



# ASSOCIATING *News*

PHJC ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

## Companions on the Journey Retreat 2016

By Libby Riggs, South Associate



SNAPSHOTS – COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY RETREAT 2016



On the evening of April 29, forty-four Associates and nine Sisters gathered in support of eleven candidates who had completed formation and are in the final stages of discernment. We gathered to get to know them, and to renew our own commitment as the Associate Community.

The candidates came by plane, car and foot to attend. Ken Jamsa just walked across the driveway to Lindenwood from his Maria Center apartment and was ready to listen, share and learn while Verna Ingrassia, endured security checks and a delayed flight to come in from her home in Connecticut. Some were escorted here by the mentors that they had spent many hours with over the last year. Verna, due to the distance, had done all of her formation sessions via email, mail and phone and it was wonderful for her and her mentor, Gay Fiwek, to finally get to meet in person. It is a joy to see how the spirit of Blessed Catherine Kasper continues to spread both far and near.

Whether they lived here or had only visited Donaldson a few times before, the rainy weather didn't dampen their spirits and candidates were able to meet new friends and learn more about what it means to be a part of our Associate Community. Due to the numbers, we even had outgrown our usual room and moved our retreat into another larger room at Lindenwood – a great problem to have. And so, we mingled, and soon began our time together with a beautiful Kaleidoscope prayer – as we come together, so the colors of a kaleidoscope come together and the result is always new and beautiful.

Soon we moved into the introduction of candidates. Each table was able to discuss, share, and interview the candidates at their table. Old friendships were renewed, and new seeds of friendship planted. The tables then took turns introducing the candidates

*(Companions on the Journey Retreat, continued on page 2)*



on a more personal level to the group. Wonderful people with wonderful stories!

Sister Carole Langhauser shared a PowerPoint presentation on the history and life of Blessed Catherine Kasper and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. It began with Catherine's story as a child, following a call to serve others. Sister Carole brought to life the struggles in formation of the community, the spirit in which it was started, and it spread to nine different countries today. You could say she brought it to life, when Catherine Kasper herself made a surprise visit.

The portrayal, by Sister Roberta Christianson, did not leave anyone disappointed. She was dressed in the attire of the time of Catherine Kasper, she tied into Sister Carol's presentation by touching on points of history, discussing her trials and tribulations along the way as she developed the community of religious, yet how her faith and the spirit continued to lead and guide her. As usual, it wouldn't be complete had there not been some humor thrown in as well when Sister Roberta, accidentally pulled her skirt up just a bit too far, revealing her "bloomers" (pant legs tucked into socks) – she, of course, clarified that this was not the style of that day – and we well know that Catherine Kasper, herself, may have been a bit more refined. It was both an educational and humorous evening of sharing and getting to know one another.

As we moved from the meeting room that night, many brought smiles and cheer-filled comments into the gathering space for an evening of snacks and conversation. Did we mention that hospitality is also a part of our charism – well it clearly is!!

As the retreat continued on Saturday morning, Brother Bob Overland, F.S. gave an insight and introduction of the Fiat Spiritus Community. Fiat Spiritus, formed in 2003, is a relatively new way of living out the vows of religious life of poverty, celibate chastity and obedience while making a commitment to the charism of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Donna Sikorski, director of the Associate Community presented the history of the Associate Community. She explained how it has grown and changed over the thirty-three years since it was originally formed. The Associate Community continues to be a group of very spiritual men and women who choose to live out the Core Values of Openness to the Spirit, Community, Simplicity, and Dignity and Respect for all God's people.



*Artwork by Sister Nancy Raboin, PHJC*

*(Companions on the Journey Retreat, continued from page 2)*

Sister Virginia Kampwerth delved deeply into the meaning of our shared charism. Associates continue to minister as Catherine Kasper did even as a child in her own town of Dernbach, Germany – she ministered by “walking around.” Associates are individuals who feel a call to serve in that same spiritual way while at the same time living their lives in different ways, with different jobs, families, parishes, and communities. Associates recognize and serve as witness in their everyday lives with those they work and live with. They feel called to serve others, follow the Spirit, stand up for those less fortunate and live a call to simplicity in their own walks of life.

