

Peace
Joy



Christmas Greetings

As we approach Christmas this year, our hearts turn in love, hope, and joy to God the Father, who loved the world so much that "He sent His only begotten Son that those who believe may not perish, but have eternal life." (John 1:16)

God has gifted us, not once, not twice, but always. No matter what we do, His love for us will never end.

Let us follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who answered "yes" to the Angel Gabriel, who was sent by God to ask her to bear "A son who would save the world." (Luke 1:38). She not only answered "yes" to the Angel, but years later, at the wedding feast of Cana, she told the rest of us to "Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5)

Our prayers for you this Christmas are that you may always put your heart in the heart of Jesus Christ, the Lord, the Savior of the world, and draw near to Him in faith, hope, and love.

As a spiritual gift, we have offered a Novena of Masses for you and your loved ones, living and dead, at the Motherhouse in Marquette.

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin and all the Sisters of St. Paul

Away in a Manger

Mario Lanza

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his Sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear people in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.



Songwriters: William James Kirkpatrick, William J. Kirkpatrick, Traditional, James R. Murray.

Sister Updates

- Sr. Dorothea Jang had the opportunity to make a spiritual renewal in Korea, as well as visit our Sisters and her family members during the months of October and November.
- Sr. Mary Ann Laurin was able to help out half-time as Pastoral Minister at Bishop Noa Home during the absence of Sr. Dorothea. On December 6, 2022, she was appointed District Superior for a 2nd 3-year term.
- Sr. Estela Garcia finished her ministry at Precious Blood Parish in Stephenson at the end of July, and is now working at the St. Francis Connection Center at KI Sawyer.
- Sr. Rosalie Hughes is now serving as Director of Mission and Synodality at St. Christopher Parish in Marquette.
- Sr. Fidelia Villa finished her ministry at the Catholic Campus Ministry Center at Northern Michigan University in Marquette and currently serves as a Teacher's Aide at Holy Name School in Escanaba.
- Sr. Josephine Ramada arrived in Marquette, Michigan at the end of July and now ministers at the CCM Center at Northern Michigan University.
- Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen has begun ministering as a Certified Nurse's Aide at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC.

I little about me....



I was born and raised in the Philippines, half Chinese and half Filipina, and a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres. I have a Bachelor of Science in Commerce - Management and a masteral degree in Religious Education. I am the youngest of the four siblings. I have been a religious by God's grace and mercy for 36 years. An educator by profession, I have ministered in various assignments as treasurer, religious education teacher, formator, vocation promoter and campus minister.

I was a missionary in São Paulo, Brazil for almost six years and worked in the Pastoral office of a Catholic Hospital. My experience as a first time missionary in Brazil made me realize a deeper reality that the participation in the mission was fundamentally an encounter with God - the God of diversity. It taught me lessons most especially in respecting diversity. It provided me a home for the interaction of various cultures. Being a missionary is a beautiful vocation!

Now I am presently assigned at NMU-Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) where students and alumni are continuously developed holistically through human and spiritual formation to be a great contributor to society and to the spread of God's kingdom. I believe that CCM is an abundant soil where I can see, hear, discern, respond and collaborate with God.

Sr. Josephine Ramada, SPC



Live in hope

Live in joy

Live in peace

Live in love

To Think About

A line was forming
behind an elderly man who was slow
in using an automatic teller machine.
Someone shouted impatiently,
“Hey, pop! I don’t have all day like you!”
The elderly man was visibly shaken.
Just then
A young woman stepped out of line,
went up to the elderly man, and said,
“Can I help, sir?” “Please do,” he said.
“It’s my first time using the machine,
and I don’t think I’m doing it right.”

Reflection: When difficult situations develop,
do I tend to respond like the person
who yelled, or like the young woman
who helped?

Taken from: [ACTION: Praying Scripture
in a Contemporary Way, Year C](#)
by Mark Link, S.J. P. 388

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 didn’t have any 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.”



If you would like more vocation information please write, call or email Sr. Mary Ann Laurin at:

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Repairs to the Parking Lot and Driveway

After years of putting the driveway and parking lot on the back burner, we were finally able to get it repaired and looking better. The parking lot area in front to the convent was torn up and new pavement was put down. It looks great and hopefully will last for many years to come.

The rest of the parking lot and driveway received 2 coats of sealant. These two areas will need to be redone in a few years.

Thank you to everyone who helped to cover some of these expenses.



My Experience at

St. Francis Connection Center at K.I. Sawyer

by Sr. Estela Garcia

I thank God how he arranges things in my life. He is always there guiding and journeying with me where he wants me to serve him.

My previous ministry was working in the Precious Blood Parish in Stephenson, MI, and visiting the nursing home near there praying the rosary with the Catholic residents. I also worked part-time in the parish's Distribution Center. I really enjoyed this ministry and was sorry when we had to leave Stephenson due to a shortage of Sisters.

Now, since I moved to Marquette, my ministry is at St. Francis Connection

Center, KI Sawyer, ministering to the poor. The Center provides food for distribution to the poor and also prepares meals for the needy persons twice a month.

I have been working at the Center since August 3, 2022. On Sunday mornings, I pick up the bread donated by Tadych's Marketplace in Marquette, and I bring it to the Connection center after lunch. The center is open from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Every other Wednesday, a complete meal is prepared for the needy people who signed up. So, on Tuesday Sue, Melinda, Pat and I prepare food and other things needed for the meal. On Wednesday morning, we continue preparing the food. Then at 4:30 p.m., Father Al, Angie, Frank, Barb, and Kay come to help us put the meals in Styrofoam containers and put the containers in bags, ready for the distribution which

begins at 5:30 p.m. Some people come to pick up the meals they requested, and others are distributed to people in their homes by volunteers.

It really touches my heart and is so edifying that some parishioners of St. Anthony's parish in Gwinn, MI and some others contribute their time either making meals, serving the meals, or bringing them to the needy at home.

I enjoy working at the Center, seeing how happy the people are to receive their meals and how grateful they are that they have a place where they can go for help when needed. Sue H., the director, is very creative, well-organized and a good coordinator of the Center. That's why everything goes so smoothly every time we have meal distribution.



Pilgrimage to OBERAMMERGAU, “PASSION PLAY” 2022

- Sr. Rosalie Hughes, SPC

Friday, September 2, 2022, we missionary pilgrims arrived in the famous **Passion Play village of Oberammergau**, two years after the 2020 Play had been scheduled, due to the pandemic. It was such a blessing and unique spiritual opportunity for me to attend at this time. The opening words of the story of the Oberammergau Passion Play in 1633 are: **“A play about death and life, promised at the moment of a fatal threat.”** In the middle of the extremely distressing Thirty Years War, which was fought from 1618-1648, and whose memory still lives on among the people, after months of suffering and dying as a result of the plague brought to the village by a local man in 1632, the people of Oberammergau, in their sorrow over the suffering this disease had brought to the community, vowed to perform the Passion Tragedy, **“The play of the passion, death and rising of our Lord Jesus Christ”** every ten years, and from that time on not a single person died.

At Whitsun 1634 the promise was kept for the first time, on a stage which they had set up in the cemetery, over the graves of those who had died of the plague. 2022 was the 42nd time putting on the Play that has been carried on over the centuries in a unique continuity. The Play shows the story of Christ’s Passion, beginning with the Entry into Jerusalem and ending with the Resurrection. In an outdoor partially covered Theatre seating 5000, the structure of the Play is living pictures from the Old Testament and acted scenes from the New Testament. The Play employed a cast of hundreds in incredible costuming, live animals, a large choir and a live orchestra; all so amazing, beautiful and moving; deepening my faith and transforming my heart to a more true disciple of Jesus!

The First Presentation by the Choir set the scene and my own chilled heart for the **Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem**. In choir and bass solo, **“THE EXPULSION FROM PARADISE”**: **“Lord, You are far away! We are astray, without a home, born to die, neighbors but strangers, divided by walls, orphaned, in tears and in mourning! Lord, let the humble walk upright! Be the Fountain for the thirsty and let us see**





*in the sleep of
death above us
Your Face so
bright! Mankind
despairs, de-
pendent in toil
and sorrow and*

longs for the time ere from paradise the angel cast them out and banished them. Mankind is banned from Eden's meadows, benighted by delusion and in the horror of death. Mankind's access to the Tree Of Life is, alas, obstructed; the cherub standing there, threatening with the flaming sword. But from afar, from the top of the Mount of Calvary a morning glow shines through the night, and from the branches of the Cross travel winds of Peace across the world. Now stand side by side with the Savior, until He has battled His way through the thorny path and in His torrid conflict has finished suffering for us all!"

Parts of the culminating Resurrection Song, "AT THE GRAVE":
"Hallelujah! The Lord has overcome the powers of hell! ... Risen is the Lord...Hallelujah to You, Risen One!...Praise to You, Savior of all sinners!...Praise to You, Who on the Altar of the Cross, gave Your Life for us, You have bought us for Yourself, only for You we live, only for You we die! ...Hallelujah! Praise, Glory, Worship, Power and Splendor to You from Everlasting to everlasting!"

I returned a pilgrim humbly graced,
 inspired and grateful to bring back
 more faithful witness, peace, hope, and
 mercy into all of my encounters.





