

KINSHIP

THE MAGAZINE OF CATHOLIC GLENMARY SISTERS

Spring 2022 - Free Publication



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ON THE COVER:

Cover from Fall 1969 Kinship



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KINSHIP

Spring 2022

Vol. 62, No. 1

The Glenmary Sisters, founded by Fr. William Howard Bishop in 1941, are a religious community of women working to establish a Catholic presence in the home mission areas of rural and small town areas, primarily in the Appalachian and southern regions of the United States of America. Glenmary is actually a nickname from our roots in Glendale, Ohio (near Cincinnati) and special devotion to the Blessed Mother. Our formal name is Home Mission Sisters of America. Working in cooperation with the Glenmary Priests and Brothers, the two communities remain financially independent of each other. *KINSHIP* is published by the Glenmary Sisters to inform their readers of the social and spiritual needs of people living in their missions.

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A Message from Mother Superior

"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to." — J.

R. R. Tolkein

In a few days, I will embark on a journey to see my eldest sister and brother-in-law in Port Townsend, Washington. They have made the flight reservations so all I have to do is prepare for the trip. I have been contemplating what I would need to take with me i.e. clothing, toiletries, prayer books, and reading material. When to leave for the airport so I do not miss the early morning flight. What will the temperatures be and will I need a warm jacket? What do I want to do and see while there? I have also found myself traveling back in time, remembering our childhood, different things my sister and I did together, other visits we have had, fun times and sad times. A journey is both looking forward and looking back.

As we walk our life journey, we face many paths and side roads along our way. We may choose one and get to a dead end causing us to retrace our steps. We may choose one that looks like it would be beautiful and pleasant only to find ourselves in unseen perils. On each path we choose there will be rough spots, maybe mountains to climb, or obstacles to find our way around.

A journey can lead to new discoveries and insights into one's life. We have just completed the Lenten journey. During this time, we reflected on our life and relationship with God. We take time to look into our past, the present, and what lies ahead. Always seeking the right and true path that will lead us to the promises of the Resurrected Christ. We must have the tools we need to find that path and stay on it. We must be rooted in prayer and scripture. Frequent reception of the Sacraments is our sustenance. We also need the fellowship of other Christians to help us when we are lost and to encourage us when we stumble or fall.

We are on this journey together. Let us pray for one another. My prayer for you and for myself, is that we will seek out time to relish in conversation with our Lord in prayer and reading of scripture. We will hunger and thirst for the intimate encounter with Christ in the Sacraments, and we will surround ourselves with companions that will truly help us on our journey to heaven. One special companion, who will never lead us astray, is our Lord's and our mother Mary.

Blessings and Peace,

Sister Darlene

Journeying... going out

This is our Life.

And I pause and reflect...

We speak of poverty, of being poor

Of going out to the poor

And I wonder if we won't learn

That the most profound sense of poverty

Is in just this fact:

Of accepting ourselves as human persons...

Each day accepting and choosing

To be more human, more person.

To risk the poverty of our person

The poverty of openness

The poverty of encounter

To risk being known to others.

Not to risk is too costly

Journeying...

This is our life. And I pause and reflect...

By Sr. Pat Leighton

As archivist I took the opportunity to read past issues of our KINSHIP magazine and was edified how the Sisters used their “time and talent” to meet the needs of the people they served. I was able to fit their achievements into five categories: health care, structured and unstructured social work, work with persons with mental and physical challenges, Catholic nurture, and Hispanic ministry.

Our first mission was in Russellville, Kentucky. In 1947 Father Bishop, our founder, was asked to send Sisters to start a school. He had to think about this request before signing on. He didn’t want an assignment that would involve the services of many Sisters and would take up a great deal of time. He accepted the request as long as there were other Sisters who would take on unstructured social work and religious education. The Sisters concentrated their social work around Russellville and then travelled to various other towns to teach religious education. One of these towns was Guthrie, Kentucky – but more on that later.



Sisters’ house in Russellville, Kentucky.

HEALTH CARE



In the late 1960s, the Sisters began a Home Nursing Service in Hayesville, North Carolina.