Sister Virginia presented a beautiful illustration of the PHJC Charism Statement through the use of a beautiful image by Sister Nancy Raboin. This charism reminds us of Mary’s openness to the spirit and ready faith response to what God asked of her. This image is a beautiful reminder to listen attentively and courageously to the whispering of the Spirit within each of us. We are to serve as men and women of faith and vision; to live gospel values through our presence and ministry to and with others. The watercolor image seeks to visually suggest growth of God’s call within Catherine, leading her to found the congregation of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The many lines and ribbons echo the movement of the spirit of Catherine’s service, a response still alive today. The heart in the center represents Jesus, while the smaller heart belongs to Catherine, anchored to Jesus. The interwoven ribbon of hearts suggests the generations worldwide who follow still today the charism of Catherine, each of us awakening to the voice within who calls us to deepen our own relationship with the Beloved. In this circle of life representation, the cross formed by the ribbons is a visual challenge by the artist for all to be peacemakers.

A portion of the afternoon was left open for individual spiritual reflection, tours of the Ancilla Domini Chapel with Sister Roberta Christianson, and a tour of the Heritage Room with Sister Mary Jo Shingler. During this “free” time each candidate met individually with the

*(Companions on the Journey Retreat, continued on page 4)*

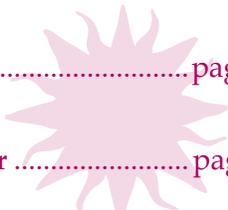


# ASSOCIATING News

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*(Companions on the Journey Retreat, continued from page 3)*

Associate Director to answer any questions and address any concerns each might have.

As we gathered in the late afternoon, Donna Sikorski reflected on the Associates movement in the United States and beyond. It was pointed out that following Vatican II the Catholic Church began relooking at the role of the laity. The formation of Associate Communities by many religious institutions grew out of that process. We also spoke of our involvement in NACAR (North American Conference of Associates and Religious) as well as other regional Associate groups (Midwest Kindred Spirits and Tri-State Conference of Associate Leadership).

The retreat was brought to a close with a presentation and discussion questions about the Core Values and what it means to make a commitment to the Associate Community. Finally, a warm welcome and a promise of continued prayers to all of our eleven candidates closed the retreat. The spirit was alive in our discussions throughout the day. It was a great day of renewal to those already committed to the Associate Community as well as those who continue to discern their call. We continue to hold our candidates close in prayer as they continue to discern.

Following the Companions on the Journey retreat we praised and thanked our God for the many gifts we received during a liturgical celebration in the Ancilla Domini Chapel. The music was beautifully provided by East Three Associate Dave Haycraft. The Mass included a very moving blessing of those present with the relic of Blessed Catherine by Fr. John Zemelko.

A tasty catered dinner in Cana Hall was followed by the recognition of those Associates who were celebrating significant anniversaries this year. It is always a joy to spend a weekend with our wonderful Spiritual Family of Catherine – we always seem to walk away with such a sense of joy and community.

Thank you to all who made this year's Companions on the Journey Retreat and Associate Anniversary Celebration a success.

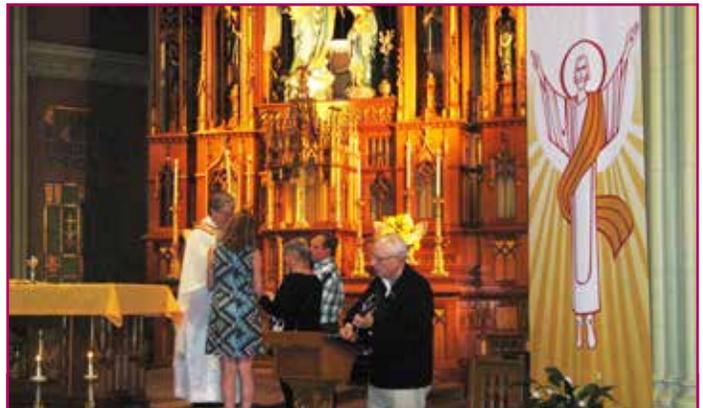
Please pray for our Candidates

East One  
Susan Crowl

East Two  
Tony Escher  
Sharon Esmont  
Theresa Shingledecker  
Sue Sjoberg  
Sandra VanAvermaete

