

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEIDOSCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Caruthersville, Missouri

Sr. Darlene: Greetings from Missouri! I hope all of you had a wonderful summer. I am not sure where the summer has gone. It must be hiding with all the other months

I seem to have lost. Time is zooming by! The really good thing in the whole zooming of time issue is that I do remember the good stuff that happened. I just don't recall when it happened but I know it did!

I do believe we left off last time with the month of June. Upon returning from the Formation Program in Chicago, Justine, Pam and I began our final preparations for the summer Mission groups. We spent time visiting the work sites and then cleaning the Parish Hall and School where each of the groups would stay. During the cleaning process, Justine dropped a table on her foot which ended up sidelining her for about 8 weeks. I am happy to say the foot is healed and she is up and running again!

Our first group was from Holy Name Parish in Henderson, KY. They arrived on July 5th. This was their second trip to Caruthersville. This wonderful group had three projects. We divided them into three groups. One of the groups provided a VBS in the Hayti Heights Housing Community. We averaged about 30-40 beautiful and very active children a day. They learned about God's Love through stories, arts and crafts, games, songs and most of all through the presence of these teens and their adult sponsors. In the afternoons, the VBS group visited the local Nursing Homes. We have been working with a lovely family with 7 children and one on the way. This family lost all their possessions last year when their trailer burned down. They are again living in a small 2 bedroom trailer. The entry porch was in very bad shape and the mom had fallen off the steps a few times. I had a hard time

using the steps also. Five of the children were sharing 2 beds. We had two crews out at the family site. We had the building crew and the distraction crew which kept little fingers far away from the power tools! The group built a beautiful deck, two picnic tables (the family had no where to sit and eat together) and 3 sets of bunk beds for the children. In the afternoons, we were able through kind donations to take the children to the local pool. Mere words cannot share with you the joy we saw on the faces of these children. It was their first time at the pool. Several parents commented to me that they were amazed that these kids never stopped smiling! It was so touching to see the kids climb into their new beds. The youngest girl looked up at us while rubbing her mattress and said "my bed, my bed". This sight made us all pause to appreciate our blessings. I had to leave later that day for a Mission Appeal in Mobile, AL and while en route I received a call from the mom letting me know that one of the boys had experimented with jumping on the top bunk and put a hole in the ceiling! When I stopped laughing, I realized that God had just provided me with an additional project for our next group!

Our second group from Owensboro, KY arrived on Sunday evening. Since I was still en route from Alabama, Justine and Pam had the joy of welcoming them to Caruthersville. The Caruthersville house has been designated the Candidate Formation House and we needed help setting it up for this purpose. So in the mornings, the group worked at our house helping us with painting and creating a divider for one of the bedrooms. In the afternoons, the group worked with the youth at one of the summer programs. It turned out that this program during this particular week only had teens attending. It was very interesting to observe the interactions. I stopped to speak with the director and when I went into the area where the teens were I noticed that each group was sitting together in separate areas. The atmosphere, needless to say, was

tense. The efforts of the youth directors and me to get a conversation going didn't work. The director at this site has developed an interpretive dance program which the kids here love. It is a wonderful outlet for the kids and teaches them team work and discipline. I had seen them perform a beautiful African dance earlier this year so I asked if they would perform it for the Kentucky teens. This led to the visitors wanting to learn the dance. They found a common language!! They then spent the rest of the week teaching each other dances and games. The Kentucky teens taught them how to build a human chair which lent itself to much laughter but most importantly working together for a common purpose! They also went out and repaired the ceiling above the bunk bed and played with the children. We had a great time.

Our final group of the summer was the St. Paul group from MN. This was their third year here. We took this group to the Housing Community in Hayti Heights in the mornings to play with the children there. In the afternoons, they provided a VBS in the Steele city park. We averaged about 50-60 children each day. They learned about the Armor of God. The temperatures were in the 100's and I am very thankful we did not suffer from heat related illnesses. God is so good! It was a very blessed week. We said goodbye on Saturday morning and then Justine, Pam and I enjoyed a much needed day of relaxation.

