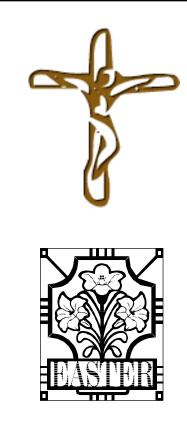




# **Easter Time**

The most wonderful things That Easter time brings Is Jesus Christ Himself The Greatest love of all Who was crucified for us And died for us all He raised to life And lives in our hearts He saves us from our sins And draws us close to Him Now reigns forever As our Lord of Lords



May the peace, love, and joy of our Risen Lord, protect you and guide you in everything you do on Easter Day and always. And may Jesus fill you with graces and blessings in all that you need.

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

The Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres

# SISTER UPDATE

 The Sisters in Washington, DC moved to their new residence at 2905 King Place, NE Washington, DC 20018, on Feb. 3, 2018.



- Sr. Priscilla DeGuzman now has a new ministry with Project Rachel at the Archdiocese of Washington.
- Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen has been working very hard at
  - learning English with volunteer tutors and Sisters. She is now studying English at Northern Michigan University for 2 months.







- Anna Gang is now novice Sister Anna Gang. Congratulations to Sister Anna and may you persevere in your call to become a Sister of St. Paul de Chartres.
- Sr. Juliana Djo is applying for U.S. Citizenship and Sr. Marivic Estrella, Sr. Norma Vicentillo, Sr. Dorothea Jang and Sr. Eden Orlino are in the processing of obtaining green cards. Good luck to all.
- We will be holding our District Assembly June 4-8, 2018 in Marquette. We will have a workshop on Healing Emotions: Anger, Anxiety, Grief and Fear
- Sr. Norma Vicentillo will go to the Philippines for her renewal from July 16 to August 26, 2018. She will have her home visit in the Philippines for a month after her renewal.
- Sr. Estela Garcia will be having her home visit in the Philippines from August 20 to September 30.
- Sr. Marivic Estrella will be having her home visit in the Philippines as soon as her green card arrives.
- Sr. Gloria Schultz celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2018. Her celebration will be October 21, 2018, 3 p.m. at St. Christopher's Parish in Marquette, Michigan. Save the date and join us!



# **Spiritual Renewal Session**

Sister Marie Kim Phuong Nguyen "All of my life I will give praise and thanks to the Living God. My heart is full of joy, and forever I will bless His Holy Name!"

Greetings from Rome! First of all, I would like to say thank you to all of you, especially Mother General Goretti Lee, and her council, also Sister Estela and her council, for giving me this opportunity to be in Rome and France to attend this Spiritual Renewal Session of this year from 2/12/2018 to 3/20/2018.

On Tuesday, February 6, at 5:30 p.m., I boarded Delta Airline for Detroit to Amsterdam, and I arrived in Rome on Wednesday 2/7/2018, at 2:50 p.m. After a long and tiring trip due to not being able to sleep or rest during the flight because of the surrounding noise from many people talking, even at night time, I was welcomed by Sr. Mary Ann, Sr. Madeleine Hong A, and Sr. Raphael at the Airport.



When I arrived at the Generalate, I was so touched and joyful by the warm-welcoming of Mother Goretti and the Sisters at the front door. It was like a home coming after sixteen years since my first Spiritual Renewal Session in 2002. I was excited with the expectation of seeing all of the Sisters coming from five Continents of the world for this gathering, especially of the four sisters from the Da Nang Province, whom I have not seen for at least 26 years since I left Viet Nam in 1992.

Eventually, I had a few days of

resting and adjusting myself from the jet lag and tiredness. We started our session on Monday 2/12/2018 with the opening message from Mother Goretti. The Theme of the gathering is "New Wine in New Wineskin." She began by saying: "I pray with our Patron St. Paul that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith that rooted and grounded in love, you may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ, that surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled with all the fullness of GOD.' (Ep 3:17-19)

Through her presentation, I realized that it is only when we





open ourselves to let the Lord Jesus come into our hearts and minds and so be able to encounter Him, then we may find the meaning of our lives. With the gift of our consecration, we are all called by God to be joyful witnesses of His Love and Mercy in the World.

