Vol. XXIII, No. 2 Winter 2017-2018

Bread Broken

SISTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY — WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

"Be still and know that I am God."

(Psalm 46:10)

Around the Table

Tributes to Mother Pauline

I am reading the latest copy of BREAD BROKEN. It is wonderful and truly inspiring. I loved the different pictures of Mother Pauline and their explanations as well as the short reflections on Mother Pauline from your Sisters. So much time and thought goes into its preparation. It is appreciated.

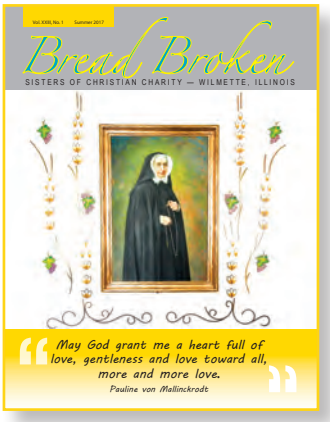
- Sr. Marie Pauline Demek, SCC
Mendham, NJ

Loved the article about Mother Pauline. She is the greatest.

- Nancy Angsten
Stuart, FL

How moved I was reading the latest issue of BREAD BROKEN. The reflections on Blessed Mother Pauline shared by the Sisters brought forth a kaleidoscopic picture of her before my eyes. It was a great grace to receive a glimpse of the Sisters' love for and devotion to Mother Pauline as they faithfully follow her example in their daily lives.

- Marjorie Beane
Inverness, IL



Many thanks for the summer issue of BREAD BROKEN. It is beautifully written and gives great tribute to Mother Pauline on the 200th anniversary of her birth. I especially enjoyed reading the Sisters' comments on Mother Pauline.

- Sr. Olivia Scully, PBVM
Fargo, ND

Inspiring and Enjoyable

So many times I have wanted to write or call with words of congratulations regarding BREAD BROKEN. It is such a beautiful booklet. I have been inspired in many ways. Every space has so much to offer.

- Sr. Mary Ann George, SCC
Camp Hill, PA

I enjoyed reading the summer edition of BREAD BROKEN as always. I was happy to see on p. 8 a copy of the oil painting done by my friend and hometown neighbor.

- Sr. Theresa Marie Yeakel, SCC
Mendham, NJ

[Editor's note: A photo of a painting of Mother Pauline appeared in the Summer 2017 issue of BREAD BROKEN on page 8. Sr. Theresa Marie Yeakel identified our "Philadelphia artist" as Edward Blaszczyk.]

Contents

4 ... With Our Gratitude
— Current staff members at Sacred Heart Convent have given the Sisters over 300 years of service.

8 ... Potpourri

9 ... Memories & Mirth

10 ... *Pauline 200*
— The Sisters participating had an experience of spiritual renewal, ministry and international community.

12 ... In & Around the Region

14 ... Sharing Pauline's Vision

15 ... Companions of Pauline

16 ... Our Future

17 ... SCCs Around the World

18 ... Connections

19 ... In Memoriam

Have you seen our website?

For current events and items not published in BREAD BROKEN, and to see your favorite Sisters, please visit

www.sccwilmette.org

Bread Broken

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Bread Broken Magazine is published twice a year by the Sisters of Christian Charity — Wilmette, IL. The publication aims to be a source of information for the Sisters, their families, friends and benefactors on the presence and ministry of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

Mission Statement

As Sisters of Christian Charity, our call is to witness to and share in the mission of Jesus by letting His love so permeate and fill us that our love overflows to all by being bread broken and wine poured out.

