



ASSOCIATING *News*

PHJC ASSOCIATE/SISTER PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005

PHJC Co-workers Volunteer

Gayle Fiwek, Director of Associate/Sister Partnership



Rick Rippey, a PHJC volunteer, stands among many skids of bottled water to be given to victims of hurricane Katrina

areas. Among the pictures he shared upon his return were those that showed the skids stacked with crates of supplies in the warehouse where he worked. Food, water, diapers, generators, sleep pads, blankets, hand sanitizers and detergents are just some of the supplies he was handling. It looked like an awesome responsibility!

Soon after hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, the Provincial Leadership Team announced that co-workers at the Ministry Center who wanted to do relief work as Red Cross volunteers would be granted the time away from their jobs. Leaving your home, family and job to go to a different region of the country is not an easy thing to arrange. But the Leadership Team made available the continuation of salary and benefits during the co-workers' time away. Nearly two dozen co-workers have completed the Red Cross training and several have returned to the Ministry Center following two or three weeks of volunteer work in the South.

Conditions were anything but easy. They worked in extremely hot weather, often for 12 hours or more each day. Sleeping accommodations were makeshift shelters that they shared with many other volunteers. Food was rarely the tasty and plentiful meals we are accustomed to eating. The co-workers also did not have a choice of where they would be sent or what their duties would be. They answered a call and served wherever they were needed.

One co-worker worked in a warehouse in New Orleans. His duties included the supervision and distribution of supplies to the devastated

Another co-worker processed vouchers for evacuees needing urgent medical, dental and vision care in Louisiana. A third co-worker supervised dietary volunteers who served 10,000 meals per day. Two more co-workers ran a health clinic at an evacuee shelter. Yet another co-worker has been working as a nurse in a shelter.

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family and job to go to a different
region of the country is not an easy
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There are still other co-workers waiting to be called and given their duty assignments. The PHJCs will probably be sending these volunteers to the devastated areas for many more months to come. It is inspiring to see so many co-workers who are willing to make such sacrifices to help those in need. It also involves commitment on the part of the co-workers who are staying behind in order to keep things running smoothly at the Ministry Center. And especially inspiring is the generosity of the Sisters who have supported this volunteer effort. The actions of everyone involved are examples of living the PHJC core values.

Greetings from Sister Virginia Kampwerth



It is with great joy that I send “greetings and prayers” to each of you. Gayle Fiwek asked me if I would write a message to all the Associates to include in this issue of the newsletter. This is another “first” for me

as a liaison from the Provincial Council to the Associate/Sister Partnership.

Since it is near the end of the year 2005 and looking ahead to 2006, I thought I’d include a quote from Catherine Kasper in a newsletter, dated December 1884: “Our vocation shows us...the path for the new year, namely to seek our loving God...to serve and to love more perfectly from one day to the next, from one week to the next and from one month to the next.”

We journey together to bring God to our world, to the towns in which we live, to our family members, our neighbors and all with whom we come in contact. Please know of my admiration for each of you and let us journey together, united in prayer and in living Catherine’s charism to make 2006 a Happy and a Blessed New Year!

Sister Virginia Kampwerth



The Associates’ Mission Statement

Gayle Fiwek, Director of Associate/Sister Partnership

In the fall issue of *Associating News*, an introductory article was written that offered a brief description of the purpose of a mission statement. (see “*What is a Mission Statement*,” Fall 2005) The article also stated that a committee with Associates from the seven regions would be gathering on November 12 to establish the process of developing a mission statement for the Associates. The committee consists of Carmen Reed, Evelyn Siegal, Joe and Betty Chamberlin, Dolores Schafer, Penny Becker, Mary Ann Kemp, Bert Wienhoff, Carolyn Stupasky, Selma Wuebbels, Julie Hummert, Gay Fiwek and our facilitator, Brother Bob Overland, FS. Kudos to this hard-working, courageous group!

As you recall, the idea to create an Associate mission statement came from the January 2005 Chapter of Affairs. It was here that the Sisters gathered to identify their future direction. Also during this time, we Associates met and discussed our future directions. The Sisters enthusiastically support our desire to write a mission statement, which clarifies who we are and what we are about.