Our August and September have been filled with travels. I was blessed by my father with a trip to Washington State to see my sister Bridget. Pam spent 2 weeks working in our Georgia mission and Justine spent the time helping out at the Mother House in Owensboro. Upon our return to Caruthersville we set off for West Virginia, Iowa and back to West Virginia for Mission Appeals. I am thankful to be enjoying some time back in Caruthersville. Izzie is very happy to be back home too! She enjoyed time in Owensboro with Sr. B and Cathy but she is like the rest of us in that she loves to be back in her own routine and in her own bed!

Oops, it looks like I have talked a little too much. I would love to share more about our Mission groups because they are such a blessing to our work but there is not enough space or time. So I will just extend an invitation to each of you to come next summer and experience it for yourself. Again I thank you for your prayers and support without which we would not be

able to help those God has placed in our lives. Let us continue to hold each other in prayer.



Frenchburg, Kentucky

Sr. Kathleen: Greetings from Eastern Kentucky. Since my last communication with you, I have traveled many miles in beautiful countryside. As you know, we go out on mission appeals in the summer. This summer I went to West Virginia, had four in this area of eastern Kentucky, and one more in Indiana. The pastors and parishioners were wonderful and gave me a warm welcome. I also had one in Chicago - it was a busy weekend. I stayed one night with my cousin, Mary Catherine, and one night with my niece who had all of the family there for a visit. They have four wonderful children and any time I go there, they have so many items for me to take back to the mission. Fenton, who is just 3 years old, saw his dad loading things into my car. One was an inflatable toy for children to bounce on. Fenton cried and screamed; he did not want to lose it. His dad was so good with him, he sat down with him and explained what Aunt Kathleen would do with it, that there were so many needy children who needed something special. When I got back, I found the perfect family with five children who were so excited when their dad took it home to them. In a few weeks, my favorite group of volunteers is coming again from Chicago to work on a few big projects. They are truly real missionaries and have such a generous spirit with the folks they meet. May God continue to love and reward you.



Millen, Georgia

Sr. Aida: Sr. Mary Ellen and I have moved and we are both enjoying the new mission house. I've been very busy with mission appeals, and have crisscrossed the country this summer spreading the word about Glenmary. I've talked to people in Alabama, California, Indiana, Illinois, and West Virginia. Postulant Justine and I drove to Reno, Nevada for another mission appeal, and the drive was beautiful. Back home in Millen, the church is being remodeled. Improvements include new insulation, new walls, new flooring, new windows, and enlarging the sanctuary. The parishioners have been very helpful

with all the work and we are hoping to be finished by the end of October. We have invited our Bishop to come and rededicate the renovated church in time for the parish's 60th anniversary. I enjoyed a visit from my son. He came up from South Carolina for a visit and to take me to lunch. We had a great time together. I am also looking forward to spending Thanksgiving with my other son and his family in Connecticut. A volunteer group from Kentucky came earlier in the summer and held a vacation Bible school for the children in Sylvania. Everyone had a wonderful time, the children as well as the volunteers. I stayed with the girls overnight as they had no chaperone. That was a lot of fun. They're all a great group of kids and we're glad they were here.



Sr. Mary Ellen: I spent 2 weeks in Florida during August visiting my family. They are all doing well and surviving the heat which is actually no worse than Georgia. It has been extremely hot here all summer. I was out in it more than usual this summer as I spent some

time following our volunteers around as they worked on various projects. Both groups accomplished a lot while they were here. The first group from Kentucky conducted a Bible School in Sylvania for the children from both Sylvania and Millen. They also repaired homes for several families who couldn't afford to have it done themselves. The second group came about a week later from Michigan. They repaired homes for the needy in Millen and one in Sylvania that the first group was not able to get to before it was time to leave. They also helped us at the Thrift Shop by putting up new metal shelves and setting up some wooden shelves in the church sacristy. This Michigan group had a youth band which held a concert one evening on our church grounds. We invited our parishioners and neighbors and had a wonderful turnout of about 90 people. They also led the singing for our Sunday Mass. Our people were very grateful for all that both groups did while they were here and were greatly impressed by their generous and spirit-filled attitudes.

