



ASSOCIATING *News*

PHJC ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

The Charism of Catherine Spreads

By Mary Schoenekase, Quincy Associate

“Someday there will be more Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ than can fit under this Linden tree.”

Blessed Catherine Kasper said those words on August 5, 1851 at the little church in Dernbach when five Sisters took their first vows. Even then, lay associates were gathered with the Sisters in a promise to carry out the work of Jesus.

On April 11-12, 2014 twelve Associate candidates completed a year of preparation by participating in the Companions on the Journey retreat in Donaldson. Over fifty Sisters and Associates joined the twelve making it our largest Companions on the Journey retreat.

Bob Karnia of Oak Forest, Illinois was one of the candidates exploring the charism of Catherine. Bob and eight of his siblings, cousins, in-laws and other family are honoring the devotion of his deceased parents by becoming second generation members of the Associate Community. It is unusual to have so large a family group join at once. In addition to carrying on a family tradition, each of the nine Chicago area candidates found a personal calling to carry on the charism.

All twelve candidates were inspired by the Holy Spirit to follow Blessed Catherine Kasper. We are reminded that becoming an Associate is not akin to joining a club. It is espousing a commitment to a way of life.

In addition to meeting new friends and reconnecting with long time friends, the Companions on the Journey event was full of inspirational speakers and spirited conversation.

Sister Carole Langhauser spoke to the ongoing influence of Blessed Catherine Kasper on the

church. “She is alive in all of us,” says Sister Carole.

Sister Jolise May shared her personal experiences. The Candidates were reminded that lay associates have always been part of the Spiritual Family of Catherine, even before the group was formalized decades after the Founder’s death. We do not follow Catherine Kasper. We follow Jesus Christ. She just shows us the way.

Snapshots from “Companions on the Journey”



Quoting Sister Rosemary Snell, PHJC, Sister Jolise noted, “The charism is a window of the Gospel. Even with the window shut, we can still see through the glass. But when the Holy Spirit opens the window, we are able to share

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Retreat: Making Space for God

By Sister Cathy Schwemer, PHJC, Marketing and Program Coordinator, Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center

In the Gospel of Matthew; (11: 28), Jesus tells us that he “will give us rest.” Yet most people find it very difficult to accept this invitation for sacred rest. Why? The lack of time and treasure are the two most cited reasons for not taking retreat time.

In our age where daily life and even vacations are filled by pressure-packed schedules and events, it is hard to give ourselves permission to take the time to slow down, to find that rest. A retreat invites us to slow down, to nurture our soul and rest our bodies in an extended Sabbath experience. To have an experience of quiet or even play at a slower rhythm allows God more space to interact with us. As we learn to set aside worries of daily life even for a short time you will be intrigued by the amazing interaction with God in ways you didn’t expect. You will be calmed and strengthened by rest that you have needed for a long time.

It’s no exaggeration to say that Jesus went on retreat. Jesus knew that he needed time away from the crowds in order to pray. (Matthew 4: 1-11, 14: 13, Mark 6: 31; Luke 5: 16, 6: 12). Jesus didn’t just sneak in a few moments of prayer between preaching gigs. He didn’t just have a quiet time in the morning. Rather, Jesus took time away from his busy and growing ministry in order for quiet with his Heavenly Father.

Think about it. If the Son of God, the one who experienced unique intimacy with the Father, needed to go on retreat, then don’t you and I need to do the same? How can we expect to negotiate the challenges and opportunities of our lives if we don’t back away every now and then so as to take time for rest, reflection, and, most of all, prayer?

Christians throughout the ages have retreated just as Jesus did; sometimes retreats consist of a day or two;

other times, a week to thirty days or more. Retreat is a sacred interlude set aside to allow yourself time and space to build a new or stronger relationship with God, to allow God into your life in new ways, to learn more about God’s true self and thereby more about your own true self.

A retreat can help you to experience at a more personal level what it means to have a life “in the abundance of God” as St. Paul puts it. More importantly, as a member of the PHJC Associate Community, part of the Family of Catherine, retreat allows you the time to reflect on the journey that God has placed before you, to grapple with the meaning of your call to be an Associate within the spirit and mission of Blessed Catherine Kasper.

