

# *Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together* **KALEID SCOPE**

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates

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*Owensboro, Kentucky*

**Sister Darlene**

Greetings from the Motherhouse and Glenmary Center. I pray your Christmas celebrations were joyful and blessed. I felt like I was celebrating Christmas in Georgia with the warm temperatures we enjoyed.

The past few months have been good and somewhat hectic. The day before the Thanksgiving holidays, Sr. Rosemary and I went on a great adventure to our favorite destination: our local library. We checked out several exciting mysteries and on our way out the door, our plans for enjoying our treasures took a drastic turn. Sister fell and we ended up in the ER with a broken leg. She had surgery on Thanksgiving morning. She was a trooper. I am very thankful it was an easy repair! While she rested, I did read a couple of our books.

The most amazing part of our Thanksgiving story surrounded our meal. I was contacted by a good friend who wanted to gift us with a meal. Her idea was to either provide a pre-cooked Thanksgiving meal or a special food box with a variety of treats the Sisters loved. I was leaning towards the latter because I knew it would give Srs. Rosemary and Catherine something they'd truly enjoy. Our dear friend felt a strong desire to do both. In the meantime, Sr. Sharon had purchased all the fixings and turkey for a Thanksgiving dinner with Sr. Pat in Missouri. She was helping a family purchase medications and they happened to say they had no time to shop for Thanksgiving so she gave them what she had purchased. She later received a call from a parishioner who had ordered a pre-cooked Thanksgiving dinner to take to a gathering, when she learned her son was preparing a meal, so she gave hers to Sr. Sharon and Sr. Pat. They no sooner received their meal gift, when I called to let them know about Sr. Rosemary and that I needed them to stay with the other Sisters. Luckily they were able to pass their newly acquired meal on to another family who had not been able to get to the store. So, when Srs. Sharon and Pat arrived, there was a full meal that only needed to be heated. Little did we know we would be involved in such a great turkey swap!

December brought the celebration of Sr. Bernadette's 98th birthday. Our co-workers treated her with pizza and her favorite ice-cream. Srs. Kathleen, Bernadette, and I packed up her second party and went to the hospital to celebrate with Sr. Rosemary. December also was filled with picking up and delivering Christmas donations for the missions. John, Sr. Kathleen, Janet, and I went to the Owensboro Catholic K-3 campus to receive the wonderful gifts the children purchased for our missions. It was a delight to see their smiling faces as they placed gifts in the trailer. The school has been providing gifts for the past several years. I traveled to St. James Parish in White Oak outside of Cincinnati to pick up gifts from the parishioners' giving tree. I also traveled to our mission in eastern Kentucky to deliver donations to our Little Miracles Center. It was good to spend a little time with Sue Brown and her volunteers. John delivered the donations to our Missouri mission. In the midst of all the delivering, Sr. Bernadette and I worked on making the Crescent Coffee Cakes.

All the Sisters gathered in Owensboro on Christmas Day. We packaged up the meal I prepared and transported it and ourselves to the Rehab Center to spend time and eat with Sr. Rosemary. It was good to finally be together for at least a little while.

Sr. Pat remained in Owensboro to assist me with a couple of projects while Sr. Sharon visited family and friends in Louisville. It was wonderful to have her with us to celebrate the New Year. Not a one of us remained awake to welcome the new year. Even Izzie was in bed snoring by 9:00!

I wish you all good things in this new year. I am so very grateful for your prayers, love and ongoing support of the beautiful people in the missions. You remain in my prayers. Happy New Year!!!



### *Owensboro, Kentucky*

#### **Sister Kathleen**

Greetings from Owensboro. I pray you had a good and holy experience for Christmas. As you know I am semi-retired but that does not stop me from getting involved in many ways. God is so good and my health is just great.

The day before Thanksgiving, Sr. Rosemary had a bad fall. She broke her leg and is now in a rehab facility. Keep her in prayer as she continues to do all of the exercises. That is not easy for her.

