



## Lay Missionaries Welcome New Member and Renew Commitments

The Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart and the Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart gathered for their yearly retreat and commitment ceremony at St. Michael Convent on June 3, 2023. Retreat facilitator Fr. Kevin Nadolski, OSFS helped the Sisters and Associates contemplate the topic of synodality, especially in their journeying together as the People of God, and they also welcomed their newest member Patricia Hansbury during the closing Mass. Some take-aways from the day include the following:

- To have a synodal heart means that we are called to be more relational and less institutional.
- Synodality in the Church means that we have a heart which



recognizes the gifts and equality of every person and every person matters.

• Through every challenge, we must dialogue with one another. Successful dialogue demands that we join with a sincere heart, without being overly attached to our own beliefs — nondefensively, and without aggressiveness, passive aggressiveness or sarcasm. In order to interact and to live in the Heart of Christ, we should get in touch with our original impulse of grace — that moment when we knew the love of God for the first time. Identifying that moment of

grace, which is the Holy Spirit itself, will inspire us, awaken us, and move us. Our shared experiences of God's *continued on page 5*

## MSC Sisters Join Vietnamese Community in Celebration

by Sr. Maureen Carroll, MSC

On Sunday, August 20, 2023, the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart welcomed Father Pham and his Vietnamese community from St. Paul's Parish in Reading, PA to St. Michael Convent to celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother into heaven. This celebration, which hadn't graced our convent since prior to the pandemic, truly was a joyful and inspirational observance of our multicultural Church.

The day began with a procession, accompanied by the sound of a beating drum, into our beautiful Chapel which had been decorated the day before. At the end of the procession came a dragon float and on top of it was a statue of the Blessed Mother surrounded by flowers. Women accompanied the float dressed in long gowns and holding a bouquet of roses in each hand. The



procession ended when the statue of Mary was carried into Chapel and placed near the side altar in a place of honor so all could see her.

Mass began with the music of a beautiful choir and the offertory included women who processed to the front of chapel to reverently present their flowers and praise with a liturgical dance. After this they presented the gifts of bread and wine to Father and our chapel was filled with the beautiful voices of the Vietnamese people.

After Mass we continued the celebration with a picnic on our grounds. Father Pham thanked us for sharing with the Vietnamese community and made sure we had plenty of Vietnamese food to enjoy. We MSC Sisters enjoyed the privilege of celebrating the Liturgy in Vietnamese and we look forward to doing so again. †

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# IN MEMORIAM

## Sister M. Josanne Huber, MSC

1931– 2023

On the morning of September 7th one of our Sisters noticed a change in Sister Josanne's breathing. Knowing that Sister Josanne cherished the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the attending Sister accessed the Divine Mercy Chaplet on her phone and placed it close to Sister Josanne's ear. Upon hearing the prayer, Sister Josanne opened her eyes wide, then closed them, and breathed her last. Throughout her life, Sister Josanne had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother and the rosary and so it seems appropriate that she died on the eve of the feast of Mary's Nativity.



Sister Josanne entered our congregation at the age of twenty-four after having worked as a nurse and nursing supervisor in our Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, PA. Some of our Sisters were under her supervision when they were nursing students. She was known for her caring and compassionate presence and for her devotion to the sick and to the concerns of their family members. Her ministry in various hospitals as a nurse included Sacred Heart Hospital, in Norristown, PA, St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, GA, and Good Samaritan Hospital, in Pottsville, PA. Her loving, compassionate, and professional care was extended to her mother as Sister Josanne nursed her for nine years until her mother's death.

Sister Josanne then embraced the pastoral care of the patients in these hospitals and in parish situations. For Sister Josanne, God was a God of love and infinite mercy. This is what she

conveyed to all who came into her life. Whether she was nursing the sick or ministering to them in Pastoral Care, Sister Josanne imparted a constant care and love for each person.

Sister Josanne had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Rosary. As an active member of the Legion of Mary, she regularly attended and led their devotions. She often attended parish novenas, special Masses, feast days, etc. When her relatives and our Sisters came to visit her in the hospital or her recent residence at St. Joseph Villa, they often

prayed the rosary with and for her.

In the midst of her busy schedule as nurse and pastoral minister, Sr. Josanne still found time to be in faithful and thoughtful correspondence with many people, never missing birthdays, feast days, anniversaries and other special occasions of our Sisters, her family, and associates. She also loved to bake and was often baking at midnight since she was so busy during the day. What a joy for her fellow Sisters as they woke up to the special, wonderful aroma.

