



Women of Spirit

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes



SPRING 2010

My Joy is to Be Here

All Saints Catholic Newman Center, located near the heart of Arizona State University, is home away from home for Sister Colleen Braun, CSA. "My joy is to be here," shared Sister Colleen who has worked as a chaplain for over twelve years. "This is a vibrant, living faith community that includes people of all ages, particularly young adults. As a chaplain, I participate in many different aspects of building a community that welcomes people at all stages of their lives. As spiritual director, I work with young adults who want to explore their spirituality. Young people today want to talk about the Church and its teachings. Working with students, I hear and receive their excitement and fresh views. They often come to us very open and curious," said Sister Colleen.

"My work life involves being part of a great team of staff and volunteers working with a wide variety of programs," continued Sister Colleen. "One of our focuses is to train young people to become leaders in the Church. We do this through offering retreats, Spring break service trips, daily mass, book club, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), reconciliation, faith sharing groups, discernment support, music group, Vesper Services, rosary, education for parents on Sundays, and more. People here really do participate. It is wonderful to witness and be part of a faith community on a college campus," concluded Sister Colleen.

There are fourteen members of CSA living and working in the Tucson - Phoenix area. They get together on a regular basis to share a meal, prayer and conversation. Also welcomed to these gatherings are associates of CSA.



Sister Colleen Braun with students at Arizona State University

Associates Visit NY



At the United Nations: l-r: Ellen Swan, Mary Beth Osiecki, Mary Jagdfeld, Ann Palm, Sybil Teehan, Ron Palm with a figure of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

October found associates from Wisconsin and New Jersey travelling with Ellen Swan, director of associates, to New York City to learn about and experience CSA ministries. Those who joined this trip included Mary Jagdfeld, Ann and Ron Palm from Wisconsin, and Mary Beth Osiecki from New Jersey. The group stayed at The Leo House, a house of hospitality, where Sisters of St. Agnes have ministered since the turn of the century.

Several CSA sisters, who minister in New York, met with the associates during their visit. They included: Sister Mary Ann Scherer, who ministers with Transfiguration Parish in Chinatown; Sister Patricia Hayes, who ministers through Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services in Spanish Harlem; and Sister Carole Gurdak, who ministers with Global Partnership for Justice, an NGO (non-governmental organization) that collaborates and advocates with the United Nations.

Associate Mary Jagdfeld shared her impressions about the New York trip, "A visit to Spanish Harlem and Chinatown offered us a glimpse into the issues of poverty in a big city. Sister Pat Hayes, a registered nurse, took me to meet a young mother with health issues related to her pregnancy. Our visit was both sad and heartwarming. Another memorable experience was our outing to the United Nations. My knowledge of what the United Nations actually does was limited. I left informed and impressed with the work of the U.N. on major health initiatives, and also on education for women and children around the world. Our time was filled with shared prayer, meals, laughter, walks and enjoying the sights of New York. I highly encourage others to participate in future trips to CSA ministries."

The next ministry site visit is scheduled for the Southwest in April 2010. Associates and friends of CSA may contact Ellen Swan at 920-907-2318 or eswan@csasisters.org for information.

Christian Parents for Kids Daycare

Dancing blue eyes that shine with delight could be used to describe Sister Ruth Ann Baudry. In her company, you can feel Sister Ruth Ann's energy and passion for what she cares about. Her list of what gives her purpose in life is long and hearty. First is her love of children. After fifty-five years of teaching first graders, she retired only to find herself working half days at the Christian Parents for Kids Daycare located in Peebles, WI. "I just love to see little children succeed," Sister Ruth Ann shared.

Included on her list is preparing special needs children for their First Communion and Confirmation through Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac. "We meet on Saturday mornings from September to the end of December. This year we had fifteen children involved. It is very heartwarming to witness their understanding of the sacraments and to see them make their First Communion or to be confirmed," said Sister Ruth Ann.

Sister Ruth Ann also serves on the Human Concerns Committee and the Vocation Committee for Holy Family Parish. "As a member of CSA I feel we need to be involved in the community so people see us as a sister." Another ministry that she has led since the



Sister Ruth Ann Baudry

1980s has been to work with the Hmong community. "My first experience was visiting with a family of five. The family had only one chair and they insisted I had to be the one to sit on it. I began to help by calling people to find furniture for them. People were very generous, and ever since then I have worked to help the Hmong community get connected to resources they need," continued Sister Ruth Ann.

"My life has been very rewarding. I like to help people and have been able to work with people from all walks of life. A quote I strive to live by is, 'Live in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God, will come to know God because they know you.'" That very accurately sums up Sister Ruth Ann.

Nursing - A Work of Service

Working as a nurse in an emergency room can be very stressful. For Sister Johana Granado Rosales, it is a work of service. "Prior to becoming a member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, I was an executive secretary," shared Sister Johana. "I chose the nursing profession to serve others. Now I am a licensed registered nurse with a focus on public health. I work at a hospital in downtown Managua which is named after a woman physician, Bertha Calderón Roque. It is not unusual to have over 190 people within a work shift who need to be seen. Fortunately, I am part of a wonderful team of nurses and doctors who treat people with a wide variety of illnesses."

"I strive to work with a loving attitude and presence. We serve very vulnerable people, particularly young girls. They can be as young as 12 or 13 who, through sexual abuse, are delivering an infant. These births can be very difficult and sometimes the mother or the infant dies. I find myself praying for strength from God to be with me every step of the way. This work is very hard but God has never let me down. I know I am where I want to be and need to be," concluded Sister Johana.



Sister Johana Granado Rosales

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The Cover Photo: The view at dawn overlooking the Atlantic Ocean from the balcony of the sisters' new convent in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua.
- Valerie Graczyk, CSA Communications Director



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APRIL 16-18, 2010 • JUNE 4-6, 2010

Save the Date!

The Congregation of Sisters of Saint Agnes cordially invites you to the
Women's Leadership Breakfast

Thursday, March 4, 2010 • 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.

Sisters of Saint Agnes Motherhouse, Founders Hall
320 County Road K • Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Keynote Presenter: Erin Davisson, Anchor/Reporter, WFRV-TV Channel 5
(and former pupil of CSA sisters at Beloit Catholic High School in Beloit, WI)

Come celebrate and network with women of spirit!
Public invited. Admission \$15
To register, please email Lisa Day at lday@csasisters.org
or call 920.907.2319



Erin Davisson