Let’s Celebrate

This year the Servants of Mary are pleased to celebrate the ongoing commitment of eight women to our charism and mission. They will celebrate 25 years as Servite Associates. Throughout the year celebrations will span the United States with associates in Massena, NY, Roseville, MI, Omaha, NE, Modale, IA and Portland, OR.

Continues on page 4
Sr. Beverly Pettke with Maureen Bausch of Scotland.

Nancy currently is an active member of her parish, St. Margaret Mary Backhus with Sr. Donna Marie McGargill. Nancy not only lived at the Motherhouse, but also assisted as a nurse with aging and sick sisters and joined the Motherhouse Community for prayer and meals. Maureen continues to work as a Chaplain at CHI Health St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, where she has served 25 years.

Loene is well known in her small community for her call to be a compassionate presence in her workplace, in corporate America. After leaving this work, Mary dealt with some health issues that brought her to her current ministry of quilting. Originally beginning to teach herself in order to finish some of her grandmother’s quilts, Mary has now completed and distributed 55 of quilts for family, friends and people in need. After total community meeting, Mary had sisters and associates sign squares and made a community quilt that can be seen in the Motherhouse Community room.

Maureen Bausch – Maureen came to know the Servites through grade school at Christ the King in Omaha, NE. In 1990 Maureen began to transition from Nursing to serving as a Hospital Chaplain. Maureen who continues to live in Holland, NE just outside of Lincoln found a chaplaincy program in Omaha and made a request to live at our motherhouse during her program over a period of three years. Maureen not only lived at the Motherhouse, but also assisted as a nurse with aging and sick sisters and joined the Motherhouse Community for prayer and meals. Maureen still holds this time in her life very sacred and instrumental in who she is today. Maureen continues to work as a Chaplain at CHI Health St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, where she has served 25 years.

Mary Backhus – Mary, lifetime Nebraskan and devoted Husker fan, came to know the Servants of Mary through retreat experiences in the 1974. When first an associate Mary saw in her career plan to be a compassionate presence in her workplace, in corporate America. After leaving this work, Mary dealt with some health issues that brought her to her current ministry of quilting. Originally beginning to teach herself in order to finish some of her grandmother’s quilts, Mary has now completed and distributed 55 of quilts for family, friends and people in need. After total community meeting, Mary had sisters and associates sign squares and made a community quilt that can be seen in the Motherhouse Community room.

Mary is also honored to provide assistance to aging family members. She sees this as a call, and a great opportunity to share the Servants of Mary with whomever she comes into contact with.

Elsie Scruggs with fellow Associate Ell Weinrich. Elsie Scruggs – Elsie has known the Servants of Mary since 1934. Pianist and organist thanks to Sr. Rosalie Helinsky. Elsie has shared her gifts as an associate through ministering to her many children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and her parish in a variety of ways. For several years she walked with others who have become associates.

After the loss of her lifetime partner and husband in 2011, Elsie, experiencing great grief began a new ministry. She now works with bereavement ministry in her parish, helping others with significant losses in their lives. Elsie feels she was born Servite or at least it was infused in her heart at a very early age.

Nancy Coman - Nancy graduated from Servite High School in Detroit, MI and states that she has always had a strong relationship with the Servants of Mary. In 1990 Nancy asked the local sisters to have her come to know the Servites through grade school at Christ the King in Omaha, NE. In 1990 Maureen began to transition from Nursing to serving as a Hospital Chaplain. Maureen who continues to live in Holland, NE just outside of Lincoln found a chaplaincy program in Omaha and made a request to live at our motherhouse during her program over a period of three years. Maureen not only lived at the Motherhouse, but also assisted as a nurse with aging and sick sisters and joined the Motherhouse Community for prayer and meals. Maureen still holds this time in her life very sacred and instrumental in who she is today. Maureen continues to work as a Chaplain at CHI Health St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, where she has served 25 years.

