

Mary Notes

Sisters of Mary of the Presentation
Maryvale Convent, Valley City, ND 58072

Volume 50 No. 1 January 16, 2018

“We Choose to Passionately Follow Christ, the Humble Servant.” ***by Sister Suzanne Stahl, SMP***



“We choose to passionately follow Christ, the humble servant.”

(Matthew 11:28-30)

Thus states our Vision Statement of General Chapter 2017. We might ask ourselves, *“Who do I choose to passionately follow...”* in my daily decisions?

To follow Jesus is to **BE compassionate**. Jesus sees our pain and desires to alleviate it. He desires to love and console us. Whose pain do I see and take action to alleviate?

December 30, 2017 we Sisters met and discussed our living of Religious Community Life. We talked about being good communicators and respectful of one another and the “richness of our differences and our complementarity.” (C.31) We realized anew that living community life is in itself a prophetic witness. Today, in our world, we see people not respecting each other’s differences, whether that is race, culture, religion, legal status, etc. We see more isolation through individualism and overuse of electronic communication or entertainment. We are called to model and live community life.

At evening prayer recently we read an editorial by Sister Annick Geffrelet, our former Superior General. She wrote it many years ago, and yet the topic is the same. It spoke of “opening the eyes of our hearts” and “listening to the Word.” To follow Jesus, the Word, we need to be welcoming and to love, that is, *“to be concerned about another, to be attentive to another’s needs, to help another find his or her place in the community.”* (Jean Vanier).

Together, we can continue to endeavor to live community life in all its forms: family life, friendship, church community, welcoming the stranger, reaching out to alleviate other’s pain, being welcoming in all circumstances and by seeing others as equal...not less than or more than us.

Jesus says, *“I am meek and humble of heart.”* If we are to more closely follow Jesus we need to reflect on His quality of being and doing. Being humble of heart calls us to let go of our plans, our ideas and yearn to know God’s plans and designs. *Let us passionately follow the Humble Servant, Christ.*

Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System

Leadership Retreat

*“They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength,
they will soar as with eagles’ wings...Is 40:31*

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP

The biennial retreat for Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System leadership and board members was held in Chandler, Arizona March 9-11, 2017. The theme of the retreat was “RENEW” and was to be an interruption from the usual work routine for the purpose of restoring our professional, personal and spiritual selves. This was accomplished through prayer, fellowship and wonderful speakers who were able to restore our vision of Catholic Health Care and build Community as a Catholic Health System.



Tony Keelin and Reverend James Meyer

The first day we directed our attention to the near future of healthcare in the United States with the uncertainty surrounding the Affordable Care Act. On Friday morning our focus involved the spiritual dimension in developing “The Leadership Vocation in Catholic Healthcare.” Catholic Social Teaching encourages us to see the workplace as the healing mission of Jesus in all our transactions and ministry on all levels of care in the workplace. The final day of our retreat brought laughter as our speaker, Kent Rader, demonstrated the value of humor for dealing with the stresses that are sure to flow from the changing healthcare landscape.

We were very grateful to have Bishop John Folda from the diocese of Fargo with us for the first two days of our retreat. The whole focus of the retreat was keeping our HOPE in the Lord as He blesses our work and mission in the face of all the legal, cultural, political and financial challenges and uncertainties facing Catholic healthcare in today’s world. We know the Lord is certain. Prayer strengthens our hope and is the heart of our personal and organizational response to the services and challenges ahead of us.



Above L to R: Reverend James Meyer, Bishop John Folda, Deacon Jim Eggl and Deacon Jim Hunt



Left: Sister Suzanne Stahl and Sister Elaine Lange mission SMPHS Leadership Retreat participants to continue to serve in the healing mission of Jesus.

Just Because



Just Because

*Father of the world, You are the Life within me
God of all creation, living in my heart.
I will praise you Lord, regardless of Your blessings
for You are worthy of my praise; just because You are!*

Chorus

*Just because You are, forever I will praise You
Just because You are, I will glorify Your Name!
Just because You are, I lay my life before You
Father I adore You, just because You are!*

These are the opening lyrics to a song written by Philip Sandifer, that helped shape the attitude and prayer time of a small group of men, whom I call friends in Christ, that formed together to sing praise to our Creator over many years.

The group *Just Because* started out together on the invite of Dean Scouler asking me to join him in singing at Masses back in the early 90's. We were joined shortly after that by Don Schaack, and a few years later by Ken Didier and then by Doran Chandler. We formed together, not as a singing group, but rather as a brotherhood of men who came together to Praise God and allow Christ into our mist. "Where two or three gather in My Name, I am there present", a powerful promise that we experienced every time we got together to raise our squeaky voices in song.

The song goes on to say:

*Folded in your arms, I've never been without you
Thru every tear I've ever cried, I've always found you there
Cradled in Your love, it's easy Lord to praise You
But even when the times get hard, and it seems that I'm alone
Still I'll always praise You Father, JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE!*

Throughout the years that we gathered together to practice and sing at Masses, funerals, praise and worship gatherings, retirement homes, even a couple of weddings; we gathered as brothers in Christ traveling together in this world of joy, pain and suffering. We endured and upheld each other through the loss of family, the struggles of sons and daughters, facing our own personal demons, serious health issues, the gift of the next generation, and the joys of seeing each day as gift. We became family.

One of the last times we were able to gather together as the group *Just Because* was when we sang praise at Maryvale in February 2017. We gathered together on the Holy ground of Maryvale, in the Chapel, in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, joined by the Sisters living at Maryvale and sang praise for over an hour. We were not there to entertain, but rather to enter into prayer and praise with the Sisters. It was perfect praise with imperfect voices.

The end of May 2017, Colleen and I both retired and have now moved to Minnesota. With this move came miles of separation from family and friends...miles only, not ties that have been cut. I no longer sing with my brothers as *Just Because*, but I remain in solidarity with them in giving Praise to a God who is getting less and less acknowledgement, respect and honor in our society each day. Oh, how our world today needs to acknowledge our one God more than ever!

