

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEIDOSCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Jenkins/Screven County, Georgia

Sister MargaretLola

To God be the glory as we continue to celebrate our risen Lord. The shout of Alleluia continues to resound because He lives so we can face tomorrow. Happy Easter to all.

My mission activities have been the same though not as stable as the previous years. Preparations for the transfer of my final vows and the new responsibility as the Vocation Director for the Community has gotten me more on the road than ever. I love fishing! I have been trying to fish more vocations to our Community. Whenever I am in Millen, I return to taking care of the Girl Scout, the 4H program for Jenkins County school students, and right now, I am teaching one of them how to crochet. She is making her first winter scarf. I am still taking communion to the home-bound and visiting our church members, keeping them company, listening to their stories and offering them advice or solution to some domestic issues as much as I am able to. We had our annual Easter songs on Good Friday as Millen Community Choir at the Millen Baptist Church raised funds for the care of the poor through the Council of Churches in Millen and its environs. It was successful. The "Make a Difference" program continues although I can participate in it only when I am in Millen, sometimes two weeks or one week in a month. I am preparing a talk on "Future Leadership in the Church" to the Campus Ministers at Warner Robins, GA. I see this as an opportunity to encourage the youth to look into their future leadership roles as priests and consecrated men and women. I am loving it! The best ocean to catch some vocations to our Glenmary Community. So help me God!

Please continue to pray for my sister Elizabeth who passed on at the age of 37 in my home country.



Sister Mary Ellen

Greetings from Georgia! The highlight of the month of March was Sr. MargaretLola's Final Profession as a Glenmary Sister on March 21st. Our whole community gathered at the Cathedral in Owensboro for this special occasion.

There were also many other friends of Sr. MargaretLola's who were present. The ceremony concluded with a special joyful African dance by Sr. MargaretLola and her African friends.

We returned to Georgia in time to celebrate Palm Sunday and Holy Week in our own mission. For some reason the

Holy Week and Easter liturgies seemed more meaningful than ever this year. We had a good crowd on Holy Thursday. After the Holy Thursday English Mass we had Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until the beginning of the Spanish at 8pm. A few of the people from the English Mass stayed after for Adoration and by the time they left some of the Spanish were arriving early for Adoration before the Spanish Mass. So we had people for Adoration the whole time. I'm sure the beautiful weather and the blooming of the pear trees and azaleas added to the joyful spirit of this Easter time.

The yearly Fish Fry that our Sylvania parish usually holds during a Friday in Lent was held a couple of weeks after Easter this year. Many dinners were sold and this money is used to pay for the church mobile clinic that offers free medical care to people who have no medical insurance.

Two new factories have moved into Millen and will soon be hiring workers. About 10 years ago 2 large factories that employed many people were closed, leaving many people unemployed. Some were able to find jobs doing farm work while others were forced to seek work out of town. Since then our county has been one of the 2 or 3 leaders in unemployment in the state of Georgia.

I hope all of you are enjoying this beautiful Easter season. May these 50 days of Easter bring many blessings to you and your families.



Menifee County, Kentucky

Sister Kathleen

Greetings of peace and joy. Since our last Kaleidoscope, much has happened. Right before Thanksgiving I had the misfortune of falling and breaking my left hip. I could fill pages on this experience but it did change my life. God had other plans for me.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations, my co-workers here took over the whole responsibility. They helped many folks and did a super job. During this time of pain and therapy, I offered it up for all who worked so hard to take care of the needy; also for the many who suffer each day, especially the thousands who are persecuted for the faith. We have so much to pray for in this sad world.

When I returned to Frenchburg, everyone was excited and happy that I was back. We just had a wonderful group of volunteers from Pennsylvania. They finished most of the work for a young handicapped man and his aunt – now the house that was built by Habitat is finished, including new curtains and much more to make it a lovely home.

Thank God we finally have a new Bishop after waiting over a year to have a shepherd. His ceremony is in May. Let's pray for him and all church leaders as they witness the joy of the gospel.

God love and reward you for your continued support and prayers.



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sister Sharon Miller

Greetings from Owensboro, Kentucky! As you may remember from my letter sent to you not long ago, here in the Owensboro household we were dealing with a couple of sisters with broken hips. I am happy to say that Sr. Kathleen is back in her mission and

doing very well. In fact, this past week she and Sue Brown, our Eastern Kentucky Mission Ministries Coordinator, had a special group of volunteers from a Pennsylvania parish come to help with a few projects. Through physical therapy, Sr. Rosemary continues to heal and has graduated from a walker to a four-prong cane. Since she will not be returning to the Smithland mission, last weekend we visited for a beautiful celebration hosted by the parish of St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers, so the folks of Livingston County could say a special "Thank You" to her for her many years of service (over 24 years) to and with them. The next day she and I headed to the Whitehouse Retreat Center in St. Louis for a week of directed retreat and special prayer time.

