Discover!

Servants of Mary

Volume 8 Issue 3
February 2014

Inside this issue:

GriefWork: Preparing your Burial Arrangements
Celebrating Jubilees
Cemetery Project Update
Remembering Sr. Celeste
Social Justice
Dear Friends,

In light of the words of Pope Francis mentioned above, we want to share with you some of the many outreach activities in which our Sisters and Associates are involved. The Pope reminds us that Jesus got involved with people and he encouraged his disciples to do the same. He goes on to states that:

“An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others…An evangelizing community is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be.” (#24)

We are pleased that our Sisters and Associates can be part of so many varied ministries. From working with the homeless shelter in Tucson, working in food pantries, to the Heartline program in Detroit that offers substance abuse treatment services along with being a halfway house for women, to providing educational information regarding the world wide issue of human trafficking, we reach out to be the servant leaders that Jesus calls us to be. We strive to do this in light of our charism of being a compassionate presence to those in need.

We are so very grateful that you partner with us in these outreach programs, either by working side by side with us, financially supporting our work, or praying for the success of our endeavors. We cannot do this alone. Thank you for your belief in and support for the work we do.

God bless you all,

Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM
Provincial
Like so many other major decisions we make in our lives, looking ahead and developing a sound financial plan lays the groundwork for successful completion. It’s hard to imagine not budgeting ahead of time for a wedding. You look at different venues, meal and music options, and you consult your budget to see if the expenses are in line. If not, you make adjustments. The same holds true when planning for retirement. When investing for retirement, you look at long term goals, where to invest your money, and the rate of return on the investment. However, many times we neglect to plan for burial arrangements.

For some this is a very difficult discussion and the thought of making such arrangements ahead of time seems somewhat off-putting. If you look at this as a financial matter, it may make it easier to plan ahead and provide comfort to your family.

For your consideration should you choose to pre-plan your burial arrangements:

1. All family members can be a part of the decision making process during a time of calm. Decisions will be made more rationally, and will lessen or eliminate the amount of guessing or disagreeing about what you really want.

2. As in all other aspects of life, the cost of cemetery and funeral arrangements continues to increase. By making arrangements ahead of time, your costs will be frozen at today’s prices, which will save money over time.

3. Making arrangements ahead of time is a very compassionate gift to give your family. By planning ahead, you reduce the number of decisions they will have to make at the time of death.

4. You may have purchased life insurance with the expectation that some of the death benefit will help defray or completely cover the funeral and cemetery costs. Should you choose to make arrangements earlier, the cost will not be as great, thereby reducing the amount of insurance benefit to pay for funeral expenses. This allows more of the insurance benefit to go to family.

5. Pre-planning allows for budgeted payments over a set amount of time. Without pre-planning, many families are faced with paying for services with cash. Sometimes, these expenses are incurred when the family can least afford it, causing the family to withdraw money from savings or incur credit card debt.

6. You may want to be buried near other family members or in a location you find peaceful and attractive. With pre-planning you will be able to choose your location.

While considering our own mortality may be uncomfortable, it is a part of life that we all must face. Making the difficult decisions now, will relieve family members from having to make complicated decisions during a period of sorrow and stress.
As the “new guy on the block”, I can tell you that I have had a very interesting and very busy first few months as Director of Development. I continue to learn from my staff and from the Sisters on what makes this a special group of women. This is a group that is truly dedicated to their mission of providing “compassionate presence in the spirit of Mary”. Our puzzle builders are busy in their daily lives finding pieces to complete the puzzle and to continue “Putting the Pieces of Our Mission Into Place.”

2014 is shaping up to be an exciting year. We are putting plans in place for our three major events for the year as well as plans to complete our cemetery renovation project. Our first event will be our annual Garden Gala in June and held in Omaha. We are planning an outdoor concert for this year’s Garden Gala! Please watch the web and social media for details to come. We will also be hosting our annual celebration event in Omaha, which will be held in September. Our third event, we are pleased to announce, will be a return trip to Detroit in the fall to celebrate with our Sisters and benefactors in that region!

One of our bigger plans for 2014 is to develop a new Servants of Mary Legacy Society. We are working with a consultant and reaching out to other organizations who have established Legacy Societies so that we can develop our plan. We want our benefactors, who have been so supportive over the years, to have the opportunity to be recognized for including us in their final plans and for making a final gift to the Servants of Mary. A legacy gift will allow us to continue our tradition of providing compassionate presence and service to those in need. As our plan is developed, we will answer questions about involvement in the Legacy Society. If you have questions about leaving a legacy gift to the Servants of Mary, please contact the Development Office at 402-951-3060 or osmdev@osms.org.

