



AM Associates News

Winter 2017

Volume 3, Issue 1

So. Ontario SSND Associates Covenant Celebrations: Oct.15/16

by Associates Hermie Schuster
and Rosemarie Craven

On Saturday, October 15, Patrick Keenan celebrated his first covenant in the ornate chapel of the Notre Dame Convent in Waterdown, Canada and 14 associates renewed their covenants. Three of the associates, Betty Gray, Loella Eby, and Hermie Schuster, celebrated their 25th Jubilee.

Our carefully discerned decisions to covenant with the School Sisters of Notre Dame (with the gentle guiding light of our Sister Harriet's pre-covenant reflection day), solemnly spoken before God and witnessed by our sisters and our family members, took a deeply rooted path into our hearts and souls.

This celebration day embodied the fact that we "hold in common" the principles, and intentions:

- to live the charism of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
- to do what Jesus tells us, and
- to take just and compassionate care of God's creation and created our "common home" (as Pope Francis would say.)



L to R: Lan Nguyen, Cathy Heffernan, Hermie Schuster, S. Sharon Kanis, S. Jane Forni, Pat Murphy, Patrick Keenan (rear), Evelyn Keenan, Janina Piva, Loella Eby, Christine Oates, Josie MacRae, Jeannine Gosselin, Audrey Kemp, Liz Whyte, Nerina Murray, S. Harriet Schnurr, and Rosemarie Craven.

Ten candles were burning at the base of the altar to represent the ten associates who could not be present. Most of them are prayer partners.

Fr. Wayne Lobsinger celebrated the Eucharist for us.

Present for the occasion were Sisters Jane Forni and Sharon Kanis. Sister Jane introduced the liturgy and Sister Sharon invited Patrick and the associates to come forward as Patrick made his first covenant and the associates renewed their covenants.

Hermie Schuster was the cross-bearer; Janina Piva and Josie MacRae, who made their first cov-

enants last year, were acolytes. Evelyn and Patrick Keenan were our gift-bearers. Bill Oates, husband of Christina Oates, presented a marvellous rendition of "Ave Maria".

After a delightful lunch with the sisters and guests we celebrated in



Newly covenanted Associate Patrick Keenan and his wife, Evelyn.

“Tell the Story of Love’s Way”

by Sister Mary Beth Buettner and Associate Mary Lou Fish

“Give thanks to the Beloved with your whole heart; tell the story of love’s way.” Psalm 9

In the last few years the Baltimore Area has been blessed with an increase of associates joining in the mission and ministry and we thanking the Beloved for all of these women who have chosen to share their stories, their love, and their thanks. We feel this growth has come about through the presence of associates and sisters in the sponsored ministries and at Villa Assumpta who are living the charism.

Invitations to “come and see” were extended at the Ministry Formation Retreat under the direction of Sister Judith Schaum and at the Notre Dame of Maryland University by Sisters Linda Stilling and Mary Fitzgerald. Others responded to a personal invitation from a friend or co-worker. Just as Jesus called each apostle by name, the Baltimore Area has called and invited women and men to come and see. The invitation is the seed to our blossoming!

The Baltimore Area celebrated the first covenant of seven pre-associates and the 25th Jubilee of Associate Lucy Boland

June 12 at Villa Assumpta during the Sunday Liturgy. The group had been together the previous day for a retreat presented by Sister Therese Feeley on the theme of “The Eucharist.” The pre-associates were completing a year of preparation under the guidance of Sister Mary Beth Buettner and Associate Mary Lou Fish and meeting monthly to share food, prayer and reflections. During this time, community was built by the sharing of other sisters and associates who were invited to attend these gatherings. Through this they have become a part of SSND, preparing for a life-long relationship and living the province commitments in their families, communities and ministries.

In addition, the companion sister met regularly with her pre-associate. Those making first covenant and the companion sisters are: Victoria Cofield-Aber and Sister Dorothy Young; Elizabeth Keady and Sister Mary Frances Angermaier; Eithne M. McMullen and Sister Therese Feeley; Daysi Omara Lopez-Martinez and Sister Linda Stilling; Jeanne M. Mott and Sister Mary Ian Stewart; Lynn Shuppel and Sister Betty Orr; and Cyrile Mary Sincock and Sister Marguerite Weiler.



