

DLC Celebrates Silver Jubilee

By Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley

DeNeuille Learning Center for Women (DLC) opened in April, 1998, in Memphis, Tennessee. It has served more than 5,000 women and their children from more than 56 countries over the last 25 years.

DLC will host a gala on April 27 to celebrate its silver anniversary and honor its Good Shepherd founder, Sister Lakshmie Napagoda.

DLC's beginner English as a Second Language (ESL) students are painting pots and decorating them with silver foil for table centerpieces. They are excited to be a part of the gala preparations.

"It was a good teambuilding exercise for the ESL students because they had to practice conversational English in order to work together and share supplies. But most importantly it gave them a sense of pride and honor in helping," said Lori Bramlett, Executive Director.

ESL advanced students have written essays about their lives, which will be incorporated into the gala's program.



Beginner ESL students at DeNeuille Learning Center for Women paint pots that will be used as table centerpieces at the fundraising gala on April 27.

DeNeuille Learning Center provides educational programs and support services to women in Memphis who have limited resources. Graduates are better equipped to obtain employment, continue seeking advanced education, help their children with homework, and contribute to the overall economic development of the community.

Angela Trillo is the honorary chair of the 25th anniversary gala. Please pray for the event's success.



Feast Day of Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, April 24



On the Feast of the Foundress of the Good Shepherd Sisters, we pray and reflect on the woman St. Mary Euphrasia/Rose Virginie Pelletier, who lived so long ago, but still is alive in each one of us. She continues to guide and challenge us to live our

values. She was a true daughter of St. John Eudes. The spirituality of The congregation is centered on the person of Christ with devotion to the Heart of Jesus and Mary.

For 33 years Mary Euphrasia served as the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. By the time of her death in 1868, she had established 110 Good Shepherd convents around the world. Mary Euphrasia was beatified on April 30, 1933. She was canonized as a saint by Pope Pius XII in 1940. Her feast day is April 24.

The full text of the biography *The Life of Reverend Mother Mary*

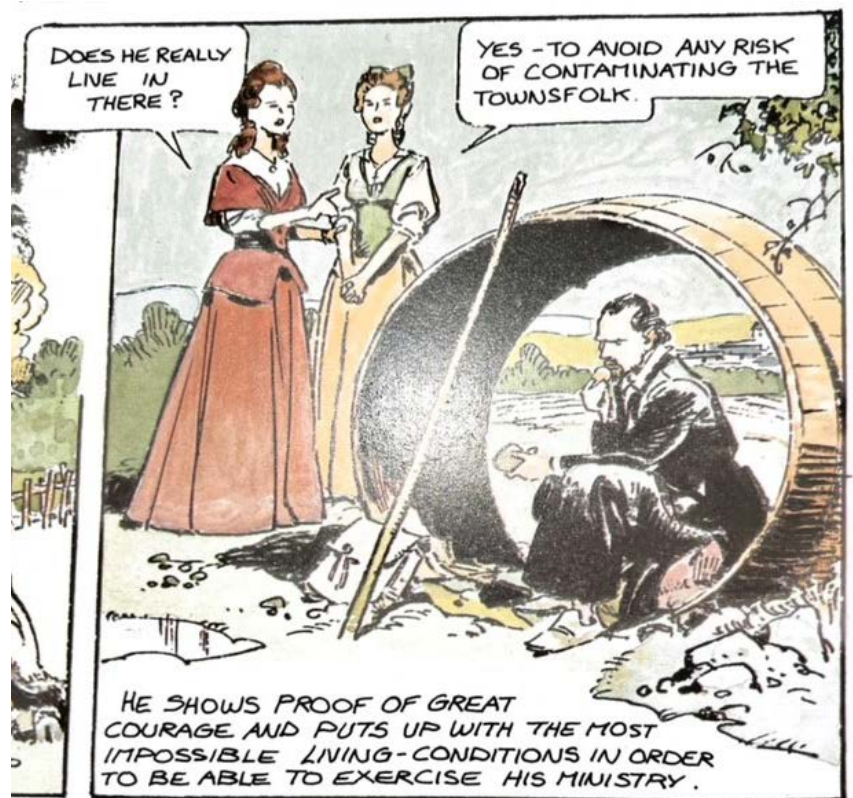
of St. Euphrasia Pelletier is available online as a free download. British writer Anne Clarke wrote the book in 1895 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Saint Mary Euphrasia's birth on July 31, 1796. It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. You can find it at <https://bit.ly/3LRO81s>

In addition, Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Singapore-Malaysia produced an electronic booklet about Saint Mary Euphrasia, titled *The Story of St. Mary Euphrasia*. It is also available to download at <https://bit.ly/3LQsuQL>.