Sister Josanne was a nurse, a pastoral minister, an imitator of Mary, our Mother, and lover of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She is now our intercessor before the throne of God. Sister Josanne often shared the following prayer of blessing on the hospital intercom after the Morning Prayer: "God bless and have a peaceful day." †

### **Donor comment from Missy about Sr. Josanne:**

*Found such comfort knowing Sister Josanne Huber was with my daddy when he passed away at Sacred Heart Hospital. She assured me he was at peace, and that she was there if I had any questions. May she now be basking in the peace and comfort that she gave to so many throughout the years. Thank you, Sister Josanne. Our Lady of Hungary was blessed to have you all those years. ❤️*

## Donor Tribute

Sr. Lisa Marie is a light! She spoke at our church, Most Holy Trinity, Covington, LA — Lisa

## SWEEPSTAKES

### **Congratulations to our June Calendar Sweepstakes Winners!**

Thank you to all who played! You helped raise more than \$13,000 for our retired MSC Sisters. ❤️  
Arlene E. Kintnersville, PA; Mathilda D. Nazareth, PA;  
Marjorie O. MD; Wendy B. Emmaus, PA;  
Geraldine S. Shillington, PA; Mary R. Topton, PA;  
Richard S. Allentown, PA; Martin F. Upper Black Edy, PA;  
Catherine R. Mertztown, PA; Thomas W. Beaufort, SC;  
Sara K. Ashland, PA; Carl P. Athens, GA;  
Priscilla C. Blandon, PA; Dean S. Las Vegas, NV;  
Chris H. Palmerton, PA; and Thomas W. Beaufort, SC.



You now can search for most of our MSC Sisters on our website by using the Find A Sister option. Type in the name you remember to find a biography or an obituary by choosing About Us on the homepage.

### **Consider Membership in our Monthly Giving Program**

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**MISSIONARY SISTERS**  
of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Connections is published bi-annually by the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
51 Seminary Avenue  
Reading, PA 19605-2699  
610-929-2802 • [mscreading.org](http://mscreading.org)  
We welcome your comments and suggestions.



# Mission Updates

## ■ Sr. Rosemarie Sommers, MSC

Following her term as Province Leader in August of 2022, Sr. Rosemarie Sommers (aka Sr. Karen) spent her one-year sabbatical engrossed in prayer, rest, and renewal while she stayed with her family in Nazareth and awaited her new part-time ministry in her home parish of Holy Family Church, Nazareth. As of August 2023, Sr. Rosemarie's ministry includes spending most of her time in Holy Family School offering her service wherever needed, assisting with parish activities, and living in the garage apartment situated on the church property. Recalling her own experiences at Holy Family, Sr. Rosemarie fondly reflects on how she aspired to teach little children just as her first and second grade teachers, Sisters Teresita Nolden and Francine Fehrenbach, had taught her. Sr. Rosemarie says, "I have come full circle now that I am returning in ministry to my first love – teaching. I am excited to be offering my service at Holy Family, the school where our Sisters taught me so many years ago— truly a special blessing. My heart is full of gratitude for all God's blessings during my 55 years as an MSC Sister." ✚



Sr. Rosemarie Sommers, aka Sr. Karen, is pictured here with her first-grade class from St. John the Baptist School, Allentown in 1970.

## ■ Sr. Lisa Valentini, MSC

On May 20, 2023 Sr. Lisa Valentini, MSC was inducted into the Marian High School Hall of Fame in Tamaqua, PA. A very proud 1974 graduate of Marian, Sr. Lisa was recognized for her work with the poor and the marginalized and for providing many young women and men of Marian High School the opportunity to do missionary work alongside her in the Dominican Republic town of El Factor — mission trips which she offers every year to various groups of young people. We congratulate Sr. Lisa and we hope she may continue to love people everywhere with the Heart of Christ for years to come.



Sr. Lisa thrives on sharing the love of Christ with the Dominican people and awaking the spirit of mission in each and every young person she encounters on these trips. May God continue to guide the hearts of all who are called to care for others with compassion and love.



## Mission Immersion Trips Continue

In July of 2023, Sr. Lisa lead a small group of Canadian teens—her youngest group yet—on a mission immersion experience to the Dominican Republic. This was Sr. Lisa's 70th mission immersion trip which inspired not only the missionaries, but also their families and their communities who assisted with their resources, prayers and energy. The families of these young missionaries refer to Sr. Lisa as "a very special woman who is filled to the brim with the Holy Spirit."



## Mission Cooperative Plan

Sr. Lisa Valentini also visits parishes across the United States to deliver Mission Appeals which support our MSC Mission in 19 foreign countries. She is pictured here with friends from the Marshall Islands whom she met at St Michael Parish in Livermore, California. When she mentioned that our MSC Sisters were founded because the MSC fathers and Brothers wanted Sisters to help them with evangelization in the South Sea Islands, including the Marshall Islands, these ladies were thrilled to hear the name of their country mentioned. One of them lives in Livermore, CA and the rest were visiting from the Marshall Islands. Coincidence or grace? We say grace. ✚



*"We can be missionaries in all our activities...through activities of the mind and heart, through physical labor and trials of the soul." – Fr. Hubert Linckens, MSC*

## Service Draws Me On

by Sr. Lini Sheeja, MSC

I was truly a bit wary as I boarded my first international flight to Germany as a Missionary. But my qualms were dispelled when I landed at the Düsseldorf airport, Germany on the 19th of October 2022. The very moment my eyes fell on the smiling faces of Sr. Mechthild and Sr. Dorothe, holding out pretty flowers to welcome me to a country that was totally alien to me, I felt at ease. The Sisters at the Provincial House were all smiles as they stood at the entrance of the House with bouquets in their hands to receive me.

Wasn't I excited to reach the birthplace of our congregation! From the time I was an aspirant, how much I longed to make a visit to our Motherhouse and to the tomb of our Founder. My joy knew no bounds as this dream came true! The driving force of my life, "I do not know what my future holds, but I do know who holds my future", seemed to come alive once again.



Sr. Mechthild greets Sr. Lini at the airport in Germany to welcome her from India.

Many months have passed, and my zeal to work as a missionary has only been confirmed even more. I joined the language school at Akademie Klausenhof, Dingden, Wesel, Nordrhein-Westfalen. It was a challenge to be in a new country among new faces who did not know my language, neither did I know theirs. We used the common language of a smile and love in action, in order to communicate in the beginning. The culture, the lifestyle, the food habits were all absolutely different, so it wasn't all that easy to cope with. But, whenever I was down, the nuns and priests who had lived before me as missionaries and are now living with me as missionaries were always my strength and motivation.

My heartfelt thanks to all our Sisters and our German Province. Your humility and selfless service draws me on. †

## Sharing Experiences: World Youth Day 2023

by Sr. Christine Matheus, MSC

World Youth Day 2023 held from August 1-6 in Lisbon, Portugal was my first-time taking part in this momentous event and I felt God's presence in every place and in every person to whom I said, "hello!"

My experience was humbling because I was surrounded by young people who all were striving for the same thing –the meaning of life! I felt united with young people from all over the world, which expanded my thoughts about belonging to the Catholic Church. The group I went with from Namibia, celebrated Mass together and reflected on the readings each day in small communities.

This World Youth Day was an immense experience of healing and grace. I will never forget the Saturday vigil of adoration preceding the closing Mass by his Holiness Pope Francis. While the soft light of candles danced in the prepared park of Sejo, acoustic music accompanied the silence *continued on page 8*

## 15th Anniversary of Korea's "Sacred Heart Hope Shelter"

In Korea, "migrant women" generally means "women who left their home countries, married a Korean man and established themselves in Korea". As

Korea's economy has grown rapidly, specific problems have emerged: low birth rates and an aging population, a population declining and

aging in rural areas. International marriage soon emerged as a solution to rural problems, and since the early 2000s, international marriages between rural bachelors and Southeast Asian women have increased rapidly.

However, as the Korean society has long had a strong sense of "unitary nation" (danil minjok), the mindset and institutional readiness to accept and respect immigrants as neighbors and colleagues have been lacking. In particular, migrant women face double discrimination, as both "migrants" and "women". Although they were married, they were not respected as equally, and were often exposed to discrimination, restrictions, and violent situations at various levels.



*"We accompany the people whose hearts are pierced and suffering, that their hearts may be filled with compassion."*

For that reason, in May 2008, MSC Sisters opened the Sacred Heart Hope Center, a shelter for migrant women and their families in Ulsan and celebrated its 15th anniversary in May of this year. In this center, our Sisters are helping migrant women recover and heal their bodies and minds by providing welfare services such as lodging, psychological counseling, legal support, child rearing, and medical services, as well as psychological and emotional programs.

Despite the prejudice and discrimination against strangers and poor working conditions, these women have been living without getting frustrated among countless trials and sufferings while raising children alone. Seeing their courage and dedication in living their own lives, we feel respect. We, too, will be reminded of our mission. Like the pierced Sacred Heart of Jesus, we thank God for calling us to this precious apostolate in which we can accompany the people whose hearts are pierced and suffering, that their hearts may be filled with compassion and hope. †



## Lay Missionaries *continued from page 1*

grace will unite us to practice the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) and the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord) in prophetic ways.

- Ordinary things can have extraordinary impact.
- Amidst the challenges of life, perhaps we may imagine

ourselves climbing into the Heart of Jesus for strength, hope and love.

- We will know true conversion, for it will tilt us more toward the Heart of Jesus.

The shared journey of the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart and Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, now celebrating its 31st year, continues to evolve and to draw the Sisters and the laity closer to the Heart of Christ. This retreat, held annually during the month of the Sacred Heart, strengthens our relationships with one another and celebrates our shared mission of being Christ for one another and for the world.

We Sisters and laity joyfully welcome Pat Hansbury to our family and we congratulate all our laity in their renewed commitment as Lay Missionaries. We also express our gratitude for the practical, mindful insights shared with us by Fr. Kevin. As we move forward together with a renewed desire to be prophetic in our interactions with everyone, we welcome others to live a life inspired by their original impulse of grace and the vision of our founder, Father Chevalier.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere. Now and Forever. Amen. †

Learn more about the Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at: <https://mscreading.org/join-us/become-a-lay-missionary/>



## August 26: Renewal of Vows at Holy Family Parish, Nazareth

On August 26, 2023 Holy Family Church, Nazareth extended an invitation to Sisters Barbara Daniels and Rosemarie Sommers (both daughters of the parish celebrating their 50th Jubilees) and their fellow MSC Sisters to renew their vows at a special Liturgy in their honor. This beautiful invitation celebrated 70 years of MSC Sisters ministering among the families of Holy Family, in both the school and the parish. We Sisters are so very thankful and blessed to be present among such a vibrant community of faith. †



Sisters Barbara Daniels and Rosemarie Sommers celebrate their Jubilees with Holy Family Parish, Nazareth.



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## Retirement Announcement

The Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus express their deepest gratitude and congratulations to their Finance Director Deborah Sanders who retired in September of 2023 after 25 years of service. Throughout her tenure, Debbie served as an invaluable asset to five different Province Leaders: Sisters Marie Clark, Lorraine Molchanow, Mary Anne Bigos, Rosemarie Sommers, and Dorothy Fabritze.

Upon her retirement, Debbie remarked: "I am thankful to have worked for the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for the past 25 years serving in a capacity that assisted them with their financial resources. It is the Missionary Sisters mission to serve those in need of the compassionate love of Jesus.



Deborah looks forward to enjoying retirement with her husband Deacon Ed Sanders.

With respect and great admiration, I saw firsthand that love. I witnessed it through their ministries in nursing, elder care, education and social work in the United States as well as Mexico City; Mexico; Santa Domingo; Dominican Republic; Hilstrup, Germany; Melbourne, Australia; Issoudun, France; and Sutri, Italy. May God continue to bless the Missionary Sisters in all they do!"

We Sisters are very thankful for all that Debbie has done for us professionally and personally and for the way she has lived our mission to love with the Heart of Christ. We hope that she and her husband Ed enjoy many years of well-earned happiness with their family and friends. †

**Advance the Missionary work of the MSC Sisters beyond your own lifetime...  
Remember the MSC Sisters when making or changing your Will.**

Provide your attorney our official title and address: Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Inc.  
2811 Moyers Lane, Reading, PA 19605. Inquiries may be directed to Carrie at [cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org](mailto:cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org).

# Prosit! To Oktoberfest 2023!

Strong winds and cold temps forced everyone inside at the Reading Liederkrantz on Sunday, October 8 and provided a new but familiar experience for all. Approximately 200 friends, old and new, enjoyed music by the Josef Kroboth Band, lots of German food, and raffles galore — more than 60 prize baskets, a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction! Province Leader Sr. Dorothy Fabritze, MSC set a celebratory tone by offering gratitude and a heartfelt toast for all present.

