

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEID[✦]SCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Caruthersville, Missouri

Sr. Darlene: Greetings! Happy first day of summer! Well, we have gone from the freezer straight into the furnace! I know I said after surviving the winter that I would not complain about the summer heat so this is just an observation and very intense feeling - it is HOT, HOT, and HOT!! I do not want to spend all of our time together complaining about the heat. I would love to share with you the wonderful ways that God has been moving among us since we last spoke.

It was such a joy to gather as Community to celebrate the renewal of Sr. Aida's vows. It was a beautiful Mass and celebration. It is a moment that causes us to pause and recall our own commitment and journey! Pam, Justine and I traveled to Salem, Kentucky to attend Sr. Ellen Frances' renewal of vows. While there, we met a lovely young woman who is in discernment for religious life. We joined the other Sisters in Cincinnati to celebrate with our Glenmary brothers as Aaron, Crispine and Craig renewed their Oaths and Michael and Levis made their First Oath. What a blessing it is to have these 4 women and 5 men in formation to work in God's vineyard and to see that there are others discerning our Lord's call.

We gathered again as Community in May for our Spring Community Days. We were able to get the Diocesan house on Tybee Island, Georgia for a week of relaxation and renewal. Of course, there were a few meetings added to the agenda. It was so good to be back at the ocean. Growing up in Georgia, I was able to often spend time at the beach. It became one of my spiritual places. It was good to be able to get back after being away for a few years. I remembered a show I watched on Cumberland Island, Georgia, in which a man who had lived on the Island his entire life was

asked what he loved most. He replied, "Sitting on the beach and hearing the waves." He went on to say that "the sound of the waves was like hearing God talk to himself and to me". I too enjoyed listening to God in the sound of the waves.

I am very thankful to have our postulants, Pam and Justine, with me. They were a big help in the preparations for our community gathering. Pam worked hard to prepare gift bags filled with information about the Island and Savannah, sunscreen, etc. Justine prepared and presented a brief history of Savannah to the Sisters. Pam prepared and gave a presentation to our Catholic Ladies group on Our Lady of Knoch. They have also been very helpful at the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. We are now preparing for our summer Mission groups which will start arriving in July. I will share with you these adventures next time.

I am excited to tell you that we had two more students pass their GED tests and one will be taking it this month. While out walking Izzie, I ran into one of the students that I had worked with and she told me that she too had passed her test! We will continue working to open this door to others.

I have just returned from Chicago where I attended a training program for formation personnel. It was the first of four sessions. In their description of the program, they call these sessions intense. I can honestly say I agree wholeheartedly! It was an amazing and graced filled 9 days and I am looking forward to continuing this new journey.

I have enjoyed this time of sharing. It is always a blessing to look back and see God's hand at work. I look forward to meeting you here again to continue this ongoing conversation. Until then, please know that you remain in my prayers. May God bless you.



Izzie: Oh boy, what a wonderful time I have had since we last met. I can sum it up in two words: Road Trips!! I did stay home while the other girls went to Jonesboro to celebrate with Sr. Aida. They told me I needed to watch the house. I am sure Sr. Aida was disappointed that I was not there because she really loves me. I did get to go to Smithland for Sr. Ellen Frances' celebration. Sr. B shared some of her dinner with me and I found some peppermint candy on the floor. Boy, was that good and it took care of the doggie breath. I attempted to get another one but Sr. D pried it out of my mouth. I wanted to tell her she could get her own but I held it in. I loved Tybee Island. I was not allowed on the beach but I did enjoy my walks around the island. There were all sorts of new sites, smells and snacks along the way. I enjoyed all the extra laps to sit in and of course, all the air mattresses to lie on. Next time I hope I can get to the beach. I spent two glorious weeks in Owensboro with Sr. B while Pam and Justine were away and Sr. D was in Chicago! I enjoyed my first and hopefully not my last time in Cathy's spa. Cathy is Sr. B and my good friend. She gave me a spa night which ended with me being cradled in Sr. B's arms. Even though it includes a bath, spa night is wonderful. I sure hope Sr. D does not find out about this, she will be sooo jealous! Oops, I better go. I hear keys rattling which means either a walk or a car ride somewhere!! Two of my favorite things!!