For me, one of the purposes of this Spiritual Renewal Session is to integrate back into the community and religious life after several years of being away from the community, in order to take care of my parents. I was thinking, . . . is it Christ really at the center of my life? Do I manifest in my actions and in my daily relationships with others that Christ is truly my one and only love? How about my mutual connections to the Sisters in community regarding God's love? It was my hope that I will eventually realize the answers for those questions from this opportunity.

One special thing I would like to share with you, particularly with the Sisters who were from Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong. During this session this year on Ash Wednesday, we were lucky to have a chance to celebrate the Lunar New Year with all the Sisters at the Generalate. We had a good time with laughing, pictures, and with all the traditional foods, and especially, the red envelopes with lucky money from Mother Goretti! It was a lot of fun!

Everyday we have different presentations from each council member. Also Sister Madaleine Rioux who is our SPC (Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres) from Canada gave different topics in her presentation. It was very interesting and enriching for our religious and community life. With Sister Mary Ann, we were led to encountering Christ in many aspects. She began with the quote of Pope Francis: "Religious need to radiate joy. This joy does not come from ourselves and how we feel. It comes from Jesus." Through her meditation with the variety of

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Gospel passages, I felt the tenderness and love that God has for me. Moreover, this experience of encountering Jesus through my limitations and His love makes my heart fill with joy and happiness, which comes from the feeling of being "a beloved daughter of God!"

Sister Brigette and Sister Madeleine Rioux showed us fraternal life in the community, a prophetic witness of being a merciful community as a place of formation! For me, as a member of the community, I have learned that our community is starting from its imperfection. This called us to be realistic. This is a school of learning to be fully human to search for fraternal love and unity. In the community life, as a consecrated person I know that we are called to live together in harmony, to share the same mission of Jesus Christ according to the Charism of our Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul. She emphasized that we are an International Community with the differences of cultures and languages, which are challenging. So the interculturality is one of the many dimensions that most religious communities have to live today as the "signs of the times."

"Formation" was the topic of Sister Madeleine Hong A. Her focus on Formation today is a ministry and a mystery. I think that is true because formation is the work of God who proposes, and the work of people who receive for a period of time, and also for lifelong. She concluded that the key to the future of consecrated life lies in ongoing formation; it does not lie in the number of members, not in the works but in the quality of our life and our continuous formation.

Last but not least, Sister Emily brought up the topic, "The Challenge of Evangelization in the Life and Mission of the SPC." She men-



tioned the Goal of New Evangelization is total transformation inward and outward to become a new person in Christ. My thought of this topic is that in responds to this challenge as a SPC, we have to be bold with courage and creative. In other words, our joy is our response to a world that has become so pessimistic. We also need a spirit of communion and connectedness with the Holy Church, one Love, and one Body in Christ.

Every day through each presentation, we had personal or group sharing according to the topic. It was so helpful that we could go further in depth and understanding of our Religious Life.

During the time in Rome, we had the privilege to visit the Church of St. Paul outside of Rome and the Church of St. Paul at the Three Fountains. We made our Pilgrimage to follow the footstep of St. Paul to the site of his martyrdom. The story was passed down that his head bounced three times on the ground, and at each spot a spring appears. I prayed and tried to remember in my heart all of you when I was in all the Churches.

One day, we went to Sienna to visit the Shrine of St. Catherine, the Church of St. Dominic, the chapel of the vaults, the Chapel of St. Catherine, the Cathedral of Sienna, and the Chapel of St. John the Baptist. We also visited St. Francis Assisi church. I was amazed with all the fine marble structures. They are beautiful and worth going three hours by bus.

No trip to Rome is complete without a tour to the Vatican! Of course, through the kindness and generosity of Mother General and her council, we had many wonderful trips to the Vatican. On Ash Wednesday, we went to a General Audience with the Holy Father at St. Peter's Square. It was a windy and rainy day, but you can't imagine how many people were there with all the excitement to see in real time Pope Francis. My heart felt many blessings because I was able to see Him face to face, and my dream to see him comes true. Later, we went on the tour to see the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum, and the Vatican Garden...I stood transfixed with amazement of all Michelangelo's frescoes on the vault of the Sistine Chapel... They are very beautiful and filled me with awe! During this time we weren't able to visit the Catacombes due to reconstruction.

Furthermore, when we were inside St. Peter Basilica, after attending two Masses. We went down to visit the tomb of St. Peter and the places where they laid all of the Popes in history. It was very touching and I felt blessed to see all of these places.

