



AFFILIATE NEWSLETTER

REFLECTIONS by AFFILIATES Marlyss Giles and Jane Szydowski



Marlyss Giles
EC Affiliate Birmingham, AL

How many times do we ask the Lord for special favors, but do not think he answers our prayers? Many years ago, I mentioned to my young daughter that I wished God spoke to me as others told me he had spoken to them. She quickly responded, "he does speak to you. You just don't listen." This thought has stayed with me, but only in later years has it brought real meaning into my life. To hear the Lord, we must be open to his words. The answer may not always be what we want to hear, nevertheless, by listening we know that it is what he wants for us. We may not always see where we are going, but if we trust in the Lord, he will lead us down the right path.

As Affiliates, we have an added responsibility to listen more intently for ways to serve God in the Vincentian tradition. *Speak to me Lord, so that I may know your will.*



"Grant us to become what we claim to be." This theme from the life and writings of Sister Suzanne Guillemin challenges me to look deeper inside, explore to what I am called, and reach out to animate others. Sister Suzanne lived in times of dramatic change in the Church with Vatican II, and she transformed herself and invited others to change. She welcomed the ideas of each Daughter of Charity and sought the presence of God in each event.

As I reflect on my 46 years of employment at DePaul Hospital, St. Louis, my 14 years of ministry as an affiliate, and my work with the Ladies of Charity at Caritas Center, I try to welcome new ideas as God calls me to change. *Grant us to become what we claim to be.*



Jane Szydowski
WC Affiliate St. Louis, MO

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Affiliates Coordinating Committee

- Mr. Tom Conklin
- Sr. Julie Cutter
- Ms. Glenda Gorman
- Mrs. Beverley Keahey
- Sr. Jeanne Parrish
- Sr. Sharon Richardt
- Mrs. Susan Scannell
- Mr. F. Dale Whitten
- Ms. Mary Nell Williams



St. Joseph Services Marks 10 Years as Daughters of Charity Celebrate 150 Years of Service in Chicago, IL

by Mary Lee McDonnell, Affiliate

As the Daughters of Charity observe their 150th year of Vincentian service in Chicago, they also celebrate the 10th anniversary of **St. Joseph Services**. This outreach ministry joins St. Vincent De Paul Center and Marillac Social Center, in the inspiring Vincentian legacy of charity in this third largest city in the United States.

This new ministry was built on the long and distinguished history of the Daughters serving the people of Chicago since 1861. From the very beginning, the St. Joseph Services focus has been to serve as ***“An Oasis Where Families Are Empowered To Break Through Poverty Barriers.”*** The goal was to develop an outreach ministry that would work in partnership with area parishes, non-profit institutions, and agencies to serve and support families and individuals at risk, collaborating with them to strengthen and develop their values in order to build the Kingdom of God.

Sisters Renee Rose, Mary Kay Tyrell, and Patricia Huffman were commissioned to begin this new ministry. Sr. Renee served as the first Executive Director, followed in 2002 by **Sr. Theresa Sullivan**. The ministry began by initiating partnerships with St. Mark’s Catholic Church, the San Miguel School, and the Chicago Health Collaboration. This led to the development of three main programs.

SJS at Casa de Providencia: In November 2001, SJS agreed to partner with St. Mark’s Catholic Church to transform their former convent into an outreach center for the surrounding neighborhood. Many volunteer hours contributed to transforming the convent into Casa de Providencia. In February to October 2004, the Saving a Childhood Foundation provided an after school program. In October 2004, after the major renovations were completed, Casa de Providencia began classes in English as a Second Language and opened a computer lab. In December 2005, the after-school program called “Quiet Place” opened. In February 2006, spirituality programs were initiated. These programs continue to grow and develop in response to the needs of the community. **Sr. Marsha Tierney** serves as bookkeeper, Spiritual Director, ESL teacher, Computer Skills teacher and Director of Programs for Adults. She has been instrumental in developing curriculum and schedules, assisting volunteers and encouraging clients.

