Servants of Mary Volume 14 Issue 2 October 2019





A Letter from the Prioress



Dear Friends,

The U.S./Jamaica Community recently participated in a Discernment Process to select the 2019-2024 Leadership Team. The new team includes Sr. Jackie Ryan, Prioress, Sr. Sarah Deeby, Assistant Prioress, Sr. Val Lewandoski, Councilor and Sr. Lisa Sheridan, Councilor. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves:

Sr. Jackie Ryan, OSM:

The last five years I served as the Assistant Prioress with Sr. Mary Gehringer, Prioress and Sr. Kerry Larkin, Councilor. I am blessed to have shared the ministry of leadership with them. I am grateful for their wisdom, expertise and love during this time. Thanks to their work many significant events happened, and many projects were accomplished. All is in order for a smooth transition for the new team.

Srs. Sarah, Val, Lisa and I look forward to continuing the work begun by the previous team.

Sr. Sarah Deeby, OSM:

Thirty-three years ago, I received a call to consider a move to the Northwest. Since 1986, Portland, Oregon has been my home and place of ministry as a mental health therapist and a co-founder of The Northwest Catholic Counseling Center. Last week, I received a call of a different nature. I am blessed to work with three amazing women. I am confident in the support of the community and the guidance of the Spirit of God.

Sr. Val Lewandoski, OSM:

For the past 10 years I have ministered as assistant director of the Servite Center of Compassion in Omaha, NE. Being on the leadership team will bring new responsibilities and challenges that I feel blessed to receive, and I also will be able to continue providing spiritual direction and group facilitation through the Center. I am grateful for both opportunities!

Sr. Lisa Sheridan, OSM:

	Over the last 12 years I have enjoyed my work with the community's 91 Associates who live across the U.S., as well as Jamaica. I am a mental health therapist by education
Cover photo:	and have a small private practice located at our Motherhouse. I am humbled and
The new Servants of Mary Leadership Team.	excited to serve on our leadership team. The future is not always what we plan, but I look forward to moving into it with our leadership team, Sisters and Associates.
(Left to Right)	We thank each of you for your continued prayers and support of us and our mission. You are remembered each day in our prayers.
Sr. Lisa Sheridan, OSM	During these colorful autumn days may you and your family experience God's blessings.
Sr. Sarah Deeby, OSM	On behalf of the Community Council,
Sr. Jackie Ryan, OSM	Sr. Jackie Ryan Sn. Jackie
Sr. Val Lewandoski, OSM	U.S./Jamaica Community Prioress

Discover!

A Letter from Sr. Mary



OK, so I may be dating myself using *Godspell* lyrics, but I bet most of you have heard this song before, too. These lyrics came to my mind as I was praying and it seemed very appropriate to quote them in this letter.

I have had the privilege of serving as the Provincial/ Prioress for the past nine years. As with any ministry, some days flew by and others not so quickly. The overall experience, however, is one of gratitude for me. I have been able to work with our Sisters in the various day to day projects and issues along with many hours of committee work. Then there was the preparation for some "minor" events including our 125th Anniversary in the US; our 100th Anniversary in Omaha; the

Congregational Assembly to which 100 Sisters countries from seven came to Omaha; to our Congregational Chapter which the US hosted this past summer. Throughout it all, I have been blessed by the love and support of the Sisters and their willingness to work together for the good of the Community. I've been blessed, too, by the wonderful Associates who share and spread our Servite charism with us. We have been graced by their presence in our lives.

You, too, our families, friends and benefactors, have gifted us with your love, support and prayers. Without your assistance we would not be able to continue our ministries and support our Sisters. It has been a privilege to work with you, walk with you and pray with and for you all these years. We are so very grateful for your presence in our lives.

My successor, Sr. Jackie Ryan, and her team, will continue to carry on the ministries and charism of our Community. I wish them well and promise them my support. Please join me is keeping them and their work in prayer.

All of the good gifts I have received, and they are many, have indeed, "... come from heaven above." I thank God for being so gracious. Know of my continued prayers for all of you and your families.

Gratefully,

Sr. Mary

Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM



Previous and new leadership teams. Srs. Kerry Larkin, Lisa Sheridan, Sarah Deeby, Jackie Ryan, Val Lewandoski, and Mary Gehringer







On Friday, September 27th, Sr. Mary Gerhinger announced the new Servants of Mary U.S./Jamaica Community new leadership team.









After a Discernment process Sr. Jackie Ryan was announced as the U.S./Jamaica Community Prioress.







emony and Mass



Sr. Mary Gehringer symbolically hands over the care of the Community's Sisters and Associates to Sr. Jackie Ryan.



Sr. Sarah Deeby receives the Constitutions of the Servants of Mary from Sr. Mary Gehringer, symbolizing sharing of the spirit of the Congregation.





Srs. Lisa Sheridan and Val Lewandoski receive symbols of the Community – the Dolor Rosary and Servite Cross from Sr. Kerry Larkin.



Congregational Leadership Team (L-R) Councilors Sr. M. Elizabeth Winberg (FBCC), Sr. Michelle Reilly (UK), Congregational Prioress Sr. Chantal Mari Le Diraison (FBCC) and Assistant Congregational Prioress Sr. Barbara Kennedy (U.S./Jamaica)



Srs. Constance and Monique Forward by Sr. Val Lewandoski OSM

The Servants of Mary US/Jamaica Community are delighted to welcome two of our Sisters from Congo: Sr. Constance Musese, who recently graduated from medical school, and Sr. Monique Musondoli, who is a primary school teacher.

The Sisters' visit is part of a program of international experience instituted by our Congregational leadership, during which Sisters have the opportunity to experience community in various countries of the Congregation. Sisters from Congo have previously spent time in France, England and Austria. Some participated in the 2018 Congregational Assembly held in Omaha, but this is the first visit of a sustained length of time in the US. Sr. Monique is currently in temporary profession, and this experience is part of her formation. Subsequent to their arrival in late August, Srs. Constance and Monique participated in our Congregational Chapter in Wisconsin, then spent a week visiting our Portland, Oregon community before settling in for their time in Omaha. They will be with us until early December. The Sisters are attending an ESL class, participating in our ministries and generally experiencing what it is like to live religious life in the US!



Srs. M. Monique and M. Constance have been taking English as a Second Language classes while in Omaha. Sr. Val Lewandoski drove them to class.



Srs. M. Monique and M. Constance visited Holy Name School with Srs. Jackie Ryan and Carol Lorenz.



They visited our Sisters at Immanuel Fontenelle. Here they are with Sr. Mary Alice Haley.



Srs. M. Constance and M. Monique do a traditional Congolese song and procession while bringing the gifts to the Altar.



Srs. M. Constance and M. Monique even got to watch Husker Football.



The Sisters enjoying a picnic and music with Sr. Sarah Deeby and Ken Willett (Portland)

Boundless Compassion Program Branches Out By Sr. Joyce Rupp, OSM

"The retreat changed the way I think and view the world." This comment came from Kathy-a Lutheran deacon in Nebraska. A similar statement was made by an RN administrator in Ohio: "I am excited and empowered to make a difference!" Ken, a retired civil engineer from Nevada wrote, "The Program energized me and introduced a new support community for my personal growth and service to others." These enthusiastic and affirming comments might lead one to ask, "What kind of experience instills this sort of response from its participants?"

In 2007, when Servite Sisters Margaret Stratman and Joyce Rupp designed The Institute of Compassionate Presence, retreats and conferences based on assisting people to be more compassionate, they could not have envisioned how many lives would be radically changed. Nor could they have seen how vast and wide the seeds they planted would grow and expand. By the time 2019 arrived, over 2.200 men and women across the USA. Canada, and the United Kingdom had been motivated to develop compassion in both their personal and professional lives.

True to Servite Spirituality, The Institute of Compassionate Presence, focuses on those who stand with others who suffer, as Mary stood by the cross of her dying son, Jesus.

After a year of consultation with a variety of people working in areas of compassionate care, the two Sisters formed the structure and content of the Compassion Program. The topics they developed centered on major aspects of compassion for self and others, how to be with suffering, along with compassion for creation and those who are marginalized. Numerous views of compassion from religion, science, spirituality, literature and other disciplines were explored.

In 2008, thirty persons from five states participated in the first program at the Omaha Servite Center of Compassion. In the following years, the program spread further. More and more people beyond the Midwest requested having the program in their area. Eventually it became nationwide and then traveled abroad. Usually participants meet from Sunday evening to Thursday afternoon. As the program grew, Sr. Val Lewandoski joined as the third co-director.

The co-directors realized that compassion involved much more than an institute of education. It was actually about personal transformation. And a name change to Boundless Compassion reflected this reality. Thus, the conference and retreat style evolved to include a variety of formats all which allow for periods of silence and personal reflection. The goal being to have participants integrate the material so it can affect both personal and professional life. Evaluations continually laud the program for its "life changing" effect.

In 2017, the co-directors looked to the future and the expanding nature of Boundless Compassion. They recognized that it was time to train others to lead. To do so, they created a Training Handbook and they developed an all day workshop to train past participants of the compassion programs to become facilitators. Sr. Joyce authored two books containing the core components of the Program: Boundless Compassion, and Prayers of Boundless Compassion. Her presentations were also filmed. (Both books and the videos are available at https://www.osms.org/servite-giftstore.html).

Currently there are 115 certified, trained facilitators who, with their personal and professional giftedness, are taking the program far and wide: leading four-day retreats, weekend workshops, six evening series, and study groups using the books and videos. The potential is endless: four facilitators presented a workshop for volunteers of food pantries; Kevin, a business consultant, spoke at a bank's national conference for employees; Erin has now begun to lead trainings for facilitators; and Sylvia, from the UK, has translated the Boundless Compassion book into Hungarian.

The co-directors continue to monitor, resource, and evaluate the trained facilitators' activities with Sr. Joyce serving as their central coach and consultant. Wendy, from Chicago, manages the Facebook page for facilitators. Like campfires lighting up a darkened forest, the ministry begun by these Servite Sisters will live on beyond them in the light-filled dedication of Boundless Compassion facilitators, cultivating compassion in individuals and in our world.



2019 Boundless Compassion Retreat



2019 Jubilee



Sr. Kerry Larkin and her family.



Jubilee Liturgy



Sr. Zita Marie Sharrow celebrated her 70th Jubilee.



The 2019 Jubilarians, Srs. Doris Durrant, Carol Kowalski, Zita Ma The 2019 Jubilarians have a combined

Not Pic Sr. Mary A



Srs. Carol Kowalski, Doris Durant, and Zita Marie Sharrow bringing up the gifts.



Flower were sent from the Creighton University Campus Ministry in honor of Sr. Mary Alice Haley.



Jubilee L

Celebration



irie Sharrow, Kerry Larkin, Mary Chamberlain, and Peggy Miller. 405 years with the Servants of Mary.



Sr. Doris Durant with some of her guests.



Altar flowers in memory of Sr. Marcia Guest, OSM. and her 50th Anniversary of her profession.



Sr. Carol Kowalski with her niece, Sr. Alice Kotwick, OSM and Sr. Carol's two sisters.



.uncheon

tured: lice Haley:



Sr. Mary Alice Haley, OSM was unable to attend the Jubilee Celebration due to illness.



Frs. Kevin Embach, SJ and Larry Gillick, SJ presiding at the Jubilee Mass photo by Fr. Don Doll, SJ



A Time of Transition

By Maria Farrell, Director of GriefWork

There's a saying that there are two guarantees in life: taxes and death. I believe there is a third, and that is change! Change is a normal part of life. It may be the result of a job change, a relocation or retirement to name a few. You may be surprised to be experiencing sadness as the change approaches, and also feeling excited about the possibilities that await you.

Transition is the process of letting go of the way things used to be and taking hold of what they will become. Transition is how we come to terms with change. All transitions are composed of:

*An ending

*A neutral zone, which is characterized as a period of confusion and/or distress *A new beginning

Transitions are characterized as a place of ambiguity between having left

something familiar and not yet having arrived at a new place of comfort. This place of in-between, the neutral zone, holds tremendous potential! During transitions, the old ways and the new intersect, and there can be a period of discovering different ways of being and doing. This can include practicing new skills, questioning old beliefs, trying new things, exploring your needs, likes and dislikes, expanding your ability to experience joy as well as discomfort and acknowledging things can be different.

So how do we survive the transitional periods in our lives?

- 1. Focus on where you want to go
- 2. Answer questions as they emerge
- 3. Focus on your strengths
- 4. Evaluate your resources
- 5. Keep your mind open to possibilities

Change is inevitable and working towards accepting both the reality and the significance of the transition opens us to new experiences. As time passes, the new way of things generally gets a little easier. Routines are established, friendships and connections are made, and our new environment becomes more familiar.

