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Welcoming a dear neighbor into community

by Mary McGlone, CSJ



A few years ago, while Sister Sally Harper, CSJ was working with a Peruvian inter-congregational committee on human trafficking, a Good Shepherd sister on the committee asked if she could help one of their guests. Hanna, an Ethiopian mother living in one of their residences, spoke some English but no Spanish, and the sister wondered if Sister Sally might find someone the woman could talk with in

English. That led to a relationship between Sister Anne Davis, CSJ, Hanna, and Hanna's daughter, Betty.

Little by little, Sister Anne learned that Hanna had been a refugee most of her life, fleeing Ethiopia for Kenya and eventually South Africa. Hanna married, and in 2015 was forced to flee xenophobic violence in South Africa, traveling with then 3-year-old Betty. Although she was promised passage to the U.S., the trafficker moved them by air to Brazil, by bus to Peru, and again by air to Guatemala. The trafficker abandoned mother and child at the Guatemalan airport, taking their documents with him. After some days in limbo, Hanna and Betty were remanded to Peru, their last place of embarkation. From there, they got help from the Good Shepherd Sisters.

Eventually, Hanna's husband was reunited with them in Lima, and Hanna found work in a hotel and rented a one-room apartment. They were surviving—until COVID. Hanna's husband left the country in search of work. When she couldn't pay the rent, the hotel allowed her and Betty to take up residence in a storage space. Unbeknownst to Hanna, the hotel was keeping afloat by housing

people with COVID. Hanna became infected and could no longer work. By now her daughter was 8, her husband was out of touch with them, and she had nowhere to go.

At first, Sister Anne was simply a companion, someone to talk to, someone Hanna could call “friend.” Knowing Hanna’s plight, Anne wondered if she could do more. She took the situation to her local community in Canto Chico (a neighborhood of Lima), which consists of Sisters Maria Elena, Mary Luz, and Yolanda. They decided they could do no less than take the family in.

Now Hanna and Betty are part of the sisters’ local community. Although they do not share the sisters’ morning prayer and conversation time, the whole group eats together and shares all that is entailed in community living. Betty helps set the table, takes responsibility for leading grace before meals, and is doing a good job of teaching her mother Spanish. The two of them are waiting for COVID restrictions to be lifted so that they can take the next step in their journey: traveling to Canada where Sisters of St. Joseph and the Diocese of Peterborough are ready to sponsor them as refugees.

As the sisters reflected on their experience, Sister Yolanda noted how God had been working for years to gather this special community (in fact, Yoli met Hanna even before Anne did while doing an internship in psychology!) Sister Mary Luz commented that all of this could come about because they had the graces of *apertura y flexibilidad*—openness and flexibility. She said that Hanna’s experience touched her deeply because she herself was a migrant who left rural, mountain life to live in the city. “I know what it’s like,” she said. Sister

María Elena Cáceres then added, “We need the dear neighbor in order to grow. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them. I thank God for having put people in our path who have done so much to help us grow as women religious.”

Refugees and trafficked people are forced to be open and flexible. That is but one of the gifts Hanna and Betty have brought the sisters. Sister Anne may have summed it all up when she said, “This is an experience of living the Gospel—in union with Jesus who said, ‘I call you friends.’”

Check out the latest "Snapshots in Time"

SNAPSHOTS IN TIME
a quarterly publication of the
Carondelet Consolidated Archive
December 2020 (Volume 5)

OCTOBER WAS ARCHIVES MONTH
We kicked off October on Facebook with a throwback photo from 1995 when all the province and congregational archivists met in Albany for their annual face-to-face meeting. Photo from the Albany Province collection.



"AUTUMN FANTASY"
While fall foliage peaked around the country, we looked back at this painting titled "Autumn Fantasy" (1994) by Sister Colette Marie Doering of the St. Louis Province.



Catherine Lucy, director of the Carondelet Consolidated Archive, does a wonderful job finding wonderful "Throwback Thursday" photos to share on the congregational Facebook and Instagram accounts each week. If you're not on social media, she also compiles them into a quarterly publication called "Snapshots in Time." The December issue is available now.