Did you know?

Did you know Saint John Eudes cared for plague victims in the early 1600's not once, but TWICE? Here's how the story goes:

In 1627, John Eudes was sent to his diocese of Sees, France, to care for plague victims. He was 26 years old and had just been ordained as a priest. When he later returned home to Caen in 1630, the plague returned. Those suffering from the plague were isolated in rural fields, where they took refuge inside large barrels. John Eudes lived in a barrel among the stricken victims so he could comfort them and prepare them for death. Three of his friends from the Oratory contracted the plague. His superior and another died in his arms. John Eudes contracted the plague but recovered.



Bridging the gender digital divide

The 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) was held from March 6 to 17. It focused on the role of technology and innovation in achieving gender equality. A key recommendation of the Commission was that public and private investment be significantly increased to bridge the gender digital divide so that every woman and girl can thrive in an increasingly technological world.

For the first time, the session opened space for youth leaders to discuss the role of innovation and technology. Sisters of the Good Shepherd held a parallel caucus on Zoom titled “Girls and Women Impacting the Digital Revolution.” The Good Shepherd International Justice Peace (GSIJP) office hosted the girl-led panel in collaboration with MDO Asia Pacific, MDO Latin America, and other Good Shepherd



18-year-old Christle from Sri Lanka moderated the girl caucus that GSIF hosted at the United Nations as part of the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

ministries. Sister Winifred Doherty, Good Shepherd NGO representative at the United Nations, introduced the event before transferring responsibility for moderation to 18-year-old Christle from Sri Lanka.

The panelists raised three concerns:

1. Youth leaders from Latin America shared their views on the importance of safe digital networks to discuss girls’ rights.
2. Panelists from Asia Pacific spoke about cyber security practices and applications.
3. Girls in Africa shared how the lack of digital access affects their lives and limits their opportunities.

You can watch the Girls’ Caucus on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/3FNfrq1>



A new life integration

By Sr. Beth Garciano

Like St. Mary Elizabeth Magdalen, I can visualize the life of Contemplative Sisters in the Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. I see this through living as a resurrection community in the midst of the chaotic situations of the world and our society.

To me, it means being called and continuing to be called to have a quality spiritual life. That means being intimate with God and having dignity as a person. The call is to be an expert in communion—unity. We create a unity of love that allows for our vulnerabilities and the offering of our best selves.

We let go of our old self and our old ways and reach toward a new integration of contemplative life while balancing life within an apostolic community.

A touch of TLC

By Anne Cooper, New York

When I first saw the life-sized statue in a small thrift shop last spring, I thought she was Saint Therese The Little Flower. Her book and tassel made me reconsider. Whoever she was, I couldn't believe she ended up in a thrift shop in Bristol, Pennsylvania.

Other religious items in the shop led me to believe a small chapel had been emptied out. But when I asked an employee about the items, she did not know who brought the items in.

Smashed in a garbage bin

I debated buying the statue, not knowing if I had room for her in my house. While searching the Internet to find a similar image to identify her, I kept thinking, "If I don't buy her, who will?" The thought of her being smashed in a garbage bin made me decide to bring her home.

After sending a picture of the statue to friends, we identified her as St. Mary Euphrasia. I had never heard of Good Shepherd until finding the statue and then reading up on her life. I sent the picture to my mother-in-law, who is a talented artist with skills repairing and painting statues. She agreed to repair the statue if I bought it.

Making the repairs was a slow process of stripping away old chipped plaster, adding new plaster to missing parts, and gentle hand-sanding for countless hours. St. Mary Euphrasia stayed in the shed for months as my mother-in-law worked on her. She came inside when the weather grew cold.

