

Mary Notes

Sisters of Mary of the Presentation

Maryvale Convent, Valley City, ND 58072

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Catholic Traditions: Rich in Resources

By Sister Suzanne Stahl, SMP



Our Catholic faith is rich in resources for reflection. We have all of Scripture, the writings of the early Church Fathers, Doctors of the Church, Saints, Church leaders...the list goes on. So, as I think of something to share with you I wish to simply point to all of these wonderful resources. Each day I receive the daily Mass readings, a homily on the Scripture, readings from the Saints and Church leaders and all six of the Liturgy of the Hours on my electronic devices, besides other devotional prayer. We are richly blessed. I think of the early Christians who had the Torah; the voice of the prophet, John the Baptist; and then Jesus, himself. Would I have listened and believed? Today we are bombarded with information. What shall I use my time to read and listen to – The Good News or evil? I choose the Good News in all its forms. May the articles in this Mary Notes give you a bit of the good news of our lives as Sisters of Mary of the Presentation.

I leave you with one quote from St. Therese of Lisieux, written in Story of a Soul, p. 194. "....The Church had a Heart and that this Heart was BURNING WITH LOVE. I understood it was Love alone that made the Church's members act. LOVE COMPRISED ALL VOCATIONS. THAT LOVE WAS EVERYTHING. THAT IT EMBRACED ALL TIMES AND PLACES...IN A WORD THAT IT WAS ETERNAL! O Jesus, my Love...my vocation, at last I have found it.... MY VOCATION IS LOVE!"

Jubilee of Father Donald Leiphon



Father Donald Leiphon (Picture by David Brekke April 30, 2018)

“To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach (to the Gentiles) the inscrutable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ages past in God who created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church”...

Ephesians 3:8-10a (parenthesis added)

Looking back over the year 2018, an event that stands out for me is the celebration of my 50th Jubilee of priesthood. The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation here at Maryvale made it possible for me to celebrate on the same day, June 8, 2018, that I was ordained 50 years ago, June 8, 1968 by Most Rev. Leo F. Dworschak at my hometown Devils Lake, North Dakota in St. Joseph's Church. At that time it was a grand community celebration when Fr. Jack Davis was also ordained to the transitional Diaconate. The celebration 50 years later at Maryvale was just as grand, with 28 priests concelebrating with me in the beautiful sanctuary, with our Bishop of the Fargo Diocese, Most Rev. John T. Folda, D.D. presiding. I was privileged to have a classmate from over 50 years ago, Fr. Ben Bachmeier, join us in the celebration. Fr. Bachmeier and I studied Theology together at St. John's Seminary at Collegeville, Minnesota during the exciting years of the Second Vatican Council, during the mid 1960's. Fr. Bachmeier was ordained to priesthood at Towner, North Dakota in St. Cecilia's Church on June 9, 1968. He now lives in retirement in San Diego, California.

Monsignor Dennis Skonseng, Pastor of St. Catherine's Church here in Valley City was also involved in our celebration. He gave the homily, speaking on the scriptures which are part of the Mass of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, which coincided with the day of my 50th Jubilee, in a way that applied God's word in a personal way to my 50th Jubilee. The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, besides being hosts of the day of celebration, were also involved in the Mass. Sisters Dorothy Bunce, SMP and Marlyss Dionne, SMP proclaimed the scripture passages. Sister Suzanne Stahl, SMP; sang the Psalm, providing also guitar accompaniment to other hymns as well. Susan Kohler, the pianist from St. Catherine's Church, provided piano accompaniment for the hymns, as well as the prelude and postlude music. Our Fargo Diocese seminarians Corey Baumgartner and Zach Howick served at the altar, and Eric Seitz served as the master of ceremonies.

I was truly honored that my 3 siblings, as well as many other relatives and friends joined in the celebration. My sister, Joan Davis, flew into Devils Lake from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She and my sister Betty Bachmeier, drove here to join the celebration. My brother S. John Leiphon, drove all the way from Broken Arrow, a suburb of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and stayed for a week. This gave the 4 of us some precious time together to reminisce and share cherished memories. It also gave us a day to drive together to Mandan, North Dakota to visit our only living aunt, Veronica Leiphon. After the Mass in the chapel, I had the opportunity to thank the Sisters and staff here at Maryvale for all the work of preparation and carrying out the day of celebration. All were invited to the dining room where over 100 guests were served the noon meal.

Those who were able to stay, gathered in the Maryvale auditorium where I had laid out memorabilia from my 50 years of priesthood. Dave Musgrave, physical plant manager here at Maryvale, helped me compile photos on the computer which were then projected onto the screen in the auditorium, while my relatives and friends shared cherished memories. There was a brief interruption as we heard the sound of distant sirens from Valley City. It was announced that a tornado funnel was cited to the Northeast of Valley City. I assured the guests that we were in the one of the safest rooms at Maryvale, under the chapel with no windows, only hallways surrounding the auditorium.

Cookies and refreshments were offered to the guests as we continued to visit well after 4 pm, bringing to a close my most memorable day of celebration in the year 2018.



