

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEID SCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Caruthersville, Missouri

Sister Darlene: Happy Easter! I thank God for the beautiful sunshine and warm weather. I am hoping that Spring has come to stay. I am not accustomed to gazing at beautiful flower blossoms while wearing a winter coat!

We in southern Missouri along with folks in Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky experienced a devastating ice storm at the end of January. Here in Caruthersville, we were without power for about a week and people in the rural areas of the county were without power for about 23 days. There were two shelters and feeding centers here in Caruthersville. With the help of a generator provided by the city, Sacred Heart Church was one of the sites and the other was at Temple Baptist Church. The town really came together to offer assistance. The many faithful from the different churches were present to cook, serve meals, and clean up afterwards. The DFS and the school teachers were a great help also. It was a beautiful experience to work alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ. I learned so much. I learned how to make biscuits for a multitude, to look beyond complaints to see the root of the problem and that you can really trust Christian ladies to provide delicious meals with limited resources. God's grace will always see us through. These are but a few lessons. I met many new people and formed new friendships. Following the ice storm, the Mayor asked the Ministerial Alliance to help with the debris cleanup. Each church formed teams, and we spent a Saturday cleaning up people's yards and lots. The weather has not cooperated for us to come together again to complete our tasks.

I hosted a volunteer group from Owens College in Toledo, Ohio, the week of March 8. We worked cleaning ice storm debris from several lots and yards. We spent some time at the elementary school working one on one with some of the children. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoon we were in Hayti Heights to help with the after school program. This is a new program that I have been working to help start. We had so much fun. They were hard workers and brought so much joy to not only the kids but also to me. Izzie loved their energy and all the loving she received! This was her first volunteer group and she passed the test with flying colors.

I was blessed by visits from family. My sister Justine visited the week of March 4. She was a great help. My nephew Jay spent his spring break here. He is now a sophomore in college. We had a lot of fun and many good talks. He helped with some GED tutoring. It was good to be able to share them with the wonderful people here.

We are busy planning the Community Gardens for this year. We will be adding two sites located in Hayti. The goal is to have gardens throughout the county. Please pray for the success of this ongoing project.

I am working with the Confirmation class this year. To help them

with their service hours, we hosted a simple Lenten supper before stations and an Easter Brunch following Mass on Easter Sunday. It has been a joy to see their growth since we started the journey towards their confirmation.

Now I must give an update on Sister Izzie's activities. **Sister Izzie goes to After School:** I was feeling a little guilty about leaving Izzie by herself while I was working with the GED students. I decided to let her ride along with me to Hayti Heights to see if they were having the after school program. I went in to check to see if the kids were there. They were and once they saw Izzie in the car they all wanted to pet her. I let her out (on her leash) and she immediately began playing with them. They played chase, they talked with her and played keep away. It was non-stop motion and children's voices crying, "Sister Izzie, chase me!" This must have seemed strange to the people passing by. I do hope they realized the kids were talking to the dog and not to me!!

I pray that your Easter was filled with much joy and many blessings. I am so grateful for your continued support and prayers.



Frenchburg, Kentucky

Sister Kathleen: Greetings from eastern Kentucky. You must remember a few months ago my special friend Danny, aged 5 1/2-yrs old, died after much suffering with cancer. I still keep in touch with his mother, Shannon, and her daughter, Charlene.

Now Shannon has gone back to nursing school and hopefully in about one year, she will finish her schooling. She is determined to complete her studies and follow her dreams of being a wonderful nurse. Shannon says she knows Danny is helping her get through this.

Another special friend and former neighbor, Rella, celebrated her 100th birthday! She had friends from Canada, Ohio, North Carolina, and other places to help celebrate. Rella is still very alert and has a wonderful memory although she's mostly blind. She should've written a book. Rella lived on the farm where she was born. She was the oldest in a large family and weighed only 2 pounds when she was born. Her parents took care of her at home. Another one of her close friends, Ruby, was also at the birthday party, she will be 102 next October and is still very alert.

A special friend of mine recently died at the nursing home. This woman was from Russia, had a rough life being in concentration camps, had been to Poland, Germany, and met an American soldier. They got married and came to America with their three children. Later, they arrived in Kentucky where her husband left her. She raised the children by herself and did not learn much of the English language. I feel sure she has reached a high place in Heaven.