THE last time that *Just Because* sang together, with me included, was when we led the music ministry for the Funeral celebration for Sr. Carol Jean Kuntz. Sr. Carol Jean had asked me months before her death if we would sing at her funeral. Hard to say no to a dear friend, but very hard to carry out. I teased Sr. CJ and told her we would sing the song "Give Me One More Shot", which triggered that special laugh that she had and of course she ended with "You're funny!" The actual songs sung at that funeral, selected by the Holy Spirit, brought a fitting end to the earthly journey of both Sr. Carol Jean and *Just Because* as I knew it.

*I will praise you Lord, regardless of Your blessings
For You are worthy of my praise, JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE.*

+peace – tom musgrave

Tony Melendez Sings for Sisters

By Sister Elaine Lange, SMP



Tony Melendez came to St. Catherine Catholic Church, Valley City, ND to present a Lenten Mission. The Mission was entitled “Be the New Evangelist for our Church,” and it was held March 19-23, 2017. Tony, his wife Lynn, and his brother Jose taught and sang about how to be an evangelist for Christ. Their message was met by an enthusiastic crowd that continued to come back each evening. Tony’s ministry, *Tony Melendez Ministries*, is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing compassion and hope through music and personal triumph. Commissioned in 1987 by a kiss from now Saint John Paul II, Tony continues to bring HOPE to all who listen to his words of encouragement through concerts, conferences, retreats and school presentations. Tony, Lynn, and Jose stayed at Maryvale during the week of the Lenten Mission. He gave the Sisters a mini-concert. We were moved by his passion for Jesus and beautiful words put to music. After purchasing a CD, Tony gifted us with two copies of his book, [A Gift of Hope](#), and two more CDs of his wonderful music! What a special gift it was



L to R: Barb Stangeland, Jose Melendez, Tony Melendez, Lynn Melendez



“Love at the Center”

By Sister Dorothy Bunce, SMP



“Love at the Center” within the Heart of God and the need for “Love at the Center” in our own lives was the theme chosen for this year’s Women’s Retreat, March 31-April 2 and July 21-23, 2017, at Maryvale led by Sister Dorothy Bunce and Sister Anne Germaine Picard. There were 40 women in attendance. It was truly a grace-filled time of personal and communal prayer, Eucharist, and meditations led by the two Sisters. The women also ministered to one another through faith sharing and other activities of prayer that helped build the theme on how we can change our world through praying and listening to the many Scripture references on LOVE and planting LOVE actions in our lives. Many of these women have been coming to Maryvale for many years so a community has been built up among them and they experience Maryvale as their second home. The weather was also so very nice that many took advantage of taking long walks and exploring the Prayer Tunnel and the Ignatian Path.



Sister Dorothy leads a portion of the retreat.



Our Tree

By Sister Anne
Germaine Picard SMP

*(after contemplating the tree
in the front yard...
transformation)*

It's a large barren winter tree

Naked and vulnerable

Wounded and broken

YET

It stands tall in witness to all that has been.

Squirrels play and nest there.

Birds chant their song from broken or strong branches

YET

This tree has the strength of a mountain

Roots that keep it anchored in God's life.

This tree stands tall with history

Age has gifted it with depth, confidence and wisdom.

To live fully is to live in the Now.

YET

Winter breathes spring, summer, and autumn.

This winter tree is US...not dormant, as it appears,

But still as we feel barren and still awaiting with hope

For new life to burst into a new tomorrow.

YET

Trusting in God's time...anchored, vulnerable
with age, no vocations, less ministries.

The Sap of God's life is stirring us to dialogue

To look at reality with hope

To trust that even death is not an end,
but a birth to new life.

Life-Giving Tree

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP

(after contemplating the tree in the front yard...transformation—part 2)

The elements have changed,

Alleluia's ring out...

The winter barren tree bursts with life

In the NOW

New leaves break forth,

Slowly, persistently, fully

In the silence of creation,

Life has changed.

In the NOW

We are a Resurrection people

The tomb of death is opened –

Fear, unbelief, questions grip us

As God is in our midst.

In the NOW

We grieve the deaths and dying of Sister companions,
We grieve the Vocation door seems closed and locked.

Aging continues in each of us with new limits

Many questions before us draw us to unity

To unknown changes to embrace...

In the NOW

Jesus walks into this emptiness –

Jesus shows us his wounds, our wounds –

Jesus empowers us to new lie from within

Just like this Life-Giving Tree – alive, giving hope

In the NOW

We hear Jesus say to us this Easter Season

Do not fear... Peace be with you...

Go and make disciples, etc. GO!

In the NOW





Sister Marguerite Guarneri, SMP

By Sister Suzanne Stahl, SMP



Sister Marguerite Louise Guarneri, 102, of Valley City, ND died at Maryvale Convent, Valley City, April 22, 2017. Her funeral Mass was celebrated April 27, 2017 in the Maryvale Chapel.

Sister Marguerite Guarneri was born April 6, 1915 in Spring Valley, IL to James and Mary (Marino) Guarneri. She attended grade school at Grant School, Spring Valley, IL, high school at Valley City, ND and Oakwood, ND. She received her bachelor's degree in French from the College of Great Falls, Montana in 1963.

Sister Marguerite entered the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation (SMP) in 1933 in Broons, France, and made her vows in 1935. During her Religious Life, she served at St. Martin's College, Rennes, France (1935-1937); St. Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley, IL (1937-1954); St. Mary's School, Kenogami, Quebec, Canada (1954-1962); St. Cecilia's School, Harvey, ND (1963-1968); St. Catherine's School, Valley City, ND (1968-1977 and 1986-1989); St. Patrick's School, Washington, IL (1977-1983); and Maryvale Convent, Valley City, ND (1983-2017).

Sister Marguerite Guarneri was preceded in death by her parents; her brother Angelo and sisters Florence Straiski and Dorothy Piano, and her niece Patricia Donaldson. She is survived by her Religious Community, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation; her nieces Rosemary Yerly, Sharon Johnson and Kathleen Lyons; and her nephews Frank, James and Thomas Piano.

