

ONE
Night, ONE
Star,
ONE
Child





Merry Christmas to All!

The sounds of Christmas songs
echoes through my mind
and brings much joy to my heart
as I sing those happy rhymes.

But so much more than that,
I think of God's great gift
of sending Jesus Christ, a babe,
to heal and to forgive.
So as we sing with joyful hearts,
let's think of Jesus Christ
and how He came that first Christmas
to give to us new life.



*May you be richly blessed this Christmas
Season and throughout the year.*

*A novena of masses is being offered for
you and your intentions.*

*We hold you in our hearts and in our
prayers.*

Merry Christmas!





Missing Sr. Francis Mortola!

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

In our last newsletter, we informed you that Sr. Francis was returning to the Philippines. We are missing her a great deal and want to share more about her life while she was in District USA as well as an update on what is happening now.

Sr. Francis arrived as a missionary in the United States in April of 1985. In the summer of the following year, she went with Sr. Editha and Sr. Marie Claire to open the mission in Washington, D.C. where she was the local superior and served in Nativity School and in pastoral ministry at Nativity Parish until 1997. She was then transferred to Marquette, Michigan where she served as pastoral coordinator of St. Christopher Parish until 1999.

Sr. Francis then returned to the Philippines to be with her mother who was very ill and dying. In 2001 she returned to the United States and served the Native Americans until 2003. After that she returned to the Philippines.

While Sr. Francis was in the Philippines, she was sent to San Francisco to open a mission there where she served as local superior and worked in pastoral ministry until 2006. The end of that year she returned to the Philippines where she worked at Mount St. Paul until she returned to the United States in 2008.

After Sr. Francis returned, she served as local superior in Marquette and ministered at Our Lady Help of Christian Center serving the poor at Sawyer at the former Air Force Base. The name was later changed to St. Francis Connection Center. She was available to the people who came to the Center and helped with the food distribution programs as



well as spiritual needs.

While this tells a little about what Sr. Francis did in the States, it does not tell how she touched our lives and tremendous difference that her presence made in District USA. Everyone that knows Sr. Francis, knows something about the delicious food that she prepared or something about her baking skills. We are all missing her talents and the ways that she shared these skills.

For us as Sisters of St. Paul, we are missing her on even more important levels. She brought a wealth of experience in community. She shared that experience as a local superior and as a council member. She always had excellent ideas and a listening ear. She was also a witness to us of how to live community life. Her faith and love of God were an inspiration. She gave endlessly of her time, talent and gift of herself. I could go on and on about the ways Sr. Francis touched our lives. Instead, I invite you to remember the ways she touched your life, to give thanks for her, and to pray for her.



Sr. Francis now lives in Cagayan de Oro City which is her home town. She lives with 8 other Sisters in the local community at Maria Reyna-Xavier University Hospital. She helps Sr. Pureza Arana who is the head of pastoral care at the hospital. She visits the patients which average about 110 patients each day.





Sr. Francis is also using her gifts as a baker so this is good news. She is doing some baking that is sold in the canteen of the Sisters at the hospital. While we miss the benefits of her baking, it is good to know that others are benefiting from her great gifts and talent.

As you know, the purpose of her return to the Philippines was to be near her sister, Delsa. Delsa still lives in Cagayan de Oro so Sr. Francis is very near. She connects with her often to check on her and is available to travel with Delsa for doctor's appointments. It is a good arrangement.

Many are asking for Sr. Francis address so I am including it in the newsletter for your convenience if you so desire. It is as follows:

Sr. Francis Mortola

Maria Reyna Xavier University Hospital
P.O. Box 94
9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Philippines

We are thankful for the presence of Sr. Francis in the District for so many years and for the ways that she blessed and enriched our lives. We wish her well and ask God to shower her with an abundance of blessings and to heal Delsa.





First Profession of Sr. Priscilla De Guzman

By Sr. Gloria Schultz



Great excitement filled the air as we gathered at St. Christopher Church on September 7 for the first vows of Sr. Priscilla. She had entered the Congregation in the Philippines and then left to take care of her parents and family needs. During her years taking care of family, she never forgot her call to religious life so after the death of her parents she responded again to her call to be a Sister of St. Paul de Chartres. This time she entered in the United States and after the required year of novitiate, she took her vows.

We gathered at 2 p.m. to take pictures. That is always an entertaining adventure with the



Sisters as all sorts of arrangements and groups are taken. It brings joy and fun as the creativity of the photographers unfolds.

