Twenty-five Years and Counting

And Now, A Word From Our Associates...

This coming summer of 2012, we Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius will celebrate a community decision made twenty-five years ago to begin an Associate program. As a community, we extended an invitation to members of the laity and clergy to formally share in our community Charism, Mission and Spirituality. Through the years women and men of all ages and walks of life have joined us in a covenant relationship. As we look forward to the Silver Anniversary of this relationship we pray in gratitude for the blessings and graces we have all received from God by this union.

Associates are not vowed members of the community but rather remain steadfast in their baptismal promises and chosen vocation within the Church and society. Several of our Associates have offered their reflections on what this covenant relationship means to them. We hope that you will be inspired by their words and also inspired to join us in covenant relationship too. You may contact any Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius to learn more about The Associates of SSCM or you may write directly to Sister Madonna at sscmadonna@aol.com or at Epiphany Convent, 627 Stevenson Street, Sayre, PA 18840.

Patricia and Ben Williams

My husband Ben and I are privileged to be Associates of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. As Associates, we are part of a community of lay people who are connected to the Sisters in spirit and in friendship, as supporters and companions.

Over the years, we’ve lent our assistance with transportation, shopping trips, moving belongings, helping with special celebrations at our parish, house painting, gathering and delivering items for the flea market and helping with the annual summer festival in Danville. During these years we’ve also enjoyed visits with the Sisters for prayer services and get-togethers with them and the other Associates at St. Catherine Labouré parish in Harrisburg.

Although the SSCM’s are no longer at St. Catherine’s, we hope to keep our local group together and gather from time to time in fellowship and in continuing prayerful support of the Sisters.

Linda Baranoski and Deacon Tom Baranoski

I have been in a relationship with the SSCM’s for more than thirty years and have always experienced hospitality and genuine friendship with the Sisters. When I became an Associate, approximately twelve years ago, my relationship with the Sisters deepened. Each day, when the Sisters join in prayer, their intentions include the Associates and their families. Through this special bond my family and I feel particularly blessed.

Caught for a moment between Silent Auction drawings and the announcement of the winners, Linda and Tom Baranoski are indispensable volunteers at the annual Summer Festival.

In the convent chapel at St. Catherine Labouré, Patricia and Ben Williams sign their formal covenant with the SSCM’s. Sister Maria Goretti, then Director of the Associate Program, witnessed their commitment.
My husband became an Associate about nine years ago. His experiences mirror mine when he says, “I experience being part of a family whenever I am with the Sisters. The warmth and love shown me is a treasure that can’t be bought because it comes right from the heart. I always take away more than I give.” He adds, “As a deacon in the Church it has also been an honor and a privilege for me to serve at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius on the grounds of Villa Sacred Heart and join the Sisters in morning and evening prayers.”

We have shared in many of the Sisters’ activities, including celebrations, festivals, panels and funeral liturgies. We were both privileged to join them during their anniversary festivities and travel with them last year to their roots in Slovakia.

Another joy is meeting with other Associates from all over the country. Because many of us are serving in catechetical and evangelization roles, following the Mission of the Sisters, we have much to share.

Although my husband and I live hundreds of miles away from Danville, we often meet with the local SSCM’s in Charleston, SC. Each year on February 14th, the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, we celebrate together with a liturgy and a meal.

We look forward to visiting the Motherhouse whenever we have the opportunity, particularly in July for the Festival. When we near Railroad Street and see the Tower, we smile, relax and know we are entering a sacred space filled with love, joy and peace.

Father Andrew Kurovsky, 
Pastor of St. Rita Church, 
Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania

Thanks for inviting me to share my experience as an Associate of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. I have known the Sisters since I was five years old and was delighted to become one of the first priest associates. I had the SSCM’s at Sacred Heart School in Wilkes-Barre where they taught me and my sister.

In recent years I have come to know Sisters Kate Morris and Seton Marie who have made an impact on my life. Working with Sister Mary Ann Nemec and getting to know the other Associates has taught me what a great gift it is to be a part of a religious community dedicated to building up the Kingdom. I am in awe of the SSCM’s and am grateful for their influence on me, on my family but most especially the Church. I say to them, “Never underestimate your giftedness, Sisters.”

Father William Waltersheid (right) of the Diocese of Harrisburg was ordained auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh in St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland, PA. The principal ordaining Bishop was His Excellency David Zubik. Because of his singular devotion to Our Lady, Bishop Waltersheid chose as his motto, “Behold Your Mother.”

Bishop Waltersheid, who was ordained in 1992, studied nursing at the Pottsville Hospital. At Holy Rosary parish in Elysburg, Bill Waltersheid met Sister Mary Gilbert, SS.C.M who was instrumental in encouraging the future Bishop to answer God’s call to the priesthood.

Carl Terlicher, Father of Sister Carol Ann Terlicher

My father became an Associate on May 4, 1990. Dad is 89 years old, and he continues to keep the congregation and our ministries in his prayers. With a littleprompting from me, he did remember Sr. Huberta being his prayer partner. He may not remember some things as well as he used to, but when he speaks about our Sisters, he always says that it’s so easy for him to get along with all of us.

Dad occasionally joins us for supper at Andrean, and although he may not say much, I can tell that he is enjoying himself. Whenever I return to Indiana from convocation days in Danville, he usually asks how we’re all doing and if our gatherings went well. My Dad is happy praying for us all!
Rachel Schutz, 
Mother of Sister Joanne Marie

It was in 1986 that Rachel Schutz of Merrillville, Indiana, accepted the invitation to become an Associate. In the beginning she made efforts to pray the Liturgy of the Hours “Rachel” style until she experienced praying it with the Sisters at the Motherhouse during her visits there.

In the summer of 1986 Sister Joanne Marie, her father and her mother Rachel spent two weeks at Villa St. Cyril, the SSCM nursing home in Highland Park, IL. It didn’t take Sister Brigid long to discover the exceptional skills of this talented volunteer. While her husband (an unofficial Associate) drove patients to their doctor appointments, Rachel mended anything the residents needed repaired or altered. Sr. Brigid also noticed the speed with which Rachel operated the sewing machine. The needs then expanded to curtains, clothing protectors, altar cloths and even vestments for the chapel.