John Leiphon, Fr. Donald Leiphon, Bishop John Folda, Fr. Bachmeier, Betty Bachmeier, Joan Davis

CELEBRATING RURAL LIFE

By Sister Elaine Lange and Amanda Kunze

On June 24, 2018 the Fargo Diocese held its first annual Rural Life Mass on Ron and Janine Schmitz's farm near Harvey, ND. Parishioners and guests gathered around the outdoor altar, seated on lawn chairs or hay bales under a bright blue sky. With beautiful music provided by choir members of St. Cecilia's Parish of Harvey, Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Folda. Following Mass, Bishop Folda blessed the land, animals and farm equipment. People who had brought a bit of their own rich soil held it up as the water was sprinkled. Following the blessing, a picnic lunch was served while Father James Ermer, Pastor at St. Leo's Church in Casselton, spoke on the blessings of rural life. All were entertained by the JT Kennelly Band playing a mix of country and folk music. God even blessed us with a downpour just as the events were wrapping up.



There are so many external factors that affect the work of agriculture such as climate (temperature, growing season, rainfall, altitude, wind, humidity), land tenure, capital, market, transport, technology, government and much more. All these unknown factors ultimately can work in the favor of the farmer or can work against the farmer. As Bishop Folda stated in the June 2018 edition of *New Earth*, "The farmer and rancher can teach all of us what it means to trust in God, who blesses the work of their hands even when things seem to go against them. Some years are abundant and others are less so, but in all cases, God's providence is present to those who look to him with faith."

In October the weather forecasts were predicting an accumulation of snow for the Valley City area. Many farmers statewide still had crops in the field that needed to come off. As Amanda was driving home one evening with her family, she saw many headlights in the area fields, as farmers were scrambling to get the crops off before it snowed. Within a ten mile radius they counted 19 combines hard at work. Many farmers had been working *around* the clock as they were working *against* the clock.

One of the key virtues of rural life is learning to depend on the Divine Providence of God.



Sister Anne Germaine holding up a cupful of rich soil from the Maryvale grounds.

New Leadership Model

By Sister Elaine Lange



Our United States Province became a Region August 1, 2018. Because of the desire to simplify our government structures and a smaller pool of potential leadership candidates, the decision was made to have only two Sisters in leadership. This decision brought forth the necessity to become a Region. Chapter of Selection was held on June 29-30, 2018. Sister Jacqueline Josse, Superior

General, (right) named Sister Suzanne Stahl (center) as Regional Superior and Sister Elaine Lange (left) as Regional Assistant. They will serve in leadership from 2018 until 2022. Sisters Suzanne and Elaine wrote the following Regional Mission Statement based on the Community's Needs Statements for the next four years.

Regional Mission Statement

2018-2022

*We choose to passionately follow Christ, the humble Servant.
Flowing from our General Chapter Vision Statement 2017,
as Sisters of Mary of the Presentation:*

1. *We choose to deepen our understanding of what living and being "prophetic" means in our world today.*
 - a. *By being missionary disciples*
 - b. *By committing ourselves to use all the means for regular spiritual renewal*
 - c. *By truly living our Way of Life*
2. *We seek to better understand and care for one another on our life's journey.*
3. *We choose to live community life in a spirit of HOPE.*
4. *We continue to discern/adapt our government structure.*

I Choose to Follow the Humble Christ and Servant with Passion

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard

In our Regional Community Mission Statement and in our Health Care Ministries we profess to be the Presence of Jesus in Word and Deed! This is in itself a prophetic statement in today's world of secularism. Last fall when I created my Mission Statement for 2018-2019 I entitled it: "To Passionately Follow Christ the poor and humble Servant." For me, this goal was to create within me an atmosphere of living our General Chapter Orientation: **"Choosing to be a prophet by our vow of poverty."**

There are many examples of Prophets in Scriptures and among the Saints that we celebrate throughout the year. I choose two of them to focus on. One is John the Baptist, who identified himself as a **"VOICE"** for the Lord, and the other is Mother Teresa of Calcutta who said, "I am just a **"PENCIL"** in God's hands." I can identify with both of these as I experience my personal poverty of not having any educational degrees as credentials for many of my ministries here in Princeton, Illinois. I experience my poverty of spirit, but am set afire for evangelization in so many ways as God opens doors of human and spiritual needs.

I choose to live a simple lifestyle in my dress, meals, presence and in using our home as a Hospitality Center for vespers, bereavement sessions, and other forms of spirituality, such as movies of Saints, etc. Like John the Baptist, I am only, a **"Voice"** of God as I lead the "Word of God" Lectio Divina Prayer Group each Friday with about 20 women. I pray vespers in our home with 7 women each Wednesday evening, and now through this seed planted, some take the book home and pray morning and evening prayer daily.

Another way I experience being a prophetic **"Voice"** of God is through my presence in our local nursing homes. I lead an all-faith prayer service each Saturday at Liberty Village Nursing Home. I offer a Communion Service and do Communions each Sunday at Liberty Village, and once a month gather residents for Mass. I was a prophetic **"Voice"** as I asked our pastor to have an anointing service at each of the three nursing homes this month and it's happening.

Like Mother Teresa I feel I am only a **"Pencil"** in God's hands. This calls me to be a woman of profound prayer of the Scriptures each day...so as to see with God's eyes the most vulnerable in our midst. I see those spiritually hungry for the Word of God through bible study and in our prayer group. I see the spiritually vulnerable when I give mini retreats in our parish and at St. Margaret's Health for the employees. I am but a **"Pencil"** in God's hands when I am on team for "Teens Encounter Christ" weekends.

These are a few ways I live the Orientation of being a Prophet by living my vow of Poverty. I share my resources, our home, prayer, witness of simplicity of life, and my time so that, like John the Baptist, I can be a prophetic voice proclaiming that God is in our midst, and like Mother Teresa, I can be the presence of God dwelling within me, as He writes His story of unconditional Love through me. I close with the prayer of St. Teresa of Avila.

