



Alleluia! He Is Risen!





## Reflection from the District Superior

I always love Holy Week – the richness and the variety of the themes we pray through from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. I meditate on the high hopes of the disciples as Jesus is saluted as king on Palm Sunday and on the mystery of Jesus' love as he washes feet and gives himself in the Holy Eucharist on Holy Thursday.

Then I try enter into the agony of Jesus in the Garden, in the betrayal of Judas, and in the aloneness he experiences in his arrest and imprisonment, and the pain he endures in the all the events of Good Friday.

In the bleakness of Holy Saturday, I wait with Mary in emptiness and faith. The ecstatic joy of Easter Sunday is a big contrast to the suffering of the preceding days, and I imagine what it was like for Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, Thomas, and the disciples of Emmaus to see Jesus again after he rose from the dead.

More and more I realize how much Mary supported Jesus, believed in his teachings, and cooperated with him in his total self-offering. And, even

though we have no scriptural proof that Jesus appeared to his mother, St. Ignatius has us imagine that he did. St. Ignatius says that in John's Gospel it is written, "There are many other things Jesus did that are not written down... (John 21:25.)" and that "The appearance to his mother may be one of them."

One characteristic of the Sisters of St. Paul is that we identify strongly with the paschal mystery. On the physical, psychological, and the spiritual levels, we strive to see the pains, sufferings, and losses that we experience as dying with Christ, and also the joys, healings, and blessings we experience as rising with Christ.

***Jesus is truly risen, and nothing will ever be the same! Alleluia!***

- Sr. Mary Ann Laurin

## From the Archives

Bishop Thomas L. Noa invited the Sisters of St. Paul to the United States in 1963. Our first home was at the Holy Family Orphanage building in Marquette from 1963 - 1966.

When the Sisters first arrived, there were still two orphans waiting to be adopted. The Catholic Social Services was housed at the orphanage. The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, who ran St. Mary's Hospital (now Jacobetti Veteran's Facility) lived there, too. So did about 30 Cuban youth who were sent by their parents from Cuba in the early 1960's due to the political situation there.

The founding Sisters of St. Paul came from France, Ireland, Canada, and the Philippines, and all lived at the orphanage for some time. After that, four Sisters went to Escanaba to begin Bishop Noa Nursing Home and seven Sisters went to Menominee to staff Saint William's School. The first 7 American novices also entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul during the stay at the orphanage.

In 1966, the Diocese of Marquette turned over the orphanage to the government for President Johnson's "War on Poverty." It became a re-training center for workers. Consequently, all the people who had been living at the orphanage had to move out.

From March 1966 to March 1968, the young Sisters in the novitiate lived in the old St. Joseph Convent in Ishpeming. The other Sisters of St. Paul from the orphanage lived for one year in the old St. John convent at the corner of Fourth and Washington Street in Marquette. When that building was demolished, the Sisters of St. Joseph offered our Sisters teaching at St. Christopher School housing in their convent at St. Michael's in Marquette.

In March of 1968, the new motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Paul was finished and all the dispersed Sisters moved into it. Bishop Charles Salatka blessed the new building in July of 1968.



*Left to Right: Sr. Bernadette Charles, 1st USA District Superior, Mother Anne of St. John, Council Member from Rome, Mother Marie Paul Bord, Superior General, and Bishop Noa, in 1963*

## District Assembly

### *“Strong in Hope, Fearless We Go”(2 Cor. 3:12)*

March 16 and 17, 2007 saw the USA District of the Sisters of St. Paul gather together in Marquette, Michigan to pray and reflect together in preparation for the coming General Chapter, which will be held in Rome during September 2007.

Every six years, our Congregation holds a General Chapter in Rome. It is an international meeting where the Provincial, District and Regional Superiors, as well as delegates from each country where we have Sisters, gather together to look at issues that face us. The theme for the 2007 Chapter is *“Strong in Hope, Fearless We Go.”*

We began our District Assembly with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alexander Sample, in which we asked for the guidance of the Holy Spirit at our meeting and the meetings of our Sisters throughout the world. Bishop Sample's

remarks invited us to seek always to love God with our whole being and all people as God loves them. He reminded us that religious life is a gift for the whole church, and that we are to be models for others.

*“We cannot take one another for granted since our backgrounds and experiences are so different.”*

At our Assembly, we voted for Sr. Rosalie Hughes to be the “capitulant” from the USA District who will attend the General Chapter in Rome with Sr. Mary Ann Laurin in September of 2007. We also selected Bishop Noa Home in Escanaba, Michigan to be *“a ministry to present in Rome to the Sisters from other countries.”* This part of the General Chapter is very interesting because we get to learn about very different ways our Sisters minister to people depending on the culture and situations going on around the world.