Later, Rachel invited her friend, Evelyn Sohacki, to assist her in her newfound sewing mission and encouraged her to become an Associate. These two friends became known as “Cyril and Methodius” and journeyed to the Motherhouse where they spent weeks sewing drapes for the newly renovated Saint Cyril wing. In between Rachel’s visits she fashioned crafts to make and send to Danville for the SSCM festival. She even sewed the letters that hang above the Villa Sacred Heart sign, announcing the festival each year!

Marcia Gruce

When I was first invited to become an Associate my reply was, “no.” Years later my answer became a resounding, “yes.” As I walked down the aisle on Pentecost in St. Patrick Church in Bridgeport, CT, to take Communion to the choir, the words, “You must become an Associate,” repeated themselves in my mind.

Sister Madonna, Director of Religious Education at Holy Name in nearby Stratford, whom I called after this experience was surprised and delighted. The process of becoming an Associate was set into motion and today I am experiencing a renewed and blessed prayer life. Prayer is a more creative experience. For instance I have written my own prayers, have participated in Days of Prayer and make regular Holy Hours. Most importantly, I listen with greater attention to God’s voice in my heart. To paraphrase a quotation, I say sincerely: “You touched me on that Pentecost Sunday and I have grown, especially in my life of prayer.”

My ties to the Sisters have become even stronger. I continue to help at the Summer Festival and have encouraged my classmates at St. Cyril’s School to donate one of the 100th anniversary flagpoles. The highlight of 2010 was my participation in the pilgrimage to Poland and Slovakia in October with the Sisters to places particularly meaningful to them and their ministries.

Bobbi Brown and Liz Brown

I can say I have enjoyed being an Associate very much. Twice a week for nearly a year, I have been a volunteer receptionist at Maria Hall, keeping track of the Sisters who go out and return, handling telephone calls, and taking deliveries. I thoroughly enjoy the experience and I have become acquainted with many of the elderly SSCM Sisters as well as the Dominicans and Carmelites.

Being a volunteer at Maria Hall is both a relaxing and inspiring experience and has brought me closer to the spirituality of the Sisters who reside there. I feel very fortunate to become acquainted with the Sisters who have accomplished so much during their lives. I am thankful they have permitted me to become part of their community. What is even more satisfying is seeing my daughter Liz become an Associate also.

Left: Mrs. Schutz feels most comfortable and looks most relaxed when she is seated at the sewing machine, producing beautiful items for others to use.

December 2010 saw three young women enter the ranks of SSCM Associates. Standing between Sisters Linda Marie and Debbie are Bliss Fallon, Alessa Makuch and Liz Brown.

Marcia Gruce

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What We Have Is Ours to Share

Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, SS.C.M.

The wonder of God’s creative hand often astounds us: the sun slanting through the crimson and gold leaves of autumn, the silence of a winter’s morning, the greenness of grass after a spring rain, and purple-flavored sunsets. Here at Villa Sacred Heart these great gifts of God’s world surround us and sing to God’s glory.

Throughout our history, but particularly in recent decades, our Motherhouse has become a place of pilgrimage, retreat, and reflection for many people. Some are teenagers bussed in for the school’s required retreat day, others are clergy and laity from Lutheran, Anglican, and other Christian traditions, some are friends and neighbors joining the Sisters for a day or days of prayer. All of them come seeking a moment of refuge from life’s demands, hoping to find inner stillness where the voice of God might be heard. And here, surrounded by some ancient trees, and sprouting flowers, with the mountains circling around, the gift of God’s beauty overtakes them.

For us Sisters, this place of beauty is a treasure, but it is not ours to hoard. We open it to hearts seeking God, longing for peace, striving to find their way. To all of you who help us maintain this space that has become holy ground for many people, uncounted friends say “thank you.”

Servant Leaders Honored in the Diocese of Gary

May 1st, the Sunday after Easter, provided a decorated setting for the seventh annual Servant Leadership Awards presentation in the Midwest, held this year at St. Mary Church in Crown Point, IN.

Thirty high school Juniors and Seniors were singled out for recognition by their pastors, Youth Ministers, SSCM Sisters or high school principals because of their commitment to the kind of service that Jesus demonstrated at the Last Supper. The whole Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius was on hand to join with the Sisters at Andrean to honor the students chosen and present them with their certificates and towels—a simple reminder to be of service wherever and whenever possible. Each of the students was invited to name and honor a mentor, someone whose example and help has been an inspiration to her/him. Following the awards ceremony, a cookie and punch reception was held for all those in attendance at the Church hall.

Left: Having received her certificate from Sister Linda Marie, the Servant Leader moved past the elaborate display of Jesus risen from the dead to receive a towel embroidered with the SSCM logo on it.

Below: Before moving to the Church hall for refreshments, the group of Servant Leaders poses with the Sisters who have honored them.

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Sister Jeanne Ambre

Michael Amrich of Davie, FL, has known the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius since his grade school days in Torrington, CT. Taking a special interest in the stories of our mission in the Our Times, Mike has faithfully supported this publication with his prayers and donations. He is pictured here with his wife Trudie and Sister Paracleta at the 2011 Jubilee celebration.
Perpetual Vows for Sister Marcine Klocko

In the Basilica at Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, on Saturday, October 1, Sister M. Marcine, SS.C.M. made her perpetual profession of vows in a ceremony attended by many of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. A number of the Sisters with whom she served in South Carolina were present and participated in the ceremony.

The Reverend Gerard Heintzelman was celebrant of the Eucharistic Liturgy and a participant in the Rite of Perpetual Profession. In his homily Father lauded Sister Marcine for always using her talents on her spiritual journey and continuing to hone new ones. “Your experience of the past has brought you to this community and to the service of Christ. Today you are willingly embracing tomorrow. Remember the promise of Christ, ‘My yoke is easy and my burden light.’”