As I close, I would like to say thank you to a few people. Thank you to Linda Hubbard - Development Assistant, Josh Langel - Marketing & Communications Coordinator and Maria Farrell - Director of GriefWork for making my first few months an easy transition. They have accepted me from my first day as part of the team and have welcomed me and made my transition a much easier one. They are dedicated to the Sisters and work hard with me so that we can be successful for the Sisters. We share this common goal and work together to reach and surpass that goal.

I would also like to thank all of you for your continued prayers and generous support. Your commitment to the Sisters is evident to us every day. On a daily basis we receive so many blessings in many forms from you, our benefactors. From Thanksgiving and Christmas cards, to hand written cards offering prayers for the Sisters, and of course your financial gifts – every day we are reminded of the wonderful people who support our mission and continue to make our work possible.

Social Media Corner
By: Tom Marasco, Director of Development

You may have noticed an increase in our use of social media to reach our friends, families and benefactors. Over the past couple of months, we have taken steps to increase our presence on social media and to provide outlets for you to follow and keep tabs on the Sisters. Through sites, blogs and campaigns, we have reached many new followers and have also received donations electronically.

Our most popular social media sites are:
- Facebook – www.facebook.com/servites1
- Twitter – www.twitter.com/servantsofmary1
- Blog – www.servantsofmaryblog.wordpress.com
- Pinterest – www.pinterest.com/servantsofmary
- YouTube – www.youtube.com/theservantsofmary

We have also made several updates to our website, www.osms.org, such as:
- Added a Donate Now button to front page
- Added video clips to front page
- Added a Join Our Mailing List button to front page
- Added links to social media sites in menu form as well as clickable icons on front page

We have also created a new QR Code that will be included in future printings of brochures, letters, envelopes, etc. This is a code that when scanned will direct the smartphone to our website.

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.
In our last issue of Discover!, several pictures showed the disrepair to the fence around the cemetery. A call to action was made, and our generous donors have come through. Our original plan asked for $6,500 to be raised in order to address the following needs:

- 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.

Since the call to action in the October issue, we have raised $6,390 for our cemetery renovation project. Our first action was to plant three trees just outside the fence line. As they mature, these trees will offer plenty of shade to the concrete pad and bench for the Sisters, family and friends to have shade and comfort while visiting their loved ones.

As winter fades and spring arrives, we will continue our efforts with our landscape professional and other business professionals to make all of the changes we have listed. It is our sincere hope and goal to have a warm and welcoming area for visitors to the cemetery where they can find peace and comfort while visiting our beloved, departed Sisters.

Although we planted three trees, only one of the trees was specifically donated in honor of a loved one. If you would like to cover the cost of one or both of the other trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or you would like to help us reach the final part of our goal, please contact Tom Marasco at 402.951.3060 or osmdev@osms.org.
There are many social justice issues that face our world today. In this issue of the Discover we will highlight a few of our Sisters and Associates who are working to bring some light to some of the social justice issues that not only effect the world, but sometimes the communities in which we live.

Human Trafficking is an issue that is very near to our Sisters hearts. Human Trafficking is also known as modern day slavery. It has become the third largest criminal activity in the world and will soon overtake drug trafficking, as the second largest. It is estimated that there are over 27 million slaves globally. There are two different types of human trafficking, labor and sex trafficking. Labor trafficking is forcing somebody to work for little to no pay. Sex trafficking is forcing someone to engage in commercial sex acts. Traffickers often prey on runaways who have few support networks. The average age of a girl who is trafficked in the US is 12 years old.

Since Omaha is located on two major highways, because Nebraska has weak laws against trafficking, and because Omaha hosts many large events, Omaha has become a destination for those who want to traffic people. The Servants of Mary have recently joined up with the Sisters of Mercies and the Notre Dame Sisters to establish a committee on human trafficking. They are educating people on human trafficking, trying to make stronger laws against trafficking, and are addressing the great need for shelters for victims of human trafficking. Currently victims of trafficking are sent to domestic violence shelters though their issues are different. The committee is researching the possibility of establishing victim shelters in the local area. For more information on human trafficking and what you can do to help, please visit polarisproject.org.

Associate Barb Katz is a nurse that volunteers with the organization Faith In Practice. This is a non-profit, Christian organization that seeks to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of the poor in Guatemala through short-term surgical, medical and dental mission trips and health-related educational programs. Faith In Practice contacts hospitals in Guatemala to rent out operating rooms. Then they hold a triage day in which the lines of hopeful people wrap around the building. They begin surgeries the following day on everyone who qualifies.

In Guatemala people can be turned away from emergency rooms for not having insurance. “Last time we were there (Guatemala), there was a little boy probably about 8 or 9 years old that worked in his parents’ field, and he had a cyst on his arm that prevented him from using the sickle that he needed to harvest with,” Barb said. “It’s amazing to me to worry about a nine year old not being able to do his job.” For more information and ways that you can help, please visit faitherinpractice.org

Associate Mary Ellen White is the Director of Heartline in Detroit. Heartline is a Residential Program for Women in Detroit that helps women transition from incarceration and homelessness to a home environment.

