

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEID SCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Caruthersville, Missouri

Sister Darlene:

Greetings from Missouri! I am writing to you from our Motherhouse in Owensboro. This morning I was in Kansas City, Missouri, where I had attended the Religious Formation Congress. It was very cold and windy there. I arrived in Owensboro to find it warm and rainy. I can't help but think of the pioneers who traveled weeks to cross the distance I traveled in just 7 hours! We have a lot to be thankful for!! I have gotten a little ahead of myself. Let me back up a bit. October was filled with many new adventures. Ernestine and I, along with several parishioners, traveled to Cape Girardeau to attend a workshop on the changes to the Roman Missal. It was a wonderful workshop and we enjoyed spending the day with everyone. I accompanied another parishioner to a 2-day workshop on the Evangelizing Parish. It was another good workshop and time well spent. I was very happy that we had such a good start to October. It made the next adventure more tolerable. Poor Ernestine has experienced the uniqueness of Caruthersville wildlife. Let's see, it started with the cute little squirrels. Ernestine was going to the nursing home to visit folks. She came in and told me that her car would not start. I looked at her and said, "Ugh, it's probably those squirrels again" and I went out and checked under the car hood. Sure enough, the wiring had been chewed. I closed the hood and went to call for help. She just looked at me, shaking her head, and said, "I've never lived in a place where squirrels eat the cars." A few days later, she came running in screaming about a huge snake in the yard. Now I am afraid of snakes, so my reaction is to obtain permission to move to a new house, which

of course was denied. We could not locate the snake in the yard but did spot him in the garage. A panicked call to Animal Control resulted in help arriving and the snake being relocated. Ernestine and Izzie then encountered a skunk which was resting under the magnolia tree at the front of the house. This could have been the last straw for Ernestine if the internet bath remedy had not worked. Poor Izzie got a direct hit. It took several baths to give her back her dignity and to at least make her smell tolerable. Renuzit spray took the odor out of the house! We continue to work on Izzie. On a happier note, we were very excited to join our Sisters for our community pilgrimage to the Shrine of The North American Martyrs. We were accompanied by our Glenmary brothers Fr. Dave, Bro. Jack and Bro. Bob. We had a wonderful journey filled with conversation and laughter. We had a very prayerful time at the Shrine. The RCIA classes continue to go well. I am really enjoying journeying with these wonderful folks. Our Confirmation candidates are studying hard. It is such a joy to watch these teens grow in their faith. I have been attending CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) classes. We are learning how to respond to emergency situations like the tornado we experienced in 2006. I pray we never have to use the training. I must say the classes can be intimidating but the folks I am with make it loads of fun. We laugh at ourselves and each other. We are starting to plan for the upcoming Christmas projects. I continue to work on the reading for my ForMission class. Sometime before January I need to get the class papers written. God always provides the time to get it all done. I pray you each have a Happy and Blessed Christmas. I remain thankful for your generosity and prayers. I look forward to sharing with you again. Until then you will remain in my prayers.



Frenchburg, Kentucky

Sister Kathleen:

Right now we are getting ready for Christmas. We help many during the year but the demands increase during this season.

As I mentioned in my last correspondence we are paying special attention to the young woman whose husband died suddenly on the job. The Chicago group of volunteers did a wonderful job putting on an addition to her trailer and building a small room for the young boy. She is doing fairly well, never asking for anything. We are taking care of the whole family for Christmas, especially with new toys, new clothing, and household supplies. There is another family with 3 children who need our help. The oldest boy has been severely handicapped since birth and has had all kinds of surgery. We are encouraging his mother to pray for a peaceful death for him to ease his suffering. This will be a very difficult Christmas for them. The husband of another family had a brain aneurysm a few years ago and now cannot get a full time job. His wife has a serious heart condition, no health insurance, and difficulty in getting medical treatment. Their young daughter also has health problems. Please keep them in your prayers. Our Catholic Outreach Center is doing great. Many new folks are coming in and they are grateful we're in the area. Once again, without you folks we could never help so many of God's chosen ones. Be assured of our constant prayers and wishing you many blessings.



Millen, Georgia

Sister Aida:

CCD and Adult Religious Education are well on their way. Participation has been good. We are now preparing for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I'm

preparing the parents and the godparents of a baby girl who will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. Preparing for Christmas and Epiphany is a lot of work, but we must not forget what's truly important. Advent is a time for prayer and meditation on the wonderful gift Our Heavenly

Father bestowed on us through His Son Our Lord Jesus Christ. As we move about getting ready to celebrate this most blessed season we must not lose sight of our need for spiritual nourishment. We must take time to be with Mary our mother and meditate on the hardship she endured to bring to us Our Savior. May we always remember what is truly important in our lives. I pray you have a very blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas.



