

*Promise
Fulfilled*

Merry Christmas



May Christ incarnate dwell within you. May He be so alive that others see and experience Him when they are in your presence. May the joy of Christ's birth bubble within you. May His peace fill you. May His love motivate all of your actions. We hold you in our hearts and prayers this Christmas season and ask Mary to lead you closer to Christ as you experience that silent, holy night.

A novena of masses will be offered for you, your loved ones, and your intentions.

Oscar Romero on the Meaning of Christmas

"Christmas challenges us to discover the face of Christ in each brother or sister that we greet, in each friend whose hand we shake, in each beggar who asks for bread, in each worker who looks for work in our fields. If we see Christ in their face then it would be impossible to rob them, to cheat them, to deny their rights. They are Christ and whatever is done to them Christ will take as done to himself. This is the meaning of Christmas, namely, Christ lives among us."



DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Since this is the year of St. Paul, we held a second District Assembly in 2008. It was October 6-8. The first day was for continuing our work on the doors from our Chapter, sharing our Going Green efforts, and community business and needs. Fr. Joseph Sileo, a diocesan priest, friend, educator and psychologist, joined us the evening of October 6. On October 7 & 8 we were affirmed, inspired and challenged as Fr. Sileo shared on Paul's view and understanding of the sacraments. How blessed we were to have this time to dig deeper into the heart and message of Paul as well as examining our lives to see if we really are carrying on the missionary spirit of Paul. Are we filled with his zeal for the Kingdom of God and does the love of Christ really impel us? St. Paul intercede for us and pray for us.



CONGRATULATIONS

We have a custom of celebrating in community the anniversary of each Sister's entrance into novitiate in multiples of five. This year Sr. Juliana Djo celebrates her 41st because we missed her 40th last year. Sr. Gloria Schultz celebrates 40 years, Sr. Rosalie Hughes 30 years, and Sr. Daria Moon 20 years. We thank them for there continued faithful "yes". May Mary, our model, help them to always remain faithful.





Religious Life as a Vocation

As a vocation directress for the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres in the United States District, I go to the parishes around the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to make known to people WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE and OUR MINISTRIES. I attend youth masses, youth conferences or youth rallies in the diocese. I also visit schools, to teach and to inspire students about St. Paul, at the same time, I try to interact with children and promote vocation as well.

I am hoping in the near future to have “Come and See” or “Living for young women” weekend retreats, for college, Senior High or Junior High students at our Motherhouse in Marquette, Michigan.

I believe it is important that our young people know more about religious life and the



priesthood. We may be losing vocations in the church because some young people have never been invited to think about religious life or the priesthood. I will be making myself available to do a presentation on vocations to CCD classes, parochial school students, and other parish organizations that are interested. I am also willing to be of service with regard to days of recollection, holy hours or other types of prayers.

— Sr.

Martha Trinh, Vocation Directress



Bishop Noa Home for Seniors

We, the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, sponsor a home for the seniors that respects individual privacy and dignity while promoting independence with supervision and onsite care as requested. A beautiful wooded setting in Escanaba near Lake Michigan offers a faith enriched environment in a Christian atmosphere. There are 29 independent apartments, 28 Home for the Aged Units, and 81 Nursing Home Units.

We are proud that we just received the Reader’s Choice recognition in Delta County.

16 **Congratulations-Readers' Choice** The Daily Press, Escanaba Sunday, Sept. 31, 2006

BISHOP NOA HOME
Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres
 2900 3rd Avenue South, Escanaba, Michigan 49829 • (906) 786-5810

Thank you Delta County for your support and recognition!
 We look forward to serving our community elders for many years to come.

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Sister – Who are you?

When I was growing up in Seoul, Korea, my parents were good practicing Roman Catholics. In our country there were only few Roman Catholics because we had a strong religious persecution for over two hundred years. My grandfather had a very hard time to practice the Catholic Religion. He had to hide in deep valleys of the country side. He taught the people how to read and write everyday, but at night he taught them to read the Bible and say their prayers. Most of them were Confucians and Buddhists. At present we have the freedom to choose our religious belief.