Another topic for sharing at our District Assembly and at the Assemblies in other countries is *“what impact being an international community has on us.”* In the USA, we discussed the need for patience, openness and honesty in seeking to understand and appreciate the gifts and needs of each Sister. We cannot take one another for granted since our backgrounds and experiences are so different.

A third topic looked at was *“suggestions for growing spiritually.”* In addition to daily faithfulness to prayer and the reading of the Scriptures, ideas that surfaced included frequent re-reading of the history of our first Sisters and the priests influential in our foundation, and frequent sharing together of the spirituality so evident in our *Book of Life* (Constitutions.)



*Sisters of St. Paul with Bishop Alexander Sample*



*Bishop Emeritus James Garland visits with Sisters Rosaline, Nenita, Estela and Anne Charles after Mass on March 17th.*



*District Council: Sr. Therese Vu, Sr. Mary Ann Laurin and Sr. Estela Garcia*

## Off to Vietnam



Sr. Felicienne Trinh

*“We will always cherish Sr. Felicienne’s beautiful laugh, her willingness to help everyone, and the quiet way in which she worked.”*



Sr. Felicienne with co-worker, Don, working in the food pantry

Sr. Felicienne Trinh, arriving from Saigon, Vietnam in 1990, was the first Vietnamese Sister to join the USA District of the Sisters of St. Paul. When she returns to Vietnam this May, we will miss her very much.

In Vietnam, Sr. Felicienne was a teacher in a Catholic Elementary School for 22 years; then after the “reunification” of Vietnam in 1975, was a secretary in the same school for nine years. She also served 2 years as an aide to the Secretary General of the Saigon Province of the Sisters of St. Paul.

Sr. Felicienne spoke French fluently, and when she first arrived in Marquette, the Sisters communicated with her in French – some with fluency and some in broken French. Sr. Felicienne learned English with studies at the Marquette Community School, where she remembers her teachers fondly.

Within a few years of her arrival, Sr. Felicienne decided, “Even if my English is not perfect, I want to help the poor.” So she became a volunteer at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, working 2 days a week from 1995 until the present time. She also became a volunteer for the Catholic Services at the Marquette Branch Prison from 1995 until 2006, when women were no longer allowed at the inside Catholic Services. In 2006 she began visiting the jail.

We will always cherish Sr. Felicienne’s beautiful laugh, her willingness to help everyone, and the quiet way in which she worked. She is a witness of the humility and simplicity of a Sister of St. Paul. We hope she will come back to visit us. God bless you Sr. Felicienne. We will always be united in our prayers.

### TAKE TIME

Take time to pray...it helps to bring God near and washes the dust of earth from your eyes.

Take time for friends....they are the source of happiness.

Take time for work... it is the price of success.

Take time to think... it is the source of power.

Take time to read... it is the foundation of knowledge.

Take time to laugh... it is the singing that helps with life’s loads.

Take time to love... it hitches the soul to the stars.

Take time to play... it is the secret of youth.

Take time to worship... it is the highway to reverence.

-- Author Unknown

### Could you be getting a call from God?

Talk to us.... Are you interested in Religious Life? Do you think you would make a good Sister? Adventurous, kind, compassionate?

Contact the Director for Vocations at Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres for information.



Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres  
Sister Mary Ann Laurin, S.P.C.  
1300 County Road 492  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906)226-3932  
malaurin9@aol.com

### Update on Sisters since January 1, 2007

In Escanaba, Sr. Nenita Leonardo is now working in the In-service Department at Bishop Noa Home, and Sr. Rosaline Charoentantavit is now working in the Activities Department of Bishop Noa Home. In addition to her Spiritual Care ministry at Bishop Noa Home, Sr. Gloria has been working in Pastoral Ministry since Sr. Lucienne left. Sr. Rosaline also works in Pastoral Ministry 3 days a week.

Sr. Maria Pham is in Marquette studying English as a Second Language full-time, Sr. Therese Vu is a volunteer Eucharistic Minister at Marquette General Hospital two days a week.

In Washington DC, Sr. Martha Trinh is taking Clinical Pastoral Education while continuing to work at St. Jane's Parish.



# Where Are We Today?



Today, there are over 4000 SPC Sisters worldwide working on five continents and in about 30 countries. Among these are:

**Africa:** Cameroon, Madagascar, and Republic of Central Africa

**America:** The Antilles, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, French Guinea, Haiti, Peru, and the United States

**Asia:** China, East Timor, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam,

**Australia:** Australia

**Europe:** England, France, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Switzerland

## Focus on Japan

The Japan Province is rather small in number of the houses and that of the members, while we have a good number of schools, from kindergarten to universities, with two children's homes for social welfare.

