Dear Members and Friends of USCSI,

We are well into the Jubilee Year of Mercy and no doubt have tasted and savored the myriad ways our Father has shown to us his boundless mercy – for us personally, in our professions, in our institutes, and in the Church at large. We probably have experienced that often what we take as misfortune is really the merciful providence of God to lead us where he wants us to be, when he wants us to be, in order to be the visible face of the invisible Father for others, channels of his mercy. At our annual meeting September 16-18, 2016, we will be sharing some of these encounters with one another.

And that is the theme for our upcoming meeting, “You are the visible face of the invisible Father,” as coined by Pope Francis. This gathering will mark the 40th anniversary of the acceptance of our statutes ad experimentum by the Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes in 1976, so to speak, our Baptism as a conference. Our speaker, Sister Sharon Holland, IHM, is familiar with secular institutes and specifically the USCSI from her time in Rome working with the Congregation. She is excited to be with us again and will address the mission of secular institutes in relation to our current society. Sister Sharon has a wealth of knowledge and experience that promises to be enriching for us all.

Having just returned from a meeting with the executive committee of USCSI at our meeting site, I can assure you that it will be a little taste of paradise. The setting at Bon Secours Retreat Center is fabulous. The modern building is nestled in 300 acres of forests adjacent to a state park. The grounds are impeccably manicured and boast of a peace garden with a landscaped pond complete with an island, bridge, and fish. Stations of the Cross wind through the woods and you will discover many beautiful spots for reflection, including a labyrinth. Their on-site chef and hospitable staff truly made us feel welcomed and they attended to every need and request. Think 5 star hotel with chapel and religious themed art and you will get the idea.

Until then, be assured of the prayers of your officers and enjoy the down time of summer, in case that is in your schedule. From the consecrated heart of Mary,

Marcia Vinje

Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From the Desk of the President</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How Do You Make the Vocation Known?</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Elzi — Rest in Peace</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News &amp; Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Way</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Director of CCLV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope Francis on Pentecost</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation to the September 2016 Annual Meeting</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting Registration Form Due by September 3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Do We Make the Vocation of Secular Institutes Better Known?

By: Claudette Cyr

RE: Report of my visit with the Vicar for Religious

I recently met with Sister Mariette Moan, ASCJ, Vicar of Religious, from the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT, after trying for some 20 years to get an appointment to make our vocation known. Sister was most cordial and very much interested in Secular Institutes and how she could be of service to me, the Oblates and Secular Institutes in general. She asked me to share my journey that led me to join the Oblates and how I minister in the world by means of the world, etc. She was also interested in learning about our Institute’s background.

I explained to her the three groups Father Louis-Marie Parent, OMI, founded: the Recluse of Jesus and Mary, and two Secular Institutes of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate and the Voluntas Dei, who are numerous in the United States. Since I did not have their brochure, I referred her to the USCSI website for additional information.

I left with her the following:

- 10 brochures of the OMMI Institutes
- Three books written by Father Parent: The Present Moment, Intimacy with Jesus, and In the Footsteps of Jesus
- A copy of the OMMI Easter 2016 Newsletter
- A copy of the most recent USCSI Newsletter along with its latest brochures
- I showed her the book entitled Pilgrimage of an Institute written by Marie-Paule Malenfant OMMI. This is available on our website: ommi@ommi-is.org.

Here are two splendid ideas that we wish to share, as well as urge each one of us to meet with our vicar for consecrated life in the diocese where we live or work.

Sister Mariette will do the following:

- The OMMI Institute will be included in the Archdiocesan Directory
- She will put my name on her mailing and I will be informed of the activities pertinent to our vocation.
- She wants to organize a session in the fall for me to attend and present the life of a secular institute and my own.
- She asked to have the email and address of our Regional Director. She wants to contact her at some point, and maybe put her name on various mailing lists.
- She asked me to send her the two autobiographies of Father Parent even though they are available in French only at this time.
- She would like to have her name placed on the USCSI mailing list and last, but not least, perhaps attend an Annual Meeting in the future.

As I was talking a light bulb went on. She has a young girl in her 20’s from Simsbury, CT, who is now discerning if she has a vocation. This girl feels called but is not attracted to the traditional life style of the religious. When she meets with her again, she will share USCSI information for her to pursue if she wishes.

Essentially this was more than I expected and I was so happy to sit down with her for about one hour. I guess this is the beginning of something and I have to let God guide me along the way.