Long-Time Employees Become Associates

Sisters and associates of the Wilton and Tri-State Area welcomed long time employees Leslie Lopez, director of development, and Kathy Sylvester, campus minister at Academy of Holy Angels.

Both Leslie and Kathy spent the previous year meeting with Companion Sisters Kay O’Connell and Marie Kathleen Dunham, respectfully. Kathy has wonderful memories of her dear friend and first Companion Sister Peggy McGaffney who died suddenly during Kathy’s pre-associate formation.

Although they have worked with and for SSND, the associate relationship provides a deeper level of understanding and a new relationship which is separate from their employment. In addition, both were pilgrims on the 2016



Kathy Sylvester and Leslie Lopez.

Heritage Trip and came back with a sense of connectedness to Mother Theresa that had not been possible prior to the trip.

Chicago Area News

by Sister Jean Phelan and Associate Kathi Barth

The Chicago Area associates began their year with a picnic hosted by Associate Karen Didier, her sisters and their husbands, Joe and Marlene Hilliker and Jeff and Rhonda Jahn. Karen and her family provided hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, fresh sweet corn, and beverages. Everyone present thoroughly enjoyed every bite! Thank you Karen and family for your generous hospitality.

Our annual recovenanting ceremony was held on September 11 at Marian Village. Six associates and a number of sisters began the day by reflecting on what their lives would be like without each group in their lives. After the recovenanting ceremony, all enjoyed cake and coffee.

The Chicago Area associates met November 20. The highlight of the meeting was time spent with Sister Rose Cecile Espinos on the topic of immigration. Sister Rose Cecile's focus was on the immigrants themselves rather than on legal matters at this time in our country. Breaking into small groups, sisters and associates read brief stories of individuals, then discussed questions such as "Would you allow this person to enter the country?", "What would be your expectations of the immigrant regarding finance, possibility of getting a job?", etc. Active discussion and questions occurred when the large group gathered.

Since Sister Rose Cecile had spent some time at the border, her experiences there helped to highlight the reality for those trying to cross into the USA.

Also in attendance were our two new pre-associates, Hye-sung Kim and Barbara Healy.

Baltimore Associate Wins Award

By Associate Mary Lou Fish

Congratulations to Baltimore Area Associate Fran Bond who recently received the Mother Generosa McCafferty Distinguished Alumna Award from The Catholic High School of Baltimore. 'Congrats' Fran!!"



(Top, right) Associates Barbara Metzinger and Patricia Stibich relaxing at the Annual Associate Picnic, with canine pal, Kimball.



(Middle, right) Associates Patricia Maccagnano, Kathi Barth and Karen Didier sign their recovenanting certificates.



(Below) Pre-Associates Barbara Healy and Hye-sung Kim (left and right, respectively) visit with Sister Rose Cecile Espinos.



Are You Smarter Than an Archivist?

How much do you know about SSND?
Test yourself and find out!

1. When Mother Theresa was on her way to America, the group stopped at her mother's home. How did her mother react to her? She warmly embraced her and cried because she was going to America or she refused to speak with her
2. In which of these two cities in America did Mother Theresa first consider ministering? Baltimore or Milwaukee
3. When Mother Theresa returned to Europe after a year in America, whom did she appoint superior of the Sisters? Sister Caroline or Sister Seraphina

Answers found on page 8.

Haiti Presentation by Associate Mary Lou Fish

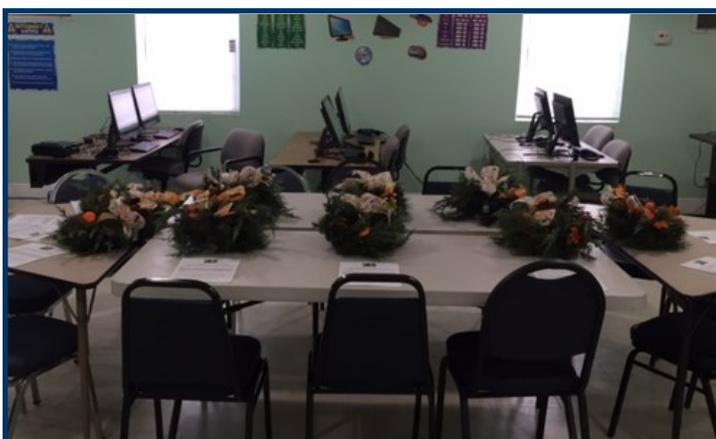
The Baltimore Area Associates began their year of programs by inviting Sister Marie Slear, SSND, to share her visit, as part of an initial delegation team, to the Beyond Borders project in Haiti.