They would go to the homes of the poor to provide basic healthcare, and give them much-needed encouragement.



Guthrie, Kentucky was a booming town until the railroad moved on. One of the tragedies was the loss of health care facilities. In the 1970s, Sister Mary Joseph set out to alleviate the suffering of the people.

She went to Vanderbilt University to find medical students who would conduct a Health Fair. It was well-attended and the enormity of health problems was recognized. From there, Sr. Mary Joseph formed a health council. Soon after a Health Clinic was opened and provided services for a long time.

Sr. Martha Schuler at the Health Council Office.

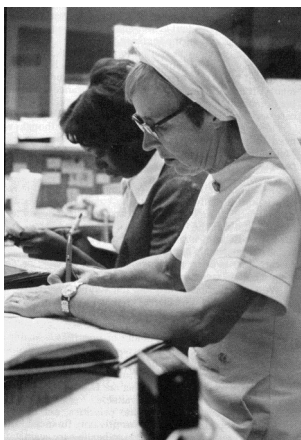


Aida Badillo Lorenzo (now Sister Aida) was a Glenmary Sister Lay missionary who directed the Interfaith Center in Elkton, Kentucky. The center provided low-cost clothing, food and household items. Because most of the funds she had were being used for prescription drugs and doctor visits, she quickly saw the obstacles low-income families faced in regards to health care access. By 1999, Aida had assembled a local group of interested people into a board to begin planning for a free clinic which was called the Helping Hands Health Clinic. It is still in existence as the Blount Rural Health Center.



ABOVE: Lay Missioner Aida at the Interfaith Center.

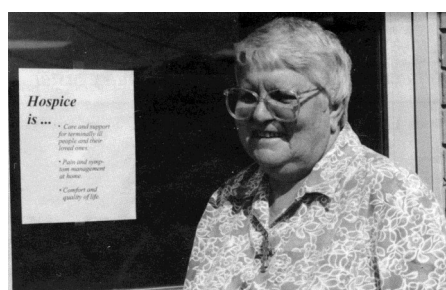
Other ways health care needs were met in the missions were:



LEFT: Sr. Dorothy Hendershot served as part-time RN at the local hospital.

BELOW: Sr. Martha Schuler was a Hospice volunteer.

RIGHT: Sr. Mary Ellen Barrette served as a home health aide with St. Joseph Hospital.



STRUCTURED AND UNSTRUCTURED SOCIAL WORK

There were two Sisters who had degrees in social work – Sr. Teresa Marie Tretter and Sr. Mary Joseph Wade. Both had different ideas about social work in rural areas.

Sr. Teresa Marie served in Rowan County, Kentucky in Appalachia. She met with the poor and ministered to their needs. In 1974, as the numbers of people seeking her help grew, she realized the need for a Center from which she could provide the basic needs of clothing, food, household furnishings, individual and family counseling, and eventually classes teaching budgeting. The Center began as a one-room clothing room. Soon a larger building was needed. The Christian Social Services Center included clothing, a food bank, utility assistance, housing alternatives, and so much more. The miracle is that the CSS center is still a functioning resource for Rowan County and the surrounding counties.



LEFT AND BELOW: Christian Social Service Center then and now!
RIGHT: Sr. Teresa Marie doing home visits in the missions.



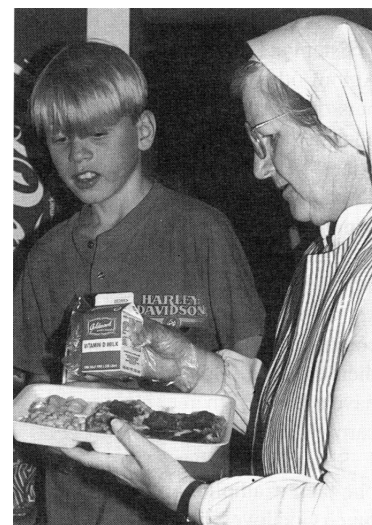
Sr. Mary Joseph took a “buckshot” approach in Guthrie, Kentucky. She saw a need and didn’t hesitate to address it. In addition to the health clinic, she almost singlehandedly started the Senior Center to provide activities for the many elderly residents. Sister started the Second Hand Rose Shop, a place where the poor could mingle and talk to the Sisters about their needs. But the most amazing contribution was forming a council to provide affordable housing for the seniors and low-income families. The Pennyrile Village, consisting of 48 units for seniors and 52 units for multi-family use, operated by HUD, opened in 1985. It is the crown jewel of the town.