Frenchburg, Kentucky

Sr. Kathleen: In my last contact with you folks who read the Kaleidoscope, I mentioned about my wonderful niece, Mary B. Ketterick in Chicago. Mary was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer eleven months ago. I was at her bedside along with her immediate family when the doctor talked with her. Right away, I knew he had so much knowledge and so much compassion and was not afraid to mention the power of prayer in whatever God had in store. I have been with many folks who were ill but this time, it was so powerful – I knew God was in charge. There were many tears shed but after the eleven months, her family was ready for her to say good-bye and be

with her loved ones in Heaven. It is hard to face such moments but what a gift to share the moment with the dying. There are so many who cannot face suffering or dying but it is up to us to be there for them.

Right now, drugs are ruining our young folks. I know a few families who got the awful news that a loved one has been killed. They get addicted and the parents wonder why or where did they fail their children. Please continue to keep our work in your prayers so we can continue to reach out to the ones who are suffering and let them know there is a loving God who wants to help them. God loves you for all you do for us and so many others.



Millen, Georgia

Sr. Mary Ellen: At the end of April, I returned to our mission in Georgia after spending about 2 1/2 weeks in Arkansas and Missouri. I was in Arkansas for Sr. Aida's vow renewal, and to spend time with Sr. Pat. From Arkansas I went to our Missouri mission to spend a little time with the postulants, Pam and Justine. After my visit, Sr. Darlene drove me to Calhoun, Georgia to her sister's home because I was without a car. The following day, Sr. Darlene's older brother and nephew drove me to Augusta, Georgia to her dad's home where Sr. Aida met me to take me to Millen. I felt like a hitchhiker but I made it home. Both Sr. Darlene's father and older brother had very good meals prepared for me. They are real good cooks!

Back in Georgia, I received a call from the local nursing home requesting that I come and visit the Catholic residents in their facility as well as another non-Catholic resident. I had very nice visits with the two Catholic residents. I did not see the non-Catholic resident at first because they were occupied with the other social activities at the facility. I returned a few days later and had a nice visit with the lady. She had recently moved to the facility and seemed to be adjusting well.

At the end of the week Sr. Darlene, Pam and Justine arrived in Georgia to complete the last minute plans for our spring Community Days at Savannah Beach. We drove to the beach the next day and surveyed the diocesan house where we would stay during the week. Our first job was to buy all the food and supplies that the Community would need for the week. The rest of

the Sisters arrived the following day. We had a delightful time. We prayed together and played together.

Sr. Catherine and I left Savannah for Owensboro, Kentucky. We had 2 days of Council Meetings that went well. I left for Georgia on Memorial Day weekend and the traffic was very heavy. I was happy to get home again in one piece!

Our big project right now is moving from our present mission house to a larger one. Our present home has only 2 bedrooms and is too small to allow the other Sisters to come for visits or to allow us to host prospective candidates discerning our Glenmary Community. With more living space we will be capable of housing future candidates and Sisters as well.

In July we will be hosting several mission groups. They will be performing a variety of things in the Millen area such as vacation bible school, home repairs for those local residents who need assistance, and work in the Thrift Shop that Glenmary supports. Most importantly they will work with the youth of our parish.

Have a good summer! I hope it won't be too hot.



Sr. Aida: On April 9, 2010, I renewed my vows at Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Holy Angels Convent is the motherhouse of the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters. The Glenmary Sisters were attending to Sr. Pat during her illness. Fr. Ruff, a Glenmary priest, officiated at my renewal mass. All the Sisters and Candidates were in attendance which made it a very special and blessed day for me.

In May, we celebrated our spring Community Days in Savannah, Georgia. We were blessed to stay in the diocesan house for the Diocese of Savannah which is the diocese where the Millen Mission is located. The house was on Tybee Island, and the Sisters and I enjoyed praying on the beach at sunset. And we had fun in the surf too.

After the Community Days, I attended St. Meinrad School of Theology where I took a course on Pastoral Care and Counseling. The class was very enjoyable and enlightening. It is a type of course that I can use in my ministry.

At this time Sr. Mary Ellen and I are in the process of moving to a bigger mission house. There will be enough bedrooms for the Sisters and future Sisters.



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sr. Sharon: Hope your summer is going well and that you and your loved ones have had a chance to enjoy some time together. I just recently returned from our family fishing trip. This year I caught a 5 ½ lb blue catfish. Of course my brothers and nephews like to make fun of me since once again I thought it was a rock and told them I had snagged up. They said they wished they could catch a snag like that! Anyway, we do really enjoy getting together and it is especially nice since my mom is still able to come. She doesn't fish, but enjoys listening to us tell the tales of the day.

