



MISSIONARY SISTERS

of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

www.mscreading.org

CONNECTIONS

Fall 2017 Newsletter

From Our Provincial Leader



Dear Friends,

Since 2014 the U.S. Province of the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus has been working with the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in planning for our future. NRRO established a Planning and Implementation Process in 2008 to help religious communities who are facing decline in membership and an aging population and who are

underfunded for their retirement. The first step in this process was to engage reliable professionals to do a financial and property analysis of our land and buildings including Sacred Heart Villa, our former motherhouse and personal care home, where our retired and infirm Sisters live with our lay residents. With grant monies received from the NRRO, other studies also were conducted and included an Elder Care Consultation, Marketing Studies, Surveys and Appraisals of our Properties.

After careful analysis of all the information we received, along with our prayerful discernment and on-going discussions with our Sisters and with our Congregational Leadership team, we are looking into the next phase of Sacred Heart Villa's future under new ownership. It is our heartfelt desire that Sacred Heart Villa continues as an exceptional ministry of care for the elderly. We are looking for new owners who will share our ethical and moral

values and who will honor and further the legacy of the MSC Sisters and Sacred Heart Villa. The process of selling will move slowly but we believe it will happen in God's time, not ours.

Many congregations of Sisters across the United States are experiencing similar situations; namely, decline in membership and an aging population of Sisters. Looking forward, these challenges will begin to make it impossible for us to maintain our properties and to responsibly carry out our sponsored ministry of elder care.

We thank each of you for your past and present support and we encourage you to remain with us as we navigate the future. Regardless of the changes we must face, what does not change is the relationship we have with you and our mutual love for God and for mission. We fully intend to continue to live our mission and our call to love with the Heart of Christ for years to come. Throughout our lives we all face life-altering changes at times. May we continue to define ourselves by our response to change rather than by the change itself.

Together, may we prayerfully trust in God's Divine Providence and His promise of a future full of hope for us all.

With a grateful heart,

Sister Rosemarie

Sister Rosemarie Sommers, MSC
Province Leader

Welcoming Christ Through Education

When she isn't working among the families of St. Mary's Church in Kutztown as their Pastoral Assistant, **Sr. Marie Clark, MSC** finds various other ways to serve. One such service is her role as tutor for immigrants in Reading, PA at the **Mother Veronica Center**. Begun by the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in 2015, the Veronica Center's mission is to provide a safe, welcoming place for the citizens of Reading to find education and information. The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters have welcomed the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) to join in their ministry. In fact, twice weekly **Sr. Catherine Cellini, MSC** also tutors a woman working to earn her GED at the center.

Both MSC Sisters began their service at the Veronica Center in the fall of 2016. Sr. Marie fondly recalls her first tutee as a young mother

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Damaris (center) practices her conversational English with Sr. Marie Clark (right) and Sr. Carolin (left), one of our Peruvian Sisters.

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Want to "Be Green?"

To receive Connections in email format only,
contact: cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org

MSC Sisters Welcome New Leadership Team

On August 6, 2017 at Sacred Heart Villa, Reading, the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) installed their new Leadership Team. This team, which will serve for the next four years, includes the Province Leader and four councilors who take responsibility for fostering life and unity within the community and coordinating the talents and gifts of the Sisters in the service of others and the mission of the congregation.

Sister Rosemarie Sommers, the new Province Leader, speaks for all MSC Sisters when she says: "Our mission today is the same as it was when we were founded over 100 years ago—to proclaim God's compassionate love to all. In the troubling and challenging times of today, this mission is more important than ever. As Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus we are



The new Leadership Team of the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) includes (left to right) Sr. Rosemarie Sommers, Sr. Patrice Cosgrove, Sr. Catherine Cellini, Sr. Raymond Gazo, and Sr. Deborah Reho. (Photo courtesy of Reading Eagle)

called to share God's love through our being and our actions, in all circumstances, at all times, with all people. We are called to be the Heart of God on earth."

