

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEID SCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Jenkins/Screven County, Georgia

Sister Margaret Lola

Summer is rounding off gradually and the mission appeals will be over by the middle of September for me. When I am in the Georgia mission, work in the two counties continues and it is more or less the

same i.e., getting the girls in Millen to the Girl Scout meeting, helping out in the Jenkins County High School 4H program, the Make A Difference program, offering transportations to the people to doctors' offices, clinic in Sylvania, to Church and grocery stores. I teach Catechism to our parish children, and I continue to take Communion to the parish members at the nursing home and to two others who are homebound. I take invitations to give talks to various group of youth in some parts of the diocese and I have a talk to give in October to the collegiate students of Savannah diocese on the topic "Made for Greatness." Besides all these I have vocation conferences to attend and the Vocation Director's Orientation cause in Kansas. I plan to be at the NYC in Indianapolis in the month of November after our fall Community Days. In December I will travel to be with my family and my late sister's children for three weeks. I pray to return safely back to my work and stay busy. So far so good. I have been enjoying working with our people in the two counties. Nothing can be more fulfilling than offering my presence to bring the knowledge of God's love to the people and encouraging them to enjoy each day of their life with the assistance offer them.



Sister Mary Ellen

Summer is over in Millen. At least it is for school children. Our schools in Millen reopened on July 31st – the earliest ever and also the earliest in our area. All the other schools in our nearby counties didn't open until about the 2nd week of August.

This has been a busy week for me. We celebrated the birthdays of both the oldest member of our parish and our youngest member. We celebrated Sarah's birthday on Thursday with an evening Mass followed by a birthday dinner in the parish hall. The 8 or 10 people who regularly attend the Thursday evening Mass take turns preparing the meal for the group. This week happened to be my turn. Sarah, at 96 years old, stays active in the parish. She is a Communion Minister and collects the donations for Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias. She is often the one to remind us all to set our clocks back or forward when there is a time change.

The following Sunday we celebrated the birthday of our youngest member with a pot-luck meal after Mass. Pot-luck meals mean everyone brings some food to share so this meant more cooking for me. This little boy, who turned 2 years old, is also active in the parish. He often helps take up the collection, usually passing the basket from his mother's arms. Then at the Presentation of the Gifts, he will carry the basket up the aisle to present to Father Lou.

We recently had two parishioners (a mother and daughter) staying with us in the evenings while their air-conditioning was out. They had a near fire one evening when their electricity began sending sparks through the house before going out completely. They found that it would take about a week before they could get their air back. Since they both work in air conditioned buildings during the day, they just needed a place to sleep at night. We don't have any extra bedrooms but do have a pullout sofa in the living room. They were happy to have a cool place to stay at night and we were happy to have them. I had an enjoyable surprise this past weekend. As I was getting ready to go home after our pot-luck meal, the door opened and a group of people walked in. It was a Mexican family who had moved back to Mexico about 5 or 6 years ago. The mother of the family used to volunteer at our thrift shop. She was a big help and a joy to have around because of her wonderful sense of humor. Her son and daughter had been in our religion classes during their time in Millen. When her daughter graduated from high

school, they went back to Mexico so she could go to college there. I was amazed that I remembered them immediately after not seeing them for all those years but even more amazed that I remembered each of their names since I'm not very good at remembering names. We had a nice visit but it was short since they needed to get back to South Carolina where they are now living. The daughter told me that she has graduated from college now and has her degree but would like to continue her education.



Menifee County, Kentucky

Sister Kathleen

Since the last Kaleidoscope, much has happened. We just finished our back to school project where we help many children return to school with pride. Thanks to so many from various parts of the country sending us donations.

We are blessed with our new Bishop John Stowe. It means so much to have our own shepherd. He is a good Franciscan, with a deep love for the poor and forgotten, which is really needed in our culture today.

We continue our ministry to the prison – many sad cases but we assure them no matter what they did, they have to turn to God for his mercy.

I did go to a lovely wedding in Chicago for my great-nephew. It was a wonderful experience to witness a loving couple so faithful to the church. A few days after the great celebration another great-nephew, age 33, had a sad and sudden death. He was at the wedding, we had a great visit, and then this happened. I'm glad I was there to be with his dear mother; his dad died ten years ago. During this time, I spent time with other nieces and cousins, along with giving a mission appeal in Minnesota. It made me realize our life is in God's hands – we do not know the day and hour God will call us home.