After Sister Marcine read the formula of vows in which she made her perpetual commitment, she was given a simple silver ring. Sister Linda Marie, the Congregation’s General Superior, gave a formal welcome and exhorted her to “be faithful to the ministry the Church entrusts to you to be carried out in its name.” The following Sisters were witnesses to the signing of her profession: Sister M. Rosamund, Sister M. Marguerite and Sister Elizabeth Ann Matonak.

Sister Marcine currently serves as treasurer of Maria Joseph Manor, Inc. and The Meadows at MJM, Inc.

Left: Sister Marcine pronounces her perpetual vows in the Basilica sanctuary with her hand on the Bible in the presence of all the Sisters present.
Lower left: The main altar serves as a fitting symbol as Sister Marcine signs the vows she has just pronounced.
Below: Having witnessed the profession, Sisters Marguerite, Rosamund and Elizabeth Ann Matonak affix their signatures to the official record.

Musical Chairs and Chaplains

Big changes at Villa Sacred Heart occurred the Monday after Easter when Father Patrick Devine, chaplain at Maria Hall for almost two years, moved himself and his retirement to Florida. While the Maria Hall Sisters were sad to see him go, his apartment at Maria Hall was soon graciously occupied by Father Gerard Heintzelman who took over as Maria Hall chaplain—and the only chaplain on the grounds. Farewell parties were held in both the Motherhouse and Maria Hall, and adjustments to the daily schedule have kept everyone conscious of the bulletin boards.

The search is on for a Motherhouse chaplain for the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Father Devine joined the fun at the Motherhouse Sunday brunch to say “So Long” to Father Heintzelman who moved to Maria Hall.
Sister M. John Vianney was invited to speak at Benedict Inn on August 2, 2011, on her collaboration in the filming of “Interrupted Lives,” a DVD detailing the lives of Sisters who suffered under Communism. Among the forty-five individuals who attended were a number of Andrean alumnae. The following were also present: the President of the Czech Slovak Society of Indiana, Jozef Svec and his wife Josephine, and Steve Zlatos, a member of the Slovak Council for Slovakia. Sister Joan Marie Massura, O.S.B., who arranged the event, said, “The evening was a strengthening of our faith and love.”

Getting the Story Out There

On June 24th, Sister Linda Marie had the privilege of sending the members of the St. Cyril Preschool on to Kindergarten. At the right, Henok Yohannes shakes hands with Sister Linda Marie before receiving his certificate prepared by Sister Donna Marie.

In early June, Mrs. Finn and Mrs. Meginley brought their Kindergarten students and the books they had authored to Maria Hall so that they could read them to individual Sisters there. Pictured below is Chloe Rishel sharing the alphabet book she composed and illustrated with a very interested listener, Sister Grace.

At the annual July SSCM Convocation Days, the Sisters had the opportunity to listen to a presentation by Paula D’Arcy, a well-known writer, playwright, retreat leader and seminar speaker. A former psychotherapist, Paula survived the loss of her husband and young daughter in an accident in 1975. She was three months pregnant at the time. Paula spoke powerfully from experience on living each day to the fullest. Among her best-selling books are Gift of the Red Bird, Waking Up to This Day and When People Grieve.

Getting the Story Out There

What looks like a cast of thousands is really the 7-12 year old Summer Stage cast after their final performance of “Kokonut Island” in the Maria Hall auditorium on July 2nd. Sister Donna Marie had done it again--turned a group of would-be actors into the real thing in just two weeks. Only ten mornings of rehearsal, coupled with innumerable hours of sewing and construction made it happen. Kudos!
The NRVC Selects a New Associate Director

In late June, Sister Deborah Marie Borneman received a life-altering phone call from Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC). “For the experience,” Sister Debbie had gone through the process of applying for the position of Associate Director in an organization to which she had belonged for 10 years as Vocation Director for the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She was somewhat surprised to be flown to and from Chicago in a single day for a face-to-face interview at the organization’s headquarters, but figured she had a very slim chance of actually getting the position for which she had applied. But the people at NRVC must have seen what we have known to be true--Sister Debbie is the person who can do the impossible and do it better than well! The phone call she received from Brother Paul informed her that she was their choice, and now Sister Debbie is the Associate Director of the NRVC. While we miss having her close to Danville, we could not be prouder of this amazing opportunity for her to serve religious communities nationally.

With an annual membership of over 1,300 women and men, most of whom are vocation ministers for religious congregations, the National Religious Vocation Conference is a professional organization of vocation ministers that presents religious life as a viable option in the Catholic Church. It promotes vocation awareness, invitation, and discernment to life as a religious sister, brother, or priest. NRVC reflects all forms of religious life and provides educational opportunities, resources, and other supportive services for spiritual, professional, and personal growth.

Anyone for Tea?

St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten held its annual Mothers’ Tea on Sunday, September 18th in the Villa Sun Parlor. While the Mothers and daughters enjoyed tea and goodies, the Fathers and their sons took a hike and enjoyed a picnic.
Sophie Matlak was born in Lozorno, Slovakia, the daughter of Vendel and Frances (Rac) Matlak. Because her parents feared she would not live, she was baptized immediately. They dedicated her to Our Lady and ever since she was Mary’s faithful child.

Sophie was only thirteen months old when her father left Slovakia for the U.S. It was not until she was seven that the family reunited and settled in New York City. Sophie attended St. John Nepomucene School in New York City where the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius taught. Sophie had no thought of becoming a Sister—she even walked many city blocks to avoid encountering them! When she was in Grade 5, however, she recognized their kindness, joyfulness and prayerfulness and had a change of heart. Her mother was delighted that her daughter wanted to become a Sister since she had once wanted to be a religious herself but could not.

Attending St. Cyril Academy was a joy for Sophie. When she first heard the students singing Gregorian Chant, she was transported to the heavenly realms. On January 20, 1944, Sophie entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

Sister Stephanie received a B.S. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton. For over 40 years of ministry in education in parish schools in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, Sister Stephanie taught grades 1-6 and religious education classes, and served as principal and superior.

