

REFLECTIONS

&
Connections

AUGUST 2014

STORIES OF MISSION
& MINISTRY

DORIS KLEIN, CSA



CSA

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

Welcome Sister Edie Crews, Vocation Director!

Bubbling over with enthusiasm, Sister Edie has returned to Fond du Lac and is bringing with her a passion for religious life. “I love, love, love religious life! I am eager to welcome in new members to CSA. Returning to Fond du Lac is coming home for me,” smiled Sister Edie. “The sisters were my teachers in Hays, Kansas, for grade school and high school. Once I knew I wanted to become a religious I left to attend Marian College in Fond du Lac. Since then my ministry has included teaching at the elementary level, working as a youth minister and—for the past ten years—being employed as a case manager helping people to apply for state benefits.”

“I believe it takes a community to nurture a vocation. CSA has a vibrant future and I am excited to be part of it,” continued Sister Edie. “With the help of the Holy Spirit we will have others join us, too.”

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Celebrating *75 years* of Healing and Care

*W*ith a passion for service inspired by the legacy and spirit of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, Monroe Clinic is celebrating its 75th anniversary and their communal commitment to continue the healing mission of Christ. St. Clare Hospital, founded by CSA in 1939, began with a dream to create the future of health care in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. The vision expanded in 1992 when Monroe Clinic and St. Clare Hospital merged and became known as Monroe Clinic and Hospital.

“Commemorating 75 years is a celebration of our heritage and passion to provide compassionate care, healing, and renewed health to all those we serve,” noted Jane Monahan, vice-president of ministry and human resources. “We treasure our connection with our sponsor, the Sisters of St. Agnes. They have given us a tremendous legacy by entrusting us with the mission today and to ensure that our healing ministry continues into the future. Many of us who work at Monroe Clinic were born here 25, 40, and 50 years ago. We love working here, are passionate about the service we provide, and want our children and grandchildren to receive the same wonderful care our families, friends, and neighbors have received over the years. We take seriously our responsibility to educate, motivate, and inspire all staff at Monroe Clinic to live the dream, continue the ministry, and have the same passion for mission that is our gift, our legacy from the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes.”



Patricia Lawson, Jane Monahan and Sister Leanne Sitter review historical photos from St. Clare Hospital and Monroe Clinic.

Youth *Leaders* in the Making



Sister Anabel (far right) and participants in youth leadership programs.

*L*aughing, smiling, wearing jaunty hats and sunglasses, handsome and pretty, tall or short—they are teenagers with leadership potential. Each one wants to fit in, learn how they can improve the world they live in and grow in their leadership skills. They often come from the poorest of the barrios and rural areas in and around Managua.

In Nicaragua, 32% of the children have never been to school. Many are working to survive and are exposed to sexual abuse, violence, and pornography. For many their backgrounds include family disintegration, domestic violence, malnutrition, teen pregnancy and economic exploitation. Some of them sell wares in the streets or wash cars, others collect castoffs from garbage cans in markets or—if they are from a rural area—tend chickens and work in the fields producing bananas, beans, and corn. Sister Anabel Torres, CSA, is committed to creating a better life for the teenagers of her homeland.

“We select teenagers who have shown leadership potential to participate in our leadership formation program. They can use these skills to diminish the influence of gangs and to contribute to transforming their local neighborhoods into communities that can flourish.”

Sister Anabel is founder and director of CANTERA which is a non-governmental humanitarian, nonprofit organization. Its offices are based in Managua. Sister Anabel and a well-trained team of professionals work together coordinating various programs that have personal and collective development at the core of creating a more just, equitable and sustainable society.

“We invite the teens to participate in a four-month formation program,” Sister Anabel commented. “We start with self-awareness through reconstructing our family stories. This exercise

called 'constellations' helps the youth recognize where they come from and what has led to their current situations. Our goal is to facilitate a healing process where the wounds they carry within are mended thus building a foundation for a healthier life. The youth begin to form new behaviors based on self esteem and respect for themselves and others."

"Together a new vision for the future emerges. We believe if they can tap into their strength they can use their talents to achieve those dreams," continued Sister Anabel.

"I wish every place I worked had a Sister Anabel," said Martha Cabrera, psychologist and facilitator of the youth workshops. "Sister Anabel, through CANTERA, has hired nine Youth Neighborhood Development Coordinators who work in the barrios. They are able to have a tremendous influence on the lives of young people," continued Martha Cabrera. "The coordinators work with the youth promoting education, community services, and decision-making skills. We have seen the impact of these leadership programs; many of the youth have stayed in school to finish high school. It is not uncommon for girls to be pregnant by 13 or 14. Through education and support we have begun to change this; youth leaders have become spokespersons and role models to their peers. We have witnessed the empowerment of youth serving as change agents in their families, communities and neighborhoods. This is a story of new life and hope for many!"



In Memoriam... Walking with God



Sister Patricia Younger (formerly Sister Mary Bernard)

May 7, 2014

Sister Patricia was from Catherine, Kansas. She made her profession of vows on August 15, 1949. She received a B.S. in education from Marian College (University) and an M.A. in Administration with a minor in Guidance and Counseling. She ministered as a teacher in elementary grades for eighteen years and was a principal for twenty-seven years in Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, New York and Kansas. In her retirement she worked at The Leo House in New York City for ten years offering hospitality. Sister Patricia brought her gifts of music and laughter to every place in which she lived and ministered.



Sister Irene Kohne (baptized Helen)

May 27, 2014

Sister Irene was from Decatur, Indiana, and both she and her sister Mary became Sisters of St. Agnes. Sister Irene made her profession of vows on August 15, 1941. She graduated from St. Agnes School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse in 1944. She received her B.S.N. from Marian College in 1946. She did post graduate studies in Surgical Nursing at Marquette University and received an M.B.A. in Hospital Administration from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1963. Over her many years of ministering Sister Irene served the longest at St. Francis Home in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, a position she began in 1977 and retired from in 2003.



Sister Joseph McArdle (baptized Mary Agnes Geraldine)

June 4, 2014

Sister Joseph was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. She entered St. Agnes Convent in August 1944, and made her profession of vows in August 1947. She received a B.S. in Education from Marian College and taught primary grades for twenty years in Wisconsin, Kansas and Indiana. She earned an M.S. in Education Psychology at Fordham University in New York City. After taking workshops in Special Education and Religious Education she ministered for thirty-six years at St. Raymond's Elementary School in Bronx, New York. She was a member of the Board of Directors for BASE (Bronx Alternative Special Ed) for ten years while continuing to teach in this program.

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

Terry Letvinchuck
Director of Development Ministry
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
320 County Road K
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Dear Terry,

My wife Kate and I have always supported Catholic education. For us, a Catholic education paid off in many ways, spiritually, intellectually and otherwise. Most importantly, the best friends that we had during our school years continue to be our best friends 40 years later.

When our family contributes to an organization, we are concerned that our gift will be used to support the mission. We have been happy to continue to support the mission of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes, decades after our years at Immaculate Conception in Elmhurst, Illinois. We continue to believe in the mission of CSA after seeing firsthand how seriously the sisters took their vow of poverty. I spent four years as a janitor at IC. I will never forget seeing the nuns, going through my sweepings at the high school, picking up pens ("but Jim, this one is still good!"). My favorite: Sisters asking us to save the empty hydrochloric acid bottles, similar to Clorox Bleach bottles. As janitors, we used the acid to swab out the toilets (oh the glamour!). They would take the plastic from those bottles, once emptied and cleaned, and make collars to be used with the habits they wore during those years.

So how could someone think for even one heartbeat that a donation made to CSA might be wasted on "administrative" costs or go to something other than a worthwhile effort? We are always happy to donate to a good cause, and CSA will always be an organization which our family will be happy to support.

Best,

Jim Costello
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Kate & Jim Costello



Eating: a Moral Act that Promotes Peace

“Lord, to those who hunger, give bread. And to those who have bread, give the hunger for justice.”

– St. John Chrysostom

A Catholic international peace movement called Pax Christi was formed in France in 1945. The name is Latin for “the Peace of Christ.” Five members of the Congregation of St. Agnes are part of a local Pax Christi committee. Recently they traveled to Milwaukee to learn about a “good food revolution.” Dr. Will Allen, founder of Growing Power Inc., provides reasonably priced, nutritious food to residents in blighted neighborhoods.

Pax Christi’s field trip was the highlight of its year-long study of hunger. In addition to Dr. Allen’s urban gardening project, members had investigated several other programs related to locally grown foods. They learned about cooperatives, called Community Supported Agriculture, where people pay local farmers in advance to receive a weekly food basket at harvest time. In addition area farmers’ markets offer families access to locally grown fruits and vegetables. Produce from nearby organic farms is also available in grocery stores and online. Finally, many more people are planting their own fruits and vegetables and providing their surplus to local food pantries. Locally grown food is becoming more available and, though sometimes more costly, it has a lower “carbon footprint.”

Pax Christi members learned that eating locally grown food is one way to build a more peaceful world. In the coming months they plan to network with Fond du Lac area groups to sponsor educational programs on solutions to hunger. By doing so they hope to promote the peace of Christ, which is the mission of Pax Christi. Members of the committee include Sisters Jean Braun, Caryl Hartjes, Mary Elise Leiker, Mary Rose Meis, Sue Seeby and Sally Ann Brickner.



Dr. Will Allen at
Growing Power, Inc.



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Ways to connect with CSA:

CSA web site:

<http://www.csasisters.org/>

What's Happening at the UN:

<http://whatshappeningattheun.blogspot.com/>

(in the front page of our web site)

Streams 'N Stirrings, Sister Jean:

(in the front page of our web site)

Vocation E-Newsletter

(in the front page of our web site)



<http://www.facebook.com/sasisters?sk=wall>

(in the front page of our web site)



[http://www.youtube.com/user/](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCSAchannel1)

TheCSAchannel1

(in the front page of our web site)

Welcome *Carol Braun*

Associate Relationship Director for CSA

Carol brings to her work a strong background in volunteerism and social justice advocacy. She has participated in trips to Nicaragua to build relationships with a sister parish in Rosita, provided relief help following Hurricane Katrina, taken mission trips to the Appalachian area of West Virginia, volunteered in Fair Trade and Just Fare Market initiatives, and most recently worked as Volunteer Coordinator at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Fond du Lac.

The impetus for Carol to become an Associate in 2005 was participating in a Just Faith sharing group through

Holy Family Parish. "This was a 9-month study group and three members of CSA were participants" said Carol. "I came to know the sisters through faith sharing and hearing their stories of compassion and service. I have the greatest admiration for the Sisters of St. Agnes; they are women of faith and courage."

"I am enriched and inspired by the Associates living out their call to serve others while committing to the mission of CSA," continued Carol. "Together the Sisters and Associates have a rich history and gifts to share with one another. I hope to deepen the bond and strengthen the relationship."

