the group took ownership of a revived bail bond project that had started during the previous decade. In the bail bond process, individuals can post bail to be released from jail. The arrangement hinges on the contingency that those who are released will appear at an assigned court date, with the bail refunded if they do. The center’s bail bond program—which operated from an existing fund built up from community donations—assisted with bonds without charging a fee, providing help for those who had no other options. When a person showed up in court as promised, the bond was released, and the cash funneled back into the program’s revolving fund. When the center closed in the late 1980s, the staff moved on, except Sister Sue, who began running the program solo.

Weighing situations
Typically, she posts six to 10 bonds a month, putting up $200 to $300 toward the total amount for people whose offenses are most commonly theft, driving under the influence or drug possession. Sometimes, she delays payment when she decides it’s in a person’s best interest to remain in custody. “I’ll say, ‘Let me see. I don’t think it’ll hurt you to stay here a little while longer.’ And it doesn’t.”

For those with drug addictions, for instance, serving time helps them to see that they are, as well as clinical support and people who might be successful referrals. Typically, she posts six to 10 bonds a month. When a person shows up in court as promised, the bond is released, and the cash funneled back into the program’s revolving fund. When the center closed in the late 1980s, the staff moved on, except Sister Sue, who began running the program solo.

Raising funds
Sister Sue has kept up her bail bond ministry for 42 years. In 1970, through her good sense, says Maria. The woman she considers her mentor, she adds, is also an attentive listener and skilled negotiator “who serves with compassion and forgiveness.”

“I don’t think I judge a lot. It’s someone who needs some help.” —Sister Sue Kintzele

Sister Sue has kept her bail bond ministry for 42 years. In this archival photo, she shares in a conversation with a detainee at the St. Joseph County Jail.

Dismas executive director, residents learn how to accept responsibility and build good relationships. “At Dismas we build community and hold one another accountable for our actions,” adds Maria.

Four nights a week, volunteers from the community—religious, church groups, students, families—prepare a meal for the residents and sit down at the table to share it with them. These interactions help residents understand different lifestyles and cultures, and strengthen their ties with the wider South Bend community. Many times, residents hear about job openings or find other helpful resources. Visitors to the home, Maria says, also benefit from these opportunities, “which help people learn about differences and how alike we are as human beings.”

Sister Sue and other board members primarily handle fundraising for the program. They seek out grants, as well as private and corporate donations, and work with Dismas Designs, a social enterprise project led by residents who design and sell their own jewelry to help support the home. The Sisters of the Holy Cross contribute to Dismas annually through the Ministry With the Poor fund. Monies are applied to women’s programs and essential needs like clothing and personal hygiene items. Specific programs address the effects of living in confinement, and help women deal with lingering guilt from leaving their children or families. Dismas also is partnering with Life Treatment Centers in South Bend to develop a customized drug rehabilitation program for its female residents.

Sister Sue’s work at the jail equips her well for her position on the Dismas House Review Committee, which screens applicants for the program and vouches for people who might be successful referrals. Typically, she posts six to 10 bonds a month, putting up $200 to $300 toward the total amount for people whose offenses are most commonly theft, driving under the influence or drug possession. Sometimes, she delays payment when she decides it’s in a person’s best interest to remain in custody. “I’ll say, ‘Let me see. I don’t think it’ll hurt you to stay here a little while longer.’ And it doesn’t.”

For those with drug addictions, for instance, serving time helps them to see that they are, as well as clinical support and people who might be successful referrals.

Sister Sue brings her good humor along with her good sense, says Maria. The woman she considers her mentor, she adds, is also an attentive listener and skilled negotiator “who serves with compassion and forgiveness.”

“I work on the fact that everyone has some good in them,” she adds. “So many people have been told how bad they are, and they believe it. So that’s why they act on that. There is good in everyone, and you have to see that in yourself first.”
Gratitude & Delight

To the delight of our retired sisters, a new van rolled onto the campus of Saint Mary's this spring, specially made and fully equipped to accommodate sisters and companions on medical appointments as well as on fun excursions. Your donations made the purchase of the van possible, and the Sisters of the Holy Cross offer these heartfelt expressions of gratitude for your generosity.