Moving inside caused a few challenges, such as where to put so many baskets, but fortunately space was found in the bar area and lots of people purchased chances to win. Another challenge was the suddenly changing roles for our volunteers who definitely stood up to the plate and came through for us — we are extremely grateful for their energy and commitment. These volunteers include our **Oktoberfest Event Committee Members** Andrea Bensusan, Kathy Blume, Fran Burkhart, Nancy Chaiko, Janet Decembrino, Sue Kasopsky, Carol Noga, Carm Sosik, and Barb Spinka; and **Event Day Volunteers** Rod Burkhart, Gwenivere Cress, David Decembrino, Ellen DiGirolamo, Tony DiGirolamo, Mike Gallagher, Maureen Nicholas, Vicki Rahn, Joseph Rudderow,



Michael Rudderow, Rick Spinka, Angie Weidenhammer, Dave Weidenhammer, Erin Whitmoyer, and Bernie Whitmoyer. Thank you also to our Mission Advancement employees, Claudia and Carrie, for creating another exciting and successful event.

MSC Sisters express deep gratitude to our many sponsors and donors, monetary and in-kind. From near and far, their participation assured our success and helped us raise more than \$50,000 for our Sisters and their mission of love.

Thank you to our guests who enjoyed lots of dancing, laughter, and love. Several guests have shared their thoughts on the day, such as Terry who said, “We had the nicest time today! The food was amazing! The gift baskets outstanding! And, of course, the cause so worthy! Our thanks and appreciation to the team who put such a great day together for us to enjoy!”

To every single person who took part in supporting, hosting and celebrating MSC Oktoberfest 2023, MSC Sisters love you and appreciate you! May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved now and forever. Amen. †





## More from Oktoberfest 2023!



## Giving Thanks

Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus thank the following Oktoberfest Sponsors:

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MSC Sister also acknowledge and thank the following Annual Event Sponsors:

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Diego & Linda Calderin  
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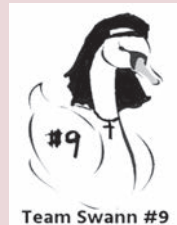
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that reigned during the adoration hour. After what seemed like an eternity, the Holy Father spoke softly the following words: **"May young people's evangelization be active and missionary, for this is how they will recognize and witness the presence of the living Christ. Sit in front of his Real Presence, and allow God to love you. Don't say anything, just let him love you."** I don't know what I had wanted to hear, but his short, simple words were more powerful than anything I had heard before.

Another remarkable and breathtaking experience was the Chapel of Bones, a church built of bones by Franciscan Friars in the 17th century. Near the entrance, the mission is immediately expressed as a symbol of transience: **WE BONES, ARE HERE, WAITING FOR YOURS...**a gentle reminder that we are created from dust, and to dust we shall return.



I discovered that although a pilgrimage is communal, it is deeply personal and private even in the midst of the many outward activities. I felt transformed in my faith. This is a grace that I will forever cherish. So much depends on our openness to the Holy Spirit.

A special thanks to my Archbishop Liborius N. Nashenda, of the Archdiocese of Windhoek, for making it possible and indeed to my Province Leader, Sr. Veronika Iita MSC, for providing such an amazing opportunity for me to grow spiritually, to learn and to witness such beauty beyond imagination. Having been granted an opportunity to represent the Namibian Province as an MSC Sister at this spectacular event will always leave me humbled. Unworthy as I am, I felt the gentle touch of Our Lady as I presented before her the intentions of my Province, family members, relatives, benefactors of the congregation at large, those of holy mother church, and indeed of the entire world. I feel so blessed to have had this experience of a lifetime. ✚

## Seibert Squad Completes Nun Run

We extend our love and appreciation to the Seibert Squad who completed their 2023 Nun Run 5K & 1M Walk while gathered for their family reunion in Ohio on Saturday, September 30. Sr. Mary Seibert's many enthusiastic and supportive family members support our Nun Run in a BIG way every year. We are extremely grateful, and we marvel at the fun they have together. Thank you, Seibert Squad! ✚



## NUN RUN 2024



Mark your calendars for  
**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
when we will lace up our  
walking and running shoes for our  
**15th Annual  
NUN RUN 5K fundraiser**  
to benefit our MSC Sisters!

**Let's make Nun Run 2024 our  
BEST NUN RUN EVER!**

