



KINSHIP

THE MAGAZINE OF CATHOLIC GLENMARY SISTERS

Summer 2026 - Free Publication



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

3. A Message from Mother Superior
4. To Shine As A Light For Others
6. New Life
8. Owensboro Youth Share Their Gifts In Pemiscot County
9. Making New Friends In Holland, Missouri
11. How Blessed Are We!
12. Owensboro Catholic Schools Continue To Bless Our Missions
13. Dancing With Joy
15. Gifts From You

Join us on social media or our website.



Glenmary Sisters
P.O. Box 22264
Owensboro, Kentucky 42304
Street Address: 405 W Parrish Ave.
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301
(270) 686-8401
www.glenmarysisters.org

KINSHIP

Summer 2026
Vol. 65, 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 Appalachia and southern regions of the United States. 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, Inc. 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.

Publisher: Sister Darlene Presley
Editor: Sister Darlene Presley and Co-Workers

Ways of Giving

Outright Gifts or Recurring Gifts

Includes sending checks made payable to Glenmary Sisters, recurring gifts via credit card, or PayPal.

Gifts of Life Insurance, Retirement Plans, or IRA

Naming Glenmary Sisters as a beneficiary for life insurance, retirement plans, or IRA may offer donors and/or their families some tax benefits.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities or Closely Held Stock

Gifts of appreciated securities or closely held stock are easy to make and may offer significant tax savings to the donor.

Bequests

A provision in your will or estate plan can ensure a specific percentage of the estate or other assets are bequeathed to the Glenmary Sisters or can establish a trust that can be transferred after a specified amount of time.

Life Income Gifts

Charitable Remainder Trusts allows you to make significant contributions while receiving income from the gift.

Matching Gifts

Many employers offer matching gift programs to a charitable organization of the employee's choice. Check your HR/Finance Department for availability and participation guidelines.

Scan to
give a gift.



For more information, contact

Janet: 270-686-8401 or
janet@glenmarysisters.org
www.GlenmarySisters.org

Unless otherwise indicated, photographs and articles published in KINSHIP magazine are the property of Glenmary Sisters.
For reprint permission, contact: Janet@glenmarysisters.org or 270-686-8401.



A Message from Mother Superior

We are invited each summer to speak at various Catholic parishes throughout the country. It is an opportunity to tell people about our missions and ministry. Last year, I received a call from one of the pastors of a church I was to visit. Father asked if I would be open to him interviewing me instead of our standard format of me giving a talk. I am always up for a challenge, so I said yes.

He presented me with the following: Tell us about the Glenmary Sisters and the work they do. Tell us a bit about the people you serve. What is it like in rural Appalachia? This one was intriguing. He asked what gives you hope when working in areas where the people face so many challenges in situations where some might say the future seems bleak.

The hope I see continues to unfold before me. Hope is a wonderful group of parishioners who, trusting in Our Lord, stepped in to keep our mission in Missouri going following Sr. Sharon's car accident. They were faithful missionaries for over a year and a half. Hope is having the young mothers at our Little Miracles Center bring in clothing that their children have outgrown so that someone else can use them. Hope is watching them help another mom who is facing difficulty. Hope is the many volunteer groups that come into our missions to help make the lives of strangers better. Hope is seeing friendships develop during that process. Hope is in the lives of the children we have ministered to in the park in Steele, Missouri. Hope is joy in the faces of those that are now young adults, when they tell you about their jobs and the money they are earning. They tell us they want to give their own children a better life. Hope is having one of these young men you have not seen in a few years jump out of his truck when he spotted a dear volunteer couple with us. He runs up, gives us hugs, looks at Mr. John, and says, "Mr. John, I still have that birdhouse you helped me build. I am going to build one with my son."

Hope is all around. It is a gift wrapped in love, courage, and generosity. It is a gift freely given by you: our donors and our volunteers. It is springing forth from those who have received.