The apostolate of the Japan Province started in Hakodate, Hokkaido, an island north of the main land, with an orphanage in 1878. We still have a "Baby Home" as our social welfare activity. However, the situations are very different. At present, most of the babies are not orphans but deserted children. They are not wanted or being properly taken care of, even hurt both physically and mentally; sometimes even not fed well. That's why we started a new project of "Day Service" to train young, often immature, mothers by some talks as well as practical exercises to learn how to take good care of their own children. This program has already produced unbelievable fruit. Not only leaning and practicing under the direction of experienced nurses and teachers, but they find time to discuss and often solve each one's problems through talking among themselves.

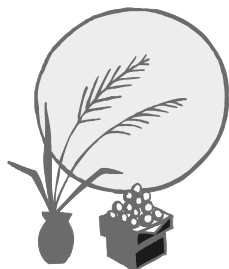
Sendai Shiryuri College started only 10 years ago, responding to the need of the contemporary Japanese society, which is full of the elderly, while there are less and less young ones. They have four departments; of Human Developmental Science, of Comprehensive Welfare; majoring in Life Assistance service and in Human Welfare, of Health and Nutrition—majoring in Nutritional

Management and in Food Science, and in International Culture and Communication.

The students of the department of Comprehensive Welfare can get licensed as a care worker, recognized by the government at the time they graduate. In 2005, we built a Home for the elderly people on our campus, with some financial support of City Sendai, as the area had not had enough facilities for the ones who need urgent help and care. It serves for our students as well to be trained as excellent specialists, with enough knowledge and practical skills for taking care of the elderly or disabled.

They could easily go and practice what they learn at college, and the elderly are impressed with their young energy. The members of Izumi Community, where some Sisters are working as staff of Sendai Shiryuri College, go and work as volunteers. It will be an especially good mission for the Sisters who have already retired from full-time jobs. They offer a wonderful service, even if they just sit and listen and talk, saying the rosary, singing hymns together, or serving the Holy Mass on feast days. — Sr. Therese-Marie Hirota, Japan Province

*Sr. Lucienne e-mailed us from the Philippines and said she had a wonderful reception and is remembering all of us in her prayers.*



*"It will be an especially good mission for the Sisters who have already retired from full-time jobs. They offer a wonderful service, even if they just sit and listen and talk, saying the rosary, singing hymns together, or serving the Holy Mass."*

### Good ole Country Wisdom

1. You can't unsay a cruel thing.
2. Every path has some puddles.
3. Don't wrestle with pigs: You'll get all muddy and the pigs will love it.
4. The best sermons are lived, not preached.
5. Most of the stuff people worry about never happens.

## Sister—Who Are You?

I was born in Ireland on July 18, 1914, the fourth of six children. There are three boys and three girls. My father was Patrick Cahill from BarnDerry and my mother was Annie Lawlor. We had a small farm large enough to rear six healthy children.

My life as a child was carefree. We used to play with neighboring children. Our favorite games were hurling and rounder - which is known as baseball in the United States. My mother was very religious. She taught me to pray and every night we would say the rosary together as a family.

I attended a two-year teacher National School. We often talked about convent life since one of the older girls spoke of becoming a nun. I often went into town to visit the Presentation nuns and on one of the occasions one of the nuns asked me what I planned to do with my life. I said, "I will leave the world." News of this got around the convent. Mother Angela who was prefect of the Children of Mary said one day during a meeting, "There are more sins committed in London in one day than in all Ireland in a whole year." I said to myself, "I have to do something about this." That is when I made up my mind to be a missionary Sister. I kept it a secret for some time, but when a missionary Sister of St. Paul de Charters visited the convent looking for postulants, I was called for an interview.

Sr. Elizabeth was everything but attractive. She gave me a picture of their Sisters sailing to the missions guided by an angel. That touched a chord in my heart and I decided to go with her. She said she would be sailing to England on such a date and I should be ready with my trousseau and my suitcase on that day. Our meeting was to be at George's Hill. I was glad to have three companions with me. I could see the hand of God in every detail.

Then, after sometime in Bloxwich, England where I was studying, Mother Lucie called me to her office and told me to prepare my suitcase because I would leave for Chartres, France with two girls who had just arrived from Ireland. We set off the following day hoping to reach Chartres. Somehow, sometime,



*Sr. Anne Patrice Cahill*

Mother Lucie had arranged for somebody to meet us at each stop on the journey. I had no idea of the value of the French money. Having arrived at the train station in Chartres, I saw a Sister waiting for us. Now, I could breathe at ease. We arrived!

