



The five visiting American Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia joined the sisters of the Brazilian community for a group photo on their last day in Teresina. Sister Lúcia Lima is the only one missing from the photo.

Brazil

Continued from page 5.

one of the sisters to put on the tree as a symbol of we being the branches.

“The evening ended with a slideshow presentation of our sisters’ work in Brazil over the past 50 years and then dancing.”

SNAPSHOT, Thursday, June 27: “A special Mass in St. Joseph the Worker Church in Teresina closed the novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and honored the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia for their 50 years of service to the parish. The church was packed with a huge crowd of people, filling the pews and standing in the aisles.

“At the end of the Mass, Father Jadhv Herbert introduced a tribute to Sister Patricia Neihouse as one of the first four Sisters of St. Joseph who came to Teresina and for her continuing service here for the past 50 years.

“First Sister Naira Regina da Silva Ribeiro spoke of Pat’s leadership qualities; next, Teresinha Sa, the head catechist and long-standing friend of the community, gave her tribute. Then 12 associates came forward to present Sister Patricia with a dozen yellow roses and a tribute by associate Maria do Carmelo Gomes de Carvalho.

“Following the Mass, the Irish Redemptorist Fathers had arranged a concert by the Teresina Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, under the direction

of composer/director, Raimundo Aurelo Mel.

“At the same time, associates sold copies of the new book titled ‘Fifty Years of the Mission of Sisters of St. Joseph in Brazil,’ a history written by Sister Patricia and Onisina Alves da Costa, who was in the first group to be received into the community. Others also contributed to the work.”

SNAPSHOT, Saturday, June 29: “Once again, St. Joseph the Worker Church was packed with family, friends and parishioners — there wasn’t even standing-room left.

“The Most Rev. Jacinto Furtado de Brito Sobrinho, archbishop of Teresina, celebrated the closing Mass, honoring the 17 Sisters of St. Joseph who currently serve in northeastern Brazil and the many others who have served over the past 50 years.”

SNAPSHOT, Sunday, June 30: All but one of the American visitors left Teresina Sunday, June 30, to return to their homes in the U.S. Sister Anna Marie Broxterman will remain for about two weeks, and will then escort Sister Alexandra da Silva back to Kansas, where she will study English at Kansas State University.

And one final **SNAPSHOT**, the future: The 17 members of the Mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia in Teresina are quick to agree that for 50 years God has worked miracles among them, for them and with them for others as they have gone from mission to mission in one town after another, establishing little faith communities among the people.

Today, their enthusiasm for the mission and their faith in God’s Providence is just as strong. They are ready for the work that continues to call them.



Sisters gathered at the Nazareth Motherhouse wave hello via video conference to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Teresina, Brazil, shown in the video screen at left. This greeting on June 7 marks the first time in the sisters’ history that the two gatherings of the congregation have been able to see and talk to each other live. Holding the computer, and providing technical support, is David Sprague, IT specialist for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

When the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia first ventured to northeast Brazil to establish a mission in Teresina in June 1963, it was an arduous journey that meant days traveling on trains and airplanes or weeks aboard a passenger-freight ship.

But on Friday, June 7, for the first time in the 50 years that the mission in Brazil has existed, sisters in Teresina and Concordia were able to gather together, face-to-face, live, to celebrate that anniversary.

The connection was a videoconference that linked more than 150 sisters, candidates, associates and staff at the Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia with nearly all of the 20-some sisters, postulants and aspirants at the Regional House in Teresina.

“It was very emotional for us,” said Sister Pat Neihouse, one of the four original Sisters of St. Joseph who went to Teresina in 1963 and who continues to serve there. “After it was over, we sat around talking about the joy of it. Many of the sisters cried just to be with you and feel as one with the sisters there.”

It was equally emotional for many of the Concordia sisters.

Sister Rose Marie Dwyer, who went to northeast Brazil in 1965 and served for most of the next 40 years there, was able to talk with the women she hadn’t seen since she returned to the U.S. in 2005.