As I reflect on that week in January, and on the discussions and thought processes that have taken place throughout this year, I see examples of how Associates and Sisters are traveling on the same highway, but moving in different lanes. To me, the idea of visioning our futures strengthens the partnership that we are constantly striving to achieve and maintain. An example of this occurred during Chapter of Affairs when Associates and Sisters worked side-by-side identifying who the other was and what they were about.

Some perceive this and our separate times during Mission Group meetings as a division between Associates and Sisters. However, leadership of both Sisters and Associates perceive the two groups as working toward a common goal, each according to their different lifestyles. Another perception held by some is that the Sisters are trying to break the ties that bind us as partners. Again, leadership of both communities hold the perception that Sisters are strongly encouraging the Associates to name who

they are as a viable community of men and women committed to following in the footsteps of Catherine Kasper.

One of the statements in the fall article said that putting together a mission statement should bring any differences of opinion out in the open for discussion. In that way, through discussion and collaboration, everyone becomes clear as to exactly what the group exists to do. Our meeting on November 12 was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Differences of opinion were brought out in the open and discussed. One thing we learned as a committee is that this process of putting together a mission statement is a lengthy one—one that will demand the participation of all Associates. It will demand our attentive listening, courageous hearts and much patience.

We are all strongly encouraged to pray about our mission statement. We need to ask God to open and guide our hearts and minds and to give us the ability to listen to each and every voice in our community. Ask God to give us the courage to speak openly and honestly about our differences so that we can reach clarity. We also ask the Sisters and the members of the Fiat Spiritus Community to pray with us throughout the coming months as we proceed with our courageous conversations. As partners in the Spirit, our prayers will enable us to strengthen our bonds and help us to do good works as Catherine Kasper would want us to do.

East One Day of Prayer

Maxine Book

On Saturday, November 5, East One held a retreat at the Vacation House in Donaldson. Sister Cathy Schwemer was our leader for the day. Our topic for the morning was Chapter Themes/Directional Statements and the topic in the afternoon was Courageous Conversation. Sister Cathy was a very informative leader and we all came away with a new understanding of our "Courageous Conversation."

After lunch at the Motherhouse, we were given time to walk in the woods and see the buildings. The leaves were falling and some of our people even climbed to the tree house.

Thanks again to Cathy Schwemer for a wonderful and fulfilling day!



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E-mail gaylef@poorhandmaids.org
 Phone 574-936-9936
 Website www.poorhandmaids.org
 Address Associate/Sister Partnership
 P.O. Box 1
 Donaldson, IN 46513

Upcoming Dates



PHJC Mission Group Meetings

March 16, Thursday	Donaldson Mission Group
March 16–17, Thurs.–Fri.	CKH Mission Group
March 18, Saturday	East Mission Group
March 25, Saturday	Northwest Mission Group
March 25, Saturday	South Mission Group

June 2–4, Friday–Sunday Cincinnati, OH
 2006 NACAR Conference

June 16–20, Friday–Tuesday Donaldson, IN
 2006 Community Week

Getting Acquainted: Meet Some Fellow Associates

compiled by Gayle Fiwek, Director of Associate/Sister Partnership

West Associate Annemarie Mandichak
Sister Loretta Schleper, West Core Team member



After spending years working side by side with Sister Margaret Urban, Annemarie Mandichak learned that God was calling her to a deep and personal love. She stated that God directed her life with more love than she could have ever imagined.

Annemarie began her ministry by helping Sister Margaret with ministering to those who were shut-in at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Hammond, Indiana. She later became the coordinator of Minister of Care in the parish. Annemarie has felt great compassion and love for the sick and those who are shut-in. To bring Jesus has given her great delight and a feeling of gratitude, which is a great reward. To those who have difficulty believing how God could allow so much pain and misery, she has said, "God gave us 'free will.' If I was God I would not have given anyone free will, but God did." Annemarie also became actively involved in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Program at St. Catherine of Siena. About the same time, Sister Margaret invited her to be an Associate and she said, "Yes."

