

CONNECTIONS

Fall/Winter 2020 Newsletter

MSC Reflections

By the Grace of God...

A Reflection from Sr. Dorothy Fabritze, MSC

Tom was a clown on one of the circuses served by Sr. Dorothy Fabritze, MSC during her many years in Circus Ministry. In 2003, Tom graced Sr. Dorothy with the gift of a keyboard. Unknown to Tom, this gift would be one that provided much comfort to Sr. Dorothy years later during this time of quarantine What follows is Sr. Dorothy's account of this "Gift of grace":

Unbeknownst to Tom, I just couldn't get him out of my thoughts for several days, and when I finally Sr. Dorothy Fabritze, MSC decided to contact him, it turned out that Tom, too, had been thinking of me, his dear friend Sr. Dorothy.

In response to my call Tom said, "I really needed to talk to you. You told me once that Jesus can be there on my couch. Please pray that Jesus will hold the hand of my mother."

Through conversation, I came to learn that Tom and his sister recently had become their mother's caretaker, that he was



learning nursing skills far beyond his comfort zone, and that the beautiful imagery of my relationship with Jesus was giving Tom strength during his mother's struggle. Hanging up the phone, I experienced a renewed amazement at the grace of God.

By the grace of God, Tom had thought to give me a gift years ago, the organ, which then helped me through this difficult time of quarantine these many years later.

By the grace of God, I thought called to thank him. And truly by the grace of God, Tom was able to speak with me, his spiritual mentor, as his mother lay

dying. His mother, by the grace of God, passed three days later while I humbly asked Jesus to hold her hand.

To find joy and peace, especially in difficult circumstances, I have learned that we must strive to see God in whatever is happening in our lives, the good and the bad, because the grace of God is in our every thought, every moment, every action, and every interaction. Reflections continued on page 6

International News: Pandemic Perspectives



Sr. Gregoria Jeon, MSC

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN KOREA

During the period when Coronavirus emerged and spread in China, the infections also began to spread into Korea. At that time, Korea faced the world's second most serious coronavirus crisis. Many people were infected, the supply of masks was insufficient, and in order to buy the filtered masks people had to wait in long lines reminiscent of wartime rationing.

In an attempt to support people, some Korean Women's religious groups joined efforts to make masks and distribute the masks to the poor. Our MSC Sisters also made and used hand-made masks. We delivered vitamins, rice cakes, drinks, and handmade masks, and hand sanitizers to the Screening Clinic and the Emergency Rescue and Recovery Workers. By Easter, our Sisters had made and delivered about 650 masks.

As the world continues to face this pandemic crisis, we Korean Sisters pray for all infected people and for doctors, nurses, and volunteers. We also pray for those who have died and for those who have been left behind. We hope and pray for the end of this pandemic and we hold the intentions of all God's people in our hearts. As in all circumstances, we remember what truly matters in our response, reflection and experiences—to love. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere. Now and forever.

COVID 19 EXPERIENCE IN ANGOLA — MSC Sisters in Cuvelai Community

Coronavirus has instilled fear in people and it has become a story of everyday. We MSC Sisters know this shall come to pass and we pray for an end of this deadly disease. Let us all be united in our prayer and the love of Christ. Fica em casa. (Stay at home.) Pandemic Perspectives continued on page 2

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Want to "Be Green?"

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

Nun Run 2020: Virtually Unstoppable!



IN MEMORIAM



Sister Bonita Heydt, MSC (Sr. Bonnie)

1956 - 2020

Sister Bonnie was born at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, PA where our Sisters ministered until just recently. In fact, our very own Sr. Theresa Lepera, MSC was the maternity nurse in the delivery room when Sr. Bonnie arrived in this world. Years later, when Sr. Bonnie

was asked how she first learned about the MSC's she would respond (with a twinkle in her eve) that when Sr. Theresa held the newborn Bonnie in her arms she kept whispering in her ear: MSC. MSC...

Sr. Bonnie attended Our Lady Help of Christians parish school and Allentown Central Catholic High School. After the family moved to Northampton, Bonnie, along with her parents and younger sister Lisa, became members of Our Lady of Hungary parish where our Sisters taught in the school for many years. It was then that Bonnie became reacquainted with our Sisters and was instilled with a strong desire to be a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart. She entered our congregation in September 1982 and professed her First Vows on February 2, 1986. When Sr. Bonnie formally petitioned the Provincial (who at the time was Sr. Theresa Lepera) to make her profession of vows, she wrote: "Since entering the community I have come to know what it means to be a beloved daughter of our Heavenly Father."

