

*The true
light*

*that gives light
to everyone
was coming into
the world.*

JOHN 1:9 (NIV)



Christ Is The Light of Christmas

Christmas joy and light aglow;
Christmas songs to warm and cheer
Excitement is on children's faces
As anticipation fills the air –
But for some, it can be lonely
When loved ones have passed away,
Memories are all that linger
As years begin to fade
But Christ's light should never dim;
It should ever shine out bright
Our ray of light in this troubled world
Is our joy of eternal light
Christmas, when spent with Jesus
Can warm our hurting hearts,
For as His light shines within us,
It's glow warms our deepest parts.



By: M.S. Lowndes

A novena of masses is offered for you
and your intentions.
You are always in our hearts and prayers.

Love and Prayers,

Sister Estela and the Sisters of District USA





Sister Updates

- ♦ Sr. Marivic Estrella went back to the Philippines July 13, 2018 for good. We will miss you Sr. Marivic.
- ♦ Sr. Juliana Djo received her US citizenship September 20, 2018.
- ♦ Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen passed her Driving Test.
- ♦ Sr. Norma Vicentillo, Sr. Dorothea Jang and Sr. Eden Orlino received their Green Card.
- ♦ Sr. Marie Kim Nguyen is now working at Bishop Noa Home as a part time nurse.
- ♦ Sr. Norma Vicentillo and Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen are missioned at Precious Blood Parish, Stephenson, MI.
- ♦ Sr. Gloria Schultz celebrated her Golden Jubilee October 21, 2018.
CONGRATULATIONS!
- ♦ Our General Chapter will be September 6-29, 2019
- ♦ We continue our Compassionate Hearts Club Mission Projects for the 11th year.
- ♦ The Sisters purchased a new (used) van, it is a 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan. Thank you to all who donated toward the van to off-set the cost.
- ♦ Recently we had to update our website address to: **www.sistersofstpaulus.org**



The Sisters of Saint Paul have recently received notice that a Foundation is created for our benefit. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Ken and Maura Davenport for their generosity. The following article is one that was placed in the Newsletter of the Community Foundation of Marquette County.

**Community Foundation of Marquette County
Announces a New Fund
for the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres**

Long time Marquette residents and local volunteer/ philanthropists Dr. Ken and Maura Davenport recently opened a designated fund with The Community Foundation of Marquette County for the benefit of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres located in Marquette. The endowed fund will provide perpetual support for the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres is a Roman Catholic religious apostolic congregation of pontifical right for teaching, nursing, visiting the poor and taking care of orphans, the old and infirm, and the mentally ill.

"We created this designated fund to insure a steady source of income for the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. It is our hope that this fund will grow every year from donors with like-minded goals. We strongly feel that the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres answer Jesus' call to serve those in need in this country and throughout the world," said Maura Davenport. "Their dedicated vocation of service to others is the true work of the Catholic Church and we feel privileged to be able to support that work."

Along with serving numerous nonprofit organizations, Maura has served on the Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation for eleven years with the last three as chair. Ken is an orthopedic physician and has practiced in Marquette for the past 32 years.

Funds are invested creating a permanent charitable legacy. Community members may make tax-deductible con-



tributions to the designated fund for the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres at any time by visiting the Community Foundation of Marquette County website **cfofmc.org** or calling 906-226-7666.



Visit to the Republic of the Congo

By Sr. Mary Ann Laurin

From July 22 to 29, Sr. Mary Ann LAURIN and Sr. Emily DEL CASTILLO were in the Republic of Congo for a canonical visit to our Sisters in Mbota and Mvuoti. Since the foundation of the community in 2014, our Sisters have built a maternal school with 3 classrooms, a convent, and a dispensary. They have also planted banana, papaya, and mango trees, and made a garden with several sorts of vegetables. They also raise goats and chickens. During our visit, we enjoyed an abundance of home grown fruits and vegetables.

The visit to Congo was occasioned because of the blessing of the dispensary in Mvouta on July 25, the Feast of Saint James. The celebration was festive, with the Mass concelebrated by Bishop Miguel Angel of Pointe Noire, Bishop Bienvenu of Dolesie, and 8 priests. Attendance at the Mass included the Master of Works, Mr. Dieudonné, many of the construction workers, some local and health officials, and many parishioners and neighbors. We helped the Sisters prepare sandwiches and other snacks for approximately 150 people who attended the Mass of benediction.