*"Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours."*

Celebration of 65th Jubilee of Religious Life

By Sister Therese Celine Craven & Sister Marlyss Dionne

On July 1, 2018 we celebrated the 65th Anniversary of our Profession of the Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience as Sisters of Mary of the Presentation.

In the morning of our “special” day we each received a lovely corsage for the occasion. There was a Jubilee Mass celebrated in the Maryvale Chapel at 10:00 a.m. During the Mass, we were invited to renew our consecration to God in union with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. We were privileged to have Sister Jacqueline Josse, our Superior General, and Sister Marie Joseph Guivarc’h from France present at our Jubilee celebration. After the Mass a brunch was provided for all the Sisters. During the meal, Sisters were invited to share memories of the Jubilarians.

It was a wonderful day for both of us!



Sister Marie Joseph, Sister Therese Celine, Sister Marlyss and Superior General Sister Jacqueline.



Sister Marlyss and Sister Therese Celine singing a song in French from their Novitiate days “Seigneur, Jesu”.



Sister Therese Celine, Sister Elaine, Regional Assistant, Sister Marlyss, Superior General Sister Jacqueline and Sister Suzanne Stahl, Regional Superior.

Missioning of the Sisters

By Sister Elaine Lange

Every summer after our Community Meeting we hold a Missioning Ceremony. This consists of a blessing of each individual Sister as she goes back to her ministry for the upcoming year. On July 3, 2018, with quiet music playing in the background, Sister Suzanne Stahl, Regional Superior, washed the hands of each Sister. As she did so, she encouraged each Sister to continue to minister with the heart of Jesus, giving each of us a heart-shaped stone with a tree of life symbol on it. This was to remind us to be rooted in Jesus as we branch out in ministry to God's people. Sister Suzanne was assisted by Sister Elaine Lange, Regional Assistant.



Missionary Project for High School Students

By Sister Marlyss Dionne

In February, 2018, Corinna Ramsey, the adult leader of the Catholic Heart Work Corporation, contacted me to schedule overnight housing for high school students from two parishes, Menomonee Falls and Oconomowoc in Wisconsin. Eventually the number grew from 35 to a total of 83, including adult supervisors, who arrived at Maryvale on the evening of July 7. They brought their own cots and sleeping bags and gathered into three large rooms and two small lounges to use the floor space for sleeping. They had driven from Wisconsin in a large bus and five vans. It was very impressive to see their enthusiasm for mission work of serving the poor in the area of Billings, Montana. Once they were all settled in, they ordered pizzas from downtown Valley City and ate their picnic on the lawn in front of Maryvale.

I offered to speak to the group about Maryvale, Sisters of Mary of the Presentation and our ministries. I also spoke about religious vocations and invited any young women in the group to contact us at Maryvale if they were interested. I praised all of them for their generosity and willingness to

share in the Ministry of the Church. The audience was very attentive and some asked questions when the talk was completed. The group retired early that evening and were up and ready to leave for Billings at 5:00 a.m. Sunday morning July 8. Yes, it was truly an edifying experience to have these young people with us overnight, eager to serve God in the poor.



Women's Retreat– Walking with Jesus

By Sister Dorothy Bunce

At Maryvale we began offering a summer women's retreat 3 years ago in addition to having one during the season of Lent. This was at the request of those women who had been coming for retreats quite awhile and speculated that summer might suit some women's schedule better than an earlier date. This seems to be true because 19 women attended the July 13-15, 2018, "Walking with Jesus" retreat. This retreat had been presented April 6-8, 2018 previously.



July Participants

Both Sr. Anne Germaine Picard and Sr. Dorothy Bunce, who have been leading these women's retreats, have found Pope Francis's messages urging us to actively bring the Gospel of Jesus to our world very inspirational. We decided to use the Pope's approach on accompaniment in planning this retreat experience.

We encounter so many people each day whose lives are diminished by prejudices, illness, struggle to survive, and emotional, physical and spiritual illnesses. We are asked to live the Gospel message by the way we "accompany" the vulnerable and the respectable alike. Therefore, the retreat, "Walking With Jesus," involved presentations about Gospel people: the Emmaus disciples, the Woman at the Well, Peter, Martha, Zacchaeus, all of them found Jesus listening and responding to them in deeply profound ways..

Participants were given time throughout the retreat to pray the related scripture passages and engage with others through dyad, triad and small group discussions upon each of the passages. Reflection on examples of Jesus' own accompaniment of these persons helped each one "see" the importance of "hearing" another in a way that brings comfort, peace and transformation to the one who speaks and to the one who listens. Isn't that what it means to be Christian, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and to evangelize?

Retreats always provide some time to renew friendships, make new friends, and take walks, and rest a bit more. Many of those who came especially appreciated that. The weekend concluded with a prayer service and a small memorial sandal, given to each participant. on which was written, "Walking With Jesus".



April Participants

Notre Dame Academy 50th Reunion

By Sister Marlyss Dionne



Sister Sharon and I drove to Rugby on July 16, to attend the “50 Years Since The End Of An Era” Notre Dame Academy Reunion set for July 16-17, 2018. The event began at the Northern Lights Inn in Rugby at 4:00 p.m. on July 16. Both of us were impressed by the large crowd of alumni of Notre Dame who attended from all parts of the United States.