Loene Herman with Ginny Silvestri and Joyce Rupp.

Mary Backhus with Sr. Donna Marie McGargill.

Mary Backhus – Mary, lifetime Nebraskan and devoted Husker fan, came to know the Servants of Mary through retreat experiences in 1974. When first an associate Mary saw in her career plan to be a compassionate presence in her workplace, in corporate America. After leaving this work, Mary dealt with some health issues that brought her to her current ministry of quilting. Originally beginning to teach herself in order to finish some of her grandmother’s quilts, Mary has now completed and distributed 55 of quilts for family, especially as lector and cantor. She has also served as a Spiritual Director.

Recently Loene retired from working in our Associate Membership Office where she helped with planning and support of associates. Loene feels blessed that she has had the opportunity to personally meet all the associates and sisters through her work in the Community. Much like our sisters, retirement is filled with interactions and activities to continue her ministry of compassionate presence.

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Loene Herman – Since 1991 Loene has shared her sense of compassion in a multitude of ways. First as mother and wife and then as a Manager at Woodmen of the World where she later instructed entered into the lives of her employees, offering them encouragement, support and prayer. Loene says that she never was in a position to offer to pray for employees, but because they knew her, her values and the way she lived her life, employees would approach her and share their concerns and ask for her prayer support.

Carol Gosney – Carol finds ways to keep giving and giving. Carol taught for many years with our sisters at Marian High School, while raising her family. Carol is an enthusiastic woman with a desire to share and connect. In the past year Carol has moved from her family home and is now in residence at New Cassel in Omaha, NE. Carol is not one to simply sit in her apartment absorbed in her own life, but can be found out in the halls and community areas connecting with many other residents that do not have the family support that she so appreciates. One of Carol’s ministries is to play the piano for the joy of all who live at New Cassel. The Servants of Mary are also blessed to have one of her daughters as an associate in Omaha.

Kathy Conry – formerly Sr. M. Andrew, continues to have close ties to the community. As an associate, Kathy has ministered as schoolteacher, wife and mother. After 35 years of teaching Kathy retired from St. James/Elizabeth Seton School (an Omaha grade school started by the Servants of Mary). Recently, due to health issues, Kathy’s husband had to transition to nursing care. Kathy has found her own niche to share compassion and support. What first began as caring for husband has now become a ministry of support for residents, families and employees of the nursing home. Witnessing that even when we feel limited in what you can do, there are still opportunities to be of service and to witness to the compassionate presence of Mary.

Jan Saintmichael – Jan came to know the Servants of Mary as a member of The Grotto worshiping community (a Servite sponsored shrine devoted to Mary in Portland, OR). Like many, Jan first felt unworthy of being an associate and was unsure of how her life would reflect responding to this call. As Jan journeyed through the formation process she saw that in many ways associate membership affirmed what was already happening in her life. At the time Jan worked at a metal shop and it was a challenge to see how she could make a difference. She ministered to her fellow employees through acts of kindness, listening and support. During that time she was able to provide housing for a refugee from Cuba that she met in the workplace. Jan later transitioned to different work, but continued to intentionally be a presence of concern and support to those she worked. In her retirement she faces a number of health issues. However, she continues to extend her gifts as the “acting grandmother” of the children of the refugee she took in almost 20 years ago.
The Servite Sisters in Portland

By Lisa Sheridan, OSM, Director of the Associate Membership

In the 1980s, with a sparse staff of two part-time, two full-time counselors, a part-time business administrator and a budget that spelled disaster, the counseling center now employs a full time Executive Director, 6 counselors, 4 administrative staff, 2 intern counselors and 2 Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners.

In the early years the Counseling Center was best described at a "Mom and Pop operation." It was built on the widow’s mite – clients who respected and appreciated the services they received and thanked the center through their small donations over the years. As in any good Mom and Pop Organization, one gets the family involved. To date, along with Srs. Barbara and Sarah, Srs. Margaret Stratman, Valeria Lewandowski and Lisa Sheridan have ministered at the Center.

