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Easter Day

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

Christ the Lord is risen today! Angels rolled the stone away from the tomb where Jesus lay!

Everyone, come and sing. "Glory, glory to the King. Christ the Lord of everything.

Alleluia let it ring. Christ our Lord is risen King! Praise him always as you sing.

May the love of Jesus Christ our Savior, who is risen from the dead, protect you and guide you in everything you do on Easter Day and always. May Jesus fill you with love, peace and joy as well as all of the graces that you need.

A mass will be said for you and your intentions. You are in our prayers, always.





320th Anniversary of our Founding

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

On January 24th, with Cardinal Parolin as the main celebrant, we celebrated in Rome the 320th year of our founding in France in 1696. We gathered outside the chapel for the procession and carried the flags representing the countries where we serve.

Three Sisters, dressed like our first Sisters, headed the Superiors from the different countries in the procession. We had a special penitential rite. We continued to ask pardon for the ways we didn't show God's pres-



ence and mercy in the world. It is the stance that we desire to take throughout this Year of Mercy with a desire in our hearts to live the mercy of God.

After the great Eucharistic celebration of joy and thanksgiving, we took many pictures of one another. We had fun moving from one group to another as well as in different places in the chapel.

From there we moved to our dining room where the festivities continued. We had a catered meal and enjoyed the company of one another. The room was filled with sounds of laughter, joy and love. It is a gift for us as Sisters in leadership to get to know one another more deeply. We thank God for one another and the support that exists between us.

From here we move forward with all of our Sisters throughout the world to strive to live well and deeply the Year of Mercy. May mercy be the face we show to the world by the way we relate to one another and to everyone we come in contact with.



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Council of Congregation Meeting in Rome

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

Twenty-seven Provincial and District Superiors along with the head of our Congregation and her 4 council members gathered in Rome for the Council of Congregation. You may remember that in 2013 we had our Chapter where we elected the head of our Congregation and set the direction for the next six years. The logo of our Chapter is: Alive in the Word; Let us be light. The Council of Congregation looks at what we have done since the



Chapter as well as what we haven't done, in order to move forward in the process of being more alive in the Word, thus becoming better beacons of light in the world.

We started our work with a sharing from each Province and District. It showed how we looked to the past with gratitude as our Holy Father asked, as well as how we have moved forward since the Chapter, naming what we have done and what the challenges are. It was interesting to see that most of the challenges that we face are felt around the world.

We then had speakers who helped us to look at some of the challenges, the call of Pope Francis for those in Consecrated Life, and how to deepen our



relationship with Jesus and the process of formation.

This past year was the Year of Consecrated Life. We were able to participate in the Symposium for Consecrated Life held at the Vatican from January 28th thru February 2nd. It started at St. Paul's Basilica outside the Walls in the evening of the 28th with Pope Francis leading the Ecumenical Service for the Week of Unity celebrated throughout the world.

The opening service was followed by days filled with prayer, talks, and

standing in line with 5,000 men and women religious. Needless to say the bulk of religious were women. The standing in line helped us to wait and ponder in our hearts as Mary does as well as to share stories, laughter and joy. The talks gave us much food for thought and more importantly many things to put into action especially during this Year of Mercy. The talks guided us on how

to live our charism more fully as we strive to meet the needs of the poor and those we work with. We relived our calls through the experience at the Vatican as the fire of love within moved our hearts into flame.

On February 1st we had an audience with Pope Francis. Just seeing

him and his smile brought the Face of Jesus present and radiated his call for us to live the joy of the Gospel. It led me to beg forgiveness for the times that I did not radiate the joy of the Gospel and I begged for the grace to be a brighter witness in the future. He told us that he prepared a speech for us however he would give it to the Cardinal as it was boring and he would just speak to us. He challenged us to live fraternal life more authentically and to watch the way we speak to and about our Sisters. He told us to spend time with our Sisters who are aging and to let the face of mercy be seen in our local communities. If we are merciful in community, it will flow more easily in our ministries and all those we come in contact with.

On the morning of February 2nd, we had mass in the house at 6 a.m. There

was the blessing of candles outside of the chapel followed by a procession with lit candles. After the homily we renewed our vows along with all of our Sisters around the world. I pray that I will embrace and live my vows more fully.

