

*Because
I live,
ye shall live also.*

JOHN 14:19



Dear loving Lord Jesus,

You “leapt down” from heaven in the middle of the night...

Even though you are God from all eternity...

You became human – like us in all things but sin...

In being human, you suffered excruciating torments,
and died on a cross for us, a free choice of your love...

As you had promised, you rose again on the third day...

Triumphant, bringing joy and life to all.

Dear risen Lord Jesus,

I choose you to be my Lord and God,

With all my heart, body, mind, and soul.

Come Lord Jesus.

Alleluia! Amen!

You are being remembered in our
Masses and Prayers
this holy Easter Season.

Sr. Mary Ann Laurin and Sisters



Sisters Updates



Sr. Dorothy Jang returned to Seoul, Korea for good at the end of January, 2024. During her time in the USA District, Sr. Dorothea had ministered at the Divine Infant Living Center and at Bishop Noa Home as Director of Pastoral Care. We miss Sister Dorothy and have fond memories of her ministry in the USA District for the past 10 years.

Sr. Josephine Ramada is currently with her family in the United States. She has been with them for two months to help care for aging mother. Her mother died on March 4, and was buried on March 18th. Sr. Josephine will be returning to Marquette in early May and will continue her ministry at the Catholic Student Center of Northern Michigan University.

Sr. Fidelia Villa is now in the Philippines for her annual retreat and special renewal session for all the Sisters who made their religious profession together with her 25 years ago. She will return in June. We will have a 25th Jubilee celebration for her in September this year. In celebration of her 25 years, Sr. Fidelia compiled a booklet of poems she had written. There are a few of her poems included throughout this newsletter.

Sr. Daria Moon will be having her home visit in Korea in June, including an 8- day retreat at Sorae Retreat House, and will return to the US in mid-July to continue her ministry as chaplain at the Washington Hospital Center in WDC.



Sr. Estela Garcia and Sr. Juliana Djo will make their annual retreat in June, and Sr. Mary Ann Laurin and Sr. Josephine Ramada plan to make their annual retreats in July or August at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Sr. Gloria Schultz and Sr. Marie Kim Nguyen are planning to make their annual retreat this fall at the Maximilian Kolbe Shrine in Marytown, Illinois. Sr. Rosalie Hughes plans to make her retreat most likely in late summer or early autumn.

Sr. Nenita Leonardo, from the Philippines, is in the process of applying for a visa to come to the United States as a missionary for a second time. She was here from 2006 to 2015 when she returned home to care for her mother who was dying. She remained in the Philippines to serve in pastoral care. When she returns to the United States, she will serve in Pastoral Care at Bishop Noa Home in Escanaba.



A couple pictures celebrating Easter 2023



Easter

**Forty days are closing
Spring is waving
Green grass swaying
Cold winter fading.**

**Passiontide ending
Promises fulfilling
Dawn is breaking
New hope waking.**

**Great joy satiating
Our heart's longing
Sinful ways leaving
Heaven's grace outpouring.**

**God's love unrelenting
Mercy abiding
New life embracing
In Christ's rising.**

By Sr. Fidelia Villa





Retirement of our Secretary – Bookkeeper

In June this year, our long-time Secretary-Bookkeeper – and “adopted Sister of St. Paul” – Debby, (Mrs. David Tapani), retires. Debby has served the Sisters of Saint Paul faithfully for 22 years, not only by her work in the office, but also by responding to frequent requests from the Sisters for help with their computers, telephones, paperwork, etc. Dave, her husband, has also lent a hand quite often for mechanical needs with the cars, lawn mowers, and snow blowers. We wish Debby well in her retirement. May God bless you, Debby in all the years to come. May retirement be good to you and Dave.

Debby said, “ I appreciate the Sisters and the prayers and love received throughout the years. I am looking forward to some traveling, hanging out at the lake and the garage, visiting family and friends, concerts/live music and whatever good may come our way. We also have quite a few items on the “to do list” that need attention. We will keep busy for a while.”



Twenty-fifth Jubilee and Renewal of Sister Fidelia Villa

Sr. Fidelia Villa entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres in the Philippines in 1997. After finishing her novitiate and religious studies, she made her Perpetual Vows in 2006. Then, as a young Sister she ministered at various places in the Philippines.



Volunteering to be a missionary, Sr. Fidelia was sent first to Hawaii in July, 2011 where she taught Music (PreK-8) and Religion (Kindergarten and 3rd Grade) at St. Joseph Parish School in Waipahu from 2011 until 2017. At the end of the school year in 2017, she returned to the Philippines and served at Bicol Sanitarium from July 2017 to March 2019.

After that, she volunteered to come to Michigan to help out the USA District. Arriving in Marquette later in 2019, she was assigned to help prepare meals for the poor at the St. Francis Connection Center at K. I. Sawyer for two years. After this, she spent one year at the Northern Michigan University Catholic Campus Ministry Center in Marquette, working with the chaplain and helping the Catholic Students to grow in their faith.

Since the fall of 2022, Sister Fidelia has been ministering at Holy Name Catholic Grade School in Escanaba, Michigan. There she has been a teacher aide in third grade and in kindergarten.

Sr. Fidelia is currently in the Philippines where she will have a special 40-day long renewal program with other Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres who entered the congregation the same year as she did. This will include an 8-day retreat and a Jubilee celebration on May 4th. After this, she will have a month-long visit with her family, whom she has not seen since 2019.



What Easter Is

God's glory is revealed
In Jesus' resurrection
History's greatest event
Unfolded our redemption.

New life in Christ
Offered to all believers
Sin is conquered
Death overcame.

The Cross is the way
To the Resurrection
As Christ's Mystical Body
We celebrate this mystery.

Joy in the risen Lord
Is a gift to us given
Hope is restored
Love is renewed.

Easter is a new birth
A new beginning for us
Come all creation
Bow down in adoration.

By Sr. Fidelia Villa





The Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center (GAJMCC)

The Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center was built in 2015 by the generous donation of Mrs. Patt Abrahamson in memory of her son Gary Jr., who suffered a traumatic brain injury. Patt and her husband took care of him until he died. The purpose of the Memory Care Center was to have a place where adults who suffer from brain issues/ injuries can be taken care of for a few hours a day. This day care facility also gives relief to the care-givers who can use this time for personal needs such as seeing a doctor, grocery shopping, etc. The Community Action Agency currently uses the GAJMCC for their program.

Mary Uelmen, Building Manager of the Gary Abraham Jr. Memory Care Center, retired in mid-January after taking care of the building and doing fund raising and mission advancement for about 9 years. We are grateful for Mary's enthusiasm and competence for all this time. Presently, members of the Board overseeing the GAJMCC are handling duties that Mary had handled.

The amount of rent contributed by the Community Action Agency does not cover the costs of the property insurance, office supplies, maintenance of the building etc., so we are asking anyone who may be able to donate toward these expenses please send a check to:

**The Gary Abrahamson Jr. Memory Care Center
2635 1st Avenue South
Escanaba, MI 49829**

Thank you in advance, and may God bless you.
Sr. Mary Ann Laurin
District Superior and President of the GAJMCC Board

English Language Studies for Sr. Marie Hong and Sr. Marie Trang

Our newest Sisters, Sr. Marie Hong Tran and Sr. Marie Trang Doan have been studying English since they came, as well as taking part in all the realities of religious life in the convents of the Sisters of St. Paul. Aided by the Sisters, especially Sr. Estela, Sr. Mary Ann, and Sr. Gloria, and some friends of the Sisters, especially Cathy Clement, Ann Thill, and residents of the apartments at Bishop Noa Home, they became more and more familiar with simple conversational English, and were able to communicate more freely. It has been wonderful to be able to talk and pray together with them, and they have contributed greatly to the smooth running of various tasks in daily living.

Until the end of February, their English lessons were taking place at our convents in Marquette and in Escanaba. Then we were informed of a community school program in Wyoming, Michigan, (a suburb of Grand Rapids) that had various levels of classes in “English as a Second Language.” On March 3, Sr. Mary Ann, accompanied by her sister, Darlene Blahnik, drove the Sisters to Wyoming. On the way, we stopped at the home of Teresa and Eric Raiko, where Teresa prepared a delicious Sunday dinner. This welcome break came about half-way between Escanaba and Wyoming.

