



SERVITE SISTERS *Today*

Fall 2019

Servants of Mary - Ladysmith, Wisconsin - 715-532-6153 - servitesisters.org

My Experience at the Border

By Sister Barbara Thomalla, OSM

Volunteers come to me and say: “We have no milk.” “I brought beans and rice for lunch.” “I brought paper and coffee. Where should I put them?” “I live in the neighborhood and stopped by to see if you need help.” And all of this within the space of five minutes!

It’s my second day volunteering at Casa Alitas, a hospitality center for migrants located in Tucson, Arizona. I respond to each of the volunteers and try to figure out what to serve for lunch to 80 people who have arrived at the center from the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) detention center. I think of Mother Alphonse and her famous line: “Sisters, there is so much to do!”

I heard about the need for volunteers at the U.S.-Mexico border from emails sent out by the justice coordinators group of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Catholic Sisters from across the country began going to hospitality centers at the border in November 2018.

I felt excitement and intrigue as I read what these Sisters were doing. I forwarded these messages to our Servite Sisters because I wanted them to know what was happening and to pray for the volunteers and asylum seekers. I didn’t think I would ever be a volunteer. I just was so proud of those who were.

Then my community leader, Sister Theresa Sandok, sent me an email asking, “Would you like to volunteer at the border?” Well, that question caused me to gasp and feel tense. I didn’t know what to say to myself, but in a day or two I knew the answer was yes. In February I took a two-week vacation from my job as a public health nurse with St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health and headed for the Sunset State.

Casa Alitas is a migrant hospitality center operated by Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona. Asylum



seekers, mostly from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, and a few from Nicaragua, travel over 2,000 miles on foot through Mexico and are detained by the US government at detention centers. They are young men and women, some with children, some pregnant, who have left their home countries to escape violence, poverty, and oppression.

The CBP officers bring the asylum seekers to the hospitality center in a van. A staff person at the center welcomes them saying: “You are no longer in the hands of the government. You are in a safe place where

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At left: Sister Barbara serving food to guests at Casa Alitas

President's Message

A Welcome Touch of Humanity



Our front page story focuses on Sister Barbara's experience as a volunteer at a hospitality center for asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border. Her story has been multiplied a thousand times over by Sisters throughout the nation responding to a call for assistance at the border from

Catholic Charities USA to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

In addition to the countless women religious who have volunteered – and continue to volunteer – their time and service at the border, LCWR congregations have collectively donated over a million dollars to provide essentials for the migrants: food, clothing, shelter, travel supplies, bus tickets.

All of this is a welcome touch of humanity in the face of the cruel and inhumane treatment so many asylum seekers encounter when they present themselves to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials. The heartbreaking photos of children in custody, the stories of children being separated from their parents, of adults detained in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, sleeping on concrete floors.... No matter where we stand on the immigration issue, there is never any justification to treat people in this way, as something less than human.

At right: Migrant children with Sister Norma Pimental at a Catholic hospitality center in McAllen, Texas.

Sister Norma Pimental, MJ, is a woman who has devoted her life to following Jesus' call to welcome the stranger (Matt. 25:35). She is the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and one of the nation's strongest champions of immigrants. Sister Norma was honored this year by LCWR as the recipient of its Outstanding Leadership Award. In her acceptance speech, she spoke of her own experience at the border:

"I have seen the face full of tears of a child saying to me: '*Ayúdame!*' (Help me!). I have seen the mom walking through the doors of the humanitarian respite center and break into tears as she experiences the compassionate welcoming of volunteers saying: '*Bienvenidos!*' I have looked at the face of a three-year old child, come up to me in the late hours of the day and ask: '*Tienes un pantalón limpio? El que traigo lo oriné.*' (Do you have a clean pair of pants? The ones I'm wearing are stained with urine.) I have witnessed, time and time again, a father kneeling before an image of Jesus or of our Lady, crying as he talks to them with the most beautiful prayer of thanksgiving."

"Our job," said Sister Norma, "is to bring together everyone that believes and agrees that respect for human dignity is a must." She concluded by saying, "It is now, my Sisters, that we must ask ourselves what else can I do to change this world to one that is more caring and compassionate. If it is not now, when? If it is not you, then who? For extreme times of pain and suffering, extreme measures of love are needed! Let us continue to do our part and get others to do the same."

Amen to that, Sister Norma!



Sister Theresa Sandok, OSM



Mary Alphonse Bradley Fund Celebrates 20 Years of Giving

Last fall marked the 20th year that the Mary Alphonse Bradley Fund has distributed grants to address human and societal needs worldwide. The Servants of Mary established the fund in 1998 with proceeds from the sale of Addolorata Villa, a continuum of care facility in Wheeling, Ill., to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation.

The first fifteen grants, totaling \$176,000, were distributed in 1999 to charitable organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the United States. Funds went to the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes in Tanzania to purchase a medical van, the Servite Sisters in India to construct a children's hostel, the Volunteer Missionary Movement in Greendale, Wis., to sponsor a teacher in Guatemala, and thirteen other organizations for projects in the U.S., including housing and services for homeless mothers and their children in Orlando, parochial-school scholarships for Asian students in Saint Paul, a program for Lakota youth from broken and non-functioning families in Chamberlain, S.D., and an intergenerational mentoring program in Barron County, Wis.