My family prayed the rosary, read the Bible, and said the evening prayers as well as special prayers together everyday. I myself prayed before going to bed. I often asked God to see Him in my sleep.

On Sundays, my sisters and brothers wore Sunday clothes to go to Church. In the afternoons we looked at the big pictures in our big Bible and my mother explained them to us. She also told us stories of the saints, and we were taught even more Prayers.

My mother helped the poor and gave them food, clothing and very often visited them in their homes. I appreciated all the things that she did for the poor. She was chosen the best mother of the year by the government of Seoul. It was because she made many sacrifices for Charity in order to help the poor in the city.

When I was a junior in high school, I joined the School Students Union, an organization called “CELL.” One day, we talked about who was the most famous or best person in the world. I thought of Jesus because I prayed to Him every day. But I thought it was not enough to only know Him. I also



Sister Juliana Djo

needed to serve Him. First, I called up my sister who is a Nun. She asked me to come and see their convent. I visited her for a short time, because it was time for them to pray Vespers. She asked me if I wanted to join them for their prayers. I was curious. So, I said ‘yes’. The Chapel was filled with the Nuns. They looked like rows of flowers in the garden in their cornettes which were worn instead of veils in those days. I was deeply touched and moved. I felt like Jesus was calling me, “Juliana. Juliana. Come follow Me.” I was so nervous that my body trembled. After that I thought of entering the convent to be a sister. I chose to take up Nursing. I kept thinking about my experience at the convent. I talked to my mother about my feelings and my plans. She said that I am losing another daughter. Both of us remained silent. I wanted to see my sister right away to explain to her about my plans. She was very happy and encouraged me. After a year, my parents agreed and supported me. Finally, I entered the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres in the spring of 1969.

— *Sr. Juliana Djo*



St. Paul's Call to a Life of Thankfulness and Praise

Thanksgiving and praise is a recurring theme in Paul's letters and it is actually the way he begins each letter. His thanksgiving is directed to God the Father through Jesus Christ. Paul wanted to encourage the young churches that he founded so he affirmed and gave thanks for their growth in faith. We see an example of this in Colossians. "We give thanks for you to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, continually in our prayers, ever since we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you show towards all God's holy people because of the hope which is stored up for you in heaven." (Col. 1:3-5)

Paul's thankful heart touched all circumstances of his life. We get a taste of this when he says: "Whether you eat, then, or drink, and whatever else you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Co. 10:31). Paul had his eyes set on Jesus and that is what sustained him through all sorts of circumstances.

Paul wanted everyone to have this same attitude of gratitude so he encouraged others to do the same. He gently guides others as he says: "With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him" (Col. 3:16-17). With Jesus as the Lord of his life, Paul could encourage others so he said: "Always be joyful; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks; this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes. 5:16-18). It is easy to see that for Paul the purpose of his life was to recognize God as Creator, glorify him, thank him, praise him, and serve him. It follows that this is what others are to do as well.

Paul calls "Lord" the "name which is above every name". At the mention of it "every knee in heaven, on earth and under the earth shall bend" in adoration of Christ and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil 2:10). Paul clearly states that "none of us lives for himself and none of us dies for himself; while we are alive, we are living for the Lord, and when we die, we die for the Lord; and so, alive or dead, we belong to the Lord. It was for this purpose that Christ both dead and came to life again: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living" (Ro. 14:7-9).

The challenge is for us to examine our lives to see if we truly have thankful hearts in all circumstances. As we examine our lives, we need to see if Jesus is truly the Lord of our lives. Is he the one who guides my conduct, my choices, my thinking? How vital is my faith in the risen Christ and does it move me to service? Am I ready to follow Jesus in suffering or pain? Am I driven by a deep love for Jesus and a zeal for building his kingdom?

Prayer for the Year of St. Paul

God, our Father, thank you for giving us St. Paul to be an apostle of your Son Jesus Christ.