Following her years in the teaching ministry, Sister Stephanie began the second phase of her ministerial life in elder care. Sister served as a nursing assistant at Villa St. Cyril, Highland Park, IL, and St. Ann’s, Columbia, PA. Her mission at St. Ann’s where she served the sick, the elderly and the dying was particularly dear to her heart. She remembered fondly many people whom she was able to coax closer to Jesus, especially persons near death, as well as a woman who entered the Church inspired by her example and with her encouragement. Sister Stephanie also made some life-long friendships with the ASC Sisters with whom she worked, especially Sister Colette.

After her active ministry in education and elder care, Sister became a Pastoral Visitor at Maria Hall and Emmanuel Center. She served as a superior at St. Methodius Convent and Maria Joseph Manor in Danville. When she retired to Maria Hall, she became the director of the Religious Article Shop.

Sister had clear cut advice for young women who aspire to religious life: Do not fear because God’s love is eternal. “Where love dwells, there is no need of fear.”

Sister Stephanie was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Stephen and Edward. She is survived by many devoted nieces and nephews.

Margaret Mihalik was born in Jessup PA, the daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth (Adam) Mihalik. She attended St. Michael School in Jessup, St. Patrick High in Olyphant and Jessup High School, and graduated from St. Cyril Academy in Danville, PA.

Margaret entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville at age 15, and became Sister M. Thaddeus when she was received as a novice. She received a B.S. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton, PA. She studied at several other schools, notably Pius X School of Music in New York City.

Sister Thaddeus’ ministry in education was extensive. For 64 years in the classroom she lived her favorite Gospel verse: “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.” She taught Kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 in parish schools in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey also taught in religious education programs. She shared her expertise with others, giving demonstrations in science and in methods of teaching Religion, reading and English in the primary grades. When the congregation began its teaching ministry at St. Andrew School, Waynesboro, PA, in 1985, Sister was one of the pioneer Sisters. The last 11 years of Sister Thaddeus’ long teaching career were spent at the Villa Preschool and Kindergarten.

Sister Thaddeus was especially interested in music and reading. As a teacher of choir and instrumental music, she endeavored to pass on to her students her joy in music. In 1958, the first graders of St. Stephen School, Plymouth, Pennsylvania, performed on the “Mike and Terri Morning Show” on WYOU-TV. A quarter-million viewers were treated to an hour-long program, “The Nativity,” highlighting their musical and acting ability.

The youngerss Sister Thaddeus taught always made great strides in reading. They won awards for participating in reading programs like “Book It,” a reading-incentive program sponsored by Pizza Hut. The Wyoming Valley Society gave Sister an award for encouraging students to write prize-winning poetry.

Sisters in the ministry of education always remember with joy their students who became priests. Sister Thaddeus never forgot Father Daniel Menniti who came to celebrate her funeral, and Father Adam Kelts, O.F.M. Conv.

Later in life Sister devoted her energies to pastoral visits to the Sisters at Maria Hall, Emmanuel Center and Maria Joseph Manor. She spent three years in retirement at Maria Hall.

Sister Thaddeus is survived by a brother, Joseph Mihalik, Pompton Lakes, NJ, a sister Martha Buchla, Bridgeport, CT, and nieces and nephews.
The daughter of Stephen and Stephanie (Illovsky) Yaneka, Anna Yaneka was born in Tresckow, PA. She attended the public school in Tresckow and then went to St. Gabriel High School in Hazleton for her freshman year. It was there she had a conversation with a Sister of Mercy that sparked in her an interest in the religious life.

It was her brother Stephen who suggested Anna attend St. Cyril Academy in Danville for the remainder of her high school years so that she would become “a polished, well-bred and well-educated young lady.”

The two people in her life who meant the most to her were her brother, Father Stephen Yaneka, and Mother Emerentia. One of her most cherished memories was attending Father’s ordination at St. Peter’s Cathedral in Scranton and participating in his First Mass at St. Michael’s Church in Tresckow. Mother Emerentia had a profound influence on Anna during her senior year and also in the novitiate. In a 1987 Jubilee reflection, Sister Grace wrote, “I still live by the hierarchy of spiritual values she (Mother Emerentia) exhorted us to form.”

In February of 1935, Anna entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. After profession, Sister Grace received a B.S. from Marywood University, Scranton, PA, which served her well in a long teaching career. Sister Grace taught grades 1-6 in parish schools in Connecticut, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania for almost 60 years. When departmentalization came into vogue, Sister taught math in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. She also taught in religious education programs. Her specialty was preparing youngsters for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

After retiring to Maria Hall in 2001, she remained an active member of the community there by participating in the Ministry of Prayer and Hospitality, acting as receptionist, performing culinary duties, assisting in the Arts and Crafts Department and tutoring. One of the adults she tutored in English was Anna Sarisska from Janov, Slovakia, who lived at Maria Hall for a time and worked as a nurse at Maria Joseph Manor. In 2002, she and several other Sisters helped Father Joseph Kutarna, S.D.B., a professor of Theology at Comenius University, Bratislava, improve his English skills. Later, in 2005, Sister Grace was one of the teachers to help then Deacon Joseph Vadkerti to make greater progress in English.

In the last years of her life, Sister Grace took loving care of the Maria Hall basement cat, Lucy, who sadly does not appear to enjoy the consolation of faith in adjusting to Sister’s absence.

Sister was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Margaret and Mary, and her brother, the Reverend Stephen Yaneka, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton. She is survived by devoted friends, especially the Pistack family.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.

My God, Why Have You Abandoned Me?

Varied answers to this scriptural question were presented at the annual Lenten Day of Reflection at Villa Sacred Heart on April 3, 2011. In addition to Rosary and Mass, those in attendance heard a Keynote address given by Sister Linda Marie and selected two out of three workshops presented by Agnes and Jim Dinn, Joan Liebler and Sister Deborah Marie. Time for personal reflection, outdoor walks and visiting with Sisters filled the day set aside for spiritual renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

For what felt like a very long time, the Adoration Chapel at the Motherhouse was closed so that the stairs leading to the front door could be repaired. Now that the repairs are complete, the chapel is open once again to the devout people who spend hours before the Blessed Sacrament praying for the needs of the world. Our thanks to the generous benefactors who made the repairs possible.
We Were Wishing...