Actually, I am writing this note for the upcoming issue of Kaleidoscope while taking a break from packing for the Glenmary Sister Mediterranean Pilgrimage/Cruise. As with other non-profits, we continue to look for ways to boost our database and fund/friend raising efforts so this year we decided to try another pilgrimage. There are a total of 50 of us (including Sr. Kathleen and myself) who will be leaving in the morning to experience God in a different way as we journey to Rome for a Papal Audience, Greece, Nice, Florence, Naples, and the most exciting stop for me...Ephesus. We will actually be able to have Mass on the grounds of the house where the Virgin Mary spent her last days on earth with the disciple John. I still have a hard time believing that I am actually going to be on such holy ground. Please know that as we gather for Mass, I will be holding each of you, as well as a few other people for whom I have promised to pray especially for on that day, in prayer.

The missions are all gearing up for the summer activities. There are several youth groups that will be helping out in the Caruthersville and Millen missions this year. Of course as always, the Sisters will be heading off for Mission Appeals at various parishes during these next few months. As of right now, I am scheduled for the Detroit and Saginaw Michigan Dioceses, as well as one or two in the Erie Pennsylvania Diocese.

I will close now and go back to packing, but I do ask that you continue to pray that more women and men will open their hearts to looking at the possibility of serving the church in the Home Missions. While we just celebrated the renewal of vows of two of our

Temporary Professed Sisters and have two women in the beginning stage of formation, which we have renamed "Postulants," there is still just so much to do, but so little resources and missionaries to do it.



Sr. Rosemary: The last few weeks have held some joyful events for us. Twice a year our community gathers together for sharing with one another our mission endeavors, other personal sharing and spiritual renewal. This spring we went to Tybee Island near Savannah, Georgia. What gifts the days held with daily Mass in the small, very old church, being able to enjoy the beach and ocean, seeing some of the dolphins, and in Savannah seeing some of the historic places. The greatest treasure for me was being in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah. It is very old. The paintings, the stained glass windows, the woodwork and the structure itself give one such a sense of prayer. We were there more than once, and I look forward to a time when I can be again in the Cathedral. In the past we had missions in different parts of Georgia and what seems ages ago, I had the opportunity to be in Savannah, but then the Cathedral was being restored to its earlier beauty.

Another joyful time was going to our Glenmary brethren's headquarters in Cincinnati for the celebration of oath renewal by three of their men and first oath by two. Last year our going to headquarters was to be present for funerals, a quite different celebration in recognition of a lifetime of service, fidelity in commitment in Glenmary to our God, and their entrance into eternal life with God and all in the heavenly kingdom.

There has been additional travel for me to our western Kentucky mission and our eastern Missouri mission. As usual, there are always things to take to the mission. On the home front there has been the desk work that is part of my "community business" and a small amount of archival work. There may be some repetition in the summer months, but I do not anticipate being able to say the archives look much better.

In writing I am very mindful of my hearing of the pain and sadness that has come upon some of you. As we pray in response to the requests for prayer we receive, it is my hope there has been the gift of healing or the gift of spiritual strength in meeting the sorrows that are

upon you. And let us try to keep in our memory that our Lord has said he is always with us.



Smithland, Kentucky

Sr. Ellen Frances: It is hard to believe that school ended just last month...since we are already preparing to begin our "Back to School" program at Helping Hands and PACS in Livingston County. Last year we provided school supplies to over 150 children and new clothes to at least 100 children. I cannot even begin to imagine what the number will be this year. Thanks to your continued generosity - even in these difficult economic times - we are able to help the people in our missions. At the end of this school year, three seniors from Livingston Central High School were awarded the JONA scholarship. These three young people are all going on to college. It is a wonderful thing to see the youth from our depressed areas going on for higher education.

I have been busy—between working in the mission—traveling to speak with various youth groups about vocations. Last week I had the privilege of conducting a day of recollection for youth and their parents in Bardswell, Kentucky. This week I shall be traveling to New York to speak at a youth group in Long Island. At the end of July, I shall be joining some youth ministers in leading a weekend retreat for youth from three parishes...a retreat on discipleship. Please hold these youth and their families in your prayers.

Summertime is a busy time with the children. We assist in many programs to benefit the young people in our county. We work with "Family First" and 4-H on coordinating and supporting day programs for many children.

This past May, when the torrential rains in Nashville and Eastern Kentucky caused the rivers in our areas to overflow, both the Kentucky Dam and the Barkley Dam had to be opened fully. That is, all the gates had to be opened causing swift and overwhelming flooding in Livingston County. Many homes were under water. We are still recovering from this disaster.