She was a woman of many talents and interests. As many of you know, she loved to knit and crochet, and her finished products were perfect. She was in the midst of work when she died. She loved music, especially opera and country, writing poetry and reading a wide range of literary genre. Sister Marguerite loved to do research and archival work, often translating articles for Mary Notes and Info Comm'. If she couldn't find the answer to a question she had about something that interested her, she would "dig" until she found it...even going to others to look it up on the internet! She enjoyed her daily walks outside (as long as she was able) and her quiet times of prayer.

Her ministries were varied. As a young woman, she desired to be a teacher. However, her early years in Religious Life, with ill health and obedience, led her to work as a secretary and do other duties at St. Margaret's Hospital. She began to flourish when she started teaching elementary grades and junior high. She continued to teach French to Mariana Rumer, Associate from Valley City, until shortly before her death.

She relished the opportunity to utilize the French language and became an excellent interpreter and translator. Many of the SMP historical books, written in French have been translated into English by Sister Marguerite.

She is greatly missed by everyone who knew her.



Celebrating a Century of Learning – 1917-2017

By Sister Marlyss Dionne, SMP

St. Catherine School, Valley City, ND, celebrated its 100th Anniversary during the year of 2017. From the early years of its origin, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation devoted many years to teaching in both grade school and high school. A parish planning committee, of which Sister Marlyss was a member, began meeting in 2016 to set up activities in celebration of the 100th anniversary. The first event on the calendar was an Open House at St. Catherine School on September 2, 2016. Several Sisters attended the event and were able to review displays and visit the classrooms along with other visitors.



It was with gratitude and joy that the Sisters of our U.S. Province gathered at Maryvale for a Mass on April 30, 2017 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Catherine School and the Sisters' presence and ministry there during a major part of the century.

Very Rev. Andrew Jasinski, Director of Catholic Education and Chancellor of the Diocese of Fargo, was the main celebrant, with our chaplain, Fr. Donald Leiphon serving as concelebrant. The celebration opened with a joyful song and procession to the altar. Sister Suzanne Stahl, Provincial, gave a welcome address. The Sisters, guests from the area and former students shared in the singing throughout the liturgy. Before the closing hymn, a list of twelve Sisters present who had taught at St. Catherine School throughout the years was read aloud by our Chaplain. Each Sister was asked to stand as her name and number of years she taught at St. Catherine's were read aloud. A list of thirty-seven deceased Sisters of Mary of the Presentation and the number of years each had taught at St. Catherine's was listed in the liturgy booklet.

Below: Janet Schultz, St. Catherine's School graduate, Class of 1966, and Sister Anne Germaine Picard share smiles over great memories!



Above: A group of 5th and 6th grade students from St. Catherine Catholic School sang the hymn "Simple Gifts" which they accompanied by the playing of bells.



Sister Marlyss shares memories.

After the closing of the Mass, the Sisters and guests were invited to the dining room to share in coffee, juice and rolls. On the walls were displays of posters with historical photos and information prepared by Sister Marguerite and Sister Rose Therese, who work in the Archives at Maryvale. School annuals from 1940-1969 and other photos were available to look through. Former students had fun finding pictures of themselves! There were also written accounts of memories shared by Sisters who taught at St. Catherine's during the years. Time was given during the gathering for anyone who wished to share memories of their years as teachers and students at St. Catherine School.

Another event during the year was the Alumni Reunion. It was a delightful evening for three Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, Sister Elizabeth Rose Muscha, Sister Dorothy Bunce and Sister Marlyss, as they joined St. Catherine School Alumni at the Eagle's Club on June 17, 2017. There were about one hundred ten guests at the event which began with a Social at 5:30 p.m. It was interesting to meet adults who had attended St. Catherine's School even in the early days of its existence.



Carl and Nancy Orthman (foreground) and Ralph and Jean Dyrness (ends of table) visit with Liz Johnson and Joanne Pithey.



Sister Agnes Marie Zimny with a former student.

The Sisters greeted former students, some barely recognizable since they hadn't seen them since their days in St. Catherine's! There were some very pleasant surprises and wonderful visits with several of these "old" students. Posters, scrapbooks and albums, which had been borrowed from the archives at Maryvale, were greatly enjoyed by all the guests. A delicious meal presented another chance to visit with those seated at tables.

It was truly gratifying to see these folks who valued and had many happy memories of their days at St. Catherine School. The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation can be justly proud of the many years of ministry shared by our Sisters who taught there from 1918-1994. May God be praised for the 100 years of Catholic education provided at St. Catherine School!



Tom Rowekamp shares a bit of history with Sister Elizabeth Rose.



Lloyd Nelson





Sister Carol Jean Kuntz, SMP



By Sister Elaine Lange, SMP

Sister Carol Jean Kuntz, 65, of Valley City, ND died at Maryvale Convent, Valley City, May 3, 2017. Her funeral Mass was Monday, May 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the Maryvale Chapel, Valley City, ND. Visitation began with rosary at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 7, with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. in the Maryvale Chapel. Father Donald Leiphon was the Mass celebrant.

Sister Carol Jean was born April 10, 1952 in Rugby, ND to Frank and Barbara Kuntz. She attended first grade at Long Lake #1, and from second grade through high school she attended Drake Public School, Drake, ND, graduating in 1970. After high school she worked at St. Andrew Hospital in Bottineau, ND in the Dietary Department. Sister Carol Jean's call to Religious Life occurred early one Sunday morning. She heard the church bells ringing and something stirred deep within her soul. After giving her life some serious thought, she got up and went to Mass that Sunday. Her faith deepened as she listened to what God was asking of her, and she was attracted to the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation because of their dedication and prayerful presence to all who came to them. She entered the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation in 1978, professing her vows August 8, 1980 in the Maryvale Convent Chapel, Valley City, ND. Sister Carol Jean earned her bachelor of arts degree in Elementary Education from Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois in 1983. She later earned a master's degree in Religious Studies from Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington in 1994.