The MSC Sisters invite the participation of all who believe in their mission to be the love of Christ in our world. This participation can be in the form of vocation, prayer, volunteerism, mission immersion and/or financial support. Men and women also can join with the Sisters in their prayer and ministry by becoming Lay MSC's. To learn more about the MSC mission and the ways you can make a difference, please visit www.mscreading.org. †

BE IMPACTFUL!

Consider Membership in our Monthly Giving Program

- Your tax deductible gift arrives automatically each month and is recorded on your monthly statement
- Your monthly commitment serves as an impactful stream of guaranteed income for our MSC Sisters
- Your gift benefits every MSC Sister and every person served by an MSC Sister
- Your electronic gift is green

To consider membership, visit www.mscreading.org for information and registration or contact Carrie, 610-929-2802 or cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org.

A Heart for Mission

By Carrie Whitmoyer



Sisters Patrice Cosgrove, Mary Ann Bigos, Deborah Reho, Rosemarie Sommers and Catherine Cellini enjoyed a luncheon with Flora Cusimano (center) to thank her for her many years of service and dedication.

As the director of a small-scale mission advancement office with a herculean-sized task, I must share that finding the right mission advancement assistant is not easy. This individual must possess a diverse set of skills and most importantly, must have a heart for both our MSC Sisters and their mission. So when Flora Cusimano, my assistant for the past seven years, announced in August that she must move to the Philippines for family reasons, I found myself once again looking

for a replacement for someone seemingly irreplaceable, as I had done in 2010 when long-time "assistant extraordinaire" Darlene Klemens retired.

Both Darlene and Flora had become vital members of the MSC Community and my goal was to find another person to do the same. As faith would dictate, this goal was reached when I met Claudia Rudderow through a mutual friend and MSC volunteer. Claudia happened to be searching for a fulfilling job at the same time I was searching for an assistant — thus my belief that there is no such thing as coincidence. The Sisters and I happily welcomed Claudia to the MSC Family in early September, just before our Nun Run 5k fundraiser. Coming in just before a major event has been quite a challenge, and Claudia has risen to it.



Claudia Rudderow happily accepts help from Rita Phillips as they tackle the challenges of fundraising to support the mission and lives of our MSC Sisters.

We are thankful and confident that Claudia's skills, work ethic and heart for mission will continue our tradition of excellent assistants.

One of the more challenging circumstances of this recent change has taught me a beautiful life lesson regarding resourcefulness and generosity. Between the time Flora resigned and Claudia was hired, I realized that Claudia would never have the opportunity to train with Flora. When I shared my concern with my Development Advisory Board President Rita Phillips, Rita not only agreed to train with Flora and to fill in for her before we hired Claudia, but she also then offered many hours of training and assistance to Claudia during the chaotic transition. Rita, who had just begun to enjoy the freedoms of her newly found retirement, didn't hesitate for a second before offering her talents. I am so very thankful for Rita's selflessness and for her heart for the MSC mission. I have observed Rita's lesson—that we share our resources without expectation of return—is what creates a happy, mission centered heart. If we seek this, we will find it by generously offering our strengths to the people and the causes we love. †

MSC Sisters Honored at SOAR! Awards Banquet

The MSC Sisters happily announce that we have been honored as the Rita Hofbauer Grant Awardees at this year's Soar! (Support Our Aging Religious) Awards Banquet at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC on November 3, 2017. On behalf of all our Sisters, Sisters Rosemarie Sommers and Deborah Reho thanked our donors in person and met many folks who work tirelessly to assure that aging and infirm religious across our nation are valued and cared for with compassion. The MSC Sisters have been grateful recipients of two SOAR! grants in the past three years, one for the installation of a new sound system in their chapel and a second to purchase several mattresses and lift chairs. These grants have enabled our Sisters to participate fully in liturgies and services thereby enhancing their prayerful intercessions and to rest and rise with some modicum of comfort and safety. May all our benefactors recognize the incredible impact they have on each and every MSC Sister. †



Mission Updates

INTERNATIONAL

From our MSC Sisters in Papua New Guinea

As an international congregation of religious, MSC Sisters often focus on cultural awareness in order to improve communications and relationships. In this spirit a three month program on Intercultural Living and Mission Experience will be held at the Linckens House of Formation in Manila, Philippines beginning January 7 and ending April 5, 2018. Twelve young MSC Sisters will be attending this program including three from the PNG Province, Sisters Christine Sari, Susan Markus and Adolfa Mature.