Finally, tonight we will begin our eight day retreat here in the Generalate. On Thursday, March 8, we will depart for France. We will

go to Paris, then Chartres, where we will visit Levesville, our cradle of Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. We will continue our pilgrimage to Lourdes, Pertuis, and Lesieux, and then back to Paris to get ready for going home.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank again my Sisters, my Companions of St. Paul at home in the USA, who have been praying for me all the time. You are so very generous in making your sacrifices for me and that I can have this opportunity to go to Rome for my journey of renewal and reintegrate into my religious and community life. May the good Lord bless you all and your loved ones abundantly. Please pray for me as I always pray for you, and my safe trip home. See you soon.



# SILENCE Still Speaks How Important LIFE Really Is

By Sr. Daria Moon

Ayden O'Malley was a beautiful bright 14 year old little girl with long blonde hair from Illinois. According to her father and family she was very athletic, active and participated in many activities. Ayden was one of the passengers on one of the nine buses from the Diocese of Illinois that traveled thirteen hours to Washington, DC to participate in the **March for Life**.

Ayden complained of severe headaches once she arrived in Washington, DC. She was rushed to Children's Hospital where she remained during the March for Life held on January 19, 2018.

I attended the Immaculate Conception for the Vigil Mass with Sr. Priscilla De Guzman and a friend Jackie. One of the Chaperons from Illinois spoke to me and shared the story about Ayden. I introduced myself as a Chaplin from Washington, DC and would not only pray for her, I would also go and visit her at National Children's Hospital. We asked many many people that attended to pray for her as well. The Shrine was filled with people from all the states of USA praying for life.

January 20<sup>th</sup> I went to visit Ayden who was in Intensive Care at National Children's Hospital. The nurse said that she had been sedated. I had the pleasure of meeting her father and her sister from Illinois. They were both shocked and afraid. Here is this very beautiful child lying silently in the bed. Her father told me how very fortunate she was that this happened in Washington, DC surrounded by hospitals. If this had happened in his hometown she would not have made it. He also said the group from Illinois, which they traveled with, were coming to celebrate mass for her at the hospital in the afternoon.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Ayden was on my heart and mind and I wanted to see her again. Unfortunately, when I arrived at National Children's Hospital intensive care unit, the staff informed me that she had passed away. I was very sad and offered mass for her family and friends. I asked the Lord the reason why - Too soon and too young Ayden's gone?

May the Lord give her eternal peace and console her family

and friends from Illinois. May Mother Mary embrace her in her bosom.

Ayden traveled many miles to protest how important Life was. Thank you Ayden for your presence. You did make a difference in the **MARCH FOR LIFE**. You left us realizing how very precious **LIFE** is.







Darby Mitchell DeGrand is a tenant in the apartments of Bishop Noa Home and loves being a tenant here. She would like to share a story that touched her life deeply while she was living in the apartments where she loves to live so that she can show you how God is touching her life and taking care of her in a special way while she lives at Bishop Noa Home. – Sr. Dorothea Jang

### My Miracle While Living at Bishop Noa Home By Darby Mitchell DeGrand

I became a tenant at the BNH (Bishop Noa Home) because God told me I had been given the Stigmata and I was going to have a rough time with it.

My little dog Bear moved into the BNH with me. Bear had never lived without me near.

On one of our first days at BNH, Bear made an escape. The back door to my apartment had had inadvertently been left ajar. Bear saw his chance and he took it. He ran free, his tail a beacon of freedom.

I saw him disappear into the sleet. In the distance I could see the traffic lights of a busy truck intersection. He would die right there under the wheels of one of those trucks. I started crying right then and I did not stop.

It was at that time that God said the ominous words, "Three days." I thought of Jesus who spent three days in the tomb before His resurrection. I therefore understood God's words to mean that in 3 days Bear would return. I doubted that, but God's words were all I had to hang onto. A bargain had apparently been made. My part of the bargain was to tell as many people the story of Bear as would listen to me. Without God' explicitly telling me this, I was given to understand that in three days Bear was to be carried through the lobby of the BNH home in the arms of his foster mistress and be returned to me.

I tearfully told the story to as many people as would listen.

Three days! Three days!

On the third day Bear was carried into the lobby of the Bishop Noa Home and placed in my arms.

I was ecstatic. Bear was ecstatic. The little girl dog that God had so intricately led Bear to was also ecstatic.