After mass we had a quick breakfast and were off to St. Mary Major Basilica for the Stations of the Cross. The procession started outside and moved around the Basilica as we followed the Year of Mercy cross praying and singing as the traffic and people moved by. It was a moving experience as we begged God for mercy and remembered the suffering and

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death of Jesus that allows us to receive this mercy. It spoke to me of the need for the sacrament of reconciliation so that I could be more faithful to on-going conversion in my life so that I can really be the face of God's mercy in the world.

The day ended with mass at St. Peter's Basilica with Pope Francis as the celebrant. Many of our Sisters arrived at 2:30 p.m. for the 5:30 p.m. mass and were seated inside the Basilica. My group didn't arrive until 3:30 p.m.. We were in







line for an hour and a half. By now the Basilica was full so we sat outside and participated in

the mass with the screen that was set up for us. At first I was disappointed. I wanted to be inside. Then I told myself that I was outside for a reason and to be open to what God had in store for me. As the mass started, the darkness and the lights created a feeling of the sacred for me. I was deeply touched by the roots of our faith and all of the men and women who have gone before us and paved the way. I felt a sense of deep unity and thankfulness for all those who remained faithful and were the face of Christ in the world.

At communion time, there were only two priests distributing communion outside for hundreds of us. Unlike America, the style is not to be orderly and go row by row. Everyone rushes to move forward and it felt like chaos to me. At that point I thought that I would never get communion and was thankful that we had mass in the morning. I kept moving forward the best I could in the crowd. In the end I had to lean forward and stretch my hand as far as I could. As the priest placed the Host in my hand. I became aware of how thankful I was to receive and then shared part of my Host with another Sister. It spoke of the longing in my heart for Jesus and the desire to have Him as the center of my life as well the importance of those who are on the journey with me. The seeming chaos and stretching became a symbol and gift. The journey is not always easy. Sometimes we can wonder where God is or how to handle the things that are going on in our life. Yet God writes straight with crooked lines. We stretch and reach to find God in the midst of our situations. We desire, long and thirst for God who loves us lavishly and in

great abundance. The face of the mercy of God was clear and God reached to my outstretched hand so that he could dwell more deeply within. A little effort on my part and a great response of love on God's part that went far beyond my effort or imagination.

The whole experience was a blessed one and I was thankful that I was outside to have the experience God planned for me and I could tell it was not over yet. As Pope Francis processed out of the Basilica, I could see a camera person set up and an open door. I just knew the Holy Father would come outside so I got my camera ready. Many Sisters did not realize there was more and started to leave. Surprise! Not only did Pope Francis come outside, he spoke to us. He greeted us with his warm, joyful smile and called us to be faithful to our call and the love experienced in the call. My whole being was filled with joy and thanks. May I now have the grace to live it and to love more deeply. Thank you, my God of joy and great surprises.

This ended the Year of Consecrated Life and we now move forward to embrace and live deeply the Year of Mercy that has already begun. The question is how do we do this. We listened to many talks and were inspired. The key now is to find ways to put it into practice so we met in small groups for days praying, recollecting and striving to discover what will help us to deepen the way we live consecrated life. There were three French groups and two English groups doing the same work.

This followed with a sharing of the small group work in a plenary session. The large group made decisions about what to take home to the

Sisters and what to emphasize. Of course the real work is in the heart of each Sister as we journey together on the path to conversion. We in the United States will have our District Assembly right after Easter. We will start on March 29th. We ask for your prayer support so that we will be open to the





Holy Spirit and be willing to enter more deeply into the process of conversion.





Year of Mercy

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

We are now in the Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis. It started on December 8th which is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. What a great feast to begin this Year of Mercy and to ask for the intercession of Mary to help us to be the face of mercy in the world.

The Divine Mercy message, which was revealed to Sr. Faustina in Poland just before World War II, was becoming more widely known. Her message was given to remind us of the Gospel truths we had forgotten. Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, brought the message to the United States in 1941 after he received it from Sr. Faustina's confessor and spiritual director. A ban was put on the message in 1959 due to poor translations and because of the political situation. The lifting of



the ban in 1978 and the publication of the Diary of Sr. Faustina in the 1980's brought an explosion of the dissemination of the message.

Pope John Paul II helped to make known the message of Sr. Faustina and canonized her on April 30, 2000. He named the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. This helped to spread the need for mercy for ourselves and for the world. It helped us to know that we needed to be merciful to others. The Divine Mercy Chaplet became more widely known and helps us to pray daily for mercy.

The new millennium has witnessed a host of new problems that remind us that the message of Divine Mercy is more urgent than ever. We know the list only too well from war, terrorism, refugees, and natural disasters to oil spills and destroying Mother Earth. With fear of the direction we are heading in the world we are led to pray to God and ask for Mercy. We then need to listen to the silent voice of God deep within our hearts that calls us to trust God. The Psalmist reminds us: "Trust God at all times, my people! Pour out your hearts to God our refuge!"

During this Year of Mercy we need to experience mercy, give mercy to those in our lives, and pray for the Mercy of God to touch humankind. Pope Francis says that the Church needs to be the face of Mercy in the world. When we hear Church, we often think of the hierarchical Church. While mercy needs to be on this level, we are Church so we need to bring mercy into the world. It needs to be freely given with great joy.

I encourage you to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day and when possible to pray it between 3 and 4 pm in the afternoon when we recall the passion and death of our Lord. Pray crying out for mercy on the whole world.

A prayer has been written for this year. It follows in case you have not seen it. Please pray it daily.



A Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

By Pope Francis

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulterous and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God."

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifest his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the church be your invisible face in the world, it's Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate everyone of us with it's anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives And the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy: you who and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Redemptive Suffering

By Sr. Gloria Schultz



Since we are rapidly approaching Easter and we have looked at the suffering and death of Jesus, during Lent, I thought it would be good to talk about redemptive suffering as it has a role in the Year of Mercy as well.

In today's world we do not like to talk about suffering or have it in our lives. While we do not have to look for suffering in our lives, it will be a part of our lives. Like it or not, our salvation took place on a cross. If I want to be Christian, I must take up my cross and follow after Jesus.

The mercy given us from the cross did not come easy. It was made available by the redemptive suffering of Jesus, by the saints, and those who unite their sufferings with Jesus for the sake of others. This way suffering can have a meaning and a purpose.

So what is the meaning of suffering for a Christian? Pope St. John Paul II told us that Christ sanctified suffering, making it salvific by his love. Now we are invited to be partners in the work of salvation by bringing his mercy to everyone. We do this by offering our sufferings with love, uniting them with Christ for the salvation of others. It does not matter what kind of suffering we have or what the source of the suffering is. All can be love with love.

REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING—CONTINUTED

Some people are chosen to be victim souls; that is souls who willingly and freely asked to share in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of others. This is a very special vocation and not all are called to it. Sr. Faustina was one of those persons. She understood well that she was being invited to a life of sacrifice. She offered all her sufferings with a burning longing for the salvation of souls. Though we are not called to suffer in the way St. Faustina did, suffering is part of our lives. We all suffer in some way. The challenge for us is to make use of it for others by offering with Christ what ever sufferings we endure, remembering the words of St. Paul: "It is your privilege to take Christ's part - not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him." (Phil. 1:29)

During this Year of Mercy, let us make an effort to offer our sufferings in love for the salvation of others. This will help the face of mercy to be seen in the world.



Sister Update

Sr. Eden Orlino arrived as a missionary to our District on February 8th. We are so delighted to have her in our midst. After she gets her driver's license and adjusts, she will be assigned at the Bishop Noa Home as head of the Pastoral Care Department. Please keep her in prayer.

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin arrived in Marquette on February 16th. She will be with us until March 16th as she is helping with many things in the District. We are grateful for her presence and her help. Please pray for her as well.





Sr. Marie Hoa Pham, our new missionary from Vietnam, finished her month studying English in Washington, D.C. She resides in Marquette and continues to study English.

