

# O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



O Come, All Ye Faithful  
O come, all ye faith-ful,  
True God, sing praise to  
See how the an-gels  
sing in ex-cel-sis-de,  
O come, all ye  
shep-herds, bring good  
news to the  
lowly King,  
born to us  
in this town  
of Bethlehem.  
O come, all ye  
vir-gins, take  
your part  
in the  
wedding  
feast,  
that ye may  
stand with  
the King,  
when he shall  
come to bestow  
the crown  
of life upon  
you.  
O come, ye  
King's  
servants,  
stand  
forth  
in the  
glory  
of his  
king-dom,  
that ye may  
stand  
with  
the King,  
when he shall  
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# Merry Christmas

A long, long time ago  
In a stable far away  
Christ the holy child was born,  
Fulfilling the promise made  
His holy birth, so marvelous,  
His majesty to behold,  
This Christmas time think of Him  
And what the New Year holds.



With hearts full of gratitude and joy,  
we remember our families,  
friends and benefactors and their intentions  
in our Novena of Masses.

Be assure of our prayers always.

***Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year***

**From all of us**

**The Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres!**



## Chapter

*By Sr. Gloria Schultz*

As you know, Sr. Rosalie Hughes and I were in Rome for our Chapter. We left on September 5<sup>th</sup> and returned on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. It is hard to put this experience into words. It started with presentations from all of the Provincial and District Superiors on the work we did since the last Chapter that has been a success. By the end of the presentations, I was moved to tears



to have seen all that God is doing in us in the 39 countries throughout the world. It was so touching to see how each one is living our charism in the unique situations where they are. I felt and still do feel very happy that God has called me to be a Sister of St. Paul de Chartres.



An important part of the Chapter was to elect the head of our Congregation and her council. We had a 3 day discernment retreat. It was a powerful experience for me and filled with many graces as

all of our Sisters, our friends, and our families were praying for us. I felt that we were really carried by these prayers. It was not just head knowledge about prayer. It was literally an experience of being carried on the wings of prayer.

The election process was deeply moving. We have no campaigning. We have no lists of persons to vote for. Led by the Spirit all delegates write a name on a paper. It was and is amazing to see someone surface. The head of our Congregation is Korean and her council is made up of an American who is Sr. Mary Ann Laurin, a Canadian, a Vietnamese, and a Filipino. Our lead-





## Chapter



ership represents our internationality and I really like that. They will serve a six year term.

Whenever we elect new leadership, we have an audience with the Holy Father. I was delighted as I so like how Pope Francis is leading the Church. We went to a general audience however we had reserved seats up front on the Holy Father's

right. It was so exciting. I was deeply touched by how Pope Francis makes himself available and gives himself to the people. He came out in his Pope Mobile an hour and a half before the audience and went through the crowd waving and stopping to pick up babies and to bless. He spent as much time in the back of the crowd as he did the front. This was really impressive to me. It was great to be in that energy and I felt truly blessed to have had this experience.

Our logo for the Chapter and our direction for the next 6 years is "Alive in the Word; let us be light. We invite you into the 3 main areas that we will be working on.

1. We will deepen our own relationship with God.
2. Since union with Christ always leads to action, we will strive individually to increase our service to others especially the poor.
3. We will strive to evangelize by the strength of our witness of fraternal communion. While this relates to religious life, you can look at it in a broader context. You can strive to evangelize by the strength of your witness of fraternal communion within your Church.

Exactly how we do it will be different than your choices yet we can all head in this direction together. May God bless our efforts and inspire us as to how He is calling each of us to move forward.





## “Alive in the Word...Let Us Be Light”

Reflection on General Chapter, Rome – September 9-30, 2013

– Sr. Rosalie Hughes, SPC

My heart is full of gratitude to God and to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres for so great an experience – even a mystical one!

