“Women of Compassion,” which is a permanent exhibit of the story and the vision of the Ladysmith Servite Sisters, opened Sunday, June 19, with a blessing of the exhibit and a reception.

The occasion was attended by about 150 people including Servite Sisters, former Servites, members of the Rusk County community, Sisters from other communities – one from as far away as Switzerland – and Bishop James P. Powers, bishop of the diocese of Superior.

The exhibit traces the 104 year history, mission, and legacy of the Ladysmith Servites from 1912 when six Sisters of St. Joseph left their community in LaGrange, Illinois, and came to Ladysmith, at the invitation of the Servite friars, to staff the new parish school. It is housed in what was the chapel of the Sisters’ former motherhouse – now the Indianhead Community Action Agency auditorium. ICAA purchased the motherhouse in 2010 for its administrative offices.

First panel of the “Women of Compassion” exhibit in the Indianhead Community Action Agency auditorium, 1000 College Avenue West, Ladysmith.

School Sisters of Notre Dame Joyelle Proot (left) and Gen Cassani, designers of the Women of Compassion exhibit, stand before a panel highlighting the global outreach of the Servite Sisters’ Mary Alphonse Bradley fund.

The exhibit consists mainly of wall-mounted panels featuring photographs, artwork, historical facts and stories, and is enhanced with banners. It was designed by School Sisters of Notre Dame Gen Casanni and Joyelle Proot. They said of the exhibit, “It’s a presentation, and it’s a ministry of the Servants of Mary going into the future.”

Continued on Page 10
Cherishing the Past While Embracing the Future

When my mother died she left me a box of papers. Recently I opened that box and discovered that she had kept every letter I had written home after I entered the convent. Reading them now with older eyes has brought me to reflection and new insights.

Those first letters showed excitement and energy as I learned about religious life. They told of creativity as I began to teach. They told of strength and understanding as the church and the world changed. And they showed my compassion as I followed the call to chaplaincy. The letters share the stories and the struggle of those years. Change was constant and it was exciting at first, but with time it became a burden.

As I read these testaments to a life, I began to understand more deeply a saying I have framed on my wall. “At each stage of learning we must give up something, even if it is a way of life that we have always known.” In the early years I expected only small changes. Maybe a change in the grade I taught. Or where I taught.

But who would expect that there were new careers? Or that Vatican II would bring about changes in the understanding of church? Or the way that we became involved in the liturgy? Over a span of fifty years so many things have changed. And each time I gave up something as we moved to a new way, a new understanding.

Servants of Mary have come to a new place, as well. In June we dedicated an exhibit that shares the story of our history. From the foundation in 1912, Servite Sisters have listened to the needs of the church. When children needed an education, there were schools. When the sick needed care, there were hospitals. When the church changed, there was adult education. Servites have continued to listen to God’s call. The changes that are reflected in the exhibit did not come easily. Decisions made together have called for deep listening, for honest dialogue, and for humble prayer. At each point God’s call was to move ahead, and we left behind a way of life that we had grown to love.

The letters from 1961 show how I have aged. The exhibit in what was once our Chapel shows how the Servants of Mary have changed. Together, we cherish the past as we look back, but open our hearts and hands to the present and the future. We no longer staff Catholic schools, but we tutor or work in the library. We no longer staff hospitals, but we visit the sick, hold their hands, and say a prayer. Some of us are no longer able to minister outside the home, but we hold your requests in our hearts as we pray.

At each stage of life we are asked to give up something. As we move on and look back, we can see the graces and gifts that helped us to grow in wisdom and grace.

In the words of Pope Francis, I pray that we may continue “to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion, and to embrace the future with hope.”

Mary Alice Willems, OSM
Leadership Team Member

Editor’s Note: For this issue we invited Sister Mary Alice Willems, a member of the Leadership Team, to pen the President’s Message.
Sister Cecilia Honored for Service

Sister Cecilia Fandel received the Jayne Thomas Grassroots Volunteer Recognition Award at a ceremony in Ladysmith on June 3, 2016, in recognition of her work in the Crossroads Literacy program. Indianhead Community Action Agency, the Ladysmith-based organization that sponsors the program and conferred the award, called Sister Cecilia “a compassionate and dedicated public servant who helps adults achieve enhanced literacy.”

