

# Joy in Living the Gospel

## Women Religious in the Diocese of Covington

Summer 2024

**from Sister Marla Monahan, SND, Vicar for Religious**

We are looking forward to being together for our annual Picnic for Women Religious sponsored by our Covington Diocese and the Serra Club. A fun day on the river is planned on a BB Riverboat. I continue to be grateful for the words of gratitude Bishop Iffert said to us at the Consecrated Life Day Mass: “We love you, you’re great, keep going!”

We have a new web page on our Diocese of Covington website. *Religious Life* is a choice under the *Vocations* button ([https://covdio.org/religious-vocations/.](https://covdio.org/religious-vocations/)) It is still a work in progress. Please check it out. Feedback is welcome.

The next date for *United in Prayer* sponsored by our Vocation Directors is Tuesday, August 20, at 6 pm at Mainstrasse, open to all. The event is live streamed on our community Facebook pages.

Our *Service with Sisters Day* on Saturday, April 20 was full of blessings as we shared our gifts with several agencies and 40+ volunteers. The day consisted of prayer and the connection of the Eucharist with service, doing service, and theological reflection on our service. Next year’s tentative date is April 12.

The Intercongregational Ministry to Aging Religious (IMAR) **WORKSHOP ON GRIEF** took place on May 9 featuring Sheila Munafo-Kanoza. The workshop was for those who work with our aging religious in the greater Cincinnati area and 20+ people attended.

Our Vocation Directors are excited that in addition to Father Conor Kunath, Father Michael Hennigan will be working with us in Vocation Awareness ministry.

Blessings of hope as we celebrate Ordinary Time in our liturgical year. Have a wonderful summer.

---

“LOOK TO THE PAST WITH GRATITUDE... LIVE THE PRESENT WITH PASSION...  
EMBRACE THE FUTURE WITH HOPE...”

~POPE FRANCIS

**SJW**



The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers on our 50th anniversary. It was a

blessed day for the community and the sisters enjoyed spending time with all our guests. The Messenger did such a nice

write up on the

community and the celebration. It was much appreciated.



*(Upper right: Bishop John Stowe from Lexington speaking with Sister Celeste Marie, Bishop Iffert in the background)*



*(Sister Mary Faustina greeting Sister Aileen Bankemper)*



We are also thankful for our new member, Annie Suenram. Annie is from Oklahoma and has a degree in Pharmacy. She met our community at a vocation event held by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. She

discerned with us last year and entered the community in February. She is progressing in religious life and will be accepted as a novice on August 15th. *(Annie with her parents)*

The school year ended at St. Joseph Academy with a Eucharistic Procession around the school grounds. This was the third year that the school did a procession at the end of the year. It was a beautiful day with plenty of sunshine. Many members of All Saints Parish joined our students in the procession.



Summertime means it is Pig Fest time. Pig Fest is St. Joseph Academy's fundraiser. This year it will be held June 14th and 15th. There will be good food, fun, games, and a silent auction with over 100 baskets. Come on down to Walton if you are free on Father's Day weekend.

## OSB

In late February, the Benedictine sisters hosted an Employee Recognition Dinner for all employees and gave recognition to those who have given 40+, 30+, 20+ and 10+ years of service.



Sr. Aileen Bankemper, prioress, said it best: "We are deeply appreciative for all their hard work and dedicated efforts that contribute to making St. Walburg a good place to work and, for the sisters, a wonderful place to live."

Sr. Cathy Bauer attended the **North American Benedictine Vocation Formation Conference (NABVFC) Symposium 2024**, St Benedict Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE in April. The theme was "Hope for the Future: Trusting God in Uncertain Times." Sr. Cathy has been selected to be on the core team for six years.



This past April Sr. Aileen had a wonderful visit with Sr. Andrea Vasquez. A native of La Junta, Sr. Andrea has served in many capacities for the Diocese of Pueblo since the seventies. Our community served in two schools in La Junta and two hospitals.

On Sunday, April 28, a retirement party was held for Sr. Barbara Woeste as she retires from 26 years of dedicated service as Director of Religious Education from The Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption.

She was thanked for teaching and helping so many people grow in their faith, caring for the sick and homebound parishioners, caring for the poor and so many in need. Gratitude was expressed for her gentleness, kindness and witness of deep faith and love for God and others. Sr. Barbara officially retires on June 30.

*(Sr. Barbara, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right, with Bishop Iffert, Benedictine Sisters, and Cathedral staff).*



## SND

**Lent to Easter:** Over the Lenten Season, sisters and associates across SND USA engaged in projects that continue to reach out in service to our neighbors, especially those who are vulnerable. Sisters of the California region gave cards to juvenile defendants, ages 13-18 at Dorothy Kirby Center, a juvenile detention center located in LA County (top left photo). Sisters of Notre Dame of the Toledo region, joined by other religious communities of northwest Ohio, sponsored the 4th Annual Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive. The food drive benefited Toledo Seagate Food Bank. Also in



Toledo, the sisters hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for children of “Mom’s House,” a childcare center available to assist low-income, single mothers in completing their high school, technical school, or college education, and provided baskets of Easter foods for their moms (top right). In Chardon, Lenten projects included writing hope-filled notes of encouragement and care to the men at Grafton Correctional Institution. There are 1,700 men at the facility and each man received a card, along with an Equal Exchange fair trade chocolate bar. The women at the Northeast Reintegration Center received bags with warm socks and hand lotion. The sisters assembled 700 bags in an afternoon (bottom left). In Covington, sisters, associates, and SND employees put together blessing bags consisting of hygiene items, fast food gift cards, and some snacks and water for local residents who are homeless (bottom right). These projects helped us move into Easter joy.