East Three  
Verna Ingrassia  
Ken Jamsa  
Claudia Johnson  
Jeanne Orr

North  
Romaine Nowakowski



# NACAR 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## September 10, 2016, Milwaukee, WI

We would love to have a large group of Associates attend this event. Financial assistance is available to help the cost of attending this conference and NACAR anniversary celebration. **If you are interested in attending please contact Donna Sikorski, Director of the PHJC Associate Community as soon as you are able.** We would love to have you join us and hotel accommodations are expected to fill quickly!

### Program Overview

We have been called, each in our own unique way, to embody our charisms in the world. Through a process of contemplative dialogue, these gatherings will enrich our individual and communal call to be the light, hope and love of the risen Christ. We will celebrate these 20 years of NACAR's presence by joining together in prayer, hearing a presentation about the CARA Study results and spending time in contemplative discussion about the relationship we hold dear, the Associate-Religious connection that we have in common.



### Our Facilitator

Kathleen Wade, Sisters of Mercy Associate, teacher, writer, facilitator and speaker, will lead participants in a contemplative day of exploration of the Associate-Religious relationship and what this means for all of us.

Since 2010, Kathy has been involved in the design and facilitation of CLDP, Collaborative Leadership Development Program, which is training in leadership development for women religious and their Associates. Before that, she served as Executive Director of Women Writing for (a) Change, a non-profit writing community for women and girls, where she designed and facilitated classes, workshops and retreats. She also conducted seminars for educators in the San Francisco Bay Area and Cincinnati, Ohio.

Kathy taught English, drama, journalism and creative writing for nearly three decades and has worked

professionally as a writer, editor and photographer. Her writing has appeared in numerous anthologies; her book, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives: The Associate Movement in Religious Communities*, published in 2004, features individuals who are Associates. Kathy was educated by the Sisters of Mercy and was a member of the order for eleven years. She and her husband Forrest Brandt have been Mercy Associates since 1997. Other Mercy affiliations include five years as Regional Coordinator of Mercy Volunteer Corps and three as Director of the Mercy Leadership Development Program.

The above was reprinted with permission from NACAR.



### ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY 2016 UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

June 16 – 19	PHJC Coming Home - Wisconsin / Minnesota
July 16	Core Team Meets
August 4	Articles for <i>Associating News</i> are due to the Associate Office
September 10	NACAR Anniversary Celebration in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
October 21-23	PHJC Coming Home - Northwest Indiana
November 5	Core Team Meets
November 7	Articles for <i>Associating News</i> are due to the Associate Office

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# East Three - Service

By Carol Skelton, East Three Associate

Can you believe that 47% of the people in Marshall County (the county Donaldson is in) are living under the poverty level? For three years now, MoonTree has sponsored what is called an Empty Bowl Supper. The Empty Bowl Supper is a way of heightening awareness of the many people that go hungry each day right here in our community and also a way to raise some money in order to alleviate their struggle.

As part of our Lenten mission, Sister Mary and Sister Nancy of MoonTree asked the East Three Associates if they would help MoonTree make a difference for the many who go hungry because their bowls are empty. Our challenge was to make the soup for their Empty Bowl Soup Supper.

As Christians we have all been challenged by Pope Francis to be merciful and Christ himself calls us to feed the hungry, and so we agreed to help with MoonTree's endeavor. Plus, we felt it had added benefits as a great opportunity for the Associates to both support a Poor Handmaid ministry and work together as a community for a very worthy cause. It was a win, win!