ICAA Board Chairman Eldon Skogen, who presented the award, praised Sister Cecilia for her volunteer work in literacy and other programs, calling her “an individual who has shown commitment to the community.”

In accepting the award, Sister said that her first experience in volunteer work was in second grade, when her teacher Sister Mary Flora asked her to help other students with their reading and math.

For the past five years Sister has tutored adults in reading and language arts skills in the literacy program. Some of her students are seeking a GED and need better composition and comprehension skills, others have never learned to read, and still others are immigrant workers for whom English is a second language. Sister has also tutored inmates in the county jail.

Earlier this year, Sister Cecilia also received the Distinguished Graduate Award from Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in Ladysmith. Besides graduating from OLS, she also taught there and served as principal.
Twenty-eight Servite Sisters, including two by Skype, gathered for a General Chapter April 4–7, 2016, at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin. The theme of this year’s Chapter, “Like a living stream let mercy flow,” reflected the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis.

Fr. Ricardo Martín of Sacred Heart Parish in Racine presided at the opening liturgy on the feast of the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Sisters Bonnie Alho and Kateri Guske coordinated the prayer and environment for the Chapter. On entering the Chapter room, each Sister received a mandala pin, symbolizing harmony, wholeness, and healing. The Sisters were encouraged to wear the pins during the Chapter to remind them of their support for each other.

Servants of Mary president Sister Theresa Sandok presented the Leadership Team report. She spoke about the need for future planning, citing a scriptural passage: “When you were young, you would fasten your belt and go wherever you liked. But when you get old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten your belt and lead you where you don’t want to go” (John 21:18). “If we do not plan for ourselves,” she said, “someone else will do it for us.” Demographic projections indicate that there will soon come a time when the community will no longer have Sisters able to carry out leadership, management, and pastoral functions for the group.

With their current reality in mind, Chapter members adopted the following call and commitment: “We hear God calling us to be Gospel-centered, compassionate women, inspired by Mary’s fiat, letting go of what makes us comfortable and fearlessly open to what will evolve. In order to fulfill this call, we commit ourselves to prayer, deep listening, communication,
collaboration, and responding to the challenges of our times.”
The Sisters then entered into a process of prayerful discernment to select a Leadership Team for the next four years. Sisters Sean Fox, Theresa Sandok, and Mary Alice Willems were selected once again to lead the congregation.

The heavy mood of the topics on the agenda was lightened by Chapter facilitator Br. Sean McLaughlin, SDS, (pictured here), who opened the selection process with a rollicking rendition of “The Best of Times Is Now,” a favorite tune of the McLaughlin sisters.

Servite Sisters at the 2016 General Chapter received a mandala pin (pictured here), symbolizing harmony, wholeness, and healing.

Sister Theresa Completes Service on Bishops’ Advisory Group

Servants of Mary president Sister Theresa Sandok recently completed a four-year term on the National Advisory Council (NAC) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The NAC is composed of some fifty Catholic men and women – mostly laity, but also a number of sisters, priests, and bishops – from around the nation. In light of its diverse membership, the NAC is sometimes called “the Church in miniature.” Sister Theresa served as a representative of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, an association of about 1,350 leaders of congregations of sisters in the United States.

The work of the NAC is to advise the bishops on proposals scheduled to come before them at their biannual general assemblies. Through a process called “profile voting,” NAC members indicate whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with a proposal, or abstain, along with rationale for their position. The majority of these proposals are submitted by bishops’ committees, and the NAC is asked to react to them. Others are initiated by NAC when there is an issue NAC members would like the bishops to consider.

In a letter to Sister Theresa at the conclusion of her term, USCCB president Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz wrote:

“Our behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and its member bishops and staff, I want to thank you for your four years of service on our National Advisory Council (NAC). The National Advisory Council has, for many years, been an important resource to the bishops of the United States. Since its inception, it has offered valuable insight, opinion, and advice to the bishops on so many significant matters which we have addressed.”
Sister mary Catherine Izral

Sister Mary Catherine Izral celebrated 75 years of religious life this year. Sister was born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 30, 1919. She was the middle child in a family of six girls and one boy. The family moved to Catawba, Wisconsin, when she was in first grade. After completing high school she moved back to Chicago where she worked in the hosiery department at Sears and took evening classes at Loyola University College.