The dispensary (actually a small hospital) includes a waiting area for the patients, 2 rooms for consultation, a laboratory, a pharmacy, a consultation/conference room, a delivery room and 5 rooms for patients. In addition, there is a kitchen, a small dining room and a laundry. Right now, it is staffed by Sister Agnes and one lay nurse, with a visiting doctor who comes once a week. Sister Cecilia comes from Mbota (suburb of Pointe Noire) to do foot re-



flexology the last week of each month.

The maternal school, under the administration of Sr. Annie, has finished one year of operation – for about 40 three-year-olds, along with a few four-year-olds. This year there will be one room for those three years old and another for those four years old. The third room is currently being used for ministry to the women of the parish – sewing and cooking, for example. In addition to the pre-

school curriculum, the school provides a simple breakfast and lunch, striving to combat the malnutrition that often affects the young.

In addition to the ministries listed above, the Sisters also are involved in pastoral ministries – one Sister had been taking care of the choir and the altar servers, another takes care of the sacristy, others visit neighbors, and the Sister-nurse will be visiting some of the sick in their homes when we get a car for her.

The community is international, with 3 Sisters from the Philippines, 1 Sister from Madagascar, 1 Sister from Haiti and 1 Sister from Thailand. Among the formands, there is 1 second year novice, 2 first year novices, and 2 postulants. One of the formands comes from Ghana, and the other 4 come from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. French is the language they use for prayer and communication as the people in the Congo speak French. The Sisters are also trying to learn the “patois” spoken by the common people, as some of the older people, and the young ones who have not gone to school do not speak French.

Although the Democratic Republic of the Congo lies on the Equator, with one-third of the country





to the north and two-thirds to the south, when we were there, the temperature was cool for the region – about 65 to 73 °F. Even though there is a very good blacktop road, traveling was slow because it was so hilly everywhere we went, with too many hairpin curves to count. Besides this, there are not many cars, so people use buses, and there are lots of logging trucks. Result: it is difficult to pass. The drivers of the logging trucks are very courteous, when you are behind them and they see there is a clear space to pass, they blow their horn to indicate you can pass.

Par-Tee Fundraiser for the Gary Abrahamson, Jr. Memory Care Center

An opportunity for a fun-filled evening and a chance to support a great cause is coming in April so I would like to share a little about it. We have an annual fundraising event called the Par-Tee to support our mission of the Gary Abrahamson, Jr. Memory Care Center which was built to meet the needs in the area to service those with brain challenges as well as their care givers. Educational programs are also offered each month to support those who are able to come as well as to educate on various topics.

The Par-Tee will be on April 4, 2019 at the Island Resort and Casino Convention Center in Harris, MI. Tickets are \$50.00 including Buffet Dinner, Golf-themed Games, Raffles, 50/50, Silent & Live Auctions, and a lot of fun! Tickets are available at the Bishop Noa Home or from the Sisters. The Par-Tee starts at 4:00 p.m. If you can come and join us for this evening, we would be thankful for the gift of your presence. If not and you find it in your heart that you would like to support our mission monetarily and/or with prayer that would very much be appreciated. Other ways that you could support this mission of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres is to volunteer to help us at the Par-Tee, donate an item(s) for the raffle and/or auction, and share this information with family, friends, employees and neighbors. We deeply appreciate any way that you can support our mission.

Our Mission Statement says the Center welcomes strong, caring, wholesome partnerships, shared resources and support, with rich professional training and programming services to the community, especially to adult individuals most vulnerable and in need. As you heard from the above information, we are doing our utmost to keep this mission alive so thank you for any ways that you are or can support this mission.





My Renewal – Vacation with the Lord

By Sr. Norma Vicentillo

2018- The Catholic Church in the Philippines celebrates the “Year of Consecrated Persons and Religious” in line with Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation on “The Call to Holiness in Today’s World” and as part of the 10 year plan to celebrate its 500th year of Christianity in 2021. This was the atmosphere and pervading theme when I arrived in the Philippines for my “Renewal and Home Visit” last June 17- September 5.

Renewal? Yes! This is a most welcome period for a perpetually professed Sister of St. Paul of Chartres in the Philippine Province. Every five years as part of its continuing formation, the perpetually professed Sister is recalled, invited and encouraged to a 40 day respite from active apostolate into a well-balanced period of rest and intense prayer in our Provincial House in Antipolo, Manila. It is a well-planned program designed to help the Sisters on renewal to recapture, rekindle enthusiasm, and regain energy so that she goes back to her apostolate after the 40 day period with more focus and clarity, more determination to carry out the work God and her Congregation has entrusted to her.