Sr. Bonnie's great passion was to witness to God's compassionate love and healing through her ministry as a nurse. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing at Gwynedd Mercy University in 1994 and her Master's Degree as a Nurse Practitioner from DeSales University in 1999.

Through the years, Sr. Bonnie ministered at hospitals where our Sisters worked: Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown, and St. Mary's Hospital, Athens, Georgia, where she was a nurse in Home Health Care, an outreach program that served the poor and elderly. She also worked at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, and for the Lehigh Valley Physicians Group. Since 2016 she worked as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Penn State Health - St. Joseph Urgent Care in Muhlenberg Township. One of the great joys she experienced working there was when she was asked to travel in the hospital van to the local mushroom farm workers to attend to their health care needs. She and her driver Armando called themselves the "Mushroom Missionaries."

Sr. Bonnie really enjoyed community life with her fellow Sisters. She appreciated the daily experiences of praying together and sharing the simple pleasures of everyday life. She also loved her family and friends and looked forward to visits with them whenever possible.

God called Bonnie to begin a special journey with Him at the beginning of 2020 when she was unexpectedly diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. She continued working as long as she could and hoped to return when she was cured, but that was not meant to be. She spent many weeks in the hospital and in rehab where she was too weak to respond to therapy. Finally, she made the decision to begin hospice care and to live her remaining days with her Sisters at Sacred Heart Villa. God blessed Bonnie with a pain-free death as she slept peacefully. May she be wrapped in the eternal embrace of our loving God. 🕆

International News: Pandemic Perspectives continued from page1

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN INDIA

In solidarity, love and compassion...

Lockdown has severely affected the lives and livelihoods of the vast majority of people in India, particularly the daily wage workers and the migrant workers. They have been left with no work and thus struggle to feed themselves and their families. Even though the government is taking some actions by providing the necessary daily needs, with a huge population it does not reach all. Many religious Congregations, Dioceses and NGO's have come forward, extending help and support to the poor and the most vulnerable.

We MSC Sisters in India, aware of our responsibility in this crisis, decided to reach out to those in need particularly those who live with us (our daily wage workers) and around us. Motivated by the love and compassion of the Heart of Jesus, we continue packing groceries for sixty needy families in Viveknagar, Bangalore. All of them are daily wage workers and some of them have lost their jobs so they struggle to maintain their daily living.

MSC Sisters in Kodpad, Orissa have collaborated with the CMI Fathers to provide more than 100 families who live in the village with necessary groceries. The sisters expressed that they were able to bring smiles to their faces and joy to their hearts. We MSC Sisters have experienced that



sharing our joy has brought us closer to one another. It has awakened our co-responsibility to reach out in love, compassion and concern for all.

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN NAMIBIA

Sr. Veronika, MSC

We all are affected psychologically and emotionally by this crisis of coronavirus, and we are concerned for ourselves, our families, and our friends because of the dangers we are facing today. We see signs of that panic in our community as well as the entire nation. The situation has become complicated especially for the people who live in low-income areas. Many families can rely only on daily earnings and our government is trying to give them something to eat, and this is not really enough for every single person in the country.

We feel worried, helpless, panicked, confused and uncertain about this deadly pandemic which destroys persons' livelihoods. It also changes our lives in that we don't live normal lives as usual and we don't know what will happen tomorrow-but we do trust in God. We are very mindful of the words of Saint Paul: "Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of Him who loves us." continued on page 6

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 may continue to positively impact peoples' lives with the love of Christ.



"I met Sr. Barbara Daniels at the UGA Catholic Center. She has been instrumental in helping me discover who I am." — Nina

Sr. Barb Daniels with the RCIA group at the

May 29, 2020

Dear Sisters of the MSC,

Enclosed is a gift from me to all of you as a way to say thank you for all the prayers, support, influence and spiritual guidance you have given to me, and so many others over the years.

The MSC's always were and always will be very dear to me. You were an extension of my parents, family, husband, and sister-in-law, and you taught me at a young age what I live by today, and that is the saving power of God's love and forgiveness, the compassionate Heart of Christ, and how God's love does bring peace and reconciliation.

My Mom's favorite quote to me, especially during difficult times was, "If He brings you to it,

Just a note....

This morning as I had my cup of coffee, or two, I took the time to read your newsletter (Spring/Summer 2020

It was wonderful—so many delightful stories to read! When I hear MSC, I think of all the Sisters that deeply formed me at St. Peter's in Coplay, way back in the 40's! It was also heart-warming every time I would visit the convent in Hyde Park. Yes, I have many fond memories. I am now overjoyed that my cousin, Sister Rosemarie, keeps the flame of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in all of us! God's Peace and Blessings to all. Stay healthy!