[download the issue](#)

Update from Ascension Health

In 2010, the founding congregations of [Ascension Health](#) accepted an invitation from the [Ascension Global Mission](#) office to establish the Global Health Partnership Initiative (GHPI). Each of the congregations pledged financial as well as moral support to this new effort. We contributed \$700,000 over seven years. The organization hoped to attract collaborators who would work with grassroots people to address major health issues such as infant death among those who live in poverty. They planned to create responses that could be duplicated in other parts of the world. A first initiative, a project in Guatemala that worked to develop the community's voice, proved successful and has been transferred to the local leaders, leaving some of the original funds unexpended.

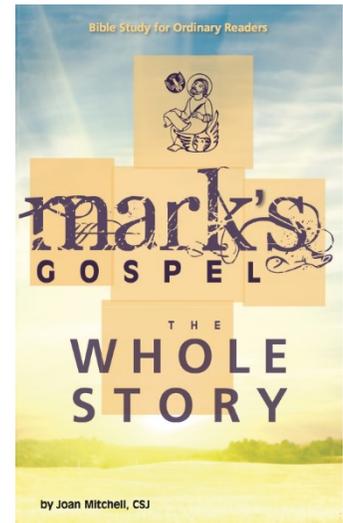


Almost simultaneous to the transfer of the Guatemalan project, a group established an exciting new project, the Global Solidarity Fund. This organization, inspired by Pope Francis' leadership for empowering the most vulnerable and working to implement the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, also aims to create solutions that can be duplicated around the world. Their three foci include systematic change for the most vulnerable starting with migrants, partnerships to amplify the work of Catholic sisters and stories of the Catholic church's development contributions. Their particular focus on women religious arises because they see us as having direct knowledge of grassroots issues and at the same time connections to

global networks through congregations and other organizations. Given that the Global Solidarity Fund has many of the same aims as the original GHPI, but on a magnified scale, Ascension proposed and the CLT agreed that the unexpended funds originally contributed to GHPI could be transferred to this new organization.

Bible Study on Mark's Gospel

We read Mark at Sunday Eucharist in the 2021 liturgical year. If you'd like to take a fresh look at his Gospel, St. Paul's Sister Joan Mitchell will lead a Bible study using her book [Mark's Gospel: The Whole Story](#) on 12



Thursdays beginning January 21. We will gather via Zoom, of course, to learn more about Mark, to share our insights, and to enjoy getting to know one another.

[Click here for more information, including the dates and registration form](#)

To sign up, contact Lucy Sietsema at 800-232-5533 or lucy@goodgroundpress.com.

Mary McGlone's new book available for pre-order

Give the gift of Sr. Mary McGlone's *Called Forth by the Dear Neighbor: History of the*

Sisters of St. Joseph, Volume Two. This second volume of the U.S. history of the Sisters of St. Joseph is currently in production. You can reserve your signed, personalized, advance copy today for \$22 (\$27 for expedited shipping). You'll be among the first people to get to read this much anticipated second volume.

[read more](#)

The book cover features a purple background. At the top, it says 'NOW PRE-ORDERING!'. The title 'Called Forth by the Dear Neighbor' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title is a circular portrait of Sr. Mary McGlone, an elderly woman with white hair. Underneath the portrait, it says 'HISTORY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH VOLUME 2' and 'From Sr. Mary McGlone'. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text: 'The Second Volume of the U.S. History of the Sisters of St. Joseph is in production. Reserve your signed, advance copy today for \$22. You'll be among the first people to get to read this much anticipated second volume.' Below that, it says 'EMAIL INFO@CSSJFED.ORG TO RESERVE YOUR SPECIAL EDITION NOW. ONLY 100 ADVANCED COPIES ARE AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER!'.



God with us

by Sally Harper, CSJ

Christmas celebrates the coming of God among us. How can we incarnate God in our world today? Peter Maurin said, "To en flesh Jesus' words is to translate the Gospel into action." This is incarnation!

A song in Spanish captures this idea.

GOD WITH US

When a poor person shares what little they have,
when a thirsty person shares their water,
when a weak person strengthens his brother or sister,
God walks with us on our journey.

When a suffering person is consoled,
when a hopeful person never tires of hoping,
when we love even when hate surrounds us,
God walks with us on our journey.

When happiness increases and overflows in us,
when our lips speak truth,
when we love the spirit of simple folk,
God walks with us on our journey.

When goodness abounds and fills homes,
when a person promotes peace where there is war,
when a stranger is called "brother/sister",
God walks with us on our journey.

May Christmas rejuvenate, renew our promise to live the Good News of Jesus the Christ.