With his great love and passion for Jesus and the Church, St. Paul used all means and became all things to all so that the power of the Gospel can reach all.

We ask you, loving Father, that during this year dedicated to our patron St. Paul, we may continue to know him more, especially through his epistles which are a part of Sacred Scripture. May we understand his love for you, for Jesus and for your Church that consumed his life. May we serve you and the Church as he did, tirelessly, relentlessly, faithfully, and lovingly. May we also deepen our faith and trust in your loving mercy and kindness this year.

May St. Paul continue to intercede for us and for our country that we, too, may turn from sinful ways and be converted, so that we may attain peace in our hearts, in our families, in our country and in the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Sr. Daria Moon, Sr.
Estela Garcia, Sr.
Nenita Leonardo—
Our Sisters who
live in Washington
DC were in
Marquette for the
District Assembly in



Meeting in France

All provincial, district and local superiors were invited to Chartres, France for an Assembly on the Juridical Elements of Consecrated Life. So off to France I went on October 14 to join the other persons in leadership in our Congregation along with Mother Myriam Kitcharoen, the head of our Congregation and her council.

We started with a trip to Pertuis, France to honor Father Chauvet who was the parish priest in Levesville who called for young women to come and work among the poor. It was out of this request that our Congregation had its beginnings. In the Church in Pertuis where Fr. Chauvet was baptized on February 17, 1664, we celebrated by placing a commemorative plaque in thanksgiving for the 312 years of the life of our Congregation, the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres which is now present in all of the continents.

Meeting in France

Continued from Page 7

After returning from Pertuis, we began an intense six days of study on Canon Law and a study of the document The Service of Authority and Obedience given by Fr. Lorenso Luiso, OP, a professor of Canon Law from Rome. These were blessed days as we gained insights into our role as superiors along with a greater understanding of how to fulfill this task in the service of our Sisters.

Many of you are probably wondering if I saw Sr. Mary Ann Laurin. Yes, I had the opportunity to see and talk with her. She sends her greetings. I asked her to write an article on our visit to Pertuis so this article will follow.

There was another urgent reason for our gathering. Mother Myriam had just finished the gathering of Major Superiors of Men and Women which addressed the financial crisis that is now facing the whole world. Mother Myriam pointed out that there was a financial crisis in 1914, 1921, 1932, 1938, 1974, 1977 and now in 2008. Whenever there is a financial crisis there is always rebellion and war. History shows this to be true. Mother Myriam said, "We cannot leave the poor alone in this crisis. Prayer, support, and help with material needs must be offered. The Word of God is our guideline in all of this. An example is Mt. 24:22 where we are reminded that what we do for others, we do for Christ. Therefore, we looked at how we as a Congregation can better help with the needs of the poor.



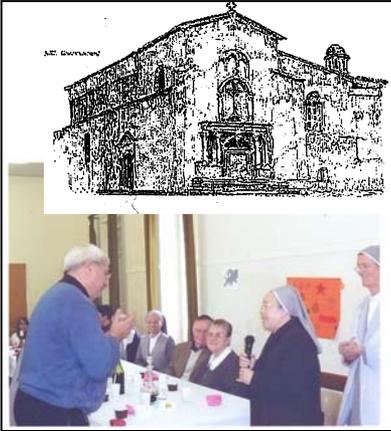
Mother Myriam met with the Superiors from each country separately to see how we, the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, could address the needs in that country. She congratulated us on our present Mission Project and asked us to keep up the efforts and to even increase the effort. Of course, the life of the Sisters is challenged as we strive to look at the way we live our vow of poverty so that more can be given to the poor.

The gathering of the Major Superiors of Men and Women stated that, more than ever, the Word of God must be in our hearts and also in our prophetic action at this time. It is the Word of God that gives us the audacity to stand and deal with the needs of the world. Everyone needs to challenge themselves and ask how they can better help the needs of the poor. This means that everyone needs to look at their lifestyle and see how sacrifices can be made in order to reach out and help the poor even more.