"Transportation of minds and hearts is our goal. You have made it possible, comfortable, affordable, enjoyable. Thank you!"
— Sister M. Martha Ann (Norwood), CSC

"Just a little note to say thank you for your generous contribution making it possible to purchase the needed van. The van is beautiful and spacious. We want to thank you and assure you that you will be remembered in the prayers of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. May God bless your kindness and generosity."
— Sister M. Kenneth (Regan), CSC

"Dear Friends, thank you for providing a safe, beautiful and comfortable van for us. God bless you. Getting off and on the van also was fun!"
— Sister Rose Marie Canty, CSC

"We love our new vehicle. There is a place for everyone. Those of us who are handicapped need only roll ourselves from the lift into the van. Thank you so much!"
— Sister M. Perpetua (Meyer), CSC

"See our happy faces in our new van. Thank you doesn't begin to express our gratitude to you in contributing to our new van. May God bless you for your generosity to us."
— Sister Dorothy Marie (Langlois), CSC
Passion and love changes people

by Sister Comfort Arthur, CSC

When someone has a passion for something, the person does it with all his or her heart and mind, no matter the costs. I am currently studying at Catholic University College of Ghana as a public health student. The practical aspect of my studies today reminds me of my time in the Congregation’s International Novitiate program four years ago. The novitiate prepared me, as a woman from another culture (Ghana), for holistic living, relating with my God and God’s creation, and encountering people wherever I find myself. It also gave me the wonderful experience of exploring my passion in health care as service to humanity.

In September, I began the fourth and final year of my studies in public health. Combining academic, prayer and community life has been both a challenge and a blessing. Experiencing the joy and passion of the health profession is fantastic. Bringing holistic healing to the people of God is responding to the needs of the times.

After a day’s work is done, I feel enthused for the next because of the joy of seeing my clients again and making them smile. Each morning when I wake up, my heart leaps for joy because it is a new day to be able to put smiles on the faces of the people, especially those at the hospital. Every little deed done with passion and love changes people. Sometimes when I am in town or walking home after work, someone meets me with a smile and says, “Thank you, Sister, for your care for me at the hospital.” Sometimes people I do not remember meeting greet me with a hug and say, “Thank you and God bless you, Sister, for helping my mother or my child at the hospital.”

I am grateful to my sisters in community for their daily encouragement as I study at school and minister at the hospital. I also am grateful to the Congregation for granting me the opportunity to improve my skills and knowledge, which I am continually using to serve God’s children and help build the kingdom of God on earth.

Sister Comfort Arthur provides health information to a community group as part of her training in public health at Catholic University College of Ghana.
Sister Constance Mary Ackerson, CSC (Sister M. Anne Goretti)  
January 27, 1925 – May 12, 2017  
Entered from Santa Barbara, California  
Initial profession on August 15, 1956

Sister Constance Mary always mentioned that she entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1954 during the Marian Year dedicated to Mary, her namesake. Sixty-three years later, Sister died in May, during the Easter season and in the month the Catholic Church traditionally celebrates the Mother of God as a model for all Christians. Sister’s final “yes” came May 12, 2017, after several years of illness at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana. Her baptismal name was Constance, so appropriate for someone known for her firmness of purpose and constancy in life as a consecrated religious. Her 39 years in active ministry included elementary education in Catholic schools in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada and Utah. She returned to California where she was a pioneer of parish religious education at St. Matthew’s Parish, San Mateo, and Mission San Buenaventura, Ventura. Sister Connie later was a welcoming presence and support staff at Holy Cross Medical Center, Mission Hills (now known as Providence-Holy Cross Hospital). Born in Pasadena, California, raised along the sands of Santa Barbara, Sister Connie was buried in the soil of Indiana.

Sister Alice Lamping, CSC (Sister M. Arthura)  
August 7, 1926 – May 31, 2017  
Entered from Chicago, Illinois  
Initial profession on February 2, 1949

Sister Alice did not want a eulogy. “A simple biography is enough,” she wrote. As a Sister of the Holy Cross for over 70 years, Born in Chicago, she died at Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana. Alice graduated from Visitation High School, Chicago, in 1945 and entered the Congregation in 1946. She spent her entire life in the Midwest, either as an educator in Catholic elementary schools for 37 years or as a home visitor/pastoral associate for 18 years in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. Sister Alice was a successful teacher, especially with junior high students who called her “strict but fair.” In Danville, Illinois, she worked with Cambodian refugees, teaching them English as a second language. Sister Alice loved visiting the sick and homebound in her later ministry. Fittingly, she died on the feast of the Visitatio of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Like Mary embracing her cousin Elizabeth, Sister Alice hastened to help those who needed her. Sister’s simple biography includes her two living siblings with whom she shared Holy Cross community life, Sister M. Geraldine (Lamping) and Sister Mary Ann Lamping, the last of 12 children of parents Erhel Tanney Lamping and Arthur Lamping.