You will find that retreat is as much an attitude or stance as a specific event or place. Yet, the right environment can give you a tremendous boost in building this “sacred away-time.” When looking for a retreat spot, choose a place with an established spiritual tradition, one that is harmonious with your own spiritual inclinations. Of course, I would invite you to consider coming to the beautiful shores of Lake Gilbraith and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the Lindenwood Retreat Center at The Center at Donaldson. Here the beauty of nature abounds and friendly faces and hearts reach out to all who come here.

Jesus said in the garden, “Can you not sit with me for one hour?” Retreat offers the opportunity for that precious time just to sit and be with our God.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION: When have you experienced refreshing times of retreat in your life? What keeps you from taking the time you need to retreat? What helps you to make the time?

Bethany Retreat House

Bethany Retreat House continues to offer individual spiritual direction, dream groups and daytime retreats. Consider at 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. day-away retreat at Bethany!

For further information please contact Bethany Retreat House at (219) 398-5047 or email bethanyrh@sbcglobal.net.

The Office is closed on Sunday and Monday



fully in the Christian calling.” We certainly felt the breeze blowing that beautiful spring day in Donaldson!

Sister Jolise gave those in attendance a bookmark copy of the mural of Jesus and Catherine Kasper painted on the chapel wall of the PHJC center in Sao Jao, Brazil. It depicts a “working man” Christ with a beam and pulley on his shoulder. Christ is standing behind and above Catherine Kasper as she uses the pulley to draw water in a bucket from the well. The symbolism of the well and living water is amplified by the portrayal of the pulley. Christ is the tool we all use to help us draw the water and quench the thirst of those in need. Members of the Associate Community use our charism as a pulley to help us draw water and pour out Christ in our daily lives and personal ministries.

Candidates were also treated to a tour of the Ancilla Domini Chapel and its symbols by Sister Roberta Christianson. The story of the first Old Testament non-animal sacrifice is carved into the Melchizedek altar. The priest of God sacrificed bread and wine instead of an animal, foreshadowing the Eucharistic sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Candidates who journeyed to the fifth floor of the Motherhouse were able to see a large collection of PHJC history in the Heritage Room. Travel aids, dinnerware, religious items, hospital memorabilia and personal belongings of daily living from the last

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ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY 2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| July 13 | East Three First Commitment Ceremony for Judy Arndt in Donaldson |
| July 19 | Core Team Meeting |
| August 8 | Associating News articles due |
| September 13 | North Region First Commitment Ceremony |
| October 24-26 | PHJCs Coming Home to Fort Wayne |
| November 8 | Core Team Meeting |

East Three Associate Pauline Pierson Receives Award for Hospice Volunteerism

By Donna Sikorski, Director of the Associate Community

On April 2 at the annual volunteer recognition luncheon for the Center for Hospice Care in South Bend, Indiana, East Three Associate Pauline Pierson received the John Krueger Hospice Caring Award. This award was initiated in 1994 and is awarded to the hospice volunteer who best exemplifies the commitment first displayed by Dr. Krueger. In the 1970s Dr. Krueger's wife and the mother of his three children died as the result of a brain tumor. This brought Dr. Krueger to recognize the need for patients and caregivers to have support when facing terminal illness. In 1978 Dr. Krueger (who at that time practiced anesthesiology), along with 20 or so other individuals, helped establish what is now known as the Center for Hospice Care. He became their first medical director and the first recipient of the award later named after him. In the years that followed, the hospice organization grew and expanded. It now serves patients in eight counties in Indiana, utilizing over 500 volunteers. Pauline was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year from among those hundreds of volunteers.