District Assembly

The Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres held our annual District Assembly at the Motherhouse in Marquette, Michigan from November 10 – 12, 2022. The Sisters from Escanaba and from Maryland joined the community in Marquette for the Assembly. Unfortunately, two Sisters were not able to attend due to extenuating circumstances.

The theme of the meeting was *“that together we live as a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.”*

To help in preparation for the Assembly, all of our Sisters had been reading and reflecting on the article of Sr. Patricia Murray in the LCWR Occasional Papers on the re-imagining of leadership and religious life in a global community.

Sr. Patricia, the Secretary General of the International Union of Superiors General in Rome, highlighted the need to widen the tent of our hearts, to embrace vulnerability, and to celebrate our luxurious cultural diversities, among other topics.

All of the Sisters of St. Paul had been reading and reflecting on the article ahead of time. Then when we met together for the Assembly Days, we took time to pray, have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, discuss the article in a large group, then divided into small groups to select which topics most called our attention.

After this, we shared our selections, and proposed some ways of living out these topics. The conversation and planning will continue throughout 2022, as we have decided to meet monthly, either in person, or by Zoom to work on it.





Sr. Juliana Djo, Sr. Mary Ann Laurin, Sr. Marie Kim Nguyen, Sr. Estela Garcia, Sr. Fidelia Villa, Sr. Rosalie Hughes, Sr. Daria Moon, Sr. Gloria Schultz, Sr. Josephine Ramada (Absent were Sr. Dorothea Jang and Sr. Maria Diem Nguyen)





*While you search your heart's yearnings:
What am I seeking? What is my quest?
When your star rises deep within,
Trust yourself to its leading.
You will have light for your first steps.
This is Trasná, the choosing place.
Choose!
This is Trasná, the crossing place.
Come!*

-- Excerpted from "Trasná,"
by Raphael Consedine, PBVM



**For help in discerning a religious vocation see helps on our
website www.sistersofstpaulus.org**

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtain wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” (Is. 54:2)

The image of widening the tent of our hearts speaks of both flexibility and rootedness, unbounded hospitality and secure identity.

-- Pat Murray, IBVM



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Annual Retreat

The Sisters of St. Paul throughout the world are in the habit of making an annual retreat of 6 – 8 days. The Sisters of the USA District were fortunate this year in July to have the opportunity to make our retreat together at the St. Maximilian Kolbe Shrine in Libertyville, Illinois. The setting was very beautiful, and the Shrine, run by the religious order of Conventual Franciscan Friars of St. Bonaventure Province has rooms for use by retreatants, along with a small chapel upstairs for small groups.

We had a daily conference except Sunday with Fr. Benedict La Volpe, OFM Conv., who was the rector of the shrine at the time, but now has a new mission on the East Coast. The Sisters were able to join the community, Friars and the laity, for the Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Mass and praying the Holy Rosary in the evening. Many lay persons also joined in the hours of prayer.

We were very happy to have Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Main Chapel, called the “Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. People from around Libertyville sign up for hours of adoration during the night as well as in the day time. There are committed adorers 24/7, which is a very good witness of a praying Church. Many of

us woke up at night to go to the Chapel for a nocturnal hour of adoration.

On the last day, we ended our grace-filled retreat with the Holy Mass in the upstairs chapel celebrated by Fr. Benedict. Then we had breakfast before leaving for home.



Our Lady of the Blessed
Sacrament Chapel
From the
kolbeshrine.org
website

Let us go up to the house of the Lord

All of us are precious in God's eyes. Jesus died for each one of us. He wants us all to join in heaven one day. I try to pray for people all over the world each day, but I had a special experience one time recently. As I sat in church before Mass, a passage of the Bible came to me, "*Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.*" (Isaiah 2:3)

It was nearly time for the Mass to start, and the church was less than 20% of capacity. So, I closed my eyes and thought of everyone dear

to me - family members, friends, our Sisters all over the world, and then I thought of people who were in the hospitals or nursing homes, elderly who are too feeble to leave



their homes, people who have stopped going to church, people who were on the news reports from all around the world, and I imagined an innumerable army coming to the church, and filling in the pews.

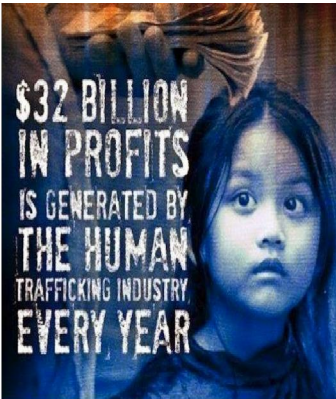
That day, all the prayers of the liturgy held a special meaning to me – even though I couldn't see all these people, I felt their presence. So, as I joined in the prayers of the liturgy, I could sense that all these people were also praying and celebrating the Mass with me. That day, I did not go to church alone, but with people from all over, bringing them to Jesus in all the prayers of the Mass.