Sr. Mary Clement Eiden
Publisher / Editor

Sr. Anastasia Sanford
Associate Editor / Layout

Julie Kuzera
Editor

Sr. Mary Ann Warwick
Support Staff

Dee Bayro
Production

A Note from the Publisher

This issue of BREAD BROKEN brings to a close the special features we have been doing in terms of the observance and celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mother Pauline. In the Summer 2015 issue we explained the *Pauline 200* project—a special feature of our observance—and showed our first missionaries who would be going to South America for the first *Pauline 200* project held in Uruguay/Argentina. A report on that was given in the Winter 2015-16 issue by means of "interviews" with Sr. Carol Bredenkamp and Sr. M. Joanne Ladwig. We also took a glance forward to *Pauline 200* in the Philippines. The Summer 2016 issue gave Sr. Maria Martin Nguyen's impressions of her participating in this project along with other news of the Philippines. The Summer 2017 issue of our magazine told about the third *Pauline 200* project which was in Chicago. The current issue, Winter 2017-2018, gives a wonderful account of that experience along with Sr. Dolores Bozif's own reflection on her participation.

In the Summer 2015 issue of BREAD BROKEN, another preparation for the observance was mentioned: the spiritual preparation booklets that each Sister received. The booklets had for each day an excerpt from one of Mother Pauline's letters and some questions for us to reflect on so as to imbibe Mother Pauline's spirit.

The "Sharing Pauline's Vision" articles closely followed the themes that were chosen for the three years of our .preparation: mission/obedience, evangelical poverty and community life/reconciliation. There were also articles on Mother Pauline's missionary heart and her sense of networking. These articles on Mother Pauline will continue.

I hope you have come to know our Foundress better over these past years. Although the 200th anniversary has passed, Mother Pauline will always remain for all SCCs our mother and model.

I wish all of our readers a joyous Christmas season. May blessings and graces be yours in abundance during each day of 2018. God bless you. ✠

Sister Mary Clement

In the last issue of BREAD BROKEN, one of the Sisters participating in the *Pauline 200* project was incorrectly identified as to country. Sr. Maria Ingrid had a German flag by her photo. Although Sr. Angela Maria from Germany would gladly have taken Sr. Maria Ingrid back with her, that would probably not have been appreciated by the provincial of Chile from where Sister comes. We apologize; the correction is to the left.

Cover: Snow-covered bench at Sacred Heart Convent in Wilmette, IL. Photo by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC.

Page 2: Solar eclipse 2017. Photo courtesy of Sr. Mary Ann Eultgen, SCC

With Our Gratitude

Text by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC and Sr. Caroline Schafer, SCC
Photos by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity. (Douglas Adams)

Our current staff members at Sacred Heart Convent have given the Sisters over 300 years of service. And, it has been that "real service" that is characterized by "sincerity and integrity". They make life at Sacred Heart Convent pleasant, comfortable, happy and safe. In this issue of BREAD BROKEN, we pay tribute to all who are part of our staffs: nursing, laundry, kitchen, housekeeping and maintenance.

Sally looks over medical reports.

Edna makes sure that each Sister takes her pills.

Ramona has been with us for a record 28 years!

Lamose prepares meal trays for the patients.

Lisa prepares to take a Sister's blood pressure.

Rose catches up on the charting.

Marquise pauses for a photo near the Thanksgiving decorations. Photo by Sally Turbov.

Nursing Staff

Benita gets ready for the night shift.

Eveline serves dinner on 3rd floor...

...while Vener helps out in the dining room.

The nursing staff is by far the largest staff at Sacred Heart Convent. Three shifts see to it that 24-7 service is provided for our Sister-patients, who are primarily on the third floor, but who also come up from the first and second floors. Sally Turbov is our head nurse and has a regular staff of 10 nurses and aides under her supervision: Edna Augstin, Ramona Alvarado, Lamose Emilcar, Marquise Janvier, Maude Janvier, Eveline Jules, Benita Maliwanag, Vener Manalang, Lisa Mintz and Rosa Tabamo. Six of the nursing staff have been with us for over 20 years. Nurses and aides from an agency also provide service when necessary. The duties of the nursing staff include (but are not limited to) dispensing medicine, taking pulses and blood pressures, putting in eye drops, taking care of Sisters' personal hygiene needs, listening, giving showers and baths, getting the Sisters ready for the day and getting them ready for the night. Being attentive to the needs and personalities of individual Sisters is not always easy, but it is usually done with understanding, love and perhaps a bit of humor. To her staff, Sally models devotion and sensitivity to the Sisters and their needs. In addition, she takes upon herself the role of activities director as she puts together birthday parties for each of the Sisters on the third floor, gets the Sisters out for Fresh Air Fridays and creates a "little café" ambiance for coffee time. The staff is expected to help with these activities. The generally peaceful and happy atmosphere on the third floor is very much appreciated by the Sister-patients and all who visit there. Kudos to Sally and the nursing staff for their dedicated service!