Sister Carol Jean began her teaching career in Princeton, Illinois, teaching third grade from 1983 - 1988, and again from 1993 - 1996. She taught fourth grade in Washington, Illinois from 1988 - 1993. Her students fondly remember her as a creative teacher who played the guitar and sang with them. In 1996, Sister Carol Jean was selected to serve on the Provincial Administration Team of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation as Provincial Assistant and Treasurer. She held this position until 2005, when she was selected to serve as Provincial of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. She held this position until 2014, when she was selected to once again serve as the Provincial Assistant and Treasurer.



Sister Carol Jean was preceded in death by her father Frank, her infant brother Neil, brother-in-law Peter Bachmeier, sister-in-law Nita Kuntz, and nephew Myles Kuntz. She is survived by her Religious Community, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation; her mother Barbara, seven brothers, Mike (Cindy), Frank, Larry, Bill, Ken, Darryl (Mary Jeanne), and Wayne (Hilda), and four sisters, Betty Bachmeier, Barbara (Kip) Berentson, Mona (Mario Cano) Kuntz, and Candy (Troy) Munyer, 23 nieces and nephews, and 35 great nieces and nephews. Sister Carol Jean is greatly missed by all who knew her.



Tom Musgrave Retires

By Sister Elaine Lange, SMP



Above : Many folks, including Colleen, had much to say about Tom and his time spent at Maryvale.

Tom Musgrave started working at Maryvale on January 20, 1986. His retirement date was May 27, 2017. That means Tom worked here at Maryvale for over 31 years! WOW!!!! That is a **loyal** employee. But Tom was much more than an employee...he became a life-long friend to all the Sisters. Tom and Colleen lived in the Caretaker's House "just down the road a piece." We watched his family grow from little boys into adulthood.



The kind words and funny stories left Tom speechless...



...but not for long!

Tom was "**Maintenance Supervisor... Extraordinaire**", in charge of (in alphabetical order) **A**ir conditioning, **B**uying supplies, **C**omputer fixing-up, **D**igging graves, **E**arwig removal, **F**ixing any- and every-thing broken, **G**arden, **H**eat, **I**nternet hooking-up, **J**ocularity, **K**illing mice and other critters, **L**aundry, **M**aking beds, **N**oting what needed to get done, **O**dd jobs, **P**lumbing, **Q**uarter-removal from the pop machine, **R**emodeling projects, **S**now removal, **T**ree planting and trimming,

Unclean areas, **V**ehicles, **W**atching water rise, **X**-mas decorating, **Y**ard mowing, and **Z**innia planting (along with Colleen)!

Tom's official retirement date was May 27, 2017, but the Sisters held a party for him on May 18. He was presented with some unique presents, cards, and lots of good wishes for a well-earned and restful retirement. We will miss him!

One of Tom's MANY remodeling projects was the complete replacement of Maryvale's Heating/Cooling System...aka "the Boiler"!



Tom really enjoyed "getting into" his work!



God grant that I may see the humorous side of things.

The little things that bother now and then.

God grant my sense of humor may be strong to weep a bit and then smile again.

God grant there be a chuckle in each tear, to every trial.

God grant a funny half; so when I'm being judged perhaps You'll say:

"Are you the soul who always tried to smile?"

Try to Smile

by Vi Wysocki

St. Louis Catholic School Closes

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP



"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant." -Eccl. 3:1-2

This past summer, after 53 years of providing Catholic Education in Princeton, Illinois, St. Louis Catholic School closed. The Peoria Diocese, recognizing declining enrollment in the past few years, made the decision to close the school. It was heartbreaking for the Parish and for many families of the area. The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, Valley City, ND, started the school in 1964 at the invitation of Father Culleton, pastor at the time of St. Louis Parish in Princeton. We are grateful for the many blessings St. Louis School brought into the lives of the people of the Princeton area over the years...lives nourished with faith, excellence in education, and a community spirit. It is with thanksgiving to God for what was that we let go of the past.

It is with trust in that same God that we move into the future. New programs and ministries are beginning to take form within St. Louis Parish. There have been many changes in the school building in order to provide for this transformation of ministries. A blessing of the remodeled space was done by Father Daniel Gifford, current pastor. As we allow God to reign in trust, prayer, and discernment, New Life has emerged...the seed planted so many years ago has become a tree of many fruits that continue to nourish our Catholic Faith.



Celebrating a Vacation afternoon at Maryvale

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP

The end of June I spent a few days on vacation at Lake Ashtabula at our small lake cabin with my three sisters, Elaine, Cathy and Caroline. We planned an outing of games and other entertainment for our Sisters at Maryvale. Wind and rain brought us indoors, so we had our party in the auditorium. We had several games of bean bag tossing, balloons, whistles, and several other exercises that were entertaining. Everyone enjoyed the party and



ABOVE back: Cathy Jose, Caroline Schumacher; front: Sister Celine Marie Morth, Sister Giustina Zanin

BELOW L to R: Sister Frances Marie Voigt, Sister Anne Germaine Picard, Sister Ann Louise Kolhoff, Elaine Ste-



General Chapter 2017

By Sister Elaine Lange, SMP



*"We choose Hope, O Lord,
A desire for joy and confidence.
Open the eyes of our hearts to your light,
That we may walk with you, O Lord!"*



The newly elected Generalate Team, from left to right:

Sister Madeleine Le Claire-2nd Councilor, Sister Jacqueline Josse-Superior General,
Sister Adele Andele-3rd Councilor, Sister Therese Lemee-1st Councilor

To what is God calling us?

We hear... "Be immersed in God's Word...a vision will unfold."

PRAY...LISTEN...BE...

...many similarities...let them become your strengths

...some difficulties...may they become
opportunities

priorities named...statement written...
read...revised...prayed over...

...a **VISION** comes forth...



Chapter participants from Quebec, France,
Cameroon, and the United States.

