

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEIDOSCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Jenkins/Screven County, Georgia

Sister MargaretLola

Greetings! I have been at the orientation course for new Vocation Directors, which I have found very in-depth. A lot of useful tools for fishing! I thank God for His journey mercies and pray that the

community will soon be receiving authentic applications from young and vibrant women choosing to discern with us soonest so we can make good use of the tools of discernment process we already acquired. I can't wait!

It is getting closer to our Community days and we are gaining momentum to hit the road to Kentucky. It will be a special period of time together with the celebration of anniversaries of Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Mary Ellen. I also look forward to the National Youth Conference in Indianapolis right after the Community days and anniversary celebration, where we will set up our vocation booths. We pray as we plant the seeds, we will reap the harvest plentifully.

While in Millen, my usual services to the two Counties, Jenkins and Screven, and the parish continue. I have Communion services on Sundays with two members of our Church at the nursing home and two others in their house. I have had Communion services with our Hispanic group on two Sundays in Spanish, when our pastor was not able to celebrate the Mass. Unbelievable! This means my Spanish is improving gradually. I visit some members who are sick in their homes and continue to assist them in some groceries and transportations. By the first week of December I will be getting ready to travel to Nigeria to be with my family and give some moral support to them and the children of my baby sister who passed on in April this year. Please pray with me for safety and for my family.

We had co-worker John Calhoun, his dad, and two boys visit us in Millen. We were able to go around to visit some of the members we assist - some at the

nursing home and others in their houses. Also they visited the Ag center where I volunteer helping the Jenkins County students in their 4H program. It was such a happy time showing them around and taking loads of photographs. Of course the Catholic Thrift Store with Sr. Mary Ellen was the starting point.

I use this opportunity to wish all a happy and spiritually refreshing Advent, a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Que Dios te bendiga todos. (May God bless you all.)



Sister Mary Ellen

This week we are preparing to head north for our fall Community days when we all get together for meetings, prayers and sharing. I am looking forward to that time together.

Following the meetings, we will be returning to Owensboro to celebrate two jubilees, Sr. Bernadette who joined Glenmary 70 years ago, and myself who joined 60 years ago. It is hard to believe those years have gone so fast! But they have been happy years and I am grateful to God for each one of them.

After those celebrations, I will be going to St. Meinrad's Benedictine Monastery to make a retreat for six days. This is something that each of the Glenmary Sisters do once a year. It is a special time of prayer when we can get close to God and renew our dedication to Him.

About the same time I finish my retreat, Sr. MargaretLola will be returning from a youth rally in Indianapolis. This is attended by young people from all over the country so it is a good opportunity to make Glenmary known to prospective vocations.

At this point, Sr. MargaretLola and I will both be ready to return to Georgia and get back to work.



Menifee County, Kentucky

Sister Kathleen

Since my last issue of Kaleidoscope much has happened. God has blessed us over again with two groups of volunteers, one from Pennsylvania and one more from Chicago. It is amazing how much they

accomplished in a few days. The weather was good and it meant they could get on with the jobs. In between the jobs, one group painted our chapel – it had been about ten years since it was worked on. This has given a whole new welcome. We are blessed to have our new Bishop John Stowe come and offer Mass. It is a big honor to have him come. He will meet the faithful who attend Mass, and he will go see our mission area and our Catholic Outreach Center, where I am blessed to have two wonderful ladies employed with me.

It is a year since I had my famous hip surgery. This has slowed me down so I cannot do all the extra work. I also had to deal with a cracked vertebrae – it is almost healed. Continue to keep me in prayer. My life is in God's hands.

Let's continue to pray for peace. God love you.



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sister Sharon

Grace and Blessings to you and yours on this very Autumn-feeling day! Since our last issue I have finished up my summer travels for mission appeals and have finally settled back here in Owensboro just in time for several meetings. A

few weeks ago we had our fall Combined Council meeting with the administration of the Glenmary Men's Community. This is always a favorite meeting as it gives the Glenmary Sisters' council and the Glenmary Men's council a chance to share with each other the joys and struggles, dreams and concerns that have come our way in our efforts to guide and direct the two Glenmary Communities according to God's plan. This time it was our turn to host the Glenmary Men's Council here in Owensboro. In the spring Sr. Rosemary, Sr. Darlene, Sr. Aida, and I will travel to Cincinnati to meet with them at their Headquarters.

On October 19th, the Feast of the North American

Martyrs and our Founder's Day, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Rosemary, Sr. Catherine, and I traveled to Sr. Aida's house in Morgantown, Kentucky, our newest mission. We were so excited that our big Community Feast Day coincided with the blessing of her new prayer chapel in her house. Her pastor, Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo, came that day to officially have a Mass and place the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle in her house. This is always such a joyful event for us, as it truly sets our houses apart as a religious house. We are so very grateful to the Bishop for allowing this.

Along with the 5 of us Sisters, one of our co-workers, John Calhoun, and a couple from the parish also attended the Mass. After the Mass, Sr. Aida had a wonderful meal and we truly enjoyed the time talking and sharing with each other the blessings and graces that God has bestowed on us.

These last few weeks we have been trying to get all the arrangements and details together for our fall Community Days. As you may remember from previous writings, twice a year we get together as a whole community to share with each other our thoughts, prayers, and visions for our future and where we have seen God's movement in our lives and the lives of our missions. This year those days are scheduled to be from November 8th – November 14th, ending with the Jubilee celebrations for Sr. Bernadette, who will be celebrating 70 years as a Glenmary Sister and Sr. Mary Ellen, who will be celebrating 60 years. Wow...what Amazing Women of Faith!

I have to admit that it is very hard for me to believe that we are already moving into November, yet here we are. Time marches on and my hope and prayer is that we never get ahead of God's movement in our lives and the lives of those around us. God Bless each and every one of you and thank you so much for being an important part of our Glenmary Sisters family.



Ohio Co/Butler Co, Kentucky

Sister Aida

At the time of printing, Sr. Aida was out of town gaining additional education to help her better serve the local Hispanic community in her new mission area.



Pemiscot County, Missouri

Sister Darlene

Greetings from the Bootheel of Missouri! I am writing to you from Mothers House in Hayti. It has been quite a busy morning thus far. Praise God!! Our weather has turned cool so the moms and grandmothers are now looking for warm clothes for their little ones. I am enjoying this change in the season, that is until those darn clocks were moved back an hour. I loved the extra hour of sleep that Sunday morning but hate the early darkness in the evenings! If only my internal clock were that easy to adjust. Oh, well, it will be what it will be and I will struggle through it.

I have received many beautiful donations of children's clothing from our Glenmary Guild, friends of Glenmary and the wonderful people we have met at our Mission

Appeals. I am always thankful for these gifts. I am one of those weird people who love to do laundry and clean house. I always look forward to tearing open the boxes, sorting the clothes while "ooing and aahing" at how cute they are. Then I get my special treat: I do laundry!! Izzie loves the piles of clothes on the floor and helps me get extra exercise by stealing items so that I will chase her.

I am enjoying our RCIA classes. We meet each Tuesday evening. We have four delightful students who are excited about learning and are eager to ask questions. This is a good challenge for me. I too continue to learn about my church and faith. We will be celebrating The Rite of Welcoming in a couple of weeks. I ask that you please keep these folks in your prayers as they continue this journey with our Lord to the Easter Sacraments. Please pray for Jane, Ladeen, and myself that we will have the wisdom to walk with them and to not interfere in God's plan for them. We must always remember we are His instruments and He is the musician.

The phone continues to ring with people seeking assistance. I received a call from a grandmother who finds herself caring for her five grandchildren. Her daughter is unable to care for them at present. The grandmother is on a fixed income which now has to cover six people instead of just one. She had received a notice from the electric company telling her that her power would be shut off if she did not pay her bill. She did not have enough to pay what

was needed. Thankfully, we were able to offer assistance and her power remains on. I am always humbled in these situations. Here is a person struggling to make it herself yet when a need arises she opens her doors and arms to welcome another. Yes they are her family, but all the same it is a faith-filled and loving act of kindness.

We are in the midst of planning for our fall Community Days. This year is extra special as we will celebrate Sr. Bernadette's 70 years and Sr. Mary Ellen's 60 years of religious life. They both are an inspiration to me and I am thankful to continue to learn from them. I look forward to being together for a week of prayer, sharing, playing, celebrating, and meetings with our co-workers. I am working on the schedule so there will be a couple of nap times thrown in - yea!!

It has been good to take the time to share with you some of the things that are happening here. Again I can't thank you enough for your continued generous support and prayers. What a beautiful song God plays for His children when we allow ourselves to be His instruments! You will remain in my prayers.

Retired



Sister Catherine

You may wonder what a week is like for me here at Carmel Home. My day begins early...as I get up every day at 5:00 a.m., go to chapel and pray, attend Mass at 6:55, breakfast, etc. Each week we have a half hour of exercises, play bingo 3 days, have a movie and popcorn on Thursday, and make Holy Hour on Friday at 3:30. The schedule is a little different on the weekend since Mass isn't until 9:30. Saturday and Sunday I get up at 6:00 a.m., pray morning prayer, spend some time in meditation, eat breakfast at 7:30, and then go to Mass.

On August 15th, we celebrated Sr. Rosemary's Feast Day by going to Red Lobster for dinner, then played 2 games of Continental Rummy. Cathy took me back to Carmel Home at 3:45. I made a Holy Hour in chapel, had supper, prayed evening prayer in chapel, had a snack, and then played cards with Catherine Simon in her room.

I called my sister, Sr. Evelyn (who is a Grand Rapids Dominican) on September 8 to wish her Happy Birthday. She said she could not hear a word I said.

On September 12, one of the Dominican Sisters from the infirmary where she lives called to say that Sr. Evelyn fell in her room. They thought she had had a stroke, but later it was discovered that she has a brain tumor. Please pray for her.