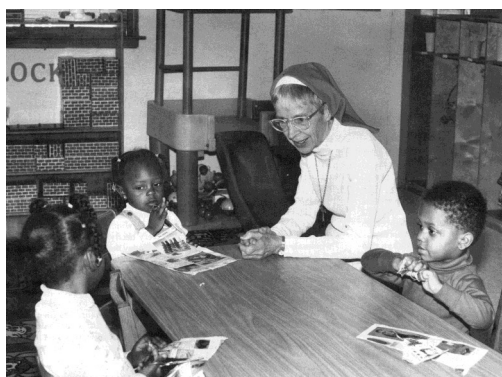
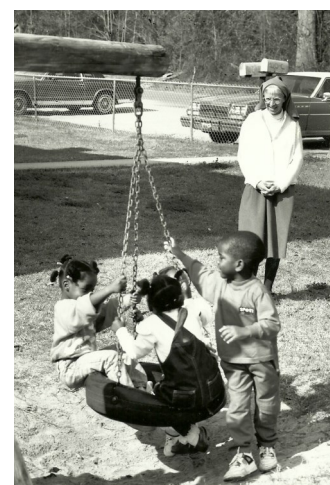
Sr. Therese Elliott at the 2nd Hand Rose Shop.



Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck provided tax return assistance in each of the missions she served. She started the Feed-a-Kid program in Guthrie and on Sundays she could be seen after Mass distributing bread and cakes donated by a store in the area.



In Spring 1970, Sr. Dorothy Hendershot started the first integrated preschool day care center for low-income families in Waynesboro, Georgia. It began in the parish hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Eventually she secured funding and helped to find and purchase a separate building for it. Her main goals were to give women a chance to find employment and to promote the growth and development of each child's spiritual, mental, and physical capabilities. God smiled on this endeavor.



After arriving in Livingston County, Kentucky, Sr. Rosemary Esterkamp became acquainted with a group of people who were assisting the poor through the PACS office (Pennyrile Allied Community Services). They operated a center called The Livingston County Self Help Clothing Center. Through networking, Sister was able to help secure a better building for the Center. She was instrumental in starting the Helping Hands Food Pantry in Smithland, Kentucky, which is still serving the poor in Livingston County.

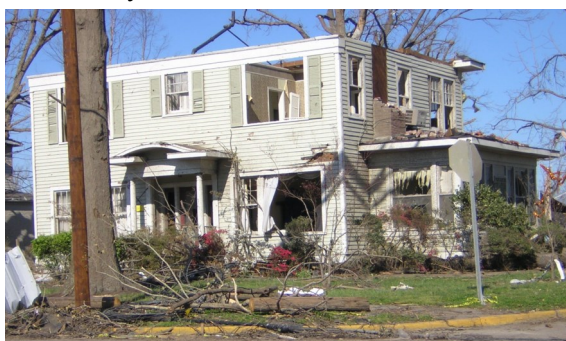
Sr. Rosemary serving at Helping Hands.

Sr. Sharon Miller and I were the first Catholic Sisters to minister in Webster County, Kentucky. We lived in Providence. There was already a social service outlet, so there was no need to open another one. We searched the newspapers and phone book to find agencies that were serving both children and adults. We took a “womb to tomb” approach contacting the Health Department to the Nursing Home. The questions were the same – “What do you offer the community?” and “How can we help?”



ABOVE: Sr. Sharon and Sr. Pat searching the newspapers.

Sisters Darlene Presley and Catherine Schoenborn were the first two Glenmary Sisters to minister in Pemiscot County, Missouri. This



mission was opened in June of 2005. On April 2, 2006 the town was hit by a devastating tornado. The Sisters immersed themselves in both the short term and long-term relief efforts.