1. *We choose to passionately follow Christ, the humble servant.*
2. *"A religious must never abandon prophecy."*

(Pope Francis, Opening of the Year of Consecrated Life, 11/29/2013)

****We choose to be prophetic through our community life. C.31**

****We choose to be prophetic through our vow of poverty.**

****We choose to be prophetic through our way of serving in the church and in the world.**

*"With the Virgin Mary,
in faith and availability to the Spirit,
the Sisters offer their entire being to God and
desire to make of their lives
a filial and joyful "yes"
to the will of the Father."C.2*



General Chapter...a first-timer's point of view

By Sister Elaine Lange, SMP

What will Chapter be like?

Long flight, excitement abounds

Greeting...meeting...reacquainting...

Praying in three languages, but the same God

The holy presence of the Sisters surround us

We live and minister on the shoulders of the Sisters who have gone before us

Changing times call for new ideas as we live our history today

Wonderful women full of desire to serve our great God

Different countries and nationalities, yet we are the same

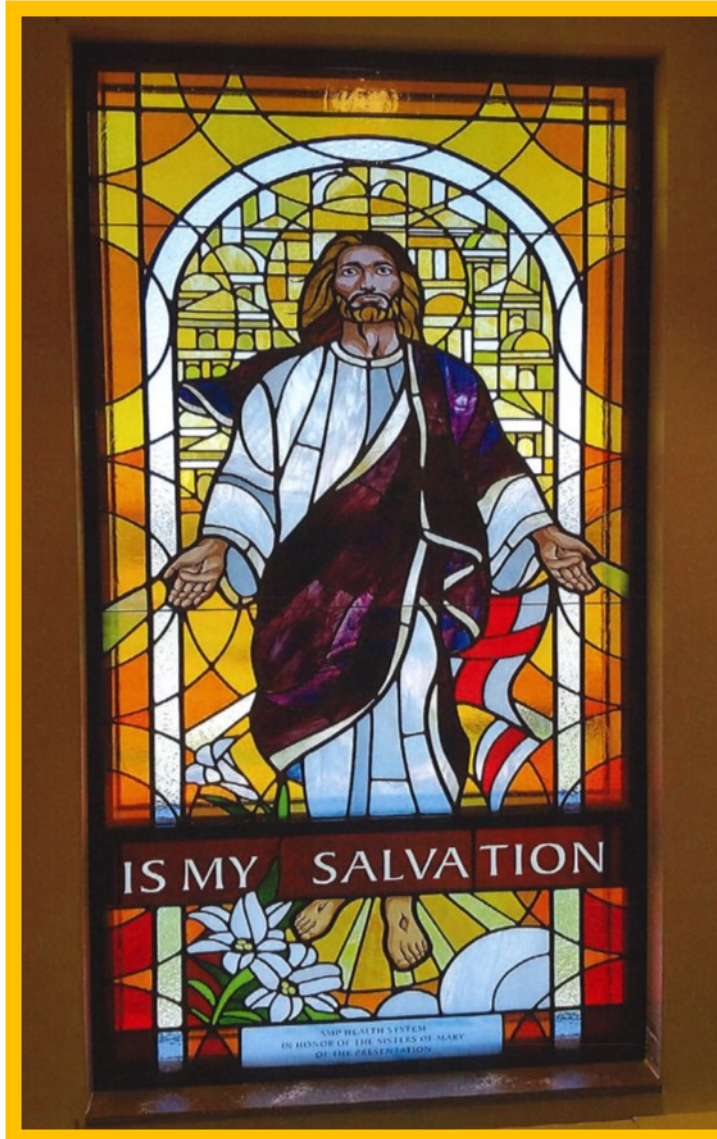
Our Inner Spirit is SMP...the heart of Louise and Laurence live on in us.



Celebration of the Blessing of Chapel of St. Raphael

Sheyenne Care Center

By Sister Marlyss Dionne, SMP



This stained-glass window in the Chapel of St. Raphael was donated in honor of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation by the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System

The blessing of the Chapel of St. Raphael in Sheyenne Care Center, Valley City, ND, took place on July 20, 2017. There was a wonderful turn out of residents and community members. Sister Marlyss Dionne was on hand to welcome and thank Bishop John Folda, in the

name of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, for offering the first Mass in the new chapel.

"It is always a privilege and blessing to have you with us, Bishop. This chapel serves as a spiritual center for Sheyenne Care Center. The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System is very pleased and grateful to have this more spacious room where one can worship God. It is such a beautiful place!" she said.

The Chapel is named after St. Raphael the Archangel, who is recognized for his healing ministry.

Sister Marlyss extended a special "thank you" to Craig Christianson, CEO, who devoted a great deal of time and energy in planning the remodeling that needed to be done to accomplish such a wonderful place of worship. She also thanked the staff at Sheyenne Care Center who share in this healing ministry of Jesus by serving the residents with care. She assured them that God does indeed look upon them with great love!

Beautiful stained-glass windows were installed in early October 2017, each being provided by generous donors. The window depicting the Risen Jesus was purchased by the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System in honor of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation.

Craig Christianson, CEO
of Sheyenne Care Center,
Valley City, ND



Prayer at St. Aloisius Medical Center



On the first Tuesday of every month a short prayer time is held for the staff, who want to and can take 5 minutes, to gather either in the lobby of St. Aloisius Hospital or some place in St. Aloisius Nursing Home. The people gather to pray for some family member or friend that might be having surgery or is very sick. Morning and evening prayer is said over the loud speaker each day as well. There is a picture of a prayer tree near the front door of the hospital. Anyone can write a name of a person who is sick, in the hospital, or just in need of prayer on a slip of paper that they attach to the tree.

Near the end of August, Sr. Mary Agnes started to hold prayer time twice a month with the residents. On Unit A it takes place on Monday at 2:30 PM, and then on Unit B at 2:45 PM. This was something new for the residents, and staff is free to join in as well. After these sessions, the prayer request is written on a small piece of paper and then posted on a board that an activities staff member made with chicken wire. Family members of the residents may write their request down as well.



