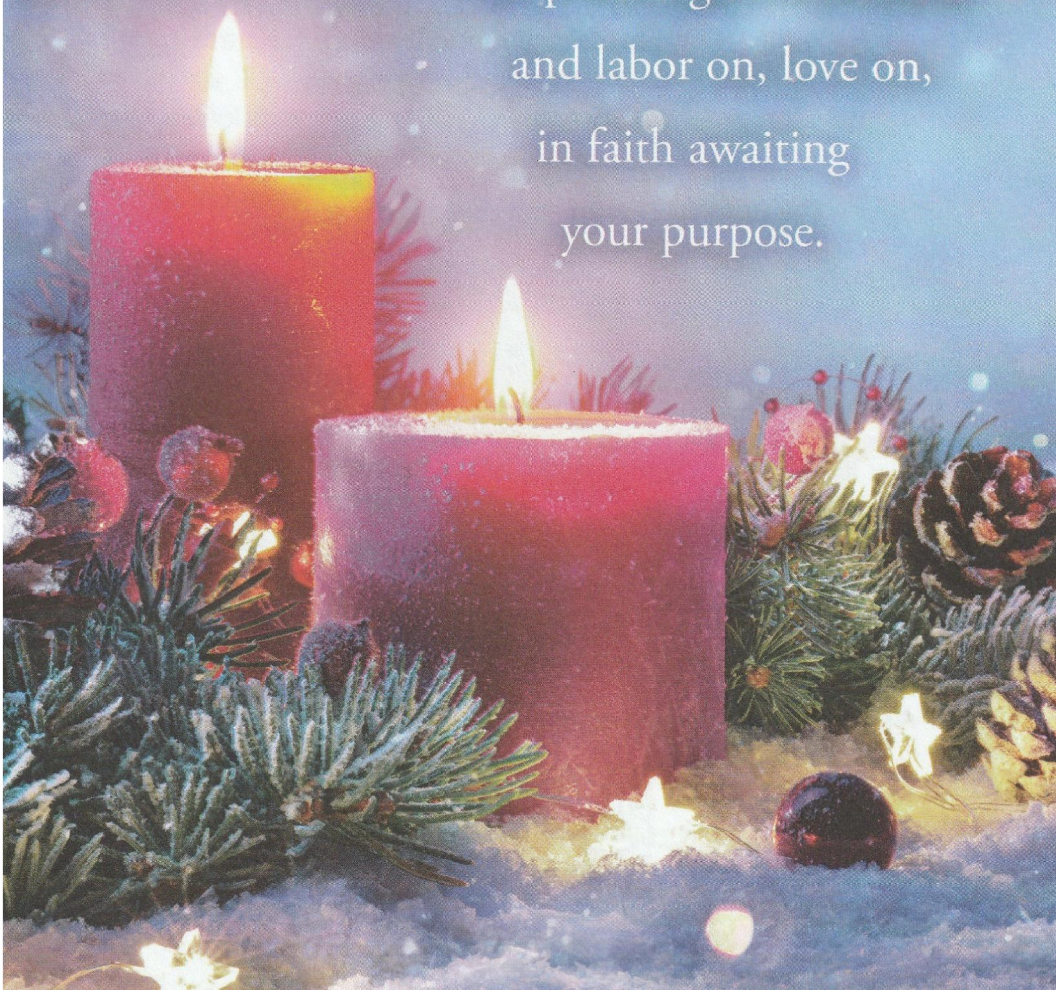


LOVE

Love

In uncertain times,
help us to greet the dawn
and labor on, love on,
in faith awaiting
your purpose.





Wait in hope – with Joseph and Mary
Sing for joy – with the angels
Adore in reverence – with the Shepherds
Seek in expectation – with the Magi
Be rooted in Christ – with Saint Paul



A novena of masses is being offered for you and your intentions

We hold you in our hearts and our prayers.

Merry Christmas!