Throughout the years the Sisters and the Center have been blessed with Associate Membership of the Servants of Mary. All ten Portland associates have been involved in the mission of the Center. Today, Associates Cindy Campbell, Barbara Katz, Julie Rowland, Debbie Willett and Jan St. Michael (along with the families), serve as Board Members, Committee Members, Fundraisers and are involved in the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program. The Associates identify two important elements that explain their work with the Center. The first is a phrase used by Sisters and Associates, "We believe in who we are and what we do together." The second is a deep desire to continue the work of the Servants of Mary in Oregon.

The Sisters, while continuing as the Member Corporation of The Northwest Catholic Counseling Center, have handed over the daily operations of the Center to an Executive Director and Board of Directors. What are Srs. Barbara and Sarah doing now? Thirty years later, they do the work they set out to do – to be the compassionate presence of our Lord through counseling a diverse clientele that receive professional services and support regardless of faith or finances.

On April 30, 2016 the Counseling Center will host a celebration honoring 30 years of service in the Portland area. This celebration and fundraiser will be the foundation for the next 30 years.

We congratulate the Sisters and Associates for their untiring work in creating a place of healing and hope for all those in need.
By Margaret Stratman, OSM, Director of the Servite Center of Compassion

Our Motherhouse was being out and share these gifts. The Sisters had extensive training with painful life situations. Many people were expressing a yearning for deeper spirituality and a need for support and comfort. The Servite history for dreaming and hope. A Committee, of 20 Sisters and Associates, began meeting to dream about creating such a center. Their vision swirled around creating a center grounded in "compassionate engagement with all of life". Gradually the Center took on a name and a mission: The Servite Center of Compassion!

This year 2016 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Servite Center. We will celebrate this milestone the evening of June 14 with a special event. Please mark your calendar and join us to celebrate a dream come true, the Servite Center of Compassion!

By Maria Farrell, Director of GriefWork: A National Servite Ministry of Compassion

A Resolution of Hope

Resolution. A word we so often associate with the beginning of a new year. A word that for many of us represents a chance to change something in our lives for the better. But if you are grieving a loss, resolution can take on a new meaning.

After looking up the word resolution in several dictionaries, I found that I particularly liked the following definitions because they call upon us to look inside of ourselves to make a plan as opposed to finding a solution.

Dictionary.com defines resolution as the act of resolving or determining upon an action, course of action, method, procedure, etc. Yourdictionary.com defines resolution as a plan for something to be done.

How do you cope with the start of New Year that won’t include your loved one? What course of action do you want and/or need to put in place to help you move through your grief? Perhaps your course of action is to look for hope. Here are three resolutions to help get you started:

1. Think of a word that describes how you are feeling at the beginning, middle and end of each day and write them down. Did the word change throughout the day? Did the word take on a more hope-filled focus as time passed? Go back and reread the words you chose. Would you choose the same words today as you did a month ago? By identifying your feelings you are able to express them, work through them and see how far you’ve come in your grief journey.

2. Acknowledge one nice thing that happens each day. This is a course of action that can take some practice when you are experiencing feelings of loss, loneliness and sadness. When you look for something nice or beautiful in your day, you begin to experience feelings of gratitude and hopeful for what tomorrow will bring. Imagine the ray of sunshine that finally peaks through the clouds that have been lingering for days. Even bitterly cold days don’t feel so awful when the sun is shining. Look for those rays of sunlight in your life.

3. Think about the life you want to live now. Take a moment to reflect on who and what is important to you. What excites you? What would you like to spend your time doing? What do you value in life? How can you incorporate your values and beliefs into your daily life?