Sister Mary Jeanne Finske, CSC (Sister M. Joanie)  
February 5, 1925 – June 3, 2017  
Entered from Michigan City, Indiana  
Initial profession on February 2, 1945

Sister Jeanne’s vigil at the end of her life was brief. She drew in the full breath of God’s Spirit on the eve of Pentecost in Saint Mary’s Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana. At 17 years old in 1942, she entered the Congregation from Michigan City, Indiana, her sole motivation being “the Glory of God.” During her 75 years as a Sister of the Holy Cross, her intellectual curiosity, affability and generosity were focused on “serving the educational and spiritual needs of young persons, directly in the elementary schools as well as indirectly through their teachers and parents.” She wrote those words in 1981, summing up her 26 years at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, in various administrative capacities and as an assistant professor in the Department of Education where she prepared future teachers. She then headed up the Roots of Learning Project in Flint, Michigan, where she gave direct service to the poor, followed by serving as principal of Holy Family School, Danville, Illinois, for six years. From 1986 to 1994 she was an associate professor at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana. Her last 20 years of active ministry were devoted to the Office of Congregational Archives and Records from which she retired in 2014.

Sister M. Rose Bernard, CSC (Catharine Loretta Tarleton)  
November 28, 1926 – July 7, 2017  
Entered from Washington, D.C.  
Initial profession on February 2, 1946

When Catharine Loretta Tarleton entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross after graduating from high school in 1943, she had been the president of her class every year as well as president of the student council at St. Cecilia’s Academy, Washington, D.C. Sister Rose Bernard, as a woman religious, would carry numerous honors as a result for studies for ministry: B.S. in nursing, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, and R.N. in practical nursing, Mount Carmel Hospital School of Nursing, Columbus, Ohio, both in 1949; M.A. in social sciences, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, in 1958; and Ph.D. in sociology/anthropology, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 1968. Though a trained nurse, she never fully used those skills in Dhaka, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) where she was first missioned in 1950. Sister Rose Bernard spent her first years in midwifery and at the dispensary, while learning a new language from kindergarteners! She later left the country to do graduate study and then taught at Dunbarton College, Washington, D.C., 1968-73, and at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, 1973-79. Some may recall that Sister was a board member for Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland, 1968-1973. She gladly returned to Dhaka in 1979 where she is still remembered fondly as a professor and administrator at Holy Cross College. Sister Rose Bernard also served on the staff at the National Major Seminary for the Archdiocese of Dhaka, 1981-2008. Sister’s U.S. passports bear 40 years of visa stamps from her service abroad. Her life and death witness to more than 90 years living as a woman of faith.

Sister M. Jane Frances, CSC (Rose Mary Reus)  
February 2, 1930 – July 29, 2017  
Entered from Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
Initial Profession on February 2, 1951

Music was already a large part of the identity of Rose Mary Reus, the regular organist for her parish in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, when she entered the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana, in 1948. Six months later, upon reception of the holy habit, she received her name in religion, Sister Jane Mary Frances. Sister’s music ministry continued from 1951 to 1976 in Catholic elementary schools, where she taught music, directed the choir and gave private piano lessons. From there she moved into parish ministry as both an organist and pastoral minister. By the time she earned a Master of Arts in liturgical music (organ) in 1990 from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Sister Jane Frances “keyboard” had a wide range from years of service in Washington, D.C., Texas, Ohio, Indiana and New York to Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina. Sister took special pride in her years of music ministry and visitation with the sick and homebound in St. Raphael Catholic Community, Raphael House and Collingswood Nursing Home, all in Rockville, Maryland. She served there until 2005 when she moved to Saint Angela Hall, Kensington, Maryland, due to ill health. In 2013 Sister Jane Frances moved to Saint Mary’s Convent where she spent her last years devoted to prayer. At the time of her silver jubilee in 1976, she wrote these lines of poetry: “There’s a lot that I would like to do! The more I thought, the more I knew/ That God above, in His infinite love/ Had special plans for me.”
Pilgrimage to Saint Mary’s

Academy students serve sisters and community

By Holy Cross Sisters Grace Shonk and Helene Sharp

Students from the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, Maryland, made their inaugural visit to the Congregation’s motherhouse this summer. Prompted by the academy’s upcoming 150th anniversary in 2018, 11 students and two teachers spent a week with the sisters and ministered to those in need in the South Bend, Indiana area.