Sister Mary Ellen:

November began with an outdoor Mass at a nearby vineyard. Fr. Lou has Mass there regularly for Hispanic workers who pick the grapes, but this time it was a special Mass for all parishioners.

While the day was unexpectedly cold and windy, many of the participants were prepared with blankets and heavy jackets. Following Mass there was a meal at the vineyard's restaurant and all proceeds went to St. Camillus Clinic. This clinic offers medical care to people who have no insurance. The following Saturday I went to the 50th anniversary of St. Joan of Arc in Louisville, Georgia, which is not far from Millen. I finally learned about the church's name. A family who made a generous donation to the building was mourning the death of their daughter, Joan, and asked that the church bear her name. There have been a lot of churches celebrating their 50th anniversaries. When I first arrived in the area I didn't realize how new all the churches were. I'm glad I've been able to come back to this area to celebrate the anniversaries and see people I knew when I first arrived. Later in November I went on retreat at Blessed Trinity Retreat House in Holy Trinity, Alabama. It is a very nice place and I had good weather. I was able to spend a lot of time outdoors praying, and I also made use of the beautiful chapel. The day before Thanksgiving, a Thanksgiving Mass was held at Bay Branch. This is the oldest church in the area and celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. I thoroughly enjoyed going to Crescent Beach, Florida to be with my family for Thanksgiving. Christmas plans include helping people with gifts through the Thrift Shop and distributing gifts donated by the Glenmary Guild.



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sister Sharon:

Greetings once again. Since I last wrote, we did indeed make the Pilgrimage to Auriesville, New York in celebration of our 70th anniversary as I had mentioned in the last issue. One of the challenges and blessings for me during the visit to the Shrine was that the more I learned about the courage of these brave men known as the North American Martyrs, the more I felt called to take a deeper look at my own faith commitment. Since childhood, the life of the various Saints and Martyrs we celebrate in our Catholic Tradition has drawn me to wonder about and to ask myself if I thought I would be able to withstand pain and torture for the faith I claim to love and profess. As I grow older, I often have to admit that I am just not sure. Recently, I have begun prayerful reading and re-reading a book entitled CONSOLING THE HEART OF JESUS, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. He has combined the spiritual insights of St. Ignatius, St. Theresa Lisieux, St. Faustina, along with some other spiritual giants, into a book which is very easy to read and pray with and can be used individually or in small group retreat format. This book has helped me find his promise that this is a “sure path to holiness” for those like me, who know we may never be one of the “Super Saints.” I continue to suggest it to others. If you pick up a copy I am sure you will find it helpful in your spiritual journey.

As we have done for the past few years, this year for Thanksgiving, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Catherine, Ernestine (our Postulant) and I will be joining some of the students and directors from the Glenmary Men’s group at Gasper River youth camp, the Diocese of Owensboro Youth Camp. We have also invited a few extra friends to come with us. I always feel this is a very wonderful expression of this beautiful family holiday, since Fr. Bishop founded both the men’s and women’s community and for all practical and spiritual purposes we are truly “family”. In fact in the early years, as many of you may remember, the Glenmary Men and Women served the mission areas together. Now of course, with the dwindling numbers and other occurrences that is no longer the case, but hopefully these gatherings will once

again establish with the newer members that connection and just maybe in the future we will once again be together in mission.

On that note I am pleased to say that in October, the Glenmary Sisters and the Glenmary Priests and Brothers councils re-established our joint council meetings. Due to a lot of hard choices and difficult occurrences in both communities over the last few years, these meetings had to be set aside. Although even without these formal meetings we have always supported each other, I am especially grateful, as I have heard from the other council members, that we will be having these special times of getting together with our Glenmary Men’s council to share the joys, concerns, and prayers for our missions and ministries.

Last week, sadly, some of the Sisters and I gathered with our Glenmary brethren to say good-bye to yet another one of their members. Fr. Larry Goulding passed away after a year or so of battling with cancer. I had spent some time in the Georgia mission with him. As I mentioned to a couple of the Glenmarians, he was definitely “a character,” but in these last few months he was a wonderful model of how to accept God’s grace of limitations and dying to self. His funeral was an amazing tribute to a man who loved God, family, and his Glenmary community.

Wishing you a holy Advent season and a very blessed and merry Christmas.