Joy can be real only if people look on their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness. (Leo Tolstoy)

Laundry Staff

Mary Cannon is our laundry staff and she has been with us for 18 years. The laundry is a large, bright, sunny place and Mary has added some personal touches to give this room a very homey feeling. Mary is particular about her work and takes great pride in it. She is responsible for the daily laundering of clothing for all the Sisters. At times in the past she occasionally had Sisters to help her with ironing and folding. Mary takes care of washing bed linens (sheets, mattress covers, pillows, pillow cases and protectors, spreads, blankets, etc.) and all towels used in the house. She also sees to it that rooms are made ready for visitors. When a Sister comes to the laundry (or catches Mary on the run) with a special request, Mary's response is always: "Yes, I can do that. I will do that for you. Just leave it here (or bring it to me)." Mary can be seen every morning (except Sunday) pushing the laundry cart along the second and third floor corridors as she delivers the finished wash. She has a friendly smile for everyone. Mary also helps in the sewing room and in the scullery. Her presence among us is a blessing. Thank you, Mary.

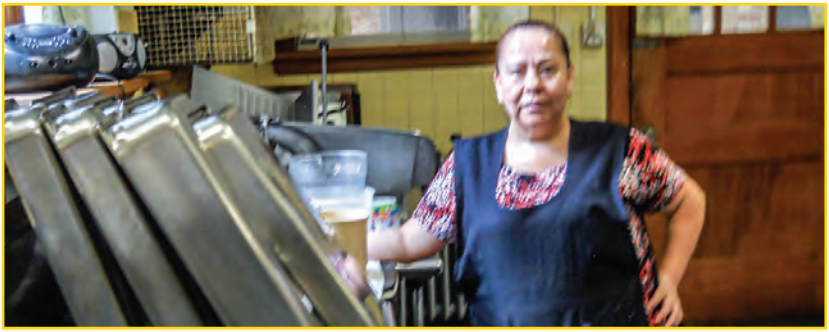
Kitchen Staff

Two of the corporal works of mercy are feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. Our kitchen staff devotes time and energy to carrying out these works carefully and creatively. Javier Mercado and Erasmo Ramirez are full-time and part-time chefs respectively. The responsibility to provide nutritious, balanced and appealing meals is no small task. Planning healthy meals and providing a variety of menus within a given budget can be challenging. Adapting menus to take into account donated produce, deli and bakery items takes a particular skill and graced willingness. Javier and Erasmo are up to the task and they must like it: Javier has been with us for 13 years and Erasmo for 15 years!

Javier is also the food service supervisor whose further responsibilities include food ordering and proper storage of food, rotation of inventory and observance of usage dates, maintenance of equipment and making sure that all work areas are clean and sanitary.

We also have three other part-time staff in the kitchen: Guadalupe Lopez, Evangelina Mercado and Anna Krzysztofczyk. They do any number of jobs: preparing both vegetables and desserts, getting supper on the table, washing pots and pans, helping to keep the kitchen clean. To all on our kitchen staff: we truly appreciate your service and the love you put into it.

Javier rises to the challenge of keeping the large kitchen running smoothly.



Guadalupe pauses after finishing the noontime dishes.

Erasmo puts one of his salad creations into the serving counter.

Javier and Evangelina watch the serving line, greeting the Sisters and making sure there's enough food.

Anna hands out dessert with a pleasant "Enjoy!".

From attic to Archives... Regina (27 years with the SCCs) can be found.

Romita can often be seen working on the 3rd floor, but she does not hesitate to join in a job calling for many hands.