Update for our Sisters
who have had changes this past year

- Sr. Delfina Tede left definitively for Indonesia on September 29, 2021. She had made a commitment to be a missionary in the USA for 3 years.
- Sr. Fidelia Villa began ministering at the NMU Catholic Campus Ministry Center in Marquette at the end of August, 2021.
- Sr. Rosalie Hughes taught middle school theology at John Paul II Academy in Menominee for the first quarter of the school year. Now she is ministering at the St. Francis Connection Center in KI Sawyer.
- Sr. Norma left for a home visit to the Philippines on October 19.
- Sr. Clemence Mira has been with Sr. Estela Garcia in Stephenson, MI since the end of October.
- Sr. Daria Moon and Sr. Maria Diem transferred to the "new" house in Maryland on October 1, 2021.
- Martha Trinh, who had been on a Family Leave of Absence for several years, has asked to be secularized because she foresees that her family will need her for a long time.

May God bless each one of us as we move forward in our service of God and the people God puts into our lives.



Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center - Upcoming PAR-TEE on April 7, 2022

As you are aware, the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center, next to Bishop Noa Home in Escanaba, was established by a generous donation of Patt Abrahamson in honor of her son, Gary Abrahamson, Jr., who was stricken by a heart attack in 1989 at the age of 37, and suffered a severe brain injury due to oxygen deprivation. When his care became too overwhelming for his wife, his parents, Patt and Gary Abrahamson, Sr., stepped in and they provided him with 24-hour loving and patient care until his death in 2012.

After Gary Jr.'s death, Patt wanted to promote better care for adults suffering from brain injury or other memory problems, and respite for their caregivers. In 2014, Patt donated \$500,000 to the Sisters of St. Paul for the purpose of building a spacious home-like setting for respite care and services for persons with Alzheimer's, dementia, or other memory impairments. The home, named the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center was constructed on First Ave. in Escanaba and opened in 2015.

The beautiful building provides the space and amenities for Community Action Agency to run its adult day services program; however, the GAJMCC receives no revenue, and operates with donations such as those raised with the annual PAR-TEE fundraiser. However, the Par-TEE was canceled in the last two years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Now in 2022, the PAR-TEE is again scheduled.... Save the date: April 7, 2022 at the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, Michigan. See the GAJMCC Facebook page for more details.

Many of you have supported the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center in the past, and so **Save the date: April 7, 2022.**

Many of the friends of the Sisters of St. Paul have supported the Gary Abrahamson, Jr. Memory Care Center in the past, and so if anyone is able to give a donation to its support in the present time, you are invited to make a check payable to GAJMCC, and mail to Attn: Mary Uelmen, GAJMCC 2635 1st Ave. So., Escanaba MI 49829. For more information, call (906) 786-5810, Ext. 150.





New Convent for the Sisters of St. Paul in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC

On October 1, 2021, Sr. Daria Moon and Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen moved from the convent on King's St. NE, Washington DC to a new convent in Beltsville, MD. It is true that *"on earth we have no lasting home."* The new convent in Maryland is the fifth convent of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres since we first were invited to the Archdiocese of Washington, DC in 1987.



Sr. Mary Ann came to help us on two different occasions. In August, she came to help us pack as well as to go "convent hunting." There were no empty convents in the Archdiocese, so we had to look for a house that could have one room converted to an "oratory" where we could pray together. With the help of a wonderful realtor, Bonnie, we found such a house in Beltsville, Maryland, about 12 miles from Washington, DC.

At the end of September, Sr. Mary Ann came back again to help us finish packing and to aid us in the move. After the final "walk through" on September 29th, we moved some of our things over. We were greatly assisted by our good friend, Jerry, who paid some of the workers in his company to help move the furniture and the boxes of our belongings. Of course, it took several days to organize our belongings, but within a week we felt very comfortable in our new home. A real blessing is that St. Joseph Catholic Church is very close – only about half a mile away – a comfortable walking distance!