The weather has been rough but I'm now looking forward to better weather. Many have lost their jobs and I thank God each day for the many benefactors who continue to support the mission.



Sister Kathy: Dear Family and Friends, After much prayer and discernment, I would like to let you know that I've made the difficult decision to leave Glenmary. My departure is based on my desire to serve God's people in another capacity. I've been given tools and strength to serve outside of the Glenmary Sisters. Please know that my leaving has nothing to do with

discontent with my fellow Sisters but more of a realization and yearning to give more of myself to those in need apart from consecrated life. I've always been a free spirit and I know that I am unable to fully commit to the vows of religious life. The past three years have been a blessed time for me, especially getting to know the Sisters, Donors, Volunteers, Coworkers and many special friends. Coming into religious life was very good for me...spiritually, I've grown, and I've matured thanks to God and Glenmary.

I think that the biggest gift I've been given is from all the people who are considered poor; poor in spirit and poor in material things...they've given me love and compassion beyond my expectations. Glenmary will always be a part of my life. I ask for your prayers as God continues to guide me on life's journey. You all will be with me always; in my heart and prayers. I will do my best to stay in contact with Glenmary. If you would like to reach me, the Sisters will forward your information.

I know my letter comes as a surprise; however, please know that I have found peace in this decision. The generosity of the Sisters has made this decision such a positive and loving experience. I thank them very much for their willingness to walk with me and give me the support and encouragement to listen to God's will. I will carry you with me everywhere I go...you are in my heart as long as I live. God bless you always.



Millen, Georgia

Sister Mary Ellen: Fr. Lou gave a series of Lenten talks on religion and culture. Two ladies from the Parrish always accompany me to the Chrism Mass each year. It is 80 miles and we got home really late but it is always very worth it. I attended a Glenmary Men's cluster meeting in Augusta. While there, Fr. Charlie Hughes [retired] gave a tour of his house in St. Mary's Parrish.

Many of the Mexican families are out of work and continue to come for help with applications and I'm often asked to go with them to apply as everything is in English and they sometimes need help with translation. They continue to request help with bills, food, and medical needs. Jenkins County has the highest unemployment rate in the state of Georgia; three plants that employ the largest numbers of people have either closed or had layoffs. One relatively new plant has already closed down. One of the Mexican women I know has been holding yard sales to try and help raise money for bills and medicine. I have been helping her with sales because she doesn't speak much English. The first one was held at church and only \$13 was raised. It was kind of in an out-of-the-way location so the next one she held downtown outside the thrift shop and did much better.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone next week for meetings and Aida's profession. Until then, I'll be cleaning and getting the house ready as I look forward to Aida's arrival.



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sister Sharon: As I write this, it is Easter Sunday night. Sr. Rosemary, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Catherine, Aida and I have just finished having a dinner gathering with many of the Glenmary men in formation and the directors, along with several other friends. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and we have retired for the evening. So, I now have time to reflect on what have I been up to since the last

issue.

As usual, meetings take up much of my time as the President of the community. I also am still active in the vocation realm since there is still no one to completely take this on as of yet. Thankfully, Barbara O'Nan our Vocation Facilitator does much of the initial screening so that the women I am in contact with are in a serious state of discernment. The good news is that Pam and Victoria, two of the women who have been in application with us, came and finished the process by undergoing the psychological testing, as well as a 5-hour intensive interview with me. If all goes well they will be accepted as Candidates in August. We also had Chioma, a woman with a Masters in social work, visit with us for a few days as she is discerning a possible call to religious life. Please continue to keep all of these women in prayer, as we could use many more like them to help minister to the folks in our missions. I also ask that you keep Kathy Burke in prayer. As you read in her note this issue, she has chosen to leave us and be dispensed from her vows to return to Milwaukee. We will miss her, and wish her well.

During Lent this year, I was honored to lead the Stations of the Cross at the Cathedral on three of the Fridays. The Stations have always held a special place in my heart and over the years, I have collected several versions to pray both privately and with other folks. My favorite and the one I shared with those gathered on those Fridays that I was to lead, was "EVERYONE'S WAY OF THE CROSS" by Clarence E. The Triduum Services at the Cathedral this year were beautiful, as they are every year. Although I miss being in the missions, I have to admit I love being able to participate and celebrate in the liturgies of these three powerful days with the music and splendor that comes with being in a larger parish.