“My spirit is still there,” Sister Rose Marie said, but failing health has kept her from returning.

The Otter sisters — Donna in



Meeting face-to-face for the first time June 7 are (in the left screen) Sister Alexandra da Silva, left, with Sister Pat Neihouse, and her future roommates (in the right screen), Sisters Beverly Carlin, left, and Missy Ljungdahl. Plans are under way for Sister Alexandra to come to Manhattan, where she will live with the two sisters while studying English at Kansas State University beginning this fall.

Teresina and Francis Margaret and Mary Esther in Concordia — also had a video reunion.

And Sister Alexandra da Silva, who will be coming to the United States later this summer to study at Kansas State University, met her future roommates for the first time. She will live in Manhattan with Sisters Beverly Carlin and Missy Ljungdahl.

After the videoconference, Sister Alexandra said she dreamed that night that she had actually been among the sisters in the Motherhouse auditorium as she was talking to them.

Individual sisters, as well as the congregation’s Leadership Council, have used video conferencing to talk with sisters in Brazil before, but this was the first time that the entire congregation was able to take part. David Sprague, the information technology specialist for the congregation, set it up and provided technical support.

Sister Grace Malaney, a Benedictine sister from Atchison, Kan., assisted in Concordia with translations from the Portuguese spoken by the Brazilian sisters to English for the audience at the Motherhouse.

Before the videoconference began, sisters in both Concordia and Teresina watched a new DVD titled “A Child of the Times,” which details the origins of the Brazilian mission. Communications director Sarah Jenkins created the DVD as part of the 50th anniversary celebration.

“We live so far apart, and yet this made us feel so near,” Sister Pat said. “The video and the DVD brought us closer together.”

Order your DVD copy now

Who were these remarkable women? And why did they go to the poorest area of the poorest state of the poorest nation in South America 50 years ago?

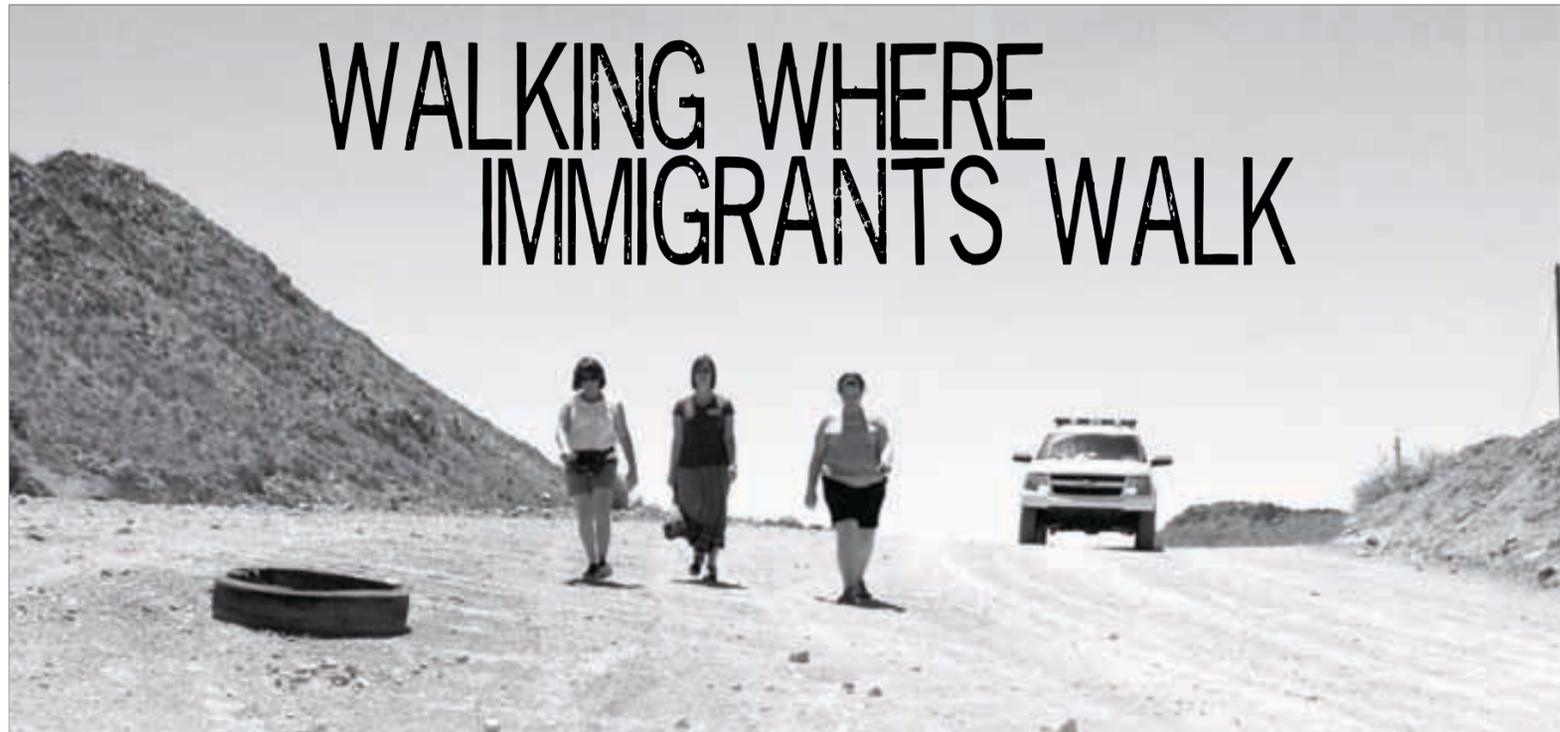
Our new hour-long DVD tells the always moving, often funny and ever inspirational story of the origins of our mission in Teresina, Brazil.