She entered the convent as a postulant in 1939 at age 20 and professed first vows in 1941. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Catherine, Saint Paul, Minnesota, and a master’s from the University of Minnesota.

She taught in Catholic elementary schools in Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Illinois for 35 years, and then taught religious education and did sacristy work for about 10 years at St. Agnes Parish in Saint Paul. Her one brother is a priest.

Since 2007, Sister Mary Catherine has resided at Regina Senior Living in Hastings, Minnesota. She celebrated her jubilee on August 15 at Regina with other residents, Servite Sisters, and Secular Servites.

As a jubilee gift, an anonymous donor left a set of art supplies in Sister Mary Catherine’s room, and she has become an avid fan of adult coloring. Some of her artwork (pictured above) graces the hallway near her room.

Sister Loretta Lonsdorf

Sister Loretta Lonsdorf marks 70 years of religious life this year. She was born in Athens, Wisconsin, on June 2, 1926, the self-proclaimed “spoiled middle child” of five children, four girls and one boy.

After graduating from Athens high school, she entered the convent on September 6, 1944. She became a novice in 1945 receiving the name Sister Mary Marcella, and later returned to her baptismal name.

She professed first vows in 1946. She earned a bachelor’s degree from St. Norbert College, DePere, Wisconsin, and a master’s in Theology and Pastoral Ministry from the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas.

Sister served as a teacher and principal for 42 years in Catholic elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She ministered as parish visitor and director of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Brooksville, Florida. She is now retired and lives at Ashton Gardens, Sun City Center, Florida.

(Left) Sister Loretta Lonsdorf
“You could go to Romania and work with Global Volunteers!” I heard those words on a Sunday after the homily at Mass. No human person said those words. I think they came from God.

My friends Barb and John Winters told me a few days earlier about their plans to go to Romania with Global Volunteers. Later that Sunday I asked myself, “Do I really want to go to Romania?” I heard my heart say, “Yes!” That was September 6, 2015. By November 6 we were on a plane to Bucharest for two weeks of working and touring in Romania.

We traveled five hours by bus from Bucharest to Barlad. Romania was the last country in Europe to overthrow Communism in 1989, and Barlad is in the poorest section of the country.

In Barlad we helped make a difference in the lives of eight children with neurological disabilities such as fetal alcohol syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, and dwarfism. The children ranged in age from eight months to ten years. Two of the children were able to walk and talk but were delayed in cognitive skills; the others were profoundly limited in motor and cognitive skills. All were very small for their age. We sang to them, moved their muscles, helped them sit or roll, and offered them various toys to let them know they were important and maybe elicit a smile.

The children currently live in a placement center, which is basically an orphanage. They periodically come to the Municipal Hospital’s Elena Beldiman Pediatric Unit for up to 21 days for re-evaluation by the medical staff and for stimulation by Global Volunteers. The Global Volunteers’ program employs a local woman to work with the children as a caregiver and to guide the volunteers.

Global Volunteers’ country managers coordinate with the placement center and the director of the hospital’s pediatric unit to choose children who are likely to make progress through love and stimulation. The current managers have worked with some of the children for twelve years. They told us that children who were initially very withdrawn and delayed made progress thanks to the work of the volunteers.

The volunteers painted and decorated the walls of a hospital room with colorful toys and animals. The hospital’s play room, which the volunteers decorated and supplied with toys, was very colorful and inviting. The rest of the rooms were stark white, with four simple beds.

Global Volunteers is an international volunteer organization founded thirty years ago by Burnham “Bud” Philbrook, who was taught by Servite Sisters at St. Rose of Lima School in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The organization began its Romanian partnership in 2004, focusing on projects for at-risk and disabled children.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve with Global Volunteers and to learn firsthand about the country of Romania.

Sister Barbara Thomalla is public health nurse with Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health.
Sister Mary Eugenia Tremblay, OSM
1921–2016

In Memoriam

Sister Mary Eugenia Tremblay, 95, died on May 5, 2016, at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Illinois. She was born in Chippewa County, Colburn Township, Wisconsin, on August 16, 1921, to Alexander and Magdalena (Russell) Tremblay, the youngest of seven children.

When she was four years old, her family moved to Ladysmith, where she attended St. Mary’s Elementary School and High School and was taught by Servite Sisters.

She entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 30, 1937. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1939, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1945. She earned a teaching certificate from Rusk County Normal School, a bachelor’s from DePaul University in Chicago, and a master’s in English and English literature from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Her teaching career spanned 42 years. She taught at all levels, from kindergarten to university, in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and New Jersey. She was an English instructor at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith and at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point.

She authored two books of poetry and a historical novel on the life of Servite Saint Peregrine Laziosi called “Pilgrim Aflame” (1958), later reissued as “Healing Saint” (2000). She enjoyed painting and other artistic activities.

In 1983 Sister Mary Eugenia and her sister, Sister Mary Celestine, moved to Sherman, Illinois, to work with the elderly at The Villas Retirement Community. Nine years later they retired to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Illinois, where they volunteered in the activities department. In 2005 they moved to Felician Village in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, to be closer to their elderly brother, Fr. Eugene. They returned to the Villa in 2008.

Sister Eugenia died in her 77th year of religious profession. She was preceded in death by her parents and all her siblings.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Ladysmith on May 13, with burial in the convent cemetery.
Sister Mary Pat Hill, 69, died on August 14, 2016, at Hillview Health Care Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin, following a long battle with cancer.

She was born in La Crosse on May 15, 1947, to Merle and Ann Marie (Daly) Hill, the oldest of six children, and grew up in La Crosse.

She joined the Servants of Mary in 1961 as a high school freshman. She made her first profession of vows in 1967 and her final profession in 1974.

Sister Mary Pat died in her 49th year of religious profession. She was preceded in death by her mother, brother Thomas, sister Catherine Yeager, and stepmother Jayne (Nault) Hill. She is survived by her father, brother James, sisters Elizabeth Hennig and Margaret Soller, and her Servite Community.

A memorial service was held on Aug. 17 at Blaschke & Schneider Funeral Home in La Crosse. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Aug. 19 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Ladysmith, with burial in the convent cemetery.

Sister received a bachelor’s degree with a major in education and a minor in social studies from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. She received a master’s in applied theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkley, California. She also attended a summer program at the Maryknoll School of Theology in Maryknoll, New York.

She taught in Catholic elementary schools in Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin for thirteen years. She worked at Groundwork for a Just World in Detroit, Michigan, and at Bread for the World in Washington, DC. From 1997 until her death she ran a website called Hill Connections, a ministry linking contemplation with social justice, and faith with action.

An avid social justice activist, Sister served on several national and Servite justice and peace boards and committees and volunteered with a number of social justice and legislative organizations. She could often be found marching or boycotting for social justice causes and issues. She also participated in immersion experiences in Mexico and Nicaragua.
Compassion Retreat Draws Servites Together
Ladysmith Servite Sisters Mary De Lourdes Plourde, Rosemary Fandel, and Mary Dominica Effertz attended a retreat on “Boundless Compassion” presented by Omaha Servite Sister Joyce Rupp (second left), June 19–23, 2016. Over 50 people from all walks of life participated in the retreat, which was sponsored by Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Sister Joyce is an award-winning author and popular speaker. She describes herself as a spiritual midwife, one who assists others in birthing an ever fuller and deeper faith life.

The Servite Sisters’ Leadership Team
The Leadership Team (from left) Sisters Sean Fox, Mary Alice Willems, and Theresa Sandok, are pictured with Bishop James Powers following the celebration of their Installation Mass on June 19, 2016. They will serve a four-year term. Each has been on the Leadership Team previously. Sister Theresa has served as president for 16 years. Sister Mary Alice has also served for 16 years, and Sister Sean has been on the Team 8 years.

“Women of Compassion” Exhibit
Continued from cover
Sister Theresa Sandok, president of the Ladysmith Servites, said of the project, “this exhibit has been over two years in the making, and we are very pleased with it.”

The exhibit is open to the public Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., except when the auditorium is in use. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead at (715) 532-4222.

Sisters’ Garden in Ladysmith
Sister De Lourdes is pictured in the garden on September 16. “Just look at the spectacular colors of the flowers in our garden!” she said. “They are so pretty, and you can see them from a distance. We planted these flowers because the deer dislike the taste of them. We are still producing and eating cucukes, potatoes, tomatoes, and onions. Beans are finished.” Sister De Lourdes, 85, and her gardening companion, Sister Rosemary, 80, announced that this will be their last vegetable garden – but they won’t stop planting flowers.

