

Turn  
unto the  
**LORD**  
your God:  
for he is **gracious**  
and **merciful.** JOEL 2:13



### **An Easter Prayer**

O Lord Jesus, this year as the Christian communities throughout the world commemorate your passion, death, and resurrection, many parts of the world are currently going through a terrible passion of many sorts. This includes Ukraine, the Middle East, Sri Lanka, and elsewhere.

We hold all suffering people up to you in prayer, and we pray you, O Lord, to give help to those who are oppressed, courage to those who are frightened, comfort to the sorrowing, and peace to those in conflict.

May we be your helpers, through prayers, actions, contributions, and spoken words to help those in need. This we pray in your most holy name, O Lord Jesus. Amen.

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin



### **Sisters Updates**

- ◆ Sr. Norma Vicentillo left for the Philippines in October, 2021, for a home visit. While she was there, she was diagnosed with colon cancer, and operated on in December. She began treatment for the cancer in January 2022, and is staying with our Sisters in Quezon City. We regret to announce that she has decided not to return to the US.



- ◆ Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen has passed the exams and is now a Certified Nurse Aide. She will be working in a Catholic Nursing Home in the Archdiocese of Washington for a while, then will continue her studies to become a registered nurse.



- ◆ Sr. Clemence Mira will be returning to the Philippines some time this summer. She arrived in 2019 and has ministered in pastoral care and helped out in resident activities



at Bishop Noa Home in Escanaba, and currently is involved in pastoral ministry at Precious Blood Parish in Stephenson, Michigan. We will miss her musical ability and her readiness to help wherever help is needed.



- ◆ Later in 2022, we hope to have the arrival of another Sister from the Philippines, but we don't know how long the process will take.

**Covenant**

God knocks at my door seeking a room for his son:

Rent is cheap, I say.

I don't want to rent. I want to buy, says God.



I'm not sure I want to sell,  
But you might come in to look around.

I think I will, says God.

I might let you have a room or two.

I like it says God, I'll take two,  
You might like to give me more some day.  
I can wait, says God

I'd like to give you more,  
But it's a bit difficult. I need some space for me.

I know, says God, but I'll wait. I like what I see.

Hm, maybe I can let you have another room.  
I really don't need that much.

Thanks, says God. I'll take it. I like what I see.

I'd like to give you the whole house, but I'm not sure –

Think on it, says God. I wouldn't put you out.  
Your house would be mine and my son would live in it.  
You'd have more space than you'd ever had before.

I don't understand at all.

I know, says God, but I can't tell you about that.  
You'll have to discover it for yourself.  
That can only happen if you let him have the whole house.

A bit risky, I say.

Yes, says God, but try me.

I'm not sure – I'll let you know.

I can wait, says God. I like what I see.



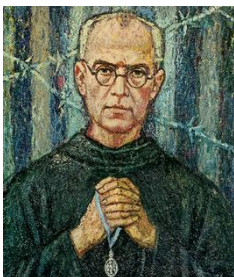
*By Margaret Halaska, O.S.F.*



**Summer Retreat at the National Shrine  
of St. Maximilian Kolbe**

Every year the Sisters of St. Paul have an eight-day retreat. This is an important time when we deepen our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus, to Whom we have consecrated our life!

Some years we schedule our retreats at different times, so as to have some of the Sisters continuing their ministries while others are away on retreat. But our Sisters in the United States have the custom of making a retreat together once every three years.



This year, our community retreat will be at **Marytown—the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe**. This is a pilgrimage site and sacred space in Libertyville, Illinois in the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is a ministry of the Conventual Franciscan Friars of St. Bonaventure Province.

Today, the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe includes a Retreat House, Conference Center and the Marytown Gift Shop & Book Store, an educational Holocaust exhibit and several outdoor shrines, all set on 15 acres of beautiful land in Libertyville, Illinois. At the center of Marytown is the Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, considered one of the most beautiful pilgrimage sites in the nation.