A love/hate relationship is often associated with New Year’s resolutions. Life is different after a loss. Resolve, plan, and take action to find hope in the New Year. When it’s difficult, may the love and the memories of your loved one be your motivation.
Cemetery Update
By Tom Marasco, Director of Development

The past few months, our cemetery project has really taken shape. Our new gate and walk way are everything we hoped for. The walkway from the new entrance is a direct line from the statue of Jesus in the Healing Garden, to the statue of Mary in the cemetery. Many steps have taken place since the last written update. The new entry wall, a new sidewalk on the outside, a new chain link fence around the border, new iron fencing between the new piers, new retaining wall lining the walk way, new sod and many new trees and plantings. I would like to thank Dan Mulhall for being our contractor for the landscaping and for organizing for being our contractor for the new piers, new retaining wall border, new iron fencing between a new chain link fence around the steps have taken place since the top of the new wall and piers, will be delivered by mid January and will be installed when we have a week or so of moderate weather. The Sisters have been very excited to watch the entire process, from planning and concept drawings, to breaking ground and construction. They took many walks out to the cemetery to watch the changes taking place firsthand. Our cemetery is now a more reverent, peaceful and beautiful part of our campus. We invite anyone who would like time for peaceful reflection to come and visit the cemetery and Healing Garden.

There are still opportunities to make honorary and memorial donations to the cemetery renovation project. All of the benches, lights along the path, many of the trees and plants, and the gravestones crosses are some examples of items that can be an honorary or memorial donation. For further information, please contact me at osmdev@osms.org or 402-951-3060.
Any person who knew Eileen well knew of her great fondness for lighthouses. She had lighthouse pictures, statues, and embroidered sweatshirts all depicting various types of them. Marcia and I were joking and said that perhaps we should have taken Eileen's handmade lighthouse covered bedspread and used it for her pall. We thought better of that, however!

All the while I was preparing these words I kept humming Amy Grant's song, "Thy Word." The chorus says, "Thy Word is a lamp and a light unto my path." I believe that this was how Eileen felt about Gospel living. The call of Jesus was indeed a light for the way Eileen led her life. Besides being known for her love of lighthouses, Eileen was well known for her involvement with and advocacy for the poor. She was led by the light of the Word and became a beacon of light for those whom she served.

Eileen Lantzy was born on May 2, 1943, the oldest of 10 children of Darrell and Violet McCoy Lantzy. Eileen grew up in Detroit, MI and attended Detroit High School. After graduating from high school she entered the Servants of Mary in September of 1961. Her first profession was on August 15, 1968. Like Mary Stella, her final profession was on August 15, 1968. Like Mary Stella, she was given the name Sr. Mary Stilla. Her final profession was on August 15, 1968. Like Mary Stella, she was given the name Sr. Mary Stilla. Her final profession was on August 15, 1968. Like Mary Stella, she was given the name Sr. Mary Stilla. Her final profession was on August 15, 1968. Like Mary Stella, she was given the name Sr. Mary Stilla. Her final profession was on August 15, 1968. Like Mary Stella, she was given the name Sr. Mary Stilla.

My career, if you'd call it that... consisted in staff work at Siena House, beginning, organizing and running Vincent House, and directing MICAH House in Council Bluffs. [I was a] Social worker at Douglas County Mental Health with the chronically mentally ill, worked at Clarkson Hospital as a Medical Social Worker and finally worked with Project Hope whose mission was sometimes a challenge for Eileen. Her naturally enthusiastic manner and warmth allowed her to connect with everyone she met.

Iliana's town was so high in the beautiful mountains that her Iowa Western classmates playfully said it's the best place to die because it's the closest to heaven. Because Eileen understood the beauty of both the people and the place, part of her heart would always remain there.

Eileen's work with the poor took her back to her hometown of Detroit in 2002. In her years there, Eileen worked with the Bridging Communities program at Holy Redeemer Elementary School as a student family services coordinator, and she also served as the manager of a soup kitchen and food pantry at All Saints Parish.