Marie Therese Woods, pictured at left at age four, was adopted as an infant by the Servite Sisters in 1923. Seven years later the Sisters adopted three little orphan girls, the Vogel sisters, two of whom later professed vows as Servants of Mary: Sisters Mary Angelica and Mary Ambrose. This photo of Marie Therese appears in the “Women of Compassion” exhibit.
We are deeply grateful to you, our donors, and hold you in our prayers.

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Krzeczowski, Mary & Joseph
Kubisiak, Clara & John
Kucan, Virginia & George
In honor/memory of Sisters who taught at St. Paul’s, Weirton, W.Va.
Kunkel, Karen & Jack*
In memory of S. M. Joan LeBlanc, OSM
Kurzeka, Kathie & Richard*
In memory of Marven & Margaret Kurzeka
Kvist, Audrey & Don
In honor of S. M. John VanderLoop, OSM
In memory of S. M. Bernice VanderLoop, OSM
Lakawitch, Eileen & Steve
In memory of S. M. DeSales Fitzpatrick, OSM
Lambert, Betty
In memory of Richard Pfister
Land, Christine & Lorenz
In memory of Betty A. Meller
Langenfeld, Gerald M.
In honor of Langenfeld family
Lasack, Leonard F.*
In memory Albert E. Lasack
Laue, Johannes S.
Leahy, Dr. Richard*
Lee, Katie & Randy
In honor of S. Sharon McCarthy, OSM
Lehmann, Betty A.
Lemire, Maureen Frawley
In memory of Mary Frawley
In memory of Jerome Frawley
Leniewski, Leonard W.*
In memory of Bernad & Helen Leniewski
Lewis, Sally
In memory of Doris Lewis Liebig, Gene*
In honor of my parents
Lieser, Betty
In memory of Joe & Irene Lieser
Litius, Lucille
Lodermeier, Clarice
Longo, Joe
Lopez, Luis A.
In memory of Coralia R. Lopez Lorkowski, Charlotte*
Machac, Rita A.*
In honor of retired Sisters
Maher, Steven*
Mahieu, Angela & John
In memory of Kenneth Gentney
Malaise, Elenore & Gordon
Malone, Harold
Manhart, Julia Held
In memory of Julia Held, Mary & Steve Mayoras, Elizabeth Bienkowski
Mark, Dolores M.
In memory of Norman, Gerald Markowski
Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Donald
In honor of S. M. Alice Haley, S. Stephen
Martin, Patrick*
In memory of S. M. DeSales Fitzpatrick, OSM, Donna F. Martin
Marty, Elaine
Maruyama, Nancy & Rod*
In honor of S. Doris Ann Samens
In memory Buzz & Yvonne Kileoyn, Brendan Maruyama
Mascia, Karin & Patrick
Masterjohn, Jan, OSSM
Matson, Glenn C.*
In memory of Helen E. Koehler Matson, Eleanor Clausen
Maurin, Faye & Dennis*
In honor of Charles A. Behan, Landen Dell
In memory of Daniel Bolner, Sr., Louis Sr., Joan, Louis Jr., & Robert Maurin
Mayer, Patricia & William
In memory of S. Rosemary Mayer, OSM
McCarthy, Richard
McClintock, Michael R.
McConnell, Marilyn
In honor of S. M. Lucy Daniels, OSM
McCormick, Terri
McDermott, Doris & Richard
In memory of Leonard & Bertha McDermott
McGarry, Eileen
McGlynn, Rev. Philip, OSM
In honor of S. Damian Powers, OSM
McGough, Jean & Thomas
McNamara, Margaret & James
In memory S. M. Michaelene McNamara, OSM
McNamara, Rev. John
McNulty, Elizabeth
In memory of S. M. Christina Gelting, OSM
Melcher, Joanne & William
Meton, Michael*
In honor of relatives & friends
In memory of Harvey & Josephine Meton, Gary Hinske, Garret Galica, relatives & friends
Meyer, Angela R.
Meyer, Jackie*
Mezera, Francis*
Micalets, Ruth
Moffett, Helen & Jim
In memory of Richard Pfister
Moran, Bro. Chris, OSM
In memory of Fr. Edward Penonzek, OSM
Moran, Richard C.
Moreau, Kathy & Joe*
In memory of S. M. Eugenia Tremblay, OSM
Morgan, Carole & Kermit
In honor of Betty Morgan
Mueller, Andrew C.*
In honor of the Servite Sisters who served at Our Lady Gate of Heaven, Chicago, Ill.