We were 33 sisters who came for the Renewal July 16- August 25th. (We start counting the year when we donne the religious habit; that is the year we entered first year of Novitiate.) The Diamond Jubilarians are the Sisters in their 60th year and Golden Jubilarians in their 50th year. After an eight day retreat towards the end of the 40 day period, we have the grand celebrations for the Diamond and the Golden Jubilarians. The 55, 45, and the 40 years join in this group of renewalists. The younger Sisters- (5, 15, 20, 25, and 30) come for renewal last week of April- June. Ten years of Perpetual Vows has a special program of 4 months. We belong to the youngest in this group of renewalists, so we had the privilege and the joy of assisting our older Sisters especially during the grand celebration. Family, friends and relatives are invited to join us; with many priests concelebrating with the Bishop as main celebrant during the Mass.

I arrived in Manila June 17. It was perfect timing while I was still recovering from my jet lag, I was blest to witness the entrance ceremony of the five aspirants joining our Congregation on June 20th. They were all in

their mid- twenties; the youngest 23. They came with their parents, brothers and sisters, and relatives and friends and officemates. A light snack is served after the ceremony so Sisters get to see the family members and friends of the





aspirants. I could not help but recall my own journey in religious life 41 years ago; the excitement, the nervousness, the uncertainty of what

awaits ahead, but also the determination, the urge to follow the Lord who calls, and the desire to serve Him wherever and whatever he wants me to be.

July 16 was the formal start of our renewal, so that I had two weeks to spend time with my family in Leyte and in Cebu City. I enjoyed the days spent with all my aging brothers and sisters, their children and grandchildren: My nephews and nieces; and great grandnieces and grandnephews. I stopped counting how many grandnieces and grandnephews I have. Every year or two there is a baby added and I cannot remember all their names now. I seldom see them. I enjoyed most the time I went swimming with my nephews and nieces and their little ones which I have not done in ages. I also had a great time bonding with my elementary and high school classmates still living in our town and in Cebu City. I thank the Lord for such a wonderful time of reconnecting with childhood friends. The two weeks went so fast.

From my home visit, I went to see our Sisters at Notre Dame de Chartres Hospital in Baguio City. This was my last assignment before I came to the US. I had my physical and medical check up just making sure everything is going to go well during the 40 days of renewal.

I thank the Lord for such a wonderful time with Him during my renewal and during my family visit. I have so many things to be grateful about but most of all I also want to thank people; Sisters who were instrumental for such spirit-filled time. Prayers of gratitude to my Sisters in the Philippines, the Provincial Sr. Lilia Therese Tolentino, and her administration, the formation team and Sr. Estrellita Orlino who is in charge of the Missionaries; for all their care and love, providing and making sure everything needed is available, for Sr. Estela Garcia, the District Superior; for her all out support to my almost 3 months of absence from the District and all my Sisters in the US for their love and care and prayers.





LCWR ASSEMBLY 2018
(Leadership Conference for Women Religious)
By: Sister Estela Garcia



Sr. Gloria Schultz and I attended in St. Louis, Missouri from August 7-11, 2018. It was attended by approximately 800 participants exploring the assembly theme of “Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion.” The assembly focused on the urgent need to foster communion and connection in a world plagued by polarization, division, and fractures of communion. Speakers explored insights from new understandings of Trinitarian theology and how those insights might help in the creation of new and more effective ways of strengthening and supporting global community.

Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI in her presidential address spoke of the need to be prepared for this unique time of religious life and what may be the new call to Catholic Sisters. She said, “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.”

The first keynote speaker, Sr. Gloria Schaab, SSJ 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.”

The second keynote speaker, Heidi Russell, an associate professor at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University in Chicago, spoke of the interconnectedness of all life, reminding us that at our core we are interconnected to one another, to God, and yet somehow we find ourselves limited in our relationality, finite in our capacity to connect one another. Sharing her insights into racism that she has gleaned from her experienced after adopting two children who are black, she challenged us by asking ourselves these questions: “Whose voices do we not hear? Who are those at the margins of our communities?”

