A Message from the Provincial

Dear Friends,

In April, the Portland, Oregon Northwest Catholic Counseling Center’s Board of Directors presented its annual Compassionate Heart Award to its founders, Servite Sisters Sarah Deeby, Barbara Kennedy, and Lisa Sheridan. The award was given in recognition of the Center’s 25th Anniversary of providing “quality and timely services in a caring and compassionate environment.” Board President, Jerry Bitz stated that the Center has a firm foundation based on a mission that is “steeped in the gospel traditions of justice and compassion for all people.” This can be readily seen in the core values of justice, compassion, collaboration and excellence that are part of the mission of the Center. We are all very proud of the work that these Sisters have done to help individuals and families in the Portland area. For 25 years they have not only provided quality, professional care for countless people, they have done so in the spirit of Mary who “…helps our love to grow to the dimensions of her compassion that we may reach out in care for the suffering and the poor.” (Servants of Mary Constitutions, Article 9)

Also in April, the Servants of Mary were one of eighteen women’s religious communities to receive the Bishop Maurice J. Dingman Peace Award presented by the Catholic Peace Ministry Board of Des Moines, Iowa. During the ceremony, it was stated that: “Women religious and their congregations have a long and impressive record of being open to the Spirit and the needs of all people, especially the poor among us. Sisters’ historic work in education, healthcare, housing, poverty and other social service areas fundamentally is work for justice and peace. We especially recognize Sisters and their communities for responding to God’s call to be ‘instruments of peace’ by working against war, against oppression, for peace, and for cooperation among peoples.” While the award was specifically given for Sisters who served in Iowa, it was noted that these religious communities are also serving throughout the United States and the world abroad, following their particular community charism to live the Gospel message.

We are proud of the work that our Sisters have done and continue to do with those in need. This issue of DISCOVER highlights some of the service and outreach ministries in which we are still involved. Whether it is directing programs or doing the many chores that need to be done to keep an organization in operation, we Servants of Mary “…put ourselves and our diverse gifts at the service of the Church’s mission…” (Constitutions, Article 6) We are pleased that we are often privileged to do this work in conjunction with our Associate members. They, too, are a source of inspiration for us as they minister to the needs of the poor.

We are most grateful for your support and prayer for the variety of ministries in which we are involved. Together we can continue to reach out to those in need and share the message of Christ’s love for us all.

God bless you,

Sr. Mary
Love for the poor has been a tradition throughout the history of the Church. Our Lord’s identification with the poor and his teachings challenge us and call us to action.

As Servants of Mary we are called to be a community of service. For years we answered this call through our ministry in Catholic schools. Following the directives of Vatican II, we broadened our horizons and have expanded our ministries in order to reach many more needs in the Church. In spite of the decrease in numbers and increase in ages of the Servite Community, Sisters and Associates continue “to be present especially to the suffering, the poor, the oppressed.” (Servants of Mary Constitutions Art. 71)

When parish leaders in the Portland, Oregon area needed mental health services for the poor or uninsured, Sisters Barbara Kennedy (Sr. M. Marcia,) Sarah Deeby, and Lisa Sheridan stepped forward. Together they founded the Northwest Catholic Counseling Center which celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. The Center continues its mission “to provide services to all people regardless of faith or finances,” says Sr. Barbara Kennedy. Sister provides direct counseling and as clinical director she supervises the interns. Half of Sr. Sarah Deebay’s clients are children and adolescents. She also serves as a consultant to and referral source for the Catholic schools in the area.

I often think of Mary’s role at the death of Jesus. The images of the Pieta or Mary at the foot of the cross have always held great meaning for me as a Servant of Mary. As a therapist, I have the privilege of standing with many people in many different situations, in their times of sorrow, as well as joy. It allows me to live the mission of our community ‘to manifest God’s compassion’ to others. Sr. Sarah Deeby, OSM

Sr. Lisa Sheridan, who met the Servites through her work at The Grotto in Portland, began at the Center as the office manager. “It was something new and exciting,” said Sr. Lisa, “a chance to be at the grass roots level of something with the ability to have an impact on many lives.” Influenced by the Portland Servites, Sr. Lisa joined the vowed community. She obtained a Master’s degree in counseling and returned to the Center as a counselor and administrator for seven years. Sister Lisa is now on the member group of the Center’s board, along with Srs. Barbara and Sarah, to “train and offer enrichment to the Board in regards to the mission of the Center and the charism of the Servants of Mary, which are the foundational values of the Center,” says Sr. Lisa.