We wished for chairs in the Motherhouse dining room and many generous donors heard the wish and responded by donating the money we needed to make the wish a reality. Thanks to these kind people, the Motherhouse dining room is filled with beautiful, sturdy chairs in two styles: with arms and without arms. Now the Sisters as well as the many groups who join us for retreats--adults and youth groups, Cursillo, Jubilees, Tres Dias, meetings and workshops--will be able to enjoy their meals in comfort, seated in chairs which had their origin in the generosity of our kind benefactors. Many thanks!

Once a fixer, always a fixer. Such is the story of Maria Hall’s outdoor stations and Sister Justin, O.P. Two years ago, Sister Justin helped Mr. Terry Brady repair the stations which were in serious disrepair. When they needed repair once again, Mr. Brady redesigned them, Mr. Todd Reibsome burnished the bas relief sculptures and Roman numerals from the original set and Sister Justin painted the new stations now mounted on a cross of treated wood set into a base that can withstand the weather. We are most grateful for Sister Justin (right), her talents and the gift of her time.

Following a serious cosmetic overhaul just before Easter, the Motherhouse community room was blessed by Father Heintzelman with the help of Sisters Michaelette, Sara and Marcine.

Our Thanks to All Who Bought a Ticket

Would that all could be winners in the SSCM Annual Raffle, and that we could amply reward all those who so faithfully sold tickets! We are grateful for all the efforts and contributions which made the raffle a success in these most difficult economic times. Listed below are those who won the prizes on August 15th when the drawing was held. Not listed are all the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius whose ministries are so generously supported by our good friends and family members who sell and buy these raffle tickets. We are the most grateful winners!

$1000.00 – Mrs Rosemary Dupre, Wilkes-Barre, PA
$500.00 – Ann Orlando, McAde, PA
$250.00 – Rose McNulty, Wilkes-Barre, PA
$250.00 – Barbara Pierce, Perth Amboy, NJ
$100.00 – Mark Philips, Drums, PA
$100.00 – Julie Jones, Danville, PA
$100.00 – Mrs. Jean Harida, Harrisburg, PA
$100.00 – Agnes Paduch, Somerset, NJ
$100.00 – Frank Cackovic, Harrisburg, PA

Gratefully labeling the new chairs with the donor’s name are Sisters Denise Marie and Donna Marie.

Sisters Irene Marie, Sara and Linda Marie work at deciphering the name of the winner just drawn from the big barrel.

Our Times -- Fall 2011

Centennial Book Sale

The SSCM Centennial Book is a valuable resource which contains our community history in story and photographs, recounting our first century as a Congregation, including the celebrations of our hundredth year.

Ordering Information

The cost of the book is $25.00 with $5.00 for postage and packaging. Send your name and mailing address along with a check for $30.00 to:

Centennial Book Order
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville, PA 17821
This year the kindness and generosity of our benefactors has helped us make the following necessary improvements: paving the driveway and replacing the steps that lead to the Adoration Chapel, repairing a section of the roof at the Villa building and paving the roadways around Maria Hall.

Your donations continue to support our senior Sisters and to contribute to the Sisters’ Mission to the Elderly at Maria Joseph Manor, Emmanuel and Nazareth.

We depend on your goodness particularly for the help you provide for the elderly, our outreach to the needy and those who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord through our retreat programs at the Spiritual Center and the vocation programs that assist women discerning God’s call.

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with abundant graces. Each day we remember you in our personal and communal prayer and throughout the year at special Masses for you, our friends and benefactors.

May God’s blessings unite us as we “witness, proclaim and build God’s Kingdom” together.

Sister Denise Marie, SS.C.M.

At the April Lenten Day of Recollection, Sister Denise Marie used the opportunity to spark interest in the annual raffle, selling tickets after the dinner in the dining room.