Associate Victoria Cofield-Aber opened the session with prayer. Sister Sharon gave an informational and very meaningful presentation of her experience when she, along with two Haiti Committee members, Sister Arlene Flaherty, OP, and Associate Mary Gunning, visited the island of La Gonâve in Haiti during April 2016.

Her description of the conditions was a real awakening for the sisters and associates present at Villa Assumpta that morning.

An impromptu collection was taken at the presentation and this money was given to Sister Mary Lennon for the Haiti Response Fund in gratitude for Sister Sharon Slear's presentation.

The attendees were so moved about what they had seen in pictures and had heard, that I received many calls asking what they could do to help. Within a few days after the presentation Haiti was hit by Hurricane Matthew. Our efforts now are to give to the Haiti Response Fund established by SSND in their partnership with Beyond Borders.



The Table of Wreaths.

A Wreath for All Seasons

by Associate John Pescosolido

The associates in Florida have gotten into a new level of sharing and a different level of intimacy. We work in more than three counties and the care and concern of the community was evident at the recovenanting retreat this fall.

We have finally come together as a community and came together again in Indiantown when we shared a thanksgiving meal prepared by Sister Katie Mo—another nice celebration of togetherness. Sister Dooley made a “wreath for all seasons” decorated with and distributed to each sister and associate representing different seasons of our lives and what we are thankful for.

Next month, we will take out some of the decorations and add a new symbol of giving thanks together and being together.

Pre-Associate Anna Swartz attended her first associate gathering and shared her feelings of thanksgiving as a volunteer at St. Ann Place for six months. Her closing quote will long be remembered, “I am mad at you because you changed me.”



Picture of Sister Katie Mo wearing a turkey hat with Associate Eva Hutton and Sister Dooley at the Table of Celebration.

Associate Area Coordinators' Annual Meeting, June 14-17, 2016

by Associate Rosemarie Craven

This beautifully orchestrated gathering, (by Sister Patricia Flynn and Peggy Ann Russell) can best be described, as a glorious weaving—vast amounts of information, intricately interwoven with and by a complete realm of human emotions and feelings...anguish, ardent compassion, disappointment, confusion and, (thank goodness) burning hope!

During the course of a few days, this figurative weaving was processed and absorbed by all participants, providing our minds, hearts, and spirits with nutrients that make us stronger and all the sturdier so that our charism and our ministries might “flower the lovelier.”

Once all invited participants had arrived on Tuesday, each participant was given an opportunity to settle in his/her assigned room at the convent. All gathered for sharing supper and stories of the day's travels and catching-up.

At 7 p.m. Sister Pat and Peggy formally welcomed each and everyone, asking each to share a phrase or two reflecting what each came to the meeting to give/share and, what each hoped/expected to receive/learn for ourselves as individuals and/ as area coordinators. These hopes and expectations were typed up that evening by Laura Stafford, administrative assistant to the Mission and Ministry Team and were used for evaluation at the end of the meeting.

Following more sharing, all retired to rest tired bodies and minds and prepare for the work ahead.

Continental breakfast and group prayers (led by Hermie and Rose from Ontario) began the busy and productive Wednesday.

A panel of four SSND sisters gave amazing presentations to elaborate and update us on the 2012 SSND General Chapter Commitments and the AMSSND's responses, actions, and future plans for concrete action (with added and supportive references to Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*).

Sister Connie Carrigan presented many facts on **Water** with fact sheets and recommendations to better inform us

and thus enable a heightened awareness of the desperate need to advocate for the universal human right of access to clean water.

Sister Peg Ryan's presentation on **Justice and Immigration** made us aware of the need to intensify efforts to witness to unity in a divided and (as Pope Francis said) cruel world that is using “migrants and refugees as pawns on the chessboard of humanity.”

Sister Ethel Howley elaborated on the awareness and advocacy resources and ministries that SSND is calling us to direct our efforts toward to eliminate the root causes of **Human Trafficking** injustices.

