



Groundbreaking ceremony in Normandy

by Sr. Mary Carol McClenon

On May 24, a group of Sisters from the Mason Pointe and Carondelet communities attended a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony at our former property on Natural Bridge Road. More than a hundred guests, seated under a large canopy, listened to brief speeches from officials representing U.S. Federal Properties, the General Services Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as Mayor Mark Beckmann of the City of Normandy. The speakers all acknowledged the Sisters of the Good Shepherd's role in environmental stewardship in Normandy.

A new Midwestern Laboratory for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, a public health agency in the USDA, is expected to be completed in the summer of 2025. It will consist of microbiology and chemistry laboratories, administrative offices, supply storage, a processing area, and a large warehouse with adjacent loading docks. McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. is the construction manager and is using the former Droste residence as its project office.

Meanwhile, our province administration partners will continue to use a portion of Droste until the new space is completed off of Olive Boulevard sometime in late June, or early July.



September 25: Blessing to celebrate our new space in Olivette.

November 3-5: Inter-province in-person gathering at the Renaissance St. Louis. Details to come via email.

CLT holds leadership sessions in May

The Congregational Leadership Team held a 10-day leadership session with CPNA and Provincial Leadership Teams, along with many invited Sisters, in early May.

An inter-province Zoom Echo Gathering for Sisters will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at 9 a.m. Pacific, 11 a.m. Central and 12 p.m. Eastern times. Please find the Zoom link in the email delivered to Sisters on June 2, 2023. A reminder with the link will be sent on the morning of the Echo.

Good Shepherd Partners-in-Mission gathered in St. Louis on May 10 for dinner and fellowship in preparation for a hybrid meeting with the Circle of Province Leaders and the Congregational Leadership Team during the leader session held at Carrollton.



May Crowning Day

by Danville Community

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, the SSCM, RGS, and Carmelite Sisters gathered together to celebrate May Crowning Day. During the evening prayer, we crowned the Blessed Mother and processed from the rose garden where the statue was located to the Maria Hall chapel, where we recited the litany to Blessed Mother. The event was attended by all the Sisters residing in Maria Hall, Motherhouse, and Villa Sacred Heart.



From a Sabbatical opportunity to a degree course

by Sr. Clare Nolan

On May 5, Sr. Seraphine Clement, a Pakistani Sister of the province of Sri Lanka-Pakistan graduated with a Master of Arts in Spirituality from the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. Sr. Seraphine had begun her study as a Sabbatical opportunity and went on to accomplish a degree course even though it was interrupted by a serious illness with which she coped with great strength.

Sister Maureen McGowan, Province Leader of the New York/Toronto province, attended the ceremony. Through the years, Sr. Maureen has been a supportive contact with Sr. Seraphine and a strong communicator with the leader of Sri Lanka/Pakistan as well as with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) who were supportive of Seraphine's education and her health progress. Supportive partners are found everywhere!

Before returning to Pakistan in 2024, Sr. Seraphine will complete a pastoral service (CPE) course at Baptist Hospital in San Antonio, where she has already done practicum service. She will soon bring learnings and insights from all of her experiences to the mission in Pakistan in support of women and girls engaged in Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (OLCGS) programs.

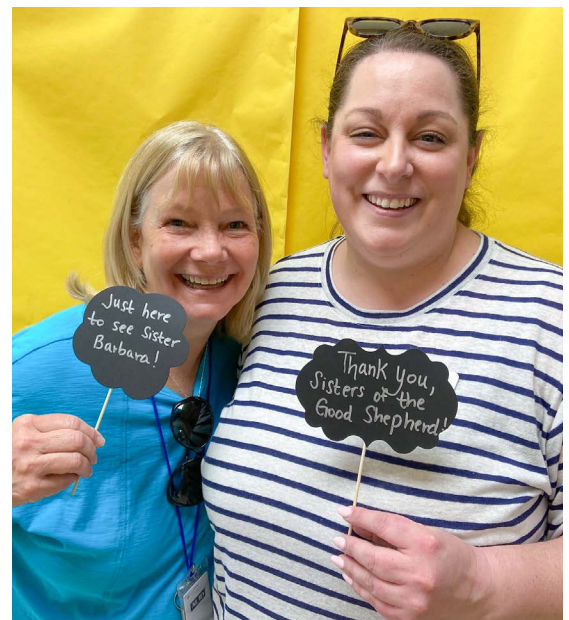
Maryhurst block party and a word of gratitude

by Christine Laster, Grants Manager

I wanted to express my gratitude for your support of Maryhurst and the Good Shepherd block party. It was a fantastic time, and we enjoyed spending the beautiful day outdoors with you all.