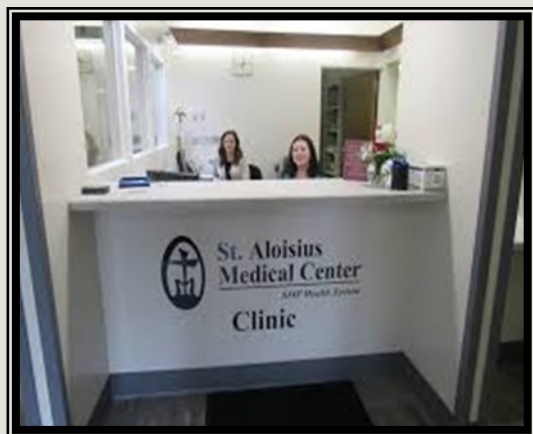
We had a delicious evening lunch with lots of good food!! During the meal it was fun to visit with a variety of people who had attended the Academy since its beginning in 1906. Chuck Belisle of the class of 1968 from Bismarck, North Dakota was the chairperson of the Reunion Committee and an important person in organizing and communicating with all persons who had formerly attended Notre Dame. I was so pleasantly surprised when a cousin of mine, Jerry Boucher came up and greeted me. I had not seen him for some time. We enjoyed our visit together. Class photos were taken of each class that graduated from Notre Dame from the early 1900's until its closing in 1968.

Sister Sharon and I went to Harvey the evening of July 16 to stay overnight with our Sisters at St. Aloisius Convent. We were “on the road again” at 7:00 a.m. on July 17, driving to Willow City where we were to attend a special Mass for all those gathered for the Reunion. Music was provided by former students of Notre Dame and volunteers participated in the liturgical ministries. It was a joyful occasion to celebrate the Eucharist together. Afterwards the group moved downtown in Willow City for a meal at a local gathering place. In the afternoon we were given time to revisit favorite spots in Willow City which we had enjoyed during our educational days. From Willow City we drove back to Rugby for the evening banquet at the Northern Lights Inn. We spent an enjoyable evening together, with sharing by members of the entire group about memories and other interesting things that occurred when they were students at Notre Dame.

One such sharing I would like to include here. It seems three boys got into the wine supply at the sacristy in the school and although they were very careful in sneaking into the sacristy, they were caught by Sr. Monica Dwyer. They were reported and punished for their actions and I guess that never happened again!! Many positive remarks were made about Sisters who were teachers there and how much these students appreciated their catholic education at Notre Dame. Near the closing, I went to the microphone and, in the name of the Sisters who taught there many years, I thanked the many persons who had been so complimentary and grateful for those Sisters. The evening closed with words from Chuck Belisle. I spoke to him before we left and he told me that they planned to send a check to the Sisters at Maryvale of the money that remained after bills had been paid. True to his word, Maryvale did receive a generous donation from the Reunion Committee. God bless them all for a delightful and enriching experience of seeing so many former students of Notre Dame Academy!

Blessing of St. Aloisius Medical Center Clinic

By Sister Mary Agnes Huber and Sister Marlyss Dionne



On August 1, 2018 the Clinic at St. Aloisius began anew after being underutilized for many years. During the strategic planning session done in 2017, the subject of reopening the clinic came again to the forefront. Discussions took place with Dr. Nyhus, his wife and many other people of the Harvey community, as well as with Aaron Alton, president of the SMP Health System and the local Board of Directors. Providentially, we were fortunate to be able to hire Dr. Rick Geier, MD and Kim Thorson, FNP to staff the clinic. After updating and reorganizing the areas within the clinic, the time came for a celebration and blessing of the St. Aloisius Medical Center Clinic.

At 1:00 p.m. on August 1, 2018, Mike Zwicker, CEO of St. Aloisius Medical Center welcomed the group to the ceremony. A crowd of staff, community members and special guests gathered outside in front of the clinic for the program. Among the special guests attending were Sister Suzanne Stahl, Regional Superior of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, who spoke at the ceremony about the clinic and hospital. Other special speakers were Susan Shearer, Vice Chairperson of the St. Aloisius Board of Directors; Sister Elizabeth Rose; Ann Adams, Mayor of Harvey; U.S. Congressman Kevin Cramer and Dr. Darlene Bartz, ND Department of Health (representing the Governor's office). Members of the St. Aloisius Board of Directors were also seated together in front of the gathering. Special thanks were given to the staff of St. Aloisius for their hard work in preparing the building for the Open House. We praise God for all the blessings upon us!



Father Frank Miller, pastor of St. Cecilia Parish in Harvey led the blessing and prayers for the service. A ribbon cutting ceremony followed. Afterwards, tours of the Clinic and refreshments were offered to all guests. The Clinic officially opened for staff to see patients on August 6, 2018.

Women Religious: Missionary Disciples

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard

Pope Francis in his address on the 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations in 2017 put the emphasis upon the missionary aspect of our Christian calling as he addressed men and women who are living the consecrated life.

“Commitment to mission is not something added on to the Christian life as a kind of decoration, but is instead an essential element of faith in and of itself. A relationship with the Lord entails being sent out into the world as prophets of His Word and witnesses of His Love.” Pope Francis

When I reflect upon the origins and history of our Congregation I am deeply moved by the spirit of being missionary disciples that formed us as Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. Let me share briefly the development of our history.