In the true spirit of Catherine, Pauline included a thank you to The Center for Hospice in her acceptance speech. Pauline stated that she felt the training she received through hospice prepared her to be comfortable ministering to others and to be better prepared to meet her own life's challenges. She shared that her years of volunteering with Hospice helped her deal with her husband Ray's extended illness and death as well as her sister's recent death. Pauline stated "I have seen a lot." She has, over her nearly 29 years of volunteering with hospice, worked with dying patients and their families as a home care volunteer, bereavement volunteer, Camp Evergreen (a camp for grieving children) volunteer, 11th hour volunteer and even as a clown at the annual Walk for Hospice fundraising event. "I've always been so

impressed with the Hospice philosophy," expressed Pauline. "It's been a blessing to know the people involved and the patients. I feel like I'm being helpful to someone. But what I have found is that I

have been helped probably more than I have helped them." Pauline says her experiences with Hospice have given her the opportunity to be of service to others, hear their stories or hold their hand as life slips away. What a privilege that has been.



Recently, as I sat with Pauline to discuss this honor, she explained her own grandmother was taught by Poor Handmaids to be a caregiver which was how her connection with the PHJCs began. Following Pauline's great-grandmother's death, her grandmother was sent to Angel Guardian Orphanage where the long history of Pauline's family and the PHJCs began. Pauline even has a plaque that has been in her family over 100

years and is now cherished by Pauline. The plaque was given to her grandmother for her First Holy Communion in 1912 by Sister Paschalis Hesper, PHJC. It links Pauline to her grandmother as well as to the PHJCs. Both her mother and grandmother were also an inspiration as caregivers. Pauline has been a caregiver much of her life and an Associate for 12 years.

Pauline's ministry as a hospice volunteer is a big part of her life, but her volunteerism doesn't stop there. She is very involved with her church family as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, minister to the homebound, church cleaner, member of the Rosary Society and the Monday Evening Rosary Prayer Group. Pauline also enjoys time with, and is an inspiration to her six children, seventeen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. In addition she derives pleasure from taking organ lessons and painting. Pauline's joyful spirit is so much a part of her as she lives the charism of Catherine in all she does.

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160 plus years are on display. There is even a stamp collection with several hundred examples. A Barbie doll dressed as a PHJC hospital nurse shows even Barbie can live out Catherine's charism.



The twelve Associate Candidates spent two days supported by many Sisters and Associates discerning their call to the Spiritual Family of Catherine. As their journey continues with their First Commitment they will realize that being an Associate

is like being part of that linden tree. We share the common root, but each branch and leaf takes on its own unique way to manifest the Spirit.

The weekend retreat ended with the celebration of the Palm Sunday liturgy. A banquet was held following the Mass to honor our Associates who celebrated significant anniversaries as Associates. The feeling of community was apparent as all the Associates welcomed the candidates and celebrated our many veteran Associates. Indeed, those present that day would not have all fit under that linden tree.



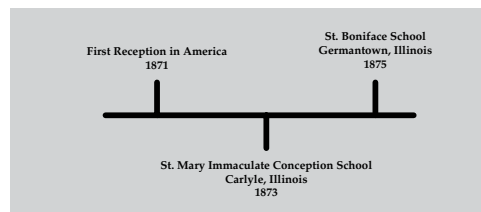
The following Candidates will soon make their first commitments. Please look for further information regarding their First Commitment Ceremonies and keep them in your prayers.

CANDIDATES:

Judy Arndt	Bob Karnia
Cindy Karnia	Dee Karnia
Edward Karnia	Melanie Karnia
Julie Knapp	Donna O'Malley
Joann Ortman	Michael Ortman
Tina Ortman	Greg Schoenekase

Timeline Tales

By Julie Dessauer, Communications Office



First Reception in America • 1871

The Poor Handmaid Community had two postulants within their first year in America, and five the next. In 1871 the first American-born Sisters took their vows and receive the habit: Sisters Clara, Joseph and Chysostoma. Reverend Bishop Luers chose Candlemas Day, February 2 for the first reception of the Sisters. Father Koenig had prepared them for the event with a three-day retreat.