Henryka and Zusanna often work together to get the job done.

Housekeeping Staff

"Cleanliness is next to godliness." That could easily be the motto of our housekeeping staff which has the responsibility to keep our home/building *clean, orderly* and *functional*. These are three simple words, but in our large convent they demand time, energy, organization, concentration, and devotion. Zuzanna Jopek and Henryka Marecka are our full-time housekeepers; Romita St. Louis and Regina Wiecek are part-time staff. The housekeepers' cleaning carts have all the necessary supplies. The carts get pushed down the corridors and are stopped at bedrooms, bathrooms, utility rooms, the community room, family room, dining room, scullery, chapel, offices, parlors, stairways, etc., etc., etc. Floors are mopped, detail dusting is done, sinks are cleaned. The housekeepers get plenty of exercise as they mop our long corridors, bend down to get under beds, move chairs to clean the dining room floor, etc., etc., etc. We can apply to each of our housekeeping staff the words from Sirach about the valiant woman: *She puts her back into her work / and shows how strong her arms can be (*Sirach 31:17). Thank you to our housekeeping staff for their friendliness and hard work.

To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind.
(Pearl S. Buck)

Maintenance Staff

Our sole maintenance man is Adam Klopotowski. He is a "Jack-of-all-trades". When Adam started working at Sacred Heart Convent in 1998, it would take some time for him to get things fixed. He learned quickly, though, and now moves from task to task with ease. He makes minor repairs to machinery in the scullery, laundry and boiler room. He is able to do some of the plumbing in the kitchen, laundry and bathrooms. He changes lights, fixes window ropes, moves furniture and other supplies, empties the garbage and helps with deliveries. Adam sees to it that our property is well-kept and looks beautiful. He mows the grass, rakes the leaves and plows the snow. Thank you, Adam.

Sr. Caroline Schafer, the administrator at Sacred Heart believes that "the lay staff working at Sacred Heart Convent is an exceptional group of people. The atmosphere is more that of a family than employers and employees. Many give more than 100%. All have the good of the Sisters at heart. I have never heard of a Sister whose reasonable request has gone unfulfilled. So I say with Tiny Tim: 'God bless us everyone!'". ✝

New Mallinckrodt Scholars Have Pauline's Spirit

Text compiled by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC from application essays written by Emily and Samantha
Photo by Cristina Bedolla, a Mallnckrodt Scholar

Meet Emily Robertson and Samantha Leary, our new Mallinckrodt Scholars at the Gannon Center of Loyola University Chicago. Both are sophomores and both already seem to have caught the spirit of Mother Pauline.

Emily senses that Mother Pauline lived out the words: "Love never counts, only Love counts". Emily wants to engage herself in the fight against the sex-trafficking industry and she believes that Love is the motivation that is needed. She desires "to uplift their [victims'] voices and stories of survival to ensure that others are not swiped of their identity and humanity to be branded with a label and sold to hungry predators." Emily's classes in communication and sociology will help her to "analyze different communication methods that have aided youth sex-trafficking victims in their rescue to see which are the most effective and which can be developed further". Emily is impressed by how Mother Pauline "used networking and collaboration to accomplish her goals and fight society's injustices" and intends to do the same in her work against sex-trafficking. Emily writes: "A victim's eyes hold defiance. Her mouth is housing a story. Her soul is a survivor. She is paving the way for others to escape. She is worthy of love, just as Mother Pauline loved everyone around her . . . even the most vulnerable."

Samantha knows that Mother Pauline had "an open ear and heart to others' struggles" and improved the world around her in very practical ways. Samantha hopes to "follow in her footsteps and better the lives of people as she did." Samantha is most appreciative of the education she received in "an extremely well-equipped school district". She realizes, however, that not all have this opportunity and so hopes to commit her life to "improving the life and education of children by working to bridge the achievement gap, measured by grades, test scores, dropout rates, and college readiness and completion rates." Samantha acknowledges that she has hard work ahead of her but she is ready. She believes that "attempting to make any change, even when focused or small, is essential to creating a more just world." As Mother Pauline was "undoubtedly a proponent of education and the specific betterment of young children's lives" so, too, Samantha is willing to "collectively and effectively work towards an educational system that would make Pauline von Mallinckrodt proud." Of interest is that Samantha's grandmother graduated from Mallinckrodt High School in Wilmette! ✞

Sr. Mary Clement enjoyed meeting Emily (left) and Samantha (right) at a Gannon Center event.