Copies are \$10 each. To order yours, call 785/243-2113, ext. 1101 or email jwahlmeier@csjkansas.org.



TOP PHOTO: Sisters Marcia Allen, left, and Eleutéria Sousa da Costa pose for a snapshot at the Regional House in Teresina. Irmã Eleutéria lives and serves in the city of Picos, about 190 miles southeast of Teresina.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Sister Patricia Neihouse blesses one of the other participants as part of the ceremony Wednesday evening, June 26.



WALKING WHERE IMMIGRANTS WALK

'Immersion Experience' takes group to U.S.-Mexico border

As the U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill by a 2-1 margin in late June, five Nebraska teenagers and a contingent of Sisters of St. Joseph were in El Paso, Texas, learning about border issues first hand.

The timing of the "Border Immersion Experience" sponsored and organized by the Sisters of St. Joseph was purely coincidental, but it brought the debate in Washington, D.C., into an entirely different focus.

"It opened my eyes a lot," said one of the teenagers from St. Michael's Catholic Church in Spalding, Neb. "It changed me and taught me so much."

The weeklong "Experience," which began June 24, was organized as part of the congregation's commitment to "stand in solidarity with and on behalf of our undocumented sisters and brothers who come to the US as immigrants." The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia formally approved that "enactment statement" in November 2011.

In addition to the five girls from Spalding and Greeley, Neb., the group included Sisters Esther Pineda and Judy Stephens, who coordinated the trip; Sister Dian Hall; CSJ Associate Catherine Seitz of Manhattan, Kan.; and Jackie Neboliczak and Maggie Smith, two adult sponsors from St. Michael's Church.

While in El Paso, they stayed at the Grandview

Convent, the home of Sister Christine Doman.

"The purpose of the trip was to see the 'face' of the immigrant, the reality of their lives and the impact our immigration laws and policies have on them and on us," Sister Esther explained.

The week began with lessons in history and culture, and then took the group to organizations that provide aid to the immigrant.

