Dear Friends of the Servants of Mary,

During our total community Provincial Chapter last summer, we talked about how we can see our mission and charism through “new eyes.” We are being called forth by others to “reinvent” and extend ourselves from the educators for which we have always been known to other varieties of ministries. We began this by adopting the work of the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. It has now officially become the Servite ministry known as GriefWork. (See more about this on page 3) Now we are pleased to announce another new collaborative ministry.

Recently, our Associate Program began a partnership with a group known as Golden Threads. The purpose of this non-profit ministry, begun about a year ago in North Omaha, is to teach people how to quilt and to give quilts to the elderly and disabled. As Sr. Lisa Sheridan stated in her announcement to the Sisters and Associates, “It is simple and effective. Come, learn how to quilt and give back to the community by making lap quilts for the elderly, disabled and those suffering from cancer. Oh, and build community!”

Golden Threads ministry now offers classes in what used to be Sr. Barb Loomis’ art room, directly across the hallway from our quilting room. We were pleasantly surprised when the first group arrived and there were 30 women and 3 children who came to learn how to quilt!

Sr. Lisa’s letter shared that “We knew it was more than worthwhile when we found out that included in the 30 were 4 women from our local shelter. One of the women in the group was older and had come for the first time, hoping to find a place where she could spend some time outside the shelter and become involved in something meaningful. We could not have the opportunity to be a welcoming and compassionate presence to these women without this project.”

Classes are being held each week. Omaha area Associates serve as hostesses to invite people into our home and direct them to the classroom. At a gathering held to distribute the first quilts to people in the local Omaha community, Sr. Lisa gave Tara Evans, founder of Golden Threads, prayer cards to distribute to the quilters who come to the program.

This is definitely a time in our history where we are “creating a pattern of surprising unity” so that God in us can “bring together these isolated events into a meaningful design of wholeness.” We are open to the nudging of the Spirit to take us into new ways to continue our mission of compassionate presence in the spirit of Mary.

Thank you for all you do to encourage and support us.

Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM
Provincial
As you have read in past editions of Discover, the Servants of Mary have undertaken our new ministry. Over the past few months, the committee organizing the ministry has been hard at work. One of our first objectives was to develop our mission statement. The mission of GriefWork is:

• To offer spiritual support and healing comfort to all who mourn a loss.

• To develop and provide resources and training programs to support ministries of consolation.

• To increase networking, collaboration and partnering with ministers of consolation and national bereavement organizations.

We are also offering our first training in October, 2013 and then again in April, 2014 at the Servite Center of Compas-sion in Omaha, Nebraska. The Ministry of Consolation and Compassion Training will focus on:

• Those involved in ministry to the bereaved
• Setting up a program for the bereaved
• Attainment of CEU’s or to further education in the study of bereavement

Topics promote awareness of the dynamics of grief, appropriate care and comfort for the grieving and ministers of consolation, rituals related to death, and elements needed to create a church program for the bereaved.

Included in subsequent editions of Discover, will be helpful information for dealing with grief and loss. Below are a few simple ways to bring healing and hope to those that are grieving due to the loss of a loved one.

1. Be present as soon as possible when you hear of a death.

2. Avoid using “catch phrases” such as “It’s all for the best.” When using these types of phrases, we are justifying the death from our perspective, not from the view of the bereaved.

3. Be empathetic. Place yourself in the other person’s position. You may want to ask open ended questions such as “How do you feel today?” This type of question is more engaging.

4. Become more familiar with the grieving process. Realize that death is a part of the life cycle. For many, this is a time for spiritual growth.

For more information on GriefWork, contact Maria Farrell at bereavement@osms.org, or 402.951.3091.
“Gratitude flows from recognition that who we are and what we have are gifts to be received and shared.” – Henri Nouwen

How aptly this quote describes the message shared by Maurice Steier and his family at the Celebrating Partnership event benefiting the Servants of Mary on September 5, 2013. Maurice has been abundantly blessed with a wonderful family, many friends and a successful pharmaceutical business. For these gifts, he is truly grateful. It is from this place of gratitude that Maurice shares his gifts of faith, character, time, and compassion with the Servants of Mary.