To date the fund has distributed over 350 grants to charitable organizations in 40 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Columbia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Europe Poland, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, South Cape Town, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Venezuela, West Senegal, Zambia, and the United States.

Commenting on this ministry, Servants of Mary president Sister Theresa Sandok said: "Wherever our funds are at work in the world, there our Servite Sisters are compassionately present. The only reason we are able to help others in this way is because our Sisters invested their blood, sweat, and tears in Addolorata Villa. The Sisters went out begging for money to purchase the Villa in the 1940s. They served there over the years as nurses, therapists, cooks, musicians, sacristans, housekeepers, seamstresses, groundskeepers, receptionists, volunteers, and administrators. Almost every Sister in the community, including many former members, ministered at the Villa at one time or another. When it came time to transfer the Villa to another sponsor, we knew we wanted to put the proceeds to use in service to others. Today the vision of our Mother Mary Alphonse, who founded the Villa, lives on through the fund that bears her name."

The Mary Alphonse Bradley Fund Committee meets each spring to review letters of intent from charitable organizations to determine which to invite to submit grant applications. The fund awards grants in the following core areas: women, children, families, education, health care, and social services.

Grant proposals are evaluated on the basis of need and relevance, goals and objectives, effective governance and management, staff competency, and fiscal solvency.

For more information about the fund or to inquire about a grant application, contact Cheryl Nordby, chair of the Mary Alphonse Bradley Fund Committee, at: mbradleyfund@yahoo.com.

Below:
Mary Alphonse Bradley Fund Committee members, from left: Peg Groth, Pat D'Ercole, Geri Jwanouskos, Cheryl Nordby, and Sister Barbara Thomalla.

Bottom – Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill. The sale of Addolorata Villa by the Servants of Mary to the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation in 1998 provided the seed money for the Mary Alphonse Bradley Fund, which has distributed over 350 grants to charitable organizations worldwide.



Sister Barbara's Service at the Border

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At left: Joe, the maintenance man, shows Sister Barbara the commercial dryer at Casa Alitas, a Tucson hospitality center for migrants that was once a Benedictine monastery.

heat and serve. We might prepare for 20 people and then a CBP officer would arrive with another 40 guests.

I met Joe, the maintenance man, and I asked him where I could wash the towels from the kitchen. He showed me the laundry area, where sheets and blankets lay in piles on the floor because volunteers had not yet been assigned to do laundry. I washed a load or two and used the big industrial dryer that the Sisters had used for many years.

I met Antonio, who cooked about eight pounds of dried beans in a very large kettle on the stove. He helped almost every morning. He showed me how to cook beans because he needed to return to his construction job and wouldn't be helping with breakfast anymore. So in my second week I became the chief chef for breakfast.

On my fourth day at Casa Alitas, I attended an orientation with about 100 other volunteers. Some were permanent Tucson residents, and some were snowbirds. Some were retired, some young working adults. Some were lawyers who helped guests with legal questions. Others were medical professionals who provided treatment for guests who arrived with fever, rash, vomiting, and other signs of illness. Some guests needed to be hospitalized.

I spoke with Sisters who volunteered at migrant hospitality centers in Texas. The process for the guests is the same at each location. CBP brings them to the center where a staff person welcomes them. This is often the first respectful word they hear since arriving at the border. They are given water, fruit, and soup. If they tolerate that, they eat a more substantial meal. Many have not eaten in a very long time, and their bodies must adjust slowly to food.

The travelers complete some paperwork, and a staff member helps them call a family member, who purchases a bus ticket. Most guests stay part of a day or overnight at the center. A volunteer drives them to the bus depot. Families receive travel bags before they leave. Bags may include food, water, toiletries, hygiene items, diapers and baby food, if necessary. They also receive blankets and small toys for the children for the bus ride.

A Tucson developer bought the former Benedictine monastery where I worked and offered it to Casa Alitas to use as a shelter and processing facility for a few months. During February the monastery housed between 40 and 80 people a day. On a single Saturday in April, the monastery welcomed 420 migrants. In August Casa Alitas moved the hospitality center to a new and larger location in the Tucson area and started the process of developing routines and schedules all over again.

you can receive hot food, a shower, a place to sleep, and a bus ticket to join your friends or family in the U.S.”

I arrived on a Monday in February at the address of one of the single-family houses that Casa Alitas used as a hospitality center. A volunteer opened the door and said: “We closed this house on Friday. We are working out of a former Benedictine monastery now. I am moving diapers and paper products from the garage to the monastery. It's not very exciting work.” I said I was happy to help in any way. We filled both our cars, and she led me to the monastery.

Everyone enters the monastery through the kitchen door. I meet Rocio, who tells me that I'm needed in the kitchen to organize the food pantry and the paper goods. Some other people are preparing the lunch. They all leave about 1 p.m., and I'm there alone, no one to tell me what to do.

I just start doing whatever is needed: sweeping the floor, wiping the tables, emptying the trash. Other volunteers come through the kitchen door and ask: “Where do I put donated items?” “Where is the travel room? I'm taking a family to the bus depot.” “Where do you want this bread from the bakery?” I soon learn they all think I'm in charge, so I smile, say thank you, and tell them what to do.