They also learned about the detention centers for youth in El Paso, and visited an adult processing and detention center for immigrants awaiting deportation.

Ruben Garcia, director of Annunciation House, which has been serving homeless immigrants for 35 years, challenged the group to look at the reality of people's lives as they try to escape poverty, the ravages of the drug cartel and corrupt government control. He pinpointed poverty as the motivating factor for immigration into the United States.

The Experience included daily reflections and prayer, as well as shared meals and visits to area cultural sites. As the trip ended, each group mem-



TOP PHOTO: A Border Patrol approaches as, from left, Jackie Neboliczak, Catherine Seitz and Maggie Smith walk along the U.S.-Mexico border near El Paso, Texas.

PHOTO ABOVE: The girls from St. Michael's Church in Spalding, Neb., pose beside Rim Road overlooking El Paso, Texas. They are, from left, Maddie Esch, Tori Valasek, Anna Esch, Brooke Behnk and Kaitlyn Wood.

ber made a commitment to share her experience with others in her own community to help them better understanding the plight of the immigrant. Their commitments were sealed with this blessing:

We bless you and send you out to love as Christ loves, see as Christ sees, and be who Christ calls you to be in a world thirsty for Love.

Lessons learned

10th Agrégée Sister joins Concordia congregation

It should come as no surprise that Elizabeth Weddle, who spent nearly 30 years as a special education teacher, wants to focus on lessons learned.

As the 65-year-old Kansas native became the newest Agrégée Sister of St. Joseph in a simple profession ceremony June 7, she insisted that what was important was not "me and my story," but rather "what I have learned from living in community with these women."



SISTER ELIZABETH WEDDLE

So here are some of the lessons — and the teachers:

From Sister Sylvia Winterscheidt, "I learned that life is a process."

From Sister Jeanette Wasinger, it was "both statement and question. The statement is, I am immersed in God and God is immersed in me. The questions: Have I loved enough? Have I been kind enough?"

From Sister Ann Ashwood, it was an answer to a long-pondered question: How do you glorify God? "By bringing Jesus' love to the world."

From Sister Janet Lander, it was the grace of Jesus' words: "Come to me and we will work on this together."

From Sister Bette Moslander: "Love of neighbor is not necessarily an emotional love, but a choice one makes with her actions every day."

And from Sister Marcia Allen, it was the words of St. Ignatius Loyola: "The path God made for us is the path we take to God."

The path God made for Beth, as she is known, began in Kansas but then took her to Alaska where her parents were teachers and she earned her diploma from a Presbyterian-run Indian boarding school. After high school, she went to Rochester, N.Y., where



Newly professed Sister Elizabeth Weddle, second from left, gets a hug of encouragement from Sister Marcia Allen, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, as Sister Sylvia Winterscheidt, left, and Sister Ann Ashwood, right, look on during the profession ceremony June 7.

What is Agrégée membership?

In reaching back to our roots in 17th century France, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia discovered — and revitalized — a type of committed spiritual life for women known as "agrégées."

An agrégée — pronounced *ah-gre-ZHEY*, from the French word meaning "attached to" or "aggregated with" — did not make vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. But she lived according to the rules of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and was recognized by the local people and the local churches as a Sister of St. Joseph.

In the past decades, the modern Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia have revived that early practice. In 2006, the Senate of the Concordia congregation approved agrégée membership.

Today, Sister Elizabeth Weddle is the 10th to enter the congregation, with other agrégée sisters living and serving in the Kansas cities of Topeka, Augusta and Chapman, as well as Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo., Grand Junction, Colo., and Fruita, Colo.

There are also currently five agrégée candidates from the Kansas cities of Concordia, Norton, Salina and Wakeeney, and Elizabeth, Colo., and Douglasville, Ga.

Agrégée sisters are defined as women who commit themselves to active and inclusive love of God and the dear neighbor as expressed in the spirit and spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. In almost every aspect, they are viewed as full members of the congregation, meaning they have a voice and a vote on congregational issues.