Sr. Mary Gehringer, Provincial, presented an apothecary jar filled with hand written messages of gratitude to Maurice, Joe and Rich Steier, the men of Steier Pharmacy, for their compassionate care.

Guests enjoyed Hors D’oeuvers and beverages while bidding on over 40 silent auction items. Hot items on this year’s auction included season tickets to Creighton and UNO athletic events, a Husker inspired quilt and a week at Okoboji! We hope you’ll be able to join us next September as we once again Celebrate Partnership!

We are pleased to welcome to our family Mr. Tom Marasco as our new Director of Development. A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Tom brings with him experience in business administration. His expertise in strategic planning, communication skills and ability to plan and execute fundraising events will prove most helpful as he takes our development program to the next phase. He will be implementing the strategic plans that were prepared by Maria Farrell and our development consultants.

We know you’ll enjoy getting to know Tom. He is looking forward to meeting all of you and sharing the vision, mission and goals of the Servants of Mary.

Tom Marasco will begin his duties as Director of Development with us on October 21, 2013.
The Servants of Mary are very fortunate to have their cemetery located on the grounds of the Motherhouse. Over the years, weather has taken its toll on the fence and the lone white bench that sits on the concrete slab.

The pictures show the rusting of the posts and the chain link. There are two places where the poles are no longer connected to each other, the chain link has been disconnected from the posts and rolled back, there is one lone tree on the far side of the cemetery offering no shade for the Sister and the little bench has been repainted, but the paint continues to chip off.

Repairs are needed to make this a more welcoming place for the Sisters, family and friends to spend quiet time with their loved ones. It is our hope to:

- Replace the rusted fence with black fencing to match the entrance gates
- Electrostatic paint the black gates and remove the rust
- Add two shade trees near the bench
- Purchase an all-weather bench that would match those in the Healing Garden
- Have two all-weather floral arrangements made to be placed on either side of the monument of Our Lady of Sorrows

Estimated cost of the project is $6,500. To date we have raised $1,515.00. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Maria Farrell at 402.951.3060 or osmdev@osms.org.
On September 25, 2013, The Servants of Mary began the process of installing a new Donor and Memorial wall. The mural depicts our Healing Garden and will feature opaque glass ovals with the names of donors etched in them. (See rendering above) Below is actual mural installed near the chapel. For more information on giving circles and memorials, please contact the development office at osmdev@osms.org or at 402.951.3060.
Servants of Mary Benefactors

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations received from April 1, 2013 through July 31, 2013

**Platinum Level**
$10,000 and greater
Patricia Mitchell

**Gold Level**
$9,999.99-$1000
Greg and Heidi Heirman
Gregory Heirman
Bonnie J. Hickey
Michael Hickman
Beverly Job
Marion Konieczny Estate
Jim Meyers
Margaret Misksch
Northwest Catholic Counseling Center
Omaha Community Foundation
Omaha Community Playhouse
Carol and Andy Spanburgh
St. Wenceslaus School

**Silver Level**
$999.99-$250
Mary Ament-Rupp
Anonymous
Janet Barnes
Evelyn Bernica
Rita Bianchi
Dennis and Katie Bloom
Edward and Theresa Burns
Vivian Damratowski
Mary Margaret Dutcher
Susan Eckel
Ginny Feeney
John F. Fennell
John and Pat Gedbaw
Margaret Gound
Dr. R. Michael and Kathlyn Gross
Pat Henry
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George B. Pearson, Jr.
Allan and Estelle J. Perry
Melody Randolph
Jerry and Barbara Sawatzki
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Schmidt
Cori Tranisi
Rita Treers
University of St. Thomas
Curt and Molly Witzenburg
Ted Wuebben
Terry and Mary Zach