In 1708 Fr. Chauvet handed our Congregation over to Bishop Paul Godet des Marais in Chartres. So our Sisters moved from Levesville to St. Maurice Parish in Chartres where we became known as "Daughters of Levesville" or "Daughters of the School". Therefore on October 25, 2008 we gathered in the Church of St. Maurice for a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by the Bishop of Chartres

to honor the 300th anniversary of our beginnings in Chartres. After mass we gathered for a meal and some entertainment by the nine Vietnamese novices in Chartres.

- Sr. Gloria Schultz



Mother Myriam Kitcharoen, Superior General of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, thanks Fr. Marc, Pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Pertuis, for his hospitality, and promises him that the Sisters of St. Paul will establish a community of Sisters in Pertuis.

Pertuis

Fr. Louis Chauvet, the co-founder of our Congregation, the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, died in Levesville 300 years ago at the age of 46 years. Extensive research by our Sisters found that he was born and baptized in Pertuis, France. He was ordained priest in Avignon, obtained a doctorate in theology, served as an assistant priest in three parishes before coming to Levesville-la-Chenard (85 Kilometers/51 miles from Chartres) in 1694.

At that time in France, many adults did not know how to read. In the mid 1600's, John Baptist de la Salle (ordained priest in 1678) was

instrumental in getting schools established for the boys, and there was a school for boys in Levesville, but nothing for the girls. Concerned that the children learn their catechism and that they also be able to read, write and do mathematics, Fr. Chauvet enlisted the help of some young women of the parish, among whom was Marie-Anne de Tilly, our co-founder.

Pertuis, a village of about 18,000 inhabitants is located in the Provence region, near Aix-en-Provence, in the southeast of France. This area of France belonged to the "Roman Empire for many years. It became a part of France in 1493.

Our trip to Pertuis took nearly 15 hours by bus. We left Chartres at 5:30 a.m. and arrived at a convent near Pertuis at 8:00 p.m. The next day, we had an international Mass at St. Nicholas Church in Pertuis. It was a simple celebration with only a few townspeople in addition to the 31 members of our Congregation who were there.

Although there have been some additions and improvements over the years, It is basically the same building where Louis Chauvet and his family attended Mass and the same fount where he was baptized.

Saturday afternoon, we had the unveiling of a plaque we placed in the baptistery area. The plaque reads

Here at this fount

*Louis Chauvet was baptized
on February 17, 1664.*

*Born in Pertuis, he was the son
of Noé and Marguerite de LaForest.*

*Priest, ordained in Avignon on
March 13, 1688;*

*Pastor of Levesville la
Chenard in Eure-et-Loir
from 1694 to 1710;*

*Founder, in 1696, of the community
of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres.*

*In the beginning of the 21st century,
4000 missionary sisters
are actually present in 34 countries.
Glory be to you, O Lord!*

- Sr. Mary Ann Laurin



STEBENVILLE! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

When Deacon Mike LeBeau from St. Anne parish in Escanaba, MI invited me to go to Steubenville for the Youth Conference on the weekend of August 1-3, I hesitated to say yes to him. I told him I would need more time to think about it. I reflected on Genesis 12:1-5 which is when God called Abraham to go to the foreign land at 75 years old. Abraham did not question God at all. He just went as the Lord directed him. So, the next day I called Deacon Mike and told him I would be willing to go. However, I had mixed feelings: puzzled, confused and excited. What is this weekend going to be like? I did not have a clue what it was all about.

Early Friday morning August 1st, we gathered at St. Anne's in Escanaba. Fr. Fran Degroot gave us blessings before our departure. I got in the bus and sat next to Fr. Janusz Romanek. I didn't know exactly where I was going. I asked Fr. Janusz: "where are we going?" he said "Steubenville".



"But in what city? Which state?" I anxiously asked. He said: "St. Paul, Minnesota. It is my first time." I replied: "Also mine." Our bus needed to pick up some teens along the way to Resurrection Parish in Menominee, MI. There we joined three other buses and continued our journey to "Steubenville."

