

Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
Province of USA & Canada

Connections

Wilderness Escape

Sister Mary Josephine Glynn



Photo: Lorelee Manas

Moses (Fr. Manuel Bravo) talks to the children about the strength God has given him.

What do you do with 100 children, 27 teen volunteers and 15 adult leaders who are just beginning summer holidays? Why not plan a week long 'Wilderness Escape'? That's what we did at Mary Star of the Sea Parish in San Pedro, California, and what a wonderful experience it was. Each day, from June 23 to June 27, we journeyed through the desert with Moses, Malachi the Israelite who

always had a problem, and other Israelites. We watched for 'God sightings' each day discovering that God is present all around us, especially in ordinary people, places and events. Though the weather was sometimes very uncomfortable, we still had fun visiting Moses, praying, playing games, singing action songs, watching various animal stories, and decorating flip-flops and tambourines. We even

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Where oh where did the summer go? May it have been a blessed time for all of you even though so much grief and sorrow has marked the days since our last issue! Sadly, the world has lost African-American poet, Maya Angelou and comedic actor Robin Williams. Ebola has taken the lives of thousands in West Africa. Many died in the mine disaster in Turkey and on Malaysia Flight 777 shot down over the Ukraine. We have witnessed violence against schoolgirls in Nigeria and continued conflict between Israel and Hamas and in the Ukraine. As always in these conflicts, it's the women and children who are suffering the most. No one seems to be heeding Pope Francis' continual calls for peace and reconciliation, the recurring message of his visit to Korea. In the end, we know that peace comes one individual at a time. As a popular song says, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!"

In spite of the gloom, love and celebration continue to bring light into the darkness. How so? Read Sr. Mary's account of the Wilderness Escape; our Circle of Love article describing the work of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd; Sr. Anne Marie's story of new leadership at Cluny School, a sponsored ministry of our Province; and Sr. Marie Yannick's update of Haiti four years after the earthquake and that province's grateful celebration of 150 years of Cluny service in Haiti. Indeed, even though we seem to dwell in endless gloom at times, a great light shines in us and through us: the Light which is Christ, that divine manifestation of the God who is Love.

Sister Regina

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Cluny Circle of Love

Good Shepherd Ministries

Hamilton, Ontario

Sister Regina Brunelle

Part of the Cluny Circle of Love is supporting the work of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd in Hamilton, Ontario. Brother Justin Howson likes to sum up the work as spanning from womb to tomb and so it does! Sr. Regina Brunelle has been volunteering at Good Shepherd since 2004, first at Emmaus Place where 60 apartments shelter tenants that may include people with mental or physical issues, victims of domestic violence, the frail elderly and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Since 2009, she has delighted in 'grand-mothering' the young moms and babies at Angela's Place, a 15 unit building offering supportive housing to 16 to 21 year old single mothers and their babies.

Recently, a neighboring church up for sale was transformed into the Jeanne Scott Educational Centre where these moms can continue their education with the assurance that their babies are well provided for in the Child Care Center upstairs. As one mother put it, "It wasn't always easy for me to go to school! The mornings were early and the bus rides long, especially with my two-year old in tow!" Often in the bitter winter cold, she didn't make it to school at all. Things are different now. In June, Victoria proudly achieved her goal of graduating from high school and is beginning to see better possibilities for the future.

On June 17, more than a hundred people came to celebrate the life of Jeanne Scott, whose generous donation made all this possible. Jeanne died earlier in June at Good Shepherd Emmanuel House Hospice, also sponsored by Good Shepherd Ministries. If there is an empty room, Emmanuel House welcomes everyone, even those who can't afford to pay.

Good Shepherd Youth Services not only provides for single moms and their babies. Jeb's Place supports seriously disturbed youngsters. Notre Dame House



Photo courtesy of Cathey Piche, Angela's Place.

Staff at Angela's Place have babies, too! Sister Regina welcoming Avaya, newborn child of Jessica, our Early Childhood Educator.

and School is a shelter and adult education program for street youth. Last June, the class valedictorian there said she had been thrown out of many schools before coming to Notre Dame. The teachers at "the Dame" however, refused to kick her out, so here she was, graduating at last!

Brennan House offers long term stability to some of these young men and women who enroll in a normal high school setting. Many of them go on to college or university; some have become professionals in various fields. They all claim their lives would have been very different without Good Shepherd.

At Good Shepherd Square, women's services cover the needs of homeless women, offer a safe place to battered women with or without children, and support low-income women with all sorts of services including foot care and massage; many of these services are given by volunteers. The Nora Vos apartments welcome families of many nationalities and cultures while the Bishop Tonnos building offers supportive living to seniors. For the past three years, Cluny Sisters have resided at Good Shepherd Square and benefit from some of the services offered to seniors.

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Cluny School Welcomes New Principal at Reception

Sister Anne Marie Liston
Member of the Cluny School Board of Directors

On Monday, August 18, the Parents' Club of Cluny School held a reception for the school's new principal, Mr. William Lippe, who will be beginning his first year with us next Tuesday. Mr. Lippe, (or "Bill" as he calls himself,) is a native of Rhode Island, and comes to us with the experience gained from his years working in Benedictine schools as well as other private schools. His love and enthusiasm for education are quite evident. We are looking forward to his leadership.