—Carolyn

He will get you through it" - so consoling and true!

My hope and prayer is that all of you are doing as well as possible during this pandemic and remain safe and healthy.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere! I will keep all of you in my prayers; please keep me in your prayers!

Fondly,

I proceeded to read the newsletter and needed to reach out again ... it warmed my heart. I love the Sisters and think that they are the embodiment of God's love ... I'm so pleased to hear that the MSC Sisters and residents have remained healthy and are doing well — that is such a blessing! Thank you for sending me the newsletter. — Meagan

New Room Options Available Starting at \$2,315 at Sacred Heart Villa!

Located in Muhlenberg, Sacred Heart Villa offers a full range of services from Independent to enhanced Personal Care.

> Call to join us for a tour and come see our newly available room options starting at \$2,315 today!

> > 610.929.5751 www.sacredheartvillapa.org



Congratulations to the following **June Sweepstakes Winners:**

Christine Newhard; Barbara Quigney; David Tomlinson; Jean Thomas; Craig C. Cirafesi; Joanne Messenlehner; Mark Garza; James Lloyd; Kristina Burns; Fred Wrobel; Linda Gamble; David Jaman; Faye Hlavaty; James McCarty; Rosemary Giamoni; James Pleitner

2 | Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus ____



NUN RUN 2020 — Virtually Unstoppable

Pandemic limitations proved to be a challenge for the annual NUN RUN 5k and 1m Fun Walk; however, because of your determination to assist MSC Sisters in any way you could, the 2020 VIRTUAL NUN RUN goes down in MSC history as the most profitable yet! Thank you for your friendship and support! Please accept our gratitude and our love—as a part of the MSC Family, you are very important to us! Take a look at our VIRTUAL NUN RUN gallery to see the JOY created by folks like you who are virtually unstoppable in their care for MSC Sisters and our mission to love with the Heart of Christ.



Visit MSCreading.org to see the entire Nun Run picture gallery! Dr. J. Michael Pressimone captured his Nun Run finish live on video from Cleveland Height, Ohio.





















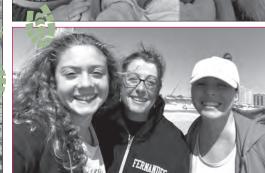








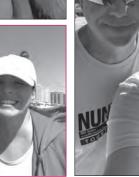


























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The Raging River...

A Reflection from Sr. Lorraine Molchanow, MSC

When I met this prayer-poem for the first time, I knew that I was given a treasure. These words of Lee Webber have encouraged me and brought hope to others, particularly to those who were very ill or on hospice care. "Crossings" however has much to offer every one of us in whatever situation we may be.

CROSSINGS - By Lee Webber

I came to the swift, raging river And the roar held the echo of fear; "O Lord, give me wings to fly over, If you are, as you promised quite near."

But God said, "Trust the grace I am giving, All-pervasive, sufficient for you. Take my hand - we will face this together; My plan is not over - but through."

Each of us has some form of raging river to cross in our life. Likewise, we are facing society's raging rivers like the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, racism, divisions, poverty and injustice of every kind.

As our prayer suggests, flying over these crises is not possible. There is only one true crossing and that is with God and in God's way – going through the river of struggle hand in hand with God and each other. We have the MSC charism and mission; we have the Chevalier Family to guide us through the various rivers that must be crossed in our lives and in our world. Jesus himself has told us: "Do not let your hearts be troubled!" Jn 14:1



Sr. Mary Ann Lawrence, MSC

What is happening and Where do we go from here...

A Reflection from Sr. Mary Ann Lawrence, MSC

Realizing how the pandemic has been affecting our families, my thoughts and prayers have turned to the Holy Family asking them for the graces we all needed to deal with this unknown. Mary and Joseph certainly dealt with many

unknowns from the very moment of the Annunciation. She and Joseph were perfect examples of faith during their travels and the many events in the early life of Jesus. Reflecting on how they followed God's plan, the words of Jeremiah the prophet remind me that no matter what, God is still with us. Through Jeremiah, God's Word comes loud and clear: "For I know well the plans I have made for you, says the Lord, Plans for your welfare, not for woe; Plans to give you a future full of hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

In the spirit of hope, I am grateful for the many ways I continue to live the MSC mission these days. I have still been able to continue my tutoring sessions with some of the Good Shepherd Parish children in my own home. The students have been coming on a regular basis throughout the summer and into the school year. God has also blessed me with our Reflections continued on page 7

International News: Pandemic Perspectives continued from page 2

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN PERÚ

MSC Sisters at San Martin, Lima, Peru

Peru is living a critical moment in its history that tests the strength of its institutions and the moral soundness of its inhabitants. In a country that has long shown a health system both precarious due to the scarcity of resources and characterized by the absence of priority for the most vulnerable, there exists an unprecedented level of corruption at all levels.