Throughout our lifetimes, we will experience many different life transitions. These are periods of time that might "rock our world" and change the path that we are on. Although transitions can be challenging, this is a time filled with opportunity to determine our new life's journey.

Change By Tom Marasco, Director of Development

Change is not always easy. In fact, it can be downright scary at times. There is apprehension and perhaps even a little fear of the unknown. One thing that always helps you get through the fear and apprehension of change, is a strong belief in what you are doing. As we move into October, as you may have heard, we are going through a leadership change here at the Servants of Mary.

By the time you read this issue of Discover, we will have said our "thank you's" to Sr. Mary Gehringer for nine great years as our Community Prioress and to Sr. Kerry Larkin for five great years as our Community Councilor. I started as the Development Director in October of 2013 and was hired by Sr. Mary, so this is the first time I've experienced a change at the top.

Hard to say goodbye to the leader I've worked closely with for six years, and

that can be a little nerve wracking.

However, we are very fortunate to have had Sr. Jackie Ryan be selected to the position of Community Prioress through the Sisters' discernment process. Sr. Jackie spent the last five years as the Assistant Prioress, so my staff and I have worked with her daily. I know that Sr. Jackie recognizes the importance of the change and the shoes to be filled. I know she is excited, but she may be experiencing some of the emotions I mentioned about change. She has a great team to work with in Sr. Sarah Deeby, Sr. Val Lewandoski and Sr. Lisa Sheridan.

As this change is happening, I would like to appeal to our readers in this regard. For the six years I have been here, Sr. Mary has been the face of the organization and you have stood by our side and never waivered in your support of the Servants of Mary. As we transition to our new leadership team, please remember, as they gain their footholds, they will be counting on your support to help make their transition as smooth as possible, and their time in office as successful as the last nine years. This new change checks off many of the boxes when it comes to emotions. I have no doubt though that you, our family, friends and benefactors, will stand beside our new leadership team and ensure our future successes and growth in our ministries.

Thank you,

Tom Marasco Director of Development

Marian Dedication

On September 17th Archbishop George Lucas joined the Servants of Mary and Marian Community to bless the new construction/renovation at Marian High and the newly named Servants of Mary Chapel.



Archbishop George Lucas blesses and dedicates Marian's completed construction and the new Servants of Mary Chapel.



The new Servants of Mary Chapel.



Marian students created an honor guard and applauded as the Servants of Mary walked to the new Servants of Mary Chapel.



Entry of Marian's Servants of Mary Chapel



Micah 6:8 is scripted on the back wall of the Chapel.



The stain glass windows are a representation of a student's journey at Marian.



Servants of Mary Benefactors

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations received from May 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019

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In Honor Of

We gratefully acknowledge the following honorariums received from May 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019

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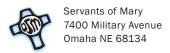
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Special Recognition from the Servants of Mary Community Council

Esprit de Corps* Rose Ann Shannon Johnson - Sr. Marcella Leadership Award John & Carolyn Gehring - Marian Award Mary Ann Luby Kilgore - Alumna of the Year Bill Ervin - Spirit of Marian Award Ann Schumacher - Honorary Diploma

Archdiocese of Omaha Education Awards Dinner Marsha Kalkowski - Secondary Educator of the Year Award



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Social Media Corner By Tom Marasco, Director of Development

We Want Your "Likes" and "Shares"!

Please check our social media sites regularly for updates, photos and general information on what the Sisters are involved in currently. Our website, facebook and twitter pages are updated regularly with photos of the Sisters and other happenings around the Motherhouse.

Our social media sites continue to gain in popularity each quarter. Our numbers are up on both Facebook and Twitter. We are now up to 937 followers on our Facebook page. Like our page and invite others you think would enjoy it, and help us get to our next goal of 1,000 followers. We are at 199 followers on Twitter. Please help us spread the word by liking our pages and sharing our posts with your own social networks. With your help, the Sisters can

If you are a graduate of a Catholic school in the Detroit, MI area, I invite you to check out www.bishopgallagher. org and the FaceBook group "I Went to Catholic School in Metro Detroit" (search for this group from your FaceBook page). There is a lot of history and great interaction from people you may know.

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