Muench, Doris & Louis
In memory of S. M. Arlene Hendricks, OSM

Murphy, Donna
In honor of all aging Sisters, especially S. Teresa Schueller, OSM

Murphy, Judith & Robert
Murphy, Hon. Sheila M.*

Murray Margaret & John P.

Musich, Phyllis
In honor of a friend

Nazer, Raymond J.

Nelson, Arlene & Gerald*
 ln memory of our parents

Neumann, Jeanette & Ken
In memory of Jez & Neumann families

Nicholas, James E.*

Nicolini, Leo*
In honor of Servants of Mary, all who try their best
In memory of my wife
Muriel, my parents

Neters, Louise

Nolan, Francis
In memory of Emma

Nordtvedt, Carol A.
In memory of John A. Nordtvedt

Novesky, Betty
In memory of SSG Patrick Lybert

Novotny, John
In memory of James Helstein

Novy, Richard*

O’Brien, Gertrude M.
In memory of George & Alice VanderLoop

Oberts, Rev. David P.

Obey, Joan & Hon. David
In memory of S. Rosemary Mayer, OSM

Ochat, Dolores J.

Olsen, James

Olson, Gerald A.*

Olson, Roberta & Rodney

Orenberg, Mary & Robert
In memory of S. Mary Pat Hill, OSM

Pamperin, Susan & Steven J.

PCCW Assumption BVM Church, Strickland, Wis.

PCCW Holy Cross Church, Cornell, Wis.

PCCW St. Paul the Apostle Church, Catawba, Wis.*

Parodo, Jerry J.
In honor of Bishop Baraga
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Parodo

Pasko, LaVerne*
In honor of S. Doris Ann Samens, OSM
In memory of Paul Pasko, Jr., Richard Pfister

Patete, Kenneth

Pavlik, Florence
In honor of Tyler Pavlik
In memory of Ed Pavlik

Pazhukkathara, Rev. Shaji Joseph

Percy, Lenore & James

Peterson, Ellen*
In memory of Wade A. Peterson, James Mayou, Joyce Mayou Haigh

Pfaltzgraf, William
In memory of Doris Pfaltzgraf

Pfister, Carol Birthday Club
In memory of Richard Pfister

Pias, Donna & Lawrence
In memory of Pias & Fergus families

Pickett, Bonnie J.
In memory of S. Mary Pat Hill, OSM

Pieper, Rose*

Piñeiro, Amparo*
In honor of S. Theresa Sandok, OSM

Pintens, Patricia

Pirnat, Charles

Ploog, Thomas

Porwell, Mary Ellen*
In memory of Kenneth J. Porwell

Poulsen, Judy
In memory of Colette Wofford

Prince, Carolyn
In memory of Joseph Prince, S. M. Roberta Prince, OSM

Prohaska, Norma

Quintus, Mr. & Mrs. James

Radtke, Richard
In memory of parents Ann & Eugene

Rakowski, Jude & Alex

Rambosek, Mary M.*

Rau, Judith & James
In memory of S. Casimira Benbenek, OSM

Reever, Leslie
In memory of S. M. Christina Gelting, OSM

Reeves, Gerry H., CLU*

Reidy, Patrick W.*
In honor of Servants of Mary

Reyes, Bernadita R.

Rhodes, Dr. Helen K.
In memory of family members

Rhodes, Joseph L.*
In honor of Servite Sisters & other care givers at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill.
In memory of Ivy M. Sykes

Riccio, Loretta M.
In honor of S. Loretta Lonsdorf, OSM
In memory of Loretta & George McCarthy

Richter, Mary Connolly
In honor/memory of the Servite Sisters who served at St. Joseph’s, Carteret, N.J.