Blessings and Peace,

Sister Darlene Presley



To Shine As A Light For Others

By Mary Stutzman
(Parishioner at Sacred Heart Parish in Caruthersville, Missouri)

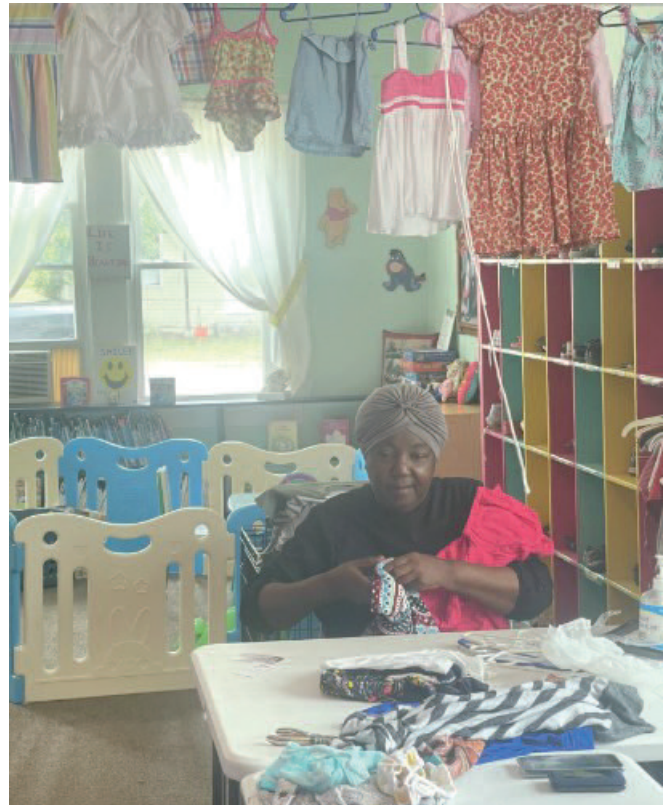
When Sister Sharon Miller, the dedicated and beloved overseer of Mother's House in Hayti, Missouri, was involved in a car accident, the entire Sacred Heart Parish felt the weight of her absence.

In the wake of her accident, Sister Sharon found herself unable to continue her hands-on work at Mother's House. Rather than letting this mission falter, she turned to her former workers from the Hayti community and the women of the Sacred Heart parish in Caruthersville, Missouri for help. The call to action was clear: Mother's House needed them, and they responded with open hearts and willing hands.

The response from the ladies of Sacred Heart parish was nothing short of inspiring. Many of these women had their own busy lives, balancing work, family, and other commitments. However, they recognized the importance of keeping the Mother's House operational, understanding that the service it provided to the community was indispensable.

The ladies quickly organized themselves, ensuring that the Mother's House remained open and fully functional. They brought a sense of community and teamwork to their efforts, each contributing their unique skills and talents. Some took on the role of sorting and hanging clothing, while others managed the intake of donations and assisted mothers in selecting the right items for their children.

As they worked together, the women of the parish found that their shared mission fostered stronger bonds among them. Many, who had only known each other in passing through Sunday services, now became close friends,



Dorothy Grant sorting clothes

united by their commitment to the Mother's House and Sister Sharon. They shared stories, laughter, and meals, all while working side by side to continue the vital work of the Mother's House.

This experience also allowed the women to witness firsthand the impact of their efforts. They saw the relief and gratitude on the faces of the mothers who came to the Mother's House, knowing that their children would have the clothing and supplies they needed. This direct connection to the people they were helping made the work even more meaningful.

The temporary absence of Sister Sharon has been a challenge, but it has also been an opportunity for growth within the Sacred Heart parish and

Hayti community. The women who stepped up to run the Mother's House have learned valuable



One of our moms with her little one.

lessons in compassion, service, and community. They have seen how, even in difficult circumstances, a group of dedicated individuals can come together to make a profound difference.



**Left to right:
Jean Trainor, Alice McCoy,
Reetha Richmond, and Mary Stutzman**



**Left to right:
Connie Whitner, Wendy Dale,
Glenda Hazel, and Nancy Lubber**

Sister Sharon's leadership and example have clearly left a lasting impression on these women, who now carry her torch with pride. They have not only kept the Mother's House running but have also strengthened the very fabric of their parish community and neighboring Hayti community.