St. Bernadette, our church in Millen, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The date of the celebration has not been set yet. The inside of the church is being renovated right now. We will have new walls with insulation, new windows, and carpeting plus new lighting and air conditioning. The

parishioners (especially our Mexican members) and some from Sylvania have been doing most of the work themselves. I'm hoping that all the Sisters who have worked here in the past will be able to come for the dedication and celebration of the 50th anniversary.



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sr. Sharon: Hello from Owensboro. As you may remember, at the time the last Kaleidoscope was coming out, I was getting ready to take off for our Pilgrimage-Cruise/Friend-

Fund Raiser. It was a wonderful trip and Sr. Kathleen and I met a lot of great people. The highlight of our trip though, at least from my point of view, was our stop at Ephesus. We had gotten permission to celebrate Mass on the grounds of what tradition has said is the last home of Mary, our Virgin Mother. If you remember from Scripture, as John and Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, Jesus gave the care of his mother over to the beloved disciple. It is known that John preached and began a Church in Ephesus. As part of our tour, we even visited the ruins of that particular Church. In the midst of these ruins, the guide showed us a marker for what is believed to be the final resting place of the beloved disciple. What an incredible day! And what a grace-filled trip!

The months of July and August kept me on the road, as it does with many of the Sisters giving mission appeals at various different parishes throughout the country. Since I was going to be heading up to Michigan for appeals, I invited Sr. Catherine, who doesn't drive anymore, along so she could visit with family. Many of you may know that she is originally from Michigan and still has several siblings living up in the Grand Rapids area. In fact, one of her sisters is a Grand Rapids Dominican Sister, so we were able to stay at their Motherhouse for most of our time.

On September 21st, we once again hosted the STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR PEACE. Many folks may not know, but in 1981, the UNITED NATIONS set aside September 21st as an INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE. In an effort to support this awareness, we have hosted this prayer service here at our Chapel for the last few years. I am always pleasantly surprised at the number of people that join us. This year we had a little social gathering afterwards.

As I close, I want to once again ask your prayers for vocations. We have been blessed in these past several years with several women discerning whether or not they may be called to serve our missions as Glenmary Sisters. They truly need your prayers to continue this journey. Thank you and may you have a very blessed Fall.



Sr. Rosemary: Greetings. I hope the summer months were blessed in many ways for you and all your loved ones. Before summer came to an end I again visited Sister Ellen Frances and friends in our Smithland, Kentucky mission. Quickly I had an up-date on some

of the things that were happening. One was the good news of the groundbreaking for a hydroelectric power plant at the dam on the Ohio River close to our little town. This will bring jobs. Close to the Ohio River the Cumberland River joins the Ohio. It is a beautiful view of the two rivers with different colors. There is a small structure called the Buzzards' Roost which overlooks these rivers. It is quite a gathering place for some of the old timers in the town. Meeting again some of our parishioners at St. Anthony's Church in Grand Rivers was good. Along with the gift of being at Mass with them there was also the opportunity for a Holy Hour of Adoration following Mass. In hearing some of the sadness of illness and death for some of the families made me grateful that they were blessed with the gift of faith to give them strength in their time of sorrow. Sorrowful news in the town was about a young woman described as "brain dead" from drugs. We were asked to talk with her, but I explained to the person who had called that a rational talk with her could not effect any change in her life. She is so much in need of professional care over a considerable amount of time. Whether she can even recover, I do not know. In the meantime she has a beautiful one-year-old boy. Keep this child in your prayers. A child she had before this one was taken from her because of her condition. I began my time in Smithland with taking clothing and toiletries to the mission to help others, these are gifts from friends like yourself. I ended my visit on Labor Day by joining in a parade in Paducah, Kentucky (about seventeen miles from Smithland) with a Relay for Life group.



