



# AM Associates News

## The Teacher and the Preacher Kick off the Annual Meeting

by Suzy Blackburn

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At the annual meeting of Area Coordinators, June 11-14, at Villa Notre Dame, in Wilton, the associates of the Atlantic-Midwest Province were the beneficiaries of some teaching and preaching as they explored the meaning of *Love Gives Everything*, the Directional Statement of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, and began an ongoing reflection on the evolving vision of the associate relationship.



On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the first full day of the meeting, participants were treated to a lesson in history as “The Teacher,” Sister Kathleen Cornell, provided the context of *Love Gives Everything* by outlining the common threads of directional statements since 1987.



In an inspiring presentation, “The Preacher,” Sister Charmaine Krohe, energized the group as she asked the associates to reflect and respond to the challenges of the Directional Statement in their own lives. After a reflection led by Sister Jane Forni, the area coordinators were commissioned by Sister Charmaine to take *Love Gives Everything* home to the associates in their local areas.

Later that afternoon, two associates shared their MAP (Mission Awareness Process) experiences. Daphne Queen spoke of her week in Southeast Florida, serving the homeless at St. Ann’s Place, and the immigrant community at the Kindoo Family Center. Kathy Sylvester, who had accompanied students from Holy Angels Academy, also presented a moving slide show of their time at the Arizona border.

Good times prevailed that evening as Pat and Evelyn Keenan, representatives from Ontario, led a lively game of Canadian trivia. Caroline Café was bedecked in red and white flags as Sisters Charmaine and Jane earned the highest scores. There were prizes for all.



On the second full day of the meeting, associates learned about opportunities for fuller participation in the life of the AM Province as department directors shared information on their work. Presentations on JPIC by Sister Arlene Flaherty, OP; Development by Associate Leslie Lopez; and Vocations by Sister Rebecca Tayag, gave associates the chance to see how they could support the initiatives of these departments.

Finally the area coordinators reflected on the evolving vision of the associate relationship as they examined new resource materials for pre-associates, and demographic information about associates. The area coordinators explored ways to articulate a shared vision for growing and deepening the associate relationship in the coming year. As one participant wrote, “We have a future!”

## Baltimore Day of Reflection and Covenanting



*Baltimore Pre-Associates make their first covenant, accompanied by their companions.*

On Sunday, June 10, family, friends, sisters and associates gathered at Villa Assumpta to celebrate the silver jubilee of Associate Mary Joan Vito and the first covenant of six new associates, Madelyn Ball, Kathryn Doherty, Amy Larocque-Rumano, Kathleen Sipes, Valerie Smitheman-Brown and Marylou Yam.

The 2018 covenanting and recovenanting celebration marked the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of associates in the Baltimore area. The weekend celebration began with a retreat on Saturday, June 9, themed "Women in Scripture Color Our World, And So Do We", led by Sister Jean McLoughlin, SSND. The gathering space was also set up with floating colorful floral centers and napkins to further visualize the effects of color during her presentation. Sister Jean began by asking, "What color are you today?"

Sister Jean suggested that we reflect on the women in scripture and the powerful example they can be for us as associates in a busy world. She used the story of Mary and Martha, one serving and one seated at the feet of Jesus, and the story of Naomi and Ruth to help in our reflection and small group discussions on how we color our different worlds or life roles.

Sister Jean shared so many experiences and stories with us that we left the day of laughter and reflections with a treasure of grace filled memories. A lasting thought was this question, "Do we want to be Provolone cheese or Swiss cheese?" Provolone cheese is complete and full of itself and has no room for anything



*Associates stand and renew their covenants in the chapel of Villa Assumpta.*

else. Swiss cheese on the other hand is full of holes and openings which can be filled with God's gifts of grace and mercy, joy, love, peace and courage."

From the opening prayer to the closing prayer, Sister Jean guided us through a beautiful spiritual journey. The day was filled with deep reflection, challenges, laughter and music. The selected readings from scripture, "You Are Sent" and the Directional Statement: "Love Gives Everything" took on a deeper meaning for us as we prepared for covenanting and recovenanting.

As the day of reflection ended we expressed our deep gratitude to our fellow associates and gifted speakers who have guided us on our respective journeys, especially our own Sister Mary Beth Buettner, who for so many years has guided the pre-associate formation process.