The highlight of March was the Final Transfer of Vows of Sr. MargaretLola Alokani. You may remember that three years ago, Sr. MargaretLola began her transfer into our community from the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. On March 21st, she completed this process and now is officially a Finally Professed member of the Glenmary Sisters. We are grateful for beautiful mission spirit that continues to spread the love and joy of God to those in our mission of Millen, Georgia. She has also taken on the vocation ministry for our community. I ask for prayers for her in this important ministry with women whom God may be calling to join us.

As for me, I have continued to find myself on the road for meetings and other reasons, but always glad to come back home to Owensboro and the parish of St. Stephen Cathedral. We had a beautiful Easter celebration as I am sure you did. After I returned from my retreat, I made the final preparations for our Spring Community Days. This year we will be gathering for the major part of these days of prayer, community sharing and planning at St. Meinrad's Guest house which is only about an hour from Owensboro, but will provide the quiet and space needed. As I mentioned before, the sisters and I look forward to these bi-annual (spring and fall) meetings each year so that together we can discern how God is calling us to continue to serve the families in our missions. It is with your prayerful and financial support that we can bring these plans to fruition, helping them to come to know the love of Christ in a real and tangible way. God Bless you!



Ohio Co/Butler Co, Kentucky

Sister Aida

Blessings to all! I have been very busy. Some of the work was sad and other joyful. The first week of March I was in Smithland packing and getting the house ready to be returned to the diocese. It is sad to see that mission close. Sr. Rosemary accomplished many, many things in the years she was there. The people there had a beautiful celebration for her.

I am now in the process of moving to a new mission. I will be working in Ohio and Butler Counties in Kentucky. I'm looking forward to the new adventure. I will be working with Fr. Jean Rene. I've met some of the people I will be working with, and look forward to what Our Lord has in store for us.

On March 29th we had a beautiful celebration of Sr. MargaretLola's transfer of her vows to our community. Many of her friends joined her for the celebration, and they shared part of their culture through food, liturgical dancing at the conclusion of Mass, and Nigerian dancing at the reception, all of which was accompanied by vocal and instrumental music.



Pemiscot County, Missouri

Sister Darlene

Greetings from Missouri. I pray you are having a blessed Easter season. I am enjoying the beauty of spring and the warmer weather. We are definitely having the April showers and storms. I am not complaining because it is making everything green again. The

down side is it is also creating a comfortable resort for the mosquitoes! Oh, well, I will embrace the green and swat away the pests.

Things have remained busy here. I have been at Mothers House 3 days a week. I have had several moms and foster moms come in. It is so good to have a place where they can come and talk and also to get things that they need. I have had a couple of women stop by to see if we had clothes for teens and adults. I will need to keep some on hand. It has also become known as a place where you can seek help for other needs. I am still seeking consistent volunteers which are very hard to find. It seems everyone is busy these days. I did receive a call from a case worker for one of the agencies in town asking if she could do some volunteer hours. The agency she works for requires their employees to do 16 hours of volunteer service a year. I am very excited she chose Mothers House as her place of service.

I have received several phone calls for assistance on electric and gas bills. One was from an agency that was working with a young single mom. She has not been able to work due to the illness of her children. Her electricity had been disconnected. As you can imagine, she was very distraught. Her family is trying to help with what little they have. Thanks to your generosity and willingness to share with others we were able to help with her bill. I hope to have our summer

volunteers work to help weatherize her home to hopefully protect her from this happening again.

Speaking of our summer volunteer groups, I have been working on setting up projects for them to do. I will be heading to the park in Steele on Saturdays to prepare the kids for the upcoming Vacation Bible Schools. It is hard to catch them there during the school year. I love having the groups here in the mission. They bring so much joy and life!! I will make sure I double up on my vitamins so that I can keep up with them. I will also be helping at our Diocesan Youth Camp in July. This gives me an opportunity to share our Glenmary Mission work with the kids and adults in the western side of our diocese. It is also a way to promote vocations. I must confess it is also a lot of fun for me. It is always good to be with our youth.

Our RCIA classes are going well. We continue to journey with the three teens and have a couple of adults that want to begin the process. I am amazed at what the Spirit is doing here. I have been approached by a couple of folks who want to enter into a Bible Study this summer. Our Parish continues to come to life. I am very excited about all of this.

Well I must bring this to a close. It seems that everyone is waiting on this. My sister who I am visiting is waiting on me to finish so we can head somewhere. Kim at the Center is waiting on it so it can go to the printer. Izzie has all 4 legs crossed waiting on me to press send so she can go for a walk. This is one time I can please them all!! I do thank you for your prayers, support and willingness to make this journey with us. I ask that you please keep our work in your prayers. You and your needs remain in my prayers.