Being “in charge” became the theme of my entire two weeks at the monastery. Casa Alitas started using the monastery only four days before I arrived. The program had not yet established routines or schedules for volunteers. The first orientation for volunteers occurred on the evening before I arrived.

On my second day I met some volunteer women who had prepared meals for the guests at a church basement for a few weeks and then at a hotel for about a month. I was so happy to meet someone who knew more than I did. We didn't need to prepare the food. We needed only to organize the donated food and decide how much to

Servite Lay Groups Welcome New Members

The Maplewood, Minnesota branch of the Servite Confraternity of Our Lady of Sorrows recently welcomed Dolores “Dee” Knoche as its newest member. Dolores overheard a Confraternity member speaking about Mary’s seven sorrows and said, “My name means Mother of Sorrows. Could I come to your next gathering?” Moved by the meditations on Mary’s sorrows, it didn’t take long and Dee became a Servite.

Confraternity members strive, like all Servites, to be a compassionate presence in peoples’ lives, while deepening their relationship to Jesus through the sorrows of Mary. The Maplewood Confraternity, now in its fifth year, is a satellite of the Confraternity at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago. Sister Clarice Gierzak serves as the group’s spiritual assistant.

On September 18, 2019, the St. Juliana Community of Secular Servites in Ladysmith celebrated the Rite of Promise of three new members: Renae Baxter, Diana Reyant, and Jean Sanderson. The Secular Servite vocation is a way of responding to the challenge of

baptism to minister to God’s love in the world. Secular Servites live the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and love, pray and read Scripture, and practice daily acts of reverence for the Mother of God. They meet as a community several times a year for prayer, study, and ministry. The St. Juliana Community has 22 members, with Sister Marguerite Samz as their spiritual assistant.



New Confraternity member Dolores “Dee” Knoche.



Renae Baxter (top), Diana Reyant (center), and Jean Sanderson (bottom) celebrated their Rite of Promise as members of the St. Juliana Community of Secular Servites in Ladysmith on September 18.



Lay Confraternity: Confraternity members, from left, back row: Mary Ann Opitz, Elizabeth Early, Dolores Nedeau (dec.), Elaine Marty, Kaddy Puchleitner, Sister Clarice, Joyce Guerin. Front row: Lori Lonetti, Dominic Pagnotta (dec.), Betty Lehmann. Not pictured: Louise Nieters, Dolores Witschen, Norma Wortman.

Jubilee: Three Sisters — 200 Years of Service

Three Servite Sisters marked the celebration of their jubilees of religious profession this year with a liturgy and dinner at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill., on August 24, 2019.

Sister Doris Ann Samens

celebrated 70 years of religious profession. She was born in Cooks Valley, Wis., and entered the Servants of Mary as a high school freshman aspirant in 1945. She became a postulant in 1947 and professed first vows on August 16, 1949. She received the name Sister Mary Norbert, and later returned to her baptismal name. She earned a bachelor of arts in elementary education from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn., and attended the CREDO program at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash.

She ministered as an elementary school teacher and principal in Wisconsin, Illinois, New Jersey, and West Virginia. She also served as a pastoral associate, retreat director, ministry of care coordinator, and health care visitor. She was director of postulants and novices for the Servants of Mary and a member of the leadership team.

Sister Mary Damian Powers

also celebrated 70 years of religious profession. She was born on Nov. 13, 1931, in Chicago, Ill., and later moved with her family to Wisconsin. She entered the Servants of Mary as a high school freshman aspirant in 1945, became a postulant in 1947, and professed first vows on August 16, 1949. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., and a chaplaincy certificate from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

She ministered as a medical technician at hospitals in Ladysmith and Kewaunee, Wis. She served as a pastoral associate at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago and at the parishes of St. Matthew and St. Ambrose in Dorchester, Mass. At St. Matthew's she also coordinated the parish food pantry.

Sister Cecilia Fandel

celebrated 60 years of religious profession. She was born on Dec. 29, 1940, at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, the sixth of 13 children. She entered the Servants of Mary as a postulant on Dec. 8, 1957, and professed first vows on June 20, 1959. She received the name Sister Mary Martin, and later returned to her baptismal name. She earned a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, a master of arts in community organizing and organizational development

from Loyola University Chicago, and certificates as a teacher and director of religious education in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

She ministered as an elementary school teacher and principal, community organizer, teacher and director of religious education, literacy volunteer, teacher of English as a Second Language, Hispanic outreach minister, and social justice advocate. She was a member of the Servants of Mary leadership team and director of vocations and formation.

Sr. Doris Ann Samens, seated, far right, and family.



Sr. Mary Damian Powers, seated, third from left, and family

Sr. Cecilia Fandel, front row, far left, and family



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Sister of the Sorrowful Mother

Learn more at sistersagainstrafficking.org

Nuns Combat Trafficking – The Servite Sisters have joined with five other Wisconsin-based congregations of women religious to help spread the word about human trafficking. The ad pictured here appears in the Up North Action Magazine distributed in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. In addition, the congregations sponsored a double-sided rack card available in over 700 tourism racks that are serviced by 5 Star Marketing and Distribution of Tomahawk, Wis. This is the third straight year that these congregations have joined together to spread the word about human trafficking. The ad was created by Emily Anderson of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, Oshkosh, Wis.