The picture taking wasn't quite finished, when our guests began to arrive so we ended this phase and started to greet our guests with excitement and love. We were thankful to see so many who responded to our invitation and joined us in celebrating this great moment in the history of the District and in the life of Sr. Priscilla.



Her blood sisters from California surprised her. Sr. Priscilla was moved to tears when she went to the back of the Church for the offertory procession and discovered them present. Quick thinking added them to the offertory procession for a treasured moment.

It is always a moving experience when one commits their life to God. The love and sincerity when Sr. Priscilla pronounced her vows was clearly evident. It moved my heart deeply and thanks spilled over everywhere. Sr. Priscilla was home again.



The celebrating continued at a reception in the Church Hall. A simple meal was shared as we enjoyed the presence of one another.

Now we give thanks to God for Sr. Priscilla's continued response to God and ask God to give her all the graces that she needs as she goes forward.

Sr. Priscilla moved to Escanaba the end of October and started her ministry at the Bishop Noa Home. May God sustain her in her time of transition and new ministry. Please keep her in your prayers.



Welcome Sr. Norma Vicentillo!

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

Sr. Juliana and I were off to the airport as the moment had finally come when Sr. Norma was arriving from the Philippines on August 26th. Great joy filled us as we welcomed Sr. Norma. She arrived safe and sound even though she was tired from the long trip.

Sr. Norma has begun the process of transition and adjusting.

What a gift to have her in our presence.

On September 5th, when all the Sisters were gathered for the profession of Sr. Priscilla, we had a ritual of welcome and blessing. We trust that God will give her all the grace that she needs to make the adjustment, especially the weather.



Sr. Norma joined me in Washington, D.C. in September as part of her adjustment as this is a great place to learn history and understand the American culture. Further preparation continued in Marquette so that she got a fuller understanding of the history of the Diocese of Marquette where she will live and serve.

Sr. Norma's first ministry is in pastoral ministry at Divine Living Infant Center in Wakefield. She left for Wakefield with Sr. Dorothea on November 19th. Please keep her in your prayers as she adjusts as a missionary in the United States.



My Vocation Story

By Sr. Norma Vicentillo

My vocation to the religious life came quietly as I grew up in a devout Catholic family. My second to the eldest brother, Francisco entered the Diocesan Formation Seminary in Cebu City the same year I was born. He was ordained April 12, 1964, few days before my graduation from Elementary School.

During the preparations, close and even distant relatives came to help. It was the whole towns' affair when a priest is ordained. Some relatives and friends of my father and mother would pick on me and always asked me if I want to become a sister. I always answered I don't know.

I can't remember when I started to memorize basic prayers. Guess it could be the constant hearing, mimicking, repeating as we usually pray the rosary together at night before we all go to bed. We were trained to be home before 6pm for the Angelus and when we forget, the church bells reminded us it was time to go home. During high school I joined the Legion of Mary and took the Devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes. I always felt close to Mama Mary even when I felt I was farthest away from God during my college days. Sunday masses stopped being a priority in my schedule. But when it was Wednesday and there was novena-mass to our Mother of Perpetual Help, I was always drawn to it. It is because every time I got sick (I had regular bouts with asthma as a child) I always asked her favor to heal me of the sickness and she always did.



Like many families, we had our struggles and problems to face when we were growing up. We just stopped going to mass together, and praying the rosary together. I was disillusioned with what I was seeing about the religious and parish priests in our diocese and the Catholic Church.

I also dreamt of meeting the perfect guy and having my own family. I had my childhood friend in high school and felt both our families approved of our friendship, hoping it can develop into a lifelong commitment. But deep in my heart I knew he was not whom my heart desires. I could not imagine giving myself to him and living with him forever.

I started to entertain other suitors and go out dating after college to find my ideal guy, but there was always something I was looking for and I was not always sure about my own feelings for the other. I told myself, I should love that man so much so that I would be willing to make a leap with him in the dark and not feel sorry for the decision I made. I again begged Mama Mary to help me find the best man she could give.

After working for almost 2 years in a district hospital in our town, that time allowed me to see and enjoy life with the love and attention from my mother, company of friends, satisfaction from work, having a salary of my own, but still feeling incomplete. After spending a long time of prayer and discernment, I surrendered and stopped running away from what was really haunting me. I was too shy to admit I wanted to become a sister. Some friends thought it was a waste of opportunities, and my mother feared I will not be able to withstand the discipline and hard work inside the convent.