Every Sister of St. Paul worldwide played a major role, through spirit and prayer, sacrifice and service, for the edification of the Congregation and the Church, as well as in the transformative effects, graces, and fruits flowing from the work and prayer of these Chapter days together as the highest functioning body of the Congregation. Meeting the leadership from around the world, getting to know each other and our ministries, sharing story and laughter was delightful. We made some lasting preparations on our short, intense pilgrimage together as we shared two important meals daily: the meal of the Word and the meal of the Eucharist, which profoundly intensified my own awareness, respect, devotion and adoration of the Real Presence of the Lord, Whom we receive and Who feeds us and nourishes us on the journey! As Jacob said when he awoke from his dream, “*Truly, God was in this place...*” (*Gen. 28:16*).

What a privilege it was to be part of thanking Mother Myriam Kitcharoen, with all the Capitulants, for her witness of tranquil daring and outstanding twelve-year leadership term! What honor and great joy to have been part of the election of our new Superior General, Mother Maria Goretti Lee and her Council, as well as the discernment process, together, of writing the Capitular Acts moving our Congregation forward for the next six years. This is the will of God and now ours to integrate and live as we know Christ, imitate Christ and love Christ as Sisters of the Mission! “*It is all God’s work.*” (*2Cor. 5:18*) Like St. Paul, to abandon what is behind and press on to what lies ahead...to be humble and little to be great...to wash the feet of one another...to be servants as Christ...to have the heart of Christ!!

Guided by the Providence of God, living and journeying together more alive in the Word of God and inspired and enlightened by the Spirit of God, we were ever so deeply moved and profoundly challenged to be converted and re-evangelized ourselves in this Year of Faith and for the work of the New Evangelization, being made for the glory of God, to proclaim Christ and to reach out, as Pope Francis desires, to touch the flesh of Christ in the poor, in new arenas! “*So we are ambassadors for Christ.*” (*2Cor.5:20*) The incredible and humble manner in which we were touched and invited through all of the prayers and retreat, guest speakers and conferences, the Papal Audience, special outings, discernment and fraternal community, to Be in Christ, Act in Christ, Be in Communion, witnessed to me the Glory of God and was personally transformative! “*For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation.*” (*2Cor.5:17*) To proclaim Christ by our lives and witness of faith in Him! Steeped in the Word, strengthened in the Word, given courage in the Word and living in the Word...we are healing and light for this broken, wounded world!!

So Blessed and GRATEFUL to ALL for your prayers while at the General Chapter; our Sisters, families and loved ones, our benefactors and friends, and those with whom and to whom we minister. God Bless you in Jesus Christ the Lord, forever! Amen!



## District Assembly

*By Sr. Gloria Schultz*

We are holding our District Assembly on November 29-30 and December 1. We are gathering in Marquette with great joy at this opportunity to be together. The work of the Chapter will be shared and we will look at ways that we can implement it in our District and in our lives. We look forward to a great beginning for all of the work that will follow in the next 6 years. We trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and guide us so that in the end we will grow in our relationship with Christ, we will serve more generously to reach more needs, and we will be witnesses of God's presence, love and guidance in our fraternal community thus truly being lights in the world.

The reason that we are gathering so soon after the Chapter is so that we can spend Thanksgiving together and so all of us can have this special time with Sr. Marie Claire Tuballa who will be leaving the District on December 3 to visit family in California and then off to the Philippines as she has decided to return to her home country. More will follow about how Sr. Claire has blessed our lives and so many others with her 45 years of faithful service in District USA.

## Renovations

Last year we did renovations on one side of the house so we could have 4 bedrooms with a private bath. This year we are doing the same thing on the other side of the house and these renovations started in September. We are thankful that we are able to do these renovations for the future of our Congregation.



## Clothing of Sr. Priscilla DeGuzman

As you know Sr. Priscilla joined us on July 28<sup>th</sup> and it has been a great pleasure to have her in the District. On October 13, 2013, we had the clothing ceremony for Sr. Priscilla during vespers. The Sisters from Escanaba joined us in Marquette for the celebration. Sr. Priscilla received her habit and once again made a commitment. Immediately she joined us



dressed in the official habit of a Sister of St. Paul de Chartres. Afterwards we had a festive meal and celebration. She will make her vows on September 7, 2014 in St. Christopher Church. We welcome Sr. Priscilla with open arms and ask you to join us in praying for her.