Emily Anderson Teter, director of the school’s Christian Service Commitment Program, and fellow faculty member Lauren DiZanno chaperoned the Spes Unica Service Trip to Saint Mary’s in Notre Dame, Indiana. The goal of the trip was twofold: to provide the students with an experience of service to those in need, and to help them connect the academy’s heritage and mission with that of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the school’s founder and sponsor.

In South Bend, the students visited Broadway Christian Parish’s Hospitality Room, where they served breakfast and distributed homemade sandwiches to individuals struggling with poverty and homelessness. They also spent time with residents of Trailpoint Village nursing facility.

Each evening the young women gathered to share their thoughts about the day and a student-written reflection that concluded in prayer. They returned to the academy with a deepened sense of being part of the Holy Cross family, united in the vision of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau.

Student Maggie Ryan summed up her experience this way: “It has been such a blessing to get to know so many incredible sisters. Everyone has such interesting stories to tell, and they have all done amazing things. I truly value my Holy Cross education.”

“I am so glad I have gotten to know so many new people from all different backgrounds.”

— Ella Torp, student

Sister Helene Sharp, U.S. vocation coordinator, hosted the group and planned their schedule. While at Saint Mary’s they toured the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, historical displays of Congregational Archives and Records, the Stamp Ministry room, the Development Office, the convent facility and Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, as well as Saint Mary’s College and the University of Notre Dame.

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“I am so glad I have gotten to know so many new people from all different backgrounds.”

— Ella Torp, student
IRA qualified charitable distributions

The IRA charitable distribution provision is permanent. It allows donors who are at least 70½ years of age to make distributions directly from their IRAs to charity. These distributions, which count toward the donor’s required minimum distribution, are not counted as taxable income and are not subject to withholding.

Making a charitable distribution from an IRA rather than from other assets may be appropriate for you if:

- You do not itemize deductions;
- You itemize deductions, but will not be able to use all of them because you expect your total charitable gifts for the year to exceed 50 percent of your adjusted gross income;
- You may lose some of your itemized deductions because of your income level; or
- You are required to take distributions, but do not need them for living expenses.

Reminders about TIMING

According to the IRS, a gift is made on the date the gift is unconditionally delivered:

- Checks: The postmark indicates the date of the gift.
- Credit cards: The gift is made when the credit card is processed. If mailing a credit card donation in December, please mail early in the month. We process them on the date we receive them, but mail delivery can be very slow, especially toward the end of December. To protect

RECURRING GIFTS

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Colégio Santa Maria students attend peace summit in Israel

Editor’s note: Three students from Colégio Santa Maria, São Paulo, Brazil, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, were invited to attend the first Scholas Youth Summit for Peace in Jerusalem, Israel. The July 2-5 summit was organized by Scholas Occurrentes—an educational organization created by Pope Francis that promotes peace building through encounters among youth of varying nationalities, religious and economic backgrounds—in collaboration with the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Below, the student delegates from Brazil share their experiences of the event.

Accompanied by our principal, Silvio Freire, we had an incredible adventure that started from our first interaction at the hotel with youth from the Congo and Burundi, Africa. Even before the summit began, we were forming bonds. After these first exchanges, our eagerness to meet the other young people from Mexico, Argentina, Armenia, Spain, Kenya, Palestine and Israel intensified.

On the first day of the summit, many of the students and their opinions were fundamental in enriching our experiences.

They opened our eyes to the reality of the outside world, and at the same time made us aware of how we act in our Brazilian society. They also were very interested in the current Brazilian political and economic crises and the recent impeachment of our president. The students, in general, were extremely interested in international issues and their opinions were fundamental in enriching our exchanges.

The main objective of the summit, and what affected us most, was the opportunity to experience and promote a culture of relating and interconnection. During these encounters, we put ourselves in the place of others who live very different realities from ours and have different points of view.

It was sensational! Without doubt, this experience will be in our memories forever.

—Camila Paisini, Letícia Manso, Giulia Erhardt
JusticeCraft, an intensive, weeklong seminar sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross and the Holy Cross International Justice Office, prepares religious and lay participants from around the world to lead and coordinate justice ministries in congregations, in parishes and on college campuses. Attendees engage in interactive sessions on the theology and spirituality of justice ministry, ecological sustainability, global economic justice, peacemaking and nonviolence, and rituals that shape and sustain the work of justice. They learn practical, proven models and strategies to use in the work of creating a peaceful, just and sustainable society.

JusticeCraft seminars, held since 2005, are an outgrowth of the longstanding commitment of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and the family of Holy Cross sisters, brothers and priests to work for systemic change by responding to the injustices of the times and standing in solidarity with God’s suffering people.