Anonymous
Dr John Adan
Mr and Mrs Steven E Albertson
Mr and Mrs Robert Allena
Rev Philip Altuilla
Mr and Mrs Mark P Amrich
Mr and Mrs Martin J Amrich
Mr and Mrs Michael M Amrich
Ms Penelope Anderson
Mr and Mrs Peter C Armbruster
Mrs Pauline Babonis
Mrs Catherine M Babasksie
Attorney and Mrs Frank Baker
Mr Joseph Balint
Mr Robert Balitchik
Mrs Eleanor Bednarzik Baran
Ms Agnes A Basler
Ms Genevieve A Behan
Mr and Mrs Joseph R Behil
Mr John S Behr
Mr and Mrs Thomas E Beiter
Mr John T Belford
Mr Joseph S Bendick
Mr Paul Berish
Ms Mary Ann Biel
Mr and Mrs Stephen Biel
Ms Rose Bielen
Dr and Mrs Thomas J Bitterly
Ms Susan Blanton
Mr and Mrs Dennis Bobber
Mr and Mrs George C Borkowski
Brady Funeral Home Inc.
Mr and Mrs Kenneth E Brannin
Mrs Helen Brchnel
Ms Helen B Breznicky
Mrs Mary T Broadhurst
Mr Edward Bucz
Mr Walter J Buracyjyk
Ms Joan Burak
Mr and Mrs Terry Burkholler
Mrs Margaret Cammisa
Catholic War Veterans - Phila
Mr and Mrs Gary Cavanaugh
Mr and Mrs Joseph J Cerniglia
Cherokee Pharmaceuticals
Ms Agnes M Chervenak
Ms Elizabeth Chimock
Mrs Ann B Cigas
Ms JoAnn Coates
Mr and Mrs Cornelius Coffey
Mr James J Comisky
Rev Gerard M Connolly TOR
Mrs Lorraine F Conway
Mrs C M Cook
Dr and Mrs James A Cook
Mrs. Kathleen T Corradetti
Mr and Mrs Paul F Cotter
Drs Paul and Kathleen Mayzel Cotter
Mr Kenneth Courtney
Mr and Mrs Joseph A Covas
Mr and Mrs Arthur K Cronin
Mr and Mrs Joseph P Curilla
Mr and Mrs Joseph Damante
Mrs Emily Degenhart
Mrs Idita T Dennehy
Mr James J Dezaggottis
Mr and Mrs Mark M Dezaggottis
Diocese of Charleston SC
Mr and Mrs James Dinn
Ms Louise Dixon
Ms Marilyn Dolan
Mrs Mildred T Domian
Mrs Rose M Doolin
Mr and Mrs Louis Dorin
Mrs Blanche Duchon
Mr Edward W Duffy
Mr and Mrs Andrew B Durako Sr
Mr and Mrs Frank Duzen
Mr Edward L Dzanis
Mr George T Dzurow
Mr and Mrs Donald C Eckerson Sr
Mrs Dolores Elliott
Mrs Judith Elliott
Mr and Mrs Robert M Engleman
Mrs Mary Esdale
Mrs Anna Fallat
Mr and Mrs William Fayta
FCSLA – Jr Branch 8 – Throop PA
FCSLA – Branch 26 – Peckville PA
FCSLA – Branch 46 – Lansford PA
FCSLA – Branch 70 – Scranton PA
FCSLA – Branch 108 – Peckville PA
FCSLA – Branch 140 – Lansford PA
FCSLA – Branch 287 – Oak Lawn IL
FCSLA – Branch 289 – Merrillville IN
FCSLA – Branch 421 + 322
Willowbrook IL
FCSLA – Sr Branch 475 – Bedford OH
FCSLA – Sr Br 615 – Jr Br 526
Wilkes-Barre PA
FCSLA – Maria Kollar District
Peckville PA
FCSU – Assumption of the BVM
Louisville KY
FCSU – Branch 7 – Morann PA
FCSU – Branch 313 – Orland Park IL
FCSU – Branch 419 – Wilkes-Barre PA
FCSU – Branch 593 – Louisville KY
Mrs Ethel A Fech
Mr Albert Fecko
Mr Gary Y Fegley
Mr. and Mrs. William J Fender
Mrs Beatrice M Ferraola
Bernice Fesnak
Raymond Girard David Ficca
Mr John Figler
Mr and Mrs James Fine
Ms. Amelia A Fiorilla
Mr William V Flynn
Dr and Mrs James G Gallagher
Rev Msgr John M Galyo
Ms. Florence Gazak
Mrs Julie Geffert
Mrs Anna V Gerardi
Mr and Mrs Raymond Giovannini
Ms Judith Ann Glogovsky
Mrs. Barbara Godlewski
Mr Joseph Godlewski
Mrs Lorraine Goliasik
Mr and Mrs George Gombeda
Mr and Mrs Robert Gorman
Mr Stephen Goric
Mr and Mrs Steven M Gottlieb
Mr Edward Green
Mrs Helen Grena-Krenecki
Mrs. Elizabeth M. Gres
Mr and Mrs Joseph M Gruce
H A Smith Painting and NEPA PDCA
Mrs Mary L Haefner
Mrs Josephine T. Hain
Mr Milan Halgas
Ms Lee R Hamilton
Mr John A Hancock
Dr and Mrs James P Hanigan
Ms Gemma L Hans
Ms Elizabeth Hardesty
Mr and Mrs Robert G Hartman
Mr and Mrs Dale T Hazlak
Sen and Mrs Edward Helfrich
Ms Kathleen Heitzman
Ms Geraldine B Hertko
Mr and Mrs Walter Horoschak
Mr James V Hrovat
Ms Anna M Hudo
Mr and Mrs Andrew J Hvozdov
Reverend Andrew Hvozdovic
Ms Bobbie Iannon
Mrs Catherine Immerman
Mr and Mrs Gerard G Innocenti
Ms Martha and Magdelan Iskra
Dr and Mrs George Jancosek
Mr and Mrs Anthony Jankola
Mr Cyril M Jasus
Mr and Mrs Louis J Jasper Jr
Mrs Jeanne Johnson

Easily identified by their tyedied shirts, Cor ad Cor volunteers Alison Moore and Emily Derois share a root beer moment with Sister Virginia Zapotocky.
Following the Mass in the Basilica on Festival Day, the Cor ad Cor volunteers pose for a group photo. Well done, ladies!
Fall 2011 -- Our Times

MEMORIALS

In Memory/Honor of:

Given by:

William Albertini Jr  
Mrs Ellen Albertini Dow

Elizabeth Amrich  
Ms Janet Buckley

Mr Cyril Amrich Sr  
Mrs Caroline Amrich

Mrs Joan Baback  
Mrs Mildred T Domian  
Mr and Mrs Wilbur L Kipnes  
Mr and Mrs Timothy McVey  
Mrs Josephine E Nekoranik  
Rawle and Henderson LLP  
Mr and Mrs Charles Raphcich  
Mr and Mrs Richard Riedeau  
Mr and Mrs Michael J Rose  
Mrs Helen E Sabo  
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP  
Ms Rosanne C Stevenson  
Mrs Francis R Schwartz  
Mr and Mrs Paul H Titus  
Mrs Irene B Valach

Mrs Melida Bembeneck  
Mr and Mrs Gregory L Katynski

Thomas Bender  
Mr and Mrs Thomas R Bender Jr

Mr Joseph Biros  
Mr and Mrs Francis J Dinga  
John M Cherniga  
Mr and Mrs Joseph J Cherniga  
Class of 1938 Sacred Heart Slovak School-Wilkes-Barre  
Mr Andrew M Chuba

Elizabeth Chovanchak  
Mr Andrew M Chuba

Dorothy Chuba  
Mr Andrew M Chuba  
Michael S Chuba  
Mr Andrew M Chuba

Sarah Jane Dawson  
Danville Senior Center  
GMC – 3rd Floor Lab Staff  
Mr and Mrs Robert W Webber

Cindy DeMaranville  
Ms Janet Stefano  
Anna Deitrich  
Mr Joseph Nichols and family  
Eugene Dow  
Mrs Ellen Albertini Dow