Storm Damage – High winds on the night of July 15, 2019, toppled a large basswood tree on the Servants of Mary property in Ladysmith. The tree fell onto an iron railing, crushing it under its weight. Another tree on the Sisters' property met the same fate later that month.



Remembering a Dear Aunt – Dorothy (Schueller) Checkuck and her husband John visited the Servants of Mary cemetery in Ladysmith last December and laid a wreath on the grave of Dorothy's aunt, Sister Teresa Schueller. John found a broom in the cemetery chapel and, with the help of Sister Cecilia Fandel, located the headstone, which he swept clear of snow. The Checkucks, who operate a dairy farm in Burgettstown, Pa., were unable to attend Sister Teresa's funeral the previous year.



Mexican Sisters Come to Superior Diocese – Community leader Sister Susana, left, and her companion Sister Maria, members of the Mexican order of the Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Therese, spent two days in July as guests of the Servite Sisters in Ladysmith. The Mexican Sisters were in the area to visit parishes in Barron and Rusk Counties, where three of their Sisters will come to minister to Hispanics. The Sisters will live in the former rectory in Chetek.

Camel Ride in Jericho – Sister Mary Dominica Effertz braved a camel ride while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, January 17–26, 2019. At the end of the ride, she said, "the camel knelt down to let me off and turned its head to give me a kiss." The pilgrimage was led by Father Bala Showry, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Spooner, Wis. The 38 pilgrims on the trip visited many historic biblical sites, including Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, and the Garden of Olives. At Cana the married couples renewed their wedding vows.



In Memoriam

Sr. Anne Patrice McEntegart, OSM 1921–2019

Sister Anne Patrice McEntegart, 97, died peacefully on Jan. 11, 2019, at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill. She was born in Chicago on Jan. 21, 1921, to John and Mary Agnes (Hearty) McEntegart, the fourth of eight children, and was baptized Anna Patricia. She joined the Servants of Mary in Ladysmith, Wis., in 1951 and made her first profession of vows in 1952.

She was a graduate of Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School and Providence High School in Chicago. She earned a bachelor's in education and a master's in business education from De Paul University in Chicago and was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. She held a certificate from the Theological Institute of St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wis.

Prior to entering the convent, she worked at Western Electric Company in Cicero, Ill., where she was assigned to government projects during the war. As a Servite Sister, she taught for 40 years in elementary schools in Carteret, N.J., Hillside, Ill., Ladysmith, Wis., and Saint Paul, Minn. She served as principal of St. Thomas the Apostle School in Saint Paul and was stationed three times at St. Domitilla School in Hillside, where she taught for a total of 31 years and later served as assistant principal. She was appointed secretary for the Servants of Mary, a position she held for nine years,



and served a three-year term on the Servants of Mary leadership team.

Annie Mac, as she was affectionately known, treasured her Irish heritage and traveled to Ireland three times to visit relatives. She was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and the De Paul Blue Demons. Her hobbies included knitting, crossword puzzles, and reading. She had a delightful sense of humor and was a great storyteller.

She is survived by one sister, Kathleen Curran, many nieces and nephews, and the Servite Sisters, with whom she shared life for 68 years. She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, John, William, Thomas, and Patrick, and two sisters, Mary Strittar and Margaret Agrella.

Father Tony Ong presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Addolorata Villa on Jan. 16, with burial in the family plot at St. Michael's Cemetery in Wheaton, Ill.

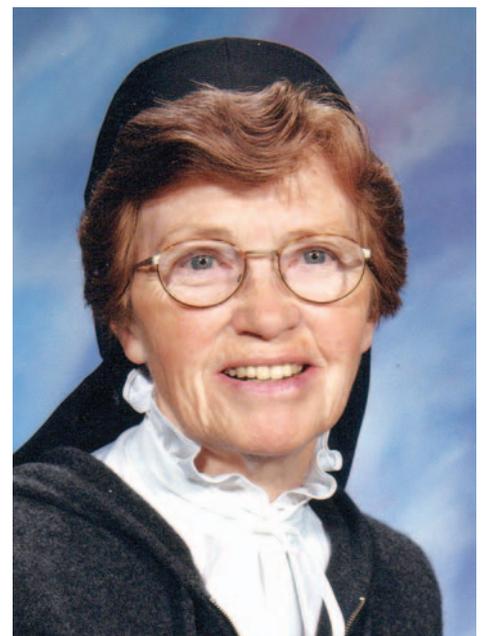
Sr. Bridie Kelly, OSM 1931–2019

Sister Bridie Kelly, 88, died peacefully on May 14, 2019, at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill. She was born in Pullalena, Clogher, Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland, on March 3, 1931, to Edward and Norah (Kelly) Kelly, the second of seven children, and was baptized Brigid. Family and friends called her Bridie.