Forty-two associates from the Baltimore area also celebrated their recovenanting, promising to live the SSND charism for another year. Rev. Paul Zaborowski, OFM-Cap, celebrated the Mass.



**“Never Take For Granted My Blessings!”** Daphne Queen’s Reflection on her MAP Experience in Southeast Florida

Scriptures: Psalms 103:2-6 (specifically, verse 2) *Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

On this day while serving at one of the best mission programs of compassion and love, I felt extremely humbled. St. Ann’s Place exemplifies the gift of charity for all God’s people. It is the first time I ever felt like I could never give enough to those persons coming for assistance. All that I had to give of myself let me know with a resounding voice in my heart’s spirit that I needed to step up my game!

My heart kept reminding me you have too much; way too many of all types of “things” at home yourself. What good is it for when you don’t even think of the cost or the value of having too much, while others have so little! The voice in my heart, mind and soul was saying to me, pay attention to the many resources you have been given, because you should never take for granted your blessings that have been given to you abundantly. So many people are in need, but they do without! They don’t have the means that you do, and there are many reasons why they lack the goods that would make their lives better.

I began to realize that I really couldn’t imagine all of the reasons why their lives were different from mine, and the difficulties they have gone through that left so many of them homeless. I began to feel homeless too, but it was inside my heart. The tug was so strong! My heart longed to make a difference and every second counted as I worked to help our brothers and sisters. So, I asked myself: “What does homelessness feel like?” What lessons am I being taught through this volunteer experience? Why do I feel a little ashamed of having too much and for storing up goods that I will probably never use? Why do I give a lot to the poor, but I have a lot more I could be giving now? When my work is done here, why did the Lord lead me down this path at this time in my life?



The statement that kept repeating over and over in my mind again is: “Never Take for Granted My Blessings!” I began to translate what I was seeing and feeling and I came up with a long list of things that I was seeing visually around me. I began to comprehend what the homeless people had to deal with each and every day. The following thoughts jumped out of my SOUL like thunder and a roaring stream of rain:

- Where will my next meal come from?
- Where will I place my head down to sleep during the day when I get tired or at night when it’s time to retire and rest?
- Where will I get a bath and clean clothes to wear, because I’ve worn these clothes I have on for too many days?
- Where will I get the money from to buy my medicine?
- Where can I get a haircut?
- Where can I get a rain poncho? It’s been storming every day since I arrived on Sunday, and the rain is flooding all of my surroundings outside.
- Where will I pick up my mail from, because I don’t have a residence?

- Where will I get my bus pass from to help me make my appointments?
- Can I have an extra sandwich? I like a ham sandwich better than a bologna sandwich!
- Can I get an extra cup of coffee? I like cream and sugar in my coffee. I want two scoops of cream and two scoops of sugar.
- Can I get something to drink other than coffee? I like juice, soda or water!
- Can I have a bag of potato chips? I don't like Doritos!
- Can I get help so that I can get my food stamps? I don't have an identification card or birth certificate!
- Can I have an extra bag lunch for my friend? Where is your friend? I need to take the lunch to him or her, because they are standing on the bus stop waiting for me.
- Can I get an extra lunch for my father, mother, brother, sister, husband, or child? I don't have a car, so I couldn't bring them with me to get a meal.
- Can I get a carton of milk for my child?
- Can I have an extra dessert? I like chocolate chip cookies. Give me four or five cookies, please. I'm really not supposed to have them, because I'm diabetic.
- Can I get something to eat right now? I don't feel well, because I haven't had food for a while and my sugar count is down. I may need to go to the hospital, because I feel like I'm going to pass out!
- Why aren't you listening to me? I responded: "Yes, I'm listening to you." Nevertheless, the homeless sometimes have trouble compre-



hending my response to them. However, quite a few of them feel I'm not treating them right. No matter how compassionate and kind I am, it's not enough or unacceptable to their mindset and world of problems. They say, "Why are you looking at me the wrong way? I said: "No, I'm not doing that, I'm just trying to help you in love!

- What time is the window closing today?

The response is the exact same time as it was yesterday (i.e., **Monday through Friday: Breakfast is served daily from 8:00 – 9:00 AM. Coffee, breakfast pastries, fresh fruit and cereal are served. Lunch is served from 10:00 to 11:30 AM.**)

- Can you help me pay my rent? I almost have enough, but my check is too small. My husband's check and mine together is still not enough to pay rent. We can't even begin looking for a place suitable for our income, because we don't have the security deposit/s to begin with!

