

Christ is risen

*Alleluia!*





# EASTER GREETING

With Easter so early this year, we don't have the great signs of nature to help us as fully to grasp the meaning of the resurrection. Yet, for the people of faith that we are, it is not necessary because we have experienced in our own lives the pattern of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. With joy in our hearts and peace in our spirits, let us cry out that Jesus is alive as we give praise and thanks. A mass will be said for you, your family, and your intentions. May Jesus, our Risen Lord and Savior, bless you with His Easter gifts of peace, love, and joy.

### *An Irish Blessing*

*May the road rise to  
meet you  
May the wind be  
always at your back  
May the sun shine  
warm upon your face  
May the rains fall  
soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again  
May God hold you  
in the palm of  
His hand*



**We give thanks  
for Sr. Patrice  
our Irish Sister  
who is 93 years old**





## Welcome Elsie Stafford

Elsie Stafford has been named administrator of the Bishop Noa Home which is a Home for Senior Citizens in Escanaba, Michigan. The Bishop Noa Home is the only Catholic-owned senior citizens facility in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. As you know, it is owned and operated by us.

Elsie moved to Escanaba from Ironwood. She has been a director of nursing and administrator of Westgate Nursing Rehabilitation and Assisted Living Community. Elsie and her husband, “Stubby” Stafford, live in Bark River. They say they are enjoying Escanaba’s welcoming hospitality. Elsie has two adult children, one in Minnesota and the other in Illinois, and one grandson.

The Bishop Noa Home is blessed by the presence and expertise of Elsie. Thank you Elsie for your “Yes”. The Bishop Noa Home is flourishing under her guidance. Many plans are in the workings for the future to better our home. Please keep her in your prayers as she undertakes with great enthusiasm and love the administration of the Bishop Noa Home.



## Celebrating the Year of St. Paul and our General Chapter

Since the Holy Father named 2008 as the year of St. Paul, we, the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres started out the year of St. Paul by holding a District Assembly on January 24-26, 2008 at our Motherhouse in Marquette, Michigan. Fr. Frank Lenz joined us on the 24<sup>th</sup> as we opened the District Assembly with the celebration of the Eucharist. Prayer and reflection on the epistles of St. Paul filled the day. We were delighted to have Bishop Garland celebrate mass on the 25<sup>th</sup> since it is the conversion of St. Paul. He blessed our pictures of St. Paul which came from Thailand.

At the District Assembly we spent time looking at how we could deepen our knowledge of the epistles of St. Paul as well as how the passionate love of Paul for Christ and his missionary zeal could become our love for Christ and our zeal for the Kingdom.

During our General Chapter which was held in Rome in September, we addressed the four doors asking ourselves how



we could be creative women in our day to carry on our charism. Like St. Paul we renew our missionary horizons. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Spirit of God calls us to renewal and universality, to become welcoming of persons and events, giving birth to change. We are called to step into the unknown, as our Sisters have done in the past. We go forward mindful that our history and our missionary foundations are steeped in Paschal Mystery.

The second door dealt with our spirituality which is Christocentric. It is lived out in the fullness of the Paschal Mystery. We were also called to take a look at the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the life of St. Paul. Following Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we will write a new chapter for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Like St. Paul's early Christian communities, we are called to build authentic religious communities. We draw our strength from community living in



order to spend ourselves in the mission. Therefore, we strive to make each community an image of the Trinitarian love. We are communities of a new Pentecost, where we become sisters who are happy and hospitable.

The fourth door calls all of us to become responsible for the unity and the future of the Congregation. We will do this through renewed processes and relationships in governance. This calls for flexibility, shared responsibility, accountability, teamwork and fraternal support. This demands conversion of heart, formation and participative leadership.

Throughout all of our discussions of the doors, the spirit of St. Paul was moving us. He was a great missionary so he truly is our model and guide. Sr. Myriam Kitcharoen, the head of our Congregation, has called us to be women of a new era who are guided by the Spirit of Easter and Pentecost and who are determined today, to move forward. She said, “Being women of the future and strong with the hope that dwells within us, let us move on, filled with confidence, to announce Jesus Christ!”

On the 26<sup>th</sup> our Friends of St. Paul joined us for a morning of recollection. Fr. Jeff



Johnson celebrated the mass. We renewed our vows and our Friends of St. Paul renewed their commitment. In the afternoon we chose to undertake three projects of outreach during the year. We started with our own Upper Peninsula. Working with Child Family Services, we will help to take care of some of the children in need. Our mission in Haiti spoke to our hearts so we will raise money to send to our Sisters in Haiti to help rebuild the schools that were destroyed by the mud slides from the heavy rain. We also want to help Mr. Covit, a 93 year old man in Venezuela, to make a simple yet effective system that will collect and purify the rain water so that they will have safe drinking water. As it is now, they suffer greatly from dysentery, especially the children. We are excited about our efforts to reach out and raise money for those in need.

So taking the theme of the Chapter we move forward in the Marquette Diocese and throughout the world, strong in hope and with tranquil daring in our hearts. Leaving fear behind, we are women who choose love.





## Changes in Assignments and Ministry News — Signs of Life

Changes in the placement of Sisters continues to take place and it is a sign of life for the District. Sr. Estela Garcia is presently on a 3 month renewal at Mercy Center in Colorado Springs. After many years of teaching, it is a well earned experience. She has time for prayer, reflection, and enrichment programs. She will finish on April 25. Keep her in your prayers as she does you in hers during these special, grace-filled days.

Sr. Martha Trinh transferred to Escanaba on March 1. She will work at the Bishop Noa Home part-time as the in-service assistant and will do part-time vocation work for the Congregation. We are delighted with her yes to serve as vocation directress even if her time is very limited. She has many ideas and gifts to share. She has also undertaken the task of training as the financial director for the Congregation. Please keep her in your prayers as she undertakes so many new things at one time.

As a result of the transfer of Sr. Martha, we needed someone to take her position as receptionist at St. Jane de Chantal with a lot of odds and ends attached to the position. Sr. Nenita Leonardo heard the voice of God within and volunteered to take this part-time position temporarily while she continues to study for her nursing boards. She left for Washington, D.C. on February 26<sup>th</sup> and started at St. Jane de Chantal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. We give thanks for her generous heart and spirit.

Sr. Therese Vu does not have a transfer however there have been some changes. She was and is working as head of the Pastoral Care Department at the Bishop Noa Home. She has moved from a 6 hour day to full time. This will give her more opportunity to visit with the residents at the Bishop Noa Home or in the hospital as well as to add things to bereavement follow-up for our families. We are delighted that our service to our residents and families can be expanded.

Sr. Rosaline Charoentavit, who started her ministry in Trenary in December in Pastoral Ministry, finds herself loving her ministry. She has been well received and is giving her heart to those she ministers too as well as spreading great joy and enthusiasm. Among her many tasks, she helps with the RCIA, brings communion to the shut-ins, and helps with religious education as well as the teens. May the work of her hands and heart prosper.

In January Sr. Juliana Djo was named as the acting Superior for our Sisters at our Motherhouse in Marquette, Michigan. Sr. Rosalie Hughes started her 3 year term as local Superior in the Escanaba House on February 24, 2008, May the Holy Spirit guide both of you and give you wisdom.

Sr. Francis Mortola will be returning to the United States and will reside in Marquette, Michigan. We look forward to her return and thank God for sending her back. We do not know the date of her coming however it probably won't be until June or later. She needs surgery for a macular cyst so please keep her in your prayers.

Sr. Anne Charles Sia will attend the renewal in Rome, Italy at our Generalate. She will be leaving on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The renewal starts on May 27<sup>th</sup>. On June 30 her group will leave on a pilgrimage to France to visit the places of our roots. May this be a blessed time for her. Please keep her in your prayers as she keeps you in prayer.

On behalf of Sister Mary Ann Laurin we would like to thank everyone who attended her farewell parties and who has been praying for her. She has been traveling since her new ministry started. Part of her ministry is to visit our Sisters in other countries. On January 26th she left Rome to visit our Sisters in Thailand, Hong Kong and the Philippines until March 9th. You can learn about her trip in our next newsletter.



## Sister—Who are you?

### “Give Me a Sign”

I am Sister Rosaline Charoentavit. I was born in 1957, in Bangkok, Thailand. My vocation was started at home. I was raised by my family of a strong Catholic faith. My mom is a good Catholic. She used to teach me how to trust in God. She said several times, “I have a hard time to raise all of you because you don’t have a father. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the head of my family. Whatever you do, he looks after you and will take care of you always. I can’t follow you in every step. God will take care of all of you as you co-operate with me.”

We prayed the rosary every night before we went to bed. In my house there was a big altar. There were a lot of holy statues: Jesus, Holy Mary, St. Joseph, saints, etc. My grandmother lit the candles and led us in prayer.

I am proud of my mom’s faiths that transferred into my life little by little. When I finished my high school at St. Joseph Convent, I wanted to know God’s will for my life. I went to have a retreat at the retreat center of Ursala’s Congregation. There were 19 young youth who were seeking God’s will and discerning their vocations. There were strict rules to discern our vocation. Keep silence all the time and listen to God’s will. Do not wear a watch;



*Sr. Rosaline*

do not talk to each other, and fast. I never had an experience like this before. It helped me to listen to God’s will very clearly. Sister said all the time that God’s presence was with us and taught us to be aware of God’s presence.

It was Holy Thursday (April 5, 1975). After the beautiful liturgy of the washing of feet and the great banquet of the last supper, I went to bed full of peace and joy. I had a severe stomachache about 9 p.m. The Sister brought me to the hospital. They found that I have appendicitis. I was scheduled to have an operation at 7 a.m. on Good Friday. Even though I was in pain, I knew it was the sign which I asked God to give in my discernment to answer his call. I asked God to show me what God’s plan was for my life.

It was 30 years ago and as a Sister of St. Paul of Chartres, I still try to be aware of the presence of God in my life through persons and events. There are a lot of good and bad mixed up in my life. One thing that I will ask him again

and again, “Please show me the signs even when I am in pain and suffering because at the end of my life I wish to live with you in eternal life.” I have happiness in my belief that Jesus is a great magician in my life. How I find him and this game of vocation as a religious in the SPC community is not finished until I have taken my last breath. How can I respond to his call to be like Jesus? “I am the true vine. You are my branches, you can do nothing without me.” My life is not my own at all. I want to be like you, Lord Jesus in the cross and your Glory also. Thank you Lord because of your mercy and kindness to me all the days of my life! You give me signs all the time. I trust in you. Amen.

*Sr. Rosaline Charoentavit*

## March Snow

This isn't just a winter snow;  
It's much too soft and warm.  
Without the cold and freezing air,  
It hath a springlike charm.  
'Tis almost gentle on my cheek  
As though it tried to say,  
Do let me have this little time  
For soon I'll melt away

This isn't January snow —  
For see, it's much too wet,  
And certainly might prove to be  
The very last we'll get.  
The flakes are twirling in the air  
As though they've surely found  
Their beauty quickly fades from sight  
When'ere they reach the ground

This isn't really winter snow;  
It's part of early spring,  
A fond farewell to wintertime  
Before the birds shall sing.  
So very gentle in its way,  
It brings a thrill to you;  
A March snow soft against your cheek  
Says winter's almost through.

*Garnett Ann Schultz*

## Mission Projects

The Sisters of St. Paul and our Association of the Friends of St. Paul have decided to take on three mission projects this year and we are inviting you to join us. For the first one, we have decided to start in our own backyard. We have chosen to help the children of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by assisting Child and Family Services who empower families and individuals with skills to care for themselves and others thus enhancing the quality of life. Child Family Services currently has 18 different programs that assist in a variety of ways from Foster Care, Adoption, parenting skills, housing assistance, before and after school programs, as well as abuse and delinquency prevention.

For the other two projects, we have turned globally. We have chosen to assist our own Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres in Haiti to rebuild schools for the children as they have been destroyed by the mudslides caused by the heavy rain. For the third project, we are off to Venezuela. With a lack of quality drinking water in the villages, many people suffer from sickness and even death. The children are the ones who suffer the most. A 93 year old man, who is the father of a friend of ours, has been working with many others to devise a system to collect and purify rain water that would

provide enough safe drinking water. We are joining his efforts.

**So what are we doing and how can you help?** Some are collecting cans and donating the returns. Others are saving change as one of their ways to help. Some are making sacrifices and donating what they save. Along with those and other creative ways that are thought of and done, cans for monetary donations will be put in many businesses that are willing to participate with us. Down the road we are also thinking of planning a fundraiser. If you live in our local area and know a business to approach, contact Sr. Gloria Schultz. The procedure will then be explained in greater detail and we will also provide the can with the flyer. Any donations can also be sent to Sr. Gloria at 1300 Co. Rd. 492 Marquette, MI 49855. If you want it to go for a specific project, indicate that. Otherwise we will divide the money and send to all three projects. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Sr. Gloria by mail at the above address or email her at [gjschultz123@yahoo.com](mailto:gjschultz123@yahoo.com). She is also available by phone at 906-399-0420. Please join us in our effort to reach out and help.



## Mission News from Korea

Ecology in Gyeseong High School.

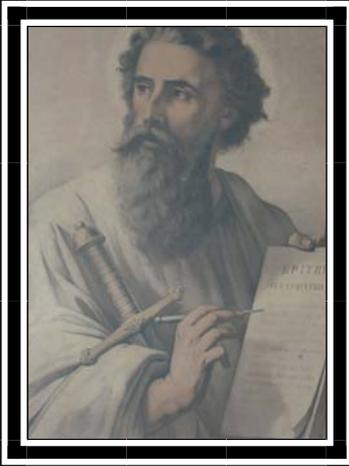
For years, Gyeseong Girl's High School has been taking small steps in order to revive our ecosystem. We are feeding earthworms with leftovers from students' lunch, and using the earthworms' castings as fertilizer to grow tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and cabbage. Moreover, we are making use of the water which has been used to wash rice. That water is processed with effective microorganisms and becomes fermented. We make the fermented rice water in order to reduce water pollution and recycle water resources. This is a part of our school's effort in environmental education.

The most critical task that the whole world should carry out is to restore our ecosystem.

'The Preferential Option for the Poor' must begin with our compassion for the planet by

1. Listening to the cries of the Earth, showing compassion for the ailing earthworm, the Earth's old companion. It is the precious ground healer that restores our dying soil, transforming waste material into useful fertilizers. Their own castings mixed with soil is of the highest quality fertilizer.
2. Being Alert to the Cries of Water. When washing rice, the nutrients get washed off. If this water with the nutrients flow into the sewer, the number of microorganisms soars at an abnormal rate. However, when we ferment the rice water using EM (Effective Microorganisms) we can prevent water pollution.

Since our school is located in the urban area, we lack green space and to compensate for the lack, we have just transformed a 662m<sup>2</sup>-roof deck of our High School into a roof garden with shrubs and flowers. Furthermore, in the little patch we have made along with the flower garden, members of our two environmental clubs – the Earthworm Club and the Fermented Rice Water Club – are going to grow vegetable crops, making full use of earthworms and rice water! *God has created the universe and entrusted us with its maintenance. We humans have the obligation to preserve our ecosystem so that future generations will still be able to lie down on the grass, observing snails climbing up a bough and clouds floating in the sky. Those who are close to nature know instinctively that humans are to live in harmony with it and can therefore choose the right path to take, without the need for us to scold them constantly about protecting the environment.*



## **Life to me is Christ**

(Ph. 1:21)

### **Prayer to St. Paul**

Glorious St. Paul, our patron, our model and our father, God's chosen vessel of election, see us kneeling at your feet imploring your powerful protection. Deign to give us a share of your ardent zeal for the glory of God which consumed your life in the midst of work, fatigue, and all kinds of suffering. Help us to respond generously to God's call to make him known everywhere and by all creatures.

Obtain for us your burning love for Christ, that love which led you to prefer the hardships of the cross to all the grandeurs and pleasures of the world, that love from which nothing could separate you, that love with which you pronounced the name of Jesus and which made you another Christ.

St. Paul, give us your great apostolic heart which embraced the whole world, that day and night we may spend ourselves for God's glory.

May we your family not remain fruitless, but following your example may we bring the love of Christ to the sick, the aged and the children confided to our care. Grant that we may increase in number and in virtue, that we may become living replicas of your goodness and gentleness, your courage and spirit of sacrifice; so that Our Lord may live in us as He lived in you, to the glory of the Blessed Trinity and the salvation of many. Amen.

## *Thank you*

The Sisters of St. Paul would like to thank everyone who sent gifts and donations since our last newsletter.

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Adamini, Marquette, MI  
Jerry Allen & Lois Phillips, Johannesburg, MI

Ortaciana Allen, Washington, DC

John & Barb Balbiera, Marquette, MI

Geraldine Bellmore, Hermansville, MI

Teresa Belmore, Marquette, MI

Bishop Noa Home, Administration, Staff and Residents, Escanaba, MI

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Brennan, Marquette, MI

Donna M. Boyer, Marquette, MI

In honor of Sr. Mary Ann

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James & Mary Butorac, Ishpeming, MI

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Col. Bernadette Reider, Marquette, MI

Vern & Sue Scott, Marquette, MI

Mary Ann Seidl, Menominee, MI

Lorraine Sharkey, Menominee, MI

## *Thank you*

Rita Sharon, Escanaba, MI  
 Gil Soldivillo, Anaheim, CA  
 St. Christopher's Altar Society, Marquette, MI  
 St. Michael Altar Society, Marquette, MI  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joeseeph Sullivan, Marquette, MI  
 Debby Tapani, Palmer, MI  
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 Regis Walling, Marquette, MI  
 Rita Willour, Marquette, MI  
 Jesse & Susie Wright, Marquette, MI  
 In memory of Aurea Gonzalez  
 Luella Young, Escanaba, MI  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zalewski, Stevens Point,  
 WI  
 Jack & Lynn Ziminski, Manistique, MI  
 Rev. James Ziminski, Garden, MI

Also to everyone who had sent gifts to our  
 convents in Washington DC, Escanaba and  
 Marquette whose name we may have missed.

### Renovation Update

The upstairs  
 bedrooms are now  
 completed. They  
 need some clean up  
 and furniture yet,  
 but otherwise are  
 ready to be used.  
 We are still waiting  
 for the elevator to  
 come in so the  
 workers can  
 complete the  
 project.

### Please, Remember us in your will.

When you write or review your will, please consider  
 leaving a charitable bequest. Ask your attorney to  
 include such words as these: *"I give, devise or  
 bequeath to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul,  
 1300 County Road 492, Marquette, MI 49855-  
 9632, for its general purposes, all (or state fraction)  
 of the rest, residue or remainder of my estate, whether  
 real or personal."* Or *"I give to the Sisters of St. Paul  
 de Chartres, 1300 County Road 492, Marquette, MI  
 49855-9632, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to be used for  
 the general purposes of the Sisters of St. Paul."*

Note: "Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul de  
 Chartres" is a legal title of the Sisters of St. Paul.





**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: gjschultz123@yahoo.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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to make a donation for \_\_\_\_\_ to the

**Mission Projects**

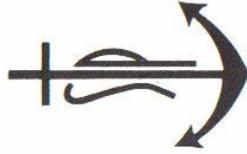
\_\_\_ Child and Family Services of Upper Michigan

\_\_\_ To rebuild Haiti Schools

\_\_\_ For Venezuelan drinking water

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