In 2009 she became the Executive Director of the Loaves and Fishes - Southwest, a nonprofit collaborative which assisted the residents of Southwest Detroit. This program served food pantries in three parishes by helping them obtain the resources needed to stock their shelves.

In 2011, Eileen accepted the St. Vincent de Paul Award on behalf of Loaves and Fishes. The program was honored because of her foresight and because of the needs the program fulfilled in the community it served.

It was in September of 2010 that Eileen suffered the first brain bleed and a residual consequence of left neglect. She spent the next year in rehabilitation in Detroit and here at the Motherhouse. We all know how frustrating this was for Eileen. She desperately wanted to get back to the work she loved in Detroit and wanted to ignore the limitations that were hers as a result of the bleed. Her struggle over the next years was to accept her limitations and become one of the people who had to have great dependence on others and the will of God in her life. She spent a year in Massena working in the school library. She then moved back to Detroit and faced the realization that she could only volunteer at the food pantry program because her cognitive and physical abilities wouldn't allow her full time participation. Eileen also knew that the chance of another brain occurrence was highly likely and she had to deal with the reality of it all. Eileen remained as upbeat as possible, but shared her frustrations as she grew in the reality of what was to be her new lifestyle. She remained a beacon for those with whom she lived and served, becoming more and more aware of how to accept what God had in mind for her.

Why is St. Peregrine called the “Cancer Saint”?

By Linda Hess, OSM Director of St. Peregrine Ministry

Peregrine was born in Forli, Italy in 1265. He suffered from a cancer-like growth on his leg and amputation was ordered. In his pain and suffering, Peregrine turned to prayer. On the night before the scheduled operation, he dreamed that Jesus reached down from the cross and touched the wound. When Peregrine awoke, his leg had been healed.

The lesson of Peregrine's life is not that God worked a miracle and healed his leg, but that a faithful, trusting servant placed himself unconditionally in God's care. Peregrine's trust in God is a model for us in dealing with the passion, sickness and crosses in our lives. The Church has designated Peregrine Laziosi as patron of those suffering from cancer and other life-threatening diseases.
We gratefully acknowledge the following donations received from September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015:

**Gold Level**
$1,000 - $999.99

- Dorothy Alvine
- Paul & Patricia Briard
- Patrick & Judy Dunn
- Michael & Penelope Delehaut
- Donald Fitzgerald
- Tom & Joan Hepp
- Gregory Heiman
- Bill & Mary Katherine Helget
- Gus & Sue Hille
- Kevin & Pat Langel
- Marian High School
- Jim Meyers
- Juliet Nguyen
- Omaha Community Foundation
- Donald & Betty Paquette
- Regina Persinger Trust
- Phyllis Pardom
- Financial Advisers
- Cesar & Sharon Rastelli
- Steve & Dr. Susan Scholer
- Jane Tanner
- Jim & Marjorie Timmerman
- Carol & Ardyll Spanbrough
- Jane Young

**Silver Level**
$250 - $999.99

- Steve & Dr. Susan Scholer
- Regina Persinger Trust
- Phyllis Pardom
- Financial Advisers
- Cesar & Sharon Rastelli
- Steve & Dr. Susan Scholer
- Jane Tanner
- Jim & Marjorie Timmerman
- Carol & Ardyll Spanbrough
- Jane Young

**Bronze Level**
$1 - $249.99

- The Students of Marian High School present the Servants of Mary, a very large contribution to help the Services in the Congregation.