A nice new home

My mother-in-law took her time painting the statue, and I'm so glad she did. St. Mary Euphrasia's face looks amazing! She went from looking sad and broken to beaming. On February 3rd my mother-in-law delivered the restored statue to me. I found a nice spot for St. Mary Euphrasia next to the piano in our den, where she will stay.

Anne Cooper discovered us online and lives in Warminster, Pennsylvania. She found the statue of St. Mary Euphrasia in a veteran-owned thrift store in Bristol, Pennsylvania.



Saint Mary Euphrasia received a makeover and a new home after being rescued from a thrift store in Pennsylvania.

The Good Shepherd Carondelet Community hosted an Open House for the Mason Pointe Community on March 10, 2023.

About 13 Sisters passed through Heritage Hall to enjoy tours of the Holy Family Chapel and Good Shepherd residence wing at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. After the tours, the Sisters enjoyed delicious refreshments of pizza, spring rolls, fruit and dessert.



The Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Providence came to the gathering and introduced themselves and welcomed the Sisters. Sisters Barbara, Madeleine, Mary Carol, Monique (and Glynis after her sabbatical) are eager to welcome more guests! The Province Administration Staff will have a lunch and tour at Carondelet on April 13.



Local Get-togethers in St. Louis



Pam Fisher and Yolanda Camp do a deep dive into the pizza pie at Droste, on the Normandy campus in St. Louis.

← On March 14, we celebrated PI day (3.14) with pizza and apple pie. We ended the celebration with a game of Two Truths and a Lie. Next year on 3.14, we decided we could also celebrate all things St. Louis since 314 is the area code in the area.

PMNA Administration staff have → paired up as prayer partners during Lent. This provides an opportunity for staff during our office transition to connect with one another informally and to discuss whatever happens to be on their hearts that day.



Lizzie Cody and Tracy Chartrand at a local coffee shop while sharing their reflections as Lenten Prayer Partners.



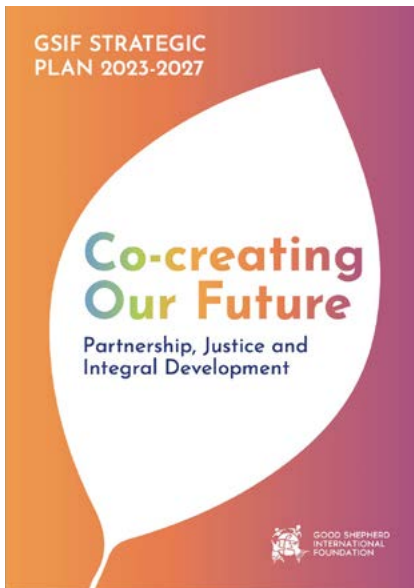
Sisters Elizabeth Garciano and LeeAnn Mackeprang spent time with Contemplative Sisters in Wolcott, Connecticut, (New York-Toronto Province) from February 18 through April 3 to form new friendships and share hopes, dreams, and experiences of interconnectedness. L-R: Carol Seigel (Wolcott), Edith Olaguer (Congregational Leadership Team-CLT), Erika Patricia Sanchez (CLT), LeeAnn Mackeprang (Mason Pointe Community), Yolanda Borbon (CLT), Cristina Rodriguez (CLT), Beth Garciano (Carrollton), Sonya Reyes (Wolcott). Province Leader Maureen McGowan and Sr. Elaine Basinger visited the Sisters while they were there. In addition, on March 4, Sisters LeeAnn and Beth visited the elderly Contemplative Sisters at the Bethany Health Center in Boston, Massachusetts, along with Sisters Carol Seigel and Sonya Reyes from the New York-Toronto Province.

Mystery photo

Does anyone know what's going on in this photo? We don't know the year, location, or activity.

What's the story? Please contact Jeanette McDermott at jmcdermott@gspmna.org.





The Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF) has completed its strategic plan developed in collaboration with mission partners and the Congregational Leadership Team nearly a year ago. All partners are encouraged to participate in the plan's Theory of Change to move toward new horizons within the next five years. Dissemination and translation of the plan are in progress. In the meantime, you can find a summary (in English) of the plan's key elements online at https://strategicplan.gsif.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/GSIF_StratPlan2023-2027_Brochure.pdf.