I gratefully released Bear to the woman who obviously was his new mistress.

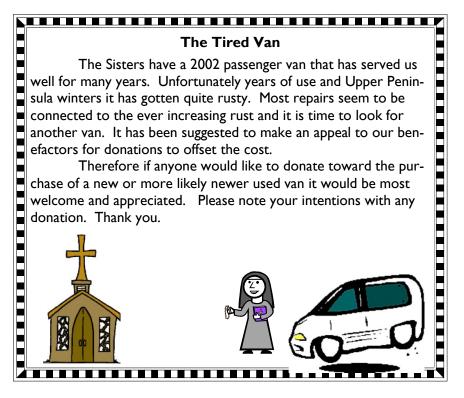
God is good. God is careful.

I learned that in the first half hour of Bear's release from captivity, he had found the open door of a van. He went in. He burrowed beneath a blanket. He slept. He was found by the owner of Riverside Motors. His picture was taken. His picture was put on FACE BOOK. He was identified by Sharon Benoit who had been my office mate at Bay College as Darby Mitchell's dog. But I didn't have a phone, so Sharon did not know I was lame and had moved to the Bishop Noa Home. God must have passed the message.

I met Sharon by chance in a hallway of the Bishop Noa Home when she came looking for me.

The point of this story does not change. God is good. God works miracles.







## An 'Inter-generational' ministry: A personal Experience By Sr. Eden Orlino

Once a month I visit with the children enrolled at the Holy Name Catholic School. It is the only Catholic school in the area of Escanaba, Gladstone, and environs. The total population is 308 students from Pre-Kinder to Grade 8. A very 'homey' school with a student / teacher ratio of 15-1. With a total 30 classes, I get to visit more or less 15 classes every month form1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The welcome hugs and smiles I receive from the students and teachers are more than enough to lift my spirit.

The 'In and Out' of an afternoon. What happens?



With the guitar as my companion, there are suggested themes I tackle during my visit. The themes usually coincide with the liturgical celebration of the season/month or special holidays like Advent, Feast of St. Nick, Christmas, Epiphany, Valentine,

St. Patrick, Lent, All Saints, etc. The presentation of the themes are woven using songs, stories, and more importantly contextualized within their grade level or age bracket. The students show interest in the cultural nuances of the themes. Sharing with them how the young especially the children celebrate Christmas, Advent, Lent and other seasons in the Philippines delight them as well. Their interest in learning about children of other countries makes them ask questions.

The children show so much love and admiration for priests and the religious. When I see them in public places like groceries, Church, parks and the like, they manage to give their warm greetings. It is such a joy to see and hear their warm

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greetings in action and in words.

I am learning much from my visits with the children. They show me how their parents 'school' them in faith and action. They share stories very naturally about their family and how they



are taught to practice their faith. It is such a consoling and proud moment for me to listen to their simple stories yet with deep and profound living of the Catholic faith.

I thank God for His guiding hand in the formation of these children. The family is indeed the locus of faith formation and continuing in Church, School and the community where they belong. The beautiful integration of all these is all pointing to one direction, to God.

Lastly, I marvel at how God arranges things in my life. My present mission is to minister at the Bishop Noa Home, a trilevel facility for the Seniors. My experience of ministering to the elderly and the children makes me bow my head to God, and say with all reverence that He is God indeed, the 'Rock of ages'!





### Par-Tee Fundraiser for the Gary Abrahamson, Jr. Memory Care Center



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As you know from our past newsletters, annually we have the Par-Tee to support our mission of the Gary Abrahamson, Jr. Memory Care Center which was built to meet the needs in the area to service those with brain challenges as well as their care givers. Educational programs are also offered each month to

support those who are able to come as well as to educate on various topics.

The Par-Tee will be on April 12, 2018 at the Island Resort and Casino Convention Center in Harris, MI. Tickets are \$50.00 including Buffet Dinner, Golf-themed Games, Raffles, 50/50, Silent & Live Auctions, and a lot of fun! Tickets are available at the Bishop Noa Home or from the Sisters. The Par-Tee starts at 4:00 p.m. If you can come and join us for this evening, we would be thankful for the gift of your presence. If not and you find it in your heart that you would like to support our mission monetarily and/or with prayer that would very much be appreciated. Other ways



### Sisters of St. Paul - District USA

that you could support this mission of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres is to volunteer to help us at the Par-Tee, donate an item (s) for the raffle and/or auction, and share this information with family,



friends, employees and neighbors. We deeply appreciate any way that you can support our mission.