Again, thank you for your continued support with prayers and financial assistance.



Retired

Sr. Bernadette: Retirement...the act to retire...that refers to professional occupation...I have certainly retired from my active day to day life working in the outside communities, but, I am busier now than ever!

Where shall I start? Before leaving for Community Days in Georgia, I crocheted a beautiful Prayer Shawl and entered it into a contest with Lion Brand ® Yarn. The shawl was created with Edwardian gray and Windsor blue colors. It is being offered to a gentleman in need of special healing as the result of a grave illness. He will know, with this wrapped around him, that God is always with him.

After finishing the shawl project, off to Tybee Island, GA, I went with the other Sisters to enjoy a week of Community Days at the beach. The ocean was quite a sight to behold! The tranquility of the area and the beautiful weather for the week made for quite an enjoyable stay. We were able to go to Savannah for a visit to the Cathedral, too. During the week we also took a boat ride and dolphin tours. This was most exciting, as I was able to pilot the boat.

Upon returning from Tybee, Izzie was a house guest for a couple of weeks while Sr. Darlene had some adventures of her own to accomplish. Izzie is a very good house guest. Daily walks, a couple of baths, and lots of lap time were in order!

Now, for those who don't know...I have taken to a new adventure that makes for lots of fun! I have a couple of friends who ride Harley Davidson motorcycles. When Bishop Medley made his visit with us, he blessed these bikes. I think "something" bit me! With the blessing of the other Sisters, I now spend time Harley riding! My first adventure was to Sorgho, Mary Magdalene, to visit with a youth group that Sr. Ellen Frances was hosting. This ride was quite a surprise as I thought I would be riding with just my two friends. Once on the bike, and riding around the corner, what a surprise I got when there were 11 others on motorcycles to accompany us! My first group ride! Since, I have been on several rides, to Hartford, Kentucky, Evansville, Indiana and more! Riding puts one big grin upon my face!!

One other note, as many may know, our Glenmary

Brothers are no longer in the area with us. Before they left, we Sisters were able to host a wonderful dinner for them. We fixed quite a feast and had many good laughs and hugs and remembered many good times.

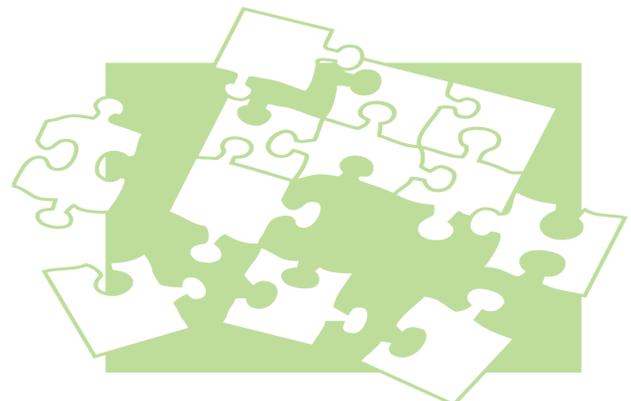


Sr. Catherine: The Variety Show went off very well and many, many people came to see it. My part in the show was after the intermission: "Diamonds are a Girls Best Friend" in which I wore my wide brimmed hat that our Sisters gave me some time ago when I was at Seton Residence in Evansville, Indiana and the parody to "These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things" that started out with "Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting" and so on.....

Fading into memory is our wonderful trip to Tybee Island for meetings, prayer and strolling the beach barefoot in the sand and our return trip to Owensboro. Sr. Mary Ellen was my driver on the return trip. Sr. Aida took me there and I was Sr. Sharon's roommate while on the Island. We went to Mass at St. Michael's Church on the Island and to a Communion Service at the Cathedral in Savannah. Another highlight of the time was a meal at the Crab Shack. I ordered crab, of course.

Now I'm looking forward to a trip to Michigan with Sr. Sharon. I hope to visit all seven of my brothers and sisters while there and to celebrate my sister, Pauline's, 81st birthday. I hope she doesn't mind my telling her age. Mine is 82. We will go on July 9th and return on August 1st or 2nd.

In the meantime, I will put puzzles together on the internet and a real 1000 piece puzzle on a table here on 5th floor of Mercy Franciscan Terrace. I always look forward to the mail delivery around 1 pm, praying the Rosary with a group at 1:30 and playing "Nertz" (a form of solitaire) with Clara.





Glenmary Sisters

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