Conversation Circles

The International Formation Team (IFT) was created out of the Chapter Calls and is an international group of Apostolic and Contemplative Sisters and lay Partners In Mission. The team formed after the last Congregational Chapter. One of the first projects of the IFT is to sponsor Conversation Circles about formation. The purpose of the conversations is to optimize the process of Good Shepherd formation for Sisters and Partners by providing insight, as well as opportunities for connection.

According to the IFT, "Formation is the process of becoming fully human through self-knowledge. It is coming out of our comfort zone to change our thinking, attitudes, and behaviors. Formation is ongoing for the entirety of our lives."

The Conversation Circles provide opportunities to share stories about meaningful formation in our lives and look into the future as a journey toward wholeness. They are structured to elicit ideas about effective and ineffective approaches to formation. The conversations are designed for groups of 5-6 and take about 90 minutes. They can be face-to-face or virtual. The goal is to have as many conversations as possible taking place around the world.

Contact Lizzie Cody at lcody@gspmna.org if you would like to participate in a Conversation Circle.

Curiosity, creativity and conundrums



Test your smarts with this Rebus puzzle. Also known as word picture puzzles or picture riddles, Rebus uses images or words to convey a phrase or message, typically a common idiom or expression. Answer on page 12.

Dear Sisters and Partners In Mission,

Spring has not yet arrived in St. Louis as I write this, but the calendar date tells me that it is supposed to be Spring. I think we are all over this weird March weather.

I wanted to share a few highlights over the last month and if there's anything you ever would like to know more about, please reach out to me. Love to talk!

Construction on new space

We officially received our construction permit on March 21 so construction commenced that week on our new space. We anticipate that we will move from our temporary offices at Droste to our new space in late June. As it relates to the new space, the province administration staff has spent some time brainstorming on names for the space. While we know this space will be a place to "office," we anticipate it will be so much more for our Province. We want the name to be reflective of what and who Good Shepherd is and how the space is used. Names such as the Good Shepherd Partnership Hub and the Euphrasia Center have surfaced.

The brainstorming continues. If you have an idea for a name, please email me or your PLT link. The space is ideally set up to be a gathering space with a full kitchen and large gathering rooms to meet, eat, and socialize. There are also small huddle spaces and a room that we are currently just calling the reflection room but is large enough to be a sacred space for prayer and meditation. Of course, it will also be home to Good Shepherd archives and the plans of having a rotating showcase of the Good Shepherd history and heritage are in the works.

Lenten prayer partners

Our province administration staff also has partnered with each other for the Lenten season that we are referring to as Lenten Prayer Partners. The Lenten Prayer Partners meet up at least once a week during Lent to connect over coffee, lunch or even over Zoom. During

our office transition, this is an opportunity for staff to connect with one another informally and to be together to discuss whatever happens to be on their hearts that day. After Lent, we will have a chance to reflect on our time together and to share something new that each has learned about the other.

A note about cars

On a business note, if you drive a car, or your community has cars, we will be sending you a form via email and snail mail for those who prefer it to update us on the mileage and any repair needs you think your car may have. The PLT has approved the purchase of several new cars in this year's budget with the hope to move to the environmentally friendly hybrid car and to ensure that Sisters have the latest security and safety features for driving. More to come on that.

Humanitarian efforts

As a result of the recent tragic earthquake in Syria, the Province of Mid-North America and a benefactor of Good Shepherd Services Atlanta have contributed money to support humanitarian efforts. Sister Marie Claude Naddaf, RGS, leads the compassionate humanitarian response.

Happy Easter

I hope you are seeing some warm weather and lots of yellow and pink soon. Have a wonderful Easter!

Much love,

Antonia M. Ponder

Director of Province Administration/General Counsel



Wellness Tidbits

Vicky Barshis, Health and Wellness Coordinator



Insurance is one of my least favorite topics. But since it runs much of the world, let's talk about it for a minute.

Whenever possible, we want to have insurance cover our medical procedures, equipment, and supplies.