Smithland, Kentucky

Sister Rosemary:

When this note reaches you we shall be in our new church year, adapting to some changes in wording in the celebration of Mass and looking forward to our new calendar year. It will take awhile to remember writing 2012 instead of 2011. In looking back over the months of fall and the beginning of winter it is not hard to remember our community’s going in October to Auriesville, New York to the Shrine of the North American Martyrs. Three Jesuits were killed in that area by some Indians who associated them with evil. The Jesuits wanted to share with them knowledge of a loving God who

sent his son, Jesus, that all the human family, through Baptism, could enter into life with God and learn that death was not the end of life but a change into eternal life with God. Our Lord's message led to his being crucified by those who could not accept his message. These three men, like Jesus, were killed because of their message. In walking down the ravine where Rene Goupil had been killed, I felt such a peace and gratitude for the faith these Jesuits had. Later we went to Mass in the church there. A large number of people were present for Mass. The faith and death of the three Jesuits had not been in vain. Returning to my mission in Livingston County where there is much natural beauty, I was quickly reminded of the different kinds of poverty here in the county. I am grateful to you for enabling our community to provide material assistance to lessen some of the pain and discouragement some of our people bear. I am also grateful for the fine people here who share our concern for others. I have joined with them in planning to provide food for Christmas and the week afterward for approximately 400 families. Planning includes sharing of gifts from our Glenmary Guild. And I am working with another person in dealing with the emergency needs related to utilities, housing, and illness – something I could not do were it not for your generous support. And then, there is the Christmas for Kids time. It has expanded since the time when I and later Sister Martha were first involved, but again I will be sharing in it by bringing gifts for children that our Glenmary Guild and a dear friend in Florida have given. During the three days of giving, we shall be providing lunch here in our house for the volunteers who are so needed, especially in the food distribution. Yolonda and I have worked on the menu for each day and our volunteers will have the gift of a very good meal. Before closing I should add that I have the gift of a volunteer living with me. Linda came in November and very quickly has given assistance in what is mentioned above. She will be with me for some months. As we look forward to the new year I join you in prayer that our world's nations will be able to come together in peace. And may you have the consolation of sensing God's presence with you in all the joys and sorrows that the new year holds for you.



Retired

Sister Bernadette:

Pumpkins, pumpkins and more pumpkins! This is the time of year that our Guild sells pumpkins to raise funds for our missions. We Sisters really enjoy helping with this. We visit several of our

local Catholic Churches and weekend masses and also set up for a weekend sale in a special lot and we sell the fire out of them. Not only do we have pumpkins to offer, we have beautiful mums, gourds, and wrapped straw! It is quite an operation the Guild does!

The Sisters and I had the opportunity to take a trip to New York to visit the site of the North American Martyrs. It was quit a long trip by bus, but very enjoyable. I also had the responsibility of taking care of our little friend, Izzie. She is so very much a part of our community that we could not leave her behind! I found this trip very humbling.

I had a few days of quiet time while Sr. Sharon was on the road this month. Part of the time that she was gone, Ernestine was here to visit along with our little four legged friend, Izzie. I won't tell what kind of mischief we got into!

Again, there were a few large dinners we had to prepare for in October. The Council had their meetings along with a very special dinner we prepared for the Glenmary men's Council members. Three large lunches in a row! What fun I had in the kitchen. I so love to cook. My first cooking experiences came when I was new into the order, cooking for Father Bishop and the Seminarians. That is the first time I ever cooked in my life. At home, I always watched my mother and grandmother do the cooking. If a dinner was spoiled, there would be nothing to replace it with. I grew up during the Depression and things were very tight. I believe my mother could stretch a penny beyond its limits!

This Thanksgiving gave way to opportunity to make a few extra pies. In one day, I made 8 pie crusts so that the next day Sr. Catherine could fill them all! I think she made apple and pumpkin. This time of year it is good to give special thanks

for all we have been given by our God. We took a few of these pies to Gasper River to share with the Glenmary men. It was a wonderful time of community and sharing.

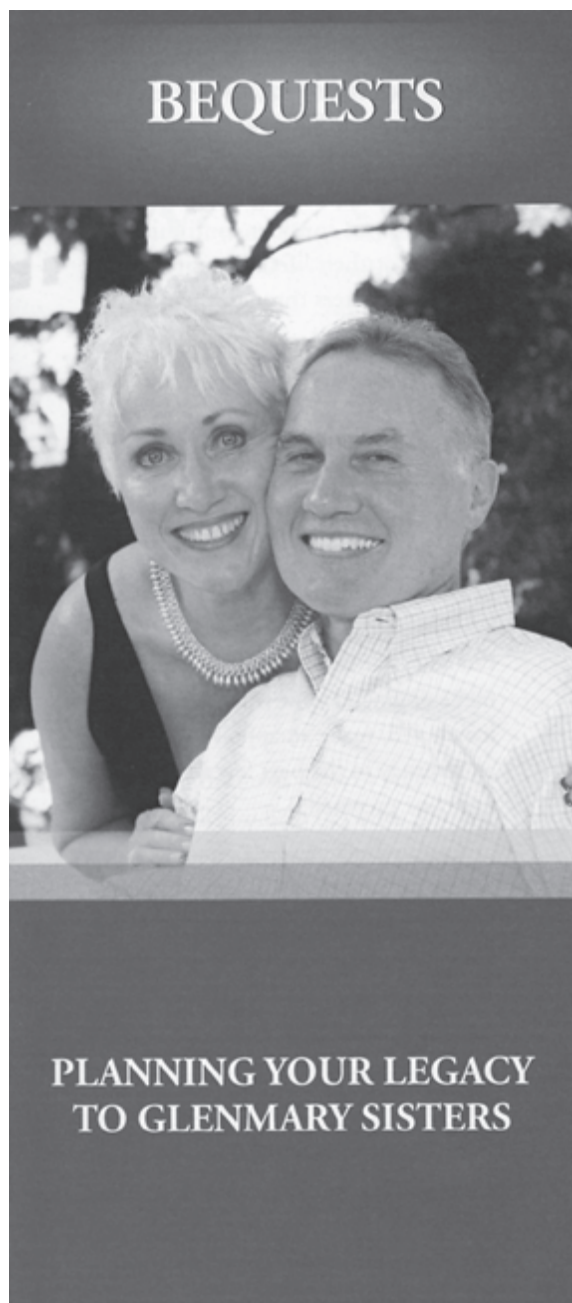
The holidays are upon us. This is a time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. It seems with all of the “political correctness” going on so many forget what it is we celebrate. So, may I say Merry Christmas to all and God Bless.



Sister Catherine:

On October 13th, 2 busloads of residents from Mercy Franciscan Terrace went to a casino in Rising Sun, Indiana. I came home with my earnings: \$2.50! On October 16th, Sr. Sharon came and picked me up to take me to the La Quinta

Inn in Fairfield, Ohio. We stayed overnight and left the next morning to go to Syracuse, New York where we stayed overnight in a Red Roof Inn. The next day we left for Auriesville, New York, where we visited the Shrine of the North American Martyrs. We returned to Syracuse to stay overnight at the Red Roof Inn again. The next night we stayed in Fairfield, Ohio, in the La Quinta Inn. In the morning we went to breakfast in a restaurant and then to Fairfield, Ohio, where the Glenmary Men’s Headquarters is located. We held a Mass there and then had our Mission Sending ceremony. Sr. Sharon brought me back to Mercy Franciscan Terrace and the other Sisters returned to their missions. On October 27th we had “trick or treat” for the local kids who came with parents to the 5th floor for about one hour. Lots of kids and candy! On November 5th we celebrated Veteran’s Day with a Cincinnati Band Concert in the dining room. On November 12th Fr. Larry Goulding died. Sr. Sharon came to pick me up to take me to the La Quinta Motel in Fairfield to be with the other Glenmary Sisters. Then we went to the wake at headquarters and stayed overnight at the La Quinta. The funeral was the next morning at St. Matthias Church. On November 21st Sr. Sharon came and took me to the audiologist for a hearing check-up and cleaning of hearing aids. We left from there to go to Owensboro for Thanksgiving at Gasper River, Kentucky.



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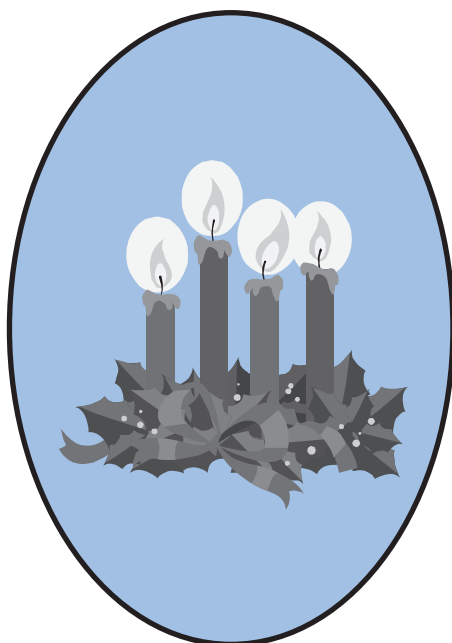


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*Wishing
you a
blessed
Advent and
Christmas
season.*



Sr. Sharon Miller
Feast Day: 07/22; Birthday: 05/02

Sr. Aida Badillo
Feast Day: Divine Mercy Sunday
(1st Sunday after Easter)
Birthday: 04/10

Sr. Mary Ellen Barrette
Feast Day: 09/14; Birthday: 03/08

Sr. Rosemary Esterkamp
Feast Day: 08/15; Birthday: 07/05

Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck
Feast Day: 04/16; Birthday: 12/01

Sr. Kathleen Mulchrone
Feast Day: 03/17; Birthday: 08/09

Sr. Darlene Presley
Feast Day: 06/13; Birthday: 04/13

Sr. Catherine Schoenborn
Feast Day: 04/29; Birthday: 02/17

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