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin



The Fight Against Human Trafficking

Here is a true story that was told to me by our Sisters in one of the countries in Asia where we have Sisters. Every now and then, the Sisters would learn that one of the poor families in the area had sold their young daughter to someone who promised to take care of her because they didn't have enough money to feed all their family. The first time this happened, the Sister collected money and gave it to the poor family to buy their daughter back. But a few months later, the girl was sold again.



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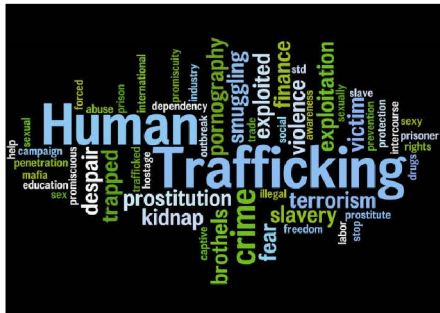
On further investigation, our Sisters discovered that the couple who bought the girl and “promised to take care of her” were in a group buying other young girls and preparing them to be prostitutes later on. Because of this, in that country, our Sisters now have a ministry to buy these girls back and to provide a home-like atmosphere for them, educating them in one of our Catholic schools and helping them to learn a profession so that they can earn their living.

There is an organization that works against human trafficking, called “Talitha Koum,” based on the words of Jesus to the daughter of Jairus, “*Little girl, I say to you, arise.*” (Mark 5:41) Several of our Sisters in different countries have taken training to work in the Talitha Koum ministry.

For our part, the Sisters of Saint Paul de Chartres in the USA joined the Leadership Council of Women Religious in the Wisconsin area in supporting this ministry by our prayers and by raising funds to help victims.

We thank all the people who have donated to the fight against human trafficking.

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin



Thank You



A heartfelt thank you to all who have sent us gifts and donations to our community and our mission projects. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Mario Alas
 Emilio Arbues
 Feryal Barakat
 Tim & Carol Beauchamp
 Tim & Dianne Bennette
 Blaine & Gretchen Betts
 Robert & Sherri Bink
 Beverlyann Bolwork
 Lennea Bressette
 Elizabeth Cadiz
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 St. Michael Catholic Church
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 Susan Tanseco
 Carol Thomas
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wanberg
 Tim & Karen Williams
 Jesse & Azucena Wright
 Donald & Rita Zalewski
 Fr. Dan Zaloga





Mission Projects/Compassionate Hearts Club

At the end of October, we closed out our fourteenth year of the Mission Projects/ Compassionate Hearts Club and started our fifteenth year with the Compassionate Hearts Club mailing.

Our Mission Projects are:

- Haiti
- Central Africa
- Victims of human trafficking
- Catholic Schools in the Marquette Diocese

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send a total of over \$30,000 to the Missions. The Sisters in **Haiti** and **Central Africa** were extremely grateful for the assistance to their apostolates, especially the schools, and for the needy students.

The organization (U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking) that works to **combat human trafficking** was very happy with your donations because there are more youth, men, and women being forced into prostitution or involuntary labor than ever before as the people fleeing war or oppression in their own countries are taken advantage of by unscrupulous persons. This happens in many countries, including the United States.

The **Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Marquette** received donations that they added to the scholarship funds for students and families in need. Donations for these Mission Projects can be sent at any time. Thank you very much. As Our Lord Jesus said, "*What you do to one another, you do unto me.*" (Matthew 25:40)

Archangel

Marguerite Adair
Cristina & Randy Binzer
In Honor of Sister Francis Mortola
Tita Sister!
Theresa & Peter Camilli
Kenneth & Maura Davenport
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Dion
Angela Emanuele
Doris Lewis
Mike Nidiffer
Fr. Ricca
Linda Yagodzinski
Don & Geri Zanon

Angel

James & Patricia Bugay
Norma & Ken Campagna
Michael Ebert
Msgr. Donald Essex
Ari Fitzgerald & Maria Carmona
Denise Herron
Roger & Norma Kulas
Margaret Ann Puritano
Resurrection Parish
Barbara L Van Ermen



Saint

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 Robert Bink
 Bob & Kathy Bixby
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 Barb Charlier
 David Daniel
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 Orville & Helen Dishno
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 Dorothy Kollmann
 John Kraft
 Gordy & Kay LeDuc
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 Carol & Jeffery Miller
 Nancy & Barbara's House Daycare
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 Fr. Darryl J. Pepin
 Wilfred Polzer
 James Sawaski
 Msgr. Michael Steber
 Deacon & Mrs. David Talford
 Susan Taneco
 Mary Thorrington
 Tim & Karen Williams



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

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Marquette, MI 49855

Email: rststpaulweb@yahoo.com

www.sistersofstpaulus.org



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.

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"