Sister Justine Nutz informed us of the rapidly increasing numbers of people in Haiti being deprived of basic human rights and the lack of education being the primary root cause.

Each sister emphasized the need for our **global lens** to operate when we:

1. Assess the needs,
2. Plan objectives for addressing these respective needs, and
3. Continually evaluate the effectiveness of our concrete actions.

Each sister agreed that “We need to modify actions if they are not effective, not put them on the back-burner. If at first we don't succeed, try a different method. Let's make sure the plans take root, and then make sure the roots get that much sturdier!”

Each sister supplied us with a list of “evidence-based” websites to better educate ourselves on the facts that had been presented.

After we all enjoyed lunch together, the afternoon began with “Evidence-Based Research Information—a Show and Tell” by Dr. David Arscott. Ph.D. and a member of

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Associate Area Coordinators' Annual Meeting, June 14-17, 2016 (continued)

by Associate Rosemarie Craven

The Stroud Water Research Foundation, a not-for-profit and non-advocacy research group.

The research group monitors pollution/toxicity of ground waters, streams and rivers by collecting, identifying and analyzing insects, worms, and organisms in the water supply. The mission of the research is to protect and preserve the ecosystem within the precious resource called water. This research data (applied physics, math and chemistry) is then fed into a website (their software program) which they use as a “visual assessment and projection-layover” of your chosen local sample area, thus assessing your watershed and groundwater quality. Unfortunately, at this time, this website and app are not available in Canada, only in the 48 contiguous U.S. states.

Dr. Arscott's recommendations for what the individual or a community can do “in our own back-yard” include planting streamside forests, trees to prevent farmland waste from washing into streams; using rain barrels; building rain gardens, pervious pavings, infiltration beds to store H₂O underground, green roofs, and walkways atop gravel, not pavement.

We were encouraged not to dump soap, chemicals, drugs into the sewers.

Our Wednesday afternoon learnings continued as Sister Peg Mattare led us through a “**Wellness Self-Evaluation.**”

Each participant had received an emailed questionnaire of 60 questions referring to our Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Emotional, Social and Ministerial lives. We were each asked to share (if we chose to do so) some of our insights and discernments as we reflected on the questions. These sharings were to be used as “food for thought” in perhaps changing/improving our “holistic” self.

At 4:30 pm, we celebrated Liturgy in the serene and calming chapel. This was followed by supper together and

a casual sharing of the day's experiences.

As it proved to be with the next couple of days, Wednesday was a “jam-packed-full” day, all delicately orchestrated and interwoven with much learning, sharing, discerning, more learning, and more discerning...completed only once your head hit the pillow!

After a quick breakfast on Thursday at dawn, we boarded a luxury van which took us to the United Nations in Manhattan where Sister Eileen Reilly was patiently waiting - lots of “road-under-construction” had lengthened our travel time.

Sister Eileen had arranged for three exceptional presentations for us:

- Sister Veronica Brand, of the Sacred Heart of Mary, with a Ph.D. in physics, sociology, and a Harvard economics degree, addressed the need to end the global demand for slavery.
- Father “Memo,” a Passionist priest and Vincentian human rights worker from Columbia, emphasized the urgency of stopping the abuse of our humanity and its legacy.
- A formal and structured tour (by a bright young Madagascar-born guide) of some of the UN's amazing attractions—the General Assembly chamber, the Security Council room, and several art works and exhibits.

All three of these phenomenal experiences helped us “see clearly” the magnitude of injustices (along with the ensuing severe suffering) occurring IN and TO our GLOBAL HUMANITY and its LEGACY.

Sister Eileen, Sister Veronica and Father “Memo” educated us and heightened our awareness of a **very clear and present danger**: namely, the “global (and tragically) growing demand for slavery” occurring primarily in the agricultural, fishing, and extraction industries.

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Associate Area Coordinators' Annual Meeting, June 14-17, 2016 (continued)

by Associate Rosemarie Craven

They alerted us to the "Paradigm Shift" from a "promising future of opportunity" for all beings to a "Now" of "violent imbalances" in the laws of supply and demand within the food chain, labour force and world of finance. This "Now" must call us to behave differently and do things differently....as individuals, as communities, as a society!