SJS at San Miguel: In October 2001, SJS began a partnership with the LaSallian Christian Brothers who were opening San Miguel School – Gary Comer Campus, an inner-city school in the Austin community designed to provide high-risk children with innovative and accessible education. In June 2002, SJS and San Miguel School partnered to create a summer school program for forty children in the neighborhood. In September 2002, when San Miguel School opened, SJS hired a school social worker to provide wrap-around services to the students and their families that would complement the academic rigors of the school’s curriculum. Students set personal growth goals, and families were linked with resources that empowered them to create positive change in their lives. In December 2005, SJS opened the AAA Community Center, located within the San

Miguel School to provide year-round programs for community youth, classes in Adult Basic Education and Basic Computer Skills, and an open gym on Sundays.

Chicago Health Collaboration:

In October 2001, SJS began partnership discussions with Poor Handmaid Sisters which lead to the development of the Chicago Health Collaboration. By October 2002, the Collaboration developed and implemented a Health Education for Life Program to go out into the Chicago-Northwest communities and reach those with health needs linking them not only to health care, but also to social services. In August 2004, Chicago Health Collaboration received a federal grant that allowed the program to be better served through an existing clinic, and the program was turned over to Prime Care.

In 2009, Sr. Theresa Sullivan was named Vocations Director for the East Central Province, and **Lisa Sand Sullivan** succeeded her as Executive Director.

It is an exciting time in Chicago, as the Daughters’ legacy of charity continues, from schools, orphanages, day care centers, shelters and hospitals and now in Chicago parishes. St. Joseph Services represents a new Vincentian ministry for a new era, following St. Louise de Marillac’s call to, *“Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them, my children, as you would honor Christ himself...”* and faithfully continuing to serve those in need, as the Daughters have done in Chicago for 150 years.



Lee McDonnell, Affiliate, with two clients from Casa de Providencia in Chicago

Lee McDonnell, a Daughter of Charity Affiliate, feels blessed to have served the Daughters in various roles for thirty-six years. Lee has served as Vice President, Public Affairs, St. Joseph Hospital, Chicago, and as Executive Director of the St. Joseph Health Care Foundation. She was appointed to the first St. Joseph Services Board of Directors in 2002, and served as Board Secretary from 2003-2005. Lee was appointed Board Chairman in July, 2005, and served in that role until March, 2008, and continues on the Board until June, 2011. In her SJS experience, Lee shared her expertise in public relations, fund-raising, strategic planning and board affairs. She was the first recipient of the St. Joseph Services Award in October, 2008.

Gatherings of Affiliates in St. Louis, MO and Austin, TX

by Bev Keahey, Affiliate



Front: Barbara Moore, Joan Laneman, Sr. Kieran Kneaves and Jane Szydlowski. Back: Sr. Julie Cutter and F. Dale Whitten—St. Louis Affiliate Gathering Participants

The morning presentation gave us hope as we witness the current changes the Daughters are facing. In the afternoon we viewed a DVD produced by DePaul University, "Vincent de Paul — Charity's Saint". This is a wonderful DVD that we recommend to all Affiliates and members of the Vincentian Family. The DVD begins with the life of St. Vincent, giving us an understanding of the man in his time. The second portion provides an understanding of St. Louise and the relationship and mission they shared.

Following the DVD, we enjoyed a time of discussion and sharing, and how it applies to our current missions and lives. "Vincent de Paul—Charity's Saint" can be purchased from the DePaul University web site. It was a wonderful day for us and we appreciate Sr. Kieran and Sr. Julie Cutter for their work in preparing and bringing us together.

Affiliates gathered in February for workshops given by Sr. Kieran Kneaves on Mother Suzanne Guillemin, DC in St. Louis, MO and Austin, TX.

Mother Guillemin was not known well by the Affiliates. We learned of her many contributions in bringing the Daughters into the modern world of the 20th century, as well as her vision and courage in facing that transformation. She kept the focus of the Daughters on prayer and devotion to their work, while guiding them through these times of change.



Austin, TX Affiliate Gathering Participants included L to R: Carol Barnett, Sharon Bieser, Sr. Julie Cutter, Celia Urbina, Kent Keahey, Bev Keahey, Bud Shivers, Charles Barnett and Sr. Kieran Kneaves

WELCOME to NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

In late March, the names of the Council Members for the new Province of St. Louise were announced. Joining Sr. Louise Gallahue, Visitatrix are:

Sisters Rose Ann Aguilar, Nora Gatto, Janet Keim, Mary Beth Kubera, Jean Rhoads, Joanne Vasa, Mary Walz, and Mary Catherine Warehime.

These Sisters will be installed at the "United for the Mission" Meeting in Baltimore, MD on July 31, 2011.

Sr. Jane Graves, Provincial Treasurer, and Fr. Tom McKenna, Provincial Director, also will be installed in Baltimore. Sr. Maureen Schmalzried will serve as the Provincial Secretary.



Thanks and Farewell

to Sr. Jeanne Parrish
for your past service and
dedication to the Affiliate
Coordinating Committee!

We will miss you.



Daughters of Charity Services, New Orleans, LA

by Sr. Bonnie Hoffman

Sisters of Charity from Emmitsburg arrived in New Orleans in 1834 to begin service at Charity Hospital. Daughters of Charity served at Hotel Dieu Hospital in New Orleans for 140 years (1852-1992). Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans (DCSNO) was incorporated in 1996 to perpetuate a Catholic healthcare presence in the city. The Carrollton Avenue clinic was the first outreach of DCSNO. In 2005, the physical structure and much of the Clinic's content was lost in the flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Now, approaching the sixth anniversary of Katrina, DCSNO has three health centers, reassuring the community of New Orleans that holistic, comprehensive primary care is here to stay. A new **Carrollton** site was opened about a mile from the original clinic. The new structure is 34,000 square feet, including administrative offices. The second site is in the Bywater area in the 9th Ward. This renovated 22,000 square foot former elementary school, is located in a music and arts neighborhood. It is named for the patron saint of music—**St. Cecilia**. The **Metairie** Health Center is the smallest of the three, providing the same high quality care, serving many members of the new Hispanic community who moved to the city since 2005.

DCSNO Medical Home staffing is an Integrated Team that works to empower patients with the knowledge to make sound decisions, skills for self management, and strategies to deal with emotional, psychological and spiritual issues. Services provided are compassionate primary medical care and dental services, pharmacy, optometry, behavioral healthcare, obstetrics and pediatrics. Preventive health practices are monitored and tracked for outcomes. The three facilities are open to everyone including those with commercial insurance or Medicaid/Medicare. A sliding fee scale is available for the uninsured.



Vincentian Service Corps...A Year of Service Makes a Lifetime of Difference

by Kellie Willis, Director

Since 1981 the Daughters of Charity have collaborated with and inspired young adults by sharing their charism of serving

and clients/students are touched by their commitment and presence during their year of service and beyond. In the spirit of Vincent and Louise these young men and women carry forward the fire of the Vincentian charism! See the new VSC video at: www.vincentianservicecorps.org

Christ in persons living in poverty. Over 200 men and women have participated in Vincentian Service Corps (VSC) and have lived the program's common mission with the Daughters of Charity: "Responding to the call of the Gospel in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, lay women and men of the Vincentian Service Corps serve those who are poor while growing in prayer and living in community."

The VSC serve full-time at their service ministry sites, which have included urban Catholic schools, community health organizations, centers for elderly/disabled adults, shelters for homeless pregnant women, and criminal justice ministries. They remark every year how they are touched by the lives of those they serve, and undeniably, their co-workers



2010-11 VSC Volunteers: Josh, Barbara, Kristen, Sarah, Rosalie, Pat, Natasha.

Ladies of Charity in Birmingham, Alabama

by Marlyss Giles, Affiliate

Being nominated as an Affiliate to the company of the Daughters of Charity was beyond my expectations. When that honor was bestowed on me, I knew that I had the responsibility to “do more” in the Vincentian tradition. The celebration Mass, the kind words of the celebrant, and the presentation of the certificate by Sr. Theresa Peck in the presence of my family, previous co-workers, and friends was most humbling. My thoughts were, “what do I do now? How can I ever live up to this honor?”

I should have known that it wasn't up to me to decide what to do, but it was in God's hands. Within a few weeks, Sr. Dinah White asked if I would help her organize a Ladies of Charity association at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham. Not really knowing what this involved, I said yes and began to explore the possibility. Several months later with the endorsement of our Bishop, an application for membership was submitted to the Ladies of Charity-USA. Soon the Ladies of Charity of Central Alabama (LCCA), Birmingham, AL was chartered and the process began to develop necessary documents and recruit members for a viable organization.

The mission of LCCA is... “a transformational community partner focused on serving the needs of the poor and vulnerable with humility in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.” We are fulfilling this mission one step at a time by providing toiletry bags for persons who are needy and homeless, assisting inner city Catholic schools,

and volunteering at women's shelters, as well as other organizations that serve the poor. A candy sale and raffle in 2010 were our first fund raiser.

The first bi-monthly newsletter was published in February, and the second annual fund raiser for 2011 is being planned. Several new members will be installed at the annual meeting in May.



Affiliate Marlyss Giles (top) with Sr. Brenda Monahan.

It's been three years since the idea of forming a Ladies of Charity in Birmingham came to my attention. We've had many “bumps in the road”, but with the commitment and support of dedicated members, we continue to move forward. Affiliation with St. Vincent's Health System provides a link to the 100 plus transition years of the Daughters of Charity in Birmingham. Our goal has always been to move into the local parishes and community. Last fall an information session was held at a local church, and as a result, our membership has increased.

Do I still ask myself what I am going to do as a member of the Vincentian Family? No, but I do ask how will I make a difference in serving persons who are poor and vulnerable in the name of the Ladies of Charity of Central Alabama. I take solace in the words of St. Vincent, “Good works are often spoiled by moving too quickly.” I thank God for walking with me on this journey and ask for his continued guidance in the days and years to come. I pray, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac be with us as we face the many challenges ahead.

Survey Results: *Affiliate Newsletter Enjoyed*

by F. Dale Whitten, Affiliate

A fall survey completed by 25 East Central and West Central Affiliates revealed that the *Affiliate Newsletter* is thoroughly enjoyed by almost everyone responding to the survey. Among the most liked items in the *Newsletter* were: stories and updates on Daughters and Affiliates, reports on formation of the new Province, Affiliate profiles, spiritual reflections, pictures, current happenings, and remembrances. Several ideas for new articles were suggested and the Coordinating Committee is working to include these in future issues. A majority wanted to see the *Newsletter* continue and nearly half of the respondents share their copy with others. “It is a wonderful means of helping the Daughters and the Affiliates stay closely connected,” wrote one Affiliate. The Coordinating Committee appreciates your thoughtful responses.



AFFILIATE PROFILES — Jude Magers and Jacquelyn Akins



JUDE A. MAGERS
Indianapolis, Indiana

Encountering the Daughters of Charity and specifically Sister Sharon Richardt in the early 1990's is a key turning point in my journey with Our Lord. It occurred over several years as I worked in my career choice of professional nursing practice and organizational development at St. Vincent Health in Indianapolis, Indiana. Up until the 1990's my life journey had many rich, deeply spiritual and meaningful experiences with mentors, teachers, friends, spiritual companions and professional colleagues that I credit with cultivating within me a receptivity of spirit that allowed me to hear the words of Sister Sharon on a particular summer afternoon. In a brief encounter she asked, "Jude, do you believe in calling?" I stopped long enough to respond "yes, I have long believed in personal calling." She smiled and said "let's talk sometime soon".

My response was built upon a life journey that was rooted in God who deeply knew the poor and vulnerable, and this allowed me to begin to want to seek a deeper understanding of the charism and spirituality of the Daughters of Charity. Soon I began working directly with Sister Sharon in the field of health care mission integration. This providential opportunity was an invitation to explore the multiple dimensions of service to the poor as experienced as a collective and communal ministry versus just my own personal spiritual call.

As the years unfolded through the 1990's and 2000's, my role as an Affiliate has provided me sound and rewarding community and spiritual relationships that have helped to sustain and nurture me in the daily call to respond to poor. I serve in both sponsored ministries of the Daughters of Charity and even most recently in the sponsored health ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



JACQUELYN AKINS
St. Louis, Missouri

It was my good fortune and God's blessing to meet the Daughters of Charity when entering nursing school at DePaul Hospital, St. Louis, in 1949.

My entire professional career, except for seven years, was spent with the Daughters. I advanced from bedside nursing to nursing administration, and then to hospital administration, thanks in large part to the mentoring and professional opportunities given to me by a number of Daughters, most notably Sr. Mary Louise Hoeller and Sr. Elise Boudreaux (deceased).

On a number of occasions, friends and colleagues have expressed surprise at my working for only one employer for 35 years. Until one actually experiences the Daughters' philosophy, core values and mission, it is difficult to explain their employees' commitment to their unique health care ministry and caring for the poor. For me, it was never "just a job," it was a privilege and a "way of life" to serve in their ministry.

Even in my retirement since 1996, I still feel a strong association with the Daughters. The honor of becoming an Affiliate was the best retirement recognition I could have received.

I continue to be involved with the Daughters through volunteering at SSM De Paul Health Center as well as Guardian Angel Settlement Association, which provides child care and social services to the inner city needy.

"I have found that you, our Affiliates, contribute greatly to our appreciation and understanding of what it means to be "the Vincentian Family".

Sr. Mary Walz

Vincentian Family Collaborators Explore Systemic Change

by Sr. Julie Cutter and Mary Wildeman



Sr. Sheila Marie Hart presents reflection on St. Vincent and St. Louise



Sr. Connie Probst, SVdP and Fr. Urban Osujii, CM in St. Louis

Invited leaders from thirteen branches of the regional Vincentian Family gathered to study systemic change at the Office of the St. Louis Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on March 26, 2011.

Sister Sheila Marie Hart presented a prayer and reflection on Vincent and Louise as collaborators. Sister Kieran Kneaves led the 92 participants in an overview of systemic change based upon the book Seeds of Hope. She challenged participants to explore their service of persons living in poverty by asking "Is what we are doing transforming lives?" Rich LaPlume led the final presentation on Project PLUS that moves chronically homeless and disabled persons into permanent, supported housing.



As a follow up to the **Systemic Change** Continental Meeting that was held in Belleville in November, 2010, a meeting was held at Mater Dei on April 16 for members of the Vincentian Family and other collaborators.

The gathering was entitled "Journey to Change." Sixty people attended from Evansville, Jasper, Nashville, Vincennes, Washington and Loogootee. The group was as diverse as the geography but the spirit was Vincentian.

In the morning there was a brief refresher course on Catholic Social Teaching and an introduction to Systemic Change. The afternoon panel brought Systemic Change to life through examples.

Each participant was invited to dream of something he/she would like to do in the ministry and to write down that dream along with concrete steps and commitments. Mary Wildeman, a member of the planning committee, recently returned the "Dream Sheets" to remind participants that they had a plan and to urge them to move that plan forward.



Panel members (L-R): Gayle Uebelhor and Terri Lautner-Uebelhor in Evansville, IN



Participants (L-R): Fr. Bill Hartenbach, Fr. Henry Kuykendall, Sr. Brenda Fritz and Walter Vieke



AFFILIATE NEWS

WC-EC Daughters of
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Mater Dei Provincialate to become MATER DEI RETREAT / SPIRITUALITY CENTER

As plans continue for the formation of a new Province, Mater Dei Provincialate in Evansville, Indiana has been designated as a Retreat/Spirituality Center. Sister Sharon Richardt, DC has been appointed as the Director of the Center, following the establishment of the new Province of St. Louise located in St. Louis after August 1, 2011.

For the past 40 years of its existence, the property located at 9400 New Harmony Road has served as Province House and Provincialate for the East Central Province, and as retreat headquarters for the 9 state Province of Daughters of Charity. In the past several years, Daughters from the other four Provinces have utilized the beautiful location for their retreats also. In 2007, the location introduced the 4 day Vincentian Spirituality Retreat for members of the Vincentian Family, as well as a gathering place for workshops for the Vincentian Family, the Affiliates, and former Daughters of Charity.

The Retreat/Spirituality Center will continue to offer 7-8 annual Daughter retreats, the Vincentian Spirituality Retreat in October ([See SAVE the DATE below](#)) as well as other retreats, workshops, and gatherings for members of the Vincentian Family.



SAVE the DATE...PLAN to ATTEND! VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY RETREAT — OCTOBER 27-30, 2011 Mater Dei Retreat Spirituality Center, Evansville, Indiana

**Please remember in your prayers the
Affiliate and Sisters who have recently
died...**

Mrs. Darlene Engelke—11/15/10
Sr. Emmanuel Schott, EC—11/26/10
Sr. Clare Kelly, WC—12/8/10
Sr. Mary Angelyn Pera, WC—12/9/10
Sr. Mary Loretto Kearney, EC—12/20/10
Sr. Catherine Hoppe, EC—1/28/11
Sr. Dorothy Bachelot, WC—2/18/11
Sr. Rita May Kelly, WC—4/13/11
Sr. Mary Josephine Benoit, EC—4/26/11
Sr. Marie Agnew, WC—5/11/11

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

If you have thoughts about the *Affiliate Newsletter*, news items, suggested topics, or a special prayer request, please send them to:

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