Ferchak Family  
Mrs Barbara A Ferchak

Felix and Veronica Friedman  
Mr Andrew M Chuba

John and Lorraine Gomboda  
Dr and Mrs Fellin

William Haefner  
Mrs Mary L Haefner

Dorothy Hancock  
Mr John A Hancock

Mrs Deborah S Weiser  
Mr and Mrs David A Wenner  
Sister Regina Wernitz RSM  
Mr and Mrs Walter C Wilson  
Ms Janet M Winter-Becker  
Mrs Norma J Withey  
Mrs Helen M Wojnar  
Ms Barbara Wright  
Mr and Mrs Eugene L Yachera  
Mrs Anna Yambor  
Mrs Veronica Yasaki & Sons  
Mrs Joan M Yonki  
Mr and Mrs Arthur B Zaleski  
Ms Mary Zarecky  
Ms Beatrice Zatley  
Ms Bernadine Zibrida  
Mrs Irene Zurine  
Mrs Mary T Zvitkovitz

Mrs Michele Amrich-Hankins  
Mr Roger D Hankins

Ida and Mary Harrison  
Mr Samuel F Harrison Sr

Hnatt Family  
Mrs Barbara A Ferchak

Marie Holman  
Mr and Mrs Milan A Kusznysk

Anna Hozempa  
Dr and Mrs Stanley T Hozempa

Thomas Hughes  
Mr and Mrs Richard M Nappi

Mary Belle Hunt  
Ms Shirley D Stifer

Adrienne Iskra  
FCSLA Sr Br 615 Jr Br 526

Patricia Kantrowitz  
Norma Young

Susanne Rose Kascak  
Mr and Mrs Joseph Damante

John Kashmere  
Mrs Gloria Kashmere Henry  
Mrs Jean Kashmere  
Ms Roberta Mills  
Robert Kashmere  
Mrs Jean Kashmere

Mary and Walter Klocko  
Mr and Mrs Walter W Klocko Jr

Margaret Kofskie  
Mr and Mrs James K Kofskie

Emily Kolozelieczak  
Mr and Mrs Richard Wittinski

Helen Krubitzer  
FCSLA Sr Br 615 Jr Br 526

Kussmane Family  
Mr and Mrs Andrew Sobek

Lapuskam Family  
Ms Margaret Lapusnak

Stephen and Ann Lederleitner  
Mrs Barbara Oatman

Frank and Dorothy Lennartz  
Mr and Mrs Lawrence F Lennartz

Living and deceased members of FCSLA – Br 70 – Scranton PA  
FCSLA – Br 70 – Scranton PA

Marqueen Lutz  
Mrs Helen R Ehmer

Dr and Mrs Gabriel Martycak  
Mr and Mrs Joseph Rudawski

Michael and Susan Mayerjack  
Mrs Mary M Mayerjack

A trip to the Festival is not complete without a wander through the Flea Market items which Sister Teresa Urda so carefully prices.

Hand-squeezed lemonade is hard work as Ellen Valovage experienced helping Sister Donna Marie at the PS&K Festival stand.
MEMORIALS

In Memory/Honor of
Given by:

Thomas McGuire
Mrs Carol McGuire
Lawrence E Novack
Mr and Mrs Lawrence L Novack

Gertrude Oravec
Ms Eleanor D Ghilardi
Mr John A Oravec

Eleanor Orloski
Mr and Mrs Charles Deal
Mr and Mrs Jay T Fornof

Arlene Palmiero
Mr Ralph Palmiero

Our Parents
Mr and Mrs Valentino Grassetto

Edward Petruskevich
Mr and Mrs Thomas Flaim Jr
Ms Helen Petruskevich
Mr Alfred R Riedel
Ms Susan Shay

Ann Piestrak
HNTB Corporation
Ms Catherine E Mahaffy
Mr and Mrs Walter R Shultz

Lionel Rarig
Mr and Mrs Paul R Wolverton

John Reynolds
Mr and Mrs Robert L Day
Mr and Mrs Charles Demaree
Ms Jennifer Panzeca

Loretta Ryan
Thomas Grady
Mr and Mrs Thomas Harman
Sara Kane
Ms Karen Lylo
Mr and Mrs Frank A Murin
Orlando Family
Mr and Mrs Dennis Richie
Ms Kathleen M Steiner

Jacob Scaran
Mrs Isabelle R Scaran

Frances Schnee
Mr John A Hancock

Mildred R Simington
Ms Barbara J Baughman
Mr and Mrs William Cole
Mr and Mrs Robert George
W Randy Hackenburg
Ms Jenny E Johnson
Mrs Mary Simington Johnson
Ms Hedwig C Kupersmit
Edward F Mark Sr
Mr and Mrs Matthew Mark
Mr Paul Simington
Anne Simington Scott
Mr and Mrs Mark W Thomas

Mary A Simko
Mr and Mrs Andrew J Luther

Sobek Family
Mr and Mrs Andrew Sobek

Christopher B Sobota
Atty Raymond J Sobota

Catherine Spagnolo
Mr Anthony T Spagnolo

Our Parents
Mr and Mrs Valentino Grassetto

Edward Petruskevich
Mr and Mrs Thomas Flaim Jr
Ms Helen Petruskevich
Mr Alfred R Riedel
Ms Susan Shay

Ann Piestrak
HNTB Corporation
Ms Catherine E Mahaffy
Mr and Mrs Walter R Shultz

Lionel Rarig
Mr and Mrs Paul R Wolverton

John Reynolds
Mr and Mrs Robert L Day
Mr and Mrs Charles Demaree
Ms Jennifer Panzeca

Loretta Ryan
Thomas Grady
Mr and Mrs Thomas Harman
Sara Kane
Ms Karen Lylo
Mr and Mrs Frank A Murin
Orlando Family
Mr and Mrs Dennis Richie
Ms Kathleen M Steiner