I could go on, and on, and on with the unending thoughts of TRUTH! The questions just kept on coming very rapidly. I don't have all the right answers for our brothers and sisters needing our help. But in times like these, I'm desperate to find a way to make a difference in as many lives as I can. St. Ann's Place has shown me how to do that in the spirit of UNITY and LOVE! Their state-of-the-art hygiene center offers God's people a way to be fed; get cleaned up with daily baths; receive clothes to call their own; and social services that help them get back on their feet, while keeping their dignity and HOPE!

## Looking for Your MAP Experience?

Sisters, associates, friends, students and co-workers of SSND from the Central Pacific and Atlantic-Midwest Provinces are invited to be a part of life-changing MAP experiences from the following five MAP site locations:

[Arizona/Mexico Border; Florida; Foothills of the Missouri Ozarks; Minnesota and St. Louis, Missouri](#)

Learn more about the SSND MAP Experience by contacting one of our MAP committee members:

*Associates* Suzy Blackburn, Kathy Sylvester, and Amy Rumano  
*Sister Caritas* Wehrman, SSND

You may also write to: [map@ssnd.org](mailto:map@ssnd.org)

[Click Here for More MAP Information](#)

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

## In Memoriam



Wilma Visschedyk, mother of Associate Liz Whyte, Ontario,  
 January 17, 2018

Associate Ida Milam, Chicago,  
 February 4, 2018

Paula, Daughter-in-law of Associate Frances Bond, Baltimore,  
 July 2018

Kevin Day, Sr., nephew of Baltimore Associate Delores Moore,  
 August 2018

## Congratulations!



On Sunday, June 24, SSND Associate Father Josh Wilbur celebrated his first mass at St. Thomas of Villanova Church, in Goshen, Connecticut. Seven sisters and three associates joined the celebration. Father Josh made his first covenant in 2010; the central photo features Father Josh with companion sisters Ilona and Mary Rosanne Mensik.



## Saskatchewan Associates Recovenant

On Saturday, May 26, the associates of Western Canada gathered in Regina, Saskatchewan, for covenant renewal. Sister Joan Liss, now of Ontario, led the day of reflection.

Sister Joan shared fascinating and inspiring stories of her years in ministry to the people of Fort Resolution and Fort Good Hope in the Northwest Territories.

*Front Row, L-R: Liz Troyer, Sister Joan Liss, Caroline Marcotte, and Shirley Paddy*

*Back Row: L-R: Virg Burant-Plosz, Dave Helmerson, Joan Fischer, Faye Helmerson, Dianne Poitras, Carol & Bruce Sheldon.*

## Chicago Area News



On February 3, Sister Sandra Weinke, an SSND of the Central-Pacific Province, gave a retreat for the Chicago Area Associates on the theme "The Jesus I want to Know."

Five associates, ten sisters and five guests were present for this informative, yet spiritual day. Sister Sandy explained how each Gospel writer portrayed Jesus and what each author wanted us to know about Jesus.

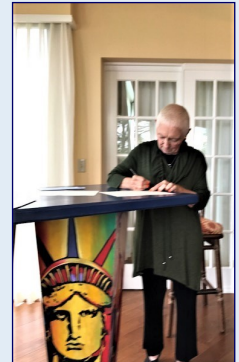
It was truly a wonderful experience for all present and the group was very grateful that Sister Sandy was able to share her knowledge and spirituality with them.

## What is a Special Covenant?

by Suzy Blackburn



*Sister Evelyn Breslin and Associate Mary Margaret Foley display Mary Margaret's certificate.*



*Associate Judy Joyce signing her Special Covenant*

According the Atlantic-Midwest Province "Plan of Association," an associate who has demonstrated sustained commitment to the associate relationship over many years, but is unable to participate fully in associate activities, may make a covenant which does not need to be renewed to continue the relationship with the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

This year longtime Associates Judy Joyce, in Jacksonville Florida, and Mary Margaret Foley, in Rochester, New York, have been the first associates to make such covenants. In both instances, their covenanting were occasions for celebration for the sisters and associates in the area. "The day was perfect," said Mary Margaret, "I thank all in making it possible."

We are also looking forward to this September, when Linda Radosevich of Orlando, Florida will become our third associate to join in this special covenanting!