Meet Associate Pauline Pierson

Submitted by Jeanne Boomershine, Core Team member, East Three

Shortly after moving to Plymouth from South Bend twelve years ago, my husband and I were invited to participate in the game booth at the annual PHJC bazaar. It was our first taste of the PHJC hospitality and we loved it! We went on to help prepare and sell the much desired apple dumplings for a few years as well.

But my connection to the PHJCs goes back much further than that. My great-grandmother died when my grandmother was about 6 years old. Great-grandfather tried to keep his family together, but he had to work full time as well and so had to put the children into an orphanage.

You guessed right. It was Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago, Illinois. Each of the children was trained to do a task that would prepare them for the outside world. My grandmother took care of younger children and became a nanny. After her marriage, she became a mid-wife as well.

My mother often talked about taking the train to visit the Sisters at the orphanage and how they all “fussed over” her. On my mother’s First Holy Communion Day, about 1912, they visited the orphanage and Sister Paschalis Leonard gave her a memento of the occasion. It was a light-green cameo-type round disc of a child kneeling in prayer before the Eucharist with the hand of an angel on her back. (See photo)

Five years ago when I was invited to discern becoming an Associate, you can imagine my surprise and the thrill I felt to see Sister Paschalis in the video! (Dolores Schafer even backed it up later so that I could see her again.)

(Pauline Pierson, continued on page 3)

Spiritual Family of Catherine Welcomes Two New Associates

Gayle Fiwek, Associate Director

East Three celebrated the First Commitment of two new Associates on February 24, 2008. The commitment ceremony took place in the Ancilla Domini Chapel in the Motherhouse at 3:00 p.m.

Donna Sikorski and Carolyn Meredith, both Plymouth residents, are the newest additions to the Associate Community. We welcome them into our community and wish them well as they fulfill their new commitments as members of the Spiritual Family of Catherine.

Our next issue of Associating News will feature an article and pictures about their First Commitment.

Congratulations, Donna and Carolyn!
Dear Sisters, Associates and Fiat Spiritus Community Members,

To have a 90th birthday as a PHJC is an incredible, overwhelming experience. I hope each of you can have the same.

I am prayerfully and deeply grateful for any way you made that day a treasured memory for me.

Sister Jeanne Koehler, PHJC

Dear Sisters, Associates and Fiat Spiritus Community Members,

“God bless you for being special.” It is a difficult task to try and put into fitting words the gratitude I have for each and every one of you. My heartfelt thanks to the Sisters in the past and the present Provincial Leadership team for graciously taking me in. Special thanks to the Sisters in Fort Wayne community who showered me with their love, care and concern.

Thank you to the Sisters in the Motherhouse community for their hospitality and kindness. Thanks to you for your prayerful support in the times of joy and in the times of sorrow. You are a blessing to me.

The past three years of Clinical Pastoral Education will help me continue the charism of Blessed Mary Catherine with more listening skills and a compassionate heart and will continue to grow and glow in my future ministry. As I say good-bye to you, I will take along with me my experiences and learnings in the true international community living. I am sure it will further my call and ministry in our International Congregation.

God bless you as I thank you. Your gifts of thoughtfulness and caring live in the memory of my heart and soul.

Sister Sharlene Kakkattil

Dear Sisters, Associates and Fiat Spiritus Community Members,

Thank you for your prayers, words and messages of love, support and concern at the recent death of my brother, James Schaefer, who died of cancer. You were remembered in my daily prayers. God bless each of you.

Sister M. Sharon Schaefer, PHJC

Bits & Pieces

Gayle Fiwek, Associate Director

Congratulations to Donna Grzych and her husband JR! In November, Donna wrote to tell me that her tenth great-grandchild, a little girl, was born. Her name is Kylie Marie. What a wonderful blessing!