My name is Christine Laster, and I'm a member of the staff appreciation committee. I so enjoy celebrating our staff and the hard work they do. Thank you for joining us in supporting them.

It was so meaningful to have Good Shepherd Sisters Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, Elise Kramer, and Dorothy Doyle attend our event. I am so glad our Mission Partners got to eat, laugh, and enjoy the day. Thank you for making the trip to Maryhurst.



Good Shepherd Sunday renewal of vows

by Danville Community

“I AM THE GATE . . . John 10: 1-10”

The gatekeeper grants access to the shepherd who enters through the gate, and the sheep recognize the shepherd’s voice as he calls them by name and leads them out. The shepherd walks ahead of his flock, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. “Through me, whoever enters will find salvation and abundance in life.”

On Good Shepherd Sunday, our community commenced the day by renewing our vows during Sunday Mass. We were blessed by the presence of Fr. Charles Ocul, A. J., the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and the Carmelite Sisters.



Sister Mary Charlotte Kirst displayed some of her sheep in the community space, including a set from Austria depicting a shepherd leading his flock. The other sheep on display are from Portugal, Germany, and the United States.

The photo was taken on a rainy day, with the apple trees and their flowers visible through the window. We hope for a bountiful apple crop this year, only if the deer don’t get to the apples first.



Good news from Monica Brown and Emmaus Productions!

Emmaus Productions is delighted to offer you **FREE MUSIC and VIDEOS**, in support of the **LAUDATO SI GOALS**, in particular the sixth goal of fostering ecological spirituality.

These resources will also be timely for your celebration of **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, JUNE 5, 2023!**

[Click here for your FREE Laudato Si Resources](#)



A Sabbatical year well lived

by Sr. Glynis McManamon

Sabbatical year has been packed with wonderful experiences, including a train trip from Toronto to Vancouver, and autumn spent at Springbank Eco Spirituality and Arts Center in Kingstree, South Carolina. In January, I had the privilege of participating in the Ministry to Ministers (MTM) Program of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. The program included spiritual direction, faith sharing and a theological overview – including input from Ron Rolheiser, OMI – and what made it particularly rich was the opportunity to journey in faith with

19 men and women from all over the world. All participants were members of religious communities so this added a dimension to our sharing. In addition to MTM's scheduled programming, we made time to hear about how various communities were dealing with diminishment, and how we viewed the future. I also had a chance to go with a group to McAllen, Texas, to visit with some young Jesuits who had begun a ministry for immigrants at the Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center. The trip was brief and heartrending.

The following countries, in addition to U.S. and Canada, were represented: Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Peru, Ireland, Great Britain, Spain, Poland, Bangladesh, Philippines, and Australia. A true bonus was to meet Sr. Saraphine Clement, a Good Shepherd Sister from Pakistan. We had a few brief opportunities to learn about each other's past ministries and hopes for the future. How wonderful to encounter another transitioning Good Shepherd Sister way far away in San Antonio.



Welcoming Megan Zambiasi, the new CEO of Vista Maria

At her welcome reception on May 24, Vista Maria CEO Megan Zambiasi told guests that “even though you are here to meet the new CEO, it is the Sisters’ mission that brings us together as a Vista Maria family.” Sister Dorothy Doyle and James Dumbrowsky, members of the Vista Maria Board Executive Committee, attended the reception. Also attending were Sisters Madeleine Munday and Gayle Lwanga Crumbley from the Mid-North America Province Leadership Team. The reception was held at a local restaurant in Plymouth, Michigan.



Vista Maria and Lost Voices showcased on CNN Heroes series

by Megan Zambiasi, Vista Maria, Chief Executive Officer

You may know that we have a very special volunteer organization called Lost Voices (www.lostvoices.org) that uses music to help our youth process emotions and trauma. Mike Ball is the Executive Director and has been instrumental in bringing hope and healing to Vista Maria for several years.

The Cable News Network (CNN) recently chose Mike as an honoree for the “CNN Heroes” series. Mike asked CNN to record his interview at Vista Maria. The CNN news crew was on Vista Maria’s campus for several weeks during the filming. The news segment featuring Mike is scheduled to air sometime this month.

In the meantime, I wanted you to see a sneak peek of this wonderful production. It’s a beautiful testimony to music’s power and the resilience of our youth. Enjoy! [CNN Heroes: Mike Ball | CNN](#)

PMNA treasurer tidbits: finance, coding and budgets

by Sr. Mary Carol McClenon



Our friendly neighborhood finance department is requesting assistance to improve the accuracy and consistency of coding for our credit card expenses. The good news is that we do not need to remember or look

up account numbers. It is enough and favorable to use prose or a simple narrative. The finance team finds it helpful when we provide brief descriptions of what the expense was for rather than the code or in addition to the code (I am speaking from personal experience from times when Pam Fisher had to call me for better explanations. They're not asking for detail because they want to know our business; they are asking so that they can be consistent about putting all the expenses for a given event into the same "bucket.") Coding for travel expenses is an area where we can help them out by being more specific. For instance, rather than saying "Province Travel," I can write "DeNeuville Gala – gasoline" or "CORA Board – hotel."

Similarly, food expenses incurred on a trip or at a conference will usually be coded to the event rather than to your regular food budget. We (Sisters) don't have to figure it out – just give our finance staff enough information and they will take care of sorting it out for us.

Another reason why this is helpful is that we may have Sisters attend the same event. The Sisters may decide upon two different accounting codes and then those expenses end up in two different accounts. For example, if the Province Leadership Team asks about expenses to attend LCWR in Dallas, the finance team cannot accurately reflect the expenses if one Sister codes it to community travel and another to meetings. However, if both Sisters write a narrative of "Travel to LCWR Conference," then it is clear for the finance team where both Sisters expenses should be allocated.

Budgets

Speaking of budgets, please remember that a budget is a guide. It is not a law! Developing an annual budget at the province level is important as a process so we can have a "big picture" of our overall financial situation and can project likely short-term (a few years) and long-term (10 or 15 years) scenarios. Our individual and community budgets are significant elements in the province budgeting process and our conscientious stewardship is part of our vows of poverty and obedience, but the budgets are not hard and fast rules. Things will and do come up for home repairs, unexpected and necessary travel, health concerns, or whatever the situation may be. The province has the needed funding all year, at any time, to support the care and needs of every Sister. If for example, your audiologist recommends a hearing aid that was not budgeted, please don't wait until the next budget cycle to get those hearing aids. Do what you need to do now and consult with your team link or local leader.

For all intents and purposes, your medical expenses and healthcare costs are not considered at the local level when it comes to a community's annual budget guidelines. Similar to how the PLT reviews housing differentials, medical differentials are a necessary expense that are not calculated to determine if a community is over or under budget. And remember, the budget is a guide, not the law!

There are several types of expenses that we are now trying to coordinate at the province level rather than locally. These include car purchases (because we are moving onto a Fleet Management model with a preference for leasing rather than buying) and cell phones (because we have a province Verizon plan which offers significant savings). It is also helpful if you consult/communicate with Toni Ponder about computer replacements. This helps the province coordinate computer inventory and we can often get good discounts at the province level. Again, budgets are a guide, not the law!

Heritage & archives

Monte Abbott, Director of Archives



Many of you know something about my work with HARC, the Heritage and Archives

Resource Center in South Bend, Indiana. HARC, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, is a new, visionary collaborative created to store the archives of 10 congregations of women religious. Our goals are to safeguard archives after congregations are no longer able to house them, to educate the public about the works of the Sisters, and to promote scholarship about the contributions they have made to American society.

After our initial Day of Dreaming in 2018, I joined the Board of Directors. We built our mission, created a

501(c)(3), adopted bylaws and policies, and planned construction of a repository. Our work was slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are now building our board and revisiting construction plans to reduce costs. The work is challenging and rewarding, and I find that I must draw on many areas of previous experience, pay close attention to details, track developments, and actively build relationships.