The story of the Mother's House during Sister Sharon's recovery is a testament to the power of community and the enduring spirit of service. It shows how, in times of need, ordinary people can rise to extraordinary challenges, creating positive outcomes that benefit everyone involved. The ladies of Sacred Heart parish and the Hayti volunteers have proven that when we come together with a shared purpose, we can overcome any obstacle and continue to shine as a light for others.

(Sister Sharon has joyfully returned to her mission and is doing very well.)



NEW LIFE

By Sue Brown, Mission Co-worker

Recently, we were honored to welcome two new babies to our Little Miracles Center Community. Their mothers are frequent guests at the Center and it's been joyful to share their journey with them. As with other children who have been born since the Center opened, it is even more joyful to see them grow and help their mothers pick out new sizes of clothing.

As the families increase, the Center becomes a familiar place for the children. They ask to go to the "little store" to shop and play with the toys set out for them in their play area. They also look forward to their "prize", usually a stuffed animal or book when they leave. We are blessed to be able to help support these families and so very grateful for the help we receive from our friends who support us.

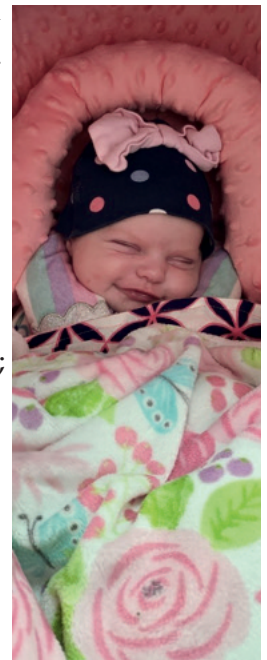
Thinking about these parents seeing their children for the first time, we can think about how new life is written about over and over in the Holy Scriptures and how God can change our lives with His love and grace.

We think about creation... God created the heavens and the earth, and everything in them (Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6) God made

everything beautiful and good (Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Think of the time of year when new life is beginning in nature. Leaf buds are sprouting on the trees and new plants are shooting up from the soil. The fields are turning a beautiful green to feed the cattle and other animals. "But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:7-10

Like Job, we are grateful for all of the beauty and wonders around us, but still our lives can be filled with challenges, hardships, and mistakes. Such are the lives of the many folks we see daily



in our mission. It's easy to become discouraged. But, through the good times and the hard times, we must realize we need one another to encourage us and build us up. First and most importantly, we must rely on the Savior, the One who has given us everything. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

We may long for a new life to begin in us; a renewal, a new chance, but by relying on, and trusting in Jesus, we will be given the strength and perseverance, not only to carry on with our own lives, but to reach out to others as well. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28



IT'S TRUE

**"This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24**



Owensboro Youth Share Their Gifts In Pemiscot County

By Sister Darlene Presley

In July, Youth Director Matt Knight, along with the youth from St. Pius X and St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, Kentucky rolled into Caruthersville for a week of prayer and service. This was a very energetic group of young folks.

One group and their chaperones were sent to pressure wash, sand, and paint the ramps of two elderly women in the county. Another group with chaperones were sent to Mother's House to do deep cleaning and freshen up the landscape. They were joyful and fast workers.

Then, we were off to the City Park in Hayti. Sr. Sharon had arranged for an Information Fair sponsored by Mother's House. This provided an opportunity for the moms who utilize Mother's House to meet with the many agencies in the county to learn about the services they provide. Several parishioners from Sacred Heart Parish in Caruthersville were on hand to help with registration. The youth provided fun and games for the children who accompanied their parents. A food truck was also on hand to provide 100 free meals to those who attended, plus meals for purchase. It was a wonderful day!



Making New Friends In Holland, Missouri

By Sister Darlene Presley

It all started with a parishioner requesting assistance for a disabled man who lived in Holland Missouri. He needed repairs to his bathroom, and a ramp built so that he could get out of his home safely. Beth and John Probus, who serve with the Holy Name group, accompanied Sister Sharon and myself to assess the situation. The man's daughter met us at his house to discuss what needed to be done. While John was busy measuring and calculating the needed materials, we continued talking with the daughter. I asked her about the new building across the street (having been to Holland several times, I was curious about this change). She told us it was their new community center. Beth noted the big field in the back of the building. That is all it took for us to ask, "How many children live in Holland?" "Would the center be available if we offered a VBS in the summer?" The answers: around 20 plus and yes!