Bazaar Reminders: earlier in the year I mailed a form from the Development Office to you, asking for your help for the Bazaar. You could donate a prize for the main raffle, and/or volunteer to help at the Bazaar. If you have not returned that form to the Development Office, please do so as soon as possible. There are many, many ways you can help for the Bazaar. Let’s all try to do our part. The Associates are one of the major recipients of the proceeds from the Bazaar, and that money helps us to do many of the special things we do. One way we can show our appreciation is to offer our help. Thanks for all you do!

Mary Paquin: in the winter issue of Associating News, we featured West Associate Mary Paquin. Unfortunately her picture was not included with the article! My apologies to Mary. We are featuring her picture in this issue.
Around the same time, I was part of a pilgrimage to Dernbach, Germany. We stayed at the Motherhouse and walked where Blessed Catherine Kasper walked in her worn and misshapen shoes. To see her humble beginnings and to feel her presence in these things truly touched my heart.

I realize that through my great-grandmother’s untimely death, my grandmother’s life and values were molded in the charism of Catherine by the Sisters at Angel Guardian Orphanage. Therefore, my mother’s life had the same influence and in turn, by the grace of God, my life, too, has been directed on her path.

I continue to try to walk in her footsteps by actively serving as a Eucharistic minister in our parish, at the hospital and local nursing home and to support the bereaved through my association of 22 years with Hospice.

My ongoing prayer is that I will be an example to our eight children, twenty grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and my devoted husband of 24 years, Ray.

I am so thankful for the support of the Spiritual Family of Catherine Kasper, the peace and serenity I find with this spiritual family, and the privilege to pray together.

God is good!

God bless,

Pauline Pierson

(Pauline Pierson, continued from page 1)
A new program offered is a Woman’s Day away program entitled **Growing in Faith – Awakening the New Seed**. Spring is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts. Learn new ways of planting, nurturing, and harvesting the fruit of your spirit. You will have a choice of four break out sessions (offered twice during the day):

1. **Basics – Getting Started on Your Faith Walk**, led by Rev. Denise Anderson pastor of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Donaldson, IN

2. **Rekindle the Spirit** led by Dorothy Stewart from Hartford City, IN. Dorothy has been the director of women’s ministries at her church for 21 years.

3. **How Parents Share Faith – Bring Faith Alive in Your Home** led by Rachael Phillips of Plymouth, IN. Rachael teaches women’s Bible studies and a college-aged Sunday school class

4. **After the Kids are Gone, or When you are Alone** led by Kathy Light of Valparaiso. Kathy is an “empty-nester” and found herself being led by the Holy Spirit into congregational ministry as her youngest left home.

The keynote speaker for the afternoon will be Tricia Sloma, local morning news co-anchor from WNDU-TV, South Bend, IN. The program is March 29, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration fee is $25 and includes lunch.

Dr. Barbara Stone will return to offer classes on **Integrated Energy Therapy**. IET is one of the next generation hands on power energy therapy systems that gets the “issues out of your tissues” for good. Basic Level IET will be offered April 11, Intermediate Level IET will be offered April 12, and Advanced Level IET will be offered April 13. Fee is $145 for the Basic Level class and $195 for the Intermediate and Advanced classes. There are early registration discounts.

April 14 will be our **Quiet Day of Reflection** entitled “The Labyrinth: Walking on the Path to Prayer, Contemplation.” With the completion of our outdoor labyrinth, we are excited to offer this Quiet Day using the labyrinth as a personal, centering prayer tool. Registration fee is $25 and includes lunch.

Another new program is **Build a Nature Bench** taking place on April 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lindenwood is teaming up with MoonTree Community to offer this workshop to learn or review basic woodworking techniques while building your very own bench designed and made famous by noted Wisconsin conservationist, Aldo Leopold. Participants will be guided by experienced carpenters while using the woodworking shop at MoonTree Community Lodge. Registration fee is $40 – all materials and major tools will be supplied, bring your own hammer.