Archives preservation is a big challenge for women religious, so the HARC collaborative will be a model for others. Please pray for our success as we forge ahead. At this time, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd are supportive of my continued collaboration and support of HARC although CPNA has concluded it is not the best fit for our archives repository. This could change with new information.



Chalk drawing of Saint Mary Euphrasia by Carol Jean Alvarado. In this picture, the drawing is being enclosed in a custom protective enclosure built by Monte Abbott. The drawing is now in storage, awaiting the move to our new space.

Wellness tidbits

Vicky Barshis, Health and Wellness Coordinator



Most people spend a third of their lives either asleep or resting, according to the [Sleep Foundation](#). During sleep, the body recharges and repairs itself. What's the best sleeping position for you? We all have our favorite positions

and the one(s) that feel most comfortable, but research shows that some positions are actually better for your health than others. [Check out this one-minute video](#) from the Mayo Clinic showing the pros and cons of each position and sharing which is generally the best.



National Advocacy Center

You are invited to NAC's virtual briefing on the intersection of human trafficking and migration, "Forced Migration and the Threat of Human Trafficking." This one-hour briefing, will be held on Wednesday, June 14, at 2:00 p.m. EDT. Register at <https://bit.ly/2023traffickingbriefing>

This briefing is the launch of an 18-month journey for the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, where we will listen to those on the ground and those impacted by human trafficking. We will then work with members of Congress and policymakers to identify opportunities for meaningful change.

FORCED MIGRATION & THE THREAT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



2023 U.S. Farm Bill

by Sr. Joan Spiering

Are you excited about trying some delicious local watermelon or cantaloupe? If so, it's worth knowing about the 2023 U.S. Farm Bill. You might be surprised to learn that politics is involved in your food choices! Every five years, the U.S. updates its policies on agriculture, conservation, and forestry through the Farm Bill. This bill is more important than ever in the face of our climate crisis.

The Farm Bill has two main goals: It aims to feed the poor, especially children in the U.S. Around 80-85% of the Farm Bill goes towards SNAP, a program that provides food assistance to those in need. It's crucial that this part of the bill is not cut. Check out the May alert from NAC for more information.

The second main goal is that 15-20% of the Farm Bill is dedicated to supporting farmers and ensuring they can continue to grow the food we all rely on. This includes providing them with the tools and resources they need to farm sustainably and maintain a fair livelihood.

The agricultural industry is currently one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases, and it uses 70% of the world's fresh water. This is simply not sustainable, and we all have a role to play in changing this.

To get involved and make a difference, start by reading more about the Farm Bill from trustworthy sources such as USCCB and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. Interfaith Power and Light also hosted a webinar in April with useful information. Stay informed, talk about it with others, and consider taking action. In summary, let's protect SNAP, support family farmers, preserve climate-smart funding, and prioritize conservation.



Sister Mary Ellen BOYCE — Toronto/Halifax April 7, 1928 - May 25, 2023

Sister Mary Ellen Boyce, an Apostolic Sister of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, passed away peacefully on May 25, 2023, in Providence Health Care Center, Toronto.

She was born on April 7, 1928, in Saint John, New Brunswick. Sister Mary Ellen spent 75 years in the mission in Toronto, Winnipeg, and Halifax.

Her commitment and love for those under her care were deep and unwavering. She was a wise and respected leader who provided guidance and support to countless children, adolescents, and young women.

Sister Mary Ellen will be deeply missed by her religious community, family, friends, and those she served in her lifetime.

Read more: <https://shorturl.at/agLWX>.



**Congregation of
Our Lady of Charity
of the Good Shepherd**

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

Circle of Province Leaders

Francisca Aguillón, RGS
(Central South)

Maureen McGowan, RGS
(NY/Toronto)

Madeleine Munday, RGS
(Mid-North America)

**This edition of *Zeal Connections* was brought to you
by Monique Tarabeh, RGS.**

Zeal Connections is a monthly internal newsletter of the Province of Mid-North America, Central South, and New York/Toronto. 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.



**Guest Editor:
Monique Tarabeh,
RGS**



**Editor: Jeanette
McDermott**

Mailing Address:

7654 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

sistersofthegoodshepherd.com

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