That was the kind of feeling I was waiting for! The leap in the dark! The decision to enter was the very first major disobedience I ever made in my life. I also doubted that I don't have what it takes, I felt unworthy, but the urge, the call and desire was stronger. Mother Mary was giving me the best man ever she could give, her own Son Jesus!

I found my way through the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres at Cebu Doctors Hospital. I worked with them for a while and finally entered the convent in 1977. My mother waited for me to come home, my boyfriend visited me before my first profession in

1980 to find out if my decision was final. I have found him and I allowed myself to be found. I'm happy and will do whatever or go wherever it takes me if it is according to His will..



***Sr. Norma and her brother, Fr. Francis.
Recently above and in their youth below***





Celebrating 110 Years in the Philippines

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

With great joy Sr. Juliana Djo and I set off for the Philippines to represent the USA District at the celebration of the 110th Anniversary of the Foundation in the Philippines. Joined by other SPC Sisters from around the world we gathered with our Sisters from all over the Philippines in



Antipolo.

The days were filled with prayer, talks, programs that shared the richness of the culture of the Filipino people and our roots as Sisters of St. Paul, mass and prayer honoring our deceased Sisters buried in the cemetery on our grounds in Antipolo, meals, and tours to various places. One mass was with our friend Cardinal Tagle so seeing him again was a great gift. The mass was filled with

the angelic voices of our Sisters praising God, a lively life-giving homily by the Cardinal, and the joy of being together to celebrate and praise God. Volumes could be written about our experience and the ways that our lives were enriched, blessed, and gifted. Yet space here doesn't allow everything to be said





so I am forced to choose what will be shared.

While I could talk about all of the different experiences and places that we visited, what I most carry in my heart is the

spirit of the Sisters, their warm welcome, their loving care in all the details of our lives, the richness of the culture, the creativity of the people and the ways our Sisters shared their creativity, and their giftedness in music. I was deeply touched by their large numbers and how alive all the Sisters are from the young Sisters to our elderly Sisters who are truly our wisdom figures.

We spent time with our Sisters in formation and appreciated their sharing and welcoming. I was touched by their deep understanding of our roots, our founders, our Book of Life and our spirituality as well as their generosity to be always of service. Because their formation is so deep and rich, I was able to see the same things in all of our Sisters wherever I went in the Philippines and in all of the Sisters who came to Antipolo.



The richness of our experience goes on as we visited our elder



Sisters in the Vigil House and Mere Monique Home. They are still full of life and carry Jesus within touching all who enter their home. It was more than a gift to be in their presence. Some



Sisters, who were able, put on a program for us. What a gift to see them so alive and sharing the gift of who they are.

So from the young to our elders, the love of Jesus is alive and being shared. The Sisters in the Philippines have well organized health care, education programs, and pastoral ministry with clear goals and mission statements that are understood by all. The Sisters carry the love of Jesus with great zeal and give without counting the cost.

Praying each day with the Sisters and visiting some of our schools, hospitals, retreat houses and local communities has greatly enriched my life. Seeing the way others share in our mission and seeing the Sisters share the love of Jesus and their constant warm welcome will live within me and remains a great gift to me.

I wish you could have seen the program that they presented that showed who they are as a people in music and dance as well as our history as a Congregation and in the Philippines. Their gifts and talents that they freely share are endless. The places that we visited offered a chance to see the great beauty of nature that exists in the Philippines. Trees, flowers, water, and mountains are part of the gifts that add to the great beauty. Meals were presented creatively and beautifully with a great variety. The food was very delicious and I tried many new things.

I cannot end without telling you that we saw Sr. Lucienne, Sr. Anne Charles, Sr. Marie Claire, Sr. Francis Mary, Sr. Cristina and Sr. Rosella. Of course, we saw many other Sisters however these are Sisters who served in the United States and that many of you remember. I am happy to report that they are all doing well. They send their love and I extended ours and yours to them as well.

I cannot thank the Sisters of the Philippine province enough for inviting us and for giving us such a rich experience of prayer, of our

roots, of love, of their culture, and the gifts of their music, dance and creativity. Thank you God for all the Sisters in the Philippines. May we have the grace to follow their example to share the gift of who we are and your love with everyone with the same zeal for building your Kingdom.