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**On January 9 the Servants of Mary met to talk about the upcoming Assembly.**

- John & Lois Garvey
- Mary & Lynn Gass
- Katie Geoghegan
- Barbara Gehring
- Michelle Gehring
- Rosalie George
- Carlo & Elaine Giacon
- Elizabeth Giesler
- Patrick & Christine Crouch
- área & Rachel Goerz
- Wendy & Susan Gondorf
- Margaret Gross
- Mary Jane Gravas
- Rosie Gagliano
- Patrizia Geder
- Tanya & Jeff Smith
- Holy Name Choir
- Rev. Arthur La Baff
- Joseph & Catherine LaBonty
- Frank & Caroli
- Paul & Rosalie Huetteman
- JoAnn & Rick Hecker
- Marlene Heider
- Andrea Lang
- Gerald & Alice Langenfeld

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**Reinhard & Geraldyn Hurt**
- David Jaco
- Frae Caroli
- insler
- Douglas & Carol Jager
- Angela Jankowski
- Helen Jankowski
- Austin & Patricia Jensen
- Richard & Pamela Jepson
- Carol Jepson
- Beverly Job
- George & Margaret Johnson
- Maureen Johnson
- Michaela E. Johnson
- Mary Jones
- Miriam Joseph
- Ray Joyce
- Dr. William & Kathryn Jurgensen
- Charles & Ellen Kaulp
- Mary Kalama
- Bob Potter
- Chris & Marsha Kalkowski
- Gene & Jo Kasselmeier
- Barbara Katz
- Anne Keegan
- Brian Kelly
- Claire Kenkel
- Mike & Nancy Kennedy
- Michael & Marcia Kennelly
- John & Patricia Key
- Susan Kinnen
- Phil & Mitzi Kim
- John Kizer
- Maureen Kizer
- Marilyn & Dolores Klein
- Sharon Llewellyn
- Howard & Carolyne Kmak
- Betty Knapp
- Susan Krier
- Knights of Columbus
- Jean Cimpi Knox
- Marilyn Knox
- Ray Loyko
- Jeff & Diana Ludwig
- Sophie & Francis Kock
- Theresa Kohnak
- Joanne Koss
- Daniel Kopfle
- Mary Kopocis
- Jack & Stephanie Koraleski
- Richard Kozak
- John & Marrie Kowick
- John J. Krall
- Mary Ann Kresl
- Anna Kreider
- Mary Krinzel
- Dolores Krupal
- Susan Lauber
- Mike & Kath Leitz
- Rev. Mr. Stan & Pat Kurtz
- Georgene Kynast
- Erle. Arthur La Baff
- Joseph & Catherine LaBonty
- Frank & Caroli
- Paul & Rosalie Huetteman
- JoAnn & Rick Hecker
- Marlene Heider
- Andrea Lang
- Gerald & Alice Langenfeld
In Memory Of

We gratefully acknowledge the following remembrances received from September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
Social Media Corner
By Tom Marasco, Director of Development

We Want Your “Likes” and “Shares”!

Please check our social media sites regularly for updates, photos and general information on what the Sisters are involved in currently. Our website, facebook and twitter pages are updated regularly with photos of the Sisters and other happenings around the Motherhouse.

Our social media sites continue to gain in popularity each quarter. Our numbers are up on both Facebook and Twitter. We are now up to 665 followers on our Facebook page – an increase of 56 followers in the last quarter! Like our page and invite others you think would enjoy it, and help us get to our next goal of 700 followers. We are at 126 followers on Twitter – an increase of 29 followers. We are hoping to reach 150 by the end of March. Please help us spread the word by liking our pages and sharing our posts with your own social networks. With your help, the Sisters can connect with more friends and spread the word about our ministries.

If you are a graduate of a Catholic school in the Detroit, MI area, I invite you to check out www.bishopgallagher.org and the FaceBook group “I Went to Catholic School in Metro Detroit” (search for this group from your FaceBook page). There is a lot of history and great interaction from people you may know.

Facebook – www.facebook.com/servites1
www.facebook.com/servitecenter

Twitter – www.twitter.com/servantsofmary1

Blog – www.servantsofmaryblog.wordpress.com

Pinterest-- www.pinterest.com/servantsofmary

YouTube – www.youtube.com/theservantsofmary

We invite you to visit all of our sites and to follow, share, tweet, watch, pin and scan on your own social media sites in order to help spread the word about the Servants of Mary.