Annemarie experienced life at its best with the RCIA Program. It warmed her heart to see the young adults come close to God, and it gave her an opportunity to show God's love. Hearing the individuals ask for forgiveness has been so powerful. "Once you study and learn about God," she said, "you have to love God and you want to invite him into your life." All that, plus the hugs she receives, reassure her she has been on the right track.

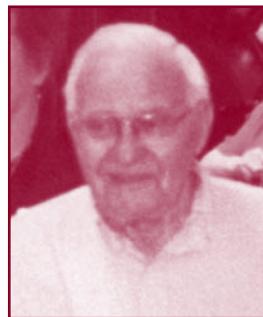
Annemarie is so in love with God and wants others to see her joy and know the same love for them. She has had the opportunity to explain to the young people in the Church that she loves them. She has hoped that her words and examples will take root in them so they can always believe and trust that God will be

present for them. The Little Rock Bible Study helped her a great deal in learning about God's love. She has experienced firsthand the feeling of God's presence, God as a companion on the journey.

Annemarie has been an active participant in the Associate/Sister Partnership for about 15 years. She does not drive, and since many gatherings were held in Donaldson, Indiana, she asked West Associate Mirthala Taylor to take her along so she could participate. Now the Associates meet in homes right in the area.

She has a great love for the Poor Handmaid Sisters. Annemarie realized that God was calling her to be an Associate and to walk with God and be obedient. She also has had a call to work in the RCIA family, helping others to hear her story and her love. She is an active member of a charismatic group. She tells others in the group, "Don't wait to be better. Jesus helps all the time. I just ask, 'What should I do?' and Jesus takes care of it. Let God get in your heart."

East 3 Associate Clarence Simshauser
East Three Core Team member Dolores Schafer



He doesn't say much in public, but his smile speaks for him. Everyone knows 92 year-old Clarence Simshauser is a man with many talents and an extremely caring nature. His caring nature is exemplified by his loving attentiveness to his wife of 66 years.

Clarence had four siblings—three sisters and a brother. "One day," Clarence said while laughing, "when my sisters came home from school they found me! They were surprised but tickled that they had a baby brother. The girls had wondered why Grandma had been staying with them so long!" Clarence knew at an early age what he wanted to do in life. Like his dad, he wanted to be a farmer. "At fifteen," Clarence recalls, "I could not wait to quit school and begin full-time farming with my dad."

It was in Kewanawau that Clarence met Bea. They became acquainted at a place where their dads had been cutting clover. Courtship finally resulted in marriage in 1939. Clarence and Bea purchased their own farm of 104 acres not far from his parents' home. They have two children—Nancy, who presently lives in Michigan with her family and runs a prosperous craft business, and Ron, a retired Delta mechanic who makes his home in Winamac.

When the children went off to school Bea took a position as a deputy recorder for Pulaski County and then was hired as secretary for the Winamac library for another 12 years. Volunteering soon became a part of Clarence's life as he entered the world of Scouting with his six year-old son. He also served the Department of Agriculture in Pulaski County's ASCS (Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service), for whom he measured farm ground and checked grain bins. He was township chairman of the Farm Bureau and later served as County Secretary of the Farm Bureau in the same township.

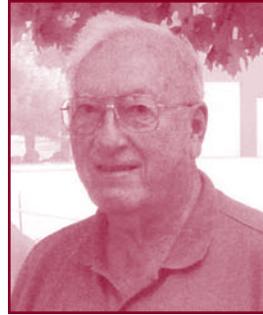
Clarence and Bea became acquainted with the Poor Handmaids when Sister Jeanne Koehler came to conduct CCD classes and to initiate a youth group at St. Peter's, which was run by the St. Joseph Sisters of Tipton. From then on the couple's life became more and more intertwined with the PHJCs. "Sister Jeanne started an adult Bible study group in Winamac and we attended. It was she who interested us in becoming Associates 18 years ago," Clarence recalled.

That introduction led to much more volunteerism. Clarence helped with the senior vacations held at Donaldson, commandeering the boat rides on the lake and helping wherever he could. He also became involved in helping Earthworks. At the time of the Bazaar, he was asked to make a barrel-type revolving container for the raffle tickets, which they still use today. Clarence could generally be found behind the grill, making hamburgers and wieners for East 3's annual picnics. His latest stint was in helping Vern Marti with his mailings from Ancilla. In all of those activities, he became well-known among the Sisters in Donaldson.