Sr. Daria Becomes a U.S. Citizen

by Sr. Estela Garcia

November 10, 2015 was the turning point of Sr. Daria Moon's life when she became a US citizen, giving up her Korean citizenship. In her US citizen certificate she changed her Korean name Jeong Hyeon Moon into Daria Moon. It was a tremendous and generous sacrifice she made for being a missionary of 16 years in the US.

Sr. Daria Moon came to the US in 1999 with Sr. Dorothea Jang, another Korean Sister, to minister to the Korean community in Andrew Kim parish church in St. Louis, Missouri. They worked in the Religious Formation for children, Bible study for adults, and did other parish work entrusted to them by their parish priest. When their contract was ended, they decided to study Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at St. Luke Hospital



and Forest Park Hospital. St. Louis, Missouri. Sr. Dorothea took 5 units of CPE while Sr. Daria took 4 units. In order to be certified, Sr. Daria took 1 year of graduate studies at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, Missouri, After their studies they prepared themselves to go back to Korea. When Sr. Gloria Schultz (District Superior of USA District) learned

that they were going back to Korea, she called them and asked Sr. Dorothea if she was willing to join our community here in the US. She declined the offer and opted to go back to Korea. Therefore, Sr. Gloria conveyed the same offer to Sr. Daria. She said she would think about it. After praying over it and doing some discernment, Sr. Daria accepted the offer of Sr. Gloria. Sr. Daria joined our District USA in 2004. She was assigned to work at the Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC. Her ministry as Chaplain in this institution keeps her busy, making her rounds to the patients, making them comfortable with her smiling face and with her encouraging words or just praying with them. I was with her one day visiting the patients when they told me that she was an "Angel" to them.

One day in our casual moment, she asked me how to apply to become a US citizen. I told her what to do and how to do it. In February 2015, she started processing the paper work for citizenship through the Internet site of USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Service). Her Ko-



rean friend Cecilia Joh and Mr. Chris Kobb extended their help too. She filled out a form and submitted it to the USCIS. Later on, she received a letter that she had to go to the Immigration Office in Alexandria, VA for

finger printing. She was happy how her application was progressing. After long awaited months, she received a letter from the Immigration giving her the date of her interview which was September 12, 2015 at the USCIS, Fairfax, VA. She prepared herself for this occasion by memorizing the pamphlet of 100 questions given to her. On the day of her interview, Maria Yim and her fa-



ther, and I accompanied her. When we arrived at the Immigration office, many people were already waiting to be interviewed. After sometime, Sr. Daria's name was called. We wished her "Good Luck". It seemed she was inside for an hour. When she emerged from the interview room, she was smiling. We knew that she passed. She whispered that she did it well. To celebrate this happy moment of her life, we went to a Korean Restaurant for a meal to enjoy the day. In October, she received a notification from the USCIS that her Naturalization Oath Ceremony would be on November 10, 2015. The venue would be at US Court, Washington,

DC and she had to check in at 8:00 a.m. On the day of her Oath taking I was not able to go with her due to unavoidable circumstances. Instead, I asked our friend, Ledy Lagardo to accompany her to the venue of the Oath taking Ceremony. Sr. Daria invited some of her friends to be with her for this special occasion. Her friends were already there when they arrived. The ceremony started



at 10:00 a.m. According to Sr. Daria, more than 100 people became US citizens on that day. Sr. Daria was beaming as you can see in the picture. Somebody took several pictures of Sr. Daria and her friends to remember this unforgettable day of her life. After the ceremony, Sr. Daria and her friends had a joy-filled celebration at a Restaurant. Her becoming a US citizen is one of the "Aha" moments in her life. Congratulations, Sr. Daria!

Open House

By Elsie Stafford

The Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center (GAJMCC) became a reality with an Open House on December 15th and 16th greeting over 150 members of the community. This beautiful building represents many years of planning and a wonderful partnership between the Community Action Agency (CAA) and the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres that are sponsors of this mission. The 3,600



sq. foot non-profit entity was created to meet the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia related illnesses. CAA's Adult Day Services moved into the building and started providing services on January 6, 2016.

The Center, located at 2635 1st Ave South, Escanaba is a vision made possible by generous contributions from throughout the community. It has been generously supported with an April "Par-Tee" fundraiser in 2015 and one scheduled for April 7, 2016. The entity is solely operated



by donations. While providing day time services to individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia related illnesses, the center will be offering care giver support to family members.

Mrs. Patt Abrahamson Besse's donation of \$525,000 given in honor of her son, Gary Abrahamson Jr. with numerous donations from many community members helped to make this center a reality. The GAJMCC was

designed by Dynamic Design Inc. architects and was built by Roy Ness Contracting. The design promotes handicapped accessibility as well as an

open concept with space to offer a variety of settings and activities for those receiving services.

This mission is truly a wonderful opportunity for agencies to join services and provide for the community. The Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres are very proud to be sponsors of this mission.





Come to our "Par-Tee"

By way of updating you on the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres' recent happenings to "extend your tent pegs" (Isa.) ever more deeply into the community, we saw the construction and opening of The Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center, from the many partnerships and generous donations that came together. The Memory Care Center provides beautiful space and a safe homelike environment, as well as offering much needed adult community services, especially to the most vulnerable and those most in need for generations to come! The Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center is a new 501c3 non-profit organization, located on the Bishop Noa Home property (2635 1st Ave. So., Escanaba, MI 49829); sponsored and operated by the Sisters of St. Paul. The Center does not generate revenue; thus, is funded solely through donations.

The 2015 "PAR-TEE" Fundraiser was a wonderful and enjoyable success of stewardship and love toward the Memory Care Center. The "PAR-TEE" Fundraiser has been established as an Annual Event, specifically to maintain, sustain and run the Memory Care Center well into the future!

This year's "PAR-TEE" Fundraiser is on April 7, 2016 at the Island Resort & Casino Convention Center in Harris, MI. We invite your kind review and consideration of possibilities that you and others can support the Event. Remember that every penny makes a loving, gifted difference!

Ways to Support the Event:

- Share the "PAR-TEE" Information with Family, Friends, Employees, Neighbors
- Purchase Tickets & Attend the Event! (NO Ticket Sales at the Door)
- Volunteer to Help us the Night of the Event
- Make a Monetary Donation to: "The Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center"
- Donate an Item(s) for the Raffle and/or Auction

And Most of All...Come, Join us...Win...and Have Fun!!!

All of this, of which you are a unique part, helps create a beautiful tapestry of love!

We certainly look forward to seeing you at the "PAR-TEE" and with prayerful, grateful hearts celebrate the goodness of the Lord Jesus in and through you and your partnership in the mission! God Bless You!

Sr. Rosalie Hughes, SPC, Director of Mission Advancement 2900 3rd Ave. So., Escanaba, MI 49829 Tel.: (906)786-5810



Sisters of St. Paul - District USA

Autobiography – Sr. Marie Hoa

I was born on October 29, 1970 in Qui Nhon in Vietnam. My parents already had six children so I already had two sisters and four brothers. Later two of my brothers and one sister were born so I grew up in a family of ten children until one of my brothers died at the age of 20. I was ten years old when he died. It was very painful for me to have my brother die.

I grew up in a religious family. We went to mass every day and we prayed the rosary together every night as a family. My parents



loved God very much and they handed on the faith to us. I am very thankful for my parents and the gift of faith that they shared with us.

Before the Vietnamese war, my parents





worked for the American army. Because my parents worked for the Americans, my family was in danger

during and after the war. After the war, my mother stopped working and stayed at home. My father became a bus driver.

My father was in an accident in 2011 and was in a coma for two

months. Thanks be to God he lived. He did not fully recover. He is in a wheelchair and he is forgetful. My father is still living in Vietnam and my niece takes care of him. My mother died in 2012 from breast cancer.

My eldest brother is a priest in Norway. The rest of my siblings now live in Oregon. Two of my brothers were the first ones to come to America in 1992. One sister followed several

years later, and the rest of my siblings came after my mother's death.







I first heard the call to be a Sister when I was ten. After High School, I met a Sister of St. Paul de Chartres and decided to enter that Congregation. I entered the "juvenat" of the Sisters of St. Paul in 1990 in Saigon at the age of twenty. After my nursing studies, postulancy, and novitiate, I took my first vows in 1999 and my final vows in 2005.



