









# **Christmas Blessings to All!**

A Merry Christmas to each of you and a Blessed New Year!

May our hearts join the angels who sang "Glory to God in the highest."

May the birth of Jesus lead to humble lives filled with love and thanks.

May your life radiate the love, peace, and joy that God showers on you in the gift of His Son.

May the birth of Jesus and his great love and humility call us to more than we are today.

May you grow in your ability to incarnate Jesus to others.

May Jesus' love, peace, and joy

fill you this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Our love and prayers are with each of you.
A novena of masses will be offered for you, your loved ones, and your intentions.
We hold you in our hearts and we will continue to pray for you throughout the year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!





### Unto Us a Child is Given

Reflection by Sr. Gloria Schultz

Once again we are in the season of Advent preparing a place for the life of Christ to grow within us. We pray for Christ to come more fully into our lives and into the world. One question I ask myself is, "How can I incarnate Christ to others?" So I focus on what it means for God to take on human flesh in the person of Jesus and how this can help me to live for God in my everyday life. I can live for God just as Jesus lived with humility, poverty and love.

The best example of this is St. Francis' activity in the village of Greccio one Christmas. To focus on the humility and poverty of Jesus, St. Francis recreated Jesus' birth in a nearby cave and the first nativity scene was born. He gathered all the people of the town at this cave, with the help of his friend Giovanni. The nativity scene showed how God entered the world in a common way among common people. The people there were able to see the humility and poverty of God. Jesus came into this world with nothing. He chose poverty. He was born in the cold, amidst smelly ani-

mals. He could have chosen to be exalted. Jesus did not even keep His divine status as he came into this world. St. Francis' focus on the poverty and humility of Jesus is why St. Francis had such a devotion to the Eucharist. For St. Francis, that little piece of bread hid the omnipotence of God. It was a humbling choice of Jesus to have such a small entity conceal God. The birth of Jesus, the Eucharist, and the cross show us the depth of God's love for us and his humility and life of poverty.



One of the things that strikes me this year is the contrast shown in the story of the birth of Jesus. I just mentioned the humble beginnings, the love and the poverty of Jesus. Yet this story is also wrapped in the "Glory of God." Angels sing, shepherds worship, and magi follow the



star. These contrasting events remind me of life. Jesus comes to us in the people and events of our lives. Are my eyes the eyes of faith that help me to recognize Jesus in the events of my life, in the people I live with, and those who are a part of my life, in the poor and broken, and in creation? Sometimes I find God in "Glory" as I



am moved by the Spirit and as tears flow free as I experience the love of God in prayer, in a sunrise, in others, or the Infant Jesus in a manger scene. The list of examples could be endless. The reality is that sometimes I am more in touch with the Glory of God and sometimes more in touch with the ordinary ways that God enters my life. Both are gifts and both need to be recognized and celebrated

There is no doubt in my mind that I am called to live the way Jesus lived. For me, that doesn't mean trying to live in the exact same way, but instead to try to have the same attitude of a God who became incarnate and lived with humility, poverty and love. This means that I live simply and am grateful for what I have. I am called to be humble and thankful to God for gifts and talents I have been given. And finally I am called to love everyone. When I incarnate Jesus in these ways, I become Christ for others and a healing presence in the world. Thus I help to build the Kingdom of God.

I pray for you as we continue together on the journey to incarnate Christ in the world and thus be His hands, feet, and voice in the world.





### Sister Update

Sr. Cecelia Seo and Sr. Martha Pham had to return to Rome on August 6. If you recall they are students in Rome and came to help out at the Bishop Noa Home as we await the arrival of Sr. Eden Orlino. Unfortunately the visa is taking a long time so we do not know when she will arrive. Please pray that it will be soon and pray for her. Also pray for Sr. Rosalie Hughes as she has taken on pastoral care at the Bishop Noa Home along with her other responsibilities.

Sr. Marie Hoa, a Sister from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam will arrive in early December. We are happy to have another missionary in the District.

Sr. Gloria Schultz will be going to Rome for the meeting of our Congregation known as the Council of Congregation. All Provincial and District Superiors will be present. We will be looking at what has been accomplished regarding the work of the Chapter held three years ago. We will also take a look at what our next steps will be for every province and district. Please keep us in prayer and beg the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire the work of the Council of Congregation. You will certainly be hearing about it in the next newsletter.



Council of Congregation in 2010

## **Bishop Noa Home Update**

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

As you know, we the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, broke ground on June 26<sup>th</sup> for the construction of the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center. Construction has moved forward extremely well and the building looks amazing. If all goes as planned, all will be finished in December. Great excitement fills our hearts at this point to see it turning out so successful after many long hours of planning. We are so thankful for our donors and all those who support us. We thank God for the continued expansion and renovations for the Bishop Noa Home, for our wonderful staff, for our residents, and for families of the residents and friends. A mass will be offered for all those who helped to make the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center possible. Be assured of our continued prayers. I cannot end without thanking Sr. Rosalie Hughes for having done a fantastic job.





# **Year of Mercy**

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

Pope Francis has declared a Year of Mercy starting on December 8. This is a great opportunity for the Church. As you take part in this Year of Mercy, I ask God to let mercy flow free in your life. We are all so in need of mercy and constant healing as we are all loved sinners.

You may be asking, "What exactly is mercy?" It is a particular kind of love, a particular mode of love when it encounters suffering, poverty, our brokenness, and sin. Divine Mercy is when God's love meets us and helps us in the midst of our suffering and sin.



Divine Mercy gets to the heart of Sacred Scripture. In fact the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "The Gospel is the revelation of Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners." It is good news and challenges

that Pope Francis speaks about and lives.

Since we desire that mercy be given to us, let us pray that it will flow freely from our lives out to those who need our forgiveness. One great way to do this is to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day and to do this between three and four in the afternoon if you can. If you cannot do it at that time, whenever you can pray it during the day will

us to live this good news in joy. It is the joy of the Gospel



be good. We need to call on mercy for ourselves and for the "whole world." It is a great way to beg for world peace and to pray for the conversion of all sinners. "For the sake of His sorrowful passion; have mercy on us and on the whole world."



# Thank You God for the Life of George Richens By Sr. Gloria Schultz

George & Lois Richens



George Richens was a professor of education at Northern Michigan University. He taught Secondary Education and Education Administration and created the "Education Specialist" degree program which helped those students between a Master's level and a PhD. level. He also managed student teacher's for several years and touched the lives of many

during his years as a professor.

George had a great love for woodworking and stained glass. So after discernment, he decided that he needed to leave behind being a professor and follow where his heart was leading. He opened a business on his property known as George Richen's Business. He made custom furniture and stained glass treasures. He had a very successful business in town and this is how he came into our lives.

The windows in our chapel were rectangular shapes in clear and light amber glass. We decided that something



George's son—Tom Richens and some of the chapel windows



needed to be done to make our chapel more beautiful, so George was asked to make stained glass windows for our chapel. He asked what we wanted and we simply told him to use his creativity and do the windows. We have seven windows in our chapel and they are narrow. He did not want to do something different in each window. He wanted all the windows to make one picture and tell one story so he asked about our history.

It was then that he came up with the idea to connect our mission in Marquette with our beginnings in the wheat fields of Levesville, which is the small town outside of Chartres where we were founded in 1696. George creatively showed the beauty of the sunrise over Lake Superior. Lake Superior is seen in the blue that is in sections under the sunrise. Since there are rolling hills in France, they are also shown under the sunrise along with colors of golds, greens and browns which connect us to the wheat fields in Levesville. George completed the beautiful stained glass windows in 1978 which totally changed the look of plain windows to breath-taking stained glass windows that tell our story.

When we received a portion of earth from the graves and wood from the casket of our first four Sisters from France, we needed something to house the pyx containing the relic. Once again we turned to George to aid us. He made a wooden box that truly honors the contents in the pyx. When Mother Monique Bertrand, our Superior General at the time, saw it on a visit to the United States, she asked

for a box just like it to house the earth of the graves and wood from the caskets of the first Sisters that could be given to our Generalate in Rome.





Once again, George rose to the occasion and made the box meeting the deadline necessary so that Mother Monique could take it with her when she left the United States.

In October 2015, we received a call from his son Tom saying that his Dad had died last November. His mother had died four years before and their ashes were put together. He asked if we would do a blessing for the ashes before they were scattered at Laughing Whitefish River. We



were honored that we were asked and thankful that we could respond to the request, as his father is such an important part of our history.

On October 24, 2015 we had a ritual blessing of the ashes of Lois and George Richens. Tom Richens and his wife Suzie were present along with Tom's sister, Robin



Richens. George's sister, Mary Ellen Clegham, traveled from Roseville, Michigan to be at the service. Coworkers of Lois, who taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Silver Creek School, were also in attendance. We were all gath-





ered in loving memory of George and Lois giving thanks to God for the ways they had touched our lives and in thanksgiving for their spirits that live on in our hearts. We now pray for the grace to carry forth the beauty and joy of their lives.



# **Visit of Pope Francis to the United States**

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

When I received a communication that I was being offered a ticket for a reserved seat to attend the mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, I immediately responded and said "Yes, I will be there." I have seen four Popes starting with Pope Paul VI. I had already seen Pope Francis in Rome and experienced him as a deeply holy man who lives the joy of the Gospel that he continues to ask us to live. I felt it would be a great privilege to see him in my own country and this proved to be a fact right from the beginning. As I stood in line to go through security, there was great joy all around and an underlying peace. Everyone was talking to the strangers by them who soon were no longer strangers. Stories were shared and hearts connected.

When security opened and everyone started to move forward, there was no pushing or rushing. Great respect was shown to those around you and love wrapped in joy was experienced. This remained the atmosphere throughout and after as well. It is what I saw on television as Pope Francis continued his visit in the United States. Since my powerful experience at the mass, I believe it affected the way I watched and listened to the rest of the visit on television. I continued to be deeply touched, felt emotional, and actually wept through much of his talk to Congress. You may be asking why or you may already know. When we are touched by great love and holiness, it is a normal response. Pope Francis' love spoke to my heart and hearts of the multitudes.

It was a gift to watch the way the Holy Father ministered to the crowds, the homeless, the prisoners, and all who crossed his path. His love touched the multitudes so joy and respect spread



through the crowds present and across the United States as many shared in the experience on television and then shared with one another. People continued to stop me when I was out and about and shared their experience and ask about mine. I had more





than one person say they were fallen away Catholics and were returning to the Church.

Protestants and person's from other traditions told me how touched they were. My country experienced a spiritual revival. I pray that the fruits of this momentous experience will continue and grow.

From beginning to end Pope Francis spoke to the heart and called us to be our best selves therefore his message was for the whole world. We are all called to love and care for the poor and the less fortunate. Pope Francis lives the message of Jesus and the Gospel in a deep way. His authen-

ticity speaks to the multitudes.

Pope Francis, in the past, called the Church a "field hospital." We could say that the whole world is a field hospital and not limited to the Church or to Catholics. Throughout his visit I saw him shepherding in this field hospital, his reaching out to all in love, his touching the least and most broken in our society. He radiated a sense of authenticity and showed us how to live the joy of the Gospel. He embraced all, he built bridges, he loved everyone with his large heart, he spoke truth and he did all with humility. I could go on and on, however, I am sure that you all watched on television this great event and were also touched. My prayer is

that this experience will change my life and your life. I pray that it will put a fire beneath this country that moves us forward in great love following the example of Pope Francis who is following closely Jesus, his Lord and Master.

I also pray that this consumeristic society that Pope Francis talked about will be transformed into com-





munities based on love and trust because our hearts have been affected and have the power of love to transform with the help of the Holy Spirit. We must not underestimate what we can do. We must not say that "I am only one person." I am not meaning this to be preaching to you. I am striving to respond to the call to be more than I am in this moment. I want to grow in my ability to love as Jesus has loved me. I want the inspiration that Pope Francis gave to me and so many others to be the fire that gives me the grace to do what I so desire in loving God, myself, and others.

Pope Francis says that God weeps for the victims of abuse. Likewise God weeps for all those who suffer, the oppressed and the widows. The list goes on so I ask myself how I can become the hands, feet, and mind of God with the guidance of the Spirit to carry on the mission of Jesus.

Like Pope Francis, I know I must continue to grow in a deep awareness that I am a sinner. I need to taste deeply of my sinfulness so that I can taste deeply of God's love. I need to taste deeply that I am a loved sinner. So I pray for this grace for myself and the whole Catholic Church and the world. Together may we

learn to listen to one another, may we hear one another's stories, and may we respond with compassion to all those who touch our lives. May we radiate Jesus and live the joy of the Gospel.





# 2015 Philadelphia Papal Visit

By Sr. Daria Moon



Pope Francis was in the USA! It was a historical watershed in the life of the Church and of the United States. I was blessed because I was able to attend the Canonization mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Our District supported me in the journey for the Family Meeting in Pennsylvania.

On September 26, I traveled to Philadelphia with the Neo Catechumenal Way Group from the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Maryland. I was excited to see Pope Francis there and to attend the World Meeting of Families. I 10 of us with many

couples, teens, children and babies journeyed together on the buses. We prayed morning prayer, sang together and watched the life of Pope Francis. The group prepared many sandwiches to be shared with one another on the way to our destination. I felt loved and connected with them. When we arrived in Philadelphia, I was very surprised to see so many buses in the parking lot. We then took the metro in order to go to Benjamin Franklin Parkway. I helped one mother, Arly, from El Salvador, who had three children to push the stroller for her baby, Juan Paulo. I needed to use the elevator to get down. I found there were many wheelchairs waiting. I got excited with so many people. We sang and played guitars, drums, and tambourines. We marched to songs in the middle of the city. Many people in the street took pictures of our group. We arrived at the Parkway, waited for the security for a while. After that I heard loud music. It was a big festival evening with joy and excitement. We waited for Pope Francis. We sat on the grass in the park. When the Pope's white car passed by, the people were overjoyed and tried to catch him with cameras. I watched the celebration of families and vigil of prayer through the big screen. With great enthusiasm I remembered what Pope Francis said about the importance of family life



and the love needed even though they are having problems and headaches in family life. He emphasized how precious family members are. He repeated how to love one another with peace. He blessed family life. After that event, we needed to go the hotel. Again we took the metro and the bus. I was very tired but my heart was warmed and filled with



love.

The next morning, we had breakfast and headed to the Parkway. We again walked, sang songs and praised the Lord in the middle of the city. By the time we arrived at the entrance of security, I couldn't believe that there were so many people waiting. We couldn't even pass security. It was 3:30 pm and the Papal mass would be at 4 pm. I was disappointed but unexpectedly God provided us with a restaurant to have lunch and we were able to see the mass on three big screens. We saw the mass and had a meal. By the time we finished the meal and watching the mass, we encountered great crowds in the street. It was dark, so we needed to check on one another to make sure we stayed together as a group.

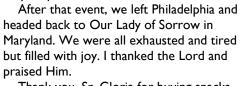
The next day was Family Day. We went to Wells Fargo Center for

the meeting with many cardinals, bishops, priests and seminarians and Kiko who is the founder of the Neo Catechumenal Way and 30,000 people from all over the world. Kiko emphasized again the importance and beauty of Christian families and the beauty of the Christian community. He invited and encouraged young people for their mission in their



life. It was very impressive because many young boys and girls as well as families were called to the mission in China and other countries. And

they responded to their calls.



Thank you, Sr. Gloria for buying snacks for our trip. Thank you Sr. Estela for your support and prayers. You helped my faith to be enriched through my pilgrimage. One of the staff from the hospital asked me if I touched the Pope's hands, I said no but I told her that the Pope touched my heart deeply. Thank you, Pope Francis, I love you! I support you! And I pray for you!





### Mission Projects of the Sisters of St. Paul in District USA

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

Every year we sponsor some mission projects. We are continuing with the same four as last year. We help our own Catholic Schools in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to provide tuition to families in need, the poor in Haiti, victims of human trafficking, and our Sisters in Central Africa.

I would like to share a little more about Haiti and what has been happening as we have supported this mission since 2008. 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. The Sisters of St. Paul have seven schools in Haiti. one health clinic, as well as orphanages. Our Sisters in Delmas lived in a wooden temporary house (cabin), but that became unsafe due to termites. Now, finally, this August the new brick convent was finished. We need to add on a second floor, a project for later... The school that collapsed in Delmas during the earthquake is in the process of being rebuilt. If all progresses well, it should be finished by January of 2016. The Sisters struggle to take care of their needs as the cost of food and living is escalating.

For safety reasons, a fence was absolutely necessary around our convents and our schools so one of the things we did was to help repair the fence around the property of the school and convent in Cabaret. School supplies and equipment are still greatly needed for all of our schools in Haiti and Sisters sometimes need help to have their basic needs met.

The situation in Central Africa has changed a great deal due to the political situation so the schools can no longer function as they did before. As a result of the political situation, our Sisters do not always have their basic needs met and need our help with this. They need food and other supplies for their health and personal hygiene as well as to help others.

Thanks to many generous and faithful donations, we were able to raise \$19,380.21 total since October 2014 to October 2015. Since some people have special request where their money goes, the amounts to each mission varies. Following is a breakdown of the monies:

- Catholic Schools in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan \$3,128.21
- Victims of Human Trafficking \$3,835.00
- Haiti \$7,725.00
- Central Africa \$4.692.00

Once again thank you for your generosity and helping those less fortunate than us. We do make a difference.



### Compassionate Hearts Club

As of November 6, 2015



#### **Archangels**

Shirley Charlier, Carney, MI
Dr. Edwin Nichols, Washington, DC
David & Colleen Rappa, Bloomington, IL
Donald & Rita Zalewski,
Stevens Point, WI

#### Angels

Bob & Sherri Bink, Escanaba, MI

#### Saints

Ray J. Adamini, Marquette, MI Tim & Carol Beauchamp, Rock, MI Delaine Bishop, Escanaba, MI Bob & Kathy Bixby, Berwyn Heights, MD Mr. & Mrs. James Bugay, Escanaba, MI Mark Canale, Marquette, MI Agnes Coleman, Washington, DC Mary & John Connelly, Escanaba, MI Ken & Maura Davenport, Marquette, MI Msgr. Donald Essex, Silver Spring, MD Margaret Finnerty, Escanaba, MI Sandra Goudreau, Brampton, MI Tom & Terry Krause, Menominee, MI John G. Kublin, MD, Marquette, MI Ivan Laurin, Carney, MI Rev. Allan J. Mayotte, Marquette, MI Norma McCormack,

North Bethesda, MD
Rev. Emmett M. Norden, Escanaba, MI
Michael Prokopowicz, Gwinn, MI
Jane Pryal, Escanaba, MI
Richard & Mary Schaefer, Marquette, MI
Patti Seymour, Escanaba, MI
Martha Short, Marquette, MI
Fr. Joe Sileo, Sterling, VA
Sarah Ten Eyck, Washington, DC
Barbara Whatley, Marquette, MI

#### Cherubs

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Abbey,
University Park, MD
Anonymous -2
Michael Bausano, Calumet, MI
Don & Susanna Braman, Munising, MI
Glen & Joann Bressette, Sr., Harvey, MI
Jack & Mary Ann Campbell,

Kingsford, MI
Eduardo & Amy Carbonel, Escanaba, MI
Nicola DuPont, Carney, MI
Debbie Granato, Wakefield, MI
Joseph Gregorich, Marquette, MI
Air Gustafson, Dickenson, ND
Henry & Ilene Hughes, Gladstone, MI
Joanne Jarboe-Costello, Bethesda, MD
Donald Koskey, Marquette, MI
Dorothy Lippold, Escanaba, MI
Linda Lynch, Marquette, MI
Stephanie Wilson MacInerney,

Appleton, WI Amelia Mebane, Washington, DC Carol Miller, Wakefield, MI Charles & Therese Palomaki, Munising, MI

Rev. Msgr. Jed Patrick, Gwinn, MI Fr. Darryl J. Pepin, Bark River, MI Edward Retaskie, Marquette, MI Ann M. Richardson, Marquette, MI Don & Bobbi Silverstone, Gladstone, MI Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Swiatlowski,

Grand Rapids, MI
Donald Sylvain, Bethesda, MD
Arnold & Betty Taylor, Escanaba, MI
Mary Cathleen Thorrington,
Marquette, MI
Ilona Tuballa, Toms River, NI

Ilona Tuballa, Toms River, NJ Ellsworth W. Viau, Avon Park, FL Patricia Wagner, Marquette, MI











Want me	ore information about becoming a Sister of St. Paul?
You n	nay write or email Sr. Gloria Schultz at:
Sister	s of St. Paul de Chartres
1300 C	ounty Road 492
Marqu	nette, MI 49855
Email	: srstpaulweb@yahoo.com
www.s	sistersofstpaulusa.org
"Like	"us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SistersofStPaulUSA
Envelo	pe Enclosed
donatio	re enclosing an envelope for those who may wish to make a n, write for information, be added/deleted/make correction t ling list or to add a friend to the mailing list, etc.
Name	
	S
Tidalesc	
_	ne
	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