With all of the changes in his life, Clarence still takes Bea to Sunday Mass and then out to dinner. If Sunday coincides with an East 3 meeting, he drives himself and Bea up to Donaldson. Clarence even rides his bike around town—four or five miles a day.

But what does being an Associate mean to Clarence? "I thoroughly enjoy the Sisters—what they stand for, what they do, how they interact with others," declares Clarence. "I feel at home with them." And so he is.

Quincy Associate Bert Wienhoff



I was born and have lived all my life in Quincy, Illinois. I was in the army during the second World War, serving a year in the Aleutians. I returned home just long enough to get married and then returned to the South Pacific, serving in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan.

After the war, I took an apprenticeship as a machinist and spent my working years in that trade. In 1947 I joined the machinist union, becoming active first as shop steward and then as committee man. I was elected local Lodge 822 president and held office for five years.

In 1965 my wife left me and a year later we got a divorce. Later I married again, this time to Betty. In 1989 we both received annulments and were remarried by a priest. She has a daughter and a son, and I have two sons. We now have three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In 1991 Betty started RCIA at St. Johns. We were asked to make a retreat for small faith communities. This is when we met Sister Florence Kuhn, who was in the retreat with us. We met once a week for 16 weeks. After becoming close friends, she asked if we would like to become Associates of the PHJCs. I told Betty she could join but it wasn't for men. However, we do every thing together so I went along. One night Sister Florence gave me a book about Blessed Catherine's life. After reading it I was amazed that anyone could have so much faith in God to accomplish so much. This is when I decided to become an Associate.

Sister Cathy Schwemer recommended Betty and I to Sister Deb Davis for the Vocation Ministry Team, where we served for three years. We met a lot of the Sisters and Associates at that time. I have now been on the Core Team for two years. The only other man who has been on one of the teams was Vern Marti. I think more men should get involved.

A Chat with Former Associate Katherine Walsh

Sister Loretta Schleper

Katherine's mother married a man with four children: two girls and two boys. Katherine was the only child of this new relationship. Her half brothers told her that as soon as they met her mother they hoped that she would be their mama some day.

Now at 88, Katherine recalls her first grade teacher, Sister Carmella Mras, PHJC. She remembers that Sister had five thousand wrinkles! "Of course teaching takes a lot out of you—mentally, physically and socially," she stated. Katherine loved when Sister would make her sit on the platform beside her—Katherine liked the view where she could see all the kids. What she did not like was the threat to tell her mother that she was naughty, and it made her cry.

Katherine attended Indiana State Teachers College in Terre Haute where she got a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She taught at Washington Elementary School in the Harbor, often with 32 to 35 first graders at one time. Katherine remembers one student because he was so honest: "Yes ma'am, I did it," he would say. One unusual classroom experience for her was when the pledge of allegiance was said and some of the students did not say it. The principal said teachers could not insist that every student pledge to the flag. So the students would stand in the hall until

it was over. The pledge was so short that by the time they got to the hall it was time to return.

During her thirty years as a teacher she belonged to the breakfast club at St. Catherine Hospital and made many friends, including Sister Stephen Brueggeman. Sister Stephen always impressed her as an intelligent leader and a superior person—there was nothing phony about her. Sister Carmeline Parisi and Sister Stephen invited Katherine to be an Associate. She felt honored to be asked. "The Poor Handmaids are a powerful lot and have always been good to me. They knew what I needed before I knew myself." The PHJCs remember Katherine for her smooth skin, her time at Maria Center, volunteering at St. Catherine Hospital and the attention she gives Sister Barbara Kuper and the children at Nazareth Home.

After Katherine broke her hip in April of 1999, she moved to the Albertine Home to heal. Katherine has her own apartment with a private duty caretaker. Katherine is always happy to hear about the Poor Handmaids and Associates and enjoys their notes, prayers and visits.

You can write Katherine at:
Katherine Walsh, Albertine Home
1501 Hoffman Street, Hammond, IN 46327-1764

Please Remember in Prayer...

all Associates, Sisters, friends and families of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, all those spoken and unspoken prayer requests of friends, family, Sisters and Associates.