We must not merely acknowledge the tragedy of the poor and the marginalized. **We must deal with it!** We must deal with the destruction of **our** humanity and **our** mother earth. Each and every one of us needs to make a difference!

NOW is the time to "boycott" if the food chain is abused.

NOW is the time to "buycott"- buy only fair-trade certified and sustainably produced items.

NOW is the time to bring back God-Given Human Rights – for all.

Friday morning's Celebration of Eucharist, followed by a closing evaluation and sharing, concluded this three day "marathon" of body, mind and soul! A huge amount of information, I think you'll agree,

To be learned...

To be shared....

To be absorbed into our roots...

To be applied and implemented in our daily lives and ministries and thus "flower the lovelier" in legacy!!!



In Memory

Patricia Greene Ford
Mother of Associate Daphne Queen, Baltimore
July 8, 2016

Associate Clairece Ferguson
Regina, Saskatchewan
July 30, 2016

Associate Judith Pazourek,
Retired Wellness Director
of the former Baltimore Province,
September 14, 2016.

Vincent Allen Krepps
Uncle of Baltimore Area
Associate Angela (Angie) Kaufman
September 24, 2016.

Associate Colleen Lowman
Western Maryland Area
November 9, 2016

Christina Dirk
Mother of Associate Carol Sheldon
of Saskatchewan
November 18, 2016

Ontario Associate Lorraine Petsche
November 20, 2016.

Ontario Associate Cleo Wagner
November 20, 2016.

Mary A. Schadewald
Mother of Associate Bernadette Macy
of the Florida Area
November 27, 2016

Associate Mildred E. "Milly" Divico
December 12, 2016

“Imagination” by Peggy Ann Russell, director of associates



As I walked through a discount box store recently, I encountered two college girls laughing uproariously. One of the girls was in a huge plastic storage bin on the floor and the other was attempting to cover the tub with the plastic lid. They were making up stories to correspond to their antics. As I walked by, I thought what a wonderful imagination these two had and how much joy it was providing them.



Peggy and Sister Jean Phelan.

Today, I was listening to a news program and a guest was saying that national catastrophes sometimes are due to “failure of imagination.” We fail to imagine that this could happen. He went on to say that our responses need to be seen.

Somehow, the two moments of imagination began to intertwine in my mind and I would like to share those results with you in my final article as director of associates. I believe that we are being called now to imagine the possibilities of the Associate Relationship. We have so many talented women and men in the relationship and there is really no limit to what we can do. Our response to the invitation of the sisters “to join with them in mission and ministry” needs to be seen.

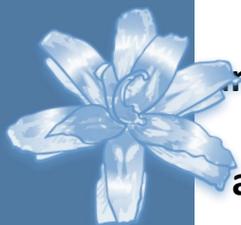
The responses by associates throughout the Province should be seen and heard by all.

With this in mind, I urge you to share your stories with the Communications Department (Debra Mitchell dmitchell@amssnd.org) so that our sisters, donors, sponsored organizations, and other stakeholders will learn about your accomplishments and achievements. Just as we marvel at their accomplishments, let them see what and how you, as an associate, are making all one, transforming the world through education, and assisting and advocating for the vulnerable.

And, as you read the stories of what our associates are doing in their daily lives, in their own communities, let your imagination begin to see the possibilities at your own door. Let your imagination go wild and create new joy in your life! Imagination may be the Eighth Gift of the Holy Spirit!

My mind is filled with not only new possibilities, but with wonderful memories of being with each of you in the different locations in the province. My mental pictures include a deer in the interprovincial park in Saskatchewan; a tour of the little falls near Waterdown, ON; a scary night alone in Divine Savior in Chicago; a trip to Mystic Island while in Wilton, CT; an inspiring tour of St. Ann Place in Florida; a scurry of activity in Baltimore; and the soothing mountains of Western Maryland.

It is a wonderful combination —imagination and memory! Thank you for all you have given me.



**All the works of God
proceed slowly
and in pain; then their
roots
are the sturdier and
their flowering the
lovelier.**

Blessed M. Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger Answers to “Are you Smarter Than an Archivist?”

1. She refused to speak with her
2. Baltimore
3. Sister Seraphina (she appointed Caroline in charge of the schools – she was “still too young and not serious