Smithland, Kentucky

Sr. Ellen Frances: Recently we had a week during which we handed out 'back to school' supplies to families who needed help. It brought home to me the change in economics in this country...and in our county. There were many new families who came for assistance. Many parents told us that they never thought that they would be in this position...the position of having to accept assistance. These parents had been among those in past years who had helped donate supplies to be distributed to others. Talking with these parents—I began to ask myself: What does it mean to be poor? Specifically—what does being poor mean to a child? We all know that poor children live in the kinds of socially poisonous environments that produce multiple threats to their development...such as failure in school, child abuse, and others.

After working with the children who are poor in our mission, I have found out that being poor means being different. Being different means not meeting the basic standards set by our society. I think that it is not so much about what you have as much as it is about what you do not have. Unfortunately it is the messages that being different send to the child that truly influence the child and his or her future.

We hope that through our small efforts, we somehow decrease this 'being different' for these children. We pray that through what we do, we will help to rid some of the threats to their development.

Father Cantalamesa, preacher for the Pontifical Household, stated that ***"the greatest sin against the poor and the hungry is perhaps indifference."*** He further adds that we must ***"cast aside barriers and allow ourselves be invaded by a healthy unease in the face of the shocking misery that exists in the world, and thus follow the example of Christ, who was filled with compassion seeing people's needs."*** (2007)

Again I thank all of you, who through your sacrifices have allowed us to help alleviate some of the differences that these children experience. I thank you especially for not being indifferent to the needs of those in need.



Retired

Sr. Bernadette: On August 5th I left for a trip to Commerce Point, Michigan for the annual Hengstebeck family reunion. It has been a few years since I was able to make the

trip so this was a very special time for me and I was able to spend almost a whole week with family. To add to the excitement of going home, my friends Cathy and Tommy Devins volunteered to take me on the trip so I was able to surprise my family by arriving on the back of Tommy's Harley! No, I didn't ride the whole way. We stopped at a nearby rest area and unloaded the bike from the trailer and rode in from there. Only one of my sisters knew what we had planned ahead of time so everyone else was quite surprised. Over the next few days, we enjoyed time by the lake reminiscing, relaxing and enjoying God's beauty all around us.

Coming back home, it was time to get back to normal activities with daily devotions, some work in the kitchen, and my favorite pastime of crocheting. Scarves and blankets are in the works for the home missions to distribute. I enjoyed the company of my little buddy, Izzie, for a few days while Sr. Darlene was on a mission appeal and am looking forward to her coming again later in September. Over Labor Day weekend, one of our Postulants, Justine, took me to the Cathedral for a celebration. There was a mass with the Bishop and a dinner afterward. Sr. Catherine also came in for a short visit and I enjoyed her time here. We played a lot of Continental Rummy and while I didn't win all the time, it is a really fun and challenging game to try and get in the 500 scores.



Sr. Catherine: A CD was made of the Variety Show and is available if you would like to get one. Send an email to me, srcatherine@glenmarysisters.org, and give me your "snail mail" address.

I went with Sr. Sharon to Grand Rapids, MI July 9th through August 1st. While there, Sr. Evelyn, Sr. Sharon and I went to the Ionia County Fair. I stayed several days at our farm house with my sister, Pauline. She had a birthday (her 81st) on July 17th and all five Schoenborn sisters went with her to Applebee's for dinner. I saw six of my seven brothers

and sisters while in Michigan.

I also came to Owensboro in time for the Ursuline Sisters' picnic and the St. Stephen Cathedral Parish picnic. The Glenmary Guild had a meeting while I was in town and it was a joy for me to see all the ladies who came. I'm still working on the 1,000 piece puzzle.

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