The grounds have been a sanctuary of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament since June 7, 1928, when a temporary chapel was blessed and opened for 24-hour Exposition. The chapel has remained open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe is a place of pilgrimage for the faithful. It is dedicated to promoting the witness and life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, priest, scholar and patriot martyred in the Holocaust at the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II. He is the one who offered to take the place of a man condemned to death by starvation. Saint John Paul II referred to him as the “prophet of the civilization of love” and a “Martyr of Charity” for Kolbe’s exemplification of love without limits.



## Ukraine

As this newsletter goes to press, the war is raging ferociously in Ukraine. We have had Sisters ministering in Ukraine for about 25 years. At the beginning, there were 2 Sisters from France, then a Sister from Korea and a Sister from Vietnam were sent to Ukraine.

Since 2017, the mission in Ukraine has been under the care of the Province of Saigon in Vietnam. Two Sisters have been working in the towns of Obukhiv and three Sisters were working in Kharkov.

The three Sisters in Kharkov, (together with the mothers and their children in the Mothers' Center where they are working) and Polish Sisters fled to a village near Poland. Initially, the two Sisters in Obukhiv opted to stay behind in Ukraine with the lay people but later on as the war escalated, they also left Ukraine with the people they served. They were helped by the OMI Fathers. With so many refugees in Poland, finally they went back to Vietnam, as they didn't want to add to the burden of the Polish people.

The Sisters all over the world are praying for the people in Ukraine and Russia, and for the war to stop. We also pray for all the refugees and all the countries and people who help them. If anyone wants to send a donation for them, here are some reliable sources:

### **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**

**Learn More:** [crs.org](https://www.crs.org)

**Donate Online:** <https://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/ukraine-conflict-facts-and-how-help>

**Mail Checks:** Catholic Relief Services, 228 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201-3413

This picture is the special altar to Our Lady in the chapel of the Motherhouse in Marquette.

The photo on the wall is Our Lady of Vladimir.



### **Reflection on “Our Lady of Vladimir” by M. Jean Frisk**

The miraculous image given the title, Our Lady of Vladimir, is known as an Eleousa, the Greek word meaning, Mother of Tenderness. The Christ Child nestles tenderly close to his mother, he gazes at her and is so closely linked to her that his left arm embraces her fully. His right hand gently touches her left cheek. The original image is a large painting of the type known as the St. Luke icons. Mary looks out at the people. Yet, there is no doubt that she is intimately united to her Divine Son.

### **Origin**

The origin of the ancient Marian icon, Our Lady of Vladimir, can be traced back to 1125. The oldest known representation of Our Lady of Vladimir is presently located at the Tretjakow Gallery in Moscow. According to research, this excellent representation of an Eleousa was commissioned in Constantinople by a Russian, who then had the painting taken from city to city during the period of united Ukrainian-Russian history. In 1169, Duke Andrej Bogoljubskij had the icon brought from Kiev in Ukraine to the new cathedral of Vladimir in Russia. Due to the honor and reverence of the people, who attributed gracious assistance to Our Lady's help throughout the Ukraine, a large cathedral was built for her in Vladimir.

**Miraculous Character**

When the Mongol invasion threatened Moscow in 1395, the icon was brought to Moscow, and honored as the unconquerable shield of the Russian people. Important state transactions took place before her image; her blessing was sought before battle.

**Devotion**

There are thousands of representations of the Vladimir icon. It is said that there is no Orthodox Church, nor Orthodox home's religious corner, without this image somewhere represented. During the time of the Communist regime, Our Lady of Vladimir gained international fame, but not so much for political reasons, as for ecumenical endeavors. The unity of the churches came to be symbolized, and hoped for, in the unity of the Child and his mother. The intimate relationship of Our Lady of Tenderness with her divine son, Jesus Christ, is presented as an ideal indication of the Christian's relationship to Christ.

**Meditation**

Icons have been described as windows to the divine. Those who take time to meditate on the divine realities expressed through the paintings, do so with the inner eye of the soul reaching beyond the representation to the truth it represents. Meditation can be simply a quiet observing in silence and wonder. Words are not necessary. Perhaps this is the best meditation of all. Meditation can also inspire prayer to share with others. We invite you to reflect on Our Lady of Tenderness with us.