We have two more volunteer groups coming in. Pray for them – they are real witnesses in how to live the gospel. Let us continue to pray for peace in our world. God reward you.



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sister Sharon

Greetings on this rainy Kentucky day! I am in between my summer mission appeals trips at this moment and thought I'd drop a line to catch you up on my comings and goings since the last issue of Kaleidoscope. Of course, as usual, the second week of June is the time of my family fishing trip to Lake Barkley. I dearly love this trip as it gives me an opportunity to see family members I don't normally get to visit during the year. Now for those of you who may not be aware of it, this trip is about "fishing" as much as it is about family. My brothers set the schedule which usually runs something like this: you wake up at 5:00am and get out on the lake by 6:00am and fish till around 11:30, and then come in for breakfast. At some point after that you get to nap, then fix supper around 5:00pm before getting back out on the lake by 6:00pm fish until dark. We are bass fisher-people so we count all the bass that we pull in. It has to be at least 15" to be a keeper; otherwise we release it back into the lake.

This year we pulled in a total of close to 200 but only could keep 38 of those. Those were the ones that my brothers served up in our fish fry suppers. We have a great time and there is always a competition to see who catches the largest fish. Mine has never been the largest, but this year I caught one that measured 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ " which was a lot of fun to catch.

The rest of my summer has been road trips to various dioceses for mission appeals. As you know, we are a donor-funded community. Therefore, we depend heavily on the donations from these appeals to supplement what our wonderful donors and benefactors such as you and your family send to serve our mission ministries. In mid-July, Sr. Kathleen and I spoke at several parishes in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Diocese, as well as the Immaculate Conception parish in the Winona Diocese where the vacation bible school children and other parishioners had collected school supplies for us.

After a brief return home to drop off Sr. Kathleen so she could return to her mission, I picked up Sr. Catherine and we left for Detroit Michigan appeals. Whenever I have mission appeals in the Michigan area I like to take Sr. Catherine so she can visit with family. She still has a number of siblings

and nieces and nephews who live in the Grand Rapid and Detroit areas.

Tomorrow, August 7th, I will be leaving to speak at a few parishes in the Syracuse, New York Diocese as well as visit with some other donors and benefactors in the Northeast. Since I usually drive to the appeals it makes it easy to make stops to visit and pick up items that have been collected for us and those we serve. I do put a lot of miles on our vehicles, but we still find it more economical than flying, and it allows me the opportunity to get to know and personally thank some of our faithful donors and their families.

The truth is that without you and those like you, the Glenmary Sisters would not be able to reach out to the many needy families that we see every day in our mission areas. So, thank you! If you would ever want me to stop by on one of my trips, just let me or our development office know so that we can see if I can remap to make it possible. I would love to put a face with the name of the generous, loving heart which has helped us help so many. God Bless you.



Ohio Co/Butler Co, Kentucky

Sister Aida

Since our last issue of Kaleidoscope, I have been very busy. Things are moving right along in the new mission area here in Ohio and Butler Counties in Kentucky. I've driven people to the

Mexican Consulate in Indianapolis, Indiana, and to Catholic Charities in Louisville, Kentucky for immigration meetings. I've held Communion Service in Father's absence while he was on vacation and I did it on Sunday when the priest who was supposed to come was not able to make it. I lead the service on Thursdays. I also have a Bible study on Saturdays.

It seems like so far, I've spent most of the summer on the road with Council and Board meetings in Owensboro along with several mission appeals. I've visited parishes in Indiana and as far away as Nevada and California. Back at home, I've also visited Catholics in the nursing homes, taken people to see their doctors, and helped to enroll a child in school.

With the opening of a new mission area, there are many activities going on and new people to meet. I hope to spend some time at home getting more things settled in and look forward to sharing more with you in our next issue.



