

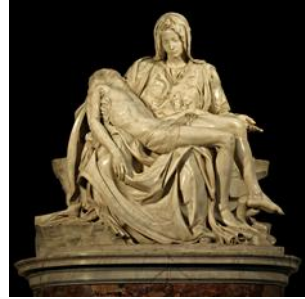
in everything  
*give thanks;*  
for this is the will of  
**God**  
in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Dear Friends,

During the Easter Season, we reflect on the wonders of God's love. As St. Pope John Paul II said during his visit to Oceania in 1986, "We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery – the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. **"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"** \*



Having spent the last 40 days focused on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a way of reparation for the sins and errors of the past, we now move into a joyful season of living our lives as renewed persons.

Realizing that all the time, and not just during Lent, we need to be making efforts to live more like Jesus in all we do, let us focus on loving all those around us as Jesus loves us.

Happy and blessed Easter. May the love of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you in this Easter season and always!

Prayerfully,

*Sr. Mary Ann Laurin*

*\*We do not know exactly to whom we should attribute this quotation. Sources most frequently indicate either St. Augustine or St. John of the Cross.*



## Love Them Anyway

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.  
Love them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of  
selfish ulterior motives.  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some  
false friends and true enemies.  
Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.  
Be good anyway.

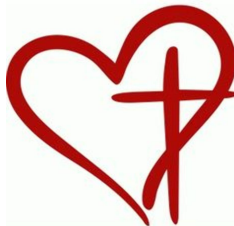
Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable.  
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.  
Build anyway.

People need help, but may attack you  
if you try to help them.  
Help them anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.  
It was never between you and them anyway.

(<http://www.paradoxicalcommandments.com/origin.html>)







# Sisters Update

- Sr. Juliana Djo and Sr. Estela Garcia will be visiting their families during May – June in their respective countries. Sr. Juliana is going to Korea, and Sr. Estela to the Philippines. For both of them, it is their first home visit since the Covid pandemic. We pray that their visits will be blessed by God and that they will come back refreshed.
- Sr. Marie Diem Nguyen is now working as a Patient Care-Giver at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC.
- Sr. Gloria Schultz is now living in the Marquette, Michigan community.
- Superior General, Mother Maria Goretti Lee and Sr. Emily DeCastillo will be coming to visit us in August, 2023.
- Some Vietnamese Sisters will join the United States District in the fall of 2023.



## **New Leadership Team for the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres for the Next Three Years**

After a written consultation of all the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres in the USA District, we were notified in December that the following Sisters are appointed to Leadership of the District by Sr. Maria Goretti Lee, General Superior, and her General Council in Rome:

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin, District Superior

Sr. Gloria Schultz, First Assistant

Sr. Estela Garcia, Second Assistant

We thank Sr. Mary Ann, Sr. Gloria, and Sr. Marie Kim Nguyen who served the USA District from 2019 – 2022, and we welcome Sr. Estela who will join the leadership team for 2023 – 2026.





## Report on the Council of the Congregation

From February 7 – 23, 2023, Sr. Mary Ann Laurin joined Mother Maria Goretti Lee, the General Superior of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, the members of the General Council from Rome, and the 24 Sisters who are Superiors of the Provinces, Districts, and Regions throughout the world to reflect and pray together on the topic of Synodality, Spirituality, and Religious Life.



The gathering was held in Chartres, France, in the convent given to the Sisters of St. Paul by Napoleon in 1802 after the French Revolution. This convent has been the place of formation for hundreds of Sisters since then, and most of the French missionary Sisters left from this convent to numerous countries throughout the world. Currently, missionary Sisters from Madagascar, Cameroon, Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Haiti, Korea, and Antilles – Guiana are also serving in France. It was a joy to gather in study and prayer.



Reverend Father Ramon Bautista, SJ, from the Philippines, presented four conferences on “Synodality and Spirituality” and four conferences on “Synodality and Religious Life.” There follows a short synopsis of some of Fr. Ramon’s talks:

The vital elements of a synod are (1) **“togetherness”** with the help of the **“Holy Spirit,”** and (2) **“discernment”** for the **“mission” of the Church.** This calls for believers to journey together, listening to one another, praying, discerning, and following the same path.

Pope Francis keeps urging us **“not just to talk and speak synodality, but to act, do and live synodality.”** This is true for all the faithful, and how much more it is true of any religious community, where all members are called to become agents, instruments, and channels of synodality to one another, living and incarnating the spirituality of synodality in all our communities, and engaging in the entire process of Christ-like living, loving and witnessing.