**Prayer to Mary, Mother of God,**

The gentle tenderness you share with your child is a quiet, strong thing, reflected from your image. There is no distance between his soft, but total embrace and you. He loves you. Yes, there is no doubt! O how this child loves you! You are molded as one. His body from your body, his flesh from your flesh, his heart from your heart. His eyes praise you and thank you for your share in his humanity.

Like a strong, powerful, but peaceful magnet, your gaze holds mine. Quiet, calm, endlessly gazing at me from nine centuries of reflected wisdom. You ask only one thing of me: to share the love you share. Love is not gentle, soft tenderness in the sense of weakness. Love is gentle in the sense of strength: enduring, radical, unbroken unity.



Lady of Tenderness, your gaze is both statement and question: If this is the unity he seeks — a love so strong between God and the human being that nothing can divide it — then can I not at least try to love as he has loved? Can I not at least try to break down barriers that separate the nations? Can I not make my decisions in his presence and under your gaze — the presence of this call to unity from the fulness of tender love?

Mary, perhaps if I would pause long enough to return your gaze, stop long enough to love tenderly for just one moment, I could learn from you what wisdom really means.

*“This is what our God asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.”* cf. Micah 6:8

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## A Reflection\*

Senior citizens were talking about  
the wisdom and humility  
that come with age.

One volunteered,

*“My pride caused me more worry!*

*I was constantly worrying about  
what other people thought about me.*

*When I got older and wiser;*

*I said to myself,*

*‘I don’t care what they think about me.’*

*And now that I’m even older and wiser,*

*I realize*

*They weren’t thinking about me at all.”*

*Grow  
in Christ*



\*From Page 320 in ACTION, Praying  
Scripture in a Contemporary Way, Year C  
By Mark Link, S.J.



### **Companions of St. Paul**

A Companion of St. Paul is an adult living in a bond of belonging to the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres in order to share our charism, spirit and mission through prayer, interpersonal encounters and the apostolic mission of the church. The bond that the Companions of St. Paul contract with the Congregation of the Sisters is essentially spiritual, with no juridical, canonical, or financial obligations.

The general objectives of the program for the Companions of St. Paul are to encourage and accompany them to a more radical following of Christ as lived in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, to share in the spirit of the Congregation and to participate in its mission. Suggested spiritual practices are to attend at least one weekday Mass in addition to the Sunday Mass, to have a regular prayer life, to pray for the Sisters, to grow deeper in the knowledge of the Christian faith and life, and to learn to encounter Him in Scripture, prayer, the Eucharist and in all events.

A one-year formation program is provided for the person who desires to become a Companion of St. Paul. Meetings are held about 3 times annually. (However, due to the Covid restrictions, the last meeting was in January of 2019.) This year, we are planning to resume regular meetings.

At the present time, there are about 40 active men and women Companions in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Those desiring to become a Companion are invited to contact one of the Sisters of St. Paul or one of the present Companions of St. Paul. More information can be found on our web site:

[sistersofstpaulus.org](http://sistersofstpaulus.org)

Note: Please pray for some Companions of Saint Paul who have been experiencing serious health problems: Bev Bolwerk, Jane Pryal, Francis Goetz and Karen Schlicher.





## PRAYER FOR ALL IN NEED

Deign, O Lord, to bless us and all in need.

*[Here add various people or groups of people]*

Have mercy on those who suffer;

be Yourself their consolation

Have mercy on those who

feel themselves forsaken; be Yourself their comfort.

Have mercy on those who are wavering;

be Yourself their light.

Have mercy on those who feel weary;

be Yourself their courage.

Have mercy on all those who give

themselves without counting the cost;

be Yourself their wealth and their reward for their actions.

And give to all of us an increase of Charity  
more and more profound and more and more  
efficacious because this Charity is drawn from  
Your Divine Heart. Amen.





## PAR-TEE on April 7, 2022

How marvelous it was to have a Par-Tee this year, after having to cancel the Par-Tees during the last two years due to the fears and restrictions of Covid! We thank God for the excellent turn out and participation by so many people.

