

REJOICE! IT'S EASTER !

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled
 Let not your soul be sad
 Easter is a time of joy
 When all hearts should be glad.



Glad to know that Jesus Christ
 Made it possible for men
 To have their sins forgiven
 And, like Him, to live again.



So, at this joyous season
 May the wondrous Easter Story
 Renew our Faith so we may be
 Partakers of "His Glory!"

By: Nubia Group
Nubiagroup.blogspot.com

May the peace 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 de Chartres



SISTER UPDATES

- Sister Maria Diem Nguyen went home to Vietnam on January 24, 2019 to be with her mother who was seriously ill. Her mother died February 21, 2019. Sr. Maria Diem will be returning to the USA on July 1, 2019
- Sr. Daria Moon attended the World Youth Day in PAN-AMA last Jan. 26 – 31, 2019.
- Sr. Eden Orlino will be celebrating her Golden Jubilee on April 28, 2019 at 3 pm at St. Ann's Church, Escanaba, Michigan.
- Sr. Eden Orlino will go to the Philippines in June for her Spiritual Renewal July 16 -August 21, 2019 and vacation. She will be coming back on August 30.
- Sr. Delfina Tede from Indonesia will be our new missionary. Her papers are being processed.
- Sr. Fidelia Dator Villa from the Philippines will be our other new missionary. Her papers are also being processed.
- We had our District Assembly in Marquette, Michigan on March 1 & 2, 2019.
- The 48th General Chapter of our Congregation in Rome will be from September 6 – 29, 2019. Sr. Estela Garcia will be attending.



District Assembly March 1 – 2, 2019

In preparation for our General Chapter in Rome from September 6-29, 2019, we were given work to do. We were asked to choose a scripture text from the letters of St. Paul. We chose the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians and each community shared for three months and then sent the synthesis of our sharing to the District Superior.

The Sisters gathered together in Marquette, Michigan for our District Assembly on March 1 - 2, 2019 to further synthesize the responses of each community into five priorities under each aspect of our consecrated life and desiderata.

CONSECRATION (Life of Prayer, Vows, Formation)
COMMUNION (Witness to Fraternal Life, Interculturality)
MISSION (Proclamation of the Good News, Apostolic Life)

On Friday morning (March 1), we studied and discussed together as a group the synthesis of each community and prioritized five points under each aspect of consecration, communion and mission. Debby Tapani, our District secretary, helped us put on the computer the five priorities. In the afternoon at 2 pm, we continued our discussion on Mission and Desiderata that we did not finish.

On Saturday morning (March 2) at 10 am, we gave our input about the work we had done on our five priorities. Each one shared their thoughts, feelings and the priorities were agreed on.

In the afternoon, we had time to preview the Power Point to be presented in Rome at the Chapter showing our evaluation of our ministries in District USA. The Sisters gave their input on the Power Point and we are going to work together to improve it.

Within the two days of our District Assembly, I believe God was with us and the Holy Spirit was working within us because

the Assembly went smoothly. The Assembly gave us also an opportunity to be together sharing our experiences, reflecting, discussing and expressing sentiments, joys, and dreams. Our time together helped us to experience a healthy and supportive community. We celebrated our joyful and proud accomplishment of our hard work with a meal at Red Lobster Restaurant.





**Thank You Elsie Stafford
and Blessings in Your Transition**
By Sr. Gloria Schultz

Elsie Stafford retired from being the Administrator of Bishop Noa Home at the end of December 2018. We pray that she is enjoying her retirement and can't be thankful enough for her years of ministry at Bishop Noa Home. We are grateful for her years of service and the way that she helped in the growth of Bishop Noa Home and the mission of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. We would like to share some of the things she did.

On April 1, 2010 Elsie had us certified as a Medicare facility which allowed us to serve a larger population, meet the needs of the residents and look to the needs of the future. It became evident that having a Rehab Unit would be a great service for people of the area and to

enhance services of Bishop Noa Home, Elsie worked with the Board of Trustees and made plans to build a Rehab Unit which now serves many rehabbing from surgeries and falls.

Looking at the needs in our local community it was evident that there was a need to collaborate with Community Action who ran a program for those with Alzheimer, dementia, and brain related illnesses and provide a memory care to provide daytime respite for caregivers and provide a safe social environment for their loved ones. Patt Abrahamson offered a donation to build the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center. So, again Elsie with the Board of Trustees discerned that we should move forward with this plan. After getting many donations, we broke ground for the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center (GAJMCC).



Elsie came to us with a Nursing background and experience in nursing care. This was a great help to the Director of Nursing and a help to improving our nursing department.

We also went to a paperless way of recording under the direction of Elsie. These are to name just some of the ways that she helped us to grow and to provide better care for our residents.

Elsie is a loving and compassionate person who cared about the residents and staff. Many expressed to us how they missed her presence as a very caring person. She understood the mission of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres and helped the staff to understand the mission in deeper and richer ways.

Not only was Elsie a great Administrator she was and is a good friend of all the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. We miss her and send our prayer to her wishing her a retirement full of happiness and the love of God.



Welcome Jamie LaFave

Jamie LaFave is the present administrator of Bishop Noa Home beginning January 2019 after Elsie Stafford retired. We are blessed to have her replacing Elsie. She loves the residents and has a sharp-clear mind to lead us forward.

Jamie worked in various areas of healthcare since 2005 so she is familiar with the needs of a facility such as ours. She has actually worked as an employee of Bishop Noa Home since 2011 managing the business office thus being responsible

for all aspects of accounts payable, accounts receivable, and resident trust accounts along with working very closely with Elsie as her assistant.

Knowing that Jamie would be a good replacement for Elsie when she retired, we invested in Jamie's training as an administrator. She completed the required Nursing Home Administrator courses at Michigan State University with great ease.

Jamie has undertaken a great responsibility and is more than qualified for the position. We are blessed to have her leading us forward in continuing to make Bishop Noa Home a great facility that serves the needs of our residents and their families. Please join us in praying for her as she transitions into her role as administrator and as she faces the challenges that come her way.



*New Bishop Noa
Home Administrator
Jamie LaFave*

***Journey with the Diocese of Knoxville
To World Youth Day
in Panama City, Panama
January 26 - 30, 2019***

Sr. Daria Moon

It is with such pleasure that I share my second experience of attending the **World Youth Day** Festivities. This year the 34th World Youth Day was held in Panama City, Panama. A group of 150 priests, seminarians, chaperons and young adults in The Neocatechumenal Way group traveled from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Before we started our journey, we gathered together and had confession at St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic Church in Maryland. Afterwards we boarded the plane at Dulles Airport, Virginia, and set out for a five-hour journey to Panama City.

We arrived around 8:00 p.m., and our group took the bus to the Metro Park where mass would be celebrated with Pope Francis. We walked and walked to the Park, singing with our guitars, bongos and tambourines. Our leader led our section on the field where we were asked to bring our sleeping bags and belongings. I found a bottle of water, one sandwich, a hat and a booklet for mass in



my backpack and settled in my sleeping bag. I saw so many stars and a half moon in the sky. There was a gentle breeze and I was worried about the mosquitoes. Although it was noisy I was tired enough to fall asleep. Thank God! I never had any mosquito bites.

The next morning, I was amazed to see the hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. I was able to see Pope Francis when he arrived for Holy Mass.



Though it was a far distance, I was so excited. The theme was “**I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word**” (Lk 1:38). Pope Francis welcomed the youth and told them they are “*the now of God*”, and that their faithful, joyful presence shakes Panama, America and the whole world. It was a solemn moment after everyone received communion. The powerful worship and music “*We are one body, the body of Christ*” touched my soul.

After mass we walked with our belongings to reach our pilgrimage. Our exhaustion, hunger, and the crowded conditions were all sacrifices of self-denial. Along the way there were Panamanian ladies giving us pieces of watermelon. I still remember the refreshing sweetness of the watermelon and will forever remember their love, compassion, and kindness shown to us. The opportunity to reflect on my spiritual journey throughout my life and interact with so many people sharing their encounters with God was so amazing. Thankfully our group of 150 arrived at the hotel and were able to take a shower and to rest for a while.

We boarded the bus and went to the Cathedral, in Panama City for a mission in the evening. Many of the youth shared their testimonies and their faith in front of the Cathedral. Our group danced and sang along with all types of instruments, clapping and rejoicing all on one accord. It was such a joyful, festive time. Our leader gave us some money for dinner and my team found a Peruvian Restaurant. It was a treat for our day. When we gathered together at the hotel on that night, we shared how God called us to be in Panama. We expected great changes in our lives and were excited about sharing God’s love around the world and looking toward our future.

The next day, our group went to the stadium for a vocation meeting with Kiko Arguello, the Founder of Neo Catechumenal Way. There were 25,000 people from different countries. People were waving colorful flags from all over the world laughing and crying at the same time. I was so overwhelmed and impressed that so many youth and families wanted to serve God in their lives. Thanks be to God!!! There was a big surprise after the meeting: “Fireworks”. It was just beautiful, and I felt so welcomed and loved and energized.

The next day our group celebrated mass near the park with many priests. Each night we gathered and shared our experiences and fellowship. I was touched at how God intervened in each one of our lives and brought us on this journey.

The last day, we were able to visit the famous, Panama Canal and the Museum. After lunch, we were ready to go to the airport. There was news that Kiko Arguello would be traveling about the same time. Many of us wanted to see him and rushed to go to Gate 25. Sadly, we were asked to go back to our gate because we had to check in again. I was so disappointed that I was not able to meet Kiko Arguello; however I was so excited to see him at a distance and was touched by his humble presence. It was a short trip, but I experienced the power of God, and God provided what I needed.

I thank our community and many friends who helped make this pilgrimage possible. As Mary followed the will of God, I also asked the Lord to order my steps so that I may follow the will of God with increased faith and joy.

I closed my eyes on the plane on my way home, feeling as though this was all a dream come true. Time passed by so quickly. It was very cold when I arrived home in Washington, DC, but my heart was so peaceful and warm.



**“If the Lord does not build the house,
then in vain do builders labor”**

ps. 127:1

It had been a year now since we moved from St. Anne’s Parish Convent to St. Frances de Sales Church Convent in Washington DC which needed major repairs. God’s providence sent us “Super Angels” who helped and supported us find and move to our new home.

It was “ A Miracle of Love”

We remember and continue to pray with grateful hearts all those who helped us in that journey:

Sr. Mary Gilmary Kay, RSM

Fr. Bryan Sanderfoot

2nd Saturday prayer partners

The Legion of Mary from St. Andrew Kim Parish

The Chrismatic group from Virginia

Sunday School Catechists from St. Andrew Kim Parish

Neo Catechumen Way

Coworkers from Washington Hospital Center

The Filipino American Society in the East Coast

Graduates of St. Paul Schools from the Philippines

neighbors and friends from the Little Flower Church Parish and St.

Anne’s Parish

Brother and friend Priests and seminarians who prayed with us, carried our loads including heavy furniture

The movers who volunteered their time and energy

Parishioners and neighbors at St. Frances de Sales Church who welcomed us.

Thank you,

The Sisters in Washington DC and all of District USA



Life in the Parish at Precious Blood- Stephenson, Michigan

By: Sr. Norma Vicentillo, SPC

It has been more than four months now since the two Sisters moved into the Sister's convent of the Precious Blood Parish at Stephenson, Michigan. That day, October 16, 2018, was a very memorable one for our community, for our Pastor- Administrator Father Ronald Timock, the Parish Council, the parishioners; and especially for us- Sister Maria Nguyen and myself. I had shared in the previous newsletter about the joys and the excitement we felt with the warm welcome we received from them. The adjustment to our new home (Sister's convent) and new environment was made easier and as we started getting to know the parishioners, and the neighboring places in town we need to go for our basic needs like grocery stores, post office, local bank, library, gasoline station, local restaurants, hardware store, and others. The local people are very pleasant and are always ready to extend a helping hand.

November "Treat or Trick" came and we were ready with a sack full of chocolate and candies (brought by Fr. Ronald Timock) to be given away to the children who will come to the convent. Then, Thanksgiving came, and soon after three and a half weeks of Advent, came the Christmas Season. Sr. Maria and I put up the few Christmas decorations available. Most of the decorations came from our District house in Marquette including our Christmas tree.



I learned and it came as a surprise, that winter temperatures in Stephenson are colder than Marquette although we do not get as much snow as they have. I was admiring the green grass still covering the ground last January when it started to snow. Then February came with winter storms one after another and the ground is now fully covered with beautiful snow with wind chills sometimes as low as - 38F. Walking to the church in the morning for Mass with the snow on the path still unplowed can be challenging but at the same time a good thing to start my real offerings for the day. The third week of January, Sr. Maria - my companion in the community went home to be with



her sick mother who died a month later. May her soul rest in peace! Since then, I am alone in the convent and I recommend to your prayers for Sr. Maria's speedy processing of her Visa for her to be able to come back to us soon; and for a sister to be assigned to live at Stephenson in the meantime that Sr. Maria is still in Vietnam.

Father Ronald Timock has formally announced to the parishioners that his retirement was approved by the Bishop on the 9th of June this year which is his 70th birthday. He wants to be remembered as his legacy his tenure at Precious Blood Parish for the following reason aside from the knowledge that he loved playing golf: 1.) That he facilitated and was responsible for having the Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres live in the Sister's convent to work and get involved in the life of the parish. 2.) That he started the program of a local parish "visiting statue of our Lady of Fatima". He wants to encourage families to pray the rosary together in their homes and to increase the devotion to our Blessed Mother. That is also an opportunity for the Sisters to come and visit their homes, pray with the family on one occasion during the week that the statue is in their home.

Time seems to go by so fast, that it feels like only a week ago we celebrated New Year and yet now we are in the Lenten Season. Yesterday March 6th was "Ash Wednesday", the first day of Lent. As we are praying for Fr. Timock for a smooth transition and happy retirement, we are also praying for the new priest who will be coming to replace him. It is two months from now and we will have a new parish priest. We will absolutely miss Father Ronald Timock, but we are also preparing our hearts to welcome the new pastor God will send us. Another blessing, a great opportunity to renew our "Fiat" to our Lord.

Compassionate Hearts Club

Archangels

Marguerite Adair, Marquette, MI

Raymond & Betty Briscoe, Sr.,
Washington, DC

Maria Carmona, Silver Spring, MD

Gayle & Frederick Hoenke, Marquette, MI
Bill & Doris Lewis, Escanaba, MI

Angels

Maria Aurora Charvat,
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Denise Herron, Marquette, MI

Michael Prokopowicz, Gwinn, MI

Bart & Laurie Stupak, Menominee, MI

Tony & Pat Wros, Marquette, MI

Saints

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Ann Richardson, Marquette, MI
 Miss Margaret Mary Russell,
 Bethesda, MD
 Deacon Dave & Diane Talford,
 Houghton, MI
 Karen Williams, Oregon, WI



**A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who sent
 gifts and donations to our community
 and Mission Projects.**

Margarita & Francis Abbey,
 University Park, MD
 Jeanneane Adamini, Marquette, MI
 Necifora & Renato Arbolado, Las Vegas, NV
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 Stubby & Elsie Stafford, Gladstone, MI
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 Karen Williams, Oregon, WI
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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

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“Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SistersofStPaulUSA

Envelope Enclosed

We are enclosing an envelope for those who may wish to make a donation, write for information, be added/deleted/make correction to the mailing list or to add a friend to the mailing list, etc.

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___ To rebuild Haiti Schools and Haitian relief

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