Between the years of 1790 and 1800 France was in the turmoil of a Revolution which included the Reign of Terror (1793-1794). Most of the priests, who would not take the oath of accepting the new government, were either put to death or had to go into exile. Fr. Joachim Fleury, our founder chose to go into exile for eight years. After this time, he returned to France and was assigned as pastor of Broons, which became the birthplace of our Congregation. His missionary zeal opened the door to the many needs of the people of rural France. He prayed fervently and had a parish mission with several priests who came to evangelize the people. Father Fleury continued to pray and sought ways to keep this restored faith in God alive. Inspired by God and moved with compassion for his people, he called upon the devoted Lemarchand family within his parish for the two eldest daughters to help meet the needs of the sick and the children. Both Louise and Laurence desired to be Religious and Fr. Fleury, open to God’s guidance, gave birth to our Congregation in 1828, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation as missionary disciples. “Go where there is need of you.”

Our Sisters in France had gone through great suffering through Religious persecution and government decrees, but the missionary spirit deep within them led them to other countries, including the United States, in the early 1900’s. The Sisters did domestic work in Seminaries until invited to several French speaking areas in North Dakota where they developed schools, worked in parishes and started hospitals as needs arose.

We are an Apostolic Congregation and it is this spirit of Jesus that continues to burn within us today as Women Religious. We proclaim the gospel through our lives with the people in all of our ministries and through our lay Associates. Vatican Council II called us to empower the laity and it is in this spirit that we recognize our mission and our responsibility today to work closely with the laity who have the knowledge and deep faith to direct our Health Care ministries. Together we ensure that all of our health care services remain Catholic and in accord with the teachings of the Church in the spirit of Jesus. The spirit of Jesus is lived and felt by all who come to us for care. Please check our website for information about our health care ministry and our community, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation at www.sistersofmaryofthepresentation.org

I met our Sisters as a child when I attended Notre Dame Academy in Willow City. We were a rather poor farm family and our education was often paid by garden produce, meat and working for our room and board. Our Sisters again found ways to live out their call as missionary disciples, and no one was turned away. It was the witness of their dedicated lives that ignited in me the call to Religious Life. As a Sister of Mary of the Presentation, I have been called and continue to live my vocation as “A Missionary Disciple” in today’s world.

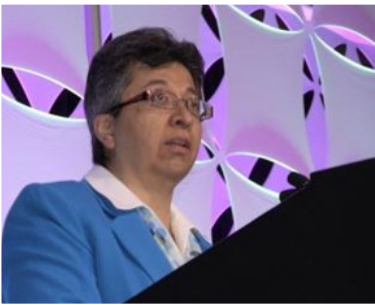
I conclude with a statement taken from Pope Francis’ book The Joy of the Gospel. *“In virtue of their Baptism, all the members of the people of God have become missionary disciples. (Mt. 28:19) Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the Love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries” but rather “missionary disciples.””*



Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion

By Sister Suzanne Stahl

Approximately 800 Leaders of Women's Religious Congregations in the United States gathered August 7-10, 2018 in St. Louis for their annual assembly. It focused on the urgent need to foster communion and connection in a world fraught with divisions and polarizations. "We see this in our Catholic Church, in political rhetoric and neighborhoods. We see it in crimes against race and in terrorism. As primarily Caucasian Women Religious, we need to realize we have an unconscious white bias and receive priority that other races and classes of people do not receive. The assembly heightened my awareness of this," Sister Suzanne commented.



Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI, in her presidential address, discussed the need to be prepared for this unusual time in religious life. She said, "Our new apostolic call is centered on meaning. We need to tell our story, the deep meaning of our lives, that allowed us to do everything we have done." She continued, "Our story needs to be shared with a world desperate for meaning and purpose. Sisters, our time in leadership will not be complete

until we have called all of our sisters to share the 'why' of their extraordinary lives." To applause she stated, "We will become lighter and itinerant, we will be fewer. However, we will be enough; we will be what God needs today. We will bring with us our call to community and our stubborn conviction that Christ suffering in God's people requires our response."

A palpable sense of hope filled the room as she made these comments and this was discussed in the "deepening groups" that met after her keynote presentation. These groups of participants used contemplative dialogue to reflect on questions such as: What ignites a spark in you about the power of communion as it relates to your life and ministry? What matters most for the future of our communities, religious life and the world we serve? The full presidential address can be found at <https://lcwr.org/calendar/lcwr-assembly-2018> as well as the other presentations.

Sister Gloria Schaab, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, professor of systematic theology at Barry



University in Miami, Florida proposed that “living in Trinitarian relation in our world calls us to foster nonhierarchical relationships of inclusivity; transform social, ethical and political systems; and imitate divine solidarity with human suffering.” To the degree that we can live this she said that then, “the radical power of communion and love in the image of Trinity dynamic, emergent and effective will be in the church and in our world.”

Heidi Russell, an associate professor at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University in Chicago



and mother of two adopted African American children, said, “At our core we are interconnected to one another and to God, and yet somehow we find ourselves limited in our relationality, finite in our capacity to connect to one another.” She encouraged us to reflect saying, “Whose voices do we not hear? What connections have we turned off? Who are those at the margins of our communities?”

Brother Simon Pedro Arnold, OSB and professor of theology and communications science from Belgium



who lives and works in Puno, Peru encouraged listeners to accept our own vulnerability and to realize that God “needs us” to live out Love, which is God, in the world. Community life is “not the end of rifts and divisions among us but a choice to share with one another our vulnerabilities, fragilities and wounds.” He challenged us “to believe, trust and permit the providential and surprising fruitfulness of fragility, not to resist it.”