All of us, the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, the Bishop Noa Home Administration, and the Gary Abrahamson Junior Memory Care committee, were pleased to see the joy and interaction among everyone. The gathering together, the meal, the games, auctions and raffles provided a wonderful evening of entertainment for the benefit of the Gary Abrahamson Junior Memory Care Center.



We are extremely grateful to the volunteers who donated their time to prepare the Par-Tee, the people who contributed prizes, gift cards, and raffle items, those who came to the meal, and everyone who supported this fundraiser in any way,

As you are aware, the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center provides the beautiful space and amenities for Community Action Agency to run its adult day services program; however, the Abrahamson Center receives no revenue, and operates with donations such as those raised with the annual PAR-TEE fundraiser.





We thank everyone who has helped in any way for the success of this fundraiser, by prayers, contributions, and / or participation. May God bless you for your generosity.



If you would like to mail in a donation, a check should be written to “GAJMCC” and sent to:

Bishop Noa Home  
Attn: GAJMCC Mary Uelmen  
2900 3rd Avenue South  
Escanaba, MI 49829







**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 School in the Marquette Diocese.**

### **ARCHANGELS**

Ann & Dale Ford  
John & Elaine Martin  
Gita & Teresita Vaidya

Danny Pompo  
Jane Pryal  
Robert & Barbara Toutant

### **CHERUBS**

### **ANGELS**

Norma Campagna  
Angela Emanuele  
Precious Blood Parish  
Bart & Laurie Stupak

Renato Arbolado  
Catherine Borris  
Connie Charlier  
David Daniel  
Daniel Davison  
Fr. Peter Henry Fosu  
Patricia Geoffrion  
Dorothy Giovannini  
Mary Jo Johnson  
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Msgr. Jed Patrick  
Karen Plutchak  
Susan Tanseco  
Ron & Ann Thill  
Mary & Peter Thorrington



### **SAINTS**

Bob & Kathy Bixby  
Maria Aurora Charvat  
Angela Christian  
Russ & Paulette Dupras  
Linda Furbey  
Althea Hicks  
Carol LaVallie

### **Behold!**

Behold the Cross!  
Life laid down for friends  
Love perfected  
Mercy outpoured.



Behold the Lamb of God!  
Pure, unblemished  
Sacrificial offering  
Eternal covenant ratified.

Behold the face of God!  
Son of God, Son of Man  
Jesus the Christ  
Savior and Redeemer.

Behold the glory of God!  
Humbled, emptied  
Exalted, raised  
Lord and King reigns.

- Sr. Fidelia Villa



**A heartfelt THANK YOU for all the gifts and donations to our community and our Mission Projects.**

Ortaciana B Allen  
 Pureza V Agor  
 Nayla Alamir  
 Steve & Kathy Barber  
 Tim & Carol Beauchamp  
 Blaine & Gretchen Betts  
 Randy & Tennie Binzer  
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 St. Peter Cathedral Altar Society  
 Beverly K Sandobal  
 Glenna Seyfer  
 Susan Suk  
 John & Phyllis Trudeau  
 Kenneth & Judy Wanberg  
 Fr. Daniel Zaloga

**Thank  
You!**

**Gifts to the community of the Sisters of St. Paul.**

Normally the gifts we receive are destined to be passed on, as is the case with the Compassionate Hearts Club/Mission Projects. This past year we were also blessed to receive gifts from several parishes, individual priests, beneficent organizations, the Bishop Noa Home prayer group and various individuals for use by our community. Some we used to replace the tiles in our kitchen and dining room, and some will be used this year for other needed repairs in the Marquette and the Escanaba convents.

May God bless each one of you for your kindness to us.

**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](mailto:srstpaulweb@yahoo.com)

**[www.sistersofstpaulus.org](http://www.sistersofstpaulus.org)**



**“Like” us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SistersofStPaulUSA](http://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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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

\_\_\_\_\_ Central Africa

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “SISTERS OF ST PAUL”**