A great shot of the eclipse!

God Put On a Great Party and St. Louis Showed Up

Text by Sr. Mary Ann Eultgen, SCC | Photos by Kenneth Eultgen

A week prior to the August 21st solar eclipse, Sr. Celene Schmaucher, SSND, a science teacher at Notre Dame High School in St. Louis, prepared our group for the upcoming spectacular event by giving us a talk on what to expect along with precautions about using solar glasses. We were grateful for her words.

Living along the banks of the Mississippi River and surrounded by spacious grassy areas as well as parking lots, we eighty-some Sisters

(continued on page 9)

A Sister Walks into a Bar...

Text by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC
Photo courtesy of the Western Region Archives

When I was a very young Sister (a few years after making my first vows) I went home for my annual vacation. My mother and I shared the same birthday so it was customary for my father to take us to our favorite restaurant—about 45 minutes from our town. My grandparents were visiting at the time so they joined us. When we arrived, the place was full and we were told that there would be a 20-minute wait for a table. We elected to sit at the bar until a table was ready. I was sitting between my father and grandmother and nursing a glass of Pepsi when two men at the end of the bar began giving me a hard time about being in a bar dressed the way I was. (I was wearing my habit.) Fortunately—after a few minutes of my trying not to take them too seriously—they introduced themselves: the Catholic pastor and his assistant from a neighboring town! ✞

Sr. Anastasia - 1985

GREAT PARTY *(continued from page 8)*

living at Maria Center, the Notre Dame motherhouse, decided that on the day of the eclipse we would picnic on the parking lot adjacent to Jefferson Barracks. What an atmosphere! The day was fresh and sunny, expectation was palpable in the air and there was band music floating over us from the Barracks. Picnic supplies were available. There were sieves and strainers of all sizes through which we could watch the moon passing over the sun. At the moment of the total eclipse there was spontaneous clapping. Oohs and aahs were audible. We sang "How Great Thou Art".

Everyone who could have been outside that day was outside. The Press mentioned that this event drew more people outside than did Super Bowl Sunday.

"You gather us together in the bosom of your love" (Ps.106:47). Yes, this was my sentiment! I actually had tears in my eyes as the celestial experience was occurring. All I could think of was how much God loves me to give such a celebrated gift to me on the day of my 68th jubilee. It was all so meaningful. I was especially touched when witnessing the awesome corona (diamond ring). The brilliance reminded me of seeing God face to face. I have had several "aha" spiritual moments in my life, and to this day I can still remember where and when these special moments occurred. August 21, 2017 is etched in my memory as an "aha" moment. ✞

Kenneth Eultgen - an accomplished photographer - is Sr. Mary Ann's nephew.

Pauline 200

Text and photos by/courtesy of Sr. Juliana Miska, SCC

We are grateful to each Sister of the Western Region for making *Pauline 200* in Chicago an experience of spiritual renewal, ministry and international community for the Sisters participating. We did everything we said we would do and more!

Sr. Maria de la Cruz, Sr. Regina, Sr. Joanne, Sr. Maria Ingrid, Sr. Dolores, Sr. Angela Maria, Sr. Maria Ester, Sr. Anna and Sr. Juliana visited Josephinum Academy.

Spiritual Renewal

There were many opportunities for spiritual renewal. Every day we had a contemplative drive to Our Lady of Mercy Parish. We noticed the people that we passed and prayed for those we would be present to throughout the day. During the first week, we attended daily Mass with the children and families in the *Totus Tuus* program. Throughout weeks two and three we had a daily bi-lingual (English/Spanish) Mass with homilies that inspired further conversation among ourselves. The group prayed Vespers together and had faith-sharing sessions. Several of the Sisters went out of their linguistic comfort zone!