Through the kindness of Jerry, the chapel renovation was finished by early November. Fr. Robb from St. Joseph parish came to bless the house and the chapel so the Sisters could have the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for their times of prayer and adoration.



At the Marquette Motherhouse

Planting of Trees

This year, 2021, the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Paul de Chartres celebrated 325 years since our founding in 1696 in France. Because we couldn't get together for large celebrations due to the Covid restrictions all over the world, we decided on a symbolic celebration. Each Province, District, and Region of the congregation were asked to plant a certain number of trees. The USA District was asked to plant 10 trees. We planted five maple trees, one linden tree, and one pear tree on our property in Marquette, and we will plant three other trees in 2022.

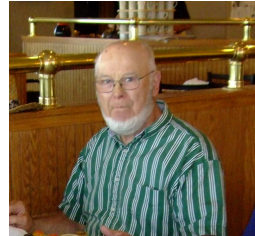


Wait in hope



Retirement of Groundskeeper - Custodian

After overseeing the yard and buildings on the property of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres in Marquette for almost 20 years, Al Tousignant is retiring. The Sisters are very grateful to Al for his loving service, his wide-ranging capabilities and his commitment to caring for the convent and property of the Sisters. We are extremely grateful for his dedication to us for so many years. In addition to his official capacity, his hobby of gardening and his expertise at it has helped us to have fresh berries in season and a wonderful harvest of vegetables in the summer and fall. We will miss Al, and pray that he will have a long and enjoyable retirement.



Log Cabin Transformed into a “Poustinia”

The small cabin on the property, probably the original Pinton Farm care-taker’s house, has been slowly freshened through the inspiration and guidance of Sr. Rosalie Hughes, to be used as a sacred place for solitude and prayer, a “Poustinia”, (i.e., a “cabin in the heart”).

We are deeply grateful for the dedication, love and generosity of several friends and parishioners of St. Christopher Parish, especially Paulita Korby, who helped with much of the initial work of cleaning, hauling and stacking wood, evicting mice and squirrels, as well as carrying and setting up stones to construct a larger fire pit at the Poustinia!





We are grateful also for the presence, prayer and labor of many of the St. Christopher Knights of Columbus, who helped helping in various ways with renovating the cabin, such as donating furniture and equipment, rebuilding the steps that had rotted away, putting up a new stove-pipe on the woodstove, and securing the electrical wiring, among other things they did.



Several times this fall, members of St. Christopher's parish have come to pray the rosary at the poustinia, and the St. Christopher's K of C have enjoyed hosting the Rosary, followed by snacks

at the Poustinia and the Sisters pray that continues! May all who come here find that "cabin in the heart" through opportunities of encountering God in this sacred space, silence, solitude and prayer of the Convent and the Poustinia!

Helping with Yard Work

Several Knights of Columbus and some of their wives also helped out at various times to help with projects, such as raking up pine needles, mowing the lawn, cutting branches off of trees, and hauling the brush away. A grateful "thank you" to the men who spent a Saturday loading up and disposing of a large number of discarded items that had piled up behind the storage shed.



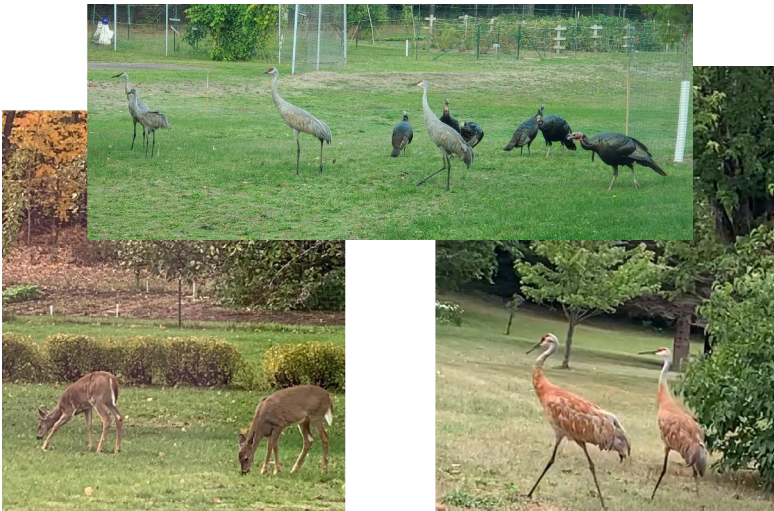
In a special way, we thank Gary and Debbie McDonnell who have come weekly since July to beautify the yard, tend the flowers around the house and the Poustinia by mowing the grass, planting perennials; tending anything in need!