Riedy, Dolores, OSM

Riehl, Ralph

Riffl, Steven
In memory of Fr. Jerome Rinzel, Arthur & Marie Rinzel

Rockwell, Raymond

Rodriguez, Maria Cabos
In memory of Oscar Rodriguez, Lorenzo Cabos

Roeseke, Janice & Glenn

Roessler, Norma

Rogers, Jolene & Jerome*
In memory of Frances Rogers family

Roller, Becky & Richard

Romero, Maria Encarna B.*
In memory of Jose Manuel Romero, Jose Betanzos

Root, Yvonne*
In honor of the Root family
In memory of Richard & Doris Christman, Rasch, Tavy, Elaine, Gordy & Pearl Christman

Rosolowski, Blanche, OSM*
In memory of Leo Rosolowski, Tony Paulson, John Geisler, Jim Brost, Mildred Cicha, Lillian Rosolowski, Jeanette Bellman

Ross, Greta

Rothbauer, Mary L.*
In memory of Donny Rothbauer

Rotta, Francis
In memory of Eileen Vander-Loop Rotta

Rotter, Cynthia
In memory of Thomas Wisz

Rudnicki, Jeanne & Edward

Ruegemoer, Diane & Dick*
In honor of S. Sharon McCarthy, OSM
In memory of Marlene Ruegemoer

Rusk County Farm Supply
Ryan, Kathleen

Samonski, Evelyn
In memory of Paul A. Samonski

Samz, Patricia & Michael J.*

Sandok, Mary R.
In memory of Louis & Helen Sandok

Sandstrom, Judy*
In honor of Brian

Santillo, Esther F.

Sazama, Janice
In memory of Raymond Jones

Schaller, Laverne*
In memory Rose M. Schaller

Schmidt, Joyce & Jim
In memory of Ss. M. Charles & M. Peter Prince, OSM, families

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Schmitt, James W.
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Schuh, Mary Ann & Anton
Schultz, Mary & Kenneth
Schwaighart, Kathleen
In honor of S. Teresa Schueller, OSM
Scott, Dianne
In memory of Gene McDougall
Scovell, Edith M. & Wayne E.
In honor of S. Loretta Lonsdorf, OSM
Sellars, Linda M.
Selonke, Florence
In memory of Leon, Joe, & Katherine Selonke
Selvig, Catherine & Gerald*
Senander, John*
In memory of Cathleen Overlie, Luitgard Dodemont, Kevin Senander, Ellen Senander
Servite Friars, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Priory
Sherman, Joan
In honor of S. Marguerite Samz, OSM
Siegenthaler, Joan M.*
Sieja, Linda & Michael*
In honor of the Sieja & Styczynski families
Sisko, Helen & Andrew*
In memory of Helen Sisko, In memory of Maureen Henneman (Sisko)
Skemp, Anthony
In memory of my mother
Skroski, Shirley & James C.*
Skubal, Tony
Smith, Kevin, CFP & Rebecca Allen, MD
Smith, Reginald
Snyder, Rita & Joe
In honor of S. Sandra DeGidio, OSM
Sorenson, Shirley & Deacon Douglas
Ss. Alexis & Juliana OSM Community, Hillside, Ill.
St. Louis, Veronica
In memory of Fred St. Louis
St. Peter Altar & Rosary Society, Cameron, Wis.*
Stangler, Barbara & William
Stankus, Ronne
Stearns, Marilyn & Jerry
In memory of S. Mary Pat Hill, OSM
Steinbich, Darrell A.*
In honor of Mother Angelica Steinke, Kate
In memory of Joyce V.
Stoeberl, Rose & George
In memory of Pat Heintz, Virginia Pearson
Stoeberl, JoAnn
In honor of S. Rita Stoeberl, OSM
Straney, Bernadette
In memory of Rosarit St. Johns Streeter, Elizabeth
In memory of Bill Streeter, Sr. & Bill Streeter, Jr.
Styza, James
Swanson, David A.
Tarasewicz, Judith & Leonard
In memory of Scott Tarasewicz
Tardio, Salvatore
Tedesco, Emma
Temming, Michael J.*
Thatcher, Linda
In memory of Charles L. Thatcher, VI
Thermos, Noreen, OSM
Thibodeau, Michael
Thiel, Virginia
In honor & memory of Leonard Thiel
Timmers, Ann
In honor of S. M. Catherine Izral, OSM
Tobin, Florence & Malcolm
Todd, Christine Mary*
In honor of Julianne Strzok-Harris
In memory of Michael & Josephine Strzok
Tomczak, Ernest F.*
Tomlinson, Robert
Tootle, Ann
In honor of Jim Tootle
Torio, Lourdes N.
In memory of Honest Torio
Toth, Kathleen
In memory of Frank, Ellen, Rita Schuck
Trautsch, Mary Agnes
In honor of S. Doris Ann Samens, OSM
Tritschler, Peg & Peggy Oestreich
Trujillo, John J.
Turek, Veronica & Dennis
In honor of S. M. Lucy Daniels, OSM
Valois, Bro. Kenneth, SVD*
VanderLoop, Kathy & George
In memory of George & Alice VanderLoop
Vandervest, Patrick*
Vavra, Paul
Vellante, Delia C.*
Verceles, Emilia & Pete
Verkuilen, Robert
In memory of Leonard “Mac”Maier
Villafana, David
In memory of parents David & Myriam
Volk, Phyllis L.
In honor of S. Doris Ann Samens, OSM
Wald, John R.
Waldeck, Dennis J.
Wallace, Susan D.
Wambold, Pamela & Bruce
Wanek, Patricia
In memory of family & friends
Webb, Donald V.
Weinholzer, Linda
In memory of Rose Young
Weisbrod, Marie & Robert
In memory of Joan Kirsch
Welte, Jan & Larry
In honor of Rev. Tim Wozniak
Werner, Stephen
In honor of David W. Werner
In memory of Werner; Tormey, Cole & Weston families
White, Lori
In memory of S. Mary Pat Hill, OSM
Widmar, Ann
In memory of S. Frances Wanbaugh, OSM
Widmar, Mary & John*
In memory of S. Frances Wanbaugh, OSM, S. Mary Pat Hill, OSM
Will, Mary & James*
Winger, Carl
Witkauskas, John
Wolniak, Donna
Wooden, Carol & Robert P.
In honor of S. Sharon McCarthy, OSM, S. Patricia Ferguson, OSM, S. M. Eugene Baiardo, OSM
Woodward, Michael J.
Wozniak, Rev. Timothy J.*
In honor of Margaret Wozniak
In memory of Chester Wozniak
Wrobel, Amy & Jeffrey*
In memory of S. Mary Pat Hill, OSM
Younger, James*
Zenti, Angela
Ziener, Deborah & Dr. John
Zimmerman, Gary V., FAIA
Zoromski, Carrie & Donald