At once, we were led to the big refectory (dining room). Every place seemed huge. We were introduced to the Novice Mistress and Sister Theophane. Then I met the Irish girls who had been in Bloxwich ahead of me. My postulancy lasted 9 months. During that time, I studied the Gospel in French. We had to recite to Mother Eprem. We were eleven in our group. I was still growing taller during my time in the Novitiate. I was worrying that my dress was short. Anyway I practiced how to sew and hem it. I was assigned to mend the office books.

Finally, the date of profession day was announced. I had some tears because I didn't have any member in my family to attend my first vows. I remained in France during my temporary vows. I was sent to a small hospital and worked under the direction of Sr. Camille, but my thought was always on going to the missions. At that time I was allowed to go home, to visit my family for a couple of weeks, and to say goodbye. As the time for leaving for the missions was approaching, I was to tell to my family that I would go to Japan, but things changed and now I had to tell them that I was going to the Philippines. They found it less foreign and they were somewhat consoled.

When I left France, I was with temporary vows, and I was prepared to make my perpetual vows in the Philippines. When I finished my perpetual vows, I became a Novice Mistress for 16 years. I was elected as a member of the General Chapter in 1971.

— Sr. Anne Patrice Cahill

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

You may write or email Sr. Mary Ann Laurin at:

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

1300 County Road 492

Marquette, MI 49855

Email: malaurin9@aol.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 \_\_\_\_\_



**Escanaba Convent**



**Bishop Noa Home**



**More Country Wisdom**

1. Life is simpler when you plow around the stumps.
2. Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.
3. Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.
4. Man is the only critter who feels the need to label things as flowers or weeds.
5. It doesn't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

**Thank you to Benefactors**

We extend a heartfelt "Thank You!" to all our family members, friends, and benefactors for your contributions. We will honor the intentions of your donations, whether they are for our upcoming renovations, our missions in other countries, or "to be used as needed." You have been remembered to God in our prayers regularly.

Anonymous, Marquette, MI  
 Margarita Abbey, Hyattsville, MD  
 The Hugh S. Andrew Trust, Gaithersburg, MD  
 Robert & Ann Belonga, St. Ignace, MI  
 In memory of Lisa Emery  
 James & Rose Blahnik, Bark River, MI  
 Robert & Maria Brook, Sugar Land, TX  
 Wallace & Barbara Bruce, Marquette, MI  
 Canale-Tonella Funeral Home, Marquette, MI  
 Shirley A. Charlier, Carney, MI

Church of the American Martyrs, Kingsford, MI

Lorraine Dupras, Marquette, MI  
 Barbara Walch Growdon, Escanaba  
 E. Patricia Hallman, Washington, DC  
 Sara Hughes, Washington, DC  
 Hazel Hulverson, Marquette, MI  
 Marjorie Knight, Washington, DC  
 Grace Korhonen, Negaunee, MI  
 Filomena Martin, Palmdale, CA  
 Pho V. Lam, Minnetonka, MN  
 Thomas & Carol LaPenna, Marquette, MI  
 Ivan Laurin, Carney, MI  
 Mary Martin, Marquette, MI  
 Scott & Terry Matejik, Bethesda, MD  
 Edward & Janice Noel, Marquette, MI  
 Remelia Mila Ped, Falkland Islands, UK  
 Maria Terry, Bethesda, MD  
 Dr. & Mrs. Tuu D. Vu, Adelphi, MD  
 Chet White, Escanaba, MI  
 Rita & Christopher Willour, Marquette, MI  
 Rev. James Ziminski, Garden, MI



**Sisters of St. Paul  
de Chartres**

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres  
1300 County Road 492  
Marquette, MI 49855



Easter 2007

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage

PAID

MARQUETTE, MI  
PERMIT NO. 0083

**New Sister of St. Paul from  
Korea in Washington DC**

On February 25, 2007 we welcomed Sr. Cecilia Kim from Korea to the Washington DC convent. She is in the United States to study Sandplay Therapy for her psychological therapy practice in Korea. Sister Cecilia will be staying with our Sisters in Washington DC until July of 2008.

*"Sandplay therapy is a psychotherapeutic tool used with children and adults. The method consists of the client's creation of a three-dimensional picture with miniature figures in a tray of sand in the protective presence of a trained practitioner."*  
[www.sandplay.org](http://www.sandplay.org)



**Something to Think About**

**DEATH -- WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO  
EXPLAIN IT**

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know?" the man asked. "You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough."