

SPC Newsletter — USA District

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

Winter 2007

A Missionary Returns to Home Country

Sr. Lucienne Bautista, was born in the Philippines, did her religious studies there, and served as a teacher, then principal for 15 years. In 1964, she was sent as a missionary to the United States. She came with 6 other Sisters from the Philippines to join the U.S. District of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, joining 8 Sisters who came in 1963 to open the foundation. Sr. Lucienne and 5 other Sisters opened the St. William's School in Menominee. Father Louis Bracket was the second pastor that they served with. Sr. Lucienne was the first principal at St. William's, remaining until 1967 when she was sent to be the first principal at St. Christopher School in Marquette, where then Monsignor Edmund Szoka was pastor.

After 6 years, she returned to Menominee and served as principal when the name was changed to Menominee Catholic Central North School. In 1978 she returned to St. Christopher's as principal and opened the kindergarten. In 1985, she returned to Menominee and served in a variety of ways, including as teacher, librarian, and Computer Room Supervisor.

Sr. Lucienne also taught Spanish and Children's choir and she taught summer Bible school in several parishes throughout the Upper Peninsula.

In 1992 she was assigned to Bishop Noa Home in Escanaba, where she served as Pastoral Care Minister for the past 15 years.

At Bishop Noa Home, Sr. Lucienne took great pride in keeping the Chapel nicely decorated. She set up the mass very faithfully and brought Holy Communion to the Catholic residents who could not go to the

Chapel for mass. She took care of the requests for Masses. She arranged for lectors, for cantors and altar servers. Her smiling, "Good morning! Our opening song is ..." will be fondly remembered.

Sr. Lucienne always liked a good time. She joined the Escanaba Line Dancers 10 years ago and performed with them at various facilities in the Escanaba area. With her white habit and red vest, matching shoes, and occasionally a hat, she cut a fine figure. In fact, she danced many solos. She has also taught the rest of the Sisters some of the dances.

Our fond memories of Sr. Lucienne include: She was the first Filipino Sister to get her driver's license and she taught other Sisters to drive. She directed wonderful "operettas" for the school students, (and Fr. Jamie Ziminski was one of her "stars" in the production called "SAM—The Good Samaritan.")

When Sr. Lucienne celebrated her 50th jubilee as a Sister of St. Paul in 2000, among the Sisters who were present for the occasion were Sr. Anne Patrice Cahill and Sr. Helen Looby, two Irish Sisters of St. Paul, who had been missionaries in the Philippines in the 1950's when Sr. Lucienne was there.

Sr. Lucienne, as your patron, St. Lucy, you are a bearer of Christ's light for others! May you continue to faithfully bear Christ's light to all those you encounter in your journey of life. We love you, and we will miss you!

Address after February 10th:

Sr. Lucienne Bautista
Our Lady of Chartres Convent
P.O. Box 1065 Antipolo City
1870 Rizal PHILIPPINES



Sr. Lucienne Bautista

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Bishop Sample to Offer Mass

On January 25, 2007, the Feast of our patron St. Paul the Apostle, Bishop Alexander Sample will be celebrating Mass at Bishop Noa Home in Escanaba. This will be the first Mass celebrated by Bishop Sample at Bishop Noa Home. It is also the first anniversary of his ordination as Bishop of the Diocese of Marquette.

Bishop Noa Home for Senior Citizens is the first apostolic mission of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres in the United States. That was the wish of Bishop Thomas L. Noa, who met our former Superior General, Mother Marie Paul, in Rome during the time of Vatican Council II and invited her to send Sisters to the Diocese of Marquette. Let us hold Bishop Sample in our prayers, and also pray for all the staff and residents of Bishop Noa Home.

Prayer for the New Year

Remember us, O God,
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights,
seasons and years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright
hope that is ours in the coming of Christ.

You are our God, living and reigning,
for ever and ever. Amen.

(from Prayers for All Occasions, published by
the Basilica of the National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.)

REFLECTION

As the year 2007 begins, we look at the world situation and become painfully aware of how far we are from the peace that Christ came to bring. I came across a prayer for times such as this from the National Council of Catholic Women, and am adapting it somewhat. It is a reflection on Ephesians 2:14-22. Please join me in praying for peace and healing for all the people of our world. — Sr. Mary Ann

O God, in our world today there is division and hostility. There are factions within families, within nations and among nations. Some people consider themselves dominant over others based on gender, race, color, class or national origin. Some fight in order to protect their families or homes. Through your Son's cross, our world can be reconciled; the walls of hostility can be broken, and harmony can be achieved. We pray for this in Jesus' name.

We pray for all who experience the pain and suffering of violence, that they may feel your healing touch and be at peace in your loving embrace. We pray for those who victimize and abuse others, that they may see the errors of their ways and become converted. We pray that every person in the world may experience the peace Jesus came to bring. May peace begin with each of us! We ask all these things through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Something to Think About

A father and his son were on a train. When the conductor came for the tickets, He spoke angrily and abusively at the father. The father, in turn, did not grow angry. He simply remained calm and silent. After the incident, the son said, "Dad, why didn't you tell him off?"

The father replied, "Why? That poor man has a problem and has to put up with himself every day. I have to put up with him only a minute."

Mission, Year B, by Mark Link, S.J., page 189,

If a small thing has the power to make you angry, does that not indicate something about your size?

-Sydney J. Harris

RN And TOEFL Exam

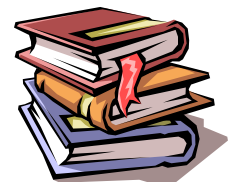
Sr. Juliana Djo - from Korea and Sr. Rosaline Charoentavit - from Thailand, who earned their RN (registered nurse) degrees a long time ago and have had many years of experience in the hospitals and health care fields of their countries, came to the United States in 2003. In order to work as nurses here, they had to pass the

Registered Nurse exam in the United States. Not only that, but they also had to pass the TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language. Even though both Sisters have a quite sufficient knowledge of English, the intricacies of the language were difficult.

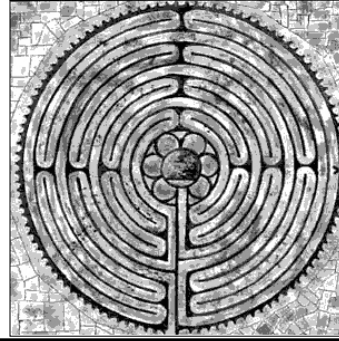
Sr. Nenita Leonardo - from the Philippines, is also a licensed

experienced nurse who has to go through the same requirements.

At this writing, we are waiting to see how they did on their recent exams.



Labyrinth — A Spiritual Path



Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. And today, there is a renewed interest in this type of prayer. Many retreat centers have created a labyrinth for retreatants including Marygrove Retreat Center in Garden Michigan.

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. A labyrinth is a metaphor for life's journey. It is a symbol that creates a sacred space and place within us to be open to God.

Labyrinths and mazes have often been confused. When most people hear of a labyrinth they think of a maze. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze is like a puzzle to be solved. It has twists, turns, and blind alleys. The task here is to find the correct path into the maze and out.

A labyrinth, on the other hand, has only one path. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. The path leads you on a circuitous path to the center and out again. A labyrinth was often found in Gothic Cathedrals but over time many of them were destroyed or intentionally removed.

The most famous of the remaining labyrinths is at Chartres Cathedral near Paris, France. The Chartres Labyrinth is an eleven-circuit design divided into four quadrants. It was built around 1200 and is laid into the floor in a style sometimes referred to as a pavement maze. The original centerpiece has been removed and other areas of the labyrinth have been restored.

This labyrinth was meant to be walked as a pilgrimage and/or for repentance. As a pilgrimage it was a questing, searching journey with the hope of becoming closer to God. When used for repentance the pilgrims would walk on their knees. Sometimes this eleven-circuit labyrinth would serve as a substitute for an actual pilgrimage to Jerusalem and as a result came to be called the "Chemin de Jerusalem" or Road of Jerusalem.

In walking the Chartres style labyrinth, the walker meanders through each of the four quadrants several times before reaching the goal. An expectancy is created as to when the center will be reached. At the center is a rosette design, which has a rich symbolic value including that of enlightenment. The four arms of the cross are readily visible and provide significant Christian symbolism.

One way of praying the labyrinth: As you begin the journey inward, you ask for the grace to open your heart to whatever God wishes to speak to you, and as you begin walking the labyrinth you let go of whatever impedes your journey to God.

As you come to center, you sit, stand, or kneel, uniting yourself to God, just quietly being there, open and receptive. You may share your concerns with God and ask for the graces needed to live more in tune with God's will for you in your life.

As you leave the center, you bring the graces received with you into your present situation in life. You may pray for the people you live with or work with or the needs of the world.