The April 20-25 **Spring Elderhostel** will offer courses “Consciously Living,” led by Sister Mary Baird, PHJC, and Vera Tiani; “The Stars, The Planets, and Us,” will be led by May Crider of Lindenwood; and “Peace, Justice, Care of Earth” will be led by Robert Weir. To register, visit the Elderhostel website at www.Elderhostel.org.

May 19 will be our **Quiet Day of Reflection** entitled **“What Does God’s Presence Within Us Mean?”** Dorothy Weber, Ph.D., former teacher, nurse, and chaplainery student, now residing at the Maria Center, will lead this day. You will listen and seek the ways the divine presence is revealed to you in the ordinary events of your daily life. Registration fee is $25 and includes lunch.

And still another new program is our overnight retreat of **Music: Body, Mind, and Soul** on May 30-31. Rev. Sam Boys, Professor of Religion and Director of Campus Ministry at Ancilla College, will help you explore the effect of breath and sound on the human body, mind, and spirit. You will experience ways to clear the mind, relax the body, and bring focus and clarity to your life by practicing breathing exercises, toning, and rhythm. Registration fee is $90 and includes room and meals.

We will hold a **Women’s 12-Step Retreat** on June 6-8. This is a time away from work and home to focus on where you are in life and in your recovery.
The focus of the retreat will be on the 12-Step living and spirituality. This retreat is led by Sister Pat Underwood from Richland, MI. Registration fee is $165 for single occupancy room, or $135 per person for double occupancy room.

This year, for the first time, we will continue our Quiet Day of Reflections through the summer. June 9, Father Bob Lengerich from St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, IN, will lead the day entitled “Make our Hearts Like unto Thine.” You will explore the history of the Sacred Heart, consider Jesus’ love and mercy, and then ask the Lord to continue working in your life. Registration fee is $25 and includes lunch.

June will conclude with the Summer Elderhostel program. The June 22-27 program will include the topics of Brain Aerobics with Joni Gatz-Bauman; Life as Movement with Mary Holm and staff; and Acupressure with LeAnn Osborn.

As you can see, there are a number of programs and retreats taking place at the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center in Donaldson. To register for these, or any other programs being offered, contact the Lindenwood office at 574-935-1780, or visit www.lindenwood.org. Come, join us!!

Meet West Associate Shirley Jovas

On September 10, 2007 my husband Lee and I celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary. God blessed us with four children (two boys and two girls) and a niece who came to live with us when she was 12 years old. We have 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

I became acquainted with the Poor Handmaids through church and school. That is how I got to know the Associates. My first commitment was in 1989.

The one thing that I believe is the most important part of being an Associate is having the charism of Blessed Catherine Kasper to follow. It is important to be persistent in doing what you believe as the right thing to do and to not give up when you believe God is the still voice inside calling you.

My involvement in parish ministries has been as a lector, a Eucharistic minister, and president of our SVDP for eight years. I now volunteer one day a week for our SVDP by answering the phones and returning clients’ calls. My heart is working for the poor. I have been a volunteer for St. Joseph’s soup kitchen in Hammond, Indiana for the last 22 years on Thursdays.

For my spiritual growth to continue, I love reading God’s word daily. I attend a Bible study on Tuesdays, spend one hour every Wednesday by the tabernacle as an intercessor prayer warrior, and I attend a charismatic prayer group on Fridays. My favorite Catholic media is the radio station 1270 AM Relevant Radio. The wonderful programs they offer have been a valuable tool in helping my faith grow.

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BOOK REVIEW

“Entering the Castle” by Carolyn Myss

Carolyn Myss believes that in today’s world there are many mystics without monasteries. She describes a mystic as one who sees God in the details of daily life and who lives the will of God with no private agenda. In “Entering the Castle” Myss guides the reader on an inner path to God and one’s soul. It is based on the writing of St. Theresa of Avila. As Myss leads the reader through the rooms of the seven mansions she quotes Theresa so frequently that it sometimes seems that Theresa is communicating with the reader personally. She reminds us that to make progress on this path, the important thing is not to think much, but to love much, and so to do whatever awakens love. If you prefer to experience God rather than just to read about God this book is for you.