**Sister Jean Marie Hoffman, Recipient of the Kenton County Pioneer Award:** On April 9, the Kenton County Fiscal Court approved this year's recipients of the Pioneer Award. Now in its seventh year, the Pioneer Award recognizes residents who have a record of outstanding service to the community and exemplify the

highest standards of personal integrity. This year's recipients are (from left) Sister Jean Marie Hoffman, Jeanne Schroer, and Donna Salyers.

**Julie Learning Center visit the Sisters at St. Joseph Heights:**

During Global Sisters' Week the children at Julie Learning Center, the preschool located at the Heights, celebrated with the sisters with a get-together for coffee, juice, cookies, the board game "Telestrations" and a faux Chihuly sculpture made by the children for the dining room along with ice cream treats. This is one of many times that the students stop by to visit with the sisters during the year.



**April 14 Associate Covenant and Anniversary Celebration:**

What a wonderful day of Celebration! Sunday April 14, 2024 The Sisters of Notre Dame welcomed eight new Associates, and celebrated our ten and twenty year Associates. Our new associates are Steve Averdick, Meredith Donnelly, Carol Ernst, Sharon Schwartz,



Frank Wolterman, Shirley Simon, Bonnie Ann Stevens, and Judy Schilling.



**St. Claire HealthCare** (*Morehead, KY*) has entered an expanded partnership with the University of Kentucky, a collaboration that will ensure St. Claire can continue its 60-year tradition of servicing the healthcare needs of the people of Northeastern Kentucky. While St. Claire

HealthCare will no longer be a Catholic hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Notre

Dame, this groundbreaking collaboration will provide expanded opportunities to carry the mission forward into the next 60 years -- a lasting tribute to the legacy of SND, whose sponsorship helped build and maintain St. Claire. As part of the agreement, St. Claire will establish a \$30-million community foundation dedicated to funding projects that continue the SND mission in eastern Kentucky. The new foundation is a sponsored ministry under the SND National Ministry Corporation.

## CDP

### CDP Chapter re-elects Sr. Barbara Rohe as Provincial

On Saturday morning, May 3, the Sisters of Divine Providence gathered in Immaculate Conception Chapel, Melbourne, for a Mass of the Holy Spirit with the Most Reverend John Iffert, Bishop of Covington, presiding. Earlier that morning Sister delegates convened in Chapter for a weekend session to elect a Provincial Superior for the next five years. Sr. Barbara Rohe was re-elected on Saturday afternoon for a second term. Sister delegates will assemble once again during June to elect the rest of the Province leadership team and to conduct the Chapter of Business.

*Photo: CDP Superior General Sr. Anny Deutsch (at right) announces the election of Sr. Barbara Rohe as Provincial Superior to Sisters assembled in the chapel.*



### Sr. Margaret Stallmeyer addresses NCC graduates

CDP Sr. Margaret Stallmeyer offered the commencement address at the recent graduation at Newport Central Catholic. Recognized as this year's honorary alumna of the school, Sr. Margaret congratulated the students on their successful completion of high school, and went on to share with them a reflection on qualities needed for a happy and fulfilled life: to know and accept yourself as God's unique and special creation; to cultivate the virtue of gratitude; to recognize the gifts around and within yourself, and to reach out in service to others.

In addition to being an Our Lady of Providence alumna, Sr. Margaret served as teacher and assistant principal there and was principal at the time of its merger with Newport Catholic. She also ministered for four years as assistant principal of the newly merged NCC.

### **Sr. Kay Kramer Honored**



Sr. Kay Kramer recently received a teaching award from the graduating class at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine/Northern Kentucky Campus. In presenting the award, the graduates commented that Sr. Kay always welcomes and encourages the students during their labor & delivery rotations (at St. Elizabeth Edgewood), helping them gain hands-on experiences, and making them feel valued and important. "Most importantly, she shows med students how to go above and beyond in the care of patients, making them feel more comfortable through big and small measures."

### **Sisters and Associates offer welcome, friendship to refugee families**

A committee of CDP Sisters Alice Gerdeman, Mary Jennings, and Margie Verhoff and CDP Associates Donna Esposito, Ginny Kane and Robin Kelly has been trained by Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) to help prepare them in aiding refugee families arriving in Northern Kentucky to become more accustomed to their new environment during their first few months here. Among other things, committee members help prepare the family's living space before their arrival by gathering some basic furniture and stocking simple essentials for their cupboards; they accompany family members to medical exams and grocery stores as needed; they help the new arrivals learn English, connect to their new community, and provide simple opportunities for the children to play and the adults to relax. Committee members don't know the family's story but are happy to be of service and to be the family's friends. CDP Associate Terri Muenich has also joined the group, which most recently has assisted two families from Somalia.

### **CP**

The Passionist Nuns were founded to remember the sufferings and death of Jesus. Today they live out this same spirit watching and waiting at the foot of the Cross with Mary, offering their lives of prayer and intercession for our Diocese and for the world.



**MONASTERY**  
OF THE  
**SACRED PASSION**  
ERLANGER, KY