Then, after saying yes, we panicked a little realizing we had never prepared soup for 150 people – that's a lot of soup!! But we pulled ourselves together and trusted that God would provide. And as usual, God did. Many hands make light work, so, following our March East Three Associate meeting we began our prep work. Many Associates worked on cutting up the vegetables and measuring out various ingredients for the soup. We joined together again a few days later and made the soup. Finally, the day of the soup supper came and many Associates again worked together, this time taking tickets, heating and serving the soup and cleaning up following the supper.

It was truly a team effort as various ministries (MoonTree, Earthworks, Dietary Staff and our Associates) worked together for a very worthy cause. All went very smoothly and, thanks to the expertise and cooperation of Abby Hunt and the Motherhouse dietary staff, it was a great experience. A whopping \$2,259.00 was raised!! This was the largest sum raised in the three year history of the Empty Bowl Supper in Donaldson. All monies went directly to feed the hungry in our local communities (via the Food Bank of Northern Indiana).

We had a great feeling of accomplishment following the event as we patted each other on the back...or was that Blessed Catherine's hand on our backs? Anyway, it was a great experience



*"The more we live and work in the same spirit, the closer we are to one another."*

*~Blessed Catherine Kasper*

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## East Three - Faith-share

By Jeanne Boomershine, East Three Associate



Did you ever wonder why you didn't hear the Holy Spirit the FIRST time something specific was put on your heart? Was I not paying attention? Was I just not getting it? I have to say that for myself, I have to admit that I am not always tuned-in or... Open to the Spirit! I have always been a slow learner!

It is now approaching a year ago that my heart was spiritually penetrated with the idea of a Faith-Share group to be formed in our East 3 Associate region. Actually, faith-sharing had seemed to be a favorite part for many Associates when having the opportunity to do so at an Associate meeting or gatherings. This very fact was stated, several years ago in a survey taken! The other reason I thought it to be heavy on my heart is because it might just give us more of a sense of community. I felt that if I was yearning for that, maybe others in our region were as well.

When we gathered a couple times to discuss the guidelines of this new group and do a little brainstorming, it was clear that many were looking forward to sharing insights and getting to know each other in this deeper spiritual way. We knew that we wanted to keep it simple, (Simplicity) by meeting the same time and place each month and that even though I would start out to lead the first few faith-shares, it would eventually be lead by a different person or two people every month so that the group would not be dependent on any one person. The group would consist of Associates as well as candidates in formation AND that we would ALWAYS have total respect for all that speak from their hearts in sharing their faith!

The decision was made to base our group sharing on Joan Chittister's little book *The Breath of the Soul, Reflections on Prayer*. We choose a different chapter to read and meditate on for each month. I have, through the years, enjoyed watching our Associates evolve and develop the Core Values in action and this is

certainly no exception! We thank you, Catherine, for the nudges to continually put into practice the Holy Spirit/Love of God in our daily lives as you demonstrated your entire life!

Please join us, Associates & Candidates of East Three, if you haven't already! We meet every first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Heritage room across the hall from the receptionist at the Motherhouse! Your heart and Spirit may be more Open more often if you do!

## What's Going On at MoonTree Studios This Summer?!

By Evelyn Schwenk, MoonTree Studio Coordinator

This is a transformational year for our ministry of beauty and mindful creativity. We are offering a summer full of intensive art experiences-- 3-5 day immersive programs connecting Art, Nature & Spirituality. These are opportunities for an art retreat—deepening your understanding of the art media with a master facilitator, as creativity blossoms.

If you haven't seen MoonTree's 2016 catalog, you really should! (Or peruse the catalog online at [www.MoonTreeStudios.org](http://www.MoonTreeStudios.org).) In July we've scheduled *Pen and Ink Drawing* and *Self-Expression in Water Soluble Media*. There will be *Nuno Felting*, *Traditional Basket-Weaving*, and *Paper-Making*. You can *Learn to Weave* or try working with terracotta clay on unique *Garden Art* or intricate *Rainsticks*. How about a weekend of *Portrait Painting from a Live Model*, or *Sculpture* or a *Large-Scale Painting* experience?