The spirituality of Synodality is a theme very rich and multi-dimensional. This can be presented using the paradigm of the **marks of the Church: Kerygma, Diakonia, Marturia, Leitouria, Koinonia.** The more we understand, appreciate, and incarnate these marks in our lives, the more we will understand our need as a Church, as God's people to live genuine synodality.

**KERYGMA** means “**proclamation.**” As a Church, we are called to proclaim the Gospel, the good news who is **Christ** himself. He who is the Logos himself, is the content and the essence of our **kerygma.** Consistent with this spirit of kerygma, Pope Francis reminds us that as a pilgrim people we should not only be “walking together”, but walking together “in love **with** the Gospel” which means having a special **devotion to the word of God,** lived faithfully through daily prayers and reflections.

**DIAKONIA** involves humble loving **service** mainly to the least, the lost, and the last. With **diakonia** we remember Christ's words when he said “*I came not to be served but to serve.*” From Pentecost, the birth of God's people, our church has always been a servant church. There have always been committed people who are willing to render compassionate service especially to the poor and the needy.

**MARTYRIA** has to do with one's **manner of witnessing** which may not necessarily include any distinct form of serving. This element of **martyria** makes it a class on its own, making it more demanding and challenging than diakonia. Comparing serving with witnessing, we realize that it is easier to serve than to give authentic Christ-like witness because there is no such thing as an “instant” witness.

To live the spirit of **martyria,** is to decide to make it a **whole life orientation,** by our way of acting and being.



**LEITOURGIA** refers to our life of worship, of celebration and prayer as God's community. The English word "liturgy" precisely comes from this Greek term leitourgia. The Christian liturgy has much to do with our prayer and sacramental life, especially our way of living the Eucharist marked with the four cardinal verbs: **Taking, Blessing, Breaking and Sharing**. In this context, one of the most fervent prayers we can make is: "Dearest Lord, I beg you, please take me, bless me, break me in the way you want to break me, so that you can share, give, send me to others."

**KOINONIA** means "**Communion**." This is our focus: If we invest ourselves in a life of **kerygma, diakonia, marturia and leitourgia**, then all these will lead and culminate in quality **koinonia** which is our genuine communion with God and with one another.





## Ken and Pat Gartland donate \$20,000 to Memory Care Center

By Victoria R. LaFave  
ESCANABA – The Gary Abrahamson, Jr. Memory Care Center is pleased to be the recipient of a \$20,000 donation to be used toward the Center’s mortgage expenses and ongoing operating costs.

In March of 2023, Ken and Pat Gartland presented the \$20,000 check, written from the Kenneth and Patricia Gartland Endowment Fund, a fund held by the Community Foundation for Delta County, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula, to the Gary Abrahamson, Jr. Memory Care Center (GAJMCC).



“This generous donation will allow us to take care of the mortgage, and will give the Memory Care Center enough money to cover a year or more of the building’s ongoing operating expenses,” said Mary Uelmen, GAJMCC building manager. The donation was especially needed at this time because the Par-Tee Fundraiser will not be happening this year.”

Ken Gartland described his philosophy of giving and why he donated to the GAJMCC at this time: “My favorite quote is, ‘He who gives when he lives knows where it goes.’”

Gartland, who has owned several businesses in Escanaba since 1962, (and whose sons currently own these growing businesses), said, “We want to give back to the people of this community who supported us over the years; that’s why we’re giving back.”

The building’s namesake, Gary Abrahamson, Jr., son of Patricia and the late Gary Abrahamson, Sr., was an Escanaba native who suffered cardiac arrest and a resulting severe traumatic brain injury after jogging near his Kansas home in 1987. An avid runner, Gary Jr. died on August 18, 2012 at age 61.

The GAJMCC’s Mission is to welcome strong, caring, wholesome partnerships, shared resources, and support, with rich professional training and programming services to the community, especially to adult individuals most vulnerable and in need.

Ken and Pat Gartland believe strongly in the Mission of the Center, and feel it is needed in the community. “Pat and I have both visited the Memory



Care Center, and we feel it's a fantastic place for people to enjoy a day of relaxation or recreation, and it relieves their caretaker for a while and gives them time for a much-needed rest."