- **Albany:** [Letter: Spate of federal executions must be stopped](#) by Doreen Glynn, CSJ
- **St. Paul:** [Sisters Consider Opening their Home to the Homeless](#)

- **St. Louis:** [Fourth Sunday of Advent: Where God lives](#) by Mary McGlone, CSJ
- **St. Louis:** [Denver sisters and associates make ditty bags for people experiencing homelessness](#)
- **Federation:** [Restorative Justice Workshop Talks Moving Theory Into Practice](#)

Recent Publications:

- See all recent newsletters on the [Publications page](#) in the Members Only Section of the congregational website.



Rest in Peace

[Joan Teresa Harrington, CSJ](#)

May 10, 1934 - December 13, 2020

[Helen Leclerc, CSJ](#)

March 18, 1942 - December 17, 2020

Theresa Fournier, CSJ

December 18, 2020

[Ellen Marie Ryan, CSJ](#)

July 11, 1932 - December 19, 2020

Germaine Hilston, CSJ

December 20, 2020

Maria Mercurio, CSJ

December 20, 2020

Susan Smith, CSJ

December 21, 2020

Happy Birthday!

December 22

Sister Rose Mary Brueggen
Sister Beverly Ann Flynn
Associate Evelyn Kudla
Sister Marie Virginia Morett

December 23

Consociate Irene Bellah Adhiambo

December 24

Sister Francine Costello
Associate Dorothy Dempsey
Sister Maureen Fallon
Sister Serena Thompson
Associate Faith Wilson

December 25

Associate Christine Clifford
Associate Phyllis Clifford
Sister Sylvia Krawfcyk
Consociate Carole Murnane Fleming
Sister Virginia Webb
Sister Judith Ann Wright

December 26

Sister Mary Louise Dolan
Associate Robert S. Dorko
Sister Katherine Egan
Sister Rita Foster
Familia César Rodríguez

December 27

Sister Gilmary Fischer
Associate Peggy McAuliffe

December 28

Associate Jeanette Fruge
Sister Kathleen Kelly
Sister Mary Catherine Siminski

December 29

Sister Kevin Bopp
Associate Diane Ashkouri Domit
Associate Joe Himmelberg
Sister Mary Hugh McGowen
Sister Natalie Marie Slake
Sister Kathleen Stack

December 30

Sister Sara Michael King
Sister Margaret Mary Murray
Associate Tom O'Hara
Sister Angela Schreiber
Sister Ann Gerard Siebert
Associate Debbie Thornton

December 31

Associate Tom Clifford
Sister Antoinette Czuleger
Sister Frances Celine McFarland
Consociate Deb Sheats

January 1

Consociate Serphine Achola Mambe
Consociate Mary Catherine Casey
Associate Marylee J. Ferranti
Associate Danette Hester
Associate Janice Martinez
Sister Patti St. John
Consociate Pamela Wandzel

January 2

Sister Patricia Conron
Sister Jacqueline Power

January 3

Consociate Mary Jane Casey
Consociate Rev. Patrick Casey
Sister Maureen Freeman
Associate Cathy Hart
Sister Jane Hassett
Sister Patricia Rose Shanahan
Associate Kenneth Stephenson

January 4

Familia Ester Abusto
Associate Thelma Foye
Sister Ann William Leach
Associate Camilla Picard
Associate Robin Smitherman
Sister Kathleen Patrice Sullivan

January 5

Sister Maureen D'Onofrio
Associate Diana Oleskevich
Sister Ann Marie O'Rourke
Sister Regina Clare Salazar
Sister Dorothy Elaine Stack
Sister Carolyn Strack

January 6

Associate Juanita Cherry
Sister Roseanne Cook
Associate Jennifer Dawson
Sister Pat Nelson
Consociate Margaret Trettel

January 7

Sister Margaret Foppe

January 8

Sister Ida Robertine Berresheim
Sister Patricia Clement
Sister Lucy Knoll
Sister Rose Marie McKenna
Associate Patricia M. O'Grady

January 9

Sister Catherine Filla
Consociate Rosemary Hayes
Associate Sally Starkweather

January 10

Consociate Kristine Brelje
Associate Colleen Fraaza
Familia Ketty Fuentes
Associate Marjorie Mangan

January 11

Sister Cecile Therese Beresford
Sister Nancy Marsh
Sister Donna Vosika

Download the full necrology and birthday lists on the Celebrations page of the congregational website.

Please report any mistakes to communications@csjcarondelet.org.