Here at our Center we have been busy making sure we continue the good works of reaching out to the less fortunate. People are so generous with their time, talents, and financial support. Every day the Christmas supplies kept arriving at our office. This meant time spent sorting out all the new items, clothing, toys, household supplies, and much more to give out to our missions. Many items came from parishes. They set up their Christmas trees, put out tags with the sizes and ages of those in need, then parishioners bought and donated items to meet those needs. We then picked up the items and delivered them to the missions. There are a lot of young folks who help, plus the families let their children do the shopping. This so a wonderful way to teach what it means to help others and teach them the real meaning of Christmas.

Christmas day we packed up our Christmas dinner and shared it at the rehab center with Sr. Rosemary. It was a surprise and joy to share the food and pray with her.

For the New Year 2020 let's continue to pray for peace, an end to violence, and reach out to the many needy folks in our own country. Pray for many who suffer with cancer and other serious illnesses. Be assured of my prayers and gratitude for all you do for our missions. Until we meet again, may Jesus hold you in the palm of His hand.

### *Menifee County, Kentucky*

#### **Sue Brown, Mission Co-Worker**

Happy New Year from our Eastern Kentucky Mission! As we welcome winter and our new year 2020, we can't help but look back with gratitude to 2019 and how our dear Lord has blessed us. The many groups that traveled to our mission over the summer completed numerous projects for the poor of our area. We gave an old house new life and constructed several decks and ramps. We also gave our shop a new look and a new name; Little Miracles Center for Moms and Kids was opened on September 13th.

Since our opening in September, we have welcomed over 100 moms and dads, grandparents and children. We offer kids clothes, diapers, baby supplies, toys, bedding and more to help with the various needs of their families. It has been such a joy to meet the young mothers and their babies as well as many grandmothers who have taken on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren. We are making lots of new friends that keep our Little Miracles Center busy.

With the kind donations that came our way, our Christmas Giveaway on December 17th and 19th was a great success. We remain grateful for all of the donations, prayers, and support that help us continue our work in Menifee and surrounding counties.



### *Ohio & Butler Counties, Kentucky*

#### **Sister Aida**

In our Butler County Mission besides helping the people in a variety of ways, I direct the faith formation program, prepare parents and godparents for the baptism of the children, give continuing formation classes to the catechists, and teach adult faith formation. This year we again had the Epiphany party and something new was added this time. The younger children sang a song they had learned in their class. The parents were very proud seeing their child perform.

I have the good (bad) habit when I go out to open the door a little, lock it, step outside, and close it. On Sunday afternoon that is just what I did, only I was just taking the trash out and found myself locked out of the house. A neighbor tried to unlock the door but could not. She called someone she knew but he could not, so finally she called the police. They could not unlock the door but by God's grace they were able to open a window, climb in, and open the door from the inside. Thank God for the police and the sheriff. God bless them. Thank you for your support. God Bless.



### *Pemiscot County, Missouri*

#### **Sister Sharon**

Greetings from the Bootheel of Missouri! I hope and pray your New Year is off to a good start. It is so hard to believe this is 2020! I was glad to be on my home visit to Louisville once again for the week between Christmas and New Year's. I was able to spend time visiting with family and friends who have supported me on this faith journey and my life as a Glenmary Sister.

This past Christmas was a busy time for me, but also very graced-filled time. Through your generosity and God's amazing grace more than 90 families were able to have the joy of seeing their children's faces light up with delight as they awoke to a Christmas morning with presents to unwrap. This year along with the usual gifts of an outfit, socks, shoes, and a toy or age-appropriate gift for each child, we were able through a very special donation to give each family a laundry basket of some household items such as detergent, fabric softener, cleaners, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and other assorted items.