The staff also offers a special prayer called "Precious Good-bye" for a loved one who is dying. Family members and friends are invited to be a part of the prayer service. This is done when a resident or patient is near death. Staff members that have taken care of them are free to join in as well. One of the prayer shawls made by Sr. Eloise Marie is given to anyone who is in the dying process. Families are pleased when this prayer has been done, and staff members are happy that St. Aloisius Medical Center can offer the time for prayer whenever it is wanted or needed.

Miracles Happen

By Sister Anne Germaine



"God blesses the works of our hands..." Have you heard this before? Your hands are Christ hands - as St. Teresa of Avila says, "God has no hands now on earth but yours." God revealed this to me this morning after Mass when a lady came up to me to tell me this story and I share it with you.

A little 5 year old boy was on his bike and went onto the street. He was hit by a semi-truck and has many injuries. He has been unconscious for several days and has had several surgeries and more to come. His family is with him day and night in the hospital. I gave a lady friend a Prayer Shawl made by Sr. Eloise Marie Pulskamp to give the little boy and his family. As the Prayer Shawl was placed upon the boy he opened his eyes for the first time. The prayers that were weaved into each stitch and row wrapped the boy in God's healing Love. This brought so much HOPE to the family.

Yes, God has no hands now on earth but ours, and God blesses the work of our hands and we share our gifts of faith and Love. Thank you, Sister Eloise Marie.

Aging with Intention...Bits and Pieces

By Sister Therese Celine Craven, SMP

Dayna Larson-Hurst, consultant on the elderly to Religious Congregations, gave input to and facilitated a discussion on Retirement for the Sisters on August 26, 2017 at Maryvale. She answered the questions: What does aging mean? How do you age with intention? How do we change physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially as we age? Sister Therese Celine took copious notes and shares some of them with us in this article.

Aging is both a slowing down and time for more prayer. We often use different expressions at different ages, such as *under* the age of ten, *in* the teens, we've *become* twenty-one, we are *turning* 30 and *pushing* 40, we have *made it* to 50, 60...*Medicare*, we have *reached* 70, we *get into* our 80's, in our 90's...we are *almost* 100!

Society does not celebrate all stages of life, aging is looked upon as the time when we are left with diminished power and we may be discriminated against. There is often a stigma attached to aging, and it becomes a justice issue when people are treated as "less than."

We need to recognize the reality of aging and plan for today and for the future. It would be helpful if we develop and embrace a philosophy of aging. It is never too early to prepare for aging.

The aging process should be holistic and healthy. Components of caring for ourselves as we age include physical, aesthetical, cognitive, spiritual, emotional, and social. Examples of each of these would be: exercise; music and art; activities, such as puzzles, word searches, games, and reading, that keep the brain active; prayer and quiet time; having a good support system in place; and the use of eye glasses and hearing aids.

We need to understand that changes often occur within us and we must make wise choices to adapt to our new reality. Don't set ourselves up for failure, be positive, eliminate the negative, and "don't mess with Mr. In-Between." Learn to "Travel Light", that is, each month try to give up something to lighten the load of what we possess. Some questions to ask ourselves may be:

What do we need to think about?

How can we be more positive?

What are our reasonable expectations?

Are we willing to ask for help when we need it?

How do we prevent injuries?

How do we accommodate changes?



Dayna asked us, "When it comes to aging what will be the hardest thing to say good-bye to?" Some answers were: lifting, writing letters, pushing heavy things, and doing things for myself. When she asked us the question, "What would you like to say 'hello' to?" some of the answers were: Heaven, Jesus, God, family, Being and not Doing, inner wisdom and to trust it, to be at peace with who I am, time for silence, time to be alone, time to visit with the Sisters to get to know them better.

Some things the Sisters want to do as they grow older gracefully are pray more and enjoy the quiet, be more of a “be-er” and not so much a “do-er”. Some would like to write poems, go outside more to admire God’s creation and beauty, or do little jobs around the house as they are able. Some would like to listen to classical music or offer to say or lead rosary for whoever wants to join in.

Holistic aging as a Community needs good leadership, sound finances, support systems in place, and more physical space for freer movement. As we write our philosophy of aging we must take into account our values, priorities, the how-when-where to live out our lives as fully as we can.

When asked about our hopes for the support we will receive as we age, we listed: talk gently, to be treated with dignity and respect for we are all children of God, an atmosphere of calm, people who take time to listen to me, to be able to participate in spiritual and social things in Community, to be able to spend time outdoors, to sing...and many more.

Our hopes for our Sisters as they age are to have a compassionate staff, patience with each other, continue to grow interiorly in the spiritual life, and visits from people who can be a listening presence. We would like to consider Maryvale our home until we die. The space at St. Anne’s Wing will be assessed and the needs will be addressed over the coming months.

Annual VCSU Bonfire

By Sister Dorothy Bunce, SMP

A beautiful bonfire, heartfelt prayer, yummy s’mores, and deep sharing welcomed the Valley City State University Newman Group at Maryvale on August 27, 2017. Some of the students were from the past years and some were new to VCSU. Sisters Dorothy Bunce, Suzanne Stahl, Elaine Lange, and Marlyss Dionne were present. Father Don Leiphon, Chaplain at Maryvale and Monsignor Dennis Skonseng, pastor at St. Catherine Parish, also joined in the fun, and we all enjoyed the evening together.



A PRAYER

By Vi Wysocki

*Give me the FAITH that asks not “Why?”
I shall know God’s plan by and by.
Give me the FAITH that looks at pain
And says: “Twill all be right again.”
Give me the FAITH that clasps God’s hand
When things are hard to understand.
Give me the FAITH to bow my head.
Trustfully waiting to be led.
Give me the FAITH to face my life
With all its pain and wrong and strife.
And then with the day’s setting sun
I’ll close my eyes when life is done.
My soul will go without a care
Knowing that God is waiting there.*



Sister Margaret Rose Pfeifer, SMP

By Sister Suzanne Stahl, SMP

Sister Margaret Rose Pfeifer died in Harvey, ND August 22, 2017. Her Funeral Mass was August 25, 2017 in the Maryvale Chapel with Father Donald Leiphon officiating.