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Sister Virginia (Finally) Retires

Sister Virginia Schwartz, age 85, retired August 15 from her longtime ministry as parish director at St. Ann’s Parish in Cable, Wisconsin. The parish community held a retirement party for her on August 7 at Lake-woods Resort in Cable, beginning with Mass.

In a letter to Sister on the occasion of her retirement, Bishop of Superior James Powers wrote: “It was twenty-one years ago that you were appointed as Parish Director of St. Ann Parish [by Bishop Raphael Fliss].”

“Your amazing leadership, friendly disposition and infectious smile will be missed, Sr. Virginia, but know that the Diocese, the parishioners, and all those you’ve ministered to feel blessed to have had you in their life. Please know how grateful I am, as well as my predecessors, to have had you as a leader in the Diocese.”

Twenty-one years ago the ministry of parish director was a relatively new concept, and Sister Virginia was one of the first parish directors in the Diocese of Superior. As parish director, she provided administrative, liturgical, pastoral, educational, and spiritual services to the parish and was responsible for the maintenance of parish property.

Here is how she described a day in the life of a parish director in a note to a friend: “It has been a full day. Wore about ten different hats as a parish director. Made potato salad early this AM for a funeral dinner, then had the memorial service and went to the cemetery and buried the cremains, then met with two young people for instructions, then did the weekly parish bulletin, and now just found out I have no hot water and NO janitor to find out the problem. Will go downstairs when I turn off this machine and see what is happening in the fuse boxes. This house is desperately in need of rewiring, so if you never hear from me again I put my hand in the wrong place.”

Though retired, Sister Virginia is not one to rest on her laurels. She helps out as a volunteer at the St. Vincent De Paul food pantry, and she plans to continue her annual trips to Central America with the Lions Club to distribute eye glasses to the needy.

Prior to going to Cable, Sister worked with the Glenmary Home Missioners, ministering in priestless parishes in rural Alabama, Tennessee, and West Virginia. She also served on the Leadership Team of the Servants of Mary, including two terms as president, worked in the Office of Religious Education in the Diocese of Superior, and taught in Catholic elementary schools staffed by Servite Sisters.