The third keynote speaker, Brother Simon Pedro Arnold, OSB spoke





of the freedom that arises when one accepts one's own vulnerability and need for mutual dependence. He also said that the ministry of leadership is to believe, trust, and permit the providential and surprising fruitfulness of fragility, not resist it.

Throughout the assembly we were invited to commit spending time each day in personal and communal contemplation and discussions that placed us in deeper communion with the world, especially the places of great suffering and pain.

We, the LCWR reaffirm the 2016 Assembly resolution and pledge to go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects. Keeping this resolution in mind, we demonstrated our commitment by leaving our meeting area and walking outside to the steps of St. Louis' old Courthouse where Dredd Scott sued for his freedom in 1846. We stood in silent prayer with our placard to remember victims of racism and to pray for systemic elimination of racism throughout the country and the world. People were honking their car horns and bystanders were clapping thanking us for what we are doing about racism.

During the assembly, LCWR bestowed also the 2018 Outstanding Leadership Award on Sr. Anita Baird, Daughters of the Heart of Mary, the first black sister. She was the former director of the racial justice office of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Sr. Anita made significant contributions to eradicating racism in the parishes, schools, and other institutions and agencies within the archdiocese.

At the conclusion of the Assembly we voted Sr. Jayne Helmlinger as president – elect of LCWR. She is the general superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, California.

We didn't concentrate ourselves only in serious discussions during the assembly. We also had fun time – a night cruise along the river enjoying "St. Louis by Night". It was a spectacular panorama of beautiful lights at night with the Arch of St. Louis. We had fun on the boat ride including delicious meal with live music for entertainment courtesy of JAGlynn.





HOME SWEET HOME

My Home Visit to the Philippines

By: Sister Estela Garcia

"There is no place like home." It was an excited feeling I felt as the plane landed on August 21st at 10:50 pm on the Philippine soil. I was happy to see Sr. Norma Vicentillo who came to fetch me. We arrived at the Provincial House past midnight. Due to my jet lag, I couldn't sleep. I joined the Sisters for Lauds and Mass in the morning. The Liturgy was awesome listening to the Sisters angelic voice in singing and the down to earth homily of the priest. During breakfast, Sr. Lilia, her Council and the Sisters greeted me with warmth and welcomed and hugged me. Breakfast was served with delicious cooking and with variety of fruits. After breakfast, Sr. Lilia informed me I was to attend the 3 days Conference at St. Paul College Pasig from August 23-25. It was to celebrate the "Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons". The title was "Renewed CONSECRATED LIFE for the New Evangelization" given by Sr. Inigo Joachim, SSA from India.

The objectives are: to be inspired and challenged by the call of the Church to holiness, discipleship and renewed servant leadership for the New Evangelization; to be enlightened in becoming intercultural communities of love, harmony, acceptance and respect; to be updated on the various issues, demands and challenges affecting consecrated life in Asia and the world today and to be creative in responding to the said concern. The Conferences were attended by all SPC Superiors, Administrators, and Sisters who can free themselves from work. They all came from Luzon which includes Metro Manila, Visayas, and Mindanao. There were some missionaries like me who were on home visits. I was so happy to see so many Sisters pack the Convention Hall. It was an opportunity for me to connect with some Sisters I know and to my group-mates as well. Sr. Claire, Sr. Francis, Sr. Nenita and Sr. Marivic were there too. We had the opportunity to exchange pleasant conversation during the break. Sr. Claire was using a cane because according to her

she is unbalanced to walk. The Conferences was phenomenal. There's a lot of reflections, group discussions and sharing. As Religious and Consecrated person at that, it was an eye opener to all of us as we listened to the





talk. It jolted us out of our complacencies and mediocrities. It showed us to follow the path of self-emptying and surrender. It called us to be the face of joy and hope in our desperate world. It called us to be a community that witnesses to love and compassion, acceptance and solidarity. He called us. He consecrated us from singular purpose of witnessing to the presence of the Kingdom of God amidst the drudgery of secularity and modernity. We are to be Jesus to others; to be a community of missionary disciples for all. During the 2nd day of the conference, there was a launching of a book by Sr. Lilia called "SPC Filipino Sisters in Foreign Fields, A Timeprint". It featured the life and experiences of the Sisters in their missionary journey. Many missionaries were there present and past were given the book. We had a group picture.