Celebration of 80th Anniversary of St. Aloisius Medical Center

By Sister Mary Agnes Huber



It was 80 years ago that the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation took over the running of the hospital here in Harvey. We celebrated this great anniversary by the blessing of each part of the Medical Center. Bishop John Folda, Bishop of Fargo, began by blessing Senior Housing, and then moved on to Unit B and Unit A of the nursing home, the hospital and the newly reopened clinic. Following the blessing, Bishop Folda celebrated Mass in St. Cecilia's Church at 2:00 p.m. for members of the parish, Medical Center, and guests. Father Frank Miller, Pastor, along with Sister Mary Agnes Huber, Pastoral Care, planned the liturgy. Sister Elaine Lange proclaimed the readings, Sister Elizabeth Rose Muscha read the petitions, and Sister Marlyss Dionne and Sister Mary Agnes brought forward the offerings of bread and wine. Parishioners provided the beautiful music. Following Mass Sister Suzanne thanked the people of Harvey for their faith-filled support of St. Aloisius Medical Center over the years. Former administrator, Ron Volk, reflected on the many happenings of his tenure. Present administrator, Mike Zwicker, concluded with his promise to continue what the Sisters had started 80 years ago.



Scrapbooks, dating from the beginning of St. Aloisius Medical Center, were on display in the front lobby of the hospital. Other information was also out for them to view if they so wished. Harvey Chamber of Commerce representative, Colette Hertz, presented the Medical Center with a certificate to mark the 80th Anniversary. Cake was served to guests and all the staff in every department. It was a nice day for all to enjoy.

Left to right: Colette Hertz, Harvey Chamber Representative; Sister Elizabeth Rose Muscha, Board of Director of SAMC; Mike Zwicker, St. Aloisius Medical Center CEO; Sister Marlyss Dionne, Board of Director of SAMC; Bishop John Folda, Bishop of Fargo; Sister Suzanne Stahl, Regional Superior of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation; Sister Mary Agnes Huber, Pastoral Care at SAMC; Sister Elaine Lange, Regional Assistant; Father Frank Miller, St. Cecilia's Parish Pastor.

Associate Celebration

By Sister Anne Germaine Picard



On October 14, 2018 the chapel at Maryvale was filled with Community Members and Associates as we welcomed two new Associates into Covenant with the Community. This Eucharistic celebration truly demonstrated the Faith and Joy of all in attendance. Everyone was singing and praying the Liturgy. These two Associates are Jacki Moser and Muriel Weiland. Here is a brief introduction to these two women.

Jacki Moser belongs to St. Mathias Catholic Church in Winsor, N.D. She and her husband, David, have been married for 35 years and have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Jacki works two days a week as a meat processor at Reister Meats and babysits three days a week for four of her grandchildren. Jacki has a longing to help and serve others. She desires to share her talents by showing people the love of Jesus by her own example and to continue in her own personal walk with the Lord.

Murriel F. Wieland lives in Dazey, N.D. Muriel worked with us at Maryvale in our kitchen for a number of years as a cook. She is a widow and hopes to share some of her talents with us, such as gardening, sewing, cooking and teaching. She is very active in her parish which has been and continues to be the center of her life. She also enjoys being a grandmother. She desires that her association with the Community will assist her through support, a life of prayer through retreats and other services.

The area Associates also put on a wonderful pot-luck meal for our evening meal together and everyone had a great time with one another.

LET US WELCOME OUR NEW ASSOCIATES !



LEFT TO RIGHT: Sr. Anne Germaine Picard, Murriel Wieland, Sr. Suzanne Stahl, Fr. Donald Leiphon, Sr. Elaine Lange, and Jackie Moser



A REFLECTION: LEAVES AND LEGACY

By Mary Anne Michelet, Associate

A note from Mary Anne, "Sister Anne Germaine suggested I send this reflection. I read it at our Associate Gathering at Spring Valley, IL. Lovely time together. One of our topics was Our Common Home, the environment. Many shared moments of connecting with nature. It prompted me to share this from my journal just 2 days before we met. And here is a photo from Forest Park Nature Center where I often hike."

I feel badly tramping over the lovely leaves that so kindly absorbed yesterday's downpour so we don't have to walk on a muddy trail. After all, perhaps they're not truly dead yet, but merely dropped to another level of impending death, separated from their tree of life. For, think of it, aren't we often crossed over to another dimension on our journey to death? Sometimes our tree of life, that is our family and friends, are unrecognizable, as we are to them as our mind goes another direction and we may separate from them in a sense.

So, in my continuing awareness of oneness with all of God's creation, even the "dead" leaves are so very precious to life in our common home. Their legacy is new life to the forest floor, fertilization! Not to mention the aroma they give the Woods in their dying days. And don't even get me started on the inspiration their colors give artists, photographers, and all of us fortunate to gaze upon their beauty before falling to near-death. Did I mention the golden hue the fallen leaves provide the trail's surrounding hills before they turn brown to camouflage the wildlife?

What is my legacy? What new life comes forth because I have been present here? Or, have I mostly only taken from this life? Live the questions.

Jesus

Our God in human form joins us in communion.

We walk together.

There are two worlds...we live here now, in time.

The other world is Eternity.

The saints and angels live there with God.

Our Lord lives here in time and Eternity.

Our Lord is available in the tabernacle of our Chapel.

By Sister Agnes Marie Zimny



Sister Agnes Marie (Adeline) Zimny



Sister Agnes Marie (Adeline) Zimny, 102 years old, died peacefully surround by her family at Maryvale, Valley City, North Dakota, September 28, 2018 at approximately 1:20 p.m. Her visitation and funeral took place in the Maryvale Chapel.