Servite Associates in Portland also share the Servite charism of compassionate presence through volunteer ministries to the needy.

Associate Julie Rowland, a professor at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, recently accompanied students from her university to build with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. “Habitat is an organization that truly empowers those who would otherwise never own a home,” says Julie. “Each person we talk to is so grateful for the stability the home will provide for them and their children. The people of New Orleans are resilient, and it has been a blessing to watch the city rebuild. There is, unfortunately, still a lot of work to be done. The second blessing is to watch our students work so hard and be so excited about helping people. I believe we have a generation coming up who are committed to making this world a better place and have hearts that are full.”
Ministry Highlight

Her nursing ministry will soon take Associate Barb Katz on a trip with other nurses and doctors from the Portland area to Antigua, Guatemala. We look forward to hearing of her experience.

Teaching her young daughter and her classmates to knit, Associate Cindy Campbell turned a class project into a service learning experience. The students knit over 65 hats for babies in third world countries. “They (the students) were so excited,” says Cindy, “to know that their little hats would be keeping babies warm and increasing survival rate for newborns. We had a prayer service before the hats were sent, and each student attached a prayer to their hat for the baby who would wear it. Blessings were given and received by all!”

The ministry of Sr. Barbara Bouchard (Sr. M. Chantal) and Associate Mary Ellen White at Heartline, Inc. also serve the poor in the Detroit area. “Not only poor in their pocket books, but physically (some need extensive dental work,) intellectually (many have not finished high school,) and emotionally (many have suffered mental and physical abuse,)” explains Sr. Barbara.

A young woman from Africa who was working and going to school in the area was left without a safe place to live. Her family had returned to Africa, and she was sleeping in her car. She called 1-800-A SHELTER and was given Heartline’s number. Happily, she is working and saving up her money and will be ready to move out on her own soon.

Sr. Barbara Bouchard

At a breakfast benefit, a woman handed me her card. She said that she had been in our program back in 1985 and had had a 30 year heroin addiction. “Because of our program,” she said, “I am clean,” went back to school, got my Master’s degree in social work, and have a job at the Veterans Administration.”

Associate Mary Ellen White

Sr. Eileen Lantzy (Sr. M. Stella) directs Loaves and Fishes Southwest Detroit (LFSD,) that assists food pantries of the member parishes to “respond to the call of Jesus to feed the hungry.” LFSD coordinates resources,

Servants of Mary across the country reach out in compassionate presence to those in need.

Students at the Covenant House in Michigan have dropped out of the traditional education system for many reasons. “Many of the students’ families,” says teacher Sr. Marcia Haggins (Sr. M. Emily,) “have given up on them. Others face daily struggles and challenges. While every story is not a success, we believe that seeds have been planted to help the young people make changes for the positive. For that, there is continued prayer and trust in God’s grace.”

Associate Mary Ellen White uses the Smart Board with her students at Covenant House Academy Southwest in Detroit.
operates a Thanksgiving and Christmas program for the needy who are served by their pantries, seeks funding, and sponsors fund raising events and appeals.

The number of persons approaching the LFSD-supported food pantries has been increasing. This growth reflects the loss of jobs, rise in food prices and utility costs, and changes in the federal and state social service programs. We are currently exploring with parishes and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul the possibility of opening a community pantry in the southwest community. 

Sr. Eileen Lantzy

Sr. Mary Stephen Durant has also been feeding needy families. For many years, she and her St. Vincent de Paul teammate pack up pantry boxes being “especially careful to see that children have the kind of food they need for growing bodies,” says Sr. Mary Stephen. “We also deliver to the client’s home if they are unable to pick up their boxes. We served a gentleman once who said he would carry his boxes of food to his apartment because it wasn’t that far. Then he asked how he could help at the store. He was so grateful for the help he had received.”