Sister Margaret Rose (Willis Marie) Pfeifer was born September 2, 1926 to William M. and Ida J. (Zimprich) Pfeifer, Cooperstown, ND. She was a member of St. Lawrence's Catholic Church, Jessie, ND being baptized September 19, 1926. She deepened her baptismal vows by making vows of consecrated chastity, obedience and poverty to God with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, August 29, 1945. She lived a long life of fruitful service as a teacher, leader, lobbyist, and health care ethicist and advocate.



In Sister Margaret Rose's words:

"A vocation is a call which I believe is never finished until we meet God face to face. My story begins on a farm in a mission area of North Dakota. As a farmer, there is closeness and an awareness of God as in no other occupation. Our family did not have what is often called the piety of a good Catholic family, but we were very faithful to the tradition with my parents even sending me to a Catholic School. The local Church was carried out in a family home. This is where we had Sunday Mass, Saturday Catechism, and sometimes the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We went to confession face to face long before it became ordinary in the Church. It was at the kitchen table in a private home. As a young girl I said I wanted to be a Sister hardly knowing what that was. In the later years of grade school we had the Sisters of Saint Joseph for summer catechism. These were the only Religious Sisters I knew yet they didn't appeal to me. When I was a sophomore in high school we moved farther from town and I was able to attend St. Catherine's Catholic

School in Valley City. Here I met our Sisters and through discussions with Sister Mary Severin, I decided to enter the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. At that time I saw my vocation in two ways, teaching, that is reaching out to the poor in one way or another and secondly, I would be sure to be doing the will of God at all times.

God's grace sustained me in the Novitiate where we had French morning, noon and night and a few times in between. Our prayers were in French. Meditation was in French. Only a trust in God kept me there. The first years of a professed life were of the same nature along with an obedience (being told where to live and what ministry to do) which again required a trust in God. Then came English meditation books, each her own, followed by individual directed retreats. Now my vocation developed in an entirely different manner. No long was it important what I did, but the development of a close relationship with God became my goal. Now being the Presence of Jesus to those around me is a result of living close to God and being in God's presence. Because of the long years of experience, I find people see this without a special effort on my part. Soon more effort will be spent in preparing for the final call of God. So, my vocation was not a beginning or an end, but a continuous answer of "yes" to God."

She did speak of her preparation for death and her drawing closer to God these past few years and I feel she was prepared. Tuesday morning she knew she was having a heart attack, received the Anointing of the Sick, the Apostolic blessing and made her preferences for health care clearly known.

Sister Margaret Rose taught 5th and 6th grade in Wild Rice, ND 1945-47; she did various miscellaneous duties in our

SMP Health System hospitals from 1947-48; She taught grades 3, 4, 5 in Lisbon, ND 1948-1949; She taught grades 2 and 3 at St. Cecilia's Catholic School in Harvey from 1950-51 and taught grades 7 and 8 and was the principal from 1951-1960; 1957 she received a Bachelor's degree from Great Falls University, Montana with a Major in Mathematics and Education and Minors in Chemistry, Biology and English. She taught high school at Notre Dame Academy, Willow City, ND from 1960-1968. 1968 she received her Master's degree from Creighton University, Omaha, NE with a major in biology and chemistry and minor in secondary education. 1968-69 she taught high school science and 1969-73 continued teaching all levels and grades and types of sciences at St. Catherine's School, Valley City, ND; She then served as the social service director at Presentation Medical Center, Rolla for a time while also teaching at Belcourt and Rolla high schools. She began teaching at Turtle Mountain College, Belcourt in 1979. She was on the leadership council of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation beginning in 1968. From 1976 – 1984 she was Provincial Councilor while continuing to teach at Turtle Mountain Community College; 1990-1992 she was the Master Teacher for Instructors for Early Childhood and Parents in the Comprehensive Child Development Program at Little Hoop Community College, Fort Totten, ND. She was the Provincial of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation 1992-1996. She attended a Theological Sabbatical September – December 1996. Since January 1997 she has served with SMP Health System and been a lobbyist at the North Dakota legislative sessions.

She is survived by her Religious Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, her sister Arlene (Frank) Heinz, Cooperstown, ND; nieces Brenda (Jan) Von Bank, West Fargo, ND and Barbara (Phil) Kameo, Sauk Rapids, MN; and nephews Michael (LuAnn) Heinz, Ellendale, ND, Jeffrey Heinz, Cooperstown, ND and numerous great nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The SMP Health System honored Sister Margaret Rose with a plaque depicting her favorite prayer, the prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In the corner is a paperweight from a Catholic Health Association Assembly which signifies her advocacy for healthcare for the poor and vulnerable.



Faith in Action in Harvey, ND

Faith in Action is a volunteer program that provides transportation to out of town medical appointments for residents of Harvey and the surrounding area. They usually travel to Bismarck or Minot. Currently there are 8 volunteer drivers, and they receive a mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate. Faith in Action is funded by private donations, business donations, and fundraisers like a bake sale. Riders are not charged for this service.

St. Aloisius Medical Center and the Community of Harvey sponsored a bake sale on September 21, 2017 in honor of St. Vincent De Paul Feast Day. People from the community and the hospital

brought in delicious baked goods and the residents of St. Aloisius Nursing Home did their part by preparing several items for sale. The St. Vincent DePaul Day bake sale at St. Aloisius netted \$1,240.76 to help Faith in Action.



Prayer to Michael the Archangel

by Sister Agnes Marie Zimny



Hurl our pride
To the depth of hell!
Help us ever
To serve God well.

With thundreth voice
To preach His word;
To gently absolve
The sinners heard.

To wrench the devil
From human hearts
To send them vanquished
To fiery parts.

