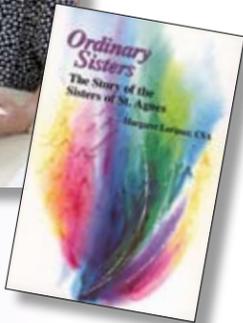




Sister Margaret Lorimer at the book signing. To purchase a copy of *Ordinary Sisters*, contact CSA at 920-907-2300.



Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Promoting Justice, Building Community

320 County Road K
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In Memoriam... walking with God



Sister Frances Gilles

April 18, 2007
She will be remembered for her gentle spirit and ready smile.



Sister Irma Reichling

May 10, 2007
Her passion for social justice continued into her retirement years.



Sister Clarella Einodshofer

May 27, 2007
She is remembered for her great contributions to the field of nursing.



Sister Claudine McCormick

May 30, 2007
She taught elementary school for 55 years in NY, KS, and WI.



Sister Alvis Jacobs

June 26, 2007
With wit and humor she taught middle school through college in NY, IL, PA, and WI.



Sister Christine Schultz

July 20, 2007
She served in the healthcare field in both the U.S. and in Nicaragua.



Sister Ruth McCarron

September 6, 2007
She taught primary grades in PA, IL, IN, and NY.

For full obituaries go to our website www.csasisters.org. Memorials can be sent to the CSA Development Office.

Blessings

CONGREGATION OF SISTERS OF ST. AGNES

a newsletter for benefactors and friends of the Sisters of St. Agnes

OCTOBER 2007

Dear Friends...



SESQUICENTENNIAL
CHAIR

*Sister Julia
Wiegerling*

We, Sisters of St. Agnes, welcome you to join us in a year of gratitude as we celebrate the wisdom, courage, and faith of our founders, and of all who have walked with and in the congregation for nearly 150 years. On January 20, 2008, the eve of the feast of St. Agnes, we will open our sesquicentennial year, which will then conclude on December 8, 2008.

The logo, designed for this special moment in CSA's history, honors the journey of our past, beginning in 1858 and continuing through the years. Our foremothers lived and ministered with courage and fidelity, responding with wholeheartedness to the needs of their times, both in Church and society. At the center of the logo we acknowledge our present reality, a commitment to the mission of Jesus, with ministry currently focused in the United States and Latin America but extensive in outreach. We live between what was and what can be and look forward to embracing the ongoing movement expressed in the logo's sweep outward. We believe that God continues to call us, as women religious, to live with passion and integrity, recognizing and holding as sacred the lives of all we encounter.

A newly published history, *Ordinary Sisters: The Story of the Sisters of St. Agnes*, written by Sister Margaret Lorimer, CSA, tells the remarkable story of what has brought us to this time. You, who are reading this message, are a part of our continuing story, as we live into the next phase of our history and legacy. Thank you for accompanying us on the journey.



The Development Ministry of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes exists to broaden awareness of and gain additional resources for furthering the mission and ministries of the congregation.



Dear Friends...

This second newsletter from the CSA Development Office comes to you with a joyful, yet heavy heart.

This coming year is CSA's celebration of 150 years of service, building community, and promoting the gospel of Jesus. 2008 will be filled with memories while taking a look towards the future. Our celebrations throughout the year will reflect our "Courageous Initiatives and our Legacy for the Future."

Celebrating comes quite naturally to our sisters. What seems unnatural is the devastation that hurricane Felix has left behind in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, where three of our sisters minister. We know from our experience of Katrina how long recovery can take. Imagine the time it will take to rebuild in a third world country.

So while we rejoice in the faithfulness of a loving God and celebrate all of the blessings we have received in the last 150 years, we continue on with questions. Why do those who cope everyday without the necessities of life have to lose the little they have? What can we do to help alleviate the suffering and deprivation a hurricane can cause?

Please continue to partner with us in the mission of the gospel and immerse yourselves in the stories of our lives and ministries.

Sister Deborah Walter
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

To contribute to Hurricane Felix relief, please contact Sister Deborah Walter, CSA at 920-907-2311 or dwalter@csasisters.org.

Strength in the Aftermath of Hurricane Felix

Just one month ago, Hurricane Felix was upon us in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. The winds and rain destroyed more than 90% of the houses. In the *Maureen Courtney Special Education Center*, we also mourn the loss of one of our students, 12 years old, William Kayla. William and his mother were in the Cayos Miskitos and unable to return to the port on time.

We praise and thank God for the blessings and generosity each of you have so generously offered to help in the reconstruction of houses and schools. You have helped provide food and clothing for the many people who have lost everything.

We have been able to provide roofing for many people who have lost their roofs. The two parish schools are beginning the reconstruction process. Teachers and staff from the *Maureen Courtney Special Education Center* work daily to clean up and replace roofing. The kitchen has been destroyed, but thanks to the contributions we have received, we have been able to cook outside for many in need of a good meal.

There is a long road ahead to rebuild, but the solidarity and help we are receiving from you has strengthened our determination and hope to continue our mission of Jesus here in Puerto Cabezas and the surrounding villages. Our mission is to provide an integral education for the youth who have special needs. We strive to help them to recognize their gifts and abilities, and to be contributing members of society and the world.

Thank you once again for your generosity in contributing to our Hurricane Relief efforts in Puerto Cabezas. It is with a grateful heart I praise and thank God for you. - *Sister Katie Schilling*



The Power of Snack Money!
Sister Anita Henning asked the children of Holy Child Jesus School in Canton, MS, to give up their snack money and they did, raising \$91.00 for Hurricane Felix relief at Colegio Niño Jesús in Nicaragua.



Sister Mary Dennis



1971

Wisconsin, the retirement community for the Sisters of St. Agnes. "I love being here. I am healthier than I have been in the past five years and I am surrounded by members of CSA," shared Sister Mary Dennis.

"Having a chapel in the homes I have lived in over the years has always meant a great deal to me," commented Sister Mary Dennis. "I enjoy taking the time to pray and reflect each day before daily Mass. The older sisters' singing sounds

Our Retired Sisters

Imagine someone who is friendly, engaging and a delight to sit down with over a cup of tea. Sister Mary Dennis McMahon is just that kind of person. She welcomes you into her life where you feel her warmth, sincerity and kindness. In 2005 she moved from Chicago to Nazareth Court and Center in Fond du Lac,

like angels, and sometimes it feels like they are lifting the roof right off the chapel."

"It is in my nature to want to help others," continued Sister Mary Dennis. "I enjoy being generous with my time. In the mornings at breakfast I tend the coffee for the other sisters. I also enjoy writing letters for three of the sisters who are unable to do this for themselves. My most recent venture has been to become a cantor at Mass. I had never sung in front of anyone, except first graders when I was a teacher, but cantoring has turned out to be delightful."

"As a long time educator, I am tutoring a woman from Marian College. She is from China and working on her PhD in Curriculum Design. My task is to help her learn English. I have great admiration for her. She works very hard and I enjoy our time together," said Sister Mary Dennis. "Life is full and rich. I feel very blessed to be living in this faith community of sisters."

Every Day is an Opportunity to Share the Love



Sister Susan Seeby

One of the newest members to join the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes is Sister Susan Seeby who lives and teaches on the south side of Chicago. Recently Sister Susan shared, "A friend of mine told me about the Sisters of St. Agnes. When I had an opportunity to meet the sisters, I was touched by their deep love for one another. They are really family to each other. I was amazed by their enthusiasm, energy and happiness. I transferred my vows to the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes in April of 2007. Previously I had been a member of the Felician Sisters, entering in 1985 at the age of 30. I believe that God continues to call us and I felt I was being called in a different direction."

Sister Susan continued, "I began my teaching career as an elementary teacher but found myself called to teach

high school students. Many of my students are not Catholic but they have a curiosity about religion and about my life as a sister. I let my students know about religious life and share my daily struggles and joys with them. Sharing who I am, as someone trying to follow Jesus prayerfully, and how I live as a sister, has been of great interest to them. The sisters I live with have come to school and have met the girls. The students were eager to hear about CSA's strong commitment to social justice issues and the emphasis we have on standing up for the rights of women and children in the world."

Concluding her comments, Sister Susan stated, "Every day is an opportunity to share the love and commitment I have for Jesus." She does this through her role modeling, creating an environment of joy and laughter in her classes, and yes, even sometimes in dancing with her students.

COMING SOON: Secure online donations will be possible after November 1, 2007. For more information on supporting CSA's ministries, please contact Sister Deborah Walter, CSA at 920-907-2311 or dwalter@csasisters.org.