Heartline helps the women get back on their feet by providing a safe haven for them to get themselves together, to name some realistic goals and to begin to achieve those goals. At Heartline they teach the women many skills that many of us take for granted to have learned, like cooking and cleaning. Jobs are often hard to come by for these women because they have been in prison.

“People ‘look away’ when you say that you have a felony. The women do need a ‘second chance,” Mary Ellen said. “The ones that make a difference are the persons who truly successfully complete the program and go on to become productive members of society. Those are the real stories about Heartline – the women who have chosen to attain some of their goals and move forward with their lives.”

There are many other Sisters and associates that are making a difference in the realm of social justice. Like Associate Mayola McCrary with her work with the Sr. Jose Woman’s Shelter and Casa Maria homeless shelters in Tuscon and Sr. Eileen Lantzy, OSM works with the Loaves & Fishes food pantry in Detroit. For more information or ways to help on any of the organizations highlighted in this article please contact Josh Langel at osmcomm@osms.org
Servants of Mary Benefactors

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations received from August 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013

ESTATE GIFTS
Msgr. Charles Broderson Estate
Msgr. James Cain Estate
Sally Chamberlain Estate
Anastasia Kubik Estate
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$10,000 and greater
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Dr. Richard and Judy Fitzgerald
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Mary Jane Graves
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Gregory Heirman
Bill and Mary Katherine Helget
Pat Henry
Mary Eileen Hogan

During the Jubilee Celebration Sr. Ruth Arnott, OSM (left) was pleased to see Sr. Barbara Kennedy, OSM (right) and her family.

Holland Basham Architects
Denny & Darlene Koley
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Jean Dellamano
Joella Descavish
Ronald and Anne Dest
Sr. Mary Ellen Devereux, RSM
Jane Dineen
David and Elizabeth Dolph
Donna and Dennis Doroga
Maria Farrell, Director of GriefWork, with Jason Lewis and Beth Hewett, presenters for the October Ministry of Consolation training.
On Halloween Marian High School students visited the Sisters to bring them treats. The Sisters “tricked” the students into staying for pie and coffee.

Jack and Marilyn Vanden Boom
Lillian Vandenbroker
Carolyn Vandenheede

Larry and Gert Vanoverbeke
Rev. Larry Villone
Leo and Jennie Voglrieder

In Memory Of
We gratefully acknowledge the following remembrances received from August 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013

Michael Descavish
Walter Jardine
Neal Akerlind
Eleanor Akerlind
Mr. & Mrs. George Allen
Kevin and Ann Amick
Robert Andrew
Elizabeth Ann Andrew
Art Balamucki
Walter and Catherine Szpunar
Martha Benden
Janet Barnes
Sr. Mary Denise Bissonnette, OSM
Omer O’Neil
William O. “Bill” Blaha
Sr. Margaret Bucba, OSM
Dolores Blodin
Tim and Jennifer McManamon
Thomas J. Brennan
Estate of Thomas J. Brennan
Msgr. Charles Brodersen
Dennis and Karen Connolly Sr. Carolyn Foley, OSM
Raymond & Agnes Buctha
William and Nancy Buctha
Judy Lynn Buhlender Schefftic
John and Joann Buhlender Linda (Hakim) Burbane
Vic Hakim

Ron and Rosie Volkmer
Edwin and Patricia Wagner
Nancie Wamsen
Michael & Patricia Warsocki
Earl and Patricia Waters
Michael and Janine Weideman
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Mary Ellen White
Terrence White
Peggy Whittington
Mike and Louise Wilmes
Mary Beth Wing
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Curt and Molly Witzenburg
Marvin and Mildred Wycoff
Carol A. Yapur-Glaeser

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Joseph Di Angelis
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Harold DiBelka
Donna Bigelow
Launey Dovin
Sr. Sarah Deebey, OSM
Mr. and Mrs. John & Edna Neil
Sarah & Alphonse Deebey
Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Amick
Kevin and Ann Amick

Sr. Celeste Lawler, OSM

1913-2014

“As Sr. Celeste said on a number of occasions that she wanted to ‘go be with the Lord,’ and why did she have to live so long. In her most recent stay in the hospital she told me ‘I’m on fast time and God’s on slow time.” Said Sr. Mary Gehring at the wake for Sr. Celeste Lawler, who peacefully passed away to be with the Lord in January.

From 1933 through 1989 Sr. Celeste taught in Anthon, IA, Denver, CO, Fairview Heights, IL, and at Marian High School in Omaha, NE. Thirty five years of her teaching career were spent in Detroit at St. Juliana’s, St. John Berchmans and finally at Servite High.