# Open House

An open house was held to honor the gift of Sr. Marie Claire and the hundreds of ways that she has enriched so many lives. It was held at our Motherhouse on November 10 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Many came and it was a great witness to us how she touched many people. It was an honor to have so many guests coming to give thanks and to honor Sr. Marie Claire.





## Litany of Thanks for Sr. Marie Claire Tuballa

Gracious and Loving God we pause to thank you for the presence of Sr. Marie Claire in District USA. She has touched our lives in a countless number of ways and we wish to share just a few.

*Thank you so much for your dedication for the community, your prayerful presence, delicious food and your mission. Thank you for your laughter, smiles and kindness.*

*Sr. Daria Moon*

Thank you Sr. Marie Claire for the gift of yourself to us. You've been very supportive to me in many ways when you were with me in Nativity, Washington, DC. I learned a lot from you not only about teaching and cooking but also your simplicity, patience and your fidelity in prayer. You've touched a lot of students and their families and many are still asking about you. Thanks for everything.

*Sr. Estela Garcia*

*Thank you, Sr. Marie Claire for your deep commitment to live as a religious: your availability in community, your enthusiastic participation in any of our activities is a great witness!*

*Sr. Francis Mary Mortola*

I give thanks to you God for the gracious presence of Sr. Marie Claire Tuballa in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, in the USA District, and in my life. She has been a joy to work with, a good companion to live with, a marvelous cook and baker, and lots of fun with her stories and humor. I have learned much from her, and have been inspired by her simplicity and humility, her prayerfulness and her dedication.

*Sr. Mary Ann Laurin*

*Thank you Sr. Marie Claire for answering your call and for your faithfulness to live religious life, for your prayerfulness, for your willing hands, and for the way you make community life a priority. You have touched my life with your spirit of generosity, simplicity, humility and sharing. Thank you for sharing your gift with baking and cooking and for the love with which you did it.*

*Sr. Gloria Schultz*



Thank you for your witness, ever so gentle, simple and constant, your dedication, charity, hospitality, commitment and love for the people and for the community confirmed by your own calling. Thank you for your prayerful, loving, caring and faithful life and witness, leaving everything behind in the Philippines, to become one of us in the U.S.A. and to serve the Lord these 45 years so untiringly, is remarkable! You are a keeper of the stories with great memory. Thank you for your authenticity and large heart, your generous spirit and willingness to be ever-ready to serve, no matter what.

Sr. Rosalie Hughes

*Thanks dear Sr. Marie Claire for responding to the call to be sent here in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for exactly 45 years. I am edified with your being and acting, with all your help in the District House like cooking, baking, and your sharing all the beautiful stories about your family. I remember the joy and fun we had one time doing the Summer Bible School. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

Sr. Nenita Leonardo.

Thank you Sr. Marie Claire for being loving and caring in community as well as generous with your time and talent.

Thank you for your deliciously prepared meals.

Thank you for your angelic voice in leading our hymns and psalm prayers

Your funny jokes/stories enriched my life.

Thank you for your words of wisdom and example of fidelity in prayer.

Sr. Priscilla DeGuzman

*Sr. Marie Claire*

*Thank you for all your efforts as a missionary in the District of U.S.*

*You will always remain in our heart!*

*Sr. Dorothea Jang*

I share my loving memory of Sr. Marie Claire and her beautiful story:  
the great gift of her life and marvelous ministry  
her opening her heart to the call of the Gospel  
her richness in charity, simplicity, friendship and fun  
her talent as a cook and singing

Dear Lord, send countless blessings on Sr. Marie Claire and fill her with gratitude and an abundance of joy and happiness. Thank you for her generous heart that flowed into our community.

Sr. Juliana Djo



## AUTOBIOGRAPHY

**I, Sr. Marie Claire** was born on May 25, 1929 to Hermogenes & Anastcia Tuballa in Dauin, Negros Oriental, Philippines.