There are three significant differences, however.

- » **"Canonically vowed sisters"** profess the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, as defined by canon — or church — law. As part of the vow of poverty, an individual sister relinquishes all personal wealth and income; at the same time, the congregation assumes responsibility for her economic well being for the rest of her life.

- » **"Agrégée sisters"** profess a vow of fidelity to the congregation, but it is noncanonical, meaning that it is not governed by Church law and is instead a private vow between that sister and the Concordia congregation. It also means that the agrégée does not relinquish her finances to the congregation, and the congregation assumes no financial responsibility for her.

- **Also, canonically vowed sisters** begin their religious life with a formal "formation" that includes a postulancy and novitiate that are, together, about three years. During this time, they have left their previous life, but haven't yet taken up their works as a Sister of St. Joseph. For agrégées, the period of being a candidate may be about the same length of time, but they do not leave behind their outside lives. Instead, they meet with mentors and study around their regular work and life schedules. And once they have professed their vows, they continue in that work and life schedule.

Other congregations of St. Joseph have developed similar definitions or are doing their own studies, but the Concordia congregation is the first to recognize agrégée sisters as full members of the community.

she struggled to find direction — until she earned a teaching certificate and began working with kids challenged by learning disabilities and emotional issues.

That led to a master's degree and eventually a

return to Kansas. She taught in Wichita until her retirement five years ago. She had also married; her

FROM THE MARYMOUNT COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Office closes, but we still want to stay in touch!

It is coming up on the one-year anniversary of our 2012 Marymount College reunion! Maybe it's just me and all the changes since then, but it seems longer ago!

This column gives me a chance to update you about the Marymount Alumni Association.

After the reunion last summer, president Eileen Thibault resigned, and other members of the planning committee — all of whom had served for several years — also decided the time had come to step down.

Alumni Association treasurer Rodd Glaven and I had tried to drum up interest during the reunion to get some new people involved, to help with our office in the former Marymount Administration Building, the association and future reunions. But we weren't successful. So now we have closed the



JACI WALSH

office and put its inventory in storage.

Rodd is still managing the alumni association's bank account and I currently am managing the alumni database. And Susan Martin Tackett — who has been helping a great deal all along from a distance — will continue to manage the "Marymount College of Kansas" Facebook page and will notify alumni through posts there of class reunions and other news. She vows she will still continue to try to rally interest for reunions.

We'll also still have this space, as needed, in the sisters' quarterly newspaper, The Messenger. So if you have announcements or other news you want considered for publication, you can send it directly to editor Sarah Jenkins at sjenkins@csjkansas.org.

I STILL RECEIVE the occasional question about transcripts and the like. Marymount College Alumni transcripts are

housed at Fort Hays State University. You can request a transcript by going to their registrar's web-site: <http://www.fhsu.edu/registrar/transcripts/>

Lots of love and appreciation go to all the Marymount alumni, Sisters of St. Joseph and their staff who have helped through these past years with committee, board and reunion business and to those who continue to keep the Marymount College spirit alive.

WHO'S THE WINNER? We had a drawing during the 2012 reunion and the prize, donated by the Marrs family, was an overnight stay in one of the new condominiums in the Administration Building.

But we haven't heard from the winner. If that's you, please get in touch with me at g1j2w@aol.com or Donnie Marrs at dmarrs@techniqol.com as soon as possible.

Agrégée

Continued from page 13.

husband died in May 2000.

Throughout her life, Beth had sought out different religions, she says — spending some early childhood years in the Baptist Church, then the Presbyterian boarding school and later a Methodist Church, Unity Church, Quaker Meetings and even an ashram.

"I think I was a restless dabbler," she says with a laugh. "I always felt close to God even though I wasn't drawn to a church. The Catholic Church did hold an attraction, though."

In 1997 she called the local Catholic parish and asked about adult religion classes — and so her education in Catholicism began.