Well, by the time you receive this issue of Kaleidoscope, our next big event will have taken place. On the 18th of April, Aida Badillo will make her First Profession of Vows. Due to the uncertainty of when the possible renovation would start at the Cathedral, which is our parish here in Owensboro, we had to find an alternate place to have this service. Thankfully, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have graciously agreed to allow us to use their chapel. So I am sure by next issue I will have much to tell you about this wonderful event. Until then, please know of my prayers for you and your families.



Sister Rosemary: In my last issue of Kaleidoscope, I shared with you that I had been much in the Smithland mission to be with Sr. Ellen Frances because of her illness and that periodically I was going back to Owensboro to be with our novice, Aida Badillo, to continue giving direction to her in the last months of her novitiate. It is a joy to be able to share with you that Sr. Ellen Frances' health is improving and now I am spending more time at "home" in Owensboro. The other joy is that Aida has had her thirty-day

retreat, a requirement in our preparation of women for profession of vows. By the time you receive this issue of Kaleidoscope, Aida will have made profession.

Trips back and forth to Smithland have not ended. At such times Sr. Ellen Frances can tell me of latest events in the mission and I can continue to have some contact with those who have had painful and sorrowful experiences these past months. They are much in my personal prayers and in our community prayers. As I think of them, I also think of all who have been so supportive of our mission efforts and who may be also having hard times now. Having come through the Church's celebration of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, pain and sorrow are eased knowing that our Lord took on great suffering for us and that suffering and death are not the end but we have the promise of life unending.

One of my quick trips to Smithland included a woman who is interested in our Glenmary community going with me. Quickness was not just in speed, but also in time. We were in Smithland just overnight. Once I took care of some matters that were the reason for the trip, my companion and I finished a project at the house that would benefit a number of people there. A non-working event was going to a fish fry the Knights of Columbus were having at one of the parishes we have contact with. It was the first experience of a fish fry for my companion. The time was good in that it was a sharing time with Sr. Ellen Frances, one of our St. Anthony of Padua parishioners, the pastor, and some other parishioners.

Earlier there had been two other quick trips for me. One was for a meeting with the Glenmary men in Nashville. Sr. Ellen Frances and I shared part of the trip with Fr. Ruff of Glenmary. It is good to hear what is happening in the men's community and to share ideas. The other trip was to Missouri. Before supper that night we made a quick trip to one of the small towns to help another group put boxes of food together for people who are in need of assistance now. I experienced a very efficient process of putting the boxes of food together. It was not just the experience of efficiency, but meeting people who were freely giving of their time and talents on behalf of others.

While I shall be "free" of directing a novice for awhile, the archives are staring me in the face to get something done! The next time you hear from me, I hope I can say that I have settled down to this task and there has been some accomplishment.

God be with you always.



Novice Aida: I had a wonderful and very blessed 30 day retreat at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, La. The place is beautiful; my director was wonderful. I discovered a gift I did not know I had. It was truly a very blessed time. Now I am preparing for and looking forward to my first profession, to seeing friends and family I haven't seen in a while and getting ready for my move to Millen, Ga. where I will be living with Sr. Mary

Ellen. Thank you to all who have been praying for me and I hope you continue to pray for me. I will also hold you in my prayers.



Smithland, Kentucky

"The Lord sends a command to earth; his word runs swiftly! Thus snow is spread like wool, frost is scattered like ash, hail is dispersed like crumbs; before such cold the waters freeze. Again he sends his word and they melt; the wind is unleashed and the waters flow." (Psalm 147:15-18)

Sister Ellen Frances: These lines from the Psalms certainly were appropriate during the last days of January and the first days of February as those of us in Western Kentucky worked together during the aftermath of one of the area's most destructive winter storms on record. Two consecutive days of snow and ice rendered Livingston County (and most of the surrounding counties) without electricity and water. The house that we live in was without electricity for a total of three weeks.