For several months, we have socially distanced at home. People who do not comply with the rules are taken to the police stations and must pay a considerable fine. What this means for those who must leave daily to earn their living is unimaginable; if they do not die from Covid-19, it will be from hunger. To be confined for weeks in a very precarious life in a country where there is a high rate of family violence and contagious diseases such as TB, implies serious future consequences even after the Pandemic ends.

In the face of the challenging and painful situations socially, psychologically, and educationally, we MSC Sisters have searched for creative ways to reach the most vulnerable people. Sr. Maria Van der Lind, MSC (seated, left in photo) was appointed by the Ministry of Health to be part of an Ethics Committee to draw up ethical recommendations for the respect of the human rights of the sick who require specialized care for Covid-19. Through Zoom, Sr. Maria maintains contact with health promoters, pastoral agents and social networks to contribute to information and reflection and to facilitate activities of solidarity. Sr. Mathilde Vossmöller, MSC with a team of lay people who work in San Martin, has reopened the medical service in Cerro Candela to allow healthcare, which the state does not provide for the other sick. Our MSC mission in Peru continues in earnest.

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN EL SALVADOR

Sr. Carolin Romero, MSC

Certainly, the worldwide COVID pandemic creates moments of uncertainty, fear, tension and more. However, our good God, the one who tells us that LIFE has the last word, teaches us to know how to live and walk in these times of darkness. The essence of life: love, faith, hope, solidarity and so many other human values are still very present today. What is good and what is God's message in all this? From my point of view where I live in El Salvador, I can name two positive changes which people in other countries may take for granted. As a result of the pandemic, people have taken action to care for themselves: citizens have organized themselves in their own colonies to put in sanitation spaces and municipalities have organized themselves to bring food to the poorest families. Amidst the pain and suffering, good things can result where the will exists. continued on page 7 **Reflections** continued from page 6

Women's Bible Study Group which began meeting again recently. Now we gather to share God's Word every Wednesday evening.

The pandemic has taught me the importance of keeping in touch with family, friends, shut-ins, and parishioners through simple cards, notes, emails, and phone calls. May we all remember that the little things matter and that despite all the obstacles, we really do have a "future full of hope."



Sr. Marie Janesch, MSC

I do not know what the future holds, but I do know Who holds the future!

A Reflection by Sr. Marie Janesch, MSC

Since the pandemic began, some of my Sisters and I have been living at Sacred Heart Villa in a rather quarantined fashion along with our lay residents. Since March, the pandemic has prevented me from going to my

weekly ministry at Country Meadows Retirement Communities in Reading, PA. As of today October, I have still not been able to return. However, I have remained united to all my friends there through my prayers and my contact with the resident Chaplain.

Although my absence has been a disappointment, my presence at the Villa has blossomed into a wonderful opportunity for my fellow Sisters and me to share our mission stories with the lay residents who could not enjoy family visits or regular activities for many months. During twice weekly sessions I shared with them my 70 years of national and international ministry. This included: happy and sad stories of hospitalized children: my experiences in teaching and nursing; six years of ministry in Italy with some "close encounters" with Pope John Paul II: and lastly. the fifteen years of blessed service in Namibia, Africa among our native African Sisters.

Never, over the course of the past eight months, has the awareness of Covid19 been far from us MSC Sisters. We have prayed daily at Mass for those suffering directly or indirectly from the virus, for those who have died and for their families. We continue to keep in mind the impact the virus is having on all of us. Very early on we began praying the rosary daily in the main chapel for the same intentions, and we continue this today as do many of our residents.

We Sisters, our many residents, and perhaps many of you need a lot of "lifting up" during this time. Deprived of the visits of family and friends, is difficult and the longer the separation lasts, the more the sadness is evident. MSC Sisters strive to be present to one another and to have a positive effect on our SHV residents. We believe that they know we are with them through it all, and we wish to send that same message to you. Although we do not know what the future holds, we must remember Who holds the future. Therein is my faith and hope! 🕆

Consider Membership in our Monthly Giving Program

Your monthly CC gift is automatic and tax deductible and provides our Sisters a stream of guaranteed income they can truly count on. To become a monthly donor, set up your gift at MSCreading.org/giving-opportunities/ or call 610-929-2802 and we will set it up with you. Thank you!