We divided into language groups for sharing one or two of the letters of Mother Pauline. This was deeply intense and quickly created a bond among us that will last. Each of us also listened to the vocation stories of one another—tales of wonder and grace.

Ministry – Week One

During week one, we were involved in the *Totus Tuus* program. We supported the team (seminarians and volunteers) in the general sessions together and in the separate age group discussions. Before the classes began we helped with registrations, talked with the parents, engaged the children in Bible stories, reviewed the day's lessons with them and taught the songs for the daily liturgy. Noon was "bag lunch" time with the children.

There was a strong ministry of presence that energized the team, children and families participating in the programs. The Sisters attended some of the evening sessions with the youth. Some Sisters were able to participate in the parish Liturgy Council meeting and Financial Council meeting. They engaged themselves in the agenda and exchanged ideas with each group.

Ministry – Weeks Two and Three

The Sisters were asked to creatively continue their ministry of presence in a variety of ways and they responded generously in weeks two and three.

Sr. Regina Bathalon tutored a few children in sacramental preparation (Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist). She worked with one young boy (12) who was amazed at Sister's teaching and loved all that he was learning. His evaluation: "This is better than summer camp. Can't we do it all summer?" Simultaneously, Sr. Juliana was working with his mother. Both will continue classes this fall.

Sr. Angela Maria Sinnreich was involved with the ministry of care in the nursing homes that are regularly visited by the parish's Ministry of Care team. Sister was impressed by the dedication of those in this ministry. She also noticed differences between nursing home situations here and those in her country (Germany).

Srs. Dolores Bozif, Anna Nguyen, Regina and Joanne Bednar started the English Rosary Circles which met three times a week. Each Sister prepared a meditation on a particular mystery of the rosary; copies of these meditations were given to the parishioners in the rosary circles. Srs. Maria Ingrid Sánchez, Maria Esther Moraga and Maria de la Cruz Torres Lacroze (the Sisters from South America) did the same with the Spanish-speaking parishioners. Both groups were able to identify a parishioner that would be able to continue leading others in these weekly gatherings.

Several individuals came to the rectory to talk with a Sister. Srs. Anna, Maria Ester and Juliana were available for this outreach. Sr. Juliana gave two half-days of team-building sessions for the members of the parish staff.

A group of Sisters walked the neighborhood to be a presence and to take time to talk to the many people sitting on front porches or outside of store fronts. People offered welcoming words and remarked that they had never seen so many Sisters together at one time.

Fr. Nick, Pastor, had invited parishioners to invite two or three Sisters to their homes for a meal and for the opportunity to introduce their families, talk

about their concerns and suggest ways that the parish could continue to serve them. The parishioners were very responsive, but we were only able to accept nine invitations representing several countries. Most of the concerns were social justice issues: immigration laws, deportation, violence, domestic violence, loss of jobs and economic problems.

At the request of the women's group, the Sisters from South America prepared a PowerPoint presentation and prayer addressing the issue of human dignity and respect for women in the Church and in the world. These same Sisters were asked to meet with a group of 21 persons to talk about domestic violence and its prevention and to offer prayers giving support and strength.

All the Sisters went to help out at Christ Lutheran Food Pantry which is supported by the parishioners of OLM. This included visiting with the families, carrying bags of canned goods to bus stops for the elderly and taking the groceries to the homes of those living nearby.

International Community Living

Assuming the responsibilities for shopping, planning and preparing meals, arranging flowers for the tables and the chapel and tending to the flowers in the gardens quickly helped the Sisters feel at home with one other. Though language was a challenge, all managed to communicate with gestures, laughter and love. All agreed that learning a second language in an international community is essential.