Retired



Sister Catherine

Greetings from Carmel Home for a happy springtime on this beautiful day. Much has been happening here at Carmel Home. We have Happy Hour on Monday; a gathering for fellowship and a treat, Tuesday; hair wash and curl, play cards with several friends "Kings in the Corner" almost every day. On Feb 10th I heard of the fire of church and hall in Guthrie, Kentucky. What sad news. At the Valentine Party I danced a waltz with the retired King Dennis. New King Joe Murphy and Elizabeth Mattingly, Queen for 2015, were elected and crowned by Fr. Joe Mills. Then more card playing with my friends.

On my 87th birthday, February 17th, my sisters Jackie and Theresa called. On Saturday we had a very busy day. A piano player entertained, after lunch we saw a movie and played cards. At 4pm Fr. Ray Clark played guitar and we sang along.

On Sunday the snow was really deep when Sr. Sharon picked me up to go to the Center to celebrate my birthday. We had Dairy Queen cake, played cards, prayed evening prayer, Rosary, had supper, watched a show on TV, and returned to Carmel Home at 8pm.

My dear friend Ellie died. The funeral will be in the springtime somewhere on the East Coast but I have not heard when. Of course I won't be going. I saw a good movie on TV with Fred McMurry. On March 17th I had a great time at the Center celebrating Katie Roberta Calhoun's 5th birthday and Sr. Kathleen's Feast Day. We had green all over the place, decorations done by me. Katie wanted macaroni and cheese and a DQ birthday cake. In the afternoon for Sr. Kathleen's Feast day celebration, we had more green stuff, pizza and salad, another DQ cake, played cards, prayed, etc., and I returned to Carmel Home.

On March 21st we had another great day – Sr. MargaretLola's transfer to Glenmary Sisters at the Cathedral followed by a reception at Blessed Mother Church - then Easter Vigil with confirmations, reception after. Srs. Sharon, Kathleen, and I set up and cleaned up afterward. I got home at 11pm. Sr. Sharon and I went to Our Lady of Lourdes Hall and played Bunco and I returned to Carmel Home at 8pm.

The Carmelite Sisters had Open House, a rare event, and a large crowd of people came. Also I played Bunco at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall and last but not least, I went to Applebee's with four friends to use my gift card.



Sister Rosemary

These past months have held much for me. I spent months in recovery from an accident I experienced in St. Louis last September 8th. I spent the first months of recovery in an assisted care facility in St. Louis. I made some improvements while there and also appreciated all the visits from my Sisters many other friends. I was released on January 16th to return to Owensboro. There was still continued slow recovery, trying to get my health and thinking process active. I began physical therapy at a center here in Owensboro. If my memory is correct, that began in February. Initially I went three times a week, then reduced to twice a week. The therapy was a slow process. My last appointment resulted in the therapist telling me that their aim was to get me fully healed, that my right leg would be completely healed and I could walk again without further assistance!

What a joy that was to hear. Then this past weekend I went to a celebration in my former mission. It was a joy to be with so many people I knew, many of whom I had helped over the years. That night brought me "back" to the self I had been almost eight months before.

I returned to Owensboro the next day and suddenly I felt myself "whole" again. It was a great joy – changed physically but restored in my anticipation of future complete recovery. Please join me in being grateful to God!



Glenmary Sisters

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Sister Bernadette

Spring is finally here, but don't count out another taste of winter! This is a wonderful time of year around the mother house. Outside the commons area is a beautiful prayer garden with bird feeders, bird baths and other creature amenities. I am seeing such beautiful wonders of God develop every day.

Winter was one that got us all this year in one way or another. I was blessed with being able to stay comfortably warm and dry throughout. Sr. Kathleen and Sr. Rosemary joined us at the mother house this winter for rehab and rest. Sr. Kathleen has since left, but Sr. Rosemary is permanently residing here now. As busy as it can be around here, it also can be just as quiet. Sr. Rosemary's presence is wonderful.

I have been keeping busy with my crochet work, as always. I so enjoy doing it. It is very calming and relaxing for me. I know the scarves and blanket are things always to be used. I usually use 3 strands of different yarns to make each scarf. I like being able to do many different variations. I try to make more than one of some when I can for those who like to match another. Long, skinny, thick, wide, or short....something for everyone!

Easter season has past us. I so enjoy the celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is risen! The special masses are always exceptional. Also, during this time we had a special mass for our Sister Margaret Lola. She has made her final vows with us. How wonderful!

The first part of the year is always my health checkup time. I feel wonderful and my doctors say that they can see this! All done until next year. Doctor's recommendation: "Make sure you wear your helmet!" which I always do and will!

The Traveler's Prayer

**May the Almighty and Merciful
Lord direct us on our journeys.**

**May He make them prosper
and maintain us in peace.**

**May the Archangel Raphael
accompany us on the way.**

**And may we return to our
homes in joy and health.**