

Bread Broken

SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY — WILMETTE, ILLINOIS



“

*... for rejoicing in the Lord
must be your strength.*

”

Nehemiah 8:10

Around the Table

Another Good Issue

Congratulations on another marvelous issue of BREAD BROKEN! Beautiful how you developed your theme of relaxing and recreating and brought to the fore the marvelous gifts of our Sisters. What treasures you all have! May God continue to bless your efforts to make BREAD BROKEN a treasure!

- Sr. Gracemary Shalvey
Mendham, NJ

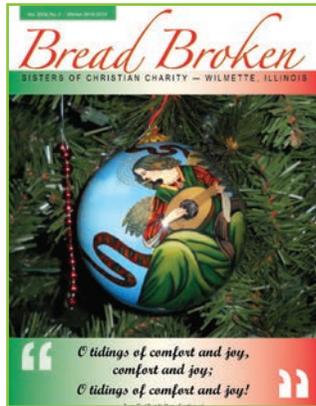
Thank you for the issue of BREAD BROKEN. You do a terrific job of publishing great news and mentioning some of those worthy people with whom you are in contact.

- John F. Curcio
North Bend, PA

Short but Sweet!

Love the magazine—

- Judy Hemesath
Muskego, WI



“Younger” Sisters

I love reading your BREAD BROKEN magazine. I am 80 and the Sisters of Christian Charity that taught me at St. John the Evangelist School in Detroit, Michigan are all deceased. However, I enjoy reading about what the “younger” Sisters are still doing. Your cover on the magazine is always so breath-taking.

- Betty Tolentino
Hamtramck, MI

A “One-sitting” Read

As usual when BREAD BROKEN arrives, I find a time when I can read it in one or perhaps two sittings. This issue was a “one-sitting” read with the promise to myself that it must be read again. Every page including the cover was both interesting and inspiring. How wonderful to be reminded that Blessed Pauline and the many others you cited believe in the importance of re-creation for our mind, body and spirit. It was a reminder to look for new and perhaps some forgotten ways to refresh ourselves.

- Marge Beane
Ave Maria, FL

Contents



- | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 4..... | Rooted in Prayer—
Sisters reflect on the priority of their prayer life. | 14.... | Sharing Pauline’s Vision |
| 8..... | Potpourri | 15.... | Companions of Pauline |
| 9..... | Beautiful Hands | 16.... | Our Future |
| 10..... | Jubilarians —
Meet the Jubilarians of 2019 | 17.... | SCCs Around the World |
| 12..... | In & Around the Region | 18.... | Connections |
| | | 19.... | In Memoriam |

Have you seen our website?

For current events and items not published in BREAD BROKEN, and to see your favorite Sisters, please visit

www.sccwilmette.org

A Note from the Publisher



Bread Broken

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Bread Broken Magazine is published twice a year by the Sisters of Christian Charity — Wilmette, IL. The publication aims to be a source of information for the Sisters, their families, friends and benefactors on the presence and ministry of the Sisters of Christian Charity.



Western Region Mission Statement

As Sisters of Christian Charity, our call is to witness to and share in the mission of Jesus by letting His love so permeate and fill us that our love overflows to all by being bread broken and wine poured out.



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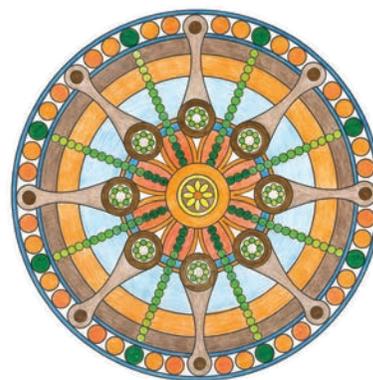
Dear Readers,

Although I have no personal problem with winter and do not mind the cold and snow—although too many overcast days do affect my psyche, I also can appreciate the coming of spring—which indeed is coming as I write this note. I enjoy watching the trees leafing into green, the sighting of the first robins and the call of the cardinals, the flowers breaking through the once-frozen earth. I look forward to the first days when I can walk outside with just a thin jacket or sweater. I find it relaxing to watch darkness come on slowly as it goes through the lovely phase of dusk.

When you receive this summer issue of BREAD BROKEN, nature (at least in the northern hemisphere) will be showing us various other marvels. You might even take this issue outside and read it while relaxing on a lawn chair! Wherever—or whenever—you read it, I do hope that you will enjoy it. The main article offers an overview of the prayer life of a Sister of Christian Charity in general and of the personal prayer styles of individual Sisters. It seems to me that I put the cart before the horse in writing about our hobbies and re-creational activities in the last issue. Our relationship to God in prayer is “the horse” that moves “the cart” of our ministries and all the other activities of our days. Sr. Joanne Bednar provides an insightful perspective into one of the maxims of Mother Pauline that is often recalled by many Sisters: “What water is to the fish, that prayer is to the religious.”

In my biased opinion, this issue has many other articles on which I have enjoyed working as well as many I appreciated reading. I leave you with wishes for a happy and enjoyable summer. And because my muse is sputtering, I also leave you with an extra bit of color! ✝

Sister Mary Clement



Cover: Mandalas colored by Sr. Janice Boyer, Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, Sr. Anastasia Sanford and Sr. Karen Zgutowicz

Page 2: Sisters also color other pictures such as this bouquet of hydrangeas.

Rooted in Prayer

Text by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC
Photos contributed by several Sisters

Mother Pauline exhorted her Sisters: “We are Religious, and by virtue of our state we belong entirely to God. Our duties pertaining directly to His service are pre-eminently important; therefore we may not neglect prayer. Prayer is the key to all graces, yea, even to heaven.” Chapter Three of our current Constitutions specifies how we as Sisters of Christian Charity cultivate a life of prayer. In the first article of Chapter Three (Article 10) each Sister of Christian Charity reads: “In its deepest dimension, all our religious life is prayer. It is our joyous, grateful response to God, who first loved us and is calling us to ever-deepening love.” In the blue text boxes within this article, several Sisters share aspects of their prayer with you, our readers.

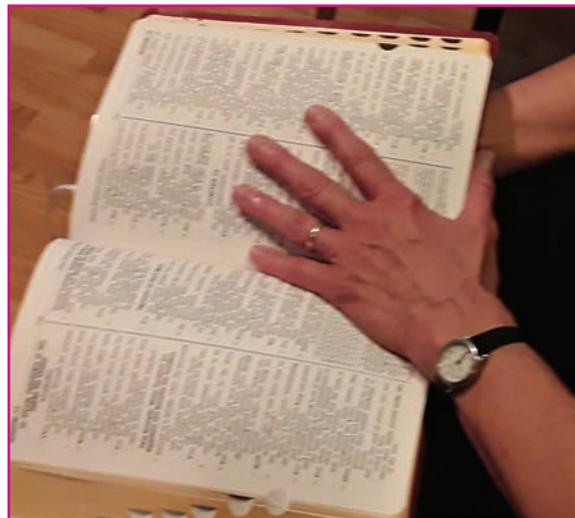
Foundation of Prayer

The foundation of our prayer life as SCCs (though obviously not limited to us) is two-fold: Eucharist and contemplation. Articles 11 and 12 give us direction.