Behind the counter is where Sr. Rita Mary Morrissette (Sr. M. Christopher) ministers to those who shop at the SVDP store in Massena, New York. “Volunteers are always needed, and this service fits me to a ‘T.’ I find plenty to pray about. One cold winter day a young woman came in without a coat. When she left, she was smiling and warm in her ‘new’ coat.”

Sr. Eileen Lantzy OSM director of Loaves and Fishes Southwest Detroit, accepts this year’s St. Vincent de Paul Award in recognition “of their foresight and because of the needs this program ultimately fulfills in the community it serves.” (from the announcement letter to Sr. Eileen.) Pictured above with Sr. Eileen holding the award plaque are LFSD board members, left to right, Anne Zaragoza, Jim Grad and Kim Boychuk.

Sr. Rita Mary Morrissette OSM enjoys visiting with shoppers at the St. Vincent de Paul Store.

Sr. Mary Stephen Durant OSM sets up a St. Vincent de Paul Pantry food box for delivery.

Besides her parish work, Sr. Juliana Fitzpatrick OSM volunteers her cleaning skills at the Free Clinic for Uninsured Adults.
Sr. Juliana Fitzpatrick ministers in the parish office at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. One of her responsibilities is approval of donation requests. The St. Vincent de Paul Society later reimburses the parish for these donations. “One day a lady came to the rectory needing help getting to Syracuse. After talking to her, I determined that she was fleeing an abusive relationship and was ‘on the level.’ We gave her gas money for her trip.”

Sr. Rita Kolbet (Sr. Mary Edith) of Grand Island, Nebraska is on the Mental Health Board of the District Court of Hall County Nebraska. The Board gives compassionate support to mentally ill persons who may be a danger to themselves and/or others. Most who come before the Board are wards of the state or on Medicaid. “We had a client who was living in his car and was talking about suicide,” said Sr. Rita. “Like so many people who come before the Board, this client approached the Board looking worried and fearful, but with encouragement and assurance that there is help for him, his expression changed to relief. The final remark all our clients hear is, ‘We wish the very best for you. Good luck!’ I feel blessed to be a member on the Mental Health Board with its life-giving ministry to the poor.”

Sr. Terese Lux recognizes Jesus’ presence in the detainees in the Douglas County Correction Center (she is on the team in the Immigration Detainee Advocacy Program from Creighton University of Omaha, Nebraska,) in the face of the young women who come to EPS-Essential Pregnancy Service (where Sister ministers for half a day each week,) and in the students who are part of the Black Student Catholic Scholarship Fund (Sister is on the Board and selection committee.)

Mary stood at the Cross and was helpless to change the situation, to do anything. Yet, her presence was ALL, and it was enough. Perhaps my presence can be enough when it is all that I can offer. As I listen to those who are hurting, my prayer is that Jesus can be visible through me. Jesus is “enough.”

Sr. Terese Lux

Mike McMahon of Creighton University Hospital’s Pastoral Team in Omaha calls Sr. Mary Alice Haley (Sr. M. Donata) his “secret weapon.” He takes her to patients who have suffered abuse. “Her compassionate, tender and enthusiastic presence always produces a moment of real healing. I will always carry with me the image of Sr. Mary Alice cradling the faces of these women in her hands and asking them, ‘You’re going to be OK, aren’t you?’” Sr. Mary Alice chose to minister at Creighton University Hospital because “they give quality care to each person, whether they can pay or not. I find my volunteer service there to be a special privilege and gift to me.”

With compassionate presence in the spirit of Mary, Servants of Mary Sisters and Associates minister in prayer and action to those in most need of God’s blessing.
Jubilarians

Servants of Mary will celebrate Jubilees on Sunday, October 2, 2011. Sisters, Associates, family and friends will gather for Mass and a reception at the Servants of Mary Motherhouse in Omaha, Nebraska.

Sr. Iris Deprez, OSM
(Sr. M. Gerald)
60 Years
Native of: Detroit, MI
Teacher: Assumption, Welby, CO; Holy Name, Omaha; St. John Berchmans, Detroit; Holy Family and Sacred Heart, Massena, NY; Mt. Carmel, Denver; Immaculate Conception, Sioux City, IA
Director of Religious Formation: Assumption, Our Lady Mother of the Church, Denver; St. Anne, Arvada, CO; St. Bernard, Omaha; Queen of Peace, Aurora, CO; St. Thomas Moore, Englewood, CO
Pastoral Minister: Hospice, Denver; Minister to the Elderly, Colorado Springs, CO; Creighton Research Hospital and St. Leo Church, Omaha (current ministry)
Community Service: Motherhouse Coordinator, Director of Development

Sr. Mary Gabriel Lawler, OSM
60 Years
Native of: Ridgway, IL
Teacher: Holy Redeemer, St. Juliana, Detroit; Holy Name, St. James, St. Margaret Mary, St. Rose, Omaha; Immaculate Conception, Cherokee, Immaculate Conception, Sioux City, St. John, Gilmore City, St. Joseph, Salix, IA; Our Lady of Assumption, Welby, CO; Our Lady of Assumption, Fairview Heights, IL

Sr. Terese Lux, OSM
60 Years
Native of: Grand River, IA
Teacher: Holy Name, Marian High School, St. Benedict, Omaha, NE; Immaculate Conception, Cherokee, St. Joseph, Salix, IA; Sacred Heart, Massena, NY
Assistant Principal: Marian High School, Omaha
VP Student Affairs and Assistant Dean Adult Education: College of St. Mary, Omaha
Adjunct College Instructor: University of Nebraska; Doane College, Lincoln, NE; Creighton University, Omaha; St. Mary College, Winona, MN
Consultant: DeLuxe Programs and Training, Lincoln, NE
Extension Program/Theology: Loyola University, New Orleans, LA
Community Service: Prioress Provincial, Provincial Councilor
Receptionist: Jesuit Middle School, Omaha
Jail Ministry: Douglas County Correction Center, Omaha (current ministry)
Board Member: Marian High School, Black Student Catholic Scholarship Fund, Omaha (current ministry)
Volunteer: Essential Pregnancy Service, Omaha (current ministry)

Sr. Violet Mae Walker, OSM
(Sr. M. Daniel)
60 Years
Native of: Newcastle, WY (born in Dix, NE)
Teacher: St. John Berchmans, Detroit; Immaculate Conception, Sioux City, IA; St. John, Gilmore City, IA, St. Joseph, Anthon, IA; St. Joseph, Salix, IA; Holy Ghost, Omaha; Mt. Carmel/Assumption, Denver
Principal: St. Joseph, Anthon, IA; St. Joseph, Salix, IA
Community Service: Driver; Motherhouse Pastoral Care Chaplain
Chaplain: Mercy Medical Center, Nampa, ID
Jubilee 2011

We invite you to celebrate these women with a card shower. They would love to hear from you! E-cards may be sent to osmdev@osms.org. Remember to include the name of the Jubilarian. Mail cards to the Jubilarian in care of Servants of Mary, 7400 Military Avenue, Omaha, NE 68134.

Sr. Joy Weideman, OSM
(Sr. M. Genevieve)
50 Years
Native of: Sioux City, IA
Teacher: St. John Berchmans and Servite High, Detroit; Holy Name Grade School and High School, Omaha; Sacred Heart, Massena, NY; Immaculate Conception High School, Cherokee, IA; Marian High School, Omaha, Bishop Heelan Catholic High School, Sioux City, IA
Community Service: Provincial, Motherhouse Coordinator, Community Gerontologist, Assistant Provincial, Generalate Office, Community Archivist (current ministry)
President: Archdiocesan Council of Women Religious, Omaha, NE
Admin. Board: Seventh Step of Omaha
Volunteer Computer Work: Project Hope, Omaha
Team Member: Desert House of Prayer, Tucson, AZ
Communion Minister: Ambassador Rehabilitation, Omaha
Volunteer: Josie Harper Hospice House, Omaha; St. Pius X Church, Omaha (current ministry)

Sr. Marianna De Simone, OSM
(Sr. M. Gemma)
50 Years
Native of: Bonea diVico Ecuense, Italy
Teacher: Sacred Heart, Massena, NY; St. Juliana, Detroit; Holy Name, St. Pius, Marian High School, Omaha; JK Mullen High School, Denver
Counselor: Marian High School, Omaha; JK Mullen High School, Denver
Alumni Relations: JK Mullen High School, Denver
Advancement Office: Marian High School, Omaha (current ministry)