Our Mission Statement says the Center welcomes strong, caring, wholesome partnerships, shared resources and

support, with rich professional training and programming services to the community, especially to adult individuals most vulnerable and in need. As you heard from the above information, we are doing our utmost to keep this mission alive so thank you for any ways that you are or can support this mission.

Join us at the Island Resort & Casino Convention Center

•An Indoor Golf Themed Event •2 person teams/Flight Prizes •Raffles and Silent Auction • Doors Open at 4 PM EST •Buffet Dinner Begins at 7 PM EST

## Tickets: \$50

Tickets Available at Bishop Noa Home Call 786-5810 ext 150 and WYKX/WDBC





# **Compassionate Hearts Club**

Thank you to all have donated to our Mission Projects: Needs in Haiti and Central Africa, Victims of Human Trafficking and the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Marquette.

The Sisters of St. Paul take donations year round for the Mission Projects and if you would like to donate or donate again it would be appreciated. Please note your intentions so the donation will go where you would like it to.

### **Cherubs**

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Perla Bautista, Sunnyvale, CA Claire Bissonnette, Marquette, MI Mary Connelly, Escanaba, MI Sylvia Csiffary, Washington, DC Dale & Ann Ford, Gladstone, MI Theresa & Duane Fowler, Marquette, MI Jeanine Franck, Wakefield, MD Fr. Christopher Gardiner, Munising, MI Bishop James H. Garland, Marquette, MI Althea Hicks, Bowie, MD Mr. & Mrs. Robert Joyce, Silver Spring, MD Norma McCormack, North Bethesda, MD Christine & Charles Moore, Washington, DC Huong Nguyen, Milwaukee, WI Jane Pryal, Escanaba, MI Jesse & Susie Wright, Marquette, MI

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#### **Archangels**

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Don & Geri Zanon, Port Angeles, WA

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### A heartfelt Thank you to all who sent gifts and donations to our community and the Mission Projects.

Jeanneane Adamini, Marquette, MI Merlina Alfarero, Chevy Chase, MD David & Marie Allen, LaCrosse, WI In memory of Betty Carpenter Mrs. Manuel Aragon, Kearny, NJ Norbert Beauchamp, Marquette, MI Tim & Carol Beauchamp, Rock, MI Bishop Noa Home, Escanaba, MI Steve Boehm, Bethesda, MD Beverlyann Bolwerk, Gwinn, MI Lois & Joseph Brecque, Marquette, MI In memory of Betty Carpenter Raymond & Betty Briscoe, Sr., Washington, DC Canale Tonella Funeral Home, Marquette, MI Kenneth & Norma Campagna, Chicago, IL Jean Carpenter, Marquette, MI In memory of Betty Carpenter Mr. & Mrs. Richard Casey, Escanaba, MI Loreto Castro, Fresno, CA Barbara Charlier, Powers, MI Angela & Larry Christian, Mitchellville, MD Church of the American Martyrs, Kingsford, MI Mary Connelly, Escanaba, MI Marilyn Creten, Escanaba, MI Corazon De Lara, Washington, DC Dimitri & Sophia DesJardins, Grapevine, TX Stephen Dion, Lansing, MI Neriza Dumayas, Chicago, IL Remigio & Gloria Garcia, Hayward, CA Suzanne Giesen, Vulcan, MI Rev. Joseph Gouin, Kingsford, MI Annette Greene, Marquette, MI Joseph Gregorich, Marquette, MI Richard & Shirley Handrahan, Marguette, MI Richard & Donna Hubert, Escanaba, MI Michael Hutchison, Bath, MI Tee & Linda Insisiengmay, Grosse Point Farms, MI In memory of Betty Carpenter Dean Jackson, Marquette, MI Yong Jeong, Irving, TX Knights of Columbus, Negaunee, MI Donald Koskey, Marquette, MI

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Want more information about becoming a Sister of St. Paul?
You may write or email Sr. Estela Garcia at:
Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres
1300 County Road 492
Marquette, MI 49855
Email: srstpaulweb@yahoo.com
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The Catholic Schools in Marquette Diocese
Central Africa
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