Jacob Scaran
Mrs Isabelle R Scaran

Frances Schnee
Mr John A Hancock

Mildred R Simington
Ms Barbara J Baughman
Mr and Mrs William Cole
Mr and Mrs Robert George
W Randy Hackenburg
Ms Jenny E Johnson
Mrs Mary Simington Johnson
Ms Hedwig C Kupersmit
Edward F Mark Sr
Mr and Mrs Matthew Mark
Mr Paul Simington
Anne Simington Scott
Mr and Mrs Mark W Thomas

Mary A Simko
Mr and Mrs Andrew J Luther

Sobek Family
Mr and Mrs Andrew Sobek

Christopher B Sobota
Atty Raymond J Sobota

Catherine Spagnolo
Mr Anthony T Spagnolo

Right: Sister Susan Pontz checks with Sister
Jean Marie on the status of the Grab Bag booth.
Below: Sisters Agnes Marie and Irene Marie
work at an ongoing job in the barn--counting
tickets.
Bottom: Sister Mary Paul enjoys a plate of
holupky and mashed potatoes and a visit with

Below: A handful of Cor ad Cor
volunteers catches Sister Anna
Kalinauskas, OCD, french-fried-
handed in the food court of the
Summer Festival.
MEMORIALS
In Memory/Honor of Given by:

Sr Jacqueline
Mr and Mrs James R Mikutis
Mr and Mrs John Perry
Mr and Mrs Joseph Seliga

Sr Jane
Mrs Evelyn M Holicky-Puhala

Sr Janet
Mr and Mrs Randall L Balla

+Sr Jude
Ms Victoria A Kurak

+Sr Laura
CDR Michael Greene USN (Ret)

+Sr Leroy
Mary and Stephen Vitek

Sr Lydia
Mrs Evelyn M Holicky-Puhala

Sr Marguerite
Mr and Mrs Kim J Jones

+Sr Matthias
Mr and Mrs Joseph Tokos

+Sr Milada
Ms Constance A Gordon
Mr and Mrs James J Pettit

+Sr Mildred
Mrs Norma Jean Withey

Sr Paracleta
Mr and Mrs John F Amrich
Mr and Mrs Michael Amrich

Ms Janet Buckley
Mr Roger D Hankins

+Sr Raphael
Ms Theresa Dzurek

+Sr Roberta
Ms Jacqueline Ugalde

+Sr Romana
Ms Sharon A Mylet

Sr Rosamund
Mr and Mrs John M Milko
Mr and Mrs Al J Zale

+Sr Stephanie
Mr and Mrs Anthony J Bisignano
Ms Frances Bisignano
Mrs Helen Buran
Mr and Mrs Daniel Walsh

+Sr Thaddeus
Martha Buchla
Rodney Buchla
Mr and Mrs Paul D Schedler

+Sr Yolanda
Mary and Stephen Vitek
Mrs Barbara Oatman

In addition to these donations, many individual Sisters and local convents have received gifts which they have acknowledged.
We continue to remember all our benefactors in grateful daily prayers.

To all our Benefactors:
What St. Paul said to the Philippians we gratefully say to you:

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

Your generosity to our mission in the Church has meant a great deal to us and we want you to know that we use your gifts prudently, conscious of the sacrifices you have made to give them. We pray that God will always bless you for your goodness to us.

2010 Annual Development Report

Contributions

For Use as Needed/For Use Where the Need Is Greatest...........................................$319,488.00
Estates and Bequests.................................................................$382,925.00
Senior Sisters’ Support..............................................................$71,171.00
Mission to the Elderly at Maria Joseph Manor CCC.........$2,835.00
Adoration Chapel and Basilica...................................................$6,129.00
Jankola Library and Slovak Museum........................................$657.00

Totals............................................................................$783,205.00

Use of Gifts

Ministry to the Elderly at Maria Joseph Manor.................$2,835.00
Ministry in Parishes.................................................................$49,660.00
Invested for Continuing Care of Senior Sisters..............$71,171.00
Renovations to Maria Hall.......................................................$27,801.00
Capital Improvements at the Motherhouse.......................$38,326.00
Programs for Youth.................................................................$14,592.00
For Future Use/Distribution....................................................$566,278.00
Development Department Expenses
(staffed by Sisters - unsalaried)................................................$5,756.00
Adoration Chapel and Basilica..................................................$6,129.00
Jankola Library and Slovak Museum.....................................$657.00

Totals.............................................................................$783,205.00

The amounts given here are donations sent to the SSCM Development Office and do not include those donations sent directly to Maria Joseph Manor.

Butterflies for Comfort and Remembrance

The annual Columbia-Montour Home Health Hospice Butterfly Release took place in front of Maria Hall on Sunday, September 18th. Designed to extend comfort to those grieving the loss of a loved one, those in attendance learned about the life cycle of a butterfly, listened to readings and music and then opened paper triangles containing monarch butterflies ready to begin their flight to Mexico.

Sister Josefina, OP, waits patiently for her butterfly to fly away. It takes a few moments for it to get used to being free of its paper tent.
Thank you for reading our Community newsletter!

MISSION: In the name of Jesus we teach and heal.
SPIRITUALITY: Christ centered and Mary-Modeled.
MOTTO: Thy Kingdom Come!

Directed or private retreats of varying length can be arranged by request. To register for week-long preached retreats, private retreats or a solitary hermitage experience, please contact Sister Jean Marie, SSCM.

Saint Cyril Academy Education and Spiritual Center is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius dedicated to providing “service to the people of God in love and compassion.” (SSCM Charism Statement)

Sensitive to the contemporary needs of those seeking time apart with God, the Spiritual Center welcomes people of various faiths and ages with gracious hospitality. Within a serene setting of natural beauty, the Center offers retreats, spiritual direction and a quiet place for individuals or hosted groups “so that the Gospel vision of the Kingdom may be fulfilled in us and in those we serve.” (SSCM Mission Statement)

In 2012, the St. Cyril Spiritual Center will feature several series:

**The Four Seasons**—What is God saying to you in each season?

**Winter Wonderings**—Movie and a Dinner with discussion.

**Soup with a North American Saint**—a Lenten series.

Come and participate in any or all of the Spiritual Center programs. A full listing of offerings and registration information can be found through the website: www.sscm.org in Current Events.