Sr. Margaret Mary (Midge) Petersen, OSM
(Sr. M. Helene)
50 Years
Native of: Omaha, NE
Teacher: Assumption, Denver; Immaculate Conception, Sioux City, IA; St. John Berchmans, Detroit; St. Pius, Marian High School, Skutt Catholic High School, Omaha; Sacred Heart, Massena, NY; Mt. Michael High School, Elkhorn, NE
Chaplain: Methodist Hospital, Omaha; Lutheran Medical Center Richard Young, Omaha

In Memoriam
Sr. M. Kathleen O’Sullivan, OSM
Entered into Life: October 7, 1918
Profession Date: August 31, 1936
Entered into Eternal Life: March 5, 2011
Sr. M. Kathleen O’Sullivan once said that children “demand holiness of you, but they will lead you to holiness.” Sister taught for 56 years, then ministered for two years as assistant to the school secretary and 14 years working at the Marian High School Advancement Office. We Servants of Mary cherish our memories of her faithful servanthood, determination, love of education and Servite community, and her Irish wit. This year Sister would have celebrated her 75th Jubilee.
Development News by Maria Marasco Farrell, Director of Development

Partnership Award Recipient Announced

The Power of Partnership... Chosen as our focus for this year, these four simple words hold so much meaning and promise for a bright future for the Servants of Mary. We hope you enjoy reading DISCOVER and learning how we partner with you in your daily lives.

Each year we honor an individual, family or organization that has partnered with the Servants of Mary. We are thrilled to announce that this year’s recipient of the Servite Partnership Award is Mr. Mark Enenbach. Mark has a long history with the Servants of Mary dating back to his grade school and high school years at Holy Name. A graduate of the Holy Name Class of 1969, Mark spent his first twelve years of school with the Servite Sisters. Mark went on to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. After graduating from Creighton University School of Law, Mark joined the Army and served in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps from 1976-1980. Upon returning to Omaha, Mark joined the law firm of McGrath North. At that time, the firm had already been representing the Sisters. When they learned of Mark’s connection to the Servants of Mary, they asked if he would like to take over as counsel. While Mark will be honored for his individual service of over 30 years, we are forever grateful to McGrath North for allowing us the opportunity to partner with the firm for over 50 years.

Mark will be presented the Partnership Award at the annual wine tasting and silent auction event to be held at the Omaha Country Club on September 8, 2011. We hope you will be able to join us in thanking Mark for his dedication and service to the Servants of Mary.

For ticket information, underwriting, and sponsorship opportunities please contact Maria Marasco Farrell at osmdev@osms.org or 402.951.3060.

Gift Giving Opportunity

Two of the chalices used to celebrate Mass in the Motherhouse chapel are in need of repair. These chalices hold significant historical and sentimental value to the Servants of Mary. We would love to have the repairs made to the chalices rather than trying to replace them. Total cost of repairing both chalices is $1,100. Partial gifts are greatly appreciated!

Servants of Mary Benefactors

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations received from January 1, 2011 through April 15, 2011.

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Clara Zoucha
In Memory Of

We gratefully acknowledge the following remembrances received from January 1, 2011 through April 15, 2011.