On August 26 after the Conference, I took the bus home to start my home visit to my family. It took the bus 7 ½ hours to reach my destination. My three brothers and their wives and my sister were waiting for me. They were very happy to see me. We hugged and exchanged



pleasant stories. Then I got a "bombshell". My brother Baltaz told me that his wife Linda was diagnosed with a brain tumor and her left side of her body was affected and her cognitive as well. She was sitting beside me, I embraced her and couldn't say anything. I was shocked to hear the news and everybody was quiet. Baltaz told me that she didn't like to be operated on because their friend died of the same condition like her when the doctor operated on him. So, Linda decided to take alternative medicines and do some therapy. Everybody was quiet and to lighten up the atmosphere I told them that I have gifts for every family. They were so happy to receive their gifts. I stayed in our parent's house. My brother Baldis and his family also stayed at our parent's house. My brother Baldis and his wife Jocelyn doted on me at home. Jocelyn cooked delicious food every day. All fresh vegetables, fresh fish, organic chicken and also variety of fresh fruits. My niece raised chickens for their consumption. Sometimes my other brother Julio or Baltaz came to eat with me either at breakfast, lunch or supper before going to their work or after coming from work. I am just glad that the houses of my siblings are near each other. It's just at the back of our parent's house. It was easy for me to walk to visit them. It was really a "Home Sweet Home" to me having



a fun time with my siblings. My sister Cora and I attend mass every day at the Monastery of the Daughters of Mary Mediatrix from Monday through Friday. It took us 10 minutes to drive by tricycle. On Sunday Baldis, Jocelyn and I attend mass at St. Augustine Church in our home town.

All missionaries are scheduled for physical check-up every time they come home for Home Visits. Either they go to Notre Dame de Chartres Hospital in Baguio or Perpetual Succuor Hospital in Cebu. It's the generosity and courtesy of Philippine Province. I went for my physical check-up at Notre Dame Hospital in Baguio because it's only an hour drive from our house. My physical check-up went well. My doctor just told me to diet – watch what I ate. After my check-up, I went for my Retreat at the monastery of the Daughters of Mary Mediatrix. I had a wonderful and peaceful Retreat. I enjoyed my Retreat. I had mass every day. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed 24 hours every day. I had all my prayers in front of the Blessed Sacrament. My room was near the chapel and it was conducive for me to pray at night any time I wanted. It was a very peaceful place to have a retreat.



After my retreat, there was a nasty typhoon that affected my home town. The wind was so strong that I thought the roof of our house would be blown. We couldn't sleep. There was a power outage. My brother told me to be prepared as we might evacuate because the river near us was almost overflowing. Thank God it did not happen. The weather was so hot and humid that I got sick. I had a cold, was coughing and had a fever too. I had no chance to go anywhere which was good for me because I had more time for my family and to be with Linda.

Another highlight of my home visit was our reunion with cousins on my father's side. They came to see me before heading back to Manila to prepare myself to return to the US. Jocelyn as usual cooked a delicious meal with the help of my niece Shirley and my sister Cora. They cooked Filipino dishes. Plenty of fresh vegetables, broiled fresh fish, organic chicken adobo etc.. and fresh fruits too. We enjoyed our camaraderie. We reminisced our childhood memories. We laughed and enjoyed telling stories of when we were growing up. Before they left, they wished me good luck for my mission and wished me a safe and happy trip to the US. In turn I wished them a happy and healthy family life. Since they are all siblings, I told them to continue loving, helping and being supportive



to each other, and to forgive each other whenever there is a misunderstanding. The next day, my brother Baldis and his wife Jocelyn brought me to the bus station to take a bus going to Manila. The bus left at 9:00am and arrived in Manila at 4:30 pm. I had to wait for the driver at the terminal station until 8 pm because he had an errand to do. When he came to fetch me, he let us pass the place where people are selling colorful Christmas lanterns with psychedelic lights. It was so beautiful to watch the stores with so many displayed handmade Christmas lanterns with colorful electric lights in it.