In Ireland she frequently visited a cousin of Servite Sister Mary Eileen McGing, to whom she expressed a desire to be a Sister someday. The cousin gave Bridie a picture postcard of the Servants of Mary motherhouse in Ladysmith, which she had received from Sister Eileen.

Bridie immigrated to the United States in January 1948 and contacted Sister Eileen, who invited her to visit the motherhouse in Ladysmith. Shortly after that visit, in June

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Sister Theresa Elected to National Board



Sr. Theresa Sandok, far right, with the national board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, was elected to a three-year board term at the LCWR assembly in Scottsdale, Ariz., in August. LCWR, an association of congregation leaders of Catholic Sisters in the U.S., has nearly 1,350 members, representing more than 44,000 women religious in the U.S. Earlier this year, Sister Theresa was elected to a third consecutive term on the board of the International Thomas Merton Society, whose mission is to encourage exploration of Thomas Merton's life and thought to build knowledge, cultivate community, foster contemplative awareness, encourage interfaith encounters, and inspire just living.

Lenten Notes *By Sister Clarice Gierzak*

What does a person do while recuperating after a hospitalization? Father Ken Ludescher had the answer. "Why don't you send a note to each of our retired priests?" Since I liked the idea, I did just that. With the help of the social worker for retired priests, I completed my Lenten project of sending messages to all 108 retired priests in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis.

To personalize each note, I attached a photo of the priest to a computer generated "thumbs up" sign. Needless to say, they loved it. I was overwhelmed at the responses. Here are a few:

"I will be 90 years old on April 16. Your note was a wonderful birthday present." "Thanks for the clever creative card. It arrived for my 51st anniversary of ordination." "Thank you for your thoughtful and affirming note. I enjoyed it immensely. That was quite a penance – 108 cards!" "Thank you so much, Sister. I will take you to the altar tomorrow as we honor the Humility of Mary." "Good people like you make my priestly ministry a real gift of joy." "Thanks so much for your thoughtfulness. I show your card around to friends who think it is a hoot!" "How good it is to know you are praying for us old guys. It gives me an idea of something for Lent next year."

Sr. Clarice is retired & lives in Maplewood, Minn.



1950, Bridie entered the Servants of Mary convent and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1952. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1960.

She attended elementary and secondary schools in Ireland and pursued further education at Our Lady of Sorrows High School, Mount Senario College in Ladysmith and the Theological Institute at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis.

Sister Bridie taught kindergarten through third grade for over 40 years in schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Carteret, N.J., Chicago, Ill., Wheeling, W.V., and Hillside, Ill. At St. Domitilla School in Hillside she also served as an extended day care teacher and teacher's aide. She volunteered at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., as a eucharistic minister.

Her enduring spirit was great as she coped with Parkinson's disease her last few years, an illness that curbed the walking that she loved but in a sense created a pathway for her new life with God.

She is survived by four sisters, Kathleen Shanley, Mary Duggan, Nora Doherty, and Margaret Callaghan, many nieces, nephews, and cousins, and the Servite Sisters, with whom she shared life for 69 years. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Frank and Thomas.

Father Timothy Kremen, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Addolorata Villa on May 18, with burial at All Saints Mausoleum, Des Plaines, Ill.

Sister Sophia's Christmas Village

Each December in the large festive parlor at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill., Sister Sophia's Christmas Village comes to life anew, sprawling over the grand piano, tables, furniture, and windowsills, until every surface is covered with miniature shops and churches, sleighs and trains, rosy-cheeked children and carolers, and everywhere snow, snow, and more snow.

Sister Mary Sophia Jaskot, OSM (1917-1997), erected the first Christmas Village back in the 1980s when she ministered as head cook at the Villa. Her Christmas creation so delighted residents and guests that she continued to put it up every year, and with each passing year the village boundaries expanded. Today, more than 20 years after her death, the tradition continues, lovingly overseen by ministers in the Villa's pastoral care department.



Sister Sophia with her Christmas village at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill., 1980s.



Sister Sophia's Christmas Village is lovingly brought back to life each December by the pastoral care ministers at Addolorata Villa.



We are deeply grateful to you, our donors,
and hold you in our prayers.

Aug. 16, 2018

Aug. 31, 2019

Donors

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LeBlanc, LeRoy & Ruth
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Sr.*

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Carter, Linda

Cartwright, Genita M.
In memory of Odetta Weber

Castagna, Angela

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Connolly, Marianne Kennedy
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and Priests
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DiMartino, Josephine*
*In memory of Giuseppan-
tonio DiMartino*

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Rev. James P. Powers**

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Plourde, OSM, S. Rosemary
Fandel, OSM*

Dowd, Edmund

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*In memory of Michael J.
Drace*

Duchinowski, Mary Jane*
*In honor of the Sisters and
all the sick*

Durkin, Kathleen
*In memory of S. M. Eileen
McGing, OSM*

Early, Elizabeth
*In honor of S. Mary John
VanderLoop, OSM*

Edge, Mary Jo & Douglas D.