“The celebration of the Eucharist is the summit of divine worship. It is the expressive sign of our communion with God and with one another . . . Our active participation draws us into Christ’s paschal mystery and we are nourished and strengthened from the table of God’s Word and Christ’s body.” (11) Several of our Sisters attend daily Mass at different parish churches in their areas. This gives them the opportunity to meet fellow-Catholics and join them in worship. The Sisters offer their services as lectors and eucharistic ministers. At Sacred Heart Convent, the Sisters have been blessed to have the SVD (Society of the Divine Word) Fathers from Techny, IL as our celebrants since Mass was first celebrated there in 1938. We are profoundly grateful for their loyal and generous service. Reception of the



Fr. Paul Faulstich, SJ, celebrates a monthly Mass at the Regional Center.



A quiet time of prayer before the day begins

I have always felt drawn to prayer, and in his goodness God has given me opportunities all through life to be nourished on this spiritual food. Teaching in a Catholic school it was very natural to help students relate to God in prayer while I myself was learning and yearning for a deeper relationship. Later God saw fit to place me in our House of Prayer where I could experience—and help others experience—the fruit of that yearning. After eight years I was called to serve in our Prayer/Poor Ministry. There I could help the very poor enjoy that same encounter with the Lord. Always it was the prayer element that gave weight to the physical. I am still learning and yearning—and enjoying.

As a child I always loved to pray and cherished going to Mass. At the end of seventh grade, Sr. Gerarda encouraged us to pray three Hail Mary’s every day for vocations to religious life. I took her suggestion seriously and did just that. When school started the following fall a friend and I went to church each school day and prayed for our vocations. In August 1948 we both entered the Aspirancy. We had many opportunities to pray as chapel was always available. Many times I went to visit Jesus. I shared my joys and pain with him and received the graces I needed at that particular time. This has been my life-long pattern. In joys and in pain I always have someone who knows exactly how I feel with whom I can talk. I never mince words—I tell it as I feel. Jesus never reprimands me but gives me insights to help me figure out what to do.

Eucharist enables us to become “bread broken and wine poured out”. (11)

“The heart of each of our communities is the abiding presence of Christ in the tabernacle.” (11) Mother Pauline placed great emphasis on having the Blessed Sacrament in each of the convents where her Sisters would be living. She realized that through “our personal and communal presence before the Blessed Sacrament, we deepen our eucharistic spirituality”. (11)

The gift of contemplation allows the eucharistic lifestyle “to be fully realized in us”. (12) Contemplation “is awareness: the awareness of God loving me and desiring my love in return, the awareness of God’s presence in Scripture, creation, and unfolding events. Contemplation graces us to perceive all with the eyes of God” (12) so that we are able to reach out to the world, which in turn leads us back to God. This contemplative disposition is nourished “through cultivating a listening, peaceful heart”. (12) Each of you, our readers, can probably recall some of your own contemplative moments/experiences.

Other Forms of Prayer

The importance of several other forms of prayer is given in Article 13. We are reminded that praying the Liturgy of the Hours (which is done in each convent according to its schedule) enables us to “take part in the public prayer of the Church”.

The contemplative reading of Scripture is seen as an “inexhaustible source of grace”. In addition: “Our communal sharing of the Word of God strengthens our personal faith and enriches our community life



Praying the Stations of the Cross together during Lent.

My prayer is enriched by nature/creation. I experience the wonder of God in all God’s creation. I often do a hermitage retreat which allows me to be in creation. At the SCC Center where I live, we have beautiful outside views from every window. When it rains or snows, one of my prayers is that each drop of rain or each snowflake may be my prayer of praise and love to God and also an act of sorrow for my sins and the sins of the whole world.



Sr. M. Joanne Ladwig pauses at an outdoor shrine as she prays the rosary.

and ministry.” Spiritual reading contributes to our life of prayer. Sisters do have their favorite authors.

While the rosary can be a contemplative prayer helping us to “enter more deeply into the mysteries of his [Jesus Christ] life”, it is also considered a prayer of accompaniment—especially while driving/riding. One Sister tells of a group of Sisters driving right into a storm on the way back to Wilmette from Michigan City, IN. “Without any hesitation we all began to pray the rosary out loud for our safety and the safety of all drivers around us.”

With Christ, “we offer prayer for the whole world”. We are very often asked to pray for special intentions and these requests for intercessory prayer are taken very seriously. Often such requests are put on relays that go out to all the Sisters or are included in prayer baskets or are mentioned during Holy Mass. On the

In the evening, I like to spend time sitting in chapel before the Blessed Sacrament. I think about things with Christ or I just sit quietly in His Presence. Mother Pauline gave the example of taking all things to Christ in prayer and I like to do the same. Sometimes I write down inspirations that come while I am in His Presence.

Just recently, one of the most powerful places for me to pray has been outside! As soon as I step out the door, I can feel what Gerard Manley Hopkins says about the world being “charged with the grandeur of God”. I sense that there is almost a humming or a vibration in nature/ creation and I believe it is the Presence of God! Sometimes it actually seems to saturate my being and I try to “go with the Flow” of God’s invitation to recognize how He reveals Himself in all that He created! Outside in nature, I experience that prayer is not a one-sided relationship, but what may seem like my longing for God is also God’s longing for me!

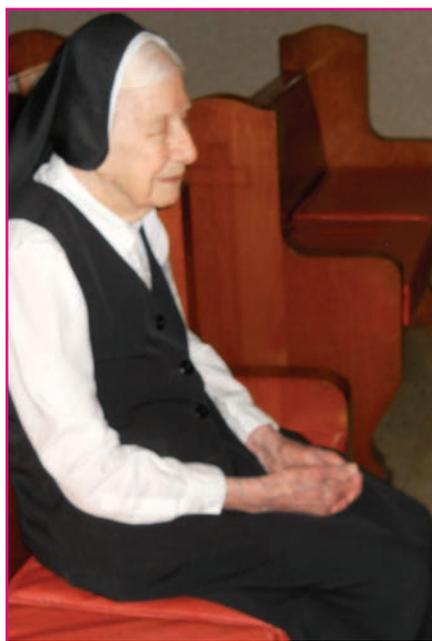
other side of that coin, we also appreciate the prayers of others. One Sister wrote: “It means a great deal to me when another person . . . tells me that she/he is praying for me. I trust in that promise and am grateful for that person’s kindness.”