I stayed 3 more days at the Provincial House to prepare myself to return to the US. Sr. Marivic came to give goodies for the Sisters in the US. Sr. Magdalene also sent 6 small boxes of Dried Mangoes coated with chocolates. The Sisters in Baguio sent a bag of special brewed coffee. On the day of my departure for the US, Sr. Lilia and the Sisters gave a despedida party for me. There were as always delicious Filipino cuisine and a variety of fruits. The young Sisters presented a short program. They gave a rendition of songs and dances. The lyrics of their songs were so touching that I couldn't help but cry. It was my turn to give a short speech. I thank them for their wonderful and melodious songs, for being joyful and energetic. I told them to persevere and be faithful to their vocation and to our Lord. To Sister Lilia, her Council and all the Sisters I thanked them for their warm hospitality, their love and support to us missionaries. We were really taken care of whenever we passed by the Provincial House. Before we embarked to the airport at 4:45pm again the young Sisters bid me goodbye with their joyful action songs. Their songs are very "catchy" that I couldn't help but join them in singing and dancing. The Sisters were so joyful. Sister Lilia and the Sisters hugged me and wished me a happy and safe trip. My groupmate Sr. Divinagracia and Sr. Fidelia Villa brought me to the airport at 5pm on September 30th. I carried all the Sisters in my heart remembering their joyful send off. Thank you very much Sr. Lilia and the Philippine Province Sisters for your love and support. May God bless you always.





PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH – STEPHENSON, MICHIGAN, YOU ARE BLEST!

With you we too are blest!

By Sr. Norma Vicentillo

October 16, 2018 - Tuesday.

That was the day Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen and I, Sr. Norma Vicentillo moved into the Sisters' Convent in the Precious Blood Parish at Stephenson, Michigan. It is 45 minute drive from Escanaba, where our four other Sisters are ministering at Bishop Noa Home.

After what was seemingly a long wait- finally we are here! We were all set, packed and ready to move the second week of September when Fr. Ronald Timock, the Pastor – Administrator of the Parish informed us that they still have to do some finishing touches to the renovation of the Sisters' convent. The period of waiting increased the excitement from our end, and we learned later that those who were working so hard on the renovations, mostly volunteers and parishioners with Father Timock were all excited to welcome us, too.

Earlier, the second week of June this year, after our District Assembly, the District Superior Sr. Estela Garcia and council members Sr. Gloria Schultz, Sr. Dorothea Jang and Sr. Mary Ann Laurin who is an Assistant to the Mother General in Rome came to see the place and had a preliminary talk with Father Ronald Timock regarding his desire to have a Sister assigned in his Parish. We saw the Sisters' convent needed some fixing as it had not been occupied for more than ten years since the last Sister retired and went back to her Motherhouse.

We can just marvel and be truly grateful for what was before our eyes! We were so touched with what these dedicated parishioners with Fr. Timock did to renovate the convent. They transformed and decently beautified the house! And when we finally met them; Vicky the Presi-



dent, and the members of the Legion of Mary, the members of the Parish Council, all the Parish Staff and other Religious Associations and Women's Prayer Group in the Parish, we just felt their warm welcome and realized all the hard work and the love they have put into all the details of the preparations of receiving and welcoming us- Sisters. We are so grateful to God for this lavish love and care we experienced from the community here. Fr. Timock

himself met us when we arrived and he helped us in unloading our suitcases and baggage from the car and bring them up to our convent. He brought us to the grocery store to shop for food and immediate needs and took time to introduce us to all members of the Parish Council and



religious organization of the Parish. Then he scheduled a formal Welcome for the Sisters with the Parishioners; that is coffee and a light meal after Saturday Evening mass of October 27th and breakfast after 9:00am Sunday mass of October 28th.

Gradually, Fr. Timock showed us around places, restaurants, and pointed to us the Holy Redeemer Church in Menominee, where we can attend Mass when he goes off on Thursdays. He also oriented us to the Parish activities where we get involved. He bought us a sack, seriously a sack of candies and chocolates to be given away to the kids who will come for Trick or Treating on October 31st.

We are now getting involved in the Parish, attending the Legion of Mary weekly prayer on Wednesday morning, prayer group for women Monday evening, CCD class on Wednesday evening, visitation for parishioners that are home bound and visiting residents at the Nursing Home, assisting Father as altar server at Mass and as Eucharistic Ministers, and journeying with families that are grieving, attending Parish Council Meeting once a month, and helping out in the Music ministry.

Thank you Lord for sending us here. You have manifested your love and care through the people we meet everywhere in this lovely, peaceful place; kindhearted, generous, and spirit-filled people. We felt honored to be here and we pray that you give us the courage and strength to give of ourselves selflessly as you did; and that our prayer and our way of life may witness to your own love and care for them, that we become a credible proclamation of your good news. Amen.