Each year I'm amazed at the gifts and items that come in so we can help families who for one reason or another find themselves in the situation of not knowing how they are going to provide a Merry Christmas for their children. While Christmas has become more and more commercialized with everyone wanting and expecting big ticket items, we, the Glenmary Sisters are blessed to see so many of you have held onto the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and gift-giving. The families we serve in our mission areas are the direct recipients of your wonderful generosity. Once again this year I wanted to make sure the parents and guardians realized it is because of God's unconditional love and through the working of that grace and love in the wonderful folks who support our ministry that these items were made available. Therefore, with the help of members of a local church, we took time as each person came to pick up their items to stop and pray for each child by name and for any particular concern of that family. Many seemed surprised and grateful we would take this time with them and tears of joy were shed on more than one occasion. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you for sharing the Love and Joy of Christ our Savior with families who do not always realized that God is truly with them!



*Retired*

**Sister Catherine**

I had a wonderful Thanksgiving at the motherhouse with Srs. Darlene, Kathleen, and Bernadette. December at Carmel Home was delightful! We were treated to caroling by children several times, and once by a group of adults. Signing and addressing Christmas cards is always a big part of the season. On December 18 I wrapped gifts for residents and delivered them a few days later. A group of residents went on an outing to see Christmas lights. Panther Creek Park had a particularly beautiful display. On December 23 I enjoyed a party with Glenmary co-workers and Sisters at the motherhouse. All the Glenmary Sisters had a special lunch with Sr. Rosemary at the rehab center where she is recovering from a broken leg. On Christmas morning Sr. Aida picked me up and we spent the day at Guadalupe House singing carols, eating goodies, playing cards, and opening our Christmas gifts. On New Year's Day, I went to the motherhouse to celebrate the holiday.

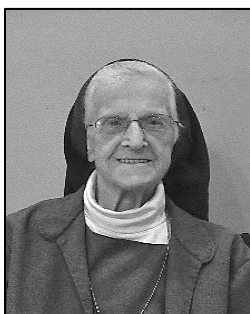


**Sister Rosemary**

I wish each of you a Happy New Year! I do hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

The day before the Thanksgiving holiday, I accompanied Sr. Darlene on a pilgrimage to the library. We both love to read and wanted to have some good books to escape into over the long weekend. It was a very windy day. When exiting the library, a strong gust of wind toppled me over and I found myself in an ambulance heading to the ER. I soon learned, as I had already expected, the fall had resulted in a break in my leg. The break was surgically repaired on Thanksgiving morning and now I am receiving physical therapy at one of the local Rehab Centers. I look forward to getting home so that I can resume my daily visits to our co-workers at the office. In contemplating my present situation, I believe our good Lord is attempting to give me a lesson in patience!!

I thank you for your continued support and prayers for the missions. Please pray that I will soon return to the Mother house soon and resume my activities that I so enjoy.



**Sister Bernadette**

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas celebrations were blessed and joyful. I have enjoyed spending time with the sisters who joined us for Thanksgiving and Christmas. On Thanksgiving, Srs. Pat and Sharon joined Sr. Kathleen and me since Sr. Rosemary and Sr. Darlene spent thanksgiving in the hospital.

I turned 98 on December 1. I celebrated with a pizza party with our co-workers and then celebrated with Sr. Rosemary at the hospital with my second favorite food: cheese burgers. I helped Sr. Darlene make some of the Crescent Coffee cakes we give as Christmas gifts. I used to make hundreds of these each Christmas. It brings me great joy. We spent Christmas day with Sr. Rosemary at the Rehab Center. I look forward to her returning to the house.

We also had a wonderful surprise visit with two of the Glenmary students, Thomas and Jude. I shared some of my memories of the early days of Glenmary and Father Bishop. I appreciate your ongoing love for the missions. You remain in my prayers.



Left: Children from Owensboro Catholic K-3 waiting to give us their gifts.

Right: Taking gifts to the trailer.

Below left: Preparing Little Miracles Center for a Christmas Giveaway.

Below right: Sr. Sharon sharing snacks at her Christmas Giveaway.



Left: Sister Bernadette making her Crescent Cakes.

Right: Christmas Tree at the Mother House.





## **Glenmary Sisters**

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Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,  
Teach me true generosity.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.  
To give without counting the cost,  
To fight heedless of wounds,  
To labor without seeking rest,  
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward  
Save the knowledge that I have done your will.  
Amen.

**St. Ignatius of Loyola**