“You really need to do something for the single moms,” a parishioner said. The thoughts of an outreach center started brewing in Sister Darlene’s mind. After much searching, a suitable place was found in nearby Hayti, Missouri. That was the birth of Mother’s House, a center for moms and children which made available children’s clothing, baby items, maternity clothes, diapers, and other resources when needed. Today Sr. Sharon Miller manages Mother’s House.



On September 13, 2019 in Frenchburg, Kentucky, the Glenmary Sisters opened Little Miracles Center for moms and children. Glenmary Sister Co-Missioner Sue Brown is now the manager. There is a constant flow of mothers and grandmothers coming in to talk and look for items for their little ones.

Sue works with the local agencies which refer their clients who need assistance to Little Miracles Center.





Sr. Mary Ellen Barrette outside the Catholic Thrift Shop.

There were many other Centers started: The Catholic Thrift Store in Millen, Georgia; the Christian Social Services in Owingsville, Kentucky founded by Sr. Kathleen Mulchrone, which is still growing; and the Mountain Christian Thrift Store in Frenchburg, Kentucky. Each of these centers provided a gathering spot where people could share their stories and access much-needed assistance in the form of clothing, household items, a compassionate listening ear, food, financial assistance for utilities, rent, medicines, etc.



Srs. Sharon Miller and Kathleen Mulchrone

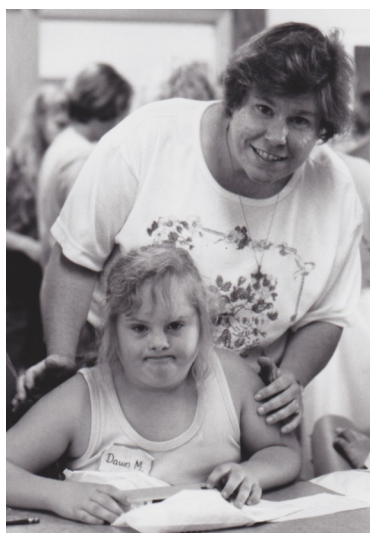
So you see, social work, whether structured or unstructured, plays an important role in the ministry of the Glenmary Sisters!



WORK WITH PERSONS WHO ARE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

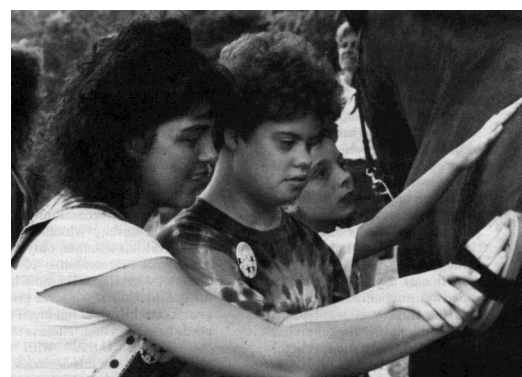
Sr. Teresita Pionke had experienced first-hand the plight of persons with special challenges. For Sister Terry, as she was affectionately called, believed "that each student is a person with God-given potential which may be limited, but it can and must be developed." In

1970, when she came to the Waynesboro, Georgia mission she looked for opportunities to serve them. She joined with a group of Burke County citizens who were trying to find a facility in which they could offer basic needs for this special population. It was named the Burke County Training Center. Another one of Sister's dreams was to set up a group home for women. Her dream came true in Midville, Georgia. The women learned household chores, grooming skills, and went on outings – all under the supervision of trained volunteers.



Sr. Pat Leighton

Another way of helping special needs children and adults was by offering Special Kids Camps in the summer. The first one in 1986 was coordinated by former Glenmary Sister Mae Koenig in Fayetteville, Tennessee. Activities included exercises, games, and crafts. On special days they went bowling or fishing, and they always looked forward to slipping and sliding on the water slide provided by the fire department. A few years later volunteer Mary Wescot and I started a camp in Owingsville, Kentucky. Each day was filled with fun activities. I solicited the help of the Ministerial Association to provide a lunch and a brief sermon each day. The camp is still in existence 25 years later.



CATHOLIC NURTURE



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Sr. Sharon Miller with the youth at Vacation Bible School.