I am the eldest of four children. I have a brother Jose who is a year and seven months younger and a second one, Francisco who is three and a half years younger. I had a sister, Remedios, the youngest who died in 1993 at the age of 56. My father was a police officer in the city of Dumaguete and my mother was a homemaker and a self employed storekeeper.

I received my vocational call in the second grade after my first communion and again as a sophomore in High School at St. Paul College of Dumaguete. I joined the Congregation in Quezon City in Manila after my first year in college on April 1, 1950. I entered the novitiate on December 8, 1950, took my first vows on May 31, 1953 and my final vows on May 31, 1959.

I ministered in SPC Bocaue, Bulacan as a third grade teacher from 1953 to 1958. In 1958 I was transferred to SPC of Surigao where I taught Kindergarten and took care of the CCD Program for ten years.

In 1968, Mother Madeleine, the first Filipino Provincial sent me as a missionary to the US after receiving my Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. I ministered in St. Christopher's parish in Marquette as a third grade teacher and CCD classes. I received my Master degree at Northern Michigan University in the summer of 1974. After three years in Marquette I transferred to St. Williams School in Menominee to teach fourth grade and helped teach in the CCD program in the parishes. After the consolidation of churches and school in Menominee, I was sent to Catholic Central South to teach with the Franciscan Sister of Manitowoc up to 1986.

In 1986, I was transferred to nativity Catholic Academy in Washington DC as a fourth grade teacher and sixth grade CCD teacher. I ministered at the Church of Nativity and at Nativity Catholic Academy for 18 years. At the end of the school year 2003-2004, I was asked to move back to Marquette, Michigan where the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres is located.

## MY VOCATION STORY

Sr. Marie Claire Tuballa

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you....”

Jeremiah 1:5



I do believe that God created each one of us for a very special purpose. My mother was raised by her aunt and uncle who were both single, after her own mother died when she was an infant. After she was married to my dad her aunt invited them to stay and live with them since there was enough room in the house. My great aunt then was influential in the religious upbringing of their children. I was the eldest, my two brothers were in the middle, and my sister was the youngest. My aunt was very religious and a devoted catholic lady. In fact, she wanted to enter the Poor Clares Convent when she was young but was prevented to do so.

We prayed the Angeles in Latin every 6:00 p.m. when the church bell rang. That meant we had to be in the house before 6. Evening prayers and the rosary were said at 8:00 p.m. On Sunday afternoons we had Catechism at home or we listened to stories of the lives of the saints and learned our prayers in Spanish and in the dialect. At 4:00 we went to church again for the Rosary and Benediction. My great aunt lived in the house like she was a Religious and looked after the four of us when my parents were out or at work. My brothers and sister thought she was our grandmother at first, but she told us that she was our mother's aunt.

Every year during Lent she invited young Sodality members of the parish for an eight-day retreat at home. She herself directed the retreat by using the Exercises of St. Ignatius. She had the book and I saw it myself. I had no idea where she learned how to give retreats. All I heard was she had studied with the Daughters of Charity in Cebu when she was

## MY VOCATION STORY



young. There was complete silence around the house the whole week. I only heard the sound of a little bell, their vocal prayers, conferences, and someone who read aloud during their meals. My family had to observe the silence too, and would speak in a low voice when we needed to communicate with each other.

I must have been 5 or 6 years old when my mother took me along with her to a Eucharistic Congress held at a park in the city. Dumaguete, the capital of our province, is about seven miles north of my hometown. After the outdoor mass, my mother and I went around to see the different booths and

displays in the area. It was that special occasion when I saw two Sisters of St. Paul for the first time in my life. They were standing by their booth selling religious articles. They smiled at everyone who approached them and were very friendly and welcoming. I whispered to my mother and asked her who they were or were they human beings like all of us. I thought they were some kind of angels because they were both dressed in white from head to foot. I even wondered if they ever did all the things people do, like eating and sleeping. I was so impressed by their appearance and graciousness that I kept thinking about them. After we got home, I took a white bed sheet, covered myself from my head, except my face and went in the front of the mirror and admired myself looking funny when all of a sudden I heard my mother asking what I was doing. I smiled at her and told her that I was just playing nun.