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John XXIII Retreat Announcements

All the retreats take place at John XXIII Retreat Center in Hartford City, IN.

For more information call (765) 348-4008 or e-mail john23rd@sbcglobal.net or check the website at www.john23rdretreatcenter.com.

**Dreams, Listening to God** March 28-29 Facilitated by Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC. Dreams are a gift from God that enables us to discover more about our lives and ourselves. This retreat begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday night and ends Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Fee: $65.

**Honoring Our Images** April 4-5 This retreat offers participants the opportunity to learn, through experience, and methods of allowing images to emerge through doing art and methods of interacting with these images. You do not need to be an artist to attend. Led by Sister Rosemary, SP it begins on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and continues to Saturday 4:00 p.m. Overnight fee of $70 includes all art materials. Commuter fee $50.

**Quiet Day of Prayer** April 9 Walking with Dorothy Day “On Pilgrimage” and “The Meaning of Work” led by Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC. From 9:15-2:00 p.m. Fee $18. Also May 14 “Living Voluntary Poverty and Active Love” Dorothy Stewart is the presenter.

**Dreams, Listening to God** April 11-12 Jesus’ ministry included healing. He has given us the power to do the same for one another. Ideas from Matt and Dennis Linn’s and Sheila Fabricant’s books will be used: *Prayer Course for Healing Life’s Hurts* and *Simple Ways to Prayer for Healing*. Presenters: Father David Newton and Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC. This retreat begins Friday at 3:00 p.m. and ends Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Fee: $65 for overnight and $45 for commuters.

**A Day of Beauty** April 16 This retreat is for all beautiful ladies over 60. The day will focus on the beauty we each have both inside and out. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Facilitator: Dorothy Stewart. Fee: $25.

**Contemplative Journey** April 26 Come journey with others that are serious about contemplative prayer and learn more about Thomas Merton. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Facilitator: Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC. Fee: $20, plus $5.95 for booklet.

**Spiritual Exercises** May 3-4 Gratitude, Hospitality and Imagination. Learn more about each of these spiritual practices. Nourish your spiritual life by being grateful, hospitable and by using your imagination. Begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday evening and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Facilitator: Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC. Fee: $55 for overnight and commuter fee: $35.

**Directed Retreat** Begins Sunday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.-Friday May 16, noon. Choose between 3-6 days at $70 per day. The retreat includes one to one meetings with a spiritual director daily, prayer services and liturgy, plus overnight and meals. Directors: Father Al Naseman, C.P.P.S. and Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC.

Meet West Associates John and Pennie Becker

*John and Pennie Becker*

**John:** My wife is Pennie. She and I have been married for 3 ½ years. We have one child, Gracie. She is the joy of my life. She is almost 5 years old.

I met the Poor Handmaids through Sister Lorine Huelskamp who was and is a mentor of my wife Pennie. I met the Associates through Pennie when I went to regional meetings. Then I read about Blessed Catherine Kasper and her mission.

I made my first commitment as an Associate in 2007. One of the most important parts of being an Associate is to be able to help others without asking anything in return.

I have been with a church group called “Christ Renews His Parish” for 3 years. For me the high points of being in this group are getting together with other men and studying the Bible. We then share

*(John and Pennie Becker, continued on page 8)*

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John, Pennie and Gracie
Meet West Associate Nancy Jo McCooley

Nancy Jo McCooley

I’m fourth in line in my birth family—the middle child. There are two sisters, one brother, me, then two more brothers and one sister.

I became acquainted with the Poor Handmaids through Sisters Linda Volk, Marjaleen Kelley, and Celine Tomasic. At that time they all lived at St. Ann Parish in Black Oak. I admire all the Sisters and think of them as Angels of God.