Your Spirit Lives On

I'm not sure where to go now
 I don't know what to do
 I had so many future plans
 They all included you
 We were supposed to walk the aisle together
 You were supposed to give me away
 Daddy's girl with a smile so bright
 The thought now turns grey
 He was supposed to ask you for my hand
 He had to try you first
 There's no one left to take that role
 My whole world's been reversed
 We were supposed to fix my truck together
 I have so much left to learn
 Rotor caps and muffler wires
 And the "thingy" that just won't turn
 I'm lost in a big dark world
 Adrift in a sea of tears
 Blindly I try to look ahead
 But can't see past my fears
 All I see is pain and sorrow
 The hole you left behind
 I try to remember good times
 And love's the glue that binds
 I may not see you here today
 Your body may be gone
 But in my heart, and those of others
 Your spirit lives on and on.

-Erin Eichhorn

(I hope this poem helps others who are coping with the loss of a loved one. – Erin)

(Note: Allen Eichhorn, the husband of my sister, Gloria, passed away suddenly just before Christmas. My niece Erin wrote this poem shortly after his death. – Sr. Mary Ann Laurin)



Sister — Who Are You?

When I was the age of 17, I made a three-day retreat in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. I read the story in the Gospel about when Jesus called Matthew and told him, “Come and follow me.”

I don’t know why the meaning of the sentence stuck in my mind and made me reflect. I decided to offer my life to become a religious in some community when I was 19 years old.

When I talked to my mother about it, she did not want me to become a Sister. My father did not want me to

become a Sister. He said that I might get sick and nobody from the family would be there to take care of me.

My grandmother was a very good Catholic. She said, “If she has a call from God, she needs to follow God’s will, and we must not impede the will of God.”

I went to see my pastor, Father Joseph at the Sacre Coeur (Sacred Heart) Church and he gave me information about how to enter into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres.

I had to do many things to get ready to go to the convent. I went to the Bishop to get my certificate of Baptism. My uncle gave me some money to buy materials to make my trousseau – cloth, towels, etc. The godmother of my mother gave me other things that I needed. My

godmother from confirmation agreed with my vocation and she gave me a purple blanket for my trousseau. (In those days, we needed to bring some sets of towels and sheets, and other linens as well as personal clothes as a trousseau.)

I went to the convent on January 1, 1949. I became a novice in 1950 with a special habit ceremony. My parents couldn’t come because my baby brother was only a few months old, and because they lived far away. Only my uncle came.

The reason I decided to become a Sister was because I wanted to belong completely to God. God gives me the grace of the state of life. Now over 55 years in my community, I still thank God for my vocation. I will remain as a Sister of St. Paul until the end of my life.

- Sr. Felicienne Kim Anh Trinh

Thank you to all our Benefactors!

We extend a heartfelt “Thank You!” to all our family members, friends, and benefactors for your gifts and contributions at Christmas and other occasions. We will honor the intentions of your donations, whether they

are for our upcoming renovations, our missions in other countries, or “to be used as needed.” You have been remembered in our Christmas novena of masses, and are also remembered to God in our prayers regularly.

Update on our renovation projects

These have been completed in 2006: Conversion of a regular bathroom into a barrier-free bathroom on the first floor, grab bars put in existing toilets and showers, and a cement ramp installed to access the front door in Marquette. Thank you for helping to make this possible.

To be completed in 2007: The addition of two barrier-free bedrooms and bathrooms at the Marquette convent. A grant was received from the Religious Retirement Office to help with this project, but the grant falls about \$50,000 short of the actual cost. Your contributions are helping to meet this shortfall, and we thank you.

Other projects: We are also planning some renovations to the convent in Escanaba after the Marquette project is completed. Hopefully this can be completed in 2008. Some donations are being given specifically for this project, and again, we thank you.

Ray & Jeanine Adamini, Marquette, MI
 American Martyrs Parish, Kingsford, MI
 Rose Bartley, Escanaba, MI
 Gladys Bartol, Marquette, MI
 Geraldine Bellmore, Hermansville, MI
 James & Patricia Bugay, Escanaba, MI
 Maria Carmona, Silver Spring, MD
 Roland & Mary Charlier, Powers, MI
 James & Ione Collins, Garden, MI
 John & Mary Connelly, Escanaba, MI
 Marliles and Kikael Dahl, England
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 Lorraine Dupras, Marquette, MI
 Russell Dupras, Escondido, CA
 Msgr Donald Essex, Bethesda, MD
 Michael & Nancy Fassbender, Marquette, MI
 Margareta A. Finnerty, Escanaba, MI
 Ari Fitzgerald, Silver Spring, MD

Thank you!

Want more information about becoming a Sister of St. Paul?