Especially, Michael
Grant my plea
Strength of soul
For sinners are we.

Illinois Associates Gather on the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

by Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP



Sr. Dorothy Bertsch, Fr. Jeff Windy, and Sr. Anne Germaine Picard stand in front of the stained-glass window of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple.

This year Sister Dorothy and I were able to host the area Associates on our Patronal Feast Day, November 21, 2017 at St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley, IL. This made our Feast Day truly special. We began our time together celebrating the Eucharist in the Chapel at the hospital with Father Jeff Windy, Associate. Much of his homily centered on the Chapel's beautiful stained-glass window of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple. We believe that, at about age 3, Mary was brought to the temple by her parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim, to consecrate her life to God. Father Windy also helped us reflect upon our own lives as being conse-

crated to God as well as to our Congregation. After liturgy together, we gathered in the cafeteria for lunch and fellowship with special desserts brought by Father Jeff and Sister Anne Germaine. We missed three of our Associates who were unable to attend because of health issues, so we signed cards for Mary and Rich Kunkel and for Brother Joel Marc Rousseau to let them know they were missed and in our thoughts and prayers. The day was truly a celebration of our Patronal Feast where we all experienced the Love of God in our midst.



Back L to R: Bill Phalen, Fr. Jeff Windy, Chris Kunkel, Sharon Kunkel
Middle L to R: Sister Anne Germaine, Mary Anne Michelet, Janet Bernard
Front L to R: Anna Battaglia, Barb Bass, Lorraine Workman, Sister Dorothy

Associates Sign Covenant

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP



Our Chapel at Maryvale resounded with joy and a spirit of unity with the Sisters and Associates as three new Associates were received. Sharon Eversvik, Myron Jabs, and Mariana Rumer signed their covenant at our Eucharistic celebration on October 14, 2017. Each year at our Fall Provincial Community Meeting we have this ceremony, as well as a wonderful pot-luck dinner put on by the Associates. It is a great feast of storytelling, fellowship, and community building.

Let me introduce you to each of our new Associates as we welcome them.

Milo Comes for Christmas!



"Milo Hatzenbuehler" came for Christmas with the Maryvale Employees and the Sisters! He gave us great laughs as he played and sang many of his personally "fractured" Christmas carols, shared many stories with us and interacted with the audience. The annual Christmas party, hosted by the Provincial Administration, took place in the Maryvale Auditorium on December 20, 2017. A delicious meal was catered by Rayma Fiegen of Valley City. Milo ended his show with a beautiful rendition of "O Holy Night" sung as Clyde, himself.

"Milo", a fictional character created by Clyde Bauman, runs a fictional farm with his fictional wife and family near Strasburg, ND. Through the years since Elvis Presley died, Milo has been able to fill the void with his unique stage show. Check out his webpage at www.farmboymusic.com.



Sister Eloise Marie Pulskamp, Lynn Boumann, and Sister Suzanne Stahl enjoy a visit with Milo.

A Precious Gift Lovingly Offered

By Sister Mary Agnes Huber, SMP

Some years ago there was a couple from Harvey that made little boxes for when a baby was delivered before its due date and died. If the parents wanted to bury the little miscarried child, the hospital furnished these boxes, and the funeral home would come and pick them up as they were needed. Over time the last box was used, so Sr. Mary Agnes asked a Knights of Columbus member if he would make her some more boxes, as he was very good at making things with wood. He was more than happy to do so. Someone else donated white satin material. Sr. Mary Agnes purchased some batting and finished the inside, covering it with the satin. The KC member does not ask for any money in return for his time and wood used to make these boxes. These beautiful boxes are given to grieving families when they want to bury their preborn baby.





Sister Celine Marie Morth, SMP

By Sister Suzanne Stahl, SMP



Sister Celine Marie Morth, 94 years old, died at Maryvale, Valley City, ND December 29, 2017. Her Funeral Mass was January 2 in the Maryvale Chapel with Father Donald Leiphon officiating.

Sister Celine Marie (Gertrude Ludmilla) Morth was born October 3, 1923 to Anna (Millner) and John Morth, at Fingal, ND. She made Vows of consecrated chastity, obedience and poverty to God with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, August 23, 1944. She lived a long life of fruitful service as a nurse, supervisor and pastoral care chaplain.



Sister Celine Marie served as a nurse, head nurse or pastoral care minister at St. Margaret's Health, Spring Valley, IL 1944-45 and 1950-58; St. Andrew's Health Center, Bottineau, ND 1945-49, 1972-87; St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada 1958-60; St. Aloisius Medical Center, Harvey, ND 1960-72 and 1991-2011; Presentation Medical Center, Rolla 1972-74; and St. Anne's Unit, Maryvale, Valley City, ND 1988-1991 and retired to Maryvale in 2011.

She is survived by her Religious Sisters of Mary of the Presentation and her sisters Cecilia Anne Tomlins, Fort Wayne, IN and Lucille Sherman, Fargo, ND. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters: Anne Shackel, Agnes Gruman, Mary Ann Siemieniewski, Sister Mary Margaret Morth, PBVM, Magdeline Peterson, and Barbara Weber, and her brother: John, Jr Morth.

Sister Celine Marie's life was about service to God's people. She worked hard in the hospital and at home. She loved to garden, cook, preserve food and bake. She never hesitated to help out. In her later years her heart was even more open and the love and care she felt for others was very evident. She also had a great wit that stayed with her until the last few days.

Sister Celine Marie struggled to know her worthiness and loved to reread letters in which others had affirmed her. Maybe you had written her such a note in the past? That is why Psalm 139 was chosen for the scripture on her Memorial Card. Now, she knows, in God's eyes she was and is infinitely valuable and worthy of all of God's love. She is wonderful in God's eyes and we thank her for her generous service and care for others and each of us.



*This prayer is dedicated to the memories of Sister Marguerite, Sister Carol Jean,
Sister Margaret Rose, and Sister Celine Marie...
...may they rest in peace.*

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

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