- My next step is to meet with the pastor of my parish (recently appointed) who was the Vocation Director prior to this assignment.
- I will get in touch with the Secretary General of the OMMI’s to see how I could obtain the two autobiographies of Father Parent (as Sister can read French).
- USCSI: send Jessica Sister’s address to have her placed on our mailing list. (Cont...)
Continued from page two:

How do we make the vocation known?

So I guess my work in translating these two books becomes more and more important. Right now I just finished editing the second book. It is presently in the hands of our central office to process as needed.

Let us continue to pray for vocations.

Claudette Cyr

From Estelle Nichols
Mission of Our Lady
Of Bethany Institute

I recently began visiting the local jail with a mixed group of parishioners from several parishes of the Diocese of Manchester, and I have come to realize how seldom clergy are able to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Mass (due to the shortage of priests). When I saw the Holy Father visiting the poor and washing the feet of prisoners etc, a wild idea came to me: Wouldn’t it be great if I pray that bishops, not just priests, could visit the state prisons in their dioceses during this Special Year of Mercy? They, as shepherds, could make the Works of Mercy better known.

My institute came out of the Dominican Sisters of Bethany and their founder of Bethany, Blessed Jean Joseph Lataste. He was beatified several years ago. With great success he gave a retreat to women in a French Prison in the 1860s. He is acclaimed as the Apostle of Prisons and Bethany’s charism is Mercy and Hope against all Hope. So many people in prison need treatment – via love and hope – not long sentences…

Anyway, I would love some feedback on what you think about my idea on a corporal work of mercy. How can we help from our institutes to approach our local bishops to offer the Sacraments in one of the nearby prisons?

I retire at the end of this year and hope this can be part of my next work for the Kingdom,

Estelle Nichols

NOTE: Another exciting idea would be to think of what your charism as institute would be when presented in a single word or short phrase?

Dana Elzi, Principal Officer

Kathleen Tierney was recently elected as the new Regional Directress for the DeSales Secular Institute (for women). This came about under unfortunate circumstances as Dana Elzi received the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in late December 2015 and is now under hospice care.

Kathy wrote: We continue to pray for a miracle, however Dana is completely at peace and says she is ready to go.

Kindly accept the extended prayers and support from the entire USCSI Membership as we were told of the sudden and unexpected home going of Dana.

Dana S. Elzi, 58, of Middletown, PA, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, April 24, 2016, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of CO. Dana was a member of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Middletown, and National Directress of the Secular Institute of St. Francis DeSales.

She enjoyed writing, playing tennis and gardening. Dana is survived by four siblings living in Colorado. Condolences may be sent online at www.matinchekfuneralhome.com and to kathleen.tierney@sbcglobal.net
Now Available is: Fr. Subhash Anand’s presentation in Rome at the world gathering for the Closing of the Year of Consecrated Life. His presentation is entitled: The Asian Pilgrimage of Consecrated Seculars.
Email: jessica@schsrsmary.org for a digital copy.

Please take time to follow and read this link.
Marge Fenelon, a member of the Schoenstatt Federation, interviewed
• Danielle Peters, a post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, from the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary;
• Kathleen Tierney, a registered dietician and nutritionist from Indianapolis, Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales;
• Father Anthony Ciorra, director of Voluntas Dei Institute, working at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT; and
• Adrian Walker from the Community of St John, presently living in the Black Forest Area of Germany.

Meet the ‘Spiritual Mountaineers’ Pope Pius XII Paved the Way for Consecrated Life to Be Lived in the World by Marge Fenelon, Register Correspondent Sunday, Jan 31, 2016 7:41 AM Comment

Read more: http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/meet-the-spiritual-mountaineers/#ixzz4AiYdDrT5

Danielle Peters was elected the new president at the Mariological Society of America’s annual meeting, held May 17-20, 2016, in Colorado Springs, CO.

In addition to the talks exploring the theological foundations of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, they were privileged to meet the local ordinary, the Most Rev. Michael J. Sheridan, S.Th.D. He welcomed us after our liturgy on the first day, and on the following day we met him at the Door of Mercy of St. Mary’s Cathedral. Furthermore, we were treated to a talk by the Directors of the Turin Shroud Center of Colorado, Dr. John Jackson and his wife Rebecca on Mary’s Apparition in Zeitoun, Egypt. Last but not least, Fr. Thompson S.M. shared with us an “International Marian Bibliography, 2015-2016” with a discussion of recent publications.