In partnership with Community Action Adult Day Services Program, the GAJMCC, located at 2635 1st Ave. So., serves individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related illnesses. The Center also hosts guest speakers to meet the needs of many caregivers and others seeking help in the community. "These educational presentations, which are always free and open to the public, were temporarily halted due to COVID-19 restrictions," Uelmen explained. "However, we are starting them up again this spring with a series of dynamic speakers that will be announced soon."



Uelmen also noted that all donations to the GAJMCC to help with ongoing expenses, no matter the amount, are always welcome. Simply mail them to GAJMCC, Attn: Mary Uelmen, 2635 1st Ave. So., Escanaba MI 49829. For more information, please search "Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center" on Facebook, or call (906) 786-5810, Ext. 150.

Mary Uelmen explained that a series of dynamic speakers is starting up soon. All will be held at the Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center on 2535 First Ave. So. In Escanaba.

Jim LaJoie on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. See attached image.

Dr. Mary Whitmer on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. will be discussing "Understanding dementia from looking at how our mind influences our body and vice versa by neurohormonal responses in the nervous, muscular, and GI systems."

Jack Vanderlugt from the Alzheimer's Association in Marquette, will speak on "Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia" on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Hi Mom. It's Me**

Presented by: **Jim LaJoie**

A son shares life's lessons learned from mom and how he coped with her Alzheimer's disease

*Join us for this free presentation*

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 at 5:00PM  
 Gary Abrahamson Memory Care Center  
 2635 1st Ave South - Escanaba, MI 49829  
 Any questions contact Mary Uelmen at 786-5810 Ext. 150

The book will be for sale \$8 for one or \$15 for two  
 Jim LaJoie will be available to sign books after the presentation





### Report on Central Africa

To share a little about the situation of our Sisters and the people in the Republic of Central Africa, the following are some excerpts from an article I in the November 2019 Journal of the International Union of Superiors General, by Sr. Elvira Tutolo on the work of the Missionary Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide Thouret in Central Africa, called, "Sowers of Hope in Berberati, Central African Republic." Sr. Elvira is from Italy and began working in Central Africa in 2001.

*She writes: "I am bringing you the cry of a people and a martyred Church. This is the situation of the man attacked by the brigands and left half dead on the road leading down from Jerusalem to Jericho..." She goes on to tell how many of the young people are threatened by armed gangs, such as the Seleka, told that they will be killed unless they participate in killing others."*

*"The Central African Republic Bush War began in 2004 and, despite a peace treaty in 2007 and another in 2011, civil war resumed in 2012. The civil war perpetuated the country's poor human rights record: it was characterized by widespread and increasing abuses by various participating armed groups, such as arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and restrictions on freedom of the press and freedom of movement."*

Our Sisters of St. Paul have been victims of some of these abuses. One of our convents was taken over by the Seleka, and our Sisters had to flee to another convent. Until today, we never got out convent back. One of our schools became a place of refuge, and over 200 men, women, and children came to live there because their houses were taken over at gunpoint. At that time, our Sisters brought food, comforted the families, and tried to help the people in any way they could.

What is the cause of this violence? In a large part it is because wealthy people go there to profit from the gold and diamonds mined there. Poor people work hard for pittance (really slave labor), and even allow their children to work because they need the money.

I met with Sr. Stephanie, District Superior of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres in Central Africa, when we were at the Council of the Congregation in France in February 2023 and presented her with the money donated for Central Africa. Our Sisters there, along with many other congregations, work among the poor, the sick, and the young. Our Sisters try to give the youth an education, even if they cannot pay.

Sr. Stephanie said that the money we gave would be used to help poor families send their children to school, to help families to buy food and medicine, etc.

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin





### Haiti Mission Project Update

During my time in France I was able to connect with the District Superior in Haiti, Sr. Marie Denise, who told me that most of the money collected through our Mission Projects has been used for the Sisters' Schools in Haiti.

Some of these students attend their professional school in Haiti, where they study sewing, cooking, computers, etc. for the intention of being able to make a living by what they do.



*Sr. Mary Ann Laurin*

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### Compassionate Hearts Club



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Rev. Edward Baafi  
Precious Blood Church

#### **ANGEL**

Holy Name Catholic School  
Margaret Trone  
Tony & Pat Wros

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**A heartfelt thank you to everyone that gave gifts and donations to the Sisters of St. Paul and the Mission Projects**

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**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)



**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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**Mission Projects**

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