Often the only difference between having something covered or not is having a doctor write an order for the service or item. For example, if you need a new walker, a doctor's order will significantly increase the chances that Medicare and other insurances will cover it. If you need a test or a service such as physical therapy or in-home care after surgery, a doctor's prescription will help ensure that the cost is covered. And of course, consulting with your doctor about the service in advance will often provide insight into who the best local providers are in your area.

Yolanda is an absolute guru about insurance coverage—remember to reach out to her with any questions about coverage for your medical needs.

Generous Hearts

Lizzie Cody, Director of Mission Effectiveness



The North America Mission and Values Team (NAMVT) has resumed monthly mission reflections on Zoom to strengthen the Good Shepherd community and integrate Good Shepherd values and mission across

all locations and roles. The hour-long conversation is open to all Mission Partners across North America and beyond. Sister Judy Mannix and I lead the conversations. In February, we explored the theme of "A Heart for the Mission" and were delighted to welcome 50 participants from the U.S., Canada, Taiwan, and Lebanon. The topics of conversation vary with each reflection. On March 23, in tribute to International Women's Day, we reflected on influential women in our lives. Please keep an eye on your email inbox for invitations. All are welcome!

Balancing Act

Yolanda Camp, Benefits Coordinator

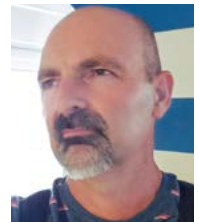


Here are just a few reminders to Sisters from the Finance Department:

1. If you have moved, please contact the Social Security Administration with your new mailing address. The phone number is 1-800-772-1213.
2. Send any medical, dental, and vision invoices to me at ycamp@gspmna.org, or you can mail them to me at 7654 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121. *Did you know that you can also take a photo and send the invoice to me by text and email?*
3. I am also your contact for insurance and cellphone issues and purchases. In regard to cell phones, the Province has a non-profit plan with Verizon. Thus, many Verizon stores are unable to assist you directly unless you have our account representative and me on the line. It is best to try to coordinate a time to call to work on any phone issue than to show up at Verizon and proceed ad hoc.

Heritage & Archives

Monte Abbott, Director of Archives



I'm visiting the New York-Toronto Province in April to continue my archives work there. The New York archives holds historical records of Good Shepherd communities, corporations, and ministries operating in New York City and State, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, dating back to the initial foundation in 1857. While there, I conduct genealogical research, accession, and file newly arrived materials. I also organize and describe the collections to make them more accessible for future researchers. My day-to-day experience of the work is a real change of pace. I get to discover new treasures and help preserve another piece of the larger Good Shepherd story in North America. This story is an important body of knowledge that should be passed lovingly to the next generation.



April 9

Jesus is the light
of the world.

May the day that God has
resurrected bring you
happiness, love, and joy.

*Have a fulfilling
and blessed Easter.*

The National Advocacy Center is co-sponsoring **Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD)** and will welcome participants, join in worship, and organize workshops. The annual gathering of Christian advocates and activists is being held **virtually** from April 25-27. <https://advocacydays.org/>

Trees never stop giving to us. Plant a tree on Arbor Day, April 28, for the benefit of generations to come. Learn about the power of trees at www.arborday.org/

On April 24th, CORA Services will hold its 14th Annual Golf Classic.

The event is one of CORA's main sources of unrestricted funding to support its mission.

On April 27th, the DeNeuille Learning Center for Women will hold its **25th Anniversary Gala.**

On May 4th, Good Shepherd Volunteers will celebrate 30 years of service with an **anniversary benefit.**

On May 16th, Maryhurst will hold its 31st signature fundraising event, the annual **Journey of Hope Luncheon.**

Mid-North America Province plans to be in its new space on July 1, 2023. **Please make note of the address: 1143 Olivette Executive Parkway St. Louis, MO 63132**



The pilgrimage to Angers, France, is **August 28** through **September 5**. It is the first one since the pandemic.



The **DEADLINE** for **Zeal Connections** is the **21st of each month.**

If the 21st falls on a weekend, then the deadline is the **Friday before.**

Please send your articles and photos to [Jeanette](#) before the deadline.