**Bronze Level**
$249.99-$1.00
Karen Brouillette
Joanne Bruckner
Jan Bucher
Bernie Buhliger
Mary Bukowski
Marilyn Burbach
Edward M. Burns
Jim and Mary Jo Burns
Albert and Dolores Busacca
Larry Butkus
Angeline Caieto
Josephine Caieto
George and Marge Calomeni

**Donation Designations of All Gifts**
Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Annual Appeal/Tax Letter: 23%
- Events: 10%
- Estate: 13%
- Greatest Need: 23%
- Honorable: 5%
- Memorials: 7%
- Perpetual: 2%
- Restricted: 1%
- Retirement: 15%
- Service Center: 2%

Frank and Theresa Dawahare
Charlene De Cou
Joan DeCleene
Karen DeTavern
Barbara DePue
Donna Deebey
Joe Deeby
Maureen Delich
Don C. Dendiger
Michael and Peggy Denomme
Velma Deruchia
Dennis and Rita Dervin
William Desmet
Ronald and Anne Dest
Dr. Harold and Terry Dibelka
Steve and Joann Dixon
Denis and Arlys Dodd
Sr. Betty Donoghue
Jo Donovan
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Patricia Duck
Richard and Mary Ann Dunning
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Elizabeth Ehlers
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Deborah Fortina
Phil and Sue Franco
Rev. Fr. Thomas Fransiscus
Peter and Lillian Frisko
Fr. Andrew Fuller, OSB
Bob and Mary Beth Furns
Alice Galvin
Jose and Linda Garcia
John and Lois Garvey
Bob Gates
During the commissioning ceremony at Marian, Sisters washed the hands of the Marian Faculty.
We gratefully acknowledge the following remembrances received from April 1, 2013 through July 31, 2013

Mr. and Mrs. George Allen
Kevin and Ann Amick
Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Amick
Kevin and Ann Amick
Carol Anderson
Janet Barnes
Anton Andrulis
Elaine Andrulis
Lawrence Barcomb
Dawn McDonagh
Sr. Rose Bernadette, IHM
Fern Walsh
Adolph Bieniek
Greg and Heidi Heirman
Jean Black
Peg Gehringer and Family
JoAnn Bowlin
Ann Price

Thomas Bray
Sr. Margaret Buchta, OSM

Msgr. Charles Brodersen
Sr. Margaret Buchta, OSM
Marilyn Burbach
Richard and Mary Ann Clemens
Sr. Iris Deprez, OSM
Sr. Mary Stephen Durant, OSM
Faye Ford
Joyce Gubbels
Pete and Margaret Jeffrey
Theresa Kohane
Sr. Roselma Legault, OSM
Sr. Carol Lorenz, OSM
Thomas and Kathleen Lowndes
Sr. Terese Lux, OSM
Julie Masters

Lou and Ruth Mazzaro
Edward and Rosalie Regan
Sr. Jackie Ryan, OSM
Betty Shrier
Sr. Jackie Thorn, OSM
Robert and Ann Townley
Eleanor Wingender
Julie Young
Della Brodersen
Sr. Roselma Legault, OSM
Bonnie Ware
Sarah Brown
Sr. Iris Deprez, OSM

Dolores Buhlinger
Bernie Buhlinger
Gerald Burbach
Sr. Carolyn Foley, OSM
Matthew Burns
Janet Barnes

Sr. Brigitta Burns, OSM
Edward M. Burns
Bill and Cindy Savage
Sr. Patricia Burns, OSM
Edward M. Burns
Bill and Cindy Savage
Matthew Burns
Janet Barnes
Edward Burzycz
M Mary Lou Poniers
J. Caito
Josephine Caito
Angeline Caito

Marie Case
Sr. Margaret Buchta, OSM
Sr. Peggy Miller, OSM

Mrs. Elizabeth Chivelo
John and Edna Neil

In Memory Of

During the Commissioning ceremony at Marian, the Servants of Mary blessed the Marian Faculty.