In our mission areas the Catholic population is about 2% of the total population. In addition to all the other ministries, it is important to care for our parishioners. Keeping their faith alive is vital. Most of the Sisters are involved in faith formation of children and adults. Special emphasis is placed on the programs preparing the children and adults to receive the sacraments. Vacation Bible Schools and parish religious education are the norm. Our adults, too, must be encouraged to take part in the liturgy. One challenge is to invite them to be lectors, Eucharistic ministers, etc.



HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

Former Glenmary Sister Mary Lynne Wrocklage was very active with the Hispanic community in the Mt. Pleasant, Texas mission. She wrote "Glenmarians must try to learn a new language and the culture that surrounds it." Sr. Bernadette is an example of this challenge. She spent six weeks in Mexico. She lived with a Mexican family and was eager to speak and listen in Spanish. She brought the skills she learned to the mission and was successful in ministering to the Mexican people.

Presently, in Morgantown, Kentucky, Sr. Aida has an active ministry working with the Hispanics and Latinos in the surrounding area. She serves as interpreter and as a liaison for the special needs of this population. For their spiritual needs, she has developed a Religious Formation Program for both the children and the adults.



Sr. Aida leading the Rosary.



Sr. Aida helping with Religious Education Class.

The Sisters participate in religious celebrations and activities in the missions.

RIGHT: Sr. Aida and Parishioners celebrating Epiphany.



The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12. The celebration commemorates the appearance of Mary to St. Juan Diego in 1531.



CONCLUSION

In this article I have given you a tour of the ministries of the Glenmary Sisters. All of this activity springs from a life of prayer. If I sound like I am boasting, I boast in the Lord who guides our Sisters every step of the way. Thanks be to God.

ADOPT-A-SISTER PROGRAM



By adopting a Glenmary Sister, you can become more fully involved in the work of spreading Christ's message. Here's how it works. Choose a Glenmary Sister as your adopted missioner. Decide how much and how often you want to give. Pray for her and write to her. She will write to you and keep you in prayer. For more information, return the coupon or email Janet@GlenmarySisters.org



Please send me more information on the Adopt-A-Sister program.

Use the enclosed envelope or just email Janet at janet@glenmarysisters.org for more information.

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“...For with God All things are possible.” Mark 10:27

By Sr. Darlene Presley

Last fall I spoke at St. Phillip parish in China Springs, Texas regarding our ministry. It was part of our annual Mission Appeal we are invited to do in various dioceses.

After Mass I was approached by a parishioner, Melinda, who was very excited. She shared that when I spoke about the missions having food pantries, it made her think about what a blessing it would be to offer the folks fresh vegetables. She asked if I had heard of Tower Gardens. I told her I had not. She proceeded to share with me they use them at the Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School in Waco. She explained they allow for the growth of fresh vegetables year round. They share the produce with the poor in the area of the school. She gave me the website so I could explore more. She also asked if we would be interested in having them in our missions. I told her when I returned to Owensboro I would look at the website and give her a call.

When I returned to the office the following Monday, Melinda had spoken with Susan, my Administrative Assistant and with Janet, our Development Director regarding the Tower Gardens. I called and she excitedly told me she kept praying about how to get them into the missions and shared her prayer with a few parishioners and a friend of hers who had moved away from the area. By 5 PM that day, we received donations covering the total cost for eleven of them. ELEVEN!

The boxes arrived in early November. Knowing how busy the month of December always is in the missions, we decided we would begin to set up the gardens after the first of the year.

The first one was set up our Eastern Kentucky mission. Co-Missioner Sue Brown immediately began planting.

We are in the process of getting the others into the missions. Soon we will be able to bless our folks with fresh vegetables all year round.



Seeds are first planted in the Seedling Starter Kit before being placed on the tower. Water is pumped throughout. Both the pump and lights are on a timer. It doesn't take long to grow your own fresh vegetables.



Mission Happenings

A Lenten Retreat in Western Kentucky

On February 26, the children at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Morgantown, Kentucky attended a Lenten retreat. The children learned the meaning of Lent. Their day began with Sr. Aida leading them in praying the Rosary. The children then went to classrooms with their catechists for lessons and crafts. They enjoyed a pizza lunch. The day ended with praying the Stations of the Cross where the families of the children joined them. The outdoor stations were made by one of the parishioners.