This is what followed:







How Blessed Are We!

By Sue Brown, Mission Co-worker

Every year gets better thanks to our many supporters. We served over 150 children and families at Christmas. We could not have had such a successful event without the help of our friends. So, thank you so very much for sticking by us every year. The people we serve walk out with toys to put under the tree for their children, warm coats, hats, scarves, blankets, towels and sheets for the whole family, as well as personal goods and other special items.

Some of our wonderful supporters travel hours to deliver the gifts for Christmas, while others live in our neighborhood. Others volunteer to help set up the store and greet the people who come out for gifts. Thank you.

Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving for St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish, St. Maximillian Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Parish, Guardian Angels Parish, St. James Parish, the Sheriff's Department, City of Frenchburg workers, many neighbors who donated gifts collected throughout the year, and you, our faithful donors.

You are all beautiful servants of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.



How blessed are we!



Owensboro Catholic Schools Continue To Bless Our Missions

By Sister Darlene Presley

This year, as they do every year during Advent, the Owensboro Catholic children at the K-3 and 4-6 Campuses gathered toiletries, stuffed animals, diapers, and more, to share with our missions. With the help of John Kurtz and his trailer, we are able to collect and transport everything to our Motherhouse. After school, a group of teachers and students join us and help us sort the gifts and divide them for each mission.

We are grateful for this ongoing partnership.





DANCING WITH JOY

By Beth Probus

The beauty of a mission trip is in the giving of oneself to another. This team of young people and chaperones went above the call of duty. Our task for the week included repairing the floor joist and sub floor, then laying over a 1,000 square feet of new flooring in the home of Ms. Eleanor, along with a VBS at the park in Steele.

We arrived Sunday afternoon. That evening during praise and worship, we received a call from Ms. Eleanor saying she had a water leak in the kitchen. Our construction leaders, John Probus and Michael Biggs, left immediately to assess the situation. While there Ms. Eleanor told them that there had been a gas leak in the kitchen area. She contacted the gas company and they turned the gas off and told her that they would send someone out to repair the line. The challenge of mission is to always be flexible, allowing God to unfold the week. He often hides his grace in the unexpected. The week now included the need for a gas line repair and a plumber. While waiting on these professionals, we decided to begin working in the front and back rooms instead of our original plan.

Monday morning everyone was excited and ready for action. We had a successful work day at the house and VBS. We were still unsure if Ms. Eleanor's floor could be completed by Thursday but we gave it to God.

John and Michael stayed over Tuesday to try to get a little extra work accomplished. Wednesday, the floor was starting to go down but the gas repair was still up in the air and a huge hole gaped in the kitchen floor. No one knew if the gas company was going to get in on Thursday to fix the gas line. Our group discussed leaving John and Michael behind on Friday to finish





while we traveled for our Fun Day at the pool and trampoline park in Cape Girardeau.

This wonderful group of young men and women didn't want to leave the job unfinished for Ms. Eleanor. They were willing to give up their Fun Day to make sure her floor was finished! Great job raising your kids, moms and dads!

Thursday morning our day was raised up in

prayer to God. John, Michael, and the youth crew began work early. In the afternoon, I brought the other youth who had helped with the floor work from VBS so that they could present Ms. Eleanor with a special gift they purchased with their own money. Thankfully the gas company arrived to repair the gas line. I took all the youth back to the park following the gift presentation leaving the men to complete the floor.

All of our youth were able to spend the afternoon at the park playing with the VBS kids. The Steele Fire Department dropped by and was able to cool everyone off.

The goodbyes were hard and memories were made, but the worry that Ms. Eleanor's floor would not be finished lingered.

John and Michael joined us for dinner at Little Pizza Heaven, then returned to continue working on the floor.

We went back to the church and began our night of prayer and journaling. As we were wrapping up, in walked John and Michael.

THE FLOOR WAS COMPLETE!

God blessed each of us on this mission but Ms. Eleanor's blessings were unimaginable. She was left dancing on that kitchen floor and singing praises to God!





**Gifts our
friends send
for our folks
in
the
missions.**





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.

Safe travels from your Glenmary Sisters

Visit us at glenmarysisters.org