Also elected during the business meeting as a Councilor (elected for a 4-year term) of Planning was Jean Frisk, S.T.L.

USCSI is grateful for the large donation received from the Patricia Skarda estate. We thank Pat in Heaven and her group, Caritas Christi, for the services to USCSI over the many years. Pat was involved particularly on the Vocation Committee and CCLV.

Anita Plourde and Claudette Cyr have been working hard to edit the two autobiography books of their late founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent, OMI, covering from his birth to the missionary colonizer in West Canada to the foundation of a cloistered community to two Secular Institutes.

On the website of OMMI www.ommi-is.org you can find available the following books already translated: In Intimacy of Jesus, In the Footsteps of Jesus, The Present Moment, and Is It Possible to get along with Others? (click on founder).
Our Lady Of The Way Secular Institute

Madonna della Strada / Our Lady of the Way Secular Institute celebrated the 80th Anniversary of its blessed founding in 1936, on February 2, 2016, with a celebration in Steyr, Upper Austria.

During the founding day feast in Steyr the new monstrance made from oblation rings of deceased members was consecrated.

Maria Christine, director general from Vienna, visited the home bound US members during Holy Week and then came to Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center where Fr. Tom Schubeck, SJ, offered a Mass on Monday March 29, 2016. Professed rings were blessed and renewal of vows and associate members promises were recited. Later that afternoon a pilgrimage trip was made to Windsor, Ohio’s shrine of the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The first regional meeting of the US/Jamaican members continued for the rest of the week.

Thanks be to God,
Mary Ann Tady
Cleveland Heights, Ohio, April 7, 2016

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to share with you some very good news. On Monday, July 14, 2016, the Reverend Luke Ballman, STL, a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, will begin his work as Associate Director of the Secretariat of Clergy Consecrated Life and Vocations at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Fr. Ballman currently serves as the Director of Apostolic Formation at the Pontifical North American College, a position he has held for five years. Ordained in July of 2001, Fr. Ballman’s priestly ministry has also included service as a parochial vicar, pastor, vocation director, and vicar for clergy in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. His diverse background and pastoral experience will be of great benefit to the CCLV Secretariat. We are grateful to Fr. Ballman for his generosity in accepting this position and to Archbishop Wilton Gregory for releasing Fr. Ballman to serve the Conference in this capacity. I know you will join me in welcoming Fr. Ballman as he joins in the good work at the Conference and in the many projects we work on together.

God bless and keep you in this holy Easter season.

Faith | Worship | Witness

Rev. Ralph B. O’Donnell
Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
202.541.3034 (p) / 202.541.3222 (f)

www.usccb.org
rodonnell@usccb.org
More than any other characteristic, joining our lives completely to the Lord is what makes us true Christians. Pope Francis stressed this as he closed the Easter Season this Pentecost Sunday in the Vatican. During his homily at Mass this morning in St. Peter’s Basilica, the Holy Father reminded the faithful that the central purpose of Jesus’ mission “was to renew our relationship with the Father, a relationship severed by sin, to take us from our state of being orphaned children and to restore us as his sons and daughters!” This mission, he stressed, was culminated in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“The entire work of salvation is one of ‘re-generation,’ in which the fatherhood of God, through the gift of the Son and the Holy Spirit, frees us from the condition of being orphans into which we had fallen.” Nowadays, the Pope pointed out, we see various signs of ‘our being orphans,’ such as “in the interior loneliness which we feel even when we are surrounded by people, a loneliness which can become an existential sadness, in the attempt to be free of God, even if accompanied by a desire for his presence, and in the all-too-common spiritual illiteracy which renders us incapable of prayer.” Being children of God, Francis went on to explain, runs contrary to all this and is our primordial vocation.

On May 27, 2016, Pope Francis, spoke to the participants in the 14th General Chapter of the Little Work of Divine Providence, founded by St. Luigi Orione. We can feel addressed and should take note:

“There is so much need of priests and Religious that do not stay only in charitable institutions,” the Holy Father continued, affirming that this work is necessary, but that there is also a need to “bring to every environment, including the most distant, the perfume of Christ’s charity.”

“Never lose sight either of the Church or of your Religious Community, indeed your heart must be there in your ‘cenacle,’” he said, “but then it is necessary to go out to bring God’s mercy to all, indistinctly.”

Go to this link for the full text: https://zenit.org/articles/popes-address-to-little-work-of-divine-providence/