Article 13 ends with a graced expansiveness: “As individuals and as community we are open to other expressions of prayer which nourish the spirit.”

Article 14 expresses the need for reconciliation not only sacramentally but also in a commitment to “seek ways to build and restore unity and peace”. Article 15 speaks of the daily examination of conscience, monthly days of recollection and our annual retreat as sources of renewal. Article 16 places strong emphasis on living the paschal mystery. “Our eucharistic lifestyle requires identification with the crucified and risen Christ.”



Sr. Monica Cormier visits with Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, CSsR. Blessed Seelos, the “Cheerful Ascetic” was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 9, 2000. The statue above is at his shrine in New Orleans, LA. Sr. Monica remarked that Blessed Seelos is a very good listener.



Sr. Therese Fields sits quietly with the Lord.

Responsibility

In our current Constitutions, we are given great freedom within our responsibility to grow in our relationship with God. “Each Sister establishes in her daily life a rhythm of prayer that is eucharistic and contemplative, reflects a commitment to communal prayer, and supports her unique relationship with God.” (17)

Traditional/Customary Prayers

Each morning, we join millions of other Catholics in praying the Apostleship of Prayer Daily Offering. The origin of this prayer goes back to 1845 in a Jesuit novitiate in France. The Apostleship of Prayer was recognized in 1849 by Pope Pius IX and in 1890 Pope Leo XIII gave his monthly prayer intentions to it. Today it is considered the “Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network”.

Another daily community prayer is our “Bless, O God” prayer. This is truly an intercessory prayer as everyone—as well as the earth itself—is remembered in some way. One line reads “Bless all travelers and all who are in danger of any kind”; another reads “Bless

Nature plays a very important part in my relationship with God. The hymn “How Great Thou Art” expresses my sentiments exactly. “When I in awesome wonder” look up at the sky to see the clouds forming in all kinds of weather, observe the various shades of green in the trees, admire the colorful blossoms in the trees and in the gardens, hear the laughter and joy of children playing, listen to God with children—that is when my heart and mind soar to God the Almighty Creator and Lover.

all people and lead them to salvation through Christ”.

It is customary for us to pray before starting out on a journey—especially in the car. The basic prayer is that to our Guardian Angel but other short invocations are also added. One Sister relates how this custom—along with the rosary—served them well on a trip back to Wilmette from Michigan. “Somewhere between Battle Creek and Kalamazoo we were involved in a pile-up due to a whiteout.” The car was totaled. Before leaving again for Wilmette two days later, “we searched for our totaled car”. The policeman who led us to our car “mentioned that we were among the lucky ones because we were standing on our own two feet while others were in the hospital. We felt we were among the blessed because our prayer had been effective.”

We also have other devotions such as novenas (Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Pentecost) and a holy hour before the First Friday.

It might seem as though we have a complex life of prayer. These many aspects of our prayer life, however, are integrated into our daily life and are a way of keeping us mindful of the Lord. There is a saying that “A day hemmed with prayer is much less likely to unravel.” That is a good thought to keep in mind. †

Since I experienced God personally on the boat on which I escaped my country in 1981, nature—especially sunrise or sunset over a big body of water—has been a place where I can easily connect with God. It reminds me of a that very special experience which changed my image of and relationship with God.



The Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent gather daily in chapel for Mass. The celebrant pictured is Fr. David Streit, SVD.



Sr. Mary Ann Warwick proclaims the first reading during Mass.

Throughout my religious life there have been so many “first time” callings for which I felt unprepared and for which I thought someone else would be better suited. Yet, at each of those times I remembered the prayer—taught to me as a postulant—that mirrors Mother Pauline’s sound advice to “lay a strong foundation for prayer”. With such a foundation one can see more easily the lights and shadows of the varied calls within religious life.

“Oh my God, I thank you as many million times as there are angels and saints in heaven, creatures on earth, drops of water in the oceans and grains of sand on the seashore for the grace of my holy vocation and I beg you as many million times for the grace of perseverance, the true religious spirit, and the grace of a happy death in our community.”

My prayer foundation is rooted in gratitude, communion with the saints, reverence for each creature, the embracing of creation spirituality empowered by the Bread of Life, an energetic love for my holy vocation, the gift of daily perseverance, a true religious spirit and the grace of a happy death.

That All May Be One

Text and photo by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Since the last issue of BREAD BROKEN went to press, each Unit (Province, Region) of our Congregation has had its own chapter to discuss matters pertaining to the life and mission of that Unit and to prepare for our general chapter. In her letter of August 15 after the Enlarged Council in Mendham, NJ Sr. Maria del Rosario wrote: “During the celebration of each Regional or Provincial Chapter we want the entire Congregation united in prayer for the Sisters of that specific Unit.” The dates and themes of each Unit chapter were later given to all the Sisters.

- Aqua: NA Western Region—November 18-24, 2018
“Weaving Threads of Wisdom into a Hope-Filled Future”
- Dark blue: German Region—December 28, 2018 to January 4, 2019
“Step by Step, Forward Courageously, Even Over Rugged Roads”
- Green: Chilean Province—January 6-13, 2019
“Nothing Is Impossible for God” (Lk. 1:37)
- Red: Uruguayan/Argentinian Region—January 20-26, 2019
“Do Not Be Afraid, Mary – New Wine in New Wineskins”
- Purple: NA Eastern Province—February 14-18, 2019
“New Wine in New Wineskins”
- Orange: General Chapter in Paderborn, Germany—July 1 to 22, 2019
“In Response to God’s Call – New Wine in New Wineskins”

The Sisters participating in the various chapters could feel the prayers of all the other Sisters in the Congregation. This truly made us as one. The Holy Spirit will soon be resting on the candle for the General Chapter. We ask you, our readers, to join us in prayer and sacrifice that the Holy Spirit may continue to direct and guide our Congregation for the glory of God’s kingdom. ✝



“Candles” were placed under the portrait of Mother Pauline in the dining room at Sacred Heart Convent. The Western Region convents had these candles to remind them of the Unit chapters going on. Each candle had the time and theme for each chapter. As each Unit was meeting, an image of the Holy Spirit was placed above that Unit’s candle.

Going Green Matters

Text by and photo courtesy of Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC

On March 10th Sr. Mary Ann Warwick and Sr. Anastasia Sanford drove to Linden Station in Wilmette. Due to renovations of the Wilmette Beach parking lot, the planners of the “Going Green Matters” event had arranged for shuttle buses to take participants from Linden Station to the Michigan Shores Club. When the two Sisters arrived at the station and prepared to board one of the buses, a gentleman asked if they would like a ride in an electric car. As he drove, Tracy told the Sisters about the benefits of driving such a vehicle. Arriving at the Club the Sisters joined the throngs perusing the booths at this event presented by Go Green



Wilmette and the Village of Wilmette. There were many booths displaying recycling, gardening, alternatives to pesticides ... everything that benefits the environment. At 2:30 p.m. the Sisters decided to return to the Station. Their return trip was in another electric car, a Tesla. The most interesting part of the Sisters’ ride in this vehicle was when they noticed that the car had no dashboard; it had a computer monitor instead! Both Sisters agreed that it had been an afternoon well spent. ✝

Tracy, proud owner of an electric car, treated Sr. Mary Ann Warwick and Sr. Anastasia to a ride to the Go Green event.

Beautiful Hands

Text and photos by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Sr. Alice Mary Ortmann

Sr. Alice Mary resides at Sacred Heart Convent. One of the very important tasks that Sister has is that of annalist. She is the chronicler of events, especially yearly ones. She is the house historian who keeps track of celebrations, meetings, hospitalizations, repair work, special feastdays and events, etc. Sister gathers information and sits at the computer to record it faithfully. She has honed her writing skills over the many years that she has done the annals - including 18 years at the SCC Regional Center. . When someone needs to know what happened a while back such as when a certain event took place or when the Sisters took an outing, it is not uncommon to hear someone say: “Check the annals.”

Here are a few entries from November 2018:

- Tuesday, November 6 was National Election Day in the United States. Sacred Heart Convent is an official Wilmette polling place. It is the voting location for the Sisters living at Sacred Heart Convent and the Center. This is very convenient. The Sisters who are capable fulfilled their civic duty.
- Sally, our head nurse, drove Sisters Carolyn, Campion and Mary Ann Poppler to a reunion event in Palatine, IL on Tuesday, November 13. Marge Beane had invited any Sisters who had taught at St. Theresa School to a Mass followed by brunch. The Sisters also toured some of the convent and school to see the changes that had been made.
- On November 13 the driveway around Sacred Heart Convent was patched and blacktopped. Cars had to be parked on Elmwood Avenue for two days. Though the job was necessary, all were happy at its completion.

Sr. Alice Mary is also an interior decorator. Sister’s reputation as such was known way before she came to Sacred Heart and she inherited this job shortly after she arrived. She began as an assistant to Sr. Karen Zgutowicz and soon became the one in charge. Sister has an aesthetic sense that is evident in all she does in this regard. She decorates for holydays and holidays and seasons. Her touch is seen in the dining room and serving area, on bulletin boards, in our community room and in the third floor corridor. Sister works very methodically—both when putting decorations up and when taking them down. She is peacefully purposeful.

The Sisters could call Sr. Alice Mary the house sommelier. Although Sister is not a trained professional who knows all aspects of wine service, she does invite the Sisters to have a glass of red or white wine to accompany their dinner on Sundays and other special occasions. Sister generously pours the wine and will even carry a Sister’s glass to her place at table if she sees that assistance is needed.

Sr. Alice Mary also prepares for the monthly birthday bingo parties. After this party—and any other party in the dining room—Sister makes sure that the tables are cleaned, the chairs are in place and that everything is back in order.

Sr. Alice Mary is a regular in the scullery on week nights and on weekends. She is graciously willing to do whatever she can to be of service. Beautiful hands! ✝



One of Sister’s daily chores is helping with dishwashing in the scullery.



The Mardi Gras celebration is over. Sister puts away the decorations.

Our 2019 Jubilarians

Accounts collected by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC
Photos courtesy of the Western Region Archives

Congratulations to our jubilarians of 2019. This year the jubilarians were asked to write something that could be shared with our readers. Some suggestions were: a significant event in your life; someone who has influenced you in your religious life; someone who or something that has sustained you; perhaps a humorous memory. Enjoy what they have written whether their years as SCCs number 75, 70 or 40.



Sr. Pauline Schafer

I am the oldest of 11 children in our family. I have great admiration and gratitude toward my dear parents for permitting me to leave home (Fowler, MI) at the age of 14 to join the Sisters of Christian Charity. I loved my teachers and wanted to be like them.

During my 75 happy years since I was invested, I have spent many years as a teacher of little children. This responsibility brought me to serve in several parish schools in both Illinois and in Minnesota and Michigan. I also worked at St. Vincent Home for Children in Missouri. In most of these places I also taught First Holy Communion CCD classes. I loved my students and tried to help them in every way that I could.

Twenty-eight years ago I was asked to become the Director of the Companions of Pauline. These Companions are an extension of our community who are interested in getting to know more about our Foundress, the history of our community, and the SCC charism. It was a great joy for me to meet the women and men who were eager to join this group. Just recently, I was relieved of this duty.

In 1985 I was privileged to go to Rome for the beatification of our Foundress. I was delighted that my mother accompanied me. I feel very privileged to call Blessed Pauline my patron. Each year I joyfully celebrate her feast-day on April 30.



Sr. Alice Mary Ortmann

I was a farm girl from the small town of Le Mars, IA who chose to turn into a “nun” in the town of Wilmette, IL near the large city of Chicago when I was a senior in high school. I taught in various parish schools in Chicago. In 1963 I participated in a course on the Montessori Method of education. Two years later I was a Montessori Directress with a class of 15 children ages three-five years. My 33 years as a Montessori Directress were the crown of my teaching career. Often I felt a tiny bit like Mother Pauline with her blind children especially when walking in the convent garden enjoying nature walks with the children.

I was for a time the Aspirant Directress for incoming freshmen girls—eager, yet homesick, seeking to give their desire for religious life a try.

In the fall of 1998 I was assigned to be a councilor on the provincialate team. After 18 years of leadership service in our community, I was assigned to Sacred Heart Convent. Although this is considered our retirement home, this assignment is proving to be one of the most active ones in my career—seldom a dull moment.

Sr. De Lourdes Bragg, one of my high school teachers, was my closest mentor during my years of vocational decision making. Credit is also due to many Sisters of Christian Charity for their example of love for their vocation, their cheerfulness and friendliness, and instilling values for life along with learning.

A memorable and treasured experience of my life was my time of renewal in Rome in the summer of 1994. Renewal included a time in Paderborn, Germany to walk in the footsteps of our Foundress. Truly a highlight! Next step: upward to heaven!



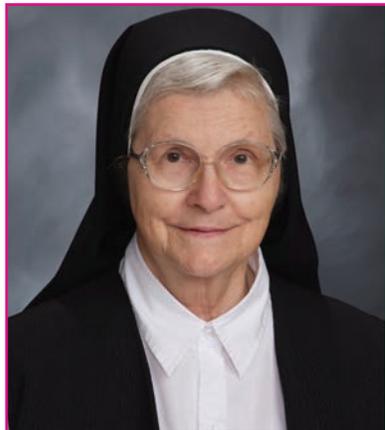
Sr. Rosemary Schwer

I was born in St. Louis, MO and had two brothers and three sisters. We had a very normal family life; we were corrected when necessary and given praise when it was due.

The Sisters of Christian Charity at St. Boniface School encouraged my vocation. Sr. Mary Sakowski kept reminding me that I was going to be an SCC and I entered after graduation from eighth grade. One of my sisters entered two-and-a-half years after me but arrived just in time to be invested with me in 1949. That was Sr. Marianne (dec.).

After teaching first grade for two years, I was asked to consider becoming a nurse. In 1953 after three years of training I was missioned to Sacred Heart Convent, our home for our elderly and infirm Sisters. I remained there for many years. Later I spent several years in Arizona and New Mexico involved in the works of pastoral ministry. That was an especially happy time for me since I have always liked the Southwest. Currently I am retired at Sacred Heart Convent.

One of my special joys at being a 2019 jubilarian is reaching the goal of 70 years as an SCC and being well enough to enjoy a celebration. Thank you, Lord.



Sr. Francetta Scherer

I was born and raised in the wonderful city of New Orleans and enjoyed my early life there with my three brothers and two sisters.

I am most grateful for the graces God has given me through my years of religious life—especially the grace of perseverance. I also appreciate all that I received from my family, friends and the Sisters of my community. Sr. Longinus and Sr. Ernesta were two of the SCCs with whom I worked and for whom I had a great love and respect. They were tops and I learned a great deal from them.

Whatever has happened over these past 70 years, I can say that God always took care of me. I am still living and working in New Orleans. Among other things, I am involved in spreading devotion to Mother Pauline.



Sr. Carol Bredenkamp

I come from a large family—11 siblings—that made its home in St. Louis, MO. Growing up was like a party in our house as laughter and joy flowed all around us. Of course, there were squabbles and sulking. I am the only one in a Church vocation.

Teaching has always been my passion; I played school as a teen with the younger neighbors. One of my favorite experiences was teaching 1st grade at St. Pius in St. Louis. The growth in the children from September to May was nothing short of miraculous! I also spent time with youth groups and was privileged to attend World Youth Days in 1992 in Denver and in 2002 in Toronto, Canada.

Through interaction with youth, I was led into vocation ministry for many years. It was a joy to be with teens and discuss their questions about faith, about life, about God, about God's call.

A significant event for me has been teaching at the Josephinum. I have always loved teenagers but teaching them is so different from being a youth minister. Yet I know that I was doing exactly what God wanted me to do in the place to which I was called in that first year. It is a joy to journey with these young ladies as they grow from awkward freshmen into confident, polished seniors! God has blessed me with joy in teaching these students! Prayer has sustained me! †



In & Around the Region

Packing Food

Text by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC

Photo by Rich Lalley, Secretary/Treasurer - Rotary Club of Winnetka-Northfield



Sr. Mary Ann Warwick and Sr. Maria Martin Nguyen (closest to camera) measured out portions of dry soy and rice. Sr. Juliana Miska (2nd from left) and Sr. Anastasia Sanford (2nd from right) placed and held bags beneath the funnel. Sr. Janice Boyer (furthest from camera at left) operated the bag-sealing machine.

On Saturday, March 16, all five Sisters from the Regional Center went to the Winnetka Community House. After handing in their event “tickets” and paying their \$26.93-per-person fee at the door the Sisters entered the gymnasium. (In addition to donating their time and energy, the Sisters had used some of their “treat” money to pay the event fee.) The participation fee would cover a portion of the cost of the food, packaging materials and shipping expenses. The Sisters’ shift was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At 11:00 a.m. everyone who would be working the 2nd shift gathered in a meeting room for a short speech and video presentation. Many of the attendees had done this type of work before. The Sisters then went to Table 5 and took up their positions; they were among 400 participants – taking turns in three two-hour shifts – from all over the North Shore. During the day-long event 100,000 nutritious meals were packed for distribution to starving children in Nicaragua. The group at Table 5 managed to pack 16 boxes each containing 36 bags of rice casserole mix; each bag would feed six people. Cooked, warm samples of the rice dish were available at the completion of each shift for anyone who wanted to try it. All agreed that the finished product was quite tasty. ✚

Another Mother Pauline Reading Circle

Text by and photo courtesy of Sr. Monica Cormier, SCC

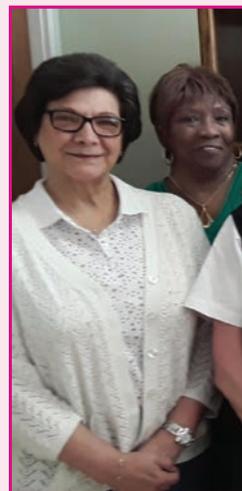
Can one ever read too much about Mother Pauline? I don’t think so! The Mother Pauline Reading Circles were started in 2018. The hope was to spread knowledge about and devotion to Mother Pauline.

In New Orleans we have just begun our group! As you can see, seven women were able to join us. There are two others who were not able to be with us on this particular day. We began in February 2019 with reading the book *Love Never Counts—Love Alone Counts* by Sr. Adalberta Mette, SCC. We gathered for the first time on March 10 to begin our circle of sharing. I had questions prepared to jump start the sharing, but these women didn’t need any priming! They were so filled with evidence of Mother Pauline’s life of faith and love that they began the discussion with no hesitation. When there was a pause, the question was asked: “What would you say Mother Pauline’s charisma is?” Without a pause,

each one agreed: LOVE.

What was moving for me was to hear how some aspect of Mother Pauline’s life and virtue touched each woman in a different way, right where she was at this moment in her own life. What a powerful beginning to our Mother Pauline Reading Circle!

We are now reading *Pauline von Mallinckrodt: A Biography According to Her Letters and Notes* by Kaethe Sander-Wietfeld. Our second meeting was scheduled for April 28. Our hope is that, after this book, each woman will take a volume of Mother Pauline’s own letters to read and we will try to see her love, faith and virtue in her own words! ✚



Farewell to St. Al's

Text by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC
 Photos by Nelly de Leon

On Sunday, October 28, the Regional Leadership Team traveled to St. Aloysius Church. Fr. Claudio Diaz and the parishioners had prepared a "Farewell Mass" for the Sisters of Christian Charity. The SCCs arrived in the parish six months after it had been founded by Fr. Thiele in 1884. Five SCCs from Sacred Heart Convent joined us at the Mass of Thanksgiving commemorating the 134 years that the Sisters have been a presence in the parish. At the end of the Mass each Sister received a white rose. The Sisters were invited after the Mass to a reception in the vestibule of the Msgr. Thiele Center. It was a blessed occasion for all. ✝



After Mass the Sisters gathered around Fr. Diaz: Sr. Juliana Miska, Sr. Rosemary Schwer, Sr. Alice Mary Ortmann, Sr. Pauline Schafer, Sr. Mary Ann Warwick.
 Back row: Sr. Caroline Schafer, Sr. Carol Bredenkamp, Sr. Mary Clement Elden, Sr. Janice Boyer, Sr. Anastasia Sanford.



Kathleen Soupenne, Debra Theard, Sr. Monica Cormier, Loyce Traugott, Joyce Chiantella, Vanessa C. Matthew, Sylvia Versowsky, Marilyn Harsch



After Mass the Sisters enjoyed a light luncheon, complete with cake. Most of all, they enjoyed conversing with friends and former co-workers in St. Aloysius Parish.



Sharing Pauline's Vision



Pauline and Prayer

Text by
Sr. Joanne Bednar,
SCC

What water is to the fish,
that prayer is to the religious.

Pauline von Mallinckrodt wrote the above thought in 1851 as a young religious at the age of 34. It might be the most well-known of Pauline's fundamental truths and life principles. Elementary school children have memorized that maxim and have drawn and colored their images of what it means. As mature and contemplative persons, we too can draw inspiration as we visualize what Pauline's thinking might have been when she wrote this as an added thought in a letter to Sr. Mathilde, one of the founding Sisters of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

As I began gathering my own thoughts for this article, I consulted Google and asked: "How do fish breathe?" I learned that gills are feathery organs within the body of a fish that are full of blood vessels. As the fish swims, it takes water into its mouth and forces it through the gill passages. The walls of the gills are thin and dissolved oxygen in the water is able to move into the blood and travel to the fish's cells—thereby giving life to the fish.

Fish breathe much as we humans breathe with the exception that the oxygen that feeds our cells comes from the air and passes into the lungs. So what can we learn from Mother Pauline from her own prayer and analogy? When fish do not receive the proper amount of oxygen from water, or humans do not receive enough oxygen from the air, both species will die. Our spirits and souls languish as we gasp for spiritual oxygen to feed our relationship with God. No wonder that two years later in 1853, Mother Pauline

again visits this image during her retreat as she prays "Lord, help me be a soul of prayer; help me that all my works swim in prayer".

However, we don't want to simply breathe. That certainly is not an exciting or a productive human life or spiritual life. Prayer, which is essentially a relationship with God, gives us spiritual energy to live the Christian life to the full. This is what Jesus himself offers us: "I have come that you may have life in abundance" (John 10:10). Surely, this is what Mother Pauline wanted when she asked that she not only breathe in the Spirit of Jesus but that all of her actions and ministries swim in that relationship for her own good and for the good of the Kingdom. †



Further Thoughts of Mother Pauline on Prayer:

- *Prayer is the life of the soul! Without prayer it will languish in this barren earthly kingdom. (1843)*
- *Who would presume to believe that he always knows for what and how he should pray? How beneficial it is when we pray with such a sincere heart that the Spirit of God prays in us! (1844)*
- *Prayer is our first obligation. Prayer is as necessary for the life of the soul as breathing is for that of the body. (1844)*
- *Let me always settle business matters with you in prayer before I handle them with others. (Retreat 1847)*
- *Never be wanting in prayer, for therein you will find the fullness of divine graces. (1869)*
- *In the measure that your apostolic work permits, live a deeply interior, zealous prayer life. If you have the glory of God always in mind as you work, he will certainly not withhold his blessing from it. (1876)*

Companions of Pauline

Mother Pauline's Legacy of Loving Service

Reflections gathered by Sr. Mary Ann Warwick, SCC

August 21, 2019 is the 170th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Christian Charity. The Companions of Pauline were invited to reflect on how Mother Pauline's legacy of loving service to God and to the people of God continues to motivate and inspire them in their daily living.

*Through reading and discussing the book *The Woman Who Couldn't Be Stopped*, I have been inspired to imitate Bl. Pauline's virtues. I am involved, as a member, in the good works of the St. Clare of Assisi Parish Men's Club and the 4th degree Knights of Columbus. We help the poor and mentally challenged, we visit the sick and do other ministries throughout the year. Blessed Pauline's great example has helped me become closer to our Lord. Bob Hartmann, St. Louis, MO*

With Mother Pauline's life of service to the blind as inspiration, I strive to imitate Christ by being especially mindful of the several deaf members of our parish. I attempt to communicate with my limited ASL [American Sign Language] and provide written copies of the homilies of our priest/deacon when possible as well as the weekly Prayers of the Faithful. Often just being attentive to give an "hello" gesture and a smile is very welcomed by my deaf friends. Kay Neudecker, Fulton, MO

St. Mary's Parish has been a recipient of Mother Pauline's loving service since 1874 when the SCCs first arrived in Westphalia. Mother Pauline walked the streets of our beautiful small town. The teachings and examples of service provided by over 180 Sisters in our Catholic school and community over generations have inspired me and thousands of others to continue her service. On a personal level I was inspired to participate in prayer groups and to serve on parish and school councils, to be a Eucharistic minister at Mass, to visit with and to bring Communion to the homebound, to sponsor RCIA candidates, etc. I believe and pray that the service of Mother Pauline and her Sisters will continue to motivate and inspire future generations as well. Lynn Strong, MI



*Blessed Mother Pauline
pray for us
that we may show Jesus
to others.*

As a Companion of Pauline, I try to consciously walk with Mother Pauline in my ordinary day-to-day activities. I find that I have many chances to do small acts of kindness for others such as: letting someone else go ahead of me in the grocery check-out lane, giving a smile to a lonely person, taking out a neighbor's garbage can, preparing Easter baskets for poor children. In imitation of Mother Pauline, I try to do small things for God with great love. Franchetta Wyble, LA

Mother Pauline has been a great inspiration in my life ever since I became a Companion of Pauline. Her dedication to Jesus gives me courage to reach out to others especially those who are less fortunate and to share God's love with them. Clara McGinn, IL

The sight of the picture [of Mother Pauline] reminds me that I am a Companion of Pauline. Recently I had the chance to repair a doll dressed as an SCC. This, too, reminded me of my connection to the Sisters. My recent reading of Sr. Mannelta (SCC) Lamberty's book *The Woman in Orbit* helped me refocus my devotion to our Blessed Mother under her many titles. I count all of these examples as special blessings. I am happy to walk with her and try to share Jesus' love with everyone I meet. Lorna Stelten, MN

I try to listen to people with a caring ear and show my concern. Simplicity in my lifestyle is important to me and I realize that what I have is all from God and not obtained by myself. Also, I bring all my major and minor concerns to the Lord. He has blessed me! Mary Trybul, IL †

Our Future

Imagining and Planning

Text by Sr. Juliana Miska, SCC and Sr. Monica Cormier, SCC
Photo courtesy of Sr. Juliana Miska, SCC

Create ways to invite discerners and young adults to have more encounters with the Sisters of Christian Charity.

With this mandate from the 2018 Regional Chapter in our minds, hearts and prayers, we [Sr. Juliana and Sr. Monica] began 2019 by imagining and planning a variety of opportunities in which the discerners and other young adults could participate and could “have more encounters” with the Sisters.

Intended Gathering

We invited our four discerners to join us for a day



A happy group: Sr. Mary Ann Warwick, Theresa Tran, Sr. Juliana Miska and Kaylee Durow at the Pre-Lenten Concert at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

of retreat and reflection on Sunday, March 3. Our hope was to give the discerners an opportunity to meet one another and to mingle with the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent and the SCC Center. Tanya, who lives in St. Louis, was not able to come to Chicago at that time due to work, so we agreed to Skype with her. Vanessa, who had planned on joining us, discovered that her university professors wanted to make up classes (missed during the Polar Vortex) on that weekend. That meant that two were coming! On the actual day, Chica had a mishap with her car. And then there was one! And yet, the Lord knows just what each one needs and when the time is best. So, we retreated and reflected and Skyped with the one who did come—Teresa. Teresa also joined the Sisters from the Center and Sr. Monica for a Pre-Lenten Concert

at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview. Vanessa was able to join the Companions of Pauline for a day of retreat at Sacred Heart on March 9.

Opportunities for Outreach

In looking for opportunities for outreach service, the two of us visited three volunteer programs which were seen as connecting the SCC vision, charism and mission with the gifts of the discerners and interested young adult women.

Family Promise is a program hosted twice a year by St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wilmette, IL.

Participants live at St. Joseph Convent for a limited time. Helping here would include preparing the rooms for occupancy, cooking a meal for the families, engaging the children and adults in recreational games, reading or tutoring. Training is provided for volunteers. The Family Promise experience took place from May 11-18, 2019.

Aid for Women reaches out to women who find themselves facing unexpected and difficult pregnancies. One of their residential sites is Heather's House in Des Plaines, IL.

Volunteering here would include hospitality, sharing meals and conversation with the families, and preparing/facilitating the Learn and Earn Training Program.

Fr. Nick Desmond, pastor at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Chicago, would also welcome volunteers. Here the service would center on weekend pastoral ministry with elementary and high school students and with young adults.

Discernment Space

At Sacred Heart Convent, we prepared a section of the third floor, west wing to accommodate the reality (various work schedules and classes) of the discerners. This space includes individual bedrooms, common bathroom facilities, a small chapel, a porch and a conversation room. This arrangement not only creates a more natural way for the young women to be with the Sisters in their day-to-day lifestyle but also provides sacred space for the listening and discerning that will enable young women to take a further step toward making a commitment.

As you can read, we have been busy! †

SCCs Around the World

“The Pauline” in Siegburg, Germany

Text by and photos courtesy of Sr. Anna Schwanz, SCC

I would like to tell you something about the children’s home “Pauline von Mallinckrodt” and the Sisters who live and work there. The home is in Siegburg, a city near Cologne, and the residents and authorities affectionately call it only “the Pauline”. For the past ten years, the Kindergarten (daycare) has also been part of “the Pauline”. As a member of the GmbH (Limited Liability Company), the German Region is co-sponsor of this institution.

Four of our Sisters are connected with “the Pauline”. One works in the daycare center; the other three work in the home in various capacities: in toddler care, helping the children with their assignments, giving flute lessons or temporarily helping at the entrance. Around 150 children (from infancy through adolescence) live in various houses on the estate or with living groups off the estate’s premises.

In addition, a beautiful new building called “Young Living Wolsdorf” was built on the site. [Wolsdorf is that part of Siegburg where the children’s home is located.] The inauguration of this new facility in September 2018 was a festive celebration for all. After the official celebration, Fr. Jablonka blessed the house and its inhabitants. During the blessing of the crosses, special attention was paid to the “summit cross” which was attached to the top of the new outdoor climbing wall—which the residents could immediately scale under supervision. Thus, the program was seamlessly transformed into a colorful afternoon and evening party. The mayor of Siegburg, the executive director of the home and the Sisters were particularly pleased about the “good relationship with Paderborn”, which was visible through the presence and participation of the General and Regional Leadership.

The new building accommodates toddlers, young mothers with their babies, new offices and rooms for out-patient services where professional personnel work with young disabled persons and with families (parents with their children who are not residents of the home). On one floor is the apartment/convent for the Sisters who now live “in the middle of it all”. They are very happy with

the new arrangement: “More community life has become possible.” Previously, the Sisters had lived in different houses of “The Pauline”.

The newly-developed mission statement of the home reflects characteristics of Mother Pauline such as her immediate response to distress and hardship, her seeking of new opportunities for the life of young people, her deep commitment to religious education and educational opportunities, her conviction that every human being is unique and of infinite value. These attitudes continue to motivate the workers at “the Pauline” even though it is less the material and more the emotional distress with which many children and adolescents come to the home.

For many years there has been a large and active “Pauline Group” in Siegburg—mainly for the co-workers at the home. The group meets twice a year; one of these meetings is an overnight in Paderborn. These dedicated people try to put the spirituality of Mother Pauline into their work with the children and young people at “the Pauline”. †



Die Kletterwand - the climbing wall



Sr. Kunigunde Beckervordersandforth (at right) and Sr. Agathe Schuppert with the lively, dedicated co-workers.

Awesome—As They Say

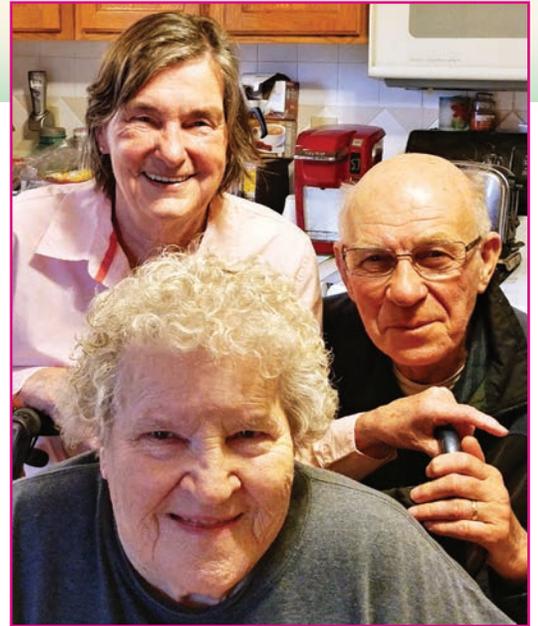
Text by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC
Photo courtesy of Aunt Marilyn

My Aunt Marilyn and Uncle Don take Communion to Sr. Mary Clement's Aunt Marge. We both just discovered that! It seems that my aunt and uncle brought a copy of BREAD BROKEN along when they went to Marge's on a Communion call. My aunt probably mentioned that I worked on the magazine and Marge must have seen the picture of her niece as the publisher.