Pemiscot County, Missouri

Sister Darlene

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the fruits of summer. I am writing to you from Roaring River State Park in Cassville, Missouri. I am helping at our Diocesan Youth Camp this week. It provides a wonderful opportunity to talk with the kids about the home missions and Glenmary. It also gives me some time in the hills. I love the beauty of the flat land that surrounds me but I also have a need deep within for the mountains and ocean shores! At the moment, I am sitting on the porch of the staff cabin enjoying a cup of coffee, the song of the birds, the wind in the trees and this conversation with you. Soon all my peace will be interrupted with the arrival of the kids so I will treasure every beautiful moment.

During our spring Community Days, I received a call from the manager of one of the low income apartment complexes in Caruthersville. There had been a fire that destroyed one of the units, displacing three families. Our Ministerial Alliance and the Red Cross provided for their immediate needs and shelter. Emily, the manager, was referred to me for further assistance for these families. From the donations I had on hand, each family received household items such as dishes, pots, bath towels, wash cloths, sheets, kitchen towels and cleaning items. Our Glenmary Guild purchased pillows and sheets. We were able to purchase mattresses for the three children. I had items at Mothers House for the family with a 3-month-old daughter. Through my conversation with Emily, I learned that the children in this complex have no place to play and that Emily, when she had time, would organize activities. I talked with her about bringing our volunteer groups during the summer for a week of VBS and fun with the children. She was very excited.

I have had two wonderful youth groups working with me this summer. In June, the Holy Name Youth of Henderson, Kentucky spent a week doing service projects. We again held a Vacation Bible School at the Park in Steele. The children there look forward to the activities. We had a great time. The construction crew helped the parish with repairing fencing around the a/c units at the church and school. They also built beds for the families who lost everything in the apartment fire and two children's beds for a family in the county. The work crew spent one day at the park teaching and helping the kids build bird houses. I was amazed at the determination

of the kids as they worked on their bird houses. They waited patiently for their turn and encouraged each other as they built. In the afternoon, we were at the apartment complex doing crafts and activities with the children there. There were so many kids and they were so excited to have something to do.

In July, the Youth from St. Paul in Hamm Lake, Minnesota were here. They, too, provided a Vacation Bible school at the Park in Steele and the apartment complex. They also helped one of our elderly parishioners who is moving to clean and box items in preparation for selling her house. They worked at Mothers House, at the Food Pantry and helped paint our RCIA classroom. It was a very hot and busy week.

There have been many calls for assistance with utility bills and clothing items. Emily has contacted me about two young mothers who were homeless and had just moved into the complex. Thank goodness I had items on hand to help them with their basic needs. They are both now working.

I am very excited to have Miss Carmen helping me at Mothers House. She is a parishioner and a dear friend. I am so thankful to have her with me. It is my desire and goal this year to get more of the parishioners involved. Life and my schedule have been so hectic I have not been able to do so. I feel they are now ready to get involved. I am looking forward to seeing this new chapter unfold.

It is now time to plan for the upcoming parish events and RCIA class. I am very excited about the new life which has come into our parish. We already have people interested in RCIA. This brings me much joy.

Life has been very busy but good. The needs have been very challenging but thanks to your willingness to share in our ministry we are able to help. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. Well, it is time to say so long for now. I have enjoyed this chat with you. I pray you have a very pleasant and safe rest of the summer. You remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Retired



Sister Catherine

On March 29 we had a beautiful celebration - a Palm Sunday procession around the chapel at Carmel Home. Holy Week services were held each day. We Glenmary Sisters went to the Cathedral for Easter Vigil and eight people were confirmed.

Srs. Sharon, Kathleen and I set up for the reception in the undercroft, helped serve and clean up after. We returned to Guadalupe House, our residence, at 11:00 p.m. On Easter Sunday we went to the Cathedral for 9:00 a.m. Mass. I returned to Carmel Home on April 8.

On May 5 we went to Cincinnati. Sr. Sharon and the Council met with the Glenmary Men's Administration for a joint Council Meeting and the Oath Ceremonies which the men celebrated.