Fr. Nick met with the group to talk about demographics, poverty levels and the large number of immigrant families and their needs. Father took us around (in the Josephinum Academy bus) to tour the neighborhoods of Chicago (north, south, east and west) to see the deeper levels of poverty and needs of these families. The day concluded with a visit to Holy Name Cathedral where all that had been seen and experienced could be lifted up to the Lord in prayer.

A highlight was the special recreation prepared by the Sisters from South America which included native dances, songs, skits and puzzles. (Photo by Sr. Dolores Bozif, SCC)

The Sisters enjoyed informal times of gathering such as walks around the neighborhood, piecing together a jigsaw puzzle, coloring mandalas, doing needlepoint, playing Jenga, singing community songs or just sitting together to talk, laugh and recall the events of the day. Mother Pauline bingo and a Constitutions puzzle also created an atmosphere of togetherness. In the afternoons, time was carved out for sharing family photos and photos of our religious communities. These stories will forever be etched in our hearts and memories.

Weekend trips strengthened the ties of international living. We visited Marytown, Mundelein Seminary, the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent and the SCC Center, and Josephinum Academy where we had a wonderful tour and a glance at the new garden that will be dedicated to the SCCs. The Sisters attended services at various churches and these experiences again pointed out the ethnic diversity of parish and prayer life in Chicago.

At the end of *Pauline 200* the Sisters invited Fr. Nick for an international meal. This brought the Sisters together in a new way as they planned an international menu, shared recipes and prepared a shopping list. ALL nine Sisters were together in the kitchen and dining room at one time to make the meal.

The Sisters agreed to stay connected through prayer and communication on the feastday and/or birthdays of each member in the group. ✝

All the donations that were sent in throughout the Congregation have been given to Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) parish for educational scholarships and for gift cards to purchase food and medicine for those most in need.

Appreciating Our History

Text and photo by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Sr. Anna (seated behind the projector) shared highlights of post-Kulturkampf SCC history.

In Response to God's Call is the title that Sr. Anna Schwanz, SCC, gave to her history of the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Charity from 1881 (the death of Mother Pauline) to the present. The translation into English of Sr. Anna's manuscripts was done by Sr. Mary Perpetua Rehle of our Eastern Province.

On August 4, Sr. Anna was with us to share the highlights of this history and to illustrate it with a PowerPoint presentation. The Sisters were fully engaged. The history covers the rebuilding of the Congregation after the Kulturkampf, the effects of World War I and World War II on our Congregation, our expansion in the Americas, the challenges of Vatican Council II and a look forward. Sr. Anna persevered in her work because she believes that the remembering is "for the sake of the future".

The history is made highly personal because the "work is based on the Chronicles of the Congregation and, from 1926 on, also the Chronicles of the German Province" (Preface).

The Provincial Superior, Mother Liboria Brinkmann, tried to shield the missions [in Germany] from [seizure by the government] as best she could by repeatedly admonishing the Sisters to the greatest care in speech and writing.... All Sisters should "remain at their post more circumspect and more faithful than before and persevere despite all difficulties." A careless remark could be sufficient to find oneself in a concentration camp and to put the entire Congregation in danger.

In the evening, Sr. Anna gave the Sisters a visual tour of Paderborn. Thank you, Sr. Anna. ✞

Going Green

Information provided by Sr. Mary Ann Warwick, SCC
Photo by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Sr. Mary Ann (3rd from left) makes sure that the Sisters' environmental awareness remains alert and active.

The **Go Green Wilmette** group was founded in 2006 "to raise environmental awareness in the Wilmette community and to inspire residents to take action to make a difference". The SCCs in Wilmette were introduced to this movement by Sr. Mary Ann Warwick.

On March 12th, Sr. Juliana Miska and Sr. Anastasia Sanford attended the **Go Green Matters Environmental Fair** sponsored by this group. Sr. Juliana remarked that it was "an afternoon of sheer delight". People were welcoming and thanked one another for all efforts made in terms of stewardship of the earth. The **Go Green** displays "were innumerable" and included "tips on planting shared garden space, where to take nature walks and interfaith prayers to name only a few". Sr. Juliana even won a prize: the book **Grounded** signed by the author Diana Butler. This prize was offered by the Community Church of Wilmette and Sr. Juliana got an invitation from Pastor David van Brakle to stop by for coffee and for conversation about insights from the book. Sr. Anastasia was also lucky and won a coffee cup and a bag of coffee.