August brings *Writing to Unfold*, *Irish Knit*, *Irish Crochet* and *The Prayer of St. Francis: Creating an Illuminated Miniature*. You can make a *Japanese Box Lantern* or go in depth with *Watercolor Painting*. In *Creating a Children's Book*, you'll discover the process of creating sequential art, and gain an understanding of publishing, too. And that's only a smattering of what's on the calendar...

How can we help you get in touch with your inner artist? Oh yes, there is one inside of you!

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# PHJC Associates - Beyond our Borders

By Donna Sikorski, Director Associate Community and others

It has occurred to me that many may not be aware that the PHJCs have Associates in several other countries. This little article will provide some information about the PHJC Associates in Germany, the Netherlands, Mexico, Brazil and England.

As you will see, ours is the largest group since we now number 137 with 11 discerning who we hope will soon make their First Commitments. Although, the group in England was founded first it is no longer very active and so we are currently the oldest of the PHJC Associate Communities. India has the newest group in which, just earlier this year, its first group of Associates made their first "promise".

I had the privilege of meeting Sister Hermana, who is the Sister coordinator of the Associates in the Netherlands, as well as a few of the German Associates in 2011 while, along with several of our Associates, we were on a pilgrimage to Germany.

In Germany there are two groups, both of which are around Dernbach. Some lay persons are members of both groups. Here is what Sister Georgis in Germany wrote about the Associates there, the Katherine Kasper Circle. Sister Georgis is the Sister coordinator of this group. There is also another group in Germany, called the Eva Group.

## **Katharina Kasper Kreis – Catherine Kasper Circle Dernbach, Germany**

By Sister Georgis Heinen

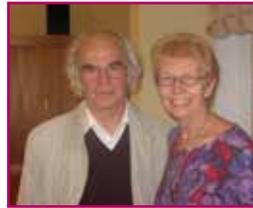
The search and the desire for that what directs our life seems to be limitless. The faces and paths of this search are manifold. One of these paths is the Katharina Kasper Kreis – Catherine Kasper Circle. In this circle, women and men meet to share their faith. Any woman or man can become a member of this group after a period of introduction. They then become Associates of the congregation by making a promise. The first group of five persons began in 1985. Today there are 34 members.

The aim of this circle is:

- praise and glory to God through prayer and service
- deepening of one's own faith
- spreading of faith through example, instructions and prayer

The group understands itself as a community of faith and prayer. Its members remain in their families and their areas of life where they witness Christ through word and deed.

## **Eva Group - Germany**



A group of Sisters was formed in 1989 to promote evangelization and association (EVA) with friends and co-workers of the community in Germany – women, men, and children, - individually and as

families who desired a closer connection with the community. Others joined the EVA group, and with the Sisters, helped to organize and conduct special events to make known the congregation and Blessed Katherine. Over the years this group conducted many programs and events in various regions of Germany where our Sisters were located especially in Dernbach. The EVA group is jointly led by Sisters and lay members. Today the group of about 20 persons are in dialogue about the meaning, purpose and direction they wish to go in the future.

## **Associates in England**

In England, Wellingborough had Associates at the beginning of the Sisters time there in the late seventies. Sister Elizabeth (deceased) started the group but Sister Goretti kept it vibrant at least for a while. Today, they are more friends of the Sisters than "official" Associates.

## **Associates in The Netherlands**

By Sister Hermana Brand

The Sisters in the Netherlands gathered with a group of 14 women on January 6, 1985. After coming together five times in the first year and studying the history of Mother Mary Catherine Kasper they had a liturgy service January 6, 1986. In this service they made a personal vow that they commit to become an Associate of the Congregation of the Poor Handmaids in the Netherlands. They received at this time a medallion of Mother Mary.