Thomas and Michele Smith
Remo and Angelina Spalvieri
Mary Jean Speck
Charles Spero

Mary Thornton
Linda Tobin
Kathy Tocco
Rita Tomes
Michael and Susan Toohey

Donald C. Rau
Della Ray
Carol Rayer
Kathy Reardon
Ed Regan
James and Jeri Regan
James and Mary Regan
Joseph and Carol Reimann
Bernice Renken
Gilbert and Phyllis Reppenhagen
Mary Kay Rhodes
Sr. Jean Marian Rilinger
Judy Rine
Janice Rivard
Maurice Roche
Rose and Allen Roeder
David and Stephanie Rohrer
Don and Inez Romig
Paul Ross
Bob and Mary Beth Rossiter
Sandra Rovas
Debort and Marge Rupp
Ed and Elaine Russell
Candice Ryckaert
Jean Rzepecki
Vincent and Ann Marie Salerno
Julie Samson
Charlie Saulino
Patricia A. Savoy
Barry and Sue Scheinost
John Schiefelbein
Tom and Helen Schmansk
David and Lisa Schmidt
Robert and Merilla Schmidt
Marlene Schneider
Condon and LaRhea Schneel
Jack Schram
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Donna F. Schroeder
Jeanne Schuler
Rev. Tom and Kathy Schulte
Greg and Mary Lynn Schwietz
Elsie Scruggs
Dorothy Scull
Norma Secours
James L. Seger
Norbert and Marcella Seitz
Frank and Mary Ann Semelsberger
Servants of Mary Provincial Council
Aubrey and Diane Short
Betty Shrier
Faith Simsick
Roy and Ruth Singleton
Kathi Siry
Sisters of Mercy
Crystal Slaughter
Pamela Sloan
Betty D. Smith
Elaine Smith
Helen W. Smith
St. Pius X/St. Leo School
Rev. Mr. Jim and Mary Ann Staroski
Rev. Mr. Jerry Steenson
Stephen and Sandra Stefanski
Mariann Stemplewski
Geri Stratman
Paul and Peggy Strawhecker
Richard and Shirley Suminski
William Summers and Robin Kline
Peg Swanson
Walter and Catherine Szpunar
Sadie Tackla
Carl and Margaret Teplitzky
Ann Thiel
John and Sue Thomas

Bob and Nancy Townley
Frank Turner
James F. Turnovsky
Delores Twedt
Jody Van Osdel
Carolyn Vandenheede
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Ron and Rosie Volkmer
William F. Vollmers
Fern Walsh
Cinda Warburton
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Maureen Washatka
Earl and Patricia Waters
Tom and Julie Weathers
James and Carol Weiss
Raymond and Theresa Wensel
Sue Wertzberger
Mary J. Weseloh
Sr. Jacque Wetherolt, CSJ
Sharon Wheeler
Terrence White
Annie Whitsell
Mark and Kathleen Wiener
Ken Willett and Debby Lipson
David and Julie Williams
James and Donna Williams
Marilee Williams
Mike and Louise Wilmes
Eleanor Wingender
Mary Ann Wingert
John and Maria Teresa Gaston Witchger
Pat and Fred Wood
Bernadine Worth
Marvin and Mildred Wycoff
Anna Yates
Julie Young
Maurice and Pat Zach
Paul and Phyllis Zimmerman
Rudolf and Ingeborg Zoller
September 25th, marked the arrival of ten members of our international community. Known as the Enlarged General Council, the sisters came together to work on their governance structure.

After day-long meetings the Council found some time to go shopping and even enjoy some ice cream from Cold Stone Creamery. While here, they also had the opportunity to visit Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, and the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge.
The mission of the Servants of Mary is to manifest God’s Compassionate presence in the spirit of Mary. We respond to the words of Jesus: “Be compassionate as your God is compassionate.” We do so by following the example of Jesus, under the guidance of Mary.

Our commitment to compassion calls us to:
- Witness Gospel values
- Center our lives in love of God and neighbor through prayer, community, and service
- Share with others healing and hope
- Be in right-relationship with all creation
- Welcome others in a spirit of hospitality
- Live joyfully our charism of compassionate presence

Visit us on our web site!
http://osms.org

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