St. Mary Immaculate Conception School Carlyle, Illinois • 1873

The school was opened with two male laymen as teachers until the PHJC Sisters arrived. The Sisters started school on May 4, 1874 with 50 pupils in attendance. The tuition was 75 cents a month. Besides teaching school, the Sisters nursed the sick in their homes and kept night watches with the dying. A new rectory was built, the old one being remodeled into a residence for the PHJC Sisters. Since many parishioners lived in the country where the roads were often impassable, in 1883 the Sisters began to board girls for several months during the winter and spring in order to prepare them for their first Holy Communion. To defray the expense of adding three new rooms to the convent, the Sisters conducted a house-to-house collection every year until the debt was paid. The Poor Handmaids ministered at St. Mary Immaculate Conception School until June 15, 1972. *(Excerpts taken from St. Mary's History www.bellvillepubliclibrary.org)*

St. Boniface School Germantown, Illinois • 1875

The school had been closed a few years earlier because church parishioners wanted nuns who would teach at the schools, take care of the linens and nurse the sick. On May 1, 1875 the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ arrived to fulfill those duties. Sister Ermelinda was appointed superior, Sisters Athanasia and Joseph as teachers, and Sister Winifrieda as nurse. They ministered at St. Boniface School until May 29, 1975 – 100 years.

In Memory of Our Associates and Sister



Clarence H. Simshauser

East Three Associate Clarence H. Simshauser passed away on March 2 at Pulaski Health Care Center in Winamac, Indiana. He was born on September 17, 1913 and was 100 years old at the time of his passing.

For 69 years, Clarence was married to Bernice who also was a long time Associate. Bernice passed away in 2008.

Clarence was a retired farmer who also drove a school bus for ten years. He was an avid bike rider and was still riding at the age of 97. Clarence is survived by a daughter and a son as well as five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was involved in scouting for many years, so as a tribute to Clarence, his grandchildren and great grandchildren all wore boy scout pins at his funeral.

Clarence and his wife Bea became Associates in the East Three region in 1987. In the early 1990s Clarence served on the Associate Board (currently referred to as the core team). They remained active Associates as long as their health allowed. More recently, Clarence was an Associate in Spirit.

May Clarence rest in peace.



Mary Lou McCarthy-Artz

East Three Associate, Mary Lou McCarthy-Artz, passed away on May 7, 2014. She was 78.

Mary Lou studied piano at the Jordan Conservatory of Music at Butler University. Prior to moving to the

Plymouth area she resided in Covington, Indiana. Mary Lou was a past Chapter President of the American Guild of Organists. She loved music and enjoyed traveling, particularly with the American Guild of Organist tours in Europe. Mary Lou had been the liturgist and organist for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ since 1993. She was the

first lay person to serve in that role. Recently, she earned a certificate of Colleague of the American Guild of Organists which testifies to Mary Lou's high level of musical talent and achievement.

Mary Lou had been an Associate for nearly 18 years. She wrote "In my service as a church musician to the Poor Handmaids, it has been my goal to do the best I can to reach and minister to people through music, to bring them closer to God. Many times music is more powerful than the spoken word. It touches people's lives and is a source of comfort in time of sorrow, a source of joy and an inspiration to prayer."

Mary Lou is survived by her husband Don, two daughters and two grandchildren. She also was soon to become a great-grandmother. In addition, Mary Lou will be missed by her family of Sisters, Associates, Fiat Spiritus Community members and co-workers here at The Center at Donaldson whom she inspired through the sharing her gift of music.

May Mary Lou rest in peace.



Sister Stephen Brueggeman, PHJC

Sister Stephen Brueggeman, PHJC died June 15, 2014 at the Catherine Kasper Home, Donaldson, Indiana. She was born Frances Josephine Brueggeman to Anthony and Helen (Dunkel) Brueggeman in Centralia, Illinois.

In 1945 she entered the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ congregation in Donaldson, Indiana and professed first vows on June 24, 1947.

Sister Stephen was a graduate of Loyola University, Chicago with a B.S.N.ED (Cum Laude) and a M. ED with a major in Education and a minor in Psychology. She also attended Cornell University for Hospital Administration and Wright Junior College for Accounting and Economics.

She began her ministry in healthcare in 1945 as a nurse at St. Anne's Hospital, Chicago, a Poor

(In Memory of Our Associates and Sister, continued on page 7)

Events at MoonTree Studios

MoonTree is busy planning experiences, art exhibits and events to appeal to every type of creative appetite. More yearning, particularly a few that are new and different offerings – not available anywhere else in the area. Here's a hint of what's in store in the studios in the near future...

JULY

- Make a Table Easel – July 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Writing Selfies: Stories from Your Life – July 12, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Can Your Mugs – July 12, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Knitting, with Love – July 19, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Oh, the Possibilities – Polymer Clay – July 18, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
- Peyote-Stitched Beaded Cuff Bracelets – July 18, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Build a Wood Picture Frame – July 19, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Unleash Your Inner Sculptor – Polymer Clay – July 19, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Build a Wood Picture Frame – July 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

- Tearing Into Painting with Colorful Bits – July 25, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The Poetry and Peace of Spinning – July 26, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- An Exercise in Tranquility: Painting the Landscape in Pastels – July 26, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Make a Table Easel – July 26, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Save the date for the 2014 MoonTree Festival. Saturday, September 20, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The day-long festivities will include live music by The New Town Cryers, folk singers with flair, as well as Huckleberry Clamshell, Alfresco Art Fair, Friendship Plant Sale, Catapult Contest, Festival Food by The Country Griller, Plein Air Painters at work out and about the grounds, Dinner Theater – The Cherry Orchard and Silent Auction of Artwork.

MoonTree Studios July-December catalog of events is now available, so let us know if we can send a copy! Visit us online at www.moontreestudios.org.



MoonTree Studios
Fearlessly Creating

(In Memory of Our Associates and Sister, continued from page 6)

Handmaid hospital. For the next 24 years she worked at St. Anne's as a nurse, director of the nursing school and hospital administrator. After leaving St. Anne's Hospital she ministered at St. Catherine Hospital, East Chicago, Indiana for 10 years as the hospital administrator.

Sister Stephen was a lobbyist for the Illinois Nursing Association after she impulsively got up during a Nurses Association meeting and defended the three-year hospital schools of nursing. She said she spent many hours in Springfield, Illinois legislature not only working to pass a new Nurse Practice Act, but also other legislative matters.

Sister Stephen served as the PHJC Provincial Superior of the American Province from 1979-1985.

After leaving office she returned to St. Catherine Hospital as Coordinator, Mission and Philosophy Education and then as Vice President of Mission Effectiveness at Ancilla Systems Incorporated, Hobart, Indiana. In 1997 she served the PHJC community, wrote a series of books on the history of the Poor Handmaids and volunteered her time at Nazareth Home. She was a wonderful storyteller and writer.

She retired to the Catherine Kasper Home in 2012.

May Sister Stephen rest in peace.

Upcoming Events at John XXIII Retreat Center Hartford City, Indiana

Dream Group

July 15, August 19 or September 16
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Memorial Mass

July 24, August 28 or September 25
6:00 p.m.

Writing for the Soul

August 3 or September 7
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

"Praying with the Mystics"

August 6 or September 3
9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Growing into Wholeness by Dreaming

August 8, 6:30 p.m. to August 9, 4:00 p.m.

Woman's Tea – "Come Let Us Dance"

August 10
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Bible Telling Retreat

August 15, 6:30 p.m. to August 17, 11:00 a.m.

"Dance of the Spirit" – Seven Steps of Women's Spirituality

September 5, 6:30 p.m. to September 6, 4:00 p.m.,
continues November 7–8 and December 12–13

*For more information or to register
call John XXIII Retreat Center
at (888) 882-1391 or email
john23rd@sbcglobal.net.*

Lindenwood

Lindenwood Retreat Offerings

July 29 – August 3, 2014

Icon Retreat: Beginner's Level:

Our Lady of Tenderness

Retreat Leader: Diane Hammel

August 3 – 8, 2014

Icon Retreat: Intermediate Level: Noah's Ark

Retreat Leader: Peter Pearson

September 13, 2014

Using the Jesus Prayer

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST)

Retreat Leader: Sister Cathy Schwemer, PHJC

To register for any of the Lindenwood
programs, please visit its website at
www.lindenwood.org or call (574) 935-1780.