It would be impossible to describe every act of selflessness and dedication that I witnessed during this storm of 2009. Will Rogers once wrote: *"We can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud when they go by."* I would like to take just a few seconds, as I sit on the curb, and applaud a few of the heroes and she-roes in Livingston County. First, I want to acknowledge those who worked from early morning to late at night at our food pantry to ensure the shelters and families had food. Karla and Trevor Scott, who literally kidnapped me from my house and took me into theirs for three weeks, worked tire-

lessly delivering food to shelters, rotating generators at the food pantry every three hours to maintain the refrigerators and freezers. (Trevor also helped remove fallen trees from our yard as well as several others in Smithland. Both he and Karla provided hot meals to most of their neighbors.) Detra Coley, the nutrition person at our extension office, was at the food pantry from 7am to 9pm every day but Sunday. She worked with FEMA as well as the American Red Cross, and helped distribute 35,000 meals over the two to three week period. We saw volunteers show up on a daily basis at the food pantry to help distribute meals and food. There were two outstanding youth who gave so much of their time. One was a young 16-year-old girl named Hannah from the county who came every day from 11 am until 9pm. She had come with her mother one day to get food, but when she saw the work that was being done, she asked her mother if she could come and volunteer. Another young boy, Zach, was the grandson of the head of our Board. Zach lived in another county, but was staying here during the storm. Zach was at the food pantry working from 7am until 7pm. It was such a pleasure working with these two youths. Ginger Deitz, the PACS agent here, and her husband Karl, along with their two boys also delivered food to the various shelters throughout the county.

The storm of 2009 is behind us now, although clean up still continues. However, it seems that we have to run as fast as we can to play catch up for all the time that we missed. Many 4H activities are taking place. We just finished judging the speeches in both of our grade schools. The next step will be county, and then regional judging. This is always a wonderful experience, working with the youth and their parents. The sewing classes, level 2, began after the storms.

I have also been asked to organize and work with a small parish, about an hour away, on their Vacation Bible School. We have started meetings. I am hoping to take some of the youth from our Religious Classes at St. Pius to help with the VBS. Please pray for this endeavor. We are trying to involve the family in it.



Retired

Sister Bernadette: I've been keeping very busy making shawls and have also started making afghans in the colors of our local high schools to sell at PumpkinFest later this year. Cyndi had some errands to run and I got to go along; she took me to a really nice pizza place. I love pizza so that was a special treat. A couple of 4-legged visitors stopped by to see me. Sr. Darlene came to

visit with her new companion, Izzie the Schnauzer. Kim & Stacey, from the office, came over with Kim's greyhound, Karma. We hit it off really well and I enjoyed the visits with the pups. I attend Mass every day and after all the ice and snow, I'm really glad warmer weather is here and bringing all the beautiful flowers.



Sister Catherine: I had the opportunity of going to Owensboro on March 23 - 25 for a dentist appointment and returned to Seton Residence with Richard and Kim as my escorts! They took me to Bob Evans for brunch. Yummy - stuffed pancakes. Today, April 6, I am sitting here looking out my window at a beautiful, light snowfall. Last week I was on retreat = 8 days with a Vincentian Priest, Father Hartenbach, as Director with about 30 Daughters of

Charity also making the retreat. It was a very good week. On Palm Sunday, we had a procession from the Seton Residence lobby into the chapel carrying palms and singing. I enjoyed going to Owensboro to spend the Triduum and Easter with Glenmary Sisters. I am also trying to finish a 1,000-piece puzzle; a picture of a barn in Wyoming.





Glenmary Sisters

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Give a gift that keeps on giving

You can help the branches of the Glenmary Sisters reach out farther

You have a unique opportunity to honor a loved one while helping the Glenmary Sisters continue their ministry. The Sisters have placed the Tree of Life inside the Glenmary Center in Owensboro, Kentucky. This permanent memorial is mounted on the walls inside the front entrance. The beautiful piece of art is a constant reminder of the many generous benefactors who make the Sisters' ministry possible.



After a gift is received, the name of the honored loved one is engraved on a bronze leaf, or painted onto a hand carved apple, rock or dove, then placed on the tree. These names are also remembered in the Glenmary Sisters' daily prayers.

If you would like to honor a loved one on the Tree of Life, you're invited to send a brief biography and photo of the person you are honoring. This information will be placed in the Book of Life. The Sisters will then be able to read about the individuals and personalize their prayers. The location of your memorial on the Tree of Life will be noted in the Book of Life and soon will be available for viewing on our website. The cost for memorializing your loved one through the Tree of Life program ranges from \$100 to \$5,000.

If you are interested in honoring a loved one while helping the Glenmary Sisters' mission work, please contact Kim at 1-800-301-2689 or kim@glenmarysisters.org for more information. You can also learn more by visiting the Glenmary Sisters' website at www.glenmarysisters.org.