In Wyoming, we were welcomed by the Sisters of St. Paul de

Chartres who work in the Vietnamese parish there. The local Superior, Sr. Marie Thu Hoi Nguyen, had been a missionary in Marquette, Michigan from 1997 until 2005 when our Superior General, Mother Myriam



Photo: Sr. Marie Trang,
Darlene, Sr. Marie Hong,
Sr. Mary Ann, Teresa

assigned her to Wyoming to begin a ministry to the Vietnamese immigrants in the area. Currently there are about 17 Sisters of St. Paul in Wyoming and Lansing, ministering in two Vietnamese parishes. Most of the Sisters come from Vietnam and two of them are Vietnamese -Americans with parents who came to America during the difficulties in Vietnam in 1975.

On March 6, Sr. Marie Hong and Sr. Marie Trang were amazed to find that in the placement test they had taken that they both qualified to be in ESL class level two. Their classes began on March 11th, and they will continue their studies until May 23, when they will have their 8-day retreat in Wyoming. After that, they will return to Marquette.

-Submitted by Sr. Mary Ann Laurin



The Resurrection of Christ is our Joy!
Triumph of Light over darkness,
Passage from death to Life,
Prevailing of Love over hate!

*Our Mother General, Sr. Marie Goretti Lee, in these few words,
sums up the deep mystery of our faith.*

Easter Meditation

by Sister Mary Ann Laurin

This year at Easter, people are suffering so many ways

Refugees – people in danger in their own countries, and often refused entrance to other countries...

Homeless – people without a roof over their heads, with only the clothes on their backs...

Hungry – people who scavenge among garbage cans or dumps for remnants of discarded food...



Spiritually – people who have not known or experienced God's love for them...

What can we do?

Do we show acceptance of the refugee by how we act? By the opinions we give?

Do we help the homeless by donations to beneficent organizations? By working with Habitat for Humanity?

Do we feed the hungry by contributing food to St. Vincent de Paul pantries? By working at soup kitchens?

Do we help the spiritually hungry by talking with them and listening to them? By praying for them and with them?

Dear Lord Jesus,

You suffered in so many ways. You were not accepted by your own people. You were made fun of, tortured, and killed. You are our brother, our model, and our God. Please grant us the grace to love others as you love each one of us. We pray for all in need; may they see your face in us. Amen.



The Hour of Divine Mercy

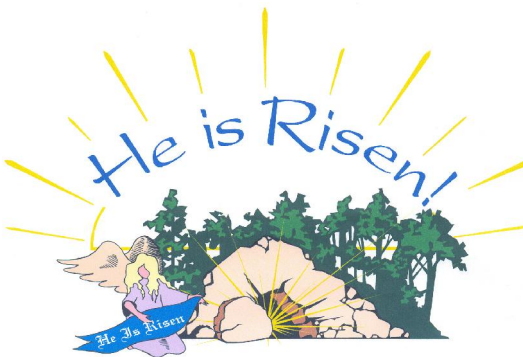
The moment of this mystery
Time stood still in eternity
Superseded any human history
When the Messiah died on Calvary.

Tears flowed from heaven
Made our hearts broken
Life has been laid down
To gain our salvation's crown.

Jesus, God-man on earth
Embraced a sinner's death
To God the Father reconcileth
Us whose love faileth.

This hour of mercy
With our hearts we thank Thee
O Most Holy Trinity
To You all glory be.

By Sr. Fidelia Villa





Let us pray for the Sisters, students and everyone in Haiti, for peace and restoration of order.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Compassionate Hearts Club where donations are collected for our Mission Projects in Haiti, Central Africa, Victims of Human Trafficking and Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Marquette.

Donations are welcome anytime.

Compassionate Hearts Club

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A heartfelt THANK YOU for the gifts and donations for 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

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 _____

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___ Victims of Human Trafficking

___ The Catholic Schools in Marquette Diocese

___ Central Africa

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