They promised to pray a daily prayer (rosary and prayer to the Holy Spirit) and to help people in their

*(Beyond Our Borders, continued on page 9)*

*(Beyond Our Borders, continued from page 8)*

surroundings in the way Mother Mary did. At this moment there are 11 Associates. They meet five times a year for faith sharing, prayer and reflection. These days start in the morning 9:30 a.m. and close with a Holy Mass at 4:00 p.m. They do a lot of volunteer work and help the Sisters where needed. On feast days the Associates help the whole day along with some of the co-workers and do all the work, to spoil the Sisters who can enjoy the celebration! Associates also assist one of our Sisters by making our newsletter, *De Schakel* which comes out two times a year.



### **The Footsteps of Catherine in Mexico** By Sister Tony Garcia

I have a great desire to work with our Associates even though we have only met three times thus far. We have a group of

Associates in Coatzacoalcos called “The Footsteps of Catherine.” Sister Edith Schneider formed this group some nine years ago. Right now I am the informal coordinator of the group.

My first meeting was really a celebration of Blessed Catherine’s feast days since we met on February 1. Since then we have met two other times sharing our faith. We try to meet once a month.

I am using the three books on the following of Jesus that Sister Edith left behind and these have been very helpful. My desire is to get to know the members so I can help them more. There are four women and three of them are the original members of the group. Two of them are teachers in our Centro de Educativo Catalina Kasper.

At our last meeting we invited Miguel, the husband of one of the members and we hope to invite two other married couples to join us. We pray and hope, with the intercession of Blessed Mary Catherine, that our group will continue to grow.

### **Brazilian Associates** By Sister Mary Ann Dettmer

We started with the Associate program five years ago. It began in the two places where we had houses at that time, here in Fortaleza and in São João da Fronteira. The programs were very active in the

beginning but, for various reasons, in São João da Fronteira it stopped for a time. However, here in Fortaleza we continue with a group.

We have eleven Associates, men and women, with others showing great interest to join. They prefer to refer to themselves as lay members of the congregation. Though they have been active for these years the meetings were more in the line of the life of Mother Mary, the activities of the Poor Handmaids and the like. However this past year, they have asked for a more formal formation, which would allow them to consecrate themselves more fully into the congregation.

The Associates are very active in working along with the Sisters, mainly in the pastoral programs in which we are involved, catechism, Bible sharing, visiting of the sick, children’s pastoral and others. They assume many of the responsibilities, especially when none of the Sisters can be present. They likewise have become active in vocation promotion for the congregation, talking to the youth, explaining about the congregation and handing out vocational material.

We have recently set up a committee for the furthering of the Associate program. One Sister from each of our areas, São João da Fronteira, Sobral and Fortaleza is on the committee along with one of the Associates. In São João they are reactivating the Associate program and in Sobral they have interested people and will be starting the program there soon.

### **Associates in India** By Sister Sabitha Kalathil

In India the Associate circle is growing with the grace of God. The first group of Associates made their promise on April 17, 2016. They have nearly 20 other Associates in formation.



We grow listening to the prompting of the Spirit.

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# In Memory of Our Sister and Associate



**Sister Johnilda Mannhard, PHJC**

Just a one month shy of her 100th birthday and celebration of her 80th anniversary as a Sister of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Sister Johnilda Mannhard, PHJC died on Sunday, April 10 in the

Catherine Kasper Home.

Sister Johnilda (Marcella), the oldest of six children, was born in Highland, Illinois to John and Mary Mannhard. She attended St. Mary's School in Trenton, Illinois where Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ taught. She knew at a young age she wanted to be a religious Sister. Sister Johnilda attended Ancilla Dominican High School. She entered the Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ Community as a postulant on September 2, 1933 and professed her first vows on June 25, 1936. She later graduated from DePaul University with a degree in Education. She began her elementary school teaching career in 1936 ministering in the classroom until 1956. Then Sister was missioned to Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago.