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- Effertz, Amanda & Scott A.**
In honor of S. M. Dominica Effertz, OSM
- Ehren, Catherine***
- Eitenmiller, Anna Marie & John**
In honor of S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
- Eller, John M.***
- Esler, Jean**
In honor of S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
In memory of S. M. Bernice VanderLoop, OSM, Marie VanderLoop Haasl, Michael Esler, Eileen VanderLoop Rotta
- Esser, Marcella**
- Fameree, Jacqueline**
In honor/memory of Servite Sisters who started & worked at St. Mary's Hospital, Kewaunee, WI, esp. S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM.
- Fandel, Bonnie & Patrick**
- Fandel, Janet & Albert***
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In memory of Dortha Glass
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In memory of Henry Golat
- Gooden, Earl L.**
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In memory of S. Sandra DeGidio, OSM
- Guzik, Agnes A.**
In memory of Ted Guzik
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In memory of S. M. Bernice VanderLoop, OSM
- Haasl, Mike & Mickie Micklewright**
In memory of Marie VanderLoop Haasl, Don & Mary Haasl
- Hafner, Genevieve**
- Hagen, Rev. Gerald A.***
- Hall, Garry D.**
- Hammang, Phyllis***
In honor of all Servite Sisters
- Hannigan, Colleen & Kieran**
In honor of S. Sharon McCarthy, OSM
- Hanson, Christine***
In memory of Leona Van Gheen, Verdayne & Jay Hanson
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In memory of S. Sandra DeGidio, OSM
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In memory of Joseph Gerald Harris
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- Harvey, Jean**
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In memory of Lucille Hegenbarth
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In memory of Jerry Novak
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- Janowitz, Patricia & Thomas**
In memory of Evelyn Verdegan, OSSM
- Jez, James**
In memory of Amy Neumann
- Jones, Julee & David**
- Jwanouskos, Geri**
In memory of S. M. Joan LeBlanc, OSM, S. Sandy DeGidio, OSM
- Kainz, Sue**
- Kaplan, Anne J.***
- Kazek, Joann & Joseph A.**
- Kearney, Kathleen & Patrick**

A Lucky Find Becomes a Donation

Last spring Sister Barbara Thomalla, right, and her coworker Amy were picking up trash outside their office building. The last item Sister picked up was a genuine \$100 bill. She promptly donated it to MORE, a Minnesota nonprofit that provides services for immigrants.



- Kelly, William***
In honor of, S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
In memory S. M. De Sales Fitzpatrick, OSM, Alice Kelly
- Kesan, Beverly & Frank**
In memory of Kesan & Thorson families
- Kester, Donald E.***
- Keup, Luella**
- Kjome, June**
In memory of S. Mary Pat Hill, OSM
- Klemko, Joan & James***
In honor of S. Cecilia Fandel, OSM
In memory of Richard & Mildred Fandel
- Knudsen, Audry & Don**
- Kobriger, Kirk**
- Kohn, Marlene***
- Kolanczyk, Corina Piper & Jerry***
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In memory of S. Bonnie Alho, OSM
- Kollman, Mary J.**
In memory of S. Anne Patrice McEntegart, OSM
- Kopil, Rose***
In memory of Brady, Kopil, Trustrum families
- Kosciulek, Gary***
- Kowalski, Evelyn A.**
In memory of Steve Kowalski, Stefania Mazon
- Krajewski, Dorothy**
In honor of S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
In memory of S. M. Bernice VanderLoop, OSM
- Krajewski, Lenore & Larry**
In honor of S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
In memory of S. M. Bernice VanderLoop, OSM
- Krajewski, Frances & Leo**
In honor of S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
In memory of S. M. Bernice VanderLoop, OSM
- Krajewski, Juna & Thomas**
- Krisik, Ann & Jerry**
- Kroll, John E.**
In memory of Joanie Kroll
- Krzeczowski, Mary**
In honor of S. Margaret Valois, OSM
- Krzyzaniak, William**
- Kubisiak, Clara & John**
- Kucan, Virginia & George**
In honor/memory of the Sisters who served in Weirton, WV
- Kuhle, Virginia***
In memory of S. Bonnie Alho, OSM
- Kunkel, Jack***
In memory of S. M. Joan LeBlanc, OSM
- Kurth, Noreen***
- Kurz, Jo Ann & George**
- Kurz, Janet E.**
- Kvist, Audrey & Don**
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In memory of John Braun, Sean Guy
- Lamoreaux, Lee V.***
In memory of Delores E. Lamoreaux
- Landry, Diane & Albert**
In memory of M/M Paul Becker
- Lasack, Leonard**
In memory Alois & Albert E. Lasack, M/M Louis G. Lasack
- Leahy, Dr. Richard**
In memory of Bernice Leahy
- LeBoeuf, S. Claire M., CSC**
In memory of S. Rosalie Hennessey, OSM
- Lee, Dorothy***
- Lee, Katie & Randy**
In honor of S. Sharon McCarthy, OSM
- Lewis, Sally***
In memory of Mary Hetzel
- Liebig, Gene**
- Lieser, Betty**
In honor of S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
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In honor of S. Geraldine Schulte, OSM
- Lisius, Lucille**
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In memory of S. Rosemary Mayer, OSM
- Ludescher, Rev. Kenneth***
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- Machac, Rita & Michael**
- Maher, S. A.**
- Mahieu, Angela & John**
In honor of S. Doris Ann Samens, OSM
- Mahler, Emil**
- Mai, Kathleen**
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In memory of Mark Barna
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- Mancenido, Cora**
- Manhart, Julia Held**
In honor/memory of Servite priests and sisters who served at St. Joseph's, Carteret, NJ
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In memory of Lorraine & Charles Michels, Patricia Stelzer
- Mark, Dolores M.**
In memory of Norman L. Mark
- Marty, Elaine K.**
- Maruyama, Nancy***
- Mascia, Karin & Patrick***
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In memory of Helen Matson
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In memory of Daniel Bolner, Sr., Daniel Bolner, III
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In honor of S. Sharon McCarthy, OSM
- McCarthy, Terri & Rick**
In honor of the Sisters and their good works
- McClintock, Michael R.**
In memory of Edward & Kathryn Schnoes and Michael E. & Minnie McClintock families
- McCormick, Frances & Patrick**
In honor of S. Mary John VanderLoop, OSM
In memory of S. Alice Henke, OSM, S. Sandra DeGidio, OSM
- McCoy, Marianne**
In honor of Kathleen Casey, Barbara McCoy
- McDermott, Doris & Richard***
In memory of Bertha & Leonard McDermott
- McDonough, Rev. John P.**
- McGough, Jean & Thomas J.**
- McWatters, Kathleen A.***
In honor of Servite Sisters of St. Joseph School, Carteret, NJ
In memory of Park View Families of Carteret, NJ
- Meade, John**
In memory of Jack Brinckerhoff
- Meton, Michael**
In memory of Josephine & Harvey Meton
- Meyer, Jackie & Larry***
- Minelli, Ferdinand M.**
In honor/memory of family members
- Moffett, Helen & James***
In memory of Luella Trecker, Eleanor Longton
- Moran, Bro. Christopher, OSM***
In honor of Servites
In memory of P. Moran, Betty Moran
- Morgan, Carole & Kerm**
In honor of Dale Rogers
- Mueller, Andrew C.***
In honor/memory of family members
In memory of Louis L. Mueller
- Murphy, Donna & Finian**
- Murphy, Judith & Robert***
In honor of Murphy family
- Murphy, Hon. Sheila M***
- Murray, Donald J.***
- Murray, Margaret & John**
In memory of Peggy Buruato
- Myrick, Janet***
- Nagy, Frank T.**
- Nazer, Raymond J.**
In memory of Katherine & Louis Nazer
- Nelson, Arlene & Gerald***
- Neumann, Jeanette***
In memory of Neumann & Jez family
- Nicholas, James***
- Niehus, James E.***
In memory of Myron & Celestine Niehus
- Nieters, Louise**
- Novy, Richard***