Sr. Mary Ann Warwick is engaged with the Wilmette Faith Leaders group and it was through this group that she became acquainted with Rev. Marcia Heeter, the Faith Community liaison with **Go Green Wilmette**.

(continued on page 13)

Celebrating

Text by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Bishop Francis Kane gives his homily. Below the pulpit stood a cut-out of Mother Pauline.
[Photo by Sr. Anastasia Sanford, SCC]

On Sunday, September 24th, the Western Region had its celebration for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mother Pauline. The weather was quite hot but did not wither the spirits of the Sisters or their guests. The Holy Mass began at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Wilmette. As part of the entrance procession, Sr. Juliana Miska, SCC, carried in a replica of Mother Pauline's wicker basket and placed it at the feet of the Mother Pauline cut-out in the sanctuary. Bishop Francis Kane was the main celebrant assisted by several other priests. The gospel for the day was the story of the owner of the vineyard and his laborers. Bishop Kane drew attention to the unearned wages that most of the workers received. He posed the questions: How did each man use the bonus that he had received from the owner? How do we use the unearned gifts/graces that God gives us? Bishop Kane pointed out that Mother Pauline used her gifts very well. She labored in the Lord's vineyard despite daunting challenges and hostility. She responded to God's grace of profligate generosity as she reached out to others. The celebration ended with the Community song: "Hail to Our Dear Mother Foundress" sung to the melody of "Whispering Hope".

The large birthday cake bore the image that appeared on the invitation to the celebration. [Photo by Joseph Trang]

After the Liturgy, Sisters and guests went over to Meter Hall for a reception. The painting of Mother Pauline by Sr. Henrica Buchert, SCC, took center stage. Each of the tables had at its center a wicker basket holding potted mums. Scattered around the basket were metallic bookmarks that had "the basket" engraved on them. Guests were free to take as many as they wished. There was a wide assortment of reception foods available. The dessert table was provided by the SCC Mentors group (working at the Josephinum). The focus of this table was a birthday cake honoring Mother Pauline.

This occasion was a wonderful opportunity for the Sisters to see and visit with friends and benefactors. Many positive remarks about the liturgy and reception were offered. It was a fitting celebration; we are thankful, grateful and blessed. ✞

Going Green *(continued from page 12)*

Sister was invited to a dialogue with Wilmette faith leaders to discuss "the connection between our faith and our sacred earth". Questions for reflection were given. On July 12th, Sr. Mary Ann met with interested Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent for input on such questions as: What changes have you made to your place of worship [our convent building] that honor the earth and natural resources? What is your faith group currently doing about earth care? There was earnest conversation among the Sisters and Sr. Mary Ann shared their responses for consideration by the faith leaders gathered for the meeting on July 27th. The Sacred Heart Sisters met again on August 10 and September 6 to continue discussing the questions and to consider further steps. Sr. Mary Ann presented more information regarding environmental awareness and actions. The **Go Green** Faith Leaders will be meeting again. Sr. Mary Ann will keep the Sisters informed about what is happening. ✞

Woman of Integrity, Prudence and Charity

Text by
Sr. Joanne Bednar, SCC

There was no difference in the manner in which Mother Pauline dealt with her Sisters, persons in authority, those who worked as partners in ministry, or children entrusted to her care. All were treated with respect even when her message was difficult to convey. Whether Pauline herself was giving the message or she was mentoring another in communicating a directive, her words were both simple and clear. Listen to Mother Pauline as she writes to Sr. Agnes about missioning Sr. Bertha to the convent in Solingen: "After careful consideration and in compliance with your wishes, we are sending you Sister Bertha. She is glad to come to you, has a high esteem for you, and is coming to you with the best of will. She wants to do everything just as you would like her to do it. Just tell her very simply what you expect of her."

Pauