

*Worship the* LORD



*in the* beauty *of holiness*



## Summer Blessings to You!

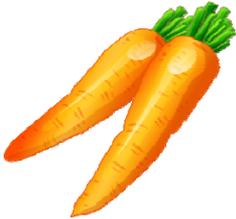


The so-called relaxing days of summer have been filled with excitement and many interesting things which you will have the opportunity to read about in this Newsletter.

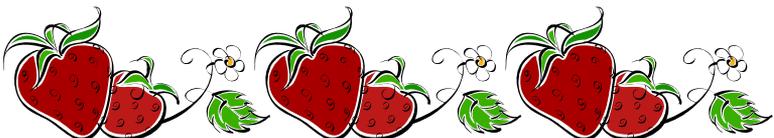
We pray that your summer had moments of relaxation and that you an opportunity to spend time with God in nature. Despite our many activities, this has been the case for us. The beauty of nature offered many moments of lifting our hearts and minds to God and an opportunity to breathe in fresh air and enjoy the sunshine.



We are now enjoying the vegetables from the garden and the delicious strawberries. We certainly count our blessings for the abundance.



May the Autumn Season usher in many more blessings of nature and union with God. Isn't it wonderful how nature keeps us connected to God in special and unique ways? May your eyes to anointed to see the love, goodness, and greatness of God within and all around you. May you know the warmth of God's love and experience the freshness of God's presence in your life each day.



## Sister Update

- Sr. Priscilla DeGuzman will be celebrating her Religious Professions with the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres on September 7th.
- Sr. Juliana Djo enjoyed her home visit and came back refreshed. Thanks to your prayers, her sister is now doing very well.
- Sr. Estela Garcia also had a relaxing time in the Philippines with family and the Sisters.
- Sr. Daria Moon left for Korea on August 1 for a month for her home visit. She is blessed to be there when the Holy Father visits Korea.
- Sr. Dorothea Jang and Sr. Norma Vicentillo will be going to Divine Infant Living Center to minister in pastoral care.
- We will be sponsoring Sr. Marivic from the Philippines to join the USA District. We hope to see her early 2015.
- Sr. Mary Ann Laurin is visiting the USA in August to help with Sr. Priscilla's formation. We are thankful for her help and guidance.

Sr. Dorothea, Sr. Priscilla, and Sr. Gloria attended a workshop on Religious Life at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana from July 14-18. Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM was the main speaker. She is a well-known speaker and writer among Religious men and women. The topic was Catholic Religious Life in a New Millennium. The conference was excellent and we are thankful for the opportunity to attend.



## Visit of Mother Maria Goretti Lee, our Mother General from Rome

*By Sr. Gloria Schultz*

With great joy we welcomed Mother Maria Goretti Lee our Mother General on June 23. What an honor to have her in our presence. She is a great gift to the Congregation and in a particular way to the District as she listens and tends to our needs. Her prayerful spirit, humility and simplicity are a great example to us and challenge us to live more faithfully the spirit of our Founders and our first Sisters.



The morning of June 24<sup>th</sup> we met with Bishop John Doerfler. He greeted us warmly and thanked Mother Maria Goretti for our presence in the Diocese and for our ministry. We in turn thanked him for his support and appreciation of Religious Life.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> we visited Divine Infant Living Center. More about this visit will follow in another article.

Mother Goretti flew on July 26 to Wyoming, Michigan for the profession of 5 Vietnamese Sisters to be held on July 29 and we drove there on the 28<sup>th</sup>. After an inspirational ceremony and a fun-filled time we drove back to Marquette on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We arrived in Marquette just in time to pick up Mother Goretti from the airport. Tired from the trip, we arrived home to a delicious, hot meal prepared by Bonnie Hurkman. How blessed we are to have such a special friend always willing to help us.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> we headed to Escanaba to join our Sisters there. We had the opportunity to thank Mother Goretti for her visit and presented her with a gift which was a quilted banner of the logo from our Chapter. The quilted banner was made by Bonnie

Hurkmans.

Mother Maria Goretti stayed in the States until July 3 when she returned to Rome. After a joyous noon meal in Marquette, we were off the airport with hearts that were filled with thanks. More about her visit with us will be explained as you read about different events during her visit with us.





## Visit to Divine Infant Living Center

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

The morning of June 25<sup>th</sup>, we were off to Wakefield to visit Divine Infant Living Center where our Sisters will serve in pastoral ministry before the year is out. Mother Goretti had never seen the mission. We were welcomed by the Debra Grenato the Administrator of the home who gave us a tour and showed us the renovations for the living arrangements for the Sisters



that had just begun. It was exciting to see the progress and to hear of the plans. As was said in former Newsletters, this mission is in keeping with our charism and there are no longer any Sisters in the area. We are truly excited about this mission and look forward to the arrival of Sr. Norma Vicentillo from the Philippines as she will be one of the Sisters to work in pastoral ministry at the Center. You will hear more about Sr. Norma in our next Newsletter.

While touring Divine Infant Living Center, we met our good friend Fr. Brackett. What a gift to see him, even though we didn't have a long visit with him.

After the tour, we headed to Ironwood for lunch. We were able to see the mural honoring the miners of the area that is painted on the wall of businesses. The painting is excellently done showing an important piece of history in the area. After we visited the statue of Hiawatha. It is a 52 foot fiberglass statue. Hiawatha is a legendary Native American leader and co-founder of the Iroquois confederacy. He was a follower of The Great Peacemaker (Deganawide), a Huron prophet and spiritual leader who proposed the unification of the Iroquois peoples, which shared common ancestry and similar language. The Great Peacemaker's speech impediment impeded progress. Hiawatha, a skilled and charismatic orator was instrumental in persuading the Senecas, Cayugas, Onondages, Oneidas and Mohawks to accept the Great Peacemaker's vision and band together to become the Five Nations of the Iroquois confederacy.







## Profession of our 5 Vietnamese Sisters

By Sr. Gloria

On June 28, Sr. Dorothea, Sr. Juliana, Sr. Priscilla and I headed to Wyoming, Michigan for the profession of 5 of our Vietnamese Sisters from Hanoi. They made their novitiate in Wyoming with Sr. Marie Thu Hoi as novice mistress.



We arrived in time for the first vespers for the Feast of St. Peter and Paul. What a gift to be all together for prayer. Mother Maria Goretti was already there as she flew on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Also present were Mother Myriam Kitcharoen, our former Mother General, and Provincial Superior from Hanoi along with our Vietnamese council member in Rome and other Sisters from Vietnam. After prayer, we enjoyed a delicious meal together.

The 29<sup>th</sup> began with solemn lauds for our Feast Day. Their small chapel was filled to overflowing and joyful praise filled the space. Breakfast followed and we were off to the Vietnamese Church for mass and the Professions.

During the offertory the gifts were presented by our Sisters who would make their profession with liturgical gestures. My heart was moved watching this symbolic offering of giving their lives to God which would soon take place as they professed their vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. What an honor to see them freely and publicly make their commitment to God.



After communion they did a liturgical dance to God to whom they

gave their lives. The look of love and joy on their faces gave joy to my soul and increased my desire to love God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength.



The celebration continued in the Church hall with a delicious meal that was served and prepared by the parishioners. The hall looked beautiful and filled with joy and laughter. During the meal the 5 Sisters

sang songs of Thanksgiving. Their angelic voices rang in thanks and praise.



In the evening we prayed solemn vespers together. A picnic followed with many friends joining us in the back yard of the convent. You may think this was the end, however, a program followed that was prepared by our newly professed. Much laughter and joy filled the evening. So we were entertained as well as both spiritually and physically fed. We ended the day with thankful hearts.



## Ceremonial Ground Breaking at Bishop Noa Home

*Most of this article was written by Jenny Lancour from The Daily Press*



You don't often see the Sisters in hard hats but they were a welcome sight at the groundbreaking of a new wing on the Bishop Noa Home for Senior Living in Escanaba on Wednesday, July 2 at 1 p.m.

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres from Escanaba and Marquette along with Fr. Emmett Norden participated in the ceremony officially marking the construction of a 10,000-square-foot \$1.5 million addition at the center. Superior General, Mother Maria Goretti Lee attended the event all the way from Rome. We were so honored to have her presence with us at the historic moment.

Residents and staff of Bishop Noa also attended the ceremony. Special guests included Board of Trustee members, construction representatives, banking officials, and others who played a role in the new wing.



Elsie Stafford, our administrator, provided an overview of the project noting the



wing will include a rehabilitation unit, 12 private rooms with private bathrooms, and a coffee shop.

More about the renovations will follow in an article by Elsie Stafford.





## **12 Bed-Rehabilitation Unit Addition at Bishop Noa Home**

*By Elsie Stafford*

The Bishop Noa Home gained Medicare certification in March of 2010. This designation certainly changed the culture of our facility. Residents don't just come for long term stays, they also come for short term rehab stays following medical procedures. Our "skilled care" designation allows the facility to admit and care for residents needing skilled services in either physical rehab services or medical services.

Skilled Medicare designation allows residents to use their Medicare benefit in a skilled care certified nursing home for Rehab services or skilled services that require the observation and assessment of an RN in a 24 hour period.

Skilled services also assist the resident and family with setting goals to return to their home by going to the home and doing a home evaluation. This allows for the rehab professional to assess the safety and resident needs in the home that will help them be successful in their return to home. This in home assessment evaluates the needs for assistive aides or devices in the home that will also assist with their recovery. Of course home nursing services are often ordered to further assist the resident and family with positive outcomes.

All of our rehab, Medicare A residents are asked to complete a survey on their return to home. The surveys have overall been very positive, however, many residents are identifying their choice for a private room if they had to return. Many express that it was difficult to room with a cognitively impaired resident at times.

The current Rehab unit is less than 500sqf. Residents find it very difficult to have privacy in this small setting and would feel more comfortable in if more privacy could be provided during many of their treatments. This fact was probably the #1 reason for consideration of a new rehab wing.

The unit started as a collaboration of designs and ideas between Nelson Tremain, architect from Minneapolis and Sean LaRock from IDI, Marquette. After a tour to a skilled facility in Osh Kosh, WI, the Sisters of St. Paul and the Board of Trustees started looking at concepts and designs for a new wing that would add private rooms and a rehab unit to better serve our resident population. Also a friend of the Sisters that worked on the original BNH, Mr. Tom Murray, was instrumental in assisting with concepts and visions. The plans have been in the works for approximately 3 years.

The new wing which was designed by IDI with Sean LaRock, as the main architect, has been carefully designed to meet the needs of the

skilled, rehab resident, as well as to meet the privacy needs of residents and families. The rehab wing will have a 3,00 sqft. Rehab department with 12 private rooms including a private bath and shower in each room. Four of the rooms are designed with bariatric considerations to meet those resident needs. The rooms that are being closed on the existing nursing unit will afford storage space and several small sitting/dining areas for residents and families.

Also a Hospice room will be designed from existing space on the nursing unit to meet the needs of residents' and families in end of life situations.

The Rehab wing is being funded by First Bank of Escanaba. The project cost is 1.9 million.

Bishop Noa Home offers 3 levels of care under one roof: Skilled nursing – 81 beds; Assisted living – 28 beds; and senior apartments – 31 units.

The Bishop Noa Home is currently reviewing plans for the Phase II of stepping into the future and continuing to meet the needs of the community.

Phase II plans include a new chapel that would accommodate our current resident population more adequately, an expanded Activity Center for residents that would allow 24 hour access for residents. And after collaborating with Perspectives Adult Day Care Center for the past four years and the Alzheimer's Association, BNH would very much like to build an adult memory day care center that would serve the community on a donation basis.

Phase II plans are being reviewed for design, feasibility and cost by the Board of Trustees and the Office of Mission Advancement.





## Thank You and God Bless You Sr. Francis Mortola

It is with sadness that we share that Sr. Francis Mortola returned to the Philippines. Her sister Delsa is not well so she returned to the Philippines to live in a community closer to home to be able to help with Delsa's care. We are more than thankful for the gifts of Sr. Francis and for her many years of the gift of her presence. She returned to us on July 15 to pack up her things and said good-bye. We had different times of saying good-bye which included the Sisters in Michigan, St. Francis Connection Center at Sawyer, a gathering in Escanaba, and a party on her last night. More about these celebrations will be in our next Newsletter along with an article on her ministry and time with us in District USA. May God go with Sr. Francis and bless her abundantly. We are beyond thankful for the years that we had the gift of Sr. Francis and her generous giving without counting the cost.



## Community Retreat at Marygrove

By Sr. Gloria Schultz

Once again this year we were able to do our retreat together as a community at Marygrove Retreat Center in Garden, Michigan. It is our Diocesan Retreat House so we are thankful when we can come together as Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres and be immersed in the Lord. Along with the Sisters of the District, one of our Korean Sisters from Virginia joined us. What a gift it was to have Sr. Julianna Choi with us.



Fr. Jeffery Johnson was our retreat director. The retreat talks were based on our Capitular Acts which is the document that was written at our Chapter in Rome in September. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Fr. Jeff touched our hearts with a desire to live our vowed life more faithfully. Many passages from Scripture came to life.

Each evening we had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. It was such a gift to be gathered in such deep silence before the Blessed Sacrament to praise and adore. We have much to be thankful for and food for the journey.





## Discernment Week-End for High School Girls

*By Sr. Gloria Schultz*

June 20-22 Sr. Dorothea and I had a Discernment Week-End for 5 high school girls from Escanaba, Flat Rock and Bark River. These girls feel drawn to religious life and wanted some guidance to help them to discern their call and to decide which community they are being called if a call is discerned. It was an enjoyable week-end. The Marquette convent was filled with life and energy. Please pray for these young women as they discern and pray for vocations to our District.





## **Thai Nuns Share Ray of Hope Among Landfill Scavengers**

### **Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres provide humanitarian aid in Lopburi**

*(This was an article written by Catholic News Agency that we want to share.)*

A group of missionary sisters are bringing humanitarian assistance to the scavengers who live in the rubbish dump of the Thai city Lopburi.

“We bring to them the necessary, basic items of life, and spend some time teaching them, sharing in their struggles, and encouraging their shattered hopes,” Sr. Mary Clare Thong IN, superior of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres in Lopburi, told CNA March 11.

Lopburi is a city of more than 26,000, located 80 miles southeast of Nakhon Sawan, and the Paulist sisters there have begun reaching out to those on the periphery of the city.

“St. Paul instructed Christians to serve and embrace all people irrespective of class, race and religion in the First letter to the Corinthians,” Sr. Mary Clare reflected.

“All things to all people’ has been our guiding, inspirational motto from our patron St. Paul,” she continued.

Sr. Mary Clare described how some of the city’s residents have become scavengers in the landfill, living in unhygienic and hazardous conditions on the decaying materials, with birds and animals of prey as their neighbors.

They sustain their livelihood by scavenging in the sea



of rubbish, even making their temporary shelter with a patched tent which flutters in the breeze, unprotected during rains.

It's "overwhelming" to see their bright, happy, smiling faces in the midst of their strife-ridden and difficult lives, Sr. Mary Clare said.

"The site is scary, with devouring birds and packs of animals, while the stench is so awful that even when one comes home and takes a shower, the illusion of the smell lingers for hours." Fr. Alessandro Chamnan Klahan, rector of St. Paul Seminary in Korat, told CNA March 11.

"The SPC sisters' commendable commitment, missionary zeal, and courage to stand against all odds makes a world of difference for the better world."

Sr. Mary Clare noted that "the strong formative exposure in our junior days transforms our faith into action in the footsteps of our superiors – which becomes our point of reference."

She stressed Pope Francis' repeated call to Catholics to "go to the peripheries," especially 'to the poor and marginalized,' as one of her inspirations for the ministry.

"My inspiration was also Mother Myriam Kitcharoen, our former Mother General, who was magnanimous and generous toward the poor, and who has left an indelible imprint of her exemplary testimony of her life."

The Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres were founded in France in 1696 by Fr. Louis Chauvet to care for the sick and the poor. They are now spread over 35 countries, serving apostolates of health care, education, and evangelization.

## Thank you!!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave gifts and donations to the Sisters and to our Mission Projects.

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You may write or email Sr. Gloria Schultz at:

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

1300 County Road 492

Marquette, MI 49855

Email: [srstpaulweb@yahoo.com](mailto:srstpaulweb@yahoo.com)

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