Sister Agnes Marie was born April 15, 1916 to Agnes (Woitas) and Paul Zimny, Sr., at Minnesota Lake, Minnesota. At the age of 3 her family moved to a farm near Lansford, ND. She attended a country school 1 mile from her home for grades 1-8 and high school at Notre Dame Academy, Willow City, ND where she met the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. Sister Agnes Marie said, "Attending school with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation I became acquainted and wished to join them. In 1934 I boarded a ship and sailed to Broons, France for my initial formation and made my vows in 1937. My formation was the most memorable moment

in my life where the community originated, and I did formation in the French language which became useful in my work of translation which followed. Doing work on the history of the congregation and working with an international community was also a special moment in my life when I returned to France from 1978-1981."

She earned a bachelor degree at College of Great Falls, now called the University of Providence, in Great Falls, Montana, graduating July 1954 with a major in secondary education and a minor in psychology. She went on to receive a Masters degree from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. in secondary education, psychology and educational administration. She also earned another 30 semester hours in school guidance and counseling. She was very well educated, especially for someone born in 1916! She was a dedicated teacher, principal, superintendent, school counselor, historian and French translator. She taught grades 5-12 and English and French.

Sister Agnes Marie taught at St. Joseph School, Wild Rice, ND 1939-1947; St. Aloysius School, Lisbon, ND 1947-1951; St. Aloysius School, Oakwood, ND 1951-1961; Notre Dame Academy, Willow City, ND 1960-1961; St. Catherine's School, Valley City, ND 1962-1969; and St. Mary's School, Bismarck, ND 1969-1978. She translated French into English for the documents of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation in Broons, France, Rolla, ND and Maryvale from 1978-1981 and 1986-2013. She served as secretary for Prairieland Home Care, Rolla, ND 1981-1986.

She is survived by her Religious Community, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation and her brother Paul (Carol) Zimny, Jr., Cyrus, MN, sister Mary Louise Growe, Piedmont, OK and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers: Isadore (Jean), Raymond and Ralph and her sister, Dorothy (Basil) O'Connell.

In her later years she said, "I'm enjoying the hundred fold of blessings of God's chosen ones and after my years of teaching, I keep in touch with many friends and find retirement rewarding with time for prayer and being in touch with my Sisters sharing our joys and sorrows."

Sister Agnes Marie was devoted to communal prayer and daily Eucharist. She was faithfully present. She was an avid reader and enjoyed word search puzzles along with her butterscotch hard candies and Whoppers malted milk chocolate balls. Sister Agnes Marie enjoyed writing poetry and this is one of her favorites:

Prayer to Michael the Archangel
Hurl our pride to the depth of hell
Help us ever to serve God well.
With thunderous voice to preach His word
To gently absolve the sinners heart
To wrench the devil from human hearts
To send thine vanquished to fiery parts
Most especially Michael, Grant my plea
Strength of soul for Sister Agnes Marie.



A Seed Was Planted

Story contributed by Deacon Ken Votava, Associate

If you have ever been to Jamestown and visited Ave Maria Village, you may, or may not, have noticed a Jesus statue near the front doors. Doreen Reister, one of AMV's Registered Nurses would often add decorations, such as gourds and pumpkins, at the feet of the Jesus statue. She noticed that the resin style statue was not holding up well in our ND winters. It had lost color and was cracking at the bottom. Doreen asked if maybe a solid stone statue might be more appropriate. The Mission Committee of Ave Maria Village took this to heart, and due to the high cost of a marble statue, put it on the agenda as a long term goal. Not too many months later an individual who wanted to remain anonymous, offered enough financial support to make this dream come true. Hurley's Religious Goods from Fargo was contacted. They recommended a "Welcoming Jesus" made out of marble from Hunan Province in China. The order was put in last summer. With trade wars looming and environmental shutdowns of factories in China, it seemed like the old saying of a "slow boat from China" really was true! The statue finally did make it to the US, Fargo, and eventually to AMV here in Jamestown.

Thanks to a lot of help from Mark Curtis and his talents and connections, we were able to get the new Jesus statue in place just before the ground started to freeze. A 16 inch diameter foundation pillar that went down five feet below the frost line had to be dug and poured to support the 1400 pound statue. The new marble statue was not located in the same location as the old statue due to electrical cables, telecommunications lines, and gas lines all going under the planter. This is why Jesus found his way into the garden west of the front doors.

A Dedication and Blessing of the statue of the Welcoming Jesus was held November 20, 2018. Sisters Suzanne Stahl, Marlyss Dionne, Dorothy Bunce, and Rose Therese Sevigny from Maryvale were in attendance.



The new Welcoming Jesus statue reminds us of the mission of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation at Ave Maria Village:

"Ave Maria Village, inspired by the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, serves those in our care with respect and compassion as we strive to fulfill the healing mission of Jesus."

Employee & Sister Christmas Party

By Sister Miriam Braun

Each year, shortly before Christmas, our Regional Team, Sister Suzanne and Sister Elaine, plans a party for the Sisters and the Maryvale Employees. The Employees seem like family to us. Besides being faithful in doing their assigned jobs, they help all of us as needed. We often share our stories and daily happenings, and “remember when” times. We laugh, cry and pray together. At Christmas we celebrate together the birth of Jesus.



As preparations began for the December 19, 2018 party, our maintenance and housekeeping crew, Dave Musgrave, Gary Baumann, and Dallas Gruebele set up tables, chairs, and the fireplace in the auditorium. Sue Stack decorated the Christmas tree and other areas around Maryvale. Our chaplain, Father Don Leiphon, set up the two train sets we have here at Maryvale. Sister Therese Celine Craven helped by wrapping empty Christmas gift boxes that were needed for one of the games, wondering what kind of game needed 20 *empty* boxes all different sizes and shapes?? She also wrapped the grab boxes that would be selected by the Employees, but *these* boxes held gifts!