Animal visitors and “residents”

All this summer and early fall, there has been a family of sandhill cranes that has taken residence in our yard. They have enjoyed feasting on the grubworms that have been eating away at the roots of the grass. It started out with two adults, and grew into a family of four cranes.

In addition to the sandhill cranes, we have had frequent visits of 11 wild turkeys. Sometimes they would graze peacefully side-by-side with the cranes, but once in a while, there seemed to be a spat and the cranes would go one way and the turkeys the other way.

Visiting deer often came and grazed around our garden, sometimes jumping over the fence and taking advantage of the vegetables there! We counted up to 6 deer. Occasionally in the twilight, we could see young deer frolicking under the watchful eyes of their parents.





Dear Friends,

When I was in Rome, the hymn, “*A l’orient l’étoile a paru,*” was one of my favorite Christmas hymns. I find it to be a powerful prayer about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Like the kings in the hymn, may we all come with an open heart to seek Jesus, striving to know him more and more deeply. May we reverently adore Jesus and give our hearts completely to Him. May we announce him to others by what we say and how we live!

Christmas blessings to you and yours, *Sr. Mary Ann Laurín*

In the East the Star Appeared*

In the east, the star appeared
To announce the birth of “The King.”
As soon as they saw it,
The kings went in search.
Blessed is the heart that desires Jesus!



Though their country did not expect it.
The kings sought the foretold Savior.
They went in the night:
Faith led them forth.
Blessed is the heart that seeks Jesus!

In Bethlehem, they recognized him:
In a manger, a poor and naked child.
They bowed before him,
In deep reverence.
Blessed is the heart that discovers Jesus!

They offered their humble tribute
To the King of heaven who brings salvation.
Our Lady smiled,
The Angels did, too.
Blessed is the heart that gives all to Jesus.

And in the joy of the God they have seen,
They will carry the message received,
Because Paradise
Bloomed on the earth.
Blessed is the heart that announces Jesus.

“A l’orient l’étoile a paru” by Didier Rimaud

“Nun – Run” from the Universities to the Convents

In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity organized a “Nun Run” over the weekend of November 5-7, 2021, inviting young women from Lake Superior State University, Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan University on a pilgrimage trip to visit convents, to have an opportunity to talk with Sisters, and to experience our Consecrated Life.

Twelve women from the three universities joined Sister Jacqueline Spaniola, Sister Carol Seidl, and Sister Julie Ann Sheahan of the Franciscans of Manitowoc, and Sister Fidelia Villa of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. The visit included two of the Franciscan convents in the Green Bay, Wisconsin area, and the Sisters of St. Paul at the Bishop Noa Home convent. A visit to the Carmelite Sisters in Iron Mountain, Michigan was canceled because of a shut-down due to Covid. Here are a few responses to the NunRun.