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Obey, Joan & Hon. David

Olsen, Camille C. & James I.

Olson, Gerald A.

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In memory of John Opalensky

Oppelt, John

Orler, Karen M.

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Palen, Victoria

Pamperin, Susan & Steven

Pankowski, Joseph

Parodo, Jerry J.
In honor of Bishop Baraga, Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP

Pasko, LaVerne
In honor of S. Doris Ann Samens, OSM
In memory of Paul Pasko, Jr.

Pavlik, Florence
In honor of Tyler Pavlik
In memory of Ed Pavlik

Peichel, Francis

Percy, Lenore & James

Perrizo, Pat & Bruce

Peterson, Ellen
In memory of W. Allen Peterson

Pfalzgraf, William
In memory of Doris Pfalzgraf

Philbrook, Frances M.
In memory of Alexandra Skaalerud

Pias, Donna & Lawrence
In memory of Pias & Fergus families

Piccinich, Rose-Ann

Pieper, Rose*

Piñeiro, Amparo
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Pintens, Patricia
In memory of S. Teresa Schueller, OSM, S. Bonnie Alho, OSM

Pirnat, Charles

Ploog, Thomas
In honor of Barbara Marciniak, Bernadine Skiba

Plourde, Rosemary
In memory of Wayne John Plourde

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In memory of Joseph Prince, S. M. Roberta Prince, OSM

Prince, Rosella Ann

Racanelli, Margaret Bragg*
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Rambosek, Mary M.*

Rau, Judith
In memory of S. Casimira Benbenek, OSM

Reever, Leslie
In memory of S. M. Christina Gelting, OSM

Reichert, Rev. James, OSB
In memory of M/M Robert Keppers, Avon, MN

Reichert, Jayne & Robert
In honor of the Sisters at St. Bernard's, Thorp, WI

Reidy, Patrick
In honor of the Servants of Mary

Reyes, Bernadita

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Rhodes, Joseph L.
In honor/memory of Rhodes family, Sisters who served at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, IL

Richter, Mary Connolly
In honor/memory of the Servite Sisters who served at St. Joseph's, Carteret, NJ

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Robert, Lucille

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Rockwell, Raymond*
In memory of Dorothy Bernadette Davis Rockwell

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In memory of Oscar Rodriguez

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In memory of Frances Rogers family

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In memory of Riejak and Rojak family

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In memory of José Manuel Romero

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In memory of Roger Albus, Theresa Effertz