My Becoming a US Citizen

By Sr. Juliana Young Ok Djo

This is my eventful journey of becoming a US Citizen as a religious missionary nun.

My Journey of becoming a US Citizen began back in March 2003. I first arrived in the USA in Minneapolis, MN airport. It was quite big and crowded with people. I found my connection but realized it was going to be a very long layover in the airport. I thought it was only going to be 3 hours, but then it turned out to be over 6 hours! This caused me to be delayed and it concerned me so I called the convent. I didn't arrive until Midnight (12:10 a.m.) and I was greeted by two Sisters who waited for me. I was very excited to see them and they were so kind and welcoming to me. It was snowing that morning and I was excited to see the snow.

The following day of my arrival, I had to start adjusting to a totally different language, food and culture.

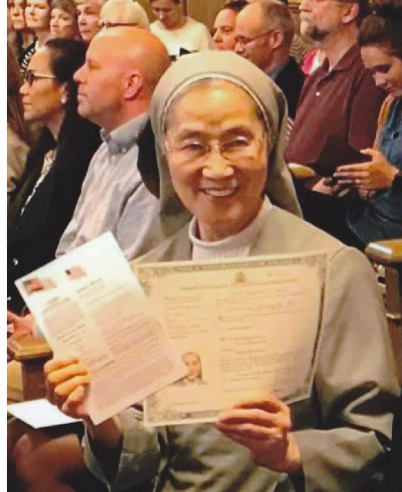
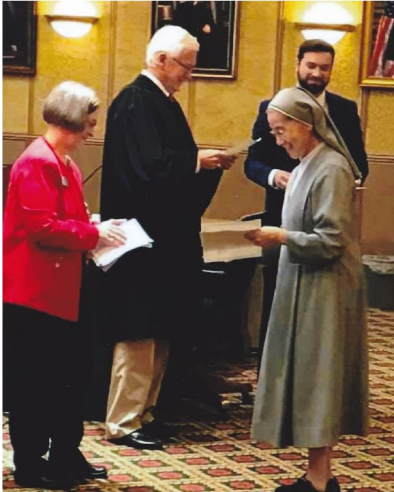
I had become accustomed to many new Sisters of different nationalities. I had to learn many, many new things day by day. This is not uncommon to my religious years. However, it was difficult at times. I had to ask myself, "Is it exciting? Is it challenging? Is it overwhelming?" There was so much stirring in my heart! I found myself spending time in silence, praying, learning the basics of the community. But it was always different from one day to the next! It was very humbling as I was learning. Each person had a different idea of what I should be doing and how I should be doing it. It was a great lesson in humility! Thankfully others

were patient with me. Now I am doing better and more confident of the whole experience.

Fast forward to January of 2018. I applied to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to become a US Citizen. In April 2018, I had to go to Detroit for an interview which included verbal testing that I understood the language, my ability to speak the language, and a written test of my understanding the basics of being a US Citizen. I passed!

On September 20, 2018, I went to the Federal Court House in Marquette and participated in an oath taking ceremony for becoming a US Citizen. Many peo-





ple, our Sisters and my friends were there to witness this event. The ceremony was recorded by me. They welcomed me and stated that they were happy and grateful that I am a new fellow American citizen.

Many people shared with me afterward their experience of immigration to the USA. Others said, "God is so good to you and us by your becoming a US Citizen!" People welcomed and encouraged me. They said they were proud of my accomplishment and happy for me. They hope that I would feel welcomed here. Someone gave me a sign for my front door that reads, "No matter where you are from you are welcome as my neighbor." Others stated they are happy to have me as a missionary of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres to bring Jesus the Holy Eucharist to our homebound and elderly in the nursing homes. This brings them great joy! Praise Jesus! For all my good friends.

I thank all for your support and encouragement especially from my good friends and Martha Jennings, my lawyer, who helped me fill out the paperwork, and Gail Hermann who helped me study for my test and also our Sisters who prayed for me and drove me on the long trip to Detroit. Thanks to them I have been able to turn the page to a new chapter in the USA!





50th Jubilee Celebration

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

As I continue to celebrate my jubilee, my heart is full of praise and thanks and I give glory to God for His call and faithfulness throughout the years. I am so thankful for my religious vocation and for God's call. It is so wonderful because not only does God call, it is God who has sustained me throughout the years and helped me to be faithful. It is God who loved me first and has continued to love me giving me all the graces that I needed along the way. So I ask you to join me in giving glory and praise to God.