A raffle was held for two items...a beautiful ceramic angel, won by Cathy Burr and a set of Bison coasters, won by a *very* excited Lori Tabor. Sister Suzanne welcomed all with the hope that everyone would enjoy an afternoon of fun. Sister Marlyss, local leader at Maryvale, offered a prayer of praise to God, thanks for the many gifts we have all received, and a special thanks for the catered meal we were to eat a little later.

Games began at 3:15 p.m. with Get to Know You BINGO, where each person was given a BINGO card and a pencil, with the directions to find people at the party matching the descriptions in each box. Much moving around and visiting occurred, as everyone who got a row filled, called out “BINGO!” A good mixer and fun to play!

Gift Box Relay was next. This captured everyone’s attention, and much laughter was heard as teams worked to be the first to carry all the empty, *but beautifully wrapped*, boxes to the other side without dropping any!



Human Christmas Trees were next. The party-goers volunteered to be on three teams and, each team was required to “decorate” one of the team members with a boxful of Christmas ornaments. As you can see in the pictures we sure had some creatively decorated “Christmas trees!”

The next game was What’s in the Stocking? Each table was given a long stocking containing some items. They were to each feel it and try to guess what items were inside. This proved to be harder than it seemed at first, but eventually everyone guessed what was inside.

(continued on page 24)

Spreading Christmas Joy

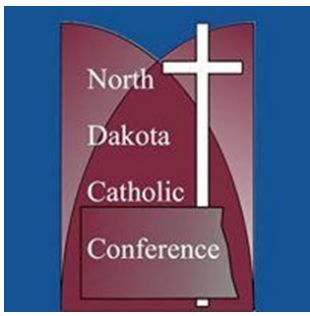


In December, twelve members of the Valley City State University Choir delighted the Sisters at Maryvale with several Christmas Carols sung a capella. The harmonizing of voices filled the Chapel with pure Christmas Joy.



In January, the children of St. Catherine's School presented their Christmas Program, "The Tale of Three Trees." After the performance, the children and Sisters enjoyed visiting with one another over cookies and lemonade. The train tracks, assembled by Father Don Leiphon, were thoroughly enjoyed by the students.





NORTH DAKOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

HOSTS MASS AND DINNER

By Sister Marlyss Dionne

On January 15, 2019, the North Dakota Catholic Conference hosted the Legislators of the North Dakota State Legislature. The North Dakota Catholic Conference, composed of the Bishops of the Fargo and Bismarck Dioceses, priests and lay persons from each diocese and Christopher Dodson, executive director, invited the Legislators to a 5:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Spirit Cathedral in Bismarck. Bishop John Folda of the Fargo Diocese gave an inspiring, appropriate homily for the event. I have included, with permission, two paragraphs of this Inspirational homily:

"So to be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

Bishop Kagan, dear Fathers, dear friends, we come together this evening for prayer, and to place ourselves under the guiding power of God. And specifically now, as we begin this year's legislative session, for you who are committed and engaged in the work of governance, we ask God's blessing and grace. All of you are entrusted with a vital mission, one that requires great wisdom and fortitude, a task that begs for higher assistance from the One who calls all of us to holiness. Or, as we hear from Jesus, the call to "be perfect," to be one with God and to all things in accordance with his will. This isn't easy, and some might say in the work of public service and politics it's simply impossible. But with Christ, all things are possible— yes, even in the work of politics!

Right now it seems that we are immersed in an atmosphere of conflict and mistrust, and when we hear of government and politics, we often hear words like gridlock, shutdown, corruption, money, cover-up and lots of others. Politics is often seen as something unseemly and kind of dark. Too often, governance is portrayed in a negative way and perhaps there's some truth to that image. But from God's word this evening, we hear a different set of words: justice, light, peace, understanding, truth, honor, and the list goes on. Our Lord is calling us to a different way, a way that sets aside self-interest and works, rather, for the good of others. A way that respects and even recognizes the sacred dignity of every person and strives to build rather than tear down.

Following the Mass, a dinner for Legislators and Members of the Conference was provided in the Cathedral Hall. A delicious meal was prepared by the ladies of Cathedral Parish. I attended as a representative from the Fargo Diocese and Sister Dorothy Bunce accompanied me as my guest. About twenty legislators and spouses attended, as well as most of the members of the North Dakota Catholic Conference. Presentations by members of the Conference were given during the meal. A blessing was given by Bishop Kagan at the close of the evening.

Sister Elaine surprised the guests with a contest to see who could come closest to the number of ornaments on the Christmas tree that Sue had so beautifully decorated. Sister Elaine checked the slips and had *two* winners who guessed the number, 63, **exactly**! One was Dallas and the other one was Sue, herself! And she swore she didn't count them as she put them on the tree! They each won a prize...a singing flower!

A paper and pencil game, Name the Christmas Carol, served to occupy the guests, while they waited for their turn at the delicious buffet. As the Sisters and the Employees enjoyed their delicious meal, Sister Suzanne called each Employee forward, in order of length of time worked at Maryvale, to thank them for their work at Maryvale and to receive a gift. Each got to choose a beautifully wrapped grab box from under the Christmas tree.

By the end of the evening we had made some new friends and shared stories that, of course, made us laugh! We all agreed it was a great way to celebrate the birth of Jesus with people that feel like family!