Rothbauer, Don, DVM & Mary
In memory of Nancy Volk, Donny Rothbauer

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Rotter, Cynthia*
In memory of Thomas Wisz

Rubbelke, Rev. Ronald

Sailor, Margaret
In memory of Dennis Sailor, Mary Ellen Sailor

Salajka, Jane

Samz, Patricia & Michael J.*

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In memory of Louis & Helen Sandok

Sandok, Judy & Paul
In memory of John & Katherine Sandok

Sandoval, Irvin P.*
In honor of our children In memory of Rose & Philip Sandoval, Angie O'Hara

Sandstrom, Judy & Robert*
In memory Kathy Guske

Santillo, Rita
In memory of S. Sandra DeGidio, OSM

Schlichting, Linda & Howard
In memory of S. Anne Patrice McEntegart, OSM

Schmidt, James & Joyce
In memory of Nellie & Peter Prince families

Schultz, Mary*
In honor of S. M. Lucy Daniels, OSM, all Sisters

Schwaighart, Kathleen M.

Scott, Dianne
In memory of Shirley Bednarek, Edmond Traczyk, Harold Kramer family

Scovell, Edith M. & Wayne E.
In honor of S. Loretta Lonsdorf, OSM

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Secular Servites, Our Lady of the Assumption Community, CO

Secular Servites, St. Juliana Community, Ladysmith, WI

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Siegenthaler, Joan M.*
In memory of Bev Siegenthaler

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In memory of Evan Silvis

Skiba Family
In memory of Sophie Skiba

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Snyder, Rita & Joseph
In memory of S. Sandra DeGidio, OSM

Stanton, Helen & Tom

Stearns, Marilyn & Jerry
In honor of S. Cecilia Fandel, OSM

Steinbuch, Darrell A.*

Steinmetz, Mary

Stoeberl, JoAnn
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SM Servants of Mary

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In memory of Schuck family

Tucker, Leona G

Ullenberg, Louis R.

Valois, Bro. Ken*

VanderLoop, Kathy & George

Vandervest, Patrick*

Varien, Annette
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Vellante, Delia C.*

Verkuilen, Robert A.
In memory of Helen Verkuilen

Villafaña, David*

Volk, Phyllis L.
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Wald, John R.

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Webb, Donald

Widmar, Ann
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Widmar, Mary & John*
In memory of S. M. Frances Wanbaugh, OSM

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In honor of Chuck Gressle

Wooden, Carol

Woodward, Michael J.

Wozniak, Rev. Timothy J.*
In honor of Margaret Wozniak

Wren, Suzanne

Younger, Kristy & Jim
In memory of Glenna J. Younger

Ziemer, Deborah & John

Zorn, Mary K.*

Authentic Ojibwe Wigwam



Sister Cecilia Fandel, top right, served as project coordinator for the construction of this authentic Ojibwe wigwam, located in the Native American exhibit building at the Rusk County Museum in Ladysmith. Wayne Valliere, in the maroon shirt, an elder and cultural director at the Lac du Flambeau reservation, guided the building project. Pamela Guthman, front left, and her nursing students from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, helped assemble the 17-foot diameter willow hut. About 100 people attended the dedication and blessing of the Native American Heritage Project in Ladysmith on July 27, 2019.

Moving?

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Collaborative Fosters Life & Mission of Religious Communities

The Servants of Mary have joined with eight other religious congregations of women religious to form the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative. The purpose of the WRC is to promote good stewardship by sharing resources and professional expertise in finance, management, pastoral care, governance, and other areas in order to sustain mission and meet the needs of individual religious congregations and their members.

The first organization of its kind in the United States, the WRC was incorporated in the State of Wisconsin in April 2018. The following December, the WRC hired Lynelle (Lyn) Korte, CAE, as its first executive director. In announcing the hiring, Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC, board president, said, "Lynelle is a well-rounded certified association executive with more than 20 years of experience, excelling at strategy as well as functional leadership and execution."



WRC board members, from left: Jean Steffes, CSA; Sue Ernster, FSPA; Beverly Heitke, SDS; Rose Jochmann, OSF; Sharon Glumb, SLW; Pat Cormack, SCSC; Angelo Collins, OP; Sylvia Anne Sheldon, OSF; and Theresa Sandok, OSM. Each member congregation has a representative on the board.

Lyn began her work by having an onsite "introduction and discovery" visit with the leadership team of each congregation in the collaborative.

Based on the information gathered from these visits, she proposed a number of areas where the congregations could benefit from working together. These include archives, staffing and management, pastoral care of members, ongoing formation, and social justice. The next step, already underway, is to turn those needs into programs and projects.



WRC executive
director Lyn Korte

The WRC is attracting attention among religious congregations nationwide. A recent article in the National Catholic Reporter stated: "Options for religious groups in flux can include becoming part of another community, merging one or more congregations into a new one, or entering a governance covenant with one or more bodies keeping their separate identities. This last model has been given an intriguing incarnation in the nine-community Wisconsin Religious Collaborative."

The WRC member institutes are: Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond du Lac; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse; Servants of Mary, Ladysmith; Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa; Sisters of the Divine Savior, Milwaukee; Sisters of the Living Word, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Merrill; Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis; Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross, Green Bay.