Mission Projects

Before explaining the projects, I would like to say a gigantic thank you to those of you who have donated in the past. We are really making a difference.

We are keeping the projects we had last year and adding Central Africa to the list. We continue with our own Catholic Schools in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the poor in Haiti, and helping victims who have been human trafficked. Since we have done these for several years, I am giving a simple explanation and adding an explanation of Central Africa.

1. Catholic Schools in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

We know of parents who are struggling to keep their children in a Catholic School so we will continue to help the ten Catholic Schools of the Marquette Diocese to provide a scholarship for a student(s) who cannot afford the tuition.

2. Victims of Human Trafficking

We are helping Hope House run by Sr. Jean Schafer and Sr. Sheila Novak who started this house in California to help victims of human trafficking. If you would like to learn more about Hope House check out www.stopenslavement.org.

3. Haiti

You are all well aware that Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and the earthquake has made living conditions more difficult. We have eight schools in Haiti and one health clinic as well as orphans. At times our Sister's needs are not met and we will also help with their needs. The Sister's house in Delma collapsed due to termites and needs to be rebuilt. The school that collapsed in Delma during the earthquake also needs to be rebuilt. They have been having class in tents and temporary buildings.

4. Central Africa

We have Sisters in Central Africa and we would like to help them in 2 areas. In Boda, there are about 1,400 refugees camping on our property. They have need of food and other supplies for their health and personal hygiene. In Bossambebe, the convent was stripped of all belongings and damage to it was made during the conflict, so the house has to be practically rebuilt. We would like to help with rebuilding and repairs, and furnishing rooms with the necessary furniture.



Mission Projects Report

For the 6th year of our Mission Projects, 2013 –2014 we were able to collect and distribute \$18,981.00.

The Haiti Mission received \$8,981.00

The Victims of Human Trafficking—Hope House received \$5,500.00



The Catholic Schools of the Upper Peninsula received \$4500.00 with each of the ten schools receiving \$450.00 for student scholarships.

As of November 20th for the 7th year of our Mission projects, 2014—2015 which kicked off in October we have received \$7,096.00 in donations. We had our Compassionate Hearts Club mailing at NMU Catholic Campus Ministry on October 8th.

Although with student schedule conflicts the volunteers were fewer then other years, we did have a few hard working volunteers that made it and we were thankful for.





Compassionate Hearts Club

Cherubs

James E. Anderson, Munising, MI
 In memory of Joan C. Anderson
 Mr. & Mrs. M. Aragon, Bethesda, MD
 Anne Archibald, Marquette, MI
 Pat Blake, Marquette, MI
 Frank & Catherine Borris, Washington, DC
 Barb Charlier, Powers, MI
 Stephen Dion, Lansing, MI
 Arlys Eastvold, Fort Myers, FL
 Irene Gembel, Garden, MI
 Arnold Grambow, Gladstone, MI
 Jane Karich, Marquette, MI
 Mary Marjorie Knight, Washington, DC
 Dorothy Kollman, Escanaba, MI
 D.J. Koskey, Marquette, MI
 Thomas & Carol LaPenna, Marquette, MI
 Dorothy Lippold, Escanaba, MI
 Stephanie Wilson MacInerney, Appleton, WI
 Richard Marenger, Escanaba, MI
 The Matory's, Washington, DC
 Rev. Allan Mayotte, Marquette, MI
 Amelia C. Mebane, Washington, DC
 Naomi Morin, Escanaba, MI
 Nancy & Barbara's House Daycare, Marquette, MI
 Arnold & Norma Organ, Menominee, MI
 Richard Ostrander, Gladstone, MI
 Rev. Msgr. Jed Patrick, Gwinn, MI
 Ann M. Richardson, Marquette, MI
 Jerome Saarinen, Dollar Bay, MI
 James Sawaski, Newberry, MI
 Patricia Wagner, Marquette, MI
 Kenneth & Judy Wanberg, Marquette, MI