International News: Pandemic Perspectives continued from page 6

Make no mistake, we have a long way to go, but the important thing is to know what the Lord of LIFE, continues to tell us: "Do not be afraid: I am here." May the joy and hope of the Risen Christ ignite each of our hearts that rests and is renewed in Him, even knowing the reality that we live.

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN MANILA

Sr. Daisy Anne Lisania MSC

As a community, we try every day to live one moment at a time. We are in solidarity with the suffering, in our prayers and discussions. As you may know, we have two tutorial centers, OLSH at Faustino Street and Sacred Heart Centre in San Mateo. They have been grateful to the MSC Sisters for their continued support for 200 families. We have given three times more in food or in finance these past few months. Recently, our entire MSC community took part in packing hampers filled with necessities for our families.



There are many negatives to the current COVID-19 pandemic that is wreaking havoc across the planet but there is one positive too: the pandemic is dispelling the illusion that we are in control of our lives and that by our own efforts we can make ourselves invulnerable. This virus is teaching us that no matter our intelligence, health or status, we all are vulnerable. Whatever else is said about this virus, it is bringing us a moment of clarity that what matters most is God.

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE IN USA

Provincial Council MSC Sisters

Living with the Covid-19 pandemic is both uniquely personal and universal. The images on television of the sick and the people who care for them affect us deeply. We cannot ignore the rising numbers of those infected nor of those who have died. We witness the long lines of people waiting to be tested, to apply for assistance or to receive food. Behind each image and each statistic is a person, a family, a community. It is changing us.

More than ever, we are taking to heart the Paschal Mystery and Jesus' Resurrection. We are experiencing it. In addition to our personal devotions and the intentions voiced in our community prayer or during Holy Mass, we have been praying a daily Rosary every afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in our main chapel. We are grateful and encouraged for the creative ways our families, friends, Lay MSC and others have reached out not only to us but also to each other.

We pray that with the Holy Spirit, our experience of the pandemic will guide us in the creation of a new world, a world after the mind and heart of Jesus. This is our mission as MSC. 🕆



Many thanks to all the folks who guaranteed that our 2020 NUN RUN would be Virtually Unstoppable:

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We couldn't have done it without you.

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Remember the MSC Sisters when making or changing your Will.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Normally, we would be hosting Agapes, making Advent Wreaths, and enjoying Masses together at Sacred Heart Villa. Instead, we Sisters find ourselves missing these gatherings and missing YOU. Please know that although these gatherings have been suspended, our prayers for you have increased. We pray that you, your family, and your friends are emotionally, spiritually and physically healthy. We also pray that you be fortified by faith and love to face any challenges that may come your way. MSC Sisters encourages you to reach out to others and thanks you for the many ways you reach out to us. Remember, we are happy to pray for any intentions you may have (email MissionAdvancement@mscreading.org) and we hold you close in our hearts while we are physically distanced. Wishing you many blessings on behalf of all our Sisters,

Sr. Rosemarie Sommers, MSC.

Sr. Rosemarie Sommers. MSC - Provincial Leader



2020 brought the first cancellation of our Oktoberfest event. Not to be outdone by the pandemic, however, we hosted an Oktoberfest Online Gift Card Raffle from October 11-17

which offered more than \$2,000 worth of prizes. THANK YOU to our Oktoberfest sponsors, listed below, and to all the folks who donated their program sponsorships, reservations, and in-kind gifts to our MSC mission even though our event didn't happen as planned. We are proud and grateful to call you MSC Family!

Diego & Linda Calderin • Joseph & Barbara Alber St. Mary's Church, Kutztown • Performance Toyota Doug & Helen Didyoung • Albert & Julia Gaspari A Quality CFO • The Loomis Company Gethsemane Cemetery & Mausoleum KB Motors, Inc. • Rick Stoudt Kevin Shay • Visions Federal Credit Union

\$10.000 PRIZE

At the beginning of each new year, we host a \$10,000 Heart of God Raffle.

At \$100 per ticket and no more than 500 tickets sold, your odds to win are high if you play!

This opportunity to win \$10,000 will arrive in some of your mailboxes in late January or early February of 2021. If you want to be sure you receive this mailing, send an email to cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org as soon as possible.

YOU could be the winner, but you must PLAY to WIN!