After her husband's death she explored the idea of becoming a Partner in Mission with the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, Kan. Then, after retiring from public schools in 2008, she lived at the Dominican Sisters' Motherhouse in Great Bend and taught reading at the Catholic school there.

But there were dramatic changes taking place among the Dominican

community, and one of the Dominicans "encouraged me to talk with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia about their new agrégée program," Beth recalls.

So she met with Sisters Marcia Allen and Bette Moslander

and then came to an "Agrégée Information Day" in September 2010. Two months later she was accepted into the community as an agrégée candidate.

Beth quickly moved to Concordia, where she could also make a home for her 93-year-old mother at Mount Joseph Senior Village. And she began volunteering at the Motherhouse, serving as a full-time assistant in the



Sister Marcia Allen stands in the midst of the congregation in the Motherhouse Auditorium June 7 as the Sisters of St. Joseph renew their commitments for the coming year.

sisters' Development Office.

She recently decided to volunteer full time with the local Big Brothers, Big Sisters and has trained to be a hospice volunteer.

"Part of the appeal of the agrégées is to be a member of a community of women who are making a commitment to living the Gospels," Beth explains.

"That means caring for the poor and

loving our neighbors; those are the values — and lessons — I find in the Sisters of St. Joseph."

Two "canonical sisters" also took part in the June 7 ceremony.

Sister Dian Hall was welcomed into the congregation as a novice and Sister Julie Christensen renewed her temporary vows.

Sister Dian has just moved to Concordia from Cartersville, Ga., to begin her "canonical year" as a novice Sister of St. Joseph.

She will live with the sisters here for the next 12 months while deciding if she is called to profess the traditional vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

Sister Julie, a Concordia native who now lives at Manna House of Prayer, first professed her temporary vows three years ago.

The ceremony was led by Sister Marcia Allen, president of the congregation.



SISTER JULIE CHRISTENSEN



SISTER DIAN HALL

COMING EVENTS

► **SATURDAY, JULY 20** — "Summer Spirituality: Sacred Storytelling" at Manna House of Prayer, Concordia. Many of us remember gathering around a crackling campfire as we made s'mores, sang songs and told stories. Eating, singing and storytelling are basic activities of humans from the beginning of time. Why not spend a day at a sacred campfire! Come celebrate your life with story, your story with life. Presenters: Sister Janet Lander and Manna House staff. Begins at 9 a.m.; ends at 3:30 p.m. Registration: \$45 (includes lunch).

► **JULY 25-28** — **Theological Institute: Understanding Vatican II** at Nazareth Motherhouse. During these three days, we will travel back in time to the opening of the Second Vatican Council, to reclaim some of its astonishing enthusiasm, revisit the high points of its accomplishments, listen to the varied voices contributing to its increasingly nuanced articulations about the Church's life, celebrate the "renewal" it generated, and then appraise our ownership of the Council's historically incomparable achievements fifty years later. How is Pope John's "flash of inspiration" living on in our spirits as individuals and as the People of God today? Presenter: Sister Catherine Michaud, Ph.D. Cost: \$275 (includes registration, housing and meals).

► **JULY 28-AUGUST 1** — **Contemplative Retreat**, at Manna House. This optional four-day extension to the Theological Institute will give retreatants the opportunity to reflect on the presentations and discussions, and participate in contemplative dialogue and in communal centering prayer. Directors: Sisters Carolyn Teter and Dian Hall. Cost: \$275 (includes spiritual direction, housing and meals).

► **AUGUST 3-10** — "Discovering the Divine Artist" at Manna House. The Divine Artist is at work in all creation, moment by moment, from the beginning and always. The Divine Artist is at work in each of us, in every aspect of our lives, the world, every relationship. This retreat will be an exploration and celebration of our call to create in and with the Divine Artist using all types of creative expression — musical, artistic, poetic and physical movement. Directors: Sisters Janet Lander and Dian Hall. Begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday; ends at 1 p.m. the following Saturday. Cost: \$475.