Mission Happenings

Learning about vocations in Missouri

The students at Immaculate Conception School in New Madrid, Missouri were learning about vocations. Lynnette Fowler, the school principal, invited Sr. Sharon to talk with them. She illustrated the beauty of sharing their talents and gifts for the good of others.



In Eastern Kentucky

Shelves at Little Miracles Center were constructed by our friends from Saint Maximilian Kolbe in Liberty Township, Ohio. Not only did they provide us with new shelves, they also power-washed the Glenmary Sister house and stained the front porch, ramp, and back porch. In addition Kathleen and her father brought food for the pantry and Kathleen and Evie sorted infant trousers and hats. After a hard day of work, we stuffed ourselves with a hearty lasagna dinner and bread and dessert. We're so blessed to have so many good friends from so many different areas. We remain thankful.



The Beauty of the Church in Action

By Sr. Sharon Miller

Our God is a God of surprises! And many times over my years as a Glenmary Sister, I have been the recipient and/or facilitator of those surprises. Around April or May of last year, I received a phone call from Fr. Scott Sunnenburg, the vocation director for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He asked if it would be possible to find a few days of service work for some of the seminarians during August. This was exciting and surprise enough since in our missions there are always projects that need tending and with Covid-19, we have had to cancel the summer volunteer groups that we usually host.

As I spoke with Fr. Scott, I immediately thought of several projects I needed assistance with at Mother's House, our outreach center in Hayti, Missouri. I told him about the projects at Mother's House. I thought, "Finally, I will have some help in getting some of this done."

I don't know if you have ever had this experience, but a priest friend of mine told me once, "If you ever want to picture God laughing, just make plans." Well this was one of those times. God had a completely different set of plans for those seminarians.

Back in 2014, a couple of our young children who had been coming to Mass on Saturday evening with their grandad had asked to be baptized and brought into the Church. Their mom, Holly, although not Catholic, agreed for me to teach them about the Catholic faith, allowing them to embrace the faith of their grandad. Since then, I have been praying for a way to reach out to her and pique her interest as well. God decided to use the volunteer experience of these seminarians, Fr. Scott and, much to our surprise, Bishop Edward Rice as well.

It seems that a few years prior, Holly inherited her family home from an aunt and that is where they have been living. One day after Mass, I was talking with the children and they told me their mom was trying to add on some much-needed space to the house by collecting wood from sites around the

area where houses were being torn down. The next week I drove over to speak with her. She told me the back room where the kids had been sleeping was next to the laundry and kitchen area, and apparently there had been a leak she didn't know was there. She began tearing out walls and found there was mold and mildew. With the help of a friend and watching online videos, she tore out the whole back area of the house that was affected.

With that being done and the children getting older, she decided this would be a good time to do some much-needed restructuring of the house and thus began gathering the wood from demolition sites around the area. She obtained a building permit and was in the process of fitting together the frame work of the addition.

After seeing the amount of work she was undertaking, and the fact she was pretty much doing it on her own with no real funds to put toward it, I knew God was telling me my projects at Mother's House could wait. This was more pressing. I called Fr. Scott to discuss the change in plans and learned the group would include a permanent deacon who was a carpenter by trade and his assistant. I shouldn't have been surprised. God doesn't do things half-way. I couldn't wait to tell Holly and the kids that even though the volunteers would be there only for three days, they were going to have a bishop, a priest, six seminarians, and a deacon all coming to help on their house. As you can imagine, they were delighted.

Monday August 9th, Fr. Scott and his crew rolled in and I took the carpenter, Deacon Jim Farrar, and his assistant over to the worksite so they could assess what would be needed and what they could hope to accomplish in the short time they were going to be available.

Sadly, the first thing Deacon Jim realized was all Holly's hard work putting together the frame of the addition needed to be deconstructed as it was not stable enough. I so appreciated how gentle he was

at explaining to her that although what she had accomplished was good, it would not be strong enough to sustain the rooms she wanted for her children.