You may write or email Sr. Mary Ann Laurin at:

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

1300 County Road 492

Marquette, MI 49855

Email: malaurin9@aol.com

Envelope Enclosed

We are enclosing an envelope for those who may wish to make a donation, write for information, be added to the mailing list or to add a friend to the mailing list, etc.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ I wish to be added to your mailing list

_____ I would like more information on becoming a Sister

_____ I would like information on including you in my will

_____ I wish to make a donation for _____



THE MARQUETTE CONVENT

Contentment

*If we could see our Father's hand
in all our circumstances and
rejoice because we know He cares
and wisely guides & answers prayers.
we'd have no time for foolish fears.*

*If we could count in wonderment
the many miracles He has sent
both great & small, all lovely things:
the daily stream of blessings He brings.
we'd have no time for murmurings.*

*If we could learn to trust and lean
on our Father's love, we'd be serene.
love and praise would sweetly blend
and in heart's content that has no end,
we'd walk together – friend with friend!*

— Phyllis R. Foster

- Thomas & Irene Gembel, Garden, MI
- Dorothy A. Giovannini, Kalamazoo, MI
- Nancy S. Giuliani, Marquette, MI
- Joseph & Judith Gregorich, Marquette, MI
- Donald & Mary Jane Hathway, Maryland
- Barbara Hendrickson, Escanaba, MI
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- Dr. & Mrs. Frederick Hoenke, Marquette, MI
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- Mr. & Mrs. Ira Hutchisin, Marquette, MI
- Allen & Mary Kidd, Escanaba, MI
- Frank & Ann Kim, California
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- Knights of Columbus, Negaunee, MI
- Donald & Mary Koskey, Marquette, MI
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- Ann Marie Lewis, Escanaba, MI
- Francis & Pat Lewis, Escanaba, MI
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- Ray & Carol Sedlock, Gwinn, MI
- Arlene Smith, Escanaba, MI
- St. Christopher's Altar Society, Marquette, MI
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Jane de Chantal, Bethesda, MD
- Sodality of Nativity Church, Washington DC
- Gil Soldville, Los Angeles, CA
- Rosa Suk, Missouri
- Joseph & Marie Sullivan, Marquette, MI
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- Linda Yadozinski, Escanaba, MI
- Luella Young, Escanaba, MI
- Donald & Rita Zalewski, Stevens Point, WI
- Marilyn Zimmermann, Gladstone, MI
- Katherine Zurawski, Menominee, MI

During a hike with my friend, I noticed a black bird roosting in a nearby tree. "I've always wondered what the difference is between a crow and a raven." I said.

"You have to count the pinion feathers on the wings," my companion explained. "If there are four, it's a crow. If it's five, it's a raven."

"Really?" I said, although I knew he didn't have a clue what he was talking about.

"Oh, yes," he replied, "it's just a matter of a pinion." — G. Sterling Leiby



Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres

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1300 County Road 492
Marquette, MI 49855



WINTER 2007

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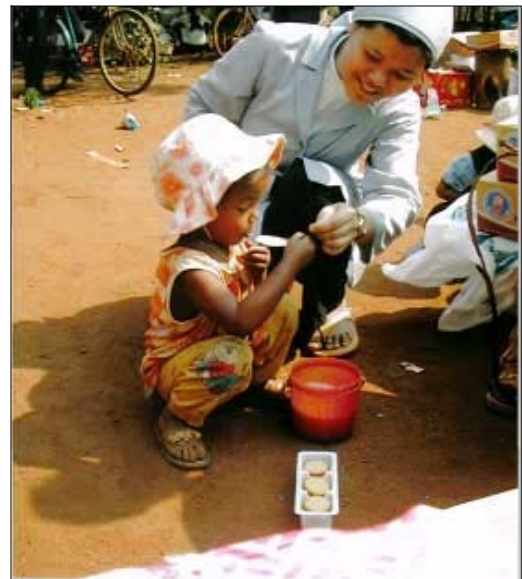
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Work Among the Lepers

Even though leprosy is now curable, there are people in several countries who still suffer from leprosy. Many of them have missing digits or amputated limbs, scarring or other disfigurement. Some children who have been removed from leprosy mothers at birth are being raised in children's homes by our Sisters and other caregivers.

Often times, people who have been cured of leprosy, but bear some type of disfigurement prefer to continue living on the "Leper Colonies" where they feel at home, rather than returning to their own villages.

In Vietnam, the Philippines, and Korea, we have Sisters who work among the lepers and help the children of the lepers. The photo shows Sr. Marietta, who had been in the United States during 2003-2005 before returning to Vietnam, helping to feed a child of the lepers in Vietnam.



Something to Make You Smile

Instead of breaking our New Year's resolutions, we could keep more of them if all resolved to gain weight and do less exercise. ☺