When I look back on my

life, it is a mystery. My God takes me step by step. I thank my God. In 2000, my Provincial sent me to serve the ethnic minority group in the highlands. I was happy when I was serving them. It was at this time that my Provincial recognized my capacity to be a missionary and she sug-



gested that I volunteer to be a missionary. My parents cried and disagreed with my choice. My Provincial then said: "You should wait." Thus, my volunteering to be a missionary was put on hold and I continued my mission in Vietnam until my mother died in 2012. When my siblings prepared to move to America in 2014, I still decided to live in Vietnam because my father, who was old and weak, was staying in Vietnam.

My Provincial had a meeting in Rome in September of 2015. After she came back from Rome, she told me: "Mother General wants you to be a missionary in District USA." This was really

unexpected and I was shocked; however I still said "yes." I know who I am and the vows that I took as a religious so the only response from my heart could be the "yes" that I said. I had no idea what my new life would be like, but I had confidence in my God. He calls me and plans my life. I believe that God will bless my father and take care of him.

In October 2015, I was sent to Rome for three weeks to do my training as a missionary. From there I was given permission to visit my brothers and sisters in Oregon for one month. Then I left for Michigan, arriving in Marquette on December 3, 2015 and that is the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the great missionary. Presently I am studying English and adjusting to life in America. I thank God and know that He will give me all the grace that I need to be a good missionary.



March4Life: A Journey to Life

By Sr. Marivic Estrella Reflection:

The advocacy of saving life has been a great endeavour of the religious congregation. The event March for Life in Washington, DC is celebrated to commemorate the 43rd year legalizing abortion in the USA. This occasion was participated in by the parishioners of the Diocese of Marquette in this year's episode.

Indeed, my heart was filled with excitement because I knew that it would require extra effort and courage to actualize this advocacy. We left on January 20 with the Checker Bus loaded with 55 participants including the drivers. In this group, we had two priests Fr. Robb Jerkovich and Fr. Corey Litzner who joined us. The travel from Marquette to Washington, DC by bus took us 24 hours. On the bus we offered our evening prayer and rosary until we reached the hotel.

While we were waiting for our room assignment, a woman holding a placard



with a message "I REGRET MY ABOR-TION" caught my attention and gave me a realization of how precious life is. Thus, I recalled the story of my mother about me. Looking back, I could not help myself but to reminisce my mother's personal story of attempted abortion. She told me then that while she was conceiving me, once she thought of ending her pregnancy due to

poverty. Since I was the youngest, she tried to think to abort me because she and my father may not be able to sustain the needs of the family. However, my mother's religious orientation and belief was so firm that it would not be dazed by shallow reason or may be an evil option of aborting life. Seemingly, her idea on abortion did not happen because she knew that God gave her a child who would serve Him and His people. My mother was thankful and grateful to God for guiding her and leading her to the right way. I believed that my purpose has been offered to Him.

As we moved along, there was

an opening mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in DC. A lot of American young adults joined the event. I really felt the sincerity of the advocates in ending the abortion in their country. This journey served as an eye opener to every one of us; perhaps this could also be a way to open the mind and the heart of the young people of today's generation.

On January 22, 2016 Friday, all the advocates marched going to the Capitol. A mass had been offered at the Verizon Center at 9:00 am. Approximately, 10,000 people participated but not as many as last year's attendance because of



the storm alert. The organizers in our group with the consent of the two priests decided that after the mass we would be heading back to Marquette but we would have an overnight stay at the sister Hotel Renaissance in DC. We left Washington DC at 1 p.m. and reached our hotel in Greensburg, Pennsylvania at 8 p.m. The travel time is only four hours, but it took us 7 long hours because the snow was already thick and our driver drove only 35mph

The travel by bus was also a challenging experience; it is like a test of patience and forbearance as well. This wonderful event and my experience of the March for Life reminded me of my desire, commitment, and vow to proclaim that life is a gift from God. The long hours of journey can be considered as a sacrifice for the intention to END ABORTION in this country.



Compassionate Hearts Club



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