Quincy

Carolyn Stupaskyillness of son
Elizabeth Sorrill death of husband
Barbara Mitchellrecovery from surgery
Harold Stark..... illness

North

Sister Bonnie Bolini strength and energy for her studies
Sister Joellen Tumas illness
Mary Jane Boylerecovery from surgery

South

Vern and Nancy Marti illness of daughter-in-law
Leo Kerkemeyer surgery
Mary Krakowiecki illness
Esther Ghernadaughter's recovery from surgery
Betty Rohling illness of grandson

East 1

Sister Laura Banetillness of sister

East 3

Dorothy Weber illness
Sister Kathy Haasrecovery from foot surgery
Sister Mary Jo Shinglerrecovery from recent procedure
Sisters Wilma and Bertram Boevingdeaths of sister and brother-in-law

West

Sister Kathleen Quinn.....sister's recovery from surgery

Mexico

Novice Elvia Mina Juarez entered novitiate on August 27
Postulant Jezabel Pulido Caropreso entered postulancy on September 10

North Region Associates Living the Charism

Gayle Fiwek, Director of Associate/Sister Partnership; photographs by Associate Connie Berger



A few months ago I met with the Associates from the North Region. My purpose in meeting with them was to encourage someone from that region to step forward as the new regional core team leader. I was very uncertain about the outcome when I prepared for the meeting. The North Region has been without a regional leader for over a year now.

We Associates talk about the charism of Catherine Kasper and about listening to the voice within. On that Sunday afternoon in Oak Brook, Illinois, I witnessed the awesomeness of both the charism and the Holy Spirit. Though my original goal for the day did not get accomplished—we still do not have a core team leader for this region of Associate and Sister Partners—but I came away much wiser and was touched significantly by the lives of the Associates who answered my call to come together.

As in some “ah-ha” moments, we often don’t realize the full impact of something until we move away from the moment and allow things to unfold. During our afternoon together, the Associates spoke about things they wanted to accomplish. I was so moved



North Region Associates (l-r) Connie Berger, Hermina Kuhl, Florence Rafac, Anne Powen, Lorraine Schuch, Marie Jacobs, Dolores Karnia, Mary Seymour, Hermila Villalobos Not Pictured: Matt Kuhl and John Powen

by their earnest desire to serve as Blessed Catherine Kasper served. So I encouraged them to move forward with their ideas.

Associates Marie Jacobs and Lorraine Schuch graciously hosted the afternoon meeting in one of the gathering rooms in their apartment building, which was a great place to meet. But it didn’t end there! Shortly afterwards, Marie and Lorraine invited all the Associates to come back so that they could put their words into action. Since that time, they have gathered a few more times. What is their purpose for getting together? They are making blankets for a variety of



Hermina, Hermila, Dolores and Mary having fun making blankets

the missions where Poor Handmaid Sisters are doing ministry. So far they have made six blankets for the babies at Nazareth Home, and they also made three blankets which they donated to the 2006 PHJC Bazaar. They also plan to make blankets for Sister Joellen Tumas’ ministry at the Holy Cross/IHM Food Pantry and Kids Café.

What about the core team leader for the North Region? We still don’t have one, but I have no doubt the Holy Spirit is working and something will emerge in God’s own time. Meanwhile, I celebrate these Associates and their actions. Blessed Catherine surely must be smiling with delight and pleasure because of their attentive ears and courageous hearts.

North Region Associates make blankets for PHJC ministries

Directory Updates

Along with the winter edition of Associating News, you are receiving the 2006 Associate/Sister/Fiat Spiritus Community directory. As usual, revisions are necessary just as soon as the book is finished! Please mark these changes in your new book:

2006 NACAR Conference

June 2–4, 2006

**Cintas Center, Xavier University
Cincinnati, Ohio**

Keynote Speaker: Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Have you registered to attend?

Please read the registration form and Schedule of Events that are included in the packet of materials in your envelope.

This conference is filling up quickly. If you are not registered yet, please check with Gayle in the Partnership Office first to see if there still is room.