On July 24, Sr. Sharon took me to Michigan for a home visit. We spent 2 hours on I-65 South of Indianapolis, inching along at about 10 miles per hour. There was an accident and we were told five people were killed. We arrived at my sister Theresa's home in Haslett at 9:30 p.m. Sr. Sharon took us to Petoskey to visit my brother, Buck, his son and daughter-in-law, and grandson. We stayed overnight in a motel, visited him again in the morning, and then I returned to Haslett with Cathy Devins and Theresa. Also while in Michigan, Theresa took me to visit my Sister Evelyn, Pauline and brother Art in Grand Rapids. We went out to a restaurant for dinner. We visited two nieces and children near Belding, a friend next to our farm a few miles south of Belding, and three of my high school classmates. Theresa and I also met our sister Jackie and a friend at a restaurant in Fowler. I called my brother Lawrence in Parnell but did not visit them because Karen had the flu. I returned to Carmel Home August 5.



Sister Rosemary

Now I am experiencing what I anticipated about my "total recovery" from my accident in St. Louis on September 8th. "Total recovery" was anticipated as total recovery. It has been months since my last writing to you and I can share that it has not been

"total recovery" in the way I envisioned it. I can no longer drive and am dependent upon other people to

drive me where I must go. Having been so independent in my last mission, planning some changes in what I was going to do when I returned from my quick trip to St. Louis, now I am dependent upon the physical care of others in some respects. I have advanced from some months in a bed to some walking with a walker and now to a cane. The cane is no longer needed in our house, but when I go out, then I take the cane with me.

All of this has required me to reflect on what God has in mind for me these days. I can say that I cannot understand the “why” of the accident, but it has caused me to give much time for reflection on what God wants of me. Now, one of my requirements are work in the archives. I have done some and have cleared out a lot of what was already there. Before this, it was my practice to come up once a month on the weekend to spend some time in the archives. It was a slow process. Now I have one more box to go through before tackling the inside of the room to deal with all that is already stored in it. It is a challenge! In checking the box quickly, it appears to be full of history of the community.

I was able to accompany Sr. Darlene to Cincinnati on a mission appeal. While there, I discovered several parishioners who recognized me from St. James White Oak parish. This was my parish before becoming a Glenmary Sister. It was such a blessing to realize so many people remembered me. One gentleman was involved in the early editions of the Glenmary *Challenge* and another lady worked in the office with our founder, Father Bishop. After we left for the day, Sr. Darlene and I went on a Glenmary Sisters history tour and visited where the old seminary was when I worked there. We also visited the cemetery where Father Bishop and some of our Sisters are buried. From there we saw where the Morning Star Convent, now a retirement home, was located before we moved to Owensboro.

Perhaps in my next writing for Kaleidoscope I shall be able to tell you if I have judged correctly upon the contents of the one remaining box that sits outside the archives section of the building. The other question that remains in me is what does God want of me in relation to Himself.



Sister Bernadette

Spring saw some cooler temperatures it seems this year. After celebrating my Feast Day on April 16 things got to be very busy around the mother house. Sr. Aida was busily preparing the new mission home in Morgantown and I

was able to make the journey down to help her unpack. Shortly after, in May we had our Community Days when we all gather. This year we took a short journey to St. Meinrad in Indiana. We had a very pleasant stay. Our yearly meetings are conducted at this time.

June and July were fairly quiet months around here. Sr. Sharon was gone doing mission appeals and away most of this time. I was able to work on my crocheting.

My friends, Tommy and Cathy, finally got repairs done to Cathy's Harley and we were able to get out for our first ride. It was absolutely wonderful. The weather was perfect and the route was long!

The month of August is one of my favorite times of the year. The first Saturday of the month my family gathers for a reunion at a cottage on Long Lake near Detroit. This year was our “big one”, which occurs every five years. Lots of little Hengstebecks running around at that time! This year, the bag of crochet scarves had to be a big one. My family loves the scarves! Also, my part of our family tradition is to bake and bring oatmeal cookies for all my relatives. The recipe was a favorite of my father. They are expected! This year I took about 17 dozen to feed approximately 175 family members who were expecting them!

I had the most wonderful week relaxing and eating and visiting with family! Now it's back to the mother house and a little more quiet time before Sr. Sharon returns from mission appeals!



Glenmary Sisters

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2015: UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22 – 27 Prayers for Pope Francis’s visit to the United States

November 8 – 15 Community Days

November 14 Jubilee celebrations
60th Jubilee for Sr. Mary Ellen Barrette
70th Jubilee for Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck
Special Mass at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Owensboro, KY

Date to be determined
Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life
Facilitated by Guild member Sharrie Cinnamon