I went to the Public School for my Elementary Education. When I was ready to go to High School I asked my father if I could go to the Provincial High School in the city. There were only 2 high schools then, the Provincial and the Sisters of St. Paul College High School. He told me it

## MY VOCATION STORY

was better for me to go to the Sisters of St. Paul High School. Thanks be to God and to my father! This was the school where I got to know the Sisters so well and learned to love them all. They were not only the best teachers, but they were so kind and very attentive to all the girls. Our homeroom teachers were all Sisters who showed interest in whatever we did and were always ready to help us with our little problems. I was very attracted to their way of life and their charity towards the students. They were always happy and smiling when you met them and were prayerful. I started thinking of becoming one of them one day but was not really serious about it yet. I also wanted to be a school teacher.



Then I went to college and before the end of the year I experienced a strong desire in my heart to become one of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres. My desire grew stronger when one of the Sisters asked me, when I was entering the convent. It was a surprise for me since I never told anyone that I was interested to be a nun. The next day I dared

knock on the office door of the Mother Superior, who was French and the Dean of the College Department at the same time and told her about my strong desire and intention. I was so nervous and could hardly wait for her answer. Right away, Mother Marguerite told me to write Sr. Anne Patrice in Quezon City and told her about my desire. The following week I received a letter from Sr. Patrice telling me I was most welcomed. I was very happy and excited and thanked God for listening to my prayer.



My big problem was, I did not know how to tell my mother about my plans. I know I would not be

## MY VOCATION STORY



allowed to leave my family and enter the convent. My father had passed away four years earlier when I was 16 and I was the eldest of 2 brothers and a little sister. But the Sisters told me to go home and ask permission. So I went home and asked my mother if it was fine with her if I went with 2 Sisters who were going to Manila the next month. She cried bitterly because she was suspicious that I might not come home anymore. She told me she was not giving me her permission, but if I insisted I could do whatever I wanted but she was not in favor that I enter the convent. Anyway, I prayed harder and my mother and sister

saw me off at the airport on the day of my departure. I knew I broke the hearts of my whole family but my daily prayers were that God was going to take care of them and not leave them alone.

In later years I realized God took care of my mother, my 2 brothers, and sister in my absence. They all worked hard and the Lord has blessed them up to the present time with beautiful children and grandchildren, even a great granddaughter. Without my presence at home and my help, my family has enough of everything they need and grateful to God for His many blessings each day. My family is very happy and proud that I am a Sister of St. Paul and I love them dearly and proud of them, too. God is so good all the time.

Everyday I thank God for His call and for my wonderful family. Most of all I thank the Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed each day on my whole family. I also thank God for my Congregation, my Province, and my District USA. On my part, with God's help, I am very happy as a Sister of St. Paul and I never have regretted that I entered the Religious Life.



## NOTE FROM SR. MARIE CLAIRE

It was a cool evening in September when the plane I was on landed at the old airport in Negaunee. I felt alone in the crowd when I knew I was in the other side of the world away from my homeland, the Philippines. But when I saw the familiar faces of Mother Charles, our last French provincial of the Philippines and Sr. Anne Patrice, my formator in the Novitiate, my eyes brightened and my spirit was filled with great joy and excitement. This was forty-five years ago. I felt at home right away wherever I was



assigned and then enjoyed whatever I was doing. I developed a love for my Religious family and a love for teaching children in the grade schools.

I have been happy and so grateful to God for the blessings He has given me during my 36 years of teaching in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and in Washington, D.C. Whenever I was sent to a place of work, I was happy and easily adjusted myself to the people around me and with people I worked with; not that I am perfect but because I was sure God was with me.

Right now, I have mixed feelings in my heart and soul so that I find it difficult to express them in words. Of course, I love the land of my birth, the Philippines; and I also learned to love the U.P. and I feel I am a Yooper, too. I love my beautiful Philippines and I love my adopted country, as well. It was a big decision for me to make and a big transition for me. I have to die to myself.

As St. Paul told the Corinthians in his first letter to them that there are three things that last: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest is love. God is love. Everything passes; only God remains. So nothing really lasts. I think what is necessary is the living of the present moment because nothing lasts except God. Therefore, I have to be ready for my next mission. God calls. I also find it difficult to express in words, my love and gratitude to my dear Sisters in the District, all my friends and acquaintances, for your great kindness to me and your love and support you have given me all these years. My District USA, the Diocese of Marquette, and all of the Yoopers will be forever in my heart and prayers. Thank you so much for everything! Goodbye...

## Sr. Marie Claire's Departure December 3, 2013

May God go with you Sr. Marie Claire and bless  
you with the same abundance and generosity  
with which you blessed our lives.

**Thank you to everyone who has  
donated so far to the sixth year of  
the Mission Projects through the  
Compassionate Hearts Club**

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Jim & Pat Drysdale, Moorhead, MN  
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## Compassionate Heart's Club—sixth year!

I would like to say a gigantic thank you to those of you who have donated to the Compassionate Heart's Club. We are really making a difference.

**We have no changes in our projects this year. 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.**

In case you need a reminder of what the projects support here is a fuller explanation:

### **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 nine Catholic Schools of the Marquette Diocese to provide a scholarship for a student(s) who cannot afford the tuition. We believe in the value of a Catholic education so we would like to aid the schools in their ministry of educating our children with good Catholic morals, a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, good discipline as well as a well-rounded education.

### **2. Victims of Human Trafficking**

Many victims are human trafficked around the world as well as here in the United States. They are exploited for purposes of commercial sex, including prostitution, stripping, pornography and live-sex shows. However, trafficking also take place as labor exploitation, such a domestic servitude, sweatshops factories, or migrant agricultural work. Traffickers use force, which could be rape, beatings, and confinement, fraud and coercion to compel women, men and children to engage in these activities.

This year we again want to help Hope House run by Sr. Jean Schafer and Sr. Sheila Novak who started this house in California to help victims of human trafficking. Hope House offers a home-like atmosphere to women who, because of a situation of enslavement, have spent time in a shelter or emergency housing, but are now ready to undertake the journey toward personal growth and self-esteem development. Hope

House can take up to 5 women who can stay up to 24 months if they are attending educational and vocational programs. Residents with work permits contribute to their room and board and establish savings accounts to prepare for a life of self-reliance.

It takes approximately \$790.00 per month per woman to provide room, board and basic services like bus passes, doctors, and dentists. Monies will also help to cover such things as counseling and psychological needs assessment, education, resume writing and interviewing skills and job search and employment guidance. It will go directly to the help with the needs of the women who were trafficked.

If you would like to learn more about Hope House check out [www.stopenslavement.org](http://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. They are in desperate need of medicine to serve the poor. Help is needed to sponsor student's tuitions in our schools and beyond the level of education that we offer.

We also need help to pay teacher's salaries and to give them a raise. At present, \$20.00 a month for 10 months (\$200.00) pays for the tuition, the uniform, and a pair of shoes for a student. A teacher's salary is \$40.00 a month for 10 months (\$400.00). We are also increasing our efforts to feed the children with a goal of sending a care package of food home as often as possible. There is also a great need to help with expenses of the orphans. So the list of what we can and are doing is endless.

We would deeply appreciate your support for our projects. You may donate money that will be divided between the 3 projects or you may donate for a specific project or a specific purpose. Just indicate what your intentions are. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all your generous gifts and donations to our community and mission projects.

Marguerite & Harley Adair, Marquette, MI  
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50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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### Compassionate Hearts Club— Fifth year

#### **Cherub**

St. Mary School Students,  
Sault Ste. Marie, 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: srstpaulweb@yahoo.com

www.sistersofstpaulusa.org



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**Mission Projects**

\_\_\_\_\_ To rebuild Haiti Schools and Haitian relief

\_\_\_\_\_ Victims of Human Trafficking—Hope House

\_\_\_\_\_ The Catholic Schools in Marquette Diocese