Saints

Ray Adamini, Marquette, MI
 Tim & Carol Beauchamp, Rock, MI

Delaine Bishop, Escanaba, MI
 Maria Carmona, Silver Spring, MD
 Rev. Msgr. Timothy H. Desrochers, Gwinn, MI
 Laura & Mike Ebert, Menominee, MI
 Margaret Finnerty, Escanaba, MI
 Fr. Christopher Gardiner, Munising, MI
 Bishop James H. Garland, Marquette, MI
 Nancy Giuliani, Marquette, MI
 Robert & Elizabeth Joyce, Silver Spring, MD
 Knights of Columbus - #689, Marquette, MI
 John G. Kublin, M.D., Marquette, MI
 Emily Lewis, Marquette, MI
 Pat Lewis, Escanaba, MI
 Donna Marenger, Rock, MI
 Harriet C. Maull, Fairfield, PA
 Norma McCormack, North Bethesda, MD
 Sue McNeill, Gwinn, MI
 Sally Mellon, Marquette, MI
 Rev. Paul J. Nomellini, Florence, WI
 Rick & Mary Kaye Schaefer, Marquette, MI
 Karen S. Schlicher, Big Bay, MI
 Susan Suk, Chesterfield, MO
 Linda Walton, Deale, MD
 Barbara Whatley, Marquette, MI
 Rita Willour, Marquette, MI

Angels

Gretchen & Blaine Betts, Marquette, MI
 Robert & Sherri Bink, Escanaba, MI
 Kenneth & Maura Davenport, Marquette, MI
 Michael & Nancy Fassbender, Marquette, MI
 Fr. Daniel S. Zaloga, Iron Mountain, MI

Archangels

G. Michael Nidiffer, Marquette, MI
 Donald & Rita Zalewski, Stevens Point, WI
 Don & Geri Zanon, Port Angeles, WA





Sr. Norma and Sr. Dorothea November 19, 2014

Sr. Norma and Sr. Dorothea are now in Wakefield doing pastoral ministry in Divine Infant Living Center in Wakefield. On November 19, 2014 Sr. Gloria went with them to help them move. Please pray for them and for Divine Infant Living Center.





Thank you!!!

Norbert Beauchamp, Marquette, MI
 Tim & Carol Beauchamp, Rock, MI
 Earl Bell, Marquette, MI
 Timothy & Dianne Bennett, Marquette, MI
 Patricia Blake, Marquette, MI
 Dorothy Bloomfield, Bethesda, MD
 Glen Bressette, Harvey, MI
 Lennea Bressette, Marquette, MI
 Jack & Mary Ann Campbell, Kingsford, MI
 Shirley Charlier, Carney, MI
 Church of the American Martyrs,
 Kingsford, MI
 Marilyn Cook, Marquette, MI
 Dan & Marilee Davison, Marquette, MI
 David & Tatyana Desjardins, Dallas, TX
 Maureen Desjardins, Marquette, MI
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Dion, Lansing, MI
 Nicola DuPont, Carney, MI
 Arlys Eastvold, Fort Myers, FL
 Laura Ebert, Menominee, MI
 Most Rev. James H. Garland,
 Marquette, MI
 Annette Greene, Marquette, MI
 Joseph Gregorich, Marquette, MI
 James Hansen & Melanie Coddington,
 Abingdon, VA
 Denise Herron, Marquette, MI
 Richard & Donna Hubert, Escanaba, MI

Mary Jo Johnson, Escanaba, MI
 John Kraft, Republic, MI
 John Kublin, Marquette, MI
 Evelyn LeClaire, Marquette, MI
 Gordon Le Duc, Marquette, MI
 Dorothy Lippold, Escanaba, MI
 Catherine Lullo, Gwinn, MI
 Linda Lynch, Marquette, MI
 Amelia Mebane, Washington, DC
 Beverlyann Moe, Marquette, MI
 Betty Myers, Washington, DC
 Rev. Paul J. Nomellini, Florence, WI
 Rev. Msgr. Jed Patrick, Gwinn, MI
 Michael Prokopowicz, Gwinn, MI
 Jane Pryal, Escanaba, MI
 Sandy & Tom Redlon, Gwinn, MI
 Edward J. Retaskie, Marquette, MI
 Julie Shaw, Gwinn, MI
 St. Mary's Catholic Church, Norway,
 MI
 Catherine Tolnay, Silver Springs, MD

Compassion Hearts Club 2013-2014

Saint

Bob & Kathy Bixby, Berwyn Heights,
MD



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: srstpaulweb@yahoo.com
www.sistersofstpaulusa.org

“Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SistersofStPaulUSA

Envelope Enclosed

We are enclosing an envelope for those who may wish to make a donation, write for information, be added/deleted/make correction 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

_____ To rebuild Haiti Schools and Haitian relief

_____ Victims of Human Trafficking—Hope House

_____ The Catholic Schools in Marquette Diocese

_____ Central Africa