As a small child, Sister Johnilda wanted to help children, especially the handicapped and those whom society deemed socially unacceptable. Her desire was to make people feel better. At Angel Guardian Orphanage (AGO) in Chicago, Sister Johnilda became a "mother" to many children. She served there for 18 years. During a heartfelt speech at the 2015 AGO reunion, former AGO alumnus Joe Ellis said, "Sister Johnilda is the mother I never had and Angel Guardian was my home growing up. Without her efforts, I would have remained the cold, detached and lost child who showed up on Angel Guardian's doorstep. I would have been unable to understand or value what was being offered to me here." Because of Sister's love and care, Joe and some of her other former "kids" called her the "Angel Guardian." Her love for them was evidenced as she continued to write, call and visit with them throughout the years.

Sister Johnilda officially retired to Catherine's Cottage in 2006 and then the Catherine Kasper Home in 2015. She is survived by one sister, Rita Kirstein, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by three brothers, Paul, Louis, Maurice and another sister.

May Sister Johnilda rest in peace



**Magdalen (Meg) Suddaby**

Magdalen (Meg) Suddaby, at 103, was our most senior Associate. She was also one of our first Associates, becoming an Associate in 1983, and, living in California, had been considered part of the East

Three region. She passed away at Vista del Monte, Santa Barbara, California on December 30. Meg was the widow of Raymond Suddaby, who died 1990. She was born in South Bend, Indiana, on May 25, 1912, and spent her childhood in Mishawaka, Indiana. Meg received her education at Ancilla College, Donaldson, Indiana, the University of Arizona at Tucson, AZ and her BA in Liberal Arts at DePaul University, Chicago. She received her MA in Education from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Meg was a PHJC for 14 years, leaving the order in 1945.

Meg's teaching years covered Quincy, Illinois, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Indiana and Stuttgart, Germany where she was affiliated with the American Armed Forces. In 1965, she moved to Santa Barbara, where she taught at Garfield and Washington Schools, until her retirement.

She was a member of the California Retired Teachers' Association; the Honorary Teachers' Society, Delta Kappa Gamma; Old Mission Altar Society; and a RSVP volunteer since 1968. A lover of animals, she belonged to many Humane Organizations, especially Humane Farming, and also, Wildlife Conservation. Since 1977, she began her volunteer work at Old Mission Santa Barbara, which began with the Archive Library, and with the Franciscan Resource Library. She was also a Eucharistic Minister of the Sick for many years.

Meg stated " We need to remember that it is an honor to be an Associate of the Poor Handmaids and feel honored to know that our Blessed Mother was also a 'Handmaid of the Lord', the first handmaid..."

Meg is survived by a stepdaughter, stepson, nieces, nephews and friends. Meg led a life of loving support to animals and the children she taught and will be missed by many.

May Meg rest in peace.

# Upcoming Events at John XXIII Retreat Center Hartford City, Indiana

July 8-9, 2016

## Mercy - Growth in Spirit

Facilitated by Patrick Cleary-Burns and Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC

First of a three-part series: *"Scriptures that Teach Us about Mercy"*

July 9, 2016

## "Mindfulness Through Photography"

Facilitated by Erin Davis

July 22 – 23, 2016

## "Dream Work, A Window in The Divine"

Facilitated by Nancy Dallman

August 5 – 6, 2016

## "The Divine Comendy"

Facilitated by Anthony Franchina

A contemplative retreat exploring the three canticles of Dante's Divine Comedy: Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso.

August 12 – 13, 2016

## "Mining the Dark for Healing Gold"

Facilitated by Norbert Krapf and Liza Hyatt

September 9 – 10, 2016

## "Mercy—Growth In the Spirit"

Facilitated by Patrick Cleary-Burns and Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC

Second of three-part series: "People Who Personify Mercy"

September 23 – 25, 2016

## Men's Fall Retreat

Led by Father Keith Hosey, Rick Wilson, and Dave Jolliff

## MONTHLY EVENTS:

June 5, and August 7, 2016

## "Writing for the Soul"

Facilitated by a featured writer each month. Sundays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

June 21, August 16, and September 20, 2016

## "St. Joseph's Dream Group"

Join in for a pot-luck dinner and reflecting on our dreams as Saint Joseph did. Tuesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

June 23, July 28, and September 22, 2016

## Year of Mercy Dinner Series and Memorial Mass

Mercy Series and Dinner begins at 4:45 p.m. Join us in our chapel for our monthly Memorial Mass as we remember our deceased loved ones.