My acquaintance with the Associates began when I attended a retreat in Donaldson, and shared a room with Barbara Streggy. My first commitment as an Associate was in 1985. One of the most important parts of being an Associate has been the friendships I have made and the prayer life we have shared. Even when unable to be in person with the Associates, I know they are there for me and with me.

My ministries in life began at a younger age, when going to our little church, one of my sisters, a friend, and I would sing for the families. We helped with the younger and older people. I also volunteered a little with Sister Barbara Kuper at Nazareth Home, quite awhile back. I have worked part time in a factory, day care center, and at home as a homemaker.

Now I help others to get to church or I bring them to their homes. I attend Altar and Rosary Society now and then. I also minister to two church families. I belong to the Mustard Seed Prayer Group. They have been a rock for me. People that I minister to are the people I work for, my neighbors, friends, and family. My family includes my son Steve, daughter Paula and my grandchildren. Thanks be to God for them.

Please Remember in Prayer...

All Associates, PHJCs, Fiat Spiritus Community members, friends and families of the Spiritual Family of Catherine Kasper; all those spoken and unspoken prayer requests of friends, families and members of the Spiritual Family of Catherine.

East One
Cindy Schmitz .................illness of baby nephew
Maxine Book ..................recovering from back injuries

East Two
Dorothy Harder .....................illness
Sue Escher ...............death of mother

East Three
Sister Shirley Bell ..............undergoing cancer treatment
Doris Albrecht ..............recovering from hip injury/surgery
Marla Keefer ..............death of father
Pauline Pierson ...........recovering from broken arm
Sister Kathleen Kelley ....illness of brother-in-law
Sister Cecelia Bianchini ....illness
Dolores Schafer ..............illness

North
Anna Worth ......................illness
Marie Jacobs ..........death of sister
Sister Bonnie Bolini ....preparations for bar exams
Joan Blake ........ongoing health concerns

South
La Garda Holtgrave .................illness
Julie Hummert ................illness
Anna Kampwerth ..........celebration of her 106th birthday
Mary Krakowiecki ......ongoing health concerns

West
Sister Barbara Kuper .........illness and illness of her brother-in-law

Quincy
Katie Druffel ........recovering from heart surgery

Prayers for Discerners in the Family of Catherine

PHJC Community
Denise Smith ..................Affiliate

Fiat Spiritus Community
Loretta Peters ....................Novice
Rosalie Durante ..............Novice

Associate Candidates
East Three
Ann Kershner
Margaret Bonen
Mary Janda
Julianne Maher

South
Georgia Klingler
Libby Riggs
Marge Kessler

Associate Inquirers
East Two
Marge and Jim Bickett
Susie Nasto

South
Dorothy Uebinger

East One
Glenda Federspiel
Directory Updates

Please note the following changes in your 2008 Sister/Associate/Fiat Spiritus directories:

what the scripture does to help us in everyday life. There are no low points to being in this group.

The one core value that I primarily live through my ministry is Openness to the Spirit. I try to just be open to let God in and to live with him. And I am open to seeing how I can share God with others.

Pennie: I am married to John and we have one daughter, Gracie.

I became acquainted with the Poor Handmaids when I belonged to St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Hammond. I became an Associate in 1990. The most important part of being an Associate for me is living out the charism of Blessed Catherine Kasper on a daily basis.

As an Associate, I served as co-director for the Associates. And I also was a member of the previous advisory board. Those ministries with the Associates helped me to become acquainted with many wonderful Associates and Sisters. Presently I am a spiritual director at Christ Renews His Parish. And my nursing career with Porter County is what I consider one of my main ministries. In my nursing ministry of fifteen years, I have met many great people who have given more to me than I have given to them. My primary ministry is that of mother and wife. I want to instill the values of the Spiritual Family of Catherine in my family.

The core value that is most meaningful to me is the value of Simplicity. I try to keep my life simple and live the way Catherine Kasper lived.

(John and Penny Becker, continued from page 6)

Rest in Peace

Sister Lauretta Molitor
1912-2008