The next day Bishop Rice, Fr. Scott, Deacon Jim, his assistant, and Seminarians Daniel Dunn, Nicholas



Dcn. Charles helping Bishop Rice.

Newton, Deacon Jesse Hiett, Deacon Charles Peirano, Robert Hearnese III, and Ryan Cortez gathered with me and a few Sacred Heart parishioners for Mass before heading off to begin the workday. In his homily, Bishop Rice reminded the seminarians that August 10th is the date we celebrate the Feast of St.

Lawrence, a deacon, who was martyred during the persecution of Christians in 258 A.D. In the early church, deacons were to serve the poor. How fitting it was to begin this service project on such a feast day. After all, we are called to be servant leaders.

It was a wonderful couple of days! The family couldn't get over the idea that these volunteers, were in fact a bishop, a priest, a deacon and six seminarians. At some point someone mentioned



the fact there was "holy sweat" being poured into the floor and walls of these rooms.

When the work was done, tears filled Holly's eyes as she spoke to me about how much she appreciated all they did. There is still a lot that has to be done before she and the children can move in again, but at least the floor and frame work is sturdy enough to support the walls and the rest of what needs to take place.



Sr. Sharon working hard.



The work crew and family

During these days, Holly, her children, and her mother experienced the love of Christ and the beauty of the Catholic Church in action. Only God knows the impact this will have on their lives as they move forward.

Since writing this article, Nicholas Newton has celebrated his Diaconate Ordination.

Seminarian Reflections

By Rev. Mr. Charles Peirano

Each August before returning to their seminary studies, the seminarians of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau gather with the Bishop and vocation director to spend time together in prayer and fraternity. In 2020 these plans were obviously placed on hold along with the rest of civilization. This year it was rumored that “things would look different”- and we all wondered what the bishop had in mind.

Bishop Rice proposed that our usual social gathering be paired with assisting one of our neighbors as well. Bishop Rice commented, “It was a different experience for me as Bishop, spending time with seminarians on a work project instead of socializing. I felt this project gave all of us a focus on someone in need, a concrete encounter with Christ, all played out as we hammered nails and laid a new floor for someone with little resources. I hope to make this an annual event.”

Seminarian, Deacon Jesse Hiett said, “The service project was a great opportunity for fraternal bonding. This experience provided an awareness of the great needs of people in our diocese. It

gave us the time to serve people in our diocese and learn new practical skills that the seminary cannot teach us.”

I believe that the Bishop said it best, that through our different plans we were able to focus on our neighbor in need; which for us was a true encounter with Christ. The service project was organized by Sister Sharon. This was another highlight of the week; to meet Sister Sharon and see the great work she is committed to completely. Many of us had no idea that the Glenmary Sisters were doing such heroic work for those most in need in the diocese.

Pope Francis sums up the work of the Glenmary Sisters: “Dear friends, look at the *real heroes* who come to light in these days: they are not famous, rich and successful people; rather, they are those who are giving themselves in order to serve others.”

These days of service left us realizing the real need to daily serve those around us; especially those in need.



Rev. Mr. Charles Peirano

Rev. Mr. Jesse Hiett

Rev. Mr. Nicholas Newton



Robert Hearn III, seminarian

Daniel Dunn, seminarian

Photos by Bruce Stidham

Friends' Blessings!

By Janet Willis

I want to show you a few of the lovely gifts we've received. We never know from one day to the next what our friends will send for the missions. I immediately recognized the crocheted scarves, mittens, and caps, but not what looked like a beaded hand-warmer (top row right). That's a Twiddle Muff.

Quilts arrived – two with dog motifs. You can't go wrong with dog motifs! Handmade dresses came in from two different friends. The set in bottom left are Pillowcase Dresses. This was something new to me.

We were also blessed with Prayer Shawls and Prayer Blankets. These were made by parishioners at St. John of Rochester Church in Fairport, New York.

Thank you to everyone who shares with the missions. We are so very honored by your love.



Twiddle Muffs are knitted or crocheted bands with items attached. Alzheimer or dementia patients twiddle them in their hands. They provide visual, tactile, and sensory stimulation at the same time as keeping hands warm.





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