Thursdays, once a month, with Mass starting at 6 p.m.



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

## Upcoming Events Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center

*a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ*

**JUNE 19 – 24, 2016 • Mercy – The Heart of Faith and the Reason for Hope**

Facilitator: Father Dan Crosby, OFM., Cap.

Retreat Cost: \$600 (Scholarships are available) Please register by June 10

**JULY 31 – AUGUST 5, 2016 • A Brush with God Icon Retreat**

Facilitator: Peter Pearson

Retreat Cost: \$600 (Scholarships are available) Please register by July 22

[www.lindenwood.org](http://www.lindenwood.org)

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# For Whom the Bells Toll

By Chad Kebrdle, Ancilla College



Left: One of the three bells in the tower.

Right: The view from the bell tower of the Motherhouse

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One of the things I tell people I love most about my job at Ancilla is the atmosphere. I can walk around the corner from my office and listen to the pipe organist practicing in the elaborate Ancilla Domini Chapel that is modestly referred to by the Sisters as the “Chapel.” My office has a 10 foot window overlooking the courtyard of the Motherhouse that, in the spring, is alive with brightly flowered trees and singing birds as well as a view of the steeple standing tall and housing the giant bells.

On one occasion as I was eating my lunch in my office, holding a day-old piece of pizza in one hand and a student’s essay in the other, the bells rang out, flooding the courtyard and my office with rich, deep tones. Glancing at the clock on my computer, I noticed it was 12:13 p.m. “That’s an odd time for a bell to ring,” I thought to myself. Not being one to let my curiosity go without being satisfied, I embarked upon the task of finding out what I could about the bells of the Ancilla Domini Chapel.

I was directed, upon asking, to the office of Sister Mary Jo Shingler, who is in charge of the historical archives. After a discussion with her, I left with photocopied documents, a typed letter with information from Sister Mary Jo and a head full of information about the bells.

There are three bells that hang in the bell tower and all three have names. The smallest of the three is named Katherine after the PHJC foundress and weighs in at 350 lbs. The second one is 640 lbs. and is named Maurice, in honor of Dr. Maurice Rosenthal, medical director at St. Joseph of Ft. Wayne, who donated the bells. The third and largest bell is named Ancilla Domini and tips the scales at a whopping 1040 lbs.

The bells were purchased from the Henry Stuckstede Bell Foundry in St. Louis, Missouri for \$790.04. When originally installed, they had to be rung by pulling a rope that extended from the bells to the third floor. In 1947, the IT Verdin Co. of Cincinnati electrified the bells for \$1609. Since then, the need to go into the tower has been eliminated and visitors are no longer welcome to make the steep climb to the best view in Donaldson, Indiana. (I am only assuming, as I did not even ask to see for myself, knowing full well what the answer would be).

The blessing of the bells on September 8, 1921 was a huge event. According to the records, “Our chapel was decorated for the event. It has been said that 5,000 men marched in the procession.” A large container of holy water was on hand with a sponge to begin the anointing. Each bell was washed and dried seven times on the outside as a reflection of Psalm 118, “Seven times a day, I praise you, O Lord.” Then the interior of the bells was anointed four times each as a reminder that the bells could be heard in all four directions.

As with most churches, the bells are rung before Sunday Mass, and before special Masses as well. They are also rung at noon and at 6 p.m. They used to be rung at 6 a.m. as well, but after complaints from the neighbors, this practice was eliminated. When a Sister passes away, the bells are rung during the procession to the cemetery. For the past two years, it has become standard to ring the bells after an execution of a United States inmate. In 2012, the bells were rung during a national moment of silence in the wake of the violent deaths in Newtown, Connecticut.

But after hearing all of this, my original question was still not answered. So I asked, “Why 12:13?” With a sly and cheery side grin, Sister Mary Jo leaned in and said softly, “Sometimes they are a little late.”

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