► **MONDAY, AUGUST 5** — "First Mondays at Manna." One of 12 special fundraising meals honoring our heritage, prepared and served by our sisters at Manna House. In August, we'll share the experience of being on a retreat and serve a simple but delicious "retreat meal." Donations are welcome and reservations are required a week in advance; call 785/243-4428.

► **TUESDAY, AUGUST 6** — "National Night Out," throughout Concordia and elsewhere. This will be the 30th annual celebration of bringing neighbors together at block parties, cookouts and picnics across the U.S. and Canada, and it will be the third year Concordia has taken part. We'll post on our website — www.csjkansas.org — a list of all the gatherings we know about in Concordia. Or go to www.natw.org/national-night-out-map/ to see if there's an event in your city.



► **SEPTEMBER 3-OCTOBER 8** — **KOHP (Kansas Optimizing Health Program)**, at Neighbor to Neighbor, 103 E. Sixth St., Concordia. The six-week workshop "Chronic Illnesses Self-Management" will be from 5 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday and will include a simple supper. Leaders will be Pat Gerhardt and Sister Jean Befort. Brochures and registration forms are available at Neighbor to Neighbor and at the Nazareth Motherhouse; registration is required by Aug. 28. Cost: \$15 (includes registration and text book).

► **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2** — "First Mondays at Manna." One of 12 special fundraising meals honoring our heritage, prepared and served by our sisters at Manna House. For September we're featuring a Labor Day picnic in the back yard. Donations are welcome and reservations are required a week in advance; call 785/243-4428.

► **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5** — **Second Annual Neighbor to Neighbor Family Picnic**, 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Nazareth Motherhouse picnic grounds. Register with Neighbor to Neighbor (785/262-4215) and then bring your family for an evening of fun and food!



► **SEPTEMBER 6-8** — "I've Got the Blues"

Quilting Retreat, at Manna House. A string quilt from the book, "String Quilt Revival," with guest teacher Frances Benson, or feel free to come and work on your own project. Begins 5:30 p.m. Friday, ends 1 p.m. Sunday. Cost: \$145 (includes room and meals); commuters: \$75 (includes meals).

► **SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 30** — "Deepening the Mystery of Religious Life," at Manna House. This is a 30-day renewal experience followed by a directed retreat for women religious whose formation occurred before 1990, and who desire to enter more deeply into the reality of their vocation. These 30 days are about love, a lifetime of faithful love in response to the fire of Love that grasped one's heart in her original consecration. Contact Manna House for more information and an application form.

► **OCTOBER 20-28** — **Directed Retreat**, at Manna House. This retreat closes the "Deepening the Mystery of Religious Life" program, but it may be made separately from the entire program. The retreatant will meet, ordinarily once a day, with an experienced spiritual director. Together they discern the spiritual path on which the Holy Spirit is leading the retreatant. Begins 7 p.m. Sunday; ends 5:30 p.m. Monday. Contact Manna House for more information and an application form.

► **OCTOBER 6-8** — "Twist and Shout" Quilting Retreat, at Manna House. Another fun and simple quilt to make, with guest teacher Tammy Ashlock, or feel free to come and work on your own project. Begins 5:30 p.m. Sunday, ends 1 p.m. Tuesday. Cost: \$145 (includes room and meals); commuters: \$75 (includes meals).

► **MONDAY, OCTOBER 7** — "First Mondays at Manna." One of 12 special fundraising meals honoring our heritage, prepared and served by our sisters at Manna House. In October, we'll share the experience of a hearty German meal for Oktoberfest. Donations are welcome and reservations are required a week in advance; call 785/243-4428.

► **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12** — "Autumn Spirituality: Simplicity of Heart" at Manna House. As farmers clear their fields, even trees and flowers participate in letting go of summer's exuberance and settling in for winter's gestation. Autumn possesses the grace of simplicity, which brings us back to what is truly essential in life. Come explore some ordinary ways to get more out of life. Presenters: Sister Janet Lander and Manna House staff. Begins at 9 a.m.; ends at 3:30 p.m. Registration: \$45 (includes lunch).