We arrived at the Franciscan University in St. Paul around 2:00 p.m., where the conference was being held. As soon as the registration was done, we got into our rooms, refreshed ourselves and got ready for the evening session. At 6:30 p.m., we gathered in the big hall with other youth from all parts of the country. There were over 2,100 teens and chaperones attending this event. As soon as the sonar band started their music to warm up the big crowd, I was reenergized, and felt peaceful. My spirit was uplifted and I felt a joy I could hardly describe. The theme for the 2008 Youth Conference was "WITNESS". The verse from the Bible that will guide us this year is from the book of *Acts 1:8*: "*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all*

Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

I stood there amazed and quiet amidst the noise and screaming of the youth and the music. I was pondering the word "*WITNESS*". What does the word "*Witness*" mean to me this weekend? How do I set a good example as a powerful witness to those I am to encounter this weekend? The passage from Genesis 12:1-5 once again came to my mind - full of promise and consoling, I knew this weekend God was going to pour out His goodness in abundance as well. What I needed to do was to freely open my heart, my eyes and my whole self to God so His divinity would be revealed in me.

Throughout the weekend we spent time with Christ in Adoration, and we were fed by His Body and Blood at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we received His forgiveness in Reconciliation, and we were encouraged and challenged by some of the finest Catholic



speakers in the country with topics such as: "*Cross Examination*"; "*Witness of the Body*"; "*The heart of witness*"; "*Vocation: Discerning God's call to live as a witness*"; "*How to be and share Christ at home*"; "*Witness as one*"; "*The witness of marriage*"; "*How to witness: sharing Christ with words and deeds*"; "*The Holy Spirit: the Power to Witness*"; and "*Can I get a witness*". There were small group discussions after each talk along with music and entertainment.

One of the highlights of this entire weekend was the Adoration on Friday night. When the priest processed with the Blessed Sacrament to each group in all corners of the hall, everybody knelt down hours and hours to worship our Lord Jesus Christ: "*... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" (*Phil 2:10-11*). As I knelt down, I felt God transform me and empower me to be his witness in a world that so desperately needs Him and God reminds me that being a true witness to Him may cost my very life.

The weekend is over, but the fruits of the Spirit still dwell in me. I thanked God for the experience that I am loved by God, who has held nothing back from me. I thanked God for helping me to understand more deeply that the meaning of being a witness is not



as a mere observer, someone who sees an event take place and is later called to testify to what he’s seen. It doesn’t mean just talking about him. It means living our lives and responding to the world in the power of the Holy Spirit so that when others see us - they see Christ.

Let us let go of our fears, let go of the unnecessary in our life, fall in love with God, and our path will be clear. Our path will be joy. Through the grace of ongoing conversion, we can witness daily to what we have experienced of Christ’s love, healing power, truth, and mercy.

—Sr. Martha Trinh, SPC

MISSION PROJECT NEWS

It is with great joy that we share the continued success of our Mission Projects. We have given \$4470.00 to Haiti to rebuild the schools and feed the children. \$4250.00 was given to Venezuela to provide safe drinking water for the tribes ignored by the government and to provide a building that is centrally located for the education of adults and children. \$4120.00 was given to the U.P. Child and Family Services to help cover the cost of school supplies and basic needs like shoes and clothes. Money was also used to assist families to

-
- Compassionate Hearts Club**
- Archangels**
- Fr. Joseph O. Gouin
American Martyrs, Kingsford, MI
- Gayle & Fritz Hoenke, Marquette, MI
- Myrna Meneses, Marquette, MI
- Connie Winkowski, Milton, FL
- Angels**
- Msgr. Timothy Desrochers, Gwinn, MI
- Fran & Pat Lewis, Escanaba, MI
- Edith Mebane, Washington, DC
- Donald & Rita Zalewski, Stevens Point, MI
- Saints**
- Francis & Margarita Abbey, Hyattsville, MD
- Tim & Carol Beauchamp, Rock, MI
- Jack Buckler, St. Joseph, MI
- Louis Casey, Escanaba, MI
- Teresita Gelvoría, Northridge, CA
- Barbara Walch Growdon, Escanaba, MI
- Thomas G. Lapenna, Marquette, MI
- Fred C. Leone, Silver Spring, MD
- Sally Mellon, Marquette, MI
- Rita Sharon, Escanaba, MI
- St. Ignatius Loyola Church, St. Ignace, MI
- Marie M. Theoret, Gladstone, MI
- P. Tim & Susan Zhulkie, Marquette, MI

cover such things as fees, equipment,



Come and Pray

Our Motherhouse in Marquette is to become the Paulinian House of Prayer starting in January. We are opening our Motherhouse for anyone who would like to spend time in prayer. If groups need a place for a retreat day and they have a director, they are welcome to check the availability of our Motherhouse. Consider taking some extra time for prayer, reflection, and spiritual reading. To make arrangements call Sr. Francis Mortola at 906-226-3932.

News of the Sisters

Sr. Marie Kim Phuong Nguyen's mother died so at present Sr. Marie Kim is at home in Oklahoma with her father to support him in his time a great grief.

Sr. Anne Charles Sia's brother has been very ill for 3 months. Sr. Anne Charles just returned from being with him. At present he is in rehab and is still in serious condition.

Sr. Rosaline Charoentavit is in Thailand on her home visit. Her brother had cancer surgery and her mother will have surgery while she is at home.

All three families would appreciate your prayers.



You can visit our website at:
www.sistersofstpaulusa.org

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent in gifts and donations since our last newsletter. Your support is appreciated.

- Margarita Abbey, Hyattsville, MD
- Catalina Alair, Washington, DC
- John & Barbara Balbierz, Marquette, MI
- Jack Buckler, Kenton, MI
- James & Patricia Bugay, Escanaba, MI
- Fe Merle Byers, Washington, DC
- Elizabeth Carpenter, Marquette, MI
- Ken & Maura Davenport, Marquette, MI
- Ruth Depetro, Marquette, MI
- David & Tatyana Desjardins, Irving, TX
- In honor of Sr. Lucienne Bautista
- Lorraine Dupras & Russell Dupras, Marquette, MI
- Margaret Finnerty
- Robert & Marilyn Flynn, Marquette, MI
- Sis Chit Garcia
- Dr. John G Kublin, Marquette, MI
- Mr. Maruice Gauthier, Escanaba, MI
- Irene Gembel, Garden, MI
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gregorich, Marquette, MI
- In honor of the George Gregorich Family
- Richard & Donna Hubert, Escanaba, MI
- Knights of Columbus 630, Escanaba, MI
- Mr. & Mrs. Leonardo Paulino
- Thomas & Carol Lepenna, Marquette, MI
- Scott & Kerry Matejik, Bethesda, MD
- Linda McGibbeny, Washington, DC
- Mrs. Amelia Mebane, Washington, DC
- John Melecha, Hopkins, MN
- Scott & Kerry Metajik, Bethesda, MD
- Fr. Emmett Norden
- Emma Paulino, Lansdowne, VA
- Jane Pryal, Escanaba, MI
- Lauri Sullivan and Family
- Miss Maria Terry, Bethesda, MD
- Gene Wyman, Witch Lake, MI



Want more information about becoming a Sister of St. Paul?

You may write or email Sr. Gloria Schultz at:

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

1300 County Road 492

Marquette, MI 49855

Email: gjschultz123@yahoo.com



Envelope Enclosed

We are enclosing an envelope for those who may wish to make a donation, write for information, be added to the mailing list or to add a friend to the mailing list, etc.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ I wish to be added to your mailing list

_____ I would like more information on becoming a Sister

_____ I would like information on including you in my will

_____ I wish to make a donation for _____

_____ I wish to make a donation for _____ to the

Mission Projects

____ Child and Family Services of Upper Michigan

____ To rebuild Haiti Schools

____ For Venezuelan drinking water

SPC Newsletter—Christmas 2008

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