Hosted by Hillary Davidson and Jill Bansal, moderators of the Parents' Club, the reception, held on the rooftop terrace of the Viking Hotel, was well attended by parents, many of them new to the school. They were grateful for this opportunity to meet the new principal before the school's opening. The extraordinary view of the harbor from the rooftop, the cool, summer evening as well as the delicious appetizers and other refreshments all contributed to a pleasant and enjoyable evening for getting to know one another.

The school community is very grateful to all who have worked to make this new beginning a time of hope and promise for Cluny School. We look forward with expectation and enthusiasm to the coming year. May it be filled with the true spirit of Cluny, unity amid diversity, expressive of the charm and faith of Blessed Anne-Marie Javouhey!

Welcome, Bill! May God bless your work!



Courtesy of The Newport Daily News

Cluny School Fifth Graders show off their new principal, William Lippe.

(See also the *Daily News* story here:
<http://www.newportri.com>
and then enter Cluny School in the Search field.)

Wilderness Escape

(Continued from Page 1)

made our own miniature Moses complete with the 10 Commandments and painted a Passover cup to make the Exodus come alive. Through it all, we learned to TRUST GOD who is always there to give us strength along the way. On our last day, we celebrated how God saves and guides us - especially at times like Passover. Perhaps most amazing of all was our experience of marking door posts with red paint to recall God's gift of Passover. What a prayerful, solemn moment that was! As we sang and danced to the song "Shalom", we trusted that God would now make us channels of joy and 'Shalom' for others.



Photo: Loralee Manas

Malachi (Paul Kettner), the Israelite who is always complaining and whining, with Theresa Ibarra, a youth volunteer, and Kelsey Kordic are in the desert, remembering the Passover.



Cluny in Haiti Celebrating 150 Years of Mission

Sister Yannick Saiëh

In this year of our 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny on the island of Haiti, we are very grateful to God for all the support from our Cluny Family around the world. We felt the “Cor Unum” very strongly throughout the past few years. After the terribly destructive earthquake in January 2010 things were so bad that we never dreamed we would be able to rebuild a Cluny presence in Haiti. Yet, as we come to the end of our jubilee year, we are happy to tell you that five Cluny schools destroyed by the earthquake have been rebuilt. Repairs have been made to our Provincial House, Retirement House and Novitiate as well. But there is still much to be done. Our beautiful Sainte Rose of Lima Chapel is still in need of extensive repair and restoration.

Nevertheless, we have had much to celebrate. On June 3, 2013, Cape Haitian in the northern part of Haiti, hosted the opening of the year. This event brought together the Christian Brothers and the Priests of the Society of St. James since all three Congregations arrived in Haiti from France on the same boat on June 6, 1864. Throughout the year, many different festivities followed this initial event.

The climax of the year’s celebrations was held June 1, 2014. The three Congregations again came together – this time in Port-au-Prince - with students, associates and friends, as well as priests and religious from all over Haiti. Sister Carmen

Moranville, our congregation’s first Assistant General, represented the Motherhouse in France. Four Cluny Sisters from Guadeloupe and one Sister and an associate from Trinidad joined us as well. So many well-wishers wanted to attend that we could not find a church big enough to hold us all for the closing Mass. The solution: tents erected at the Christian Brothers School in Port-au-Prince. After the Mass, everyone who came enjoyed a snack as they mingled with one another recalling stories of the past. Later, the Sisters and their families shared a beautiful dinner on the grounds of Sainte Rose of Lima School in Port-au-Prince.

In spite of the horrendous difficulties we have faced during the years since the earthquake, it was good to give thanks to the Lord, not only for the good things these years have held but also for the century and a half of service our community has completed, for the Haitian women who have opted to walk in the footsteps of Blessed Anne Marie in service to education, to health care and to the thousands of poor on this magnificent Caribbean Island.

Anyone wishing to send a gift to the sisters to assist in their efforts to rebuild may send it to:

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Bringing Hope & Compassion

Cluny Circle of Love: Good Shepherd Ministries (Continued from Page 3)

These two sites along with Emmaus Place, Matthias Place and several other buildings in Hamilton come under the aegis of Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes. Through this program, the homeless can go from the streets and temporary shelters to stable, secure, affordable housing. On-site teams provide support seven days a week at four sites while four mobile teams reach out to tenants living in privately owned apartments scattered throughout the city.

At yet another location, the Family Center helps families in transition get back on their feet. The poor of the city find food, clothing and household items at the Good Shepherd Venture Centre while more than 200 hot meals are served every day to the homeless at the Mary Street men's shelter. Volunteers from local

churches and other groups take turns preparing and serving these meals. Overnight guests at the shelter find clean beds, an evening snack and a hot breakfast next morning.

How could a handful of Brothers do all this? Many years ago, when Brother Mathias, the community's founder, missioned the first five Brothers to Hamilton, he told them, "You can't do it all by yourselves. Get a few good volunteers to help you!" Some fifty years later, over a thousand volunteers are doing just that, helping the Brothers "never stop loving" by furthering their mission of Charity Unlimited.

Anyone wishing to support Good Shepherd Ministries may go to:
<http://www.goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate.htm>