

Currents of Change

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the Sisters of Charity, BVM

BVM Service Trips Provide True Faith Experience

Thirteen people were a part of the April 2009 service trip to Ecuador sponsored by the BVM Associate and Initial Membership teams, to provide an opportunity for others to share in BVM mission and ministry.



While staying at the Working Boys Center in Quito, they did various service projects and engaged in the Ecuadorian culture with the BVMs and associates living there: Sisters Miguel Conway, Cindy Sullivan, Luann Brown, Ann Credidio and Saskia Alquina Cahuatijo; Associates Sonya Rendón, Pat McTeague and Sandra Molano.

Carol De Carvalho, a BVM donor and a new BVM associate, has traveled to the Working Boys Center twice. Her volunteer work at the Center involved sorting clothes, helping in the bakery, painting, and assembling a computer lab for children.

Her special gifts as a pediatric physical therapist were also put to good use. "I was able to consult with staff concerning students with cerebral palsy. We visited the homes of the children and families to understand their living conditions." This personal contact, Carol said, "gave us a perspective on how the Center helps

families break the cycle of poverty in a multifaceted way."

The service opportunities provide volunteers with faith-building moments amidst their work as well as times of prayer and reflection. "For me the most important part of the trip was the time to come together with the other volunteers for evening prayer and reflection to process our experiences of the day," Carol shared.

Being part of a service trip allows volunteers the opportunity to partner with BVMs, associates and others who share a common desire to stand in solidarity with those who are less fortunate and to make a difference in the world. Sister Lou Anglin, BVM Initial Membership Coordinator, said, "I am always deeply touched by seeing what people of faith working together can accomplish. All of us who volunteer are changed and moved to do what we can to help."

Above: BVMs, Associates, co-workers and donors traveled to Ecuador in April as part of a service trip offered by the BVM Initial Membership and Associate offices. Inset: Carol De Carvalho spends time with a student at the Working Boys Center in Quito.

Volunteer Opportunities

- November 2009
Sunnyvale, Calif.
- Spring 2010
Chicago, Ill.
- Spring and Summer 2010
Quito, Ecuador

For more information, contact:

Sister Lou Anglin:
langlin@bvmcong.org
563.588.2351 ext. 5134

Sister Elizabeth Avalos:
eavalos@bvmcong.org
408.569.7222

Or, visit our website for up-to-date information:
www.bvmcong.org/join_volunteer.cfm

*We must
be the
change
we wish to
see in
the world.*

-Gandhi

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Donor Profile

In Excellent Hands with the BVMs



Trish Laraia visits with Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM at the Mundelein campus, October 2006.

As a student at Mundelein College in the mid-1960s, Trish Laraia took advantage of every moment of her time. She relished the hours spent with friends in the dormitory—especially on the 14th floor, where 12 girls enjoyed sharing the

floor with eight BVMs—sharing laughter and dreams of the future.

Trish valued the time she spent with the Sisters of Charity, BVM, who taught and worked at Mundelein College, including Sisters Mary Joretta Phoenix, Sharon Rose and Katharine Forsyth, to name a few. Trish shares, “My parents never worried about me while I attended Mundelein. They knew I was in excellent hands, because the BVMs took such good care of all of us.”

Trish, who now lives in Itasca, Ill., is a member of the BVM congregation’s Mary Frances Clarke Giving Society. She has been a regular supporter of the BVMs since 1971. Her desire to give back to the BVM community at Christmas, Thanksgiving and on Mother’s Day was instilled during her time at Mundelein College.

A 1965 graduate, Trish says that as a whole, the alumnae of Mundelein share a self-giving philosophy. Trish, who is no

stranger to the Mundelein College Alumnae Association either, having served as its president from 1978-80, believes it vital to stay connected with the alumnae association and the BVMs. “I thoroughly enjoy alumnae gatherings, and I always look forward to seeing my BVM friends. I cherish memories of our dear alumnae association moderator, Sister Pierre.”

Trish shared a story about organizing a card shower for Sister Mary Joretta’s 95th birthday. Trish invited dignitaries from across the country to send cards and letters of warm wishes to Sister. Counted among those she received from governors, senators and church officials was a personal letter from Cardinal Joseph Bernardin himself. This letter became Sister’s pride and joy. “Sister Joretta shared the letter with every one of her visitors. It was a lot of fun!” said Trish.

We are grateful for the loyal members of our Mary Frances Clarke Giving Society, including Trish Laraia.

About the Mary Frances Clarke Giving Society

The Mary Frances Clarke Giving Society recognizes donors who have given cumulative gifts over a lifetime of \$10,000 or more. Members receive special recognition in *Perspective*, our annual report to donors, a certificate and small token of recognition as well as holiday and birthday cards from the BVM congregation.

For more information about becoming a member of the Mary Frances Clarke Giving Society, please contact:

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Sisters of Charity, BVM
563.588.2351 ext. 5570



Search the Internet and Support the BVMs

GoodSearch.com is an internet search engine with a unique social mission. It donates half its revenue from advertising sales to the charity its users designate. Select the Sisters of Charity, BVM as your organization of choice and the BVMs will earn approximately a penny each time you search the internet. You use **GoodSearch.com** just as you would any other internet search engine, and it is powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results!