On the 30th of July 2017, PNG Sisters in Rabaul witnessed the reception of Joan Matmat into Pre-Novitiate. Please hold her in prayer as she enters into deep discernment of her call into religious life in our MSC congregation.

U.S. PROVINCE



Lay MSC and Sisters Celebrate 25 Years

Our Lay MSC Associates gathered October 14 at Sacred Heart Villa to celebrate their 25th Anniversary as members of the Chevalier Family. They came together to pray and to praise God for their spiritual partnership with the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our Sisters are filled with hope because each Lay MSC promises to live the MSC Spirituality in their own lives as faithfully as they are able. This spiritual relationship ignites within each of our Sisters and Lay

Associates the uniquely MSC desire to love with the pierced Heart of Christ — God willing, for another 25 years.

Mission Immersion Experiences Return to the Dominican Republic

Sr. Lisa Valentini joyfully announces that she and her missionaries have returned to the D.R. following more than a seventeen month absence due to the Zika virus. Making their return in June of 2017, volunteers in the first of five groups of missionaries traveled from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Texas to minister



Families and missionaries gather in the freshly painted Altigracia Chapel in El Factor, Dominican Republic.

to the people of El Factor. The missionaries hosted craft sessions and sing-a-longs with children and special needs students and they painted and cleaned a chapel in the community. The other four waves of missionaries which included health professionals,



a priest and various folks from Texas, Louisiana, New York and Pennsylvania were able to complete tasks such as: creating above ground gardens that will be used to grow vegetables tended by students and used to feed them; extending basic health care services; and baptizing a child of one of Sr. Lisa's long-time helpers. Sr. Lisa is beyond thrilled to be offering Mission Immersion

Experiences again in the Dominican Republic and says that, "It was as if no time had passed at all. The people welcomed us with open arms and big smiles. Groups are already planning their return for 2018!"

Have you ever thought of joining a Mission Immersion Experience? Contact Sr. Lisa at sisterlisa1@hotmail.com.

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Sharing the Heart Series

MSC Reflections on life and faith...



Reflections with Sr. Rosemarie Mullen, MSC

I wish to share with you, my dear friends, some details of my recent visit to Berks Heim Nursing Home in Berks County. As usual, the volunteer director asked me to visit with one particular resident to share the gift of my harp with her. Minnie, who had

seemed very quiet and unresponsive at our first meeting, responded to the soft music of my harp wonderfully during our second visit. As I began playing the religious music, Minnie started singing and shared her melodious voice throughout the entire performance.

She not only knew the music but also the lyrics of each song I played. Minnie said that she sang in the church choir for 60 years and it truly brought great joy to her heart to sing again and to share God's gift of music with others. Minnie could not thank me enough for the time I spent with her and she looks forward to my future visits. It is truly a joy for me to see her, and many other residents, respond to my harp music. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Throughout these struggles, I witnessed amazing resilience and a circus family who assisted each other through difficult transitions. Some people verbalized their belief that their God would get them through somehow, that all would be well. Others



maintained this attitude without using the word God. All knew that their creativity, ingenuity and family ties would eventually see them through their challenges.

Having walked this journey among the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus Family, I reflect upon the beauty of God working through peoples' lives – a beauty which we can apply to our own lives: when presented challenges that trigger anger and confusion, we can move through it with God, with love, by looking out for one another, by tapping our God-given resources and by helping those around us to find and to use theirs.



Reflections with Sr. Mary Saponara, MSC

For the last 24 years I have been on mission in a poor parish entrusted to the MSC Sisters and Priests in Mexico City, Mexico. When reflecting upon my mission with the people of Mexico, I often focus on the word **JOY**.

I grew up believing in the **joy** of the Gospel and following Jesus Christ because my parents taught me that I was born to love and be loved! One day in church I remember hearing the Gospel and suddenly understanding that I was called to be a Missionary. I had never experienced such pure **joy**! Upon meeting the MSC Sisters I immediately fell in love with their



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Reflections with Sr. Dorothy Fabritze, MSC

After tearing down their iconic show for the last time on May 21 in Long Island, New York, an American tradition came to a close. Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus ceased to exist. I have been privileged to accompany the individuals and families of Ringling Brothers since 2004. Our journey has been a challenging and wonderful experience for me. I have worked with them, offered them spiritual direction and come to love them. Most challenging has been my walk among them from January to May of 2017.

Once aware of their impending fate with Ringling, this circus family experienced several classic stages of grief including shock, anger, and confusion. The circus's closure brought on some early retirements and challenged many to find new work, often times in entirely different career fields.

Donor Tributes

As our benefactor, YOU enable the wonderful stories shared in this newsletter to happen; YOU are the key to the MSC Sisters accomplishing our mission to be the Heart of Christ for others. Please continue your generous relationship with us so that we make continue to positively impact peoples' loves with the love of Christ.



Many thanks to these two beautiful ladies who visited with us in May – Terry DeBiase and Susan Forsyth! Sr. Nanette (center) and all our Sisters love and appreciate you! Terry came with a cash donation for our Circus Sisters from the St. Joseph's Women's Guild, Orefield and Susan donated her beloved father's stamp collection—no telling what surprises we may find among them. Your generosity and kindness is contagious, as are your smiles.

My love to all the wonderful sisters who gave me the very best nursing education at Sacred Heart, Allentown, PA. I have been very blessed that they were and still are a part of my life.

Love to all, Jo Ann



Sr. Eileen Kantz, MSC was one of many MSC Sisters who instructed nursing students at Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing, Allentown.

Dear Sister,

I was one of your students at our Lady of Hungary School in Northampton, PA. You made learning fun and that made it easier for me to try a little harder. I have been thinking about you over the years and always admired you and the inspiration you gave to your class. You were kind and fun-loving. I remember in the morning all of the girls would line up at the convent gate eagerly awaiting you to come out so we could carry your bags.

We ALL loved you!! Mary



Over the course of her teaching career, Sr. Mary Ann Lawrence made learning fun for thousands, one student at a time.

Mission Updates *continued from page 3*

Stephen's Place

Sr. Virginia Longcope happily announces that she and the Board of Directors have made their dream to hire a Program Director at Stephen's Place come true. As of January 2017 Sr. Virginia welcomed Daniel Massaro to the newly created position. A recovering addict himself, Daniel is seven years clean and sober. During these seven years, Daniel has accomplished a great deal. He worked hard to achieve his goal to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Temple University in 2015 and he then was hired as the Program Director/Case Manager at Safe Harbor, a transitional housing shelter in Easton.

Daniel first brought his expertise to Stephen's Place when he met with Sr. Virginia and began attending weekly group sessions. Before he knew it, Daniel had become a volunteer, accompanying the residents on a recreational camping trip. As an employee of Stephen's Place, Daniel now conducts: interviews and orientations for potential and new residents; a recovery based group in Northampton County Prison; group sessions and recreational activities at Stephen's Place; and fundraising and community outreach.

Regarding his work at Stephen's Place, Daniel says that, "Helping others is my passion. I believe it is my calling." Sr. Virginia remains thrilled that Daniel "has become an integral part of Stephen's Place." †

Find more mission stories at www.mscreading.org



Sr. Virginia consults with her new Program Director Daniel Massaro at Stephen's Place in Bethlehem, PA.

IN MEMORIAM



Sister M. Noreen, MSC
1932–2017

When Sister Noreen was a young child her family emigrated from Ireland and settled in New York City. She grew up in a large, loving family of nine children and entered our congregation as a candidate in 1947.

After Novitiate, Sister Noreen spent the next 18 years completing her

university studies and serving as an elementary school teacher and librarian. She was missioned to our parish schools in Northampton, Haycock, Lansford and Coplay. For 8 years following this work, Sr. Noreen served as a Nurses' Aide and lovingly cared for our Sisters at St. Michael Convent, now Sacred Heart Villa.

After this ministry, obedience called Sister Noreen to work as a librarian and office assistant in three of our parish schools. By 1999 Sr. Noreen again returned to the ministry of caring for our elderly Sisters. In the later years of her life she graciously accompanied our Sisters to doctors' appointments and also served as assistant Sacristan at Sacred Heart Villa.

Sister Noreen was a quiet, simple, kind and prayerful religious woman. She dearly loved the Sisters in the Infirmary. Sister inherited her mother's wisdom and quoted it often. She dearly loved her parents, her siblings and their extended families.

Sister Noreen had a great devotion to Mary and faithfully wore her scapular which remained with her until the Sacred Heart called her home. †

Welcoming Christ *continued from page 1*

of three who was working diligently for her GED with the support of her husband and children.

In addition to one-on-one tutoring, Sr. Marie also has been teaching a small group class for several Spanish speaking adults who are determined to master English. Regardless of the learner, Sr. Marie marvels at "their tenacity, their gratitude and their sense of humor". As anyone who knows a language other than their own has learned, these qualities are critical to mastery and one must continually attempt to speak and to accept correction. Perhaps this is the reason for one of many motivational signs scattered among the rooms of the Veronica Center, "Mistakes are proof that you are trying."

One particular learner, Damaris, exemplifies this adage. Since immigrating to Reading from the Dominican Republic in 2008, she has searched out every available resource to learn English. As her skills improved, Damaris earned her CNA license through RACC. When applying for jobs, however, she has been asked to improve her conversational grasp of English and to reapply once she has. Even while telling this discouraging story, Damaris smiles. She smiles because she knows that her continued commitment at Veronica Center, where she attends English lessons Monday through Thursday, will prepare her to accept a job offer soon.

The Mother Veronica Center epitomizes the mission and spirit of so many congregations of women religious in our city, our country and around our world: to assist in improving every person's quality of life; and to advocate for and empower individuals through language education and information sharing that will lead to citizenship, job opportunities and further education. For service or volunteer opportunities, please inquire with **Sr. Dorothy Sepkowski**, the center's director, at dsepkowski303@gmail.com or 610-376-6093. †

Engage with the MSC Sisters by liking us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/MSCSisters> and visiting www.mscreading.org

Sharing the Heart *continued from page 4*

charism and spiritually. I knew pure joy again when I recognized that Jesus was calling me to love through my vocation as an MSC Sister!

Most deeply, I fell in love with the Heart of Jesus. I find **joy** daily in my privileged contact with God's people, especially with those at the margins of society where we MSC have always been called to be. I am nourished daily through the prayerful joy of my personal relationship with Jesus Christ! This relationship is my call to live an obedient, faithful life through the happiness of poverty and the radical nature of love.

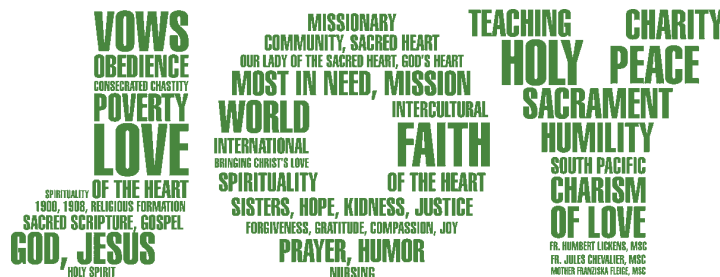
My prayer is that each of us may experience **JOY**: the joy of the Holy Spirit that continues to call young women & men to

live in Christ and to follow him; the **joy** of recognizing that the spirituality of the Heart leads us to a life of love; and the **joy** which impels us to bear witness to a world so much in need.

As Pope Francis tells us, "the **joy** of the Gospel fills the hearts and minds of all those who encounter Jesus. A **joy** ever new! A **joy** that is always shared."

In your own daily reflections, I ask that you pray for all MSC Sisters, that we continue our mission to bring God's people to the Heart of Jesus so they

may know the deep, personal experience of God's love for them in union with his Sacred Heart. †



The Nun Run 5K Creates Family

The Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) extend gratitude to the participants, sponsors and volunteers who poured their energy, resources and hearts into the 8th Annual NUN RUN 5K and 1M Fun Walk at Sacred Heart Villa, Reading on Saturday, September 16. Each year on this third Saturday in September, the Sisters are amazed by the generosity of donors, friends and family who exemplify and help promote the MSC mission to be the love of Christ to all people everywhere.

We specifically thank the following Gold Sponsors who have been with us now for eight years: Gethsemane Cemetery & Mausoleum, Berks Western Telecom and Fleetwood Bank. Through their loyal commitment these sponsors have set the stage for others who also have joined the MSC mission through various Nun Run sponsorships, including people like Tony and Leslye Durilla who research and purchase prizes for our winners each year.

The MSC Sisters celebrate the attempts and successes of each Nun Run runner and walker each year. These participants include a wide range of people and ages from experienced to first-time runners and avid walkers to infants and "eighty-somethings".

This year's Top Male and Top Female runners Tom Hegedus and Mia Wright set the bar for a diverse field of runners which even included athletes who were preparing for future ten mile, half marathon and full marathon runs.

Perhaps the most influential of the Nun Run "regulars" are the volunteers. The Nun Run Committee, chaired by Rita Phillips, includes members who commit not only to several months of preparation during which they seek out sponsors and in-kind gifts but also to volunteerism on race day. In addition to the committee, many individuals, groups, couples



Barry Hannahoe and Family exemplify the CAN DO SPIRIT of the Nun Run and the MSC Sisters.



and families give of their time on race day to park cars, operate food stands, man registration tents and raffle tables, and staff our 5k course. Without volunteers we simply could not host the Nun Run; they make the Nun Run happen!

The MSC Sisters extend sincere gratitude for all who have contributed to the success of our 8th Annual Nun Run and encourage you to visit www.mscreading.org to view Nun Run pictures. Whether a sponsor, volunteer or participant, you are missionary to us and through us. †



Sisters Nanette Wisser, Marie Clark and Lorraine Molchanow enjoy welcoming Nun Run guests to Sacred Heart Villa for the eighth year.



Sr. Patrice Cosgrove, MSC congratulates Nun Run 2017 5K Top Male and Top Female runners Tom Hegedus and Mia Wright. Tom has now won the 5K for three consecutive years.



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 7th Annual NUN RUN 5k and Fun Walk!

Because of your generosity, we have cleared more than \$27,000 which will be used to supplement our Sisters' mission and retirement costs. Whether as a sponsor, participant or volunteer, YOU have made a difference for not only our Sisters, but also for the people to whom they minister. YOU are impactful and we appreciate you!

We THANK the following for their Gold Sponsorship:

Diego & Linda Calderin

Marcia Finisdore

Doug & Helen Didyoung

Loretta Ulincy



CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUM



Berks Western Telecom

We THANK the following for their Silver Sponsorship:

Marcella & Bryan Shaver

Tony & Ellen DiGirolamo

Regina & Ted Rinehimer

Tom & Leslye Durilla



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We THANK the following for their T-shirt

Sponsorship: Brian & Loryn Hoffa; S2 Analytical Solutions; Attorney Frank Yandrisevits; Stitzel Family Funeral Homes & Crematory; Doug White; Power Systems Associates; Hildebrand Cousins H2+; BB&T Insurance Services; Irma Lesser; Veterans Making a Difference; Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. Brendan Division #1; Knights of Columbus, St. Francis De Sales, Council #15778; Assist-2-Sell Smart Choice Realty; Ed & Patti Traupman; The Winkler Family; Clover Farms Dairy; St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Kutztown; Jeffrey & Lorraine Miller; The Jewelry Source, Blandon; Health Calls Home Health Agency; Mark & Joni Garza; Fox Rothschild LLC; Si & Mary Marino; Knights of Columbus, St. Benedict Parish, Council #14654.

We recognize and THANK our NUN RUN Committee for their in-kind gifts and their generous commitment to the mission and lives of the MSC Sisters:

Rita Phillips, Chair; Andrea Bensusan; Joni Garza; Kelly Groh; Sue Kasopsky; Kristina Kurland; Carol Noga; Marcella Shaver; & Carm Sosik.

Thank you to the following who provided IN-KIND gifts for our NUN RUN:

Our NUN RUN Committee Members; Tom & Leslye Durilla; Fleetwood Bank; Kegel's Produce; Kate Goodman; Yuengling Ice Cream; A Running Start; The Jewelry Source; Michele Bubbenmoyer; Kuts & Karats; Clover Farms Dairy; Thach Tran; Philadelphia Phillies; Reading Rocks; Dr. Tristan Smith; The Mystic Mind; Joe Schiditsky; Clover Hill Winery; Sean McDermott & Jennifer Schmehl; Todd Auman; Dr. Zachary Fatkin; Jamie Gerhart; Monte Lauro; Health Calls Home Health Agency; and Rosanne McCarty.

How can YOU play a vital role in the MSC mission?

- Pray for the MSC Sisters and all whom we serve.
 - Become a Lay MSC Associate.
 - Join our monthly giving club.
- Remember our Sisters in your estate planning
 - Honor a loved one on our Tree of Life.
- Attend and/or volunteer at our events, on our committees or on our Development Advisory Board.

For all information, visit www.mscreading.org or email cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org



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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017

- Nov. 1 Fireside Chat** — Our November Chat will include a short tour of our MSC Sisters' chapel followed by a Painting Party with Bernadette Bresnahan of Creative Spirit Painting. Join us at Sacred Heart Villa to chat while we paint angel wings—the perfect Christmas present for someone you love. \$45 pp; must prepay to guarantee space.
- Dec. 4 Advent Agape and Tea** with the MSC Sisters at Sacred Heart Villa, 6:30 pm. All are welcome! RSVP to MissionAdvancement@mscreading.org.
- Dec. 5 Sr. Dorothy Fabritze** shares her "Ministry of Presence" among six different circus communities over the past 18 years — 7:00 – 8:00 PM, St. Philip Neri Catholic Family Life Center, Pennsburg, PA www.CatholicFamilyLifeCenter.com to register (\$5 pp)
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day** — We welcome you to join us for Christmas Mass; simply call ahead for our schedule the week prior, 610-929-5751.

2018

- January Heart of Mission \$10,000 Raffle:** sales limit of 500 tickets; \$100 per chance; mailing in January; winner announced in April — Play to win!
- Feb. 11 Benefactors' Brunch** — 10:00 AM Mass followed by brunch at Sacred Heart Villa. This annual gathering is an opportunity for our MSC Sisters to meet, thank and enjoy the company of their donors and friends in celebration of our common mission.
- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday** — We welcome you to join our Lenten Masses and services; simply call ahead for our schedule the week prior, 610-929-5751.
- Feb. 15 Lenten Agape and Tea** with the MSC Sisters at Sacred Heart Villa, 6:30 pm. All are welcome! RRSVP to MissionAdvancement@mscreading.org.
- April 1 Easter Blessings!** The MSC Sisters welcome you to celebrate Easter Mass with them. Call the week before to confirm Mass time(s), 610-929-5751.
- April 22 MSCFest: Oktoberfest in April** — In honor of our 110th year of ministry in the United States, we are reorganizing our annual Spring into Mission banquet to honor the MSC Sisters' founding province in Germany. We've added the Josef Kroboth band and will celebrate the MSC mission in true German style at beautiful Stokesay Castle in Reading, PA. Invitations and sponsorship opportunities will be available in mail and online in March. We do hope you SAVE THE DATE and join us!
- May 19 Jubilee Celebrations at Sacred Heart Villa** for Sisters Angela Tiencken (70), Bernice Domitrovitz (70), Irene Turek (70), Virginia Chnapko (60), Christine Kotwicki (50), Dorothy Fabritze (50), Barbara Daniels (50), and Rosemarie Sommers (50).
- June 8 Feast of the Sacred Heart** — On this date the June Calendar Sweepstakes \$500 prize winner will be drawn. Be sure to play and it may be you!

Sept. 15