► **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4** — "First Mondays at Manna." One of 12 special fundraising meals honoring our heritage, prepared and served by our sisters at Manna House. In November, we'll share Thanksgiving turkey and all the trimmings. Donations are welcome and reservations are required a week in advance; call 785/243-4428.

► **NOVEMBER 8-10** — "Are you Ready?" Quilting Retreat, at Manna House. Demonstrating a variety of small gifts to make for Christmas, with teacher Sister Betty Suther, or feel free to come and work on your own project. Begins 5:30 p.m. Friday, ends 1 p.m. Sunday. Cost: \$145 (includes room and meals); commuters: \$75 (includes meals).

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMS AT MANNA HOUSE OF PRAYER!

Go to mannahouse.org

Or, for details on any program, call 785/243-4428 or email retreatcenter@mannahouse.org.

Motherhouse hosts groups throughout year

This issue of The Messenger includes reports on a number of events you would expect to be hosted at our Nazareth Motherhouse each year — the annual Discover Camp, the Jubilee celebration, even the Theological Institute that is moved here when there are too many participants to be comfortably accommodated at Manna House of Prayer.

But we also host events throughout the year that are not directly sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In April, more than 50 people attended the Heart Choices Spring Banquet in the Motherhouse Auditorium.

Heart Choices, which operates the Heartbeat Pregnancy Center in Beloit also has offices in Concordia, Smith Center and Osborne.

It was founded in Beloit in 2002, and provides pregnancy tests, counseling and information on pregnancy options, maternity and baby supplies, parenting education and abstinence education for schools and churches. More information on the nonprofit organization is at heartchoicesbeloit.com.

We donated use of our auditorium for the April 17 fundraiser.

Then at the end of June, a group calling itself "Simply Susan" took over the Auditorium for a day.

More than 30 women named Susan (or Sue or Susie) gathered to celebrate all things Susan, with a daylong series of workshops, stories, lunch and then sightseeing in Concordia.

The Susans ended their day at the National Orphan Train Museum for a "So Long Susan Sampling" of wine and other beverages.

In August we'll host a state tourism group for a daylong series of meetings, and we'll continue offering the use of our space throughout the year.

Groups wanting to meet in Concordia often find limited options, and making the Motherhouse available is one more way we can serve our community.



SAVE THE DATE SEPT. 19-21, 2014

A special **REUNION** for members, former members
and all Apostolic School students
at our Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia

To make sure you're on the mailing list for more information,
send your name and contact info to reunion@csjkansas.org



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

All the news that didn't fit
Snapshots of events at the Motherhouse and Manna House of Prayer



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JULY 2013

ABOVE, left: Sister Janet Lander prepares table decorations for the "First Mondays at Manna" dinner July 1. The monthly fundraisers celebrate the 35th anniversary of Manna House of Prayer. Check "Coming Events" on page 15.

ABOVE, right: Virtually everyone who sees the Nazareth Motherhouse takes a picture of it, but few capture it as beautifully as Jim Anderson of Concordia, who took this photo at dawn in early July when he was out with his dog for their early morning walk. "If there is such a thing as a photogenic building, this is it," he said. "I can hardly walk past in the morning without taking a picture. It has an aura or presence about it." (Our thanks to Jim for allowing us to publish the image.)

LEFT: Campers and counselors at the first-ever Camp Be-YOU-t-ful at the Motherhouse in mid-June pose for a group photo at the archway leading in to Lourdes Park. They are: *kneeling, from left*, Katelyn Real, Alexa Pereyda and Sister Beverly Carlin; *standing, from left*, Isabel Zamora, Ana Anarez, Kathleen Norman, Paula Rolph, Kate Schieferecke, Heather Alden and Megan Sibley.

Keep track of all our events & projects at <http://www.csjkansas.org>