

ASSOCIATES VISIT MINISTRY SITES IN NEW YORK CITY

Associates Mary Jagdfeld, Ann and Ron Palm from Fond du Lac, WI, Sybil Teehan from Monroe, WI accompanied Ellen Swan, Director of Associates to New York City in October to learn about CSA ministry sites. Associate Mary Beth Osiecki, West Milford, NJ, joined the travelers for part of their stay in the Big Apple. The group stayed at Leo House, where Sisters Carole Gurdak, Kathleen Reis, Marilyn Ellickson, Leona Armstrong, and Regina Anhalt live. Sisters Kathleen and Marilyn work at Leo House, as well.

A visit to Chinatown with Sister Mary Ann Scherer began with morning prayer with 165 3 – 5 year old kindergarten children. They immediately stood up straighter and fell silent when Sister Mary Ann walked to the front of the room to begin her lesson of the day. Who but Sister Mary Ann could combine “Proverbs” and the concept of “small, medium, large?!” A tour of the Chinatown community, meeting some of S. Mary Ann’s friends and colleagues at Transfiguration Parish, with lunch of authentic Chinese food, made the day memorable.

We talked with Sisters Leona and Regina about the possibility of visiting the schools where they teach; both took our energy levels and time constraints into account and suggested that we not attempt the hour-plus, subway-bus commute. The fact that they do it twice a day, five days a week, doesn’t seem to phase them!

Sister Pat Hayes shared her ministry with Little Sisters of the Assumption by arranging for each of the associates to accompany a member of the Family Health Services team as they went about their ministries. Accompanying Pat on a home visit, joining a Mom and Child workshop, hauling pest-control equipment up 27 flights of stairs (broken elevator), sitting in on meetings with the Advocacy workers, going on-site to an assisted living facility ... it was all good.

Sister Carole Gurdak encouraged the group to take in one of the earlier UN tours; we did, and joined others from 18 countries for a walk through the UN facility. Carole works with the Global Partnership for Justice, one of hundreds of NGOs (non-governmental organization) that collaborate and advocate with the United Nations. GPJ Executive Director, Sister Lucianee Siers, OP, explained their role along with the inner workings of the UN. Everyone walked away with a better understanding of the UN! Sybil Teehan, Ann and Ron Palm spent the next day at the GPJ Economic Workshop on Wall Street.

It wouldn’t be New York without a bit of sight-seeing! Everyone enjoyed a Grayline Tour and various members of the group took in museums, Broadway plays, Times Square, Central Park, Top of the Rock, and more.

The next ministry site visit is scheduled for the Southwest in April 2010. Contact Ellen Swan at 920.907.2318 or eswan@csasisters.org for information.