I am deeply grateful for the Sisters of St. Paul who accepted me and who formed me and helped me to grow in my relationship with God. Their faithful witness and desire to further the Kingdom of God has been a guide and inspiration to me in my own journey to love and serve the Lord.

I came to religious life with a love for Scripture. The Sisters helped this love to grow. In the novitiate Sr. Helen Looby taught me Scripture and my Sisters gave me opportunities after that to continue to study. So Scripture has been a sustaining part of my spirituality. While I love many passages from Scripture that have helped me along the way, the one I chose for my holy cards is: "I am confident of this, God will bring to completion the good work that he has begun in you." (Phil. 1:6) How thankful I am to know that God who is faithful will be faithful and complete the work. This is a great gift to me. It fills me with hope and joy.

I count my blessings as I give thanks for my family and friends who shaped me and always been there for me loving and supporting me. I have always said that I am spoiled by God. The number of people who joined me to celebrate is an example of how God has spoiled me with love and supported me through so many years.

With the Sisters, my family and friends came memories. Memories as you know are a sacrament that brings an experience to the present so I was filled with joy for the countless memories and experiences that have filled my life. My jubilee became a sacred time of remembering incredible stories, stories that wove together my religious life. They were stories that were retold in the remembering and which I hold in gratitude that led me to hope. So I not only give thanks that God called and loves me and has helped me to remain faithful, I give thanks for the gift of remembering; for the gift of all who came to celebrate as well as those who could not join me in person who sent greetings.

I am mindful that jubilee celebrations are about perseverance possible through God's mercy so this gives me a profound



gratitude. As we continue together on the journey to build the kingdom of God, let us pray for one another and give glory to God for his faithful love in our lives.



**District Assembly****June 4 – 8 , 2018**

The Sisters gathered in Marquette for our District Assembly on “Healing Emotions: Anger, Anxiety, Grief and Fear”. It was presented by Fr. William J. Jarema of Mercy Center, Colorado Springs, CO. Sr. Mary Ann suggested him to be our speaker. Some Sisters had gone to the Mercy Center and had experienced Fr. Bill’s expertise.

Fr. Bill divided the workshops into five categories: Monday was Anger; Tuesday was Anxiety; Wednesday was Fear; Thursday was Grief; and Friday was Shame and Guilt. Fr. Bill assigned us by two’s and one group was three Sisters. There was a lot of discussion and sharing. Everybody was engaging in sharing. With Fr. Bill’s guidance we found ourselves opening up and willing to share during the discussion of the topic given to us. We had a wonderful time reflecting, discussing, and sharing during the workshops. I believe the Holy Spirit was working within us because everybody showed interest and gratefulness for this District Assembly. It was a phenomenal experience that helped us to have a healthy and supportive community.

**A heartfelt thank you to everyone
who donated to our community
and Mission Projects**

Jeanneane Adamini, Marquette, MI
 Rose Allard, Rose City, MI
 Norbert Beauchamp, Marquette, MI
 Timothy & Dianne Bennett, Marquette, MI
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 Catherine Tolnay, Silver Spring, MD
 In honor of Sr. Gloria's 50th anniversary
 Margaret Trone, Bethesda, MD
 Tim & Karen Williams, Oregon, WI
 Don & Rita Zalewski, Stevens Point, MI



Compassionate Hearts Club



Thank you for your continued support of our Mission Projects which include the Catholics Schools in the Marquette Diocese, Central Africa, Victims of Human Trafficking and relief in Haiti. In our 10th year, October 2017 to October 2018 we collected \$21,546.00 in donations.

We have also launched the 11th year in October with our annual Compassionate Hearts Club mailing with the same Mission Projects. If you would like to donate to any or all of these projects we accept donations all year. The need for these Mission Projects is ongoing and the donations are appreciated.

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 Jim & Pat Drysdale, Moorhead, MN
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Want more information about becoming a Sister of St. Paul?

You may write or email Sr. Estela Garcia at:

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

1300 County Road 492

Marquette, MI 49855

Email: srstpaulweb@yahoo.com

www.sistersofstpaulus.org



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_____ I wish to make a donation for _____

_____ I wish to make a donation for _____ to the

Mission Projects

_____ To rebuild Haiti Schools and Haitian relief

_____ Victims of Human Trafficking

_____ The Catholic Schools in Marquette Diocese

_____ Central Africa