On September 18, Sisters Sharon, Bernadette, Kathleen, Rosemary, and I went to VOCARE dinner. The Vocare Dinner is a special fund-raising event that the Diocese of Owensboro's Vocation Office puts on to help raise funds for the men in the Seminary studying for the priesthood and for other men and women from the diocese who are in the beginning phases of religious life. We sat at the table next to Bishops Medley and McRaith, and other people. It was a wonderful evening and I had a great time.

On September 21, I went to the Center where I played Nertz with Sr. Kathleen early in the afternoon. That evening we Sisters, a parishioner from the Cathedral, Deacon Curry, and Mary Ann & Eddie O'Bryan gathered in our chapel for a special prayer service. Several years ago, September 21 was designated by the United Nations as an International Day for Peace. Since 2008, we have celebrated this day with a special prayer service here at the Center or for a few years at the Cathedral. This year, after the prayer, we enjoyed a meal prepared by Mary Ann and Cathy.

I stayed busy in October. First I helped the Glenmary Sisters Guild sell pumpkins after the Masses on October 4 at the Cathedral. Pumpkin sales is a main fundraiser for our Guild so they can help support our missions with needs throughout the year. (This year while we sold pumpkins at the Cathedral, the youth group and Deacon Curry washed cars to raise funds so they could go to NCYC.) Then, on October 6 and 7, Srs. Sharon, Kathleen, Rosemary, and I went to the funeral for Fr. Charlie Hughes in Cincinnati. Fr. Hughes was a Glenmary Priest and we try to go up to Cincinnati for their funerals when we are able. On October 19, Feast of the North American Martyrs, also known to us as Founder's Day, Srs. Sharon, Rosemary, Bernadette, and I went to Morgantown for the blessing of the chapel altar and tabernacle in Sr. Aida's home. It was great to be back in Morgantown, since I was once missioned there, although everything is very different now. Sr. Aida did take me to see the Church and that was nice. On October 22, co-worker Stacey took me to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall to play Bunco. I won a Nativity Set with my lucky ticket. On October 24, Srs. Sharon, Rosemary, Bernadette, and I went to

Immaculate Church for a special Mass to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, followed by a delicious dinner. Bishop Medley was the main celebrant at Mass, while Frs. Frank Ruff, Fid Levri, John Vaughan, and about 20 other priests con celebrated. Gifts of cash were given to some Sisters after dinner and I was given \$20. I gave it to Sr. Sharon and she bought a pizza with it for our supper at the Center. I stayed overnight and on Sunday, October 25, we went to Blessed Sacrament Church for Mass and lunch, then I returned to Carmel Home.

Now I am preparing for our Community Days which begin on November 8.



Sister Rosemary

My latest update on myself since my last sending out an issue of KALEIDOSCOPE is to tell you that my principal work is devoted to the archives. I am following the guidelines written in an archives manual that I ordered some years ago. I have completed some work

that required immediate attention, and now with the help of the guidelines, I can begin to work with sorting and organizing of the letters, documents, and other items that have been retained awaiting someone to determine what is necessary to preserve in order to properly document the history of the Glenmary Sisters.

I have done more traveling, mainly to Smithland. I have taken some Ragu products to Helping Hands which is continuing to be open three days of the week. My latest trip down I took some bags of flour and salt which had been turned in to our Center in Owensboro from a group of local school children. With the upcoming holidays, these were some welcomed items, as it will be useful to the families still served by this food pantry, and it also allowed me to reunite with members I have worked with in the past.

The other joy has been to visit a couple of friends I have gotten to know over the years. The joy is tempered as I walk into the house to greet my retired Marine officer in a wheel chair. It has been seven years for him and his wife who has been devoted to his care. She was determined he would not go to the military hospital, so she learned all that she had to do to give him the care he needs. She has done a superb job with him, so when I go there we have a meal together, we play a game of Scrabble, and

when I can spend the night it is good. We have continued our weekly note exchange.

So, I am grateful for what I have, and now I must leave to go pray with my Sisters!



Sister Bernadette

The leaves have been turning for a while now, deep reds, vibrant yellows and various shades in between. Summer has quickly passed us by once again. I have been keeping myself busy these past months. My little doggie friend Izzie was a guest here at the mother house for a little time. I take full responsibility to see to it she is comfortable! It is a little difficult to get deeply involved in my crocheting while she visits as she perfectly fits onto my lap. I resume my scarf-making once she goes home. I truly enjoy the benefits of both of those endeavors.

We Sisters will be gathering soon for our Community Days. I so look forward to spending time with all of my Sisters. This year we are going to finish our days with a Jubilee celebration for myself and Sr. Mary Ellen. I am looking forward to sharing this time with everyone.

As quickly as time seems to pass, Christmas season will be upon us very soon. I shall start to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, but also, making crescent coffee cakes!



Many like to give by the end of the year for tax purposes. If December 31st sneaks up on you, remember, you can donate online. Just go to GlenmarySisters.org and click the Donate button. Thank you for all you do to serve the Lord and His people. You are a Blessing!



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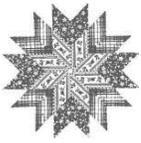
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