“She had the knack of making these people feel very special. We have received a number of notes from them telling us how much Sr. Celeste meant to them.” May Sr. Celeste rest in peace.
Peregrine Ponderings
By Sr. Linda Hess, OSM

St. Peregrine is the patron saint for all people with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. On the third Saturday of each month, there is a special Mass offered in the Servants of Mary Chapel at 11:00 a.m. This Mass is for those with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses, their families and care-givers.

On May 17th, Sr. Ginny Silvestri, OSM will present on the struggles and questions that arise with illness. The presentation begins at 9:45 a.m. and will be followed by the liturgy, which includes Anointing of the Sick, with lunch following.

For more information, please contact Sr. Linda Hess at 402.951.3092 or email stperegrine@osms.org.
In Honor Of

We gratefully acknowledge the following honorariums received from August 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013

2013 OSM Jubiliarians
Sr. Kathy Avery, OSM
Rita Bianchi
Sr. M. Peter Cailto, OSM
Kathleen Conry
Sr. Elaine Hartnett, OSM
Jim and Loene Herman
Sr. Charlotte Huetteman, OSM
Sr. Alice Kotwick, OSM
Sr. Paulette Labbe, OSM
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Carol and Andy Spanburgh
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Sr. Mary Clare Walling, OSM
Bonnie Ware
Mary Ellen White
Fr. Bernie Carlin, C Ss.R., 40th Anniversary of Ordination
John and Marnie Kotwick
Karen & Denny Connolly 50th Wedding Anniversary
Ann Kineen
Sr. Mary Viola Miksch 60th Jubilee
Bruce Reinig
Joe & Lee Pattavina 65th Wedding Anniversary
Peg Gehringer & Family
Sr. Kathy Avery, OSM
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Rev. Larry Villone
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Peg Lowndes
Sr. Mary Viola Miksch
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Sr. Joy Weideman’s Birthday
Patrick and Judy Dunne
Sr. Karen Brown, OSM
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Jim Cheney
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Sr. Suzanne Vandenheede, OSM
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Don Holden
Donna Johnson
Sr. Mary Audrey Jauron, OSM
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Sr. Barb Kennedy, OSM Jubilee
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Christine Kathman
Betty Knapp
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Connie Cavel
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Laura Vandenheede & Richard J. Klemczak
Carolyn Vandenheede
Sr. Rita Kolbet, OSM
Vivian Damratowski
Mary Potmesil
Fr. Tom Ryan
Richard Komara
Dan and Doris Fleming
Sr. Mary Gerhringer, OSM speaking with Sr. Catherine Rupp, OSM as she celebrates her 75th Jubilee.
Harold & Lillian Watson
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Sr. Joyce Rupp, OSM
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Mary Trujillo
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Carolyn Vandenheede
Gerald Walling
Sr. Mary Clare Walling, OSM
Cyril Walling Jr.
Sr. Mary Clare Walling, OSM
Sr. Alice Kotwick, OSM
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Margaret Miksch
Donald & Barbara Mundy
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth
and Mary Beth R. Pyle
August and Kathleen Reinig
Mary Reinig
Ardith Morello
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Michael and Patty Knobbe
Sr. Helen Rau, OSM
Ivan and Gerri Sims
Ivan D. Sims
Sr. Catherine Rupp, OSM
Connie Cavel
Sr. Ginny Silvestri, OSM
Connie Cavel
Sr. Mary Ellen Devereux, RSM
Lorray Smith
Betty Knapp
Maurice Steier
Mary Ann Mahon
Mr. and Mrs. John Weiss, Jr.
Sr. Joy Weideman, OSM
Michael and Janine Weideman
Featured Event

Training for the Ministry of Consolation and Compassion
April 23-24

Who is providing the Ministry of Consolation and Compassion training?
The ministry of Consolation and Compassion training is being provided by GriefWork: A National Servite Ministry of Compassion. Called by the healing ministry of Compassion, the Servite community commit themselves to serving all experiencing loss. As a National provider of bereavement training, education, formation and services, GriefWork is a compassionate ministry of the Servants of Mary, which will respond to the needs of all people throughout the grief process.

Who Should attend?
This training is for anyone involved in ministry to those who are bereaved and those wishing to set up a program for the bereaved, and for those looking to attain CEU's or learn more about bereavement, mourning and loss.

What does the training cover?
Topics promote an awareness of the dynamics of grief, appropriate care and comfort for the grieving and ministers of consolation, rituals related to death including Christian funerals, and elements needed to create a church program for the bereaved. The training provides time for quiet reflection, activities and practice opportunities that will help the participant gain insight about participation in bereavement work.

For more information email bereavement@osms.org

Registration deadline is April 16.