Questions? Contact [Jeanette](#).



**God's Vision of
Abundant Life**
2023 EARTH DAY PROGRAM

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22. Catholic Climate Covenant's newly released 2023 Earth Day program, "Simple Living: God's Vision of Abundant Life," can help you plan a celebration. <https://bit.ly/3Za7QZi>



**Rosalinda Sobremisana, RGS
November 11, 1933 - March 4, 2023**

Sister Rosalinda Sobremisana was born to Paz and Filemen in the Iloilo province of the Philippine Islands on November 11, 1933. She had three brothers and two sisters.

Rosalinda graduated with a BA in nursing from St Paul’s College of Nursing in 1957 and was assigned to Perpetual Succor Hospital in Cebu. Among her duties was administering injections to Good Shepherd Sisters at the convent.

Entry into Good Shepherd

Rosalinda’s affection for the Sisters led her to enter the convent in 1963. She became a Good Shepherd Sister at the Los Angeles House for the Missions. Women from the

Philippines and other Asian countries were trained here to serve as missionaries.

During her early religious life, shortly after WWII and before the Communist Revolution in China, Sister Rosalinda accompanied Mother Mary John Kroner on her travels as provincial of Los Angeles. At that time, Sisters traveled in pairs. Sister Rosalinda accompanied Mother John Kroner to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, China, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Las Vegas.

Sister Rosalinda had many assignments. She was in charge of an infirmary and served as a school nurse, counselor, and nursing supervisor, sacristan, kitchen and plant manager, formator, and local leader. She was also local leader of the Contemplative Sisters in Florissant, Missouri. While with the Contemplative Sisters, she arranged for an organist, Jeanne Honich, to teach organ lessons and prepare liturgical music for the services.

She also served as director of the DeNeuille High School for girls. While in this capacity, she arranged celebrations for graduates, even if there was just one or only two girls graduating. It was important to her that each girl had a memorable graduation ceremony that would make her and her parents proud.

Sister Rosalinda was a steady, spiritual, and warm presence in the community. She was always ready to add a helping hand.

Happy memories

Sister Rosalinda had a joyful heart. Among her happiest memories was Easter, when Good Shepherd Sisters helped children receive Easter baskets and new clothes.

Sister Rosalinda is survived by her niece, Paz, a pediatric nurse in New York. Paz was by her aunt’s side when she died. She arranged for Sister Rosalinda’s prayers and remembrances to be live-streamed to her family in the Philippines, as well as the funeral liturgy and burial.

Sister Rosalinda was a steady, spiritual, and warm presence in the community. She enjoyed parties and welcoming guests. She was always ready to add a helping hand. She is greatly missed by all Sisters and staff; however, we rejoice that she is now home with our Good Shepherd.

Submitted by Sisters Pauline Bilbrough and Sharon O’Grady.

From the Archives



Angeli was the name of the vacation house in Osceola Wisconsin, in the St. Paul Province. The vacation house was about an hour's drive from the Province center in St. Paul. It was named after Angers (site of the Motherhouse in France) and Lee, the surname of the Superior General, Sr. Thomas Aquinas Lee, who recommended that each Province have a vacation house for the Sisters. Sister Barbara Beasley, a member of the PMNA leadership team, is pictured with the Contemplative Provincial Council members for St. Paul Province: Deloris Christofferson, Teresita Mater, Eileen Carey, and Emily Jasicki. They were on a leadership team retreat in 1987.



Our mission is to be a reconciling presence of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Province Leadership Team

Madeleine Munday,
Province Leader

Sharon Rose Authorson

Barbara Beasley

Gayle Lwanga Crumbley

Elizabeth Garciano

Mary Carol McClenon

Claudia Palacio

Christine Truong

Zeal Connections is a monthly internal newsletter of the Province of Mid-North America. The newsletter is distributed to Sisters, province administration staff, ministry CEO's, and select Partners-In-Mission. We welcome your submissions and encourage you to share *Zeal Connections* with anyone you desire. If you know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, please contact Jeanette McDermott at jmcdermott@gspmna.org.



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Rebus puzzle answer: Green with envy.