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John Abohasan
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Sr. Roselma Legault, OSM
Sr. Nancy Marsh, OSM
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Sr. Suzanne Vendehheede, OSM
Sr. Mary Norita Cooney, OSM
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Sr. Margaret Stratman, OSM
Charles P. Davlin
Claire M. Davlin
Anthony De Maggio
Rita J. Vermilion
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Robert E. Decker
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James Edney
Sr. Iris Deprez, OSM
Sr. Nancy Marsh, OSM
Alice McGowan
Greg and Mary Lynn Schwietz
Sr. Lisa Sheridan, OSM
Sr. Suzanne Vendehheede, OSM
John A. Edney
Dr. Joanne Edney, M.D.
Sr. Roselma Legault, OSM
Sr. Mary Marsh, OSM
Mary Lee Graham
Joseph Graham
Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM
Linda M. Hakim (Barbane)
Vic Hakim
John Hammang
Anthony and Fern Walch
Linda Marie Harding
Joyce Ann Smith
Dave Heaston
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Margaret A. Heirman
Rick and Janet Blunk
Gregory Heirman
IBM International Business Machines
Bill Hess
Mike and Mary Ellen Schadendorf
Peg Hilgert
Lou and Ruth Mazzaro
Edward W. Hogan
Mary Eileen Hogan
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Theresa Cantion
Marvin Jablonski
Sr. Nancy Marsh, OSM
Sr. Lisa Sheridan, OSM
Sr. Suzanne Vendehheede, OSM
Dick James
Larry and Gert Vanoverbeke
Rev. Ralph Jensen, OSM
Bro. Joel A. Lechner, OSM
Greg Keller
Tony Vallecillo
Mary Kelly
Sr. Kathy Avery, OSM
Jeff Kirkpatrick
James and Mary Kirkpatrick
Joseph Kish, III
Sr. Carolyn Foley, OSM
Kim Kohagen
Ben and Mary Charlene Peiffer
Sylvia Kolaz
Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM
Konieczny Family
Jean Rzepecki
Carol Ann Kosmatka
Ronald Kosmatka
Edmond and Josephine Kotwick
David and Jo Ann Kotwick
John and Marnie Kotwick
Diane Kougias
Dr. John and Janet Barnes
Stephen Krantz
Dr. John and Janet Barnes
Kelly Kreller
Donald D. Bruno, Ph.D.
Cheryl Kunce
Marjorie Kunce Gangwish
Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM
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Judy Lang
Elia Jane Bailey
Helen Laughlin
Jean and Ted Crouchley
Edith Le May
Edouard and Margaret Le May
Ron Lewis
Bill Drippinski
Jim and Cindy Lebeda
Tom and Rita Ramen
Howard Rudloff
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Peggy Berg Maguire
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Steven and Sheri Andrews
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Ann and Lawrence Etienne
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Sharon Flinn
Jacqueline Folsom
Michelle and Lawrence Gunn
Jeff Harwood
Ann Henningens
John and Carol Higgins
Pamela Hossle
Richard and Pamela Jepson
Norma Kelly
Roger Lacy
Mary and Leroy Lampe
Julie and David Lazure
Kim and Kevin Lee
Anne Maguire
Robert Maguire
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Dr. Joseph and Theresa McCaslin
Eugene Meinders
Patrick Mejstrik
Laura and David Mussman
Joseph and Michele Pane
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Linda Silva
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Maureen Tobin
Brian and Jody Van Osdel
Patricia and Bruce Van Osdel
Terry and Faye Walker
Thomas and Angela Waples
Margaret Whorton
Sr. Jeanne Malick, OSM
Mary Lou O’Doherty
Mastay Family
Jean Rzepecki
Sr. Anastasia McCambridge, OSM
Servants of Mary Provincial Council
Rose McCracken
Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM
Frances McDonald
Marlynn L. Currier
Sr. Mary Stephen Durant, OSM
Shirley Grow
Kenneth and Ellyn Kirkey
### Memorials / Honors

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A Prayer of Compassion

We walk with others who hurt and ache. As we do so, keep us closely united with you, Healing Presence, so that our hearts will always be warm with compassion.

We walk with our families, communities, loved ones and friends. Our hearts can be closely connected in good times and in bad. May we draw strength from you and be open to the ways in which you call us to be there for them.

We walk with our world, a world that is filled with pain and grief, with beauty and grandeur. We are all children of the universe. Remind us that who we are and what we do affects our brothers and sisters, the earth, and all creatures in any form.

We walk in your presence, God. May our inner vision keep us closely bonded with you. Assure us often that we are all a part of the Body of Christ. When we meet another, we meet you. May the treasure of our union with you energize us and renew us as we reach out to others. Amen.

from The Cup of Our Life by Sr. Joyce Rupp OSM

“Compassionate Jesus” bronze sculpture is located in the center of the Healing Garden on the grounds of the Servants of Mary Motherhouse in Omaha, Nebraska.