Here is the connection that got this story going. One of Marge's daughters is Margaret Kosack. My Aunt Marilyn emailed me the story. [Margaret's] husband is Dave. Dave worked at the mill with Don's cousin Jerome. Dave and Margaret also farm, so with this [information in mind] Don visits the Kosack farm whenever he needs corn for his deer. One day, Margaret was chatting with Don and mentioned that her mother no longer could get out to Mass. Could we [Don and Marilyn] as leaders of prayer, bring her Communion once in a while. We decided that we would [go] every Sunday and holyday.

And there is a "further back" connection. My Aunt Marilyn mentioned that to me also in the above email. Don knew Marge's husband, Ken, way before I knew any of them. Ken was a mechanic at the airport [in Stevens Point, WI]. According to all pilots in central WI and beyond, he was the best airplane mechanic ever. At Ken's funeral, Don and other pilots did a fly over at the cemetery and tilted their wings towards him. Sr. Mary Clement never knew that and she was quite moved when she heard about it. She remembers once flying into the Stevens Point Airport with some of her family and they were all greeted by Uncle Ken.

Aunt Marilyn says that she and Don have such pleasant visits and that Marge always has coffee and pastries for them. On hearing that, Sr. Mary Clement remarked: "How like Aunt Marge that is!" ✝



Marilyn (pink blouse), Don and Marge sent this photo which was taken during their time together in April.

Musicians Brought Together

Text by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC
Photos courtesy of James Brian Melnychuk and Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

How likely is it for an accordionist and a bagpiper to make music together? Not a usual combination! But, it is happening! James Brian Melnychuk had played his bagpipe at Sr. Mary Ann Poppler's 2018 spring craft fair at Sacred Heart Convent and had then played for



the Sisters. Arkady Bodner, through the generosity of a benefactor, had been to Sacred Heart Convent on a couple of occasions to entertain us with his amazing accordion playing. Arkady plays music from 20 countries and his repertoire includes "Classical, Folk, Popular, Polka, Waltz, Latin, Klezmer, Gipsy and Jazz" (taken from business card). We have enjoyed music in most of these categories. He is indeed a "One Man Orchestra".

At Sr. Agnette Bengal's 105th birthday party on this past February 3rd, both Arkady and James were present. They chatted a bit and James remarked that he had never played with another instrument due to the solo nature of the bagpipe. Arkady, very accommodating, replied that bagpipe and accordion might be a great pairing. After a bit of figuring things

Arkady Bodner and James Brian Melnychuk - a talented duo!

Neighbors Drop By

Text and photo by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

It isn't too often these days that neighbors drop by your house to introduce themselves and visit. Chris Chroniak and his daughter, Keira, stopped in at Sacred Heart Convent one February afternoon. They were able to join several Sisters who were sitting around a dining-room table and enjoying coffee. The Chroniaks live across the street from us in the "old Dempsey house"—whose family had many connections with the SCCs. Our two visitors were very much interested in learning about their SCC neighbors and we readily answered many questions. In the course of conversation, Chris said that he [a licensed clinical psychologist] had gotten his doctorate from Loyola University Chicago and that he had defended his dissertation at Loyola's Mallinckrodt Campus [former SCC motherhouse] in Wilmette. The two also came for a visit in early March and then were at the spring craft sale where they browsed, bought and donated. We hope that soon we will meet the other members of the



Chroniak family: Karen (wife and mother) and twin sons Ian and Evan. †

Neighbors Chris Chroniak and his daughter, Keira, visit with the Sisters at coffee time.

out, they played a duo of "Happy Birthday" and "Amazing Grace". Everyone was really surprised! Then James sat down and enjoyed the accordion music along with the Sisters. He had a great time.

The two men put their talents together and created an Irish Music Book. James said they played at many St. Patrick's Day parties including The Palmer House, several bars and restaurants and a couple of private parties. James is also a classically-trained clarinetist and he and Arkady will be offering musical selections for upcoming Oktoberfests.

We are glad that these two musicians connected at our convent and that they are bringing good cheer to others. Perhaps this duo can use as their slogan: "We got our start/at Sacred Heart!" †



Sr. Agnette and her friends Sr. Anastasia Sanford and Michael van Oeveren enjoyed the music during her birthday dinner.

Sr. Margaritis Kullowitch, SCC

(Sister's obituary will appear in the next issue of BREAD BROKEN.)

Henry Beltz

brother of
Sr. Myra Beltz (dec.)
and Sr. Maria Immaculata Beltz (dec.)

Clarence Bueltel

brother-in-law of
Sr. Eleanor Ann Ortmann
and Sr. Alice Mary Ortmann

Arthur Henry Buscher

brother of
Sr. Elizabeth Ann Buscher

Helen Cico (Streff)

former SCC

Joseph Esop

brother of
Sr. Isabel Esop (dec.)

Albert Geimer

husband of Veronica Geimer,
Companion of Pauline

Walter Ladwig

uncle of
Sr. M. Joanne Ladwig

Garnita Metz

sister of
Sr. Florence Frerichs (dec.)

Dolores Obremski

sister of
Sr. Carolyn Eultgen
and Sr. Mary Ann Eultgen (dec.)

Arlene Poppler

sister-in-law of
Sr. Mary Ann Poppler

Jean Schafer

sister-in-law of
Sr. Caroline Schafer
and Sr. Pauline Schafer

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Standing for Life

Text by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC
Photo by Mary (at the site)

Left to right: Sr. Mary Ann Warwick, SCC, Joan Butzen, Companion of Pauline, and Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC took part in the 40 Days for Life vigil in their area. The event took place on Saturday, April 13 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. in Skokie near the Carafem abortion facility on Golf Road. The three took an hour in the afternoon to stand along Golf Road and hold pro-life signs. They were pleased that as cars passed by, many drivers honked their horns in support. The Lord provided a windy but sunny day for the vigil. Many people from various surrounding parishes came and went throughout the day as they gave their time to plead for the voiceless. †



Helping Out

Text and photo by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC and Sr. Carol Bredenkamp, SCC responded to a request for volunteers to help a group of First Communion children and their parents who were participating in an afternoon of reflection on the Eucharist. The gathering was held in the community room at St. Joseph Parish in Wilmette, IL on Sunday, April 14. The afternoon included videos on Reconciliation, Eucharist and the making of altar breads, activities of bread baking and crafts, and Eucharistic adoration. The photo above shows Sr. Carol working with a group of children as they each decorate a monstrance. The celebration of First Holy Communion took place on Saturday, May 4. †