From Jessica A: *" The NunRun reminds me that no matter how hard college life is, what truly fulfills me is my relationship with my Bridegroom, Jesus which I saw in the Sisters I met."*

From Jessica B: *" No matter what my vocation is, Christ calls me to be His beloved. The intimate relationship I have with Jesus is a gift to explore for the rest of my life."*

From Maria C: *" The NunRun was a joy-filled weekend to step away from my everyday life, to meet new religious Sisters, and further pray about where the Lord might be calling me. "*





Vocations

At some point in the last 15 years or so, we have published personal vocation stories of each of the Sisters in the District. How amazing it is to see that the Lord is inventive and persistent in calling people to “*follow me.*”

The responses of the Sisters also show a great variety. One Sister who was already teaching school said that one day the Lord’s call to her was so intense, she wanted to leave the classroom immediately and go to the convent. (But she finished the year, then went.) Another Sister said that even though she had wanted to be a “nun,” she had no idea what the life of a religious woman was like, so she decided to read lives of the saints who were Sisters to get some ideas.

One Sister said, “When I told my mother that I wanted to be a Sister, she said to me, ‘They won’t even keep you one week.’” But God’s call was so strong, she went anyway and celebrated her 60th anniversary before she died in her mid-eighties.

When asked why she joined the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, one Sister said, “I joined them because when I went to visit them, I saw them as just ordinary people who were happy in being together and serving God.” This Sister has already celebrated 50 years as a Sister, and she says, “I think if more people realized what a Sister’s life is like, they would be more interested in joining them, or in recommending religious life to their friends.”



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web@yahoo.com

Website: www.sistersofstpaulus.org

Write: 1300 County Road 492, Marquette, MI 49855

Call: (906)226-3932

Contact: Sr. Mary Ann Laurin

Seek in expectation

Denise Herron Receives

Marquette Diocesan Christian Service Award

Denise Herron was chosen to receive the Marquette Diocesan Christian Service Award for 2021. She was nominated for this award by many of her fellow parishioners at St. Michael Parish in Marquette, and by others who knew of her ministry and wide-ranging service.

Some of the activities in which Denise participated included a very active participation at Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, praying for seminarians, and involvement in parish retreats, helping out at Room at the Inn, and making birthday cakes for children at the Lake Superior Village.

Denise is also a member of the "Companions of Saint Paul," a group of affiliates of the Sisters of Saint Paul de Chartres that participates in our mission and spirituality by daily prayers and participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, regular retreats, and various projects of support.

In addition, Denise has been a volunteer tutor for several of our Sisters in learning and practicing English skills. She came to the convent to work with our Sisters twice a week, giving lessons, and helping them develop their skills in conversation. She also helped them with practical experiences such as blueberry picking.

The award was presented to Denise by Fr. Greg Heikkila, pastor at St. Michael Parish. Several of the Sisters of St. Paul were at the Mass to witness Denise receiving this honor.

Be rooted in Christ





Thank you for all the donations to the Compassionate Hearts Club where all donations go toward our mission projects which includes the needs in Haiti, Central Africa, Victims of Human Trafficking and the Catholic Schools in the Marquette Diocese.

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Ari Fitzgerald & Maria Carmona
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G Michael Nidiffer, MD
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schaefer
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Angel

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Rev. Darryl Pepin
Susan Ritter
Kathy Ruleau
Fr. John Shiverski
Dcn Lewis Valliencourt

Sing for joy



A heartfelt thank you for all the gifts and donations to our community and our Mission Projects.

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 Susan Tanseco
 Mary Thorrington
 Ronald & Ann Thill
 Susanna Bernier Wahlstrom
 Karen Williams

Adore in reverence

Want more information about becoming a Sister of St. Paul?

You may write or email Sr. Mary Ann Laurin at:

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

1300 County Road 492

Marquette, MI 49855

Email: srstpaulweb@yahoo.com

www.sistersofstpaulus.org



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

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Address _____

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_____ I wish to be added to your mailing list

_____ I would like more information on becoming a Sister

_____ I would like information on including you in my will

_____ I wish to make a donation for _____

_____ I wish to make a donation for _____ to the

Mission Projects

_____ To rebuild Haiti Schools and Haitian relief

_____ Victims of Human Trafficking

_____ The Catholic Schools in Marquette Diocese

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