It is simple.

1. Log on to www.goodsearch.com.
2. Type “Sisters of Charity, BVM” in the section titled, “Who do you GoodSearch for?”
3. Click the verify box
4. Begin searching the internet

Start using **GoodSearch.com** today for all your internet searches. The more people who use the site, the more money the Sisters of Charity, BVM will earn, so please spread the word.

Motherhouse Entrance Provides Easier Access

The rear entrance to the Mt. Carmel Motherhouse was recently upgraded with an ADA handicapped accessible ramp and handrail.

This project was made possible through the generosity and partnership of the Enterprise-Rent-A-Car Foundation and proceeds from the 2008 Birdies for Charity® fundraiser.

Thanks to the Enterprise-Rent-A-Car Foundation and our generous benefactors who participated in Birdies for Charity®, no congregational money was used to fund this project.

Incorporating the ADA features into this entrance makes this an additional user-friendly access to Mt. Carmel. It will primarily benefit instructors and participants at the Roberta Kuhn Center (RKC), an enrichment center for adults 55 and over, who bring totes and supplies with them to classes.

“This sidewalk will certainly ease the transport of those items. In addition, we are happy to be able to provide this additional entry to guests who may utilize it for special events,” said Joyce Cravens,



campus administrator. “Residents, guests and RKC participants will all benefit from the sidewalk as it is much easier to maneuver than the steps in this area.”

We are grateful to our wonderful benefactors who made this improvement possible.

The renovated entrance at the rear of the Mt. Carmel Motherhouse is now handicapped accessible thanks to the generosity of our friends at Enterprise-Rent-A-Car Foundation.

Sister Spotlight

Sister Mary Sattgast, BVM (Mary de Porres)



As a high school biology teacher for 39 years, I relish the memories of students’ looks—ranging from awe to disgust—at what they saw cavorting under a microscope lens or when considering the intricacies of any organism’s structures and functions.

During my years of teaching high school students, I was involved in assorted extracurricular school activities with both students and other personnel, and in some volunteer

work at a nature preserve.

For me, two activities stand out: One was being an adult leader in the Kairos retreat program which helps older teens move into more mature relationships with others and with God.

The other is 40 years of being the coordinator of an annual weeklong canoe trip into the Canadian wilderness. Every summer, 7-70 high school students plus counselors have paddled the pristine lakes of Quetico Provincial Park in southeastern Ontario. Some participants complete the trip with a clearer sense of who they are. Some go into the park as atheists and come out believers. Some discover

what the focus of their lives will be. Some find previously undiscovered strengths and weaknesses. All are changed.

Sister Victoria Smurlo, BVM (Marie Stephen)



In some circles, I have been nicknamed “The Polish Princess of the Pacific,” even though I consider myself quite ordinary. A Californian, I have been privileged to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit as a high school home economics and religion teacher in Wichita, Kan., Glendale,

Calif., and Rock Island, Ill.

Then I was compelled to serve older adults and did so at a retirement center in Denver, Colo., then in a Chicago food pantry, at a YMCA in San Francisco, Calif., as well as with our retired BVMs in Chicago. After earning a master’s degree in social work, I now work in hospice ministry in Los Angeles, Calif.

Living in community has consistently been a priority. Sharing through conversation, prayer and activities the stories, hopes and challenges of daily life and religious life in the church has brought me a richness of God’s love that is beyond belief, and which I am happy to share.

Currents of Change

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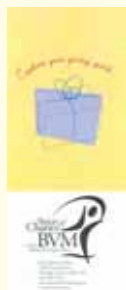
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Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need. —Kahlil Gibran (1883 – 1931)

Gifts for the Future

The BVM Development Office offers two helpful guides to giving, depending on your financial needs and questions.



The **Year-End Giving Brochure** lists meaningful ways to give as we near the end of 2009. Inside you will learn how your support can benefit both the work of the BVMs and your own financial situation. Whether you desire to give gifts of cash, securities, life insurance, life income gifts or real estate, this guide will provide the information you need to partner with the BVMs to help ensure that their mission and ministries will continue into the future.



A Guide to Giving is designed to help you understand your varied options and the rewards of giving. This booklet allows you to explore opportunities that combine philanthropic giving with your financial needs and tax-planning strategies. Inside this booklet you will find facts and tips about wills, charitable trusts, cash gifts, donating assets, retirement planning, and a wealth of other information about planned giving.

Through creative planning, we can help you secure your own financial future, as well as ours.

To request a free copy of either the Year-End Giving Brochure or A Guide to Giving, please complete the form provided and mail to the BVM Development Office.

- Please send me the FREE brochure, "Year-End Giving"
- Please send me the FREE brochure, "A Guide to Giving"
- I have not previously informed you, but I have already included the Sisters of Charity, BVM in my estate plan through:
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> my will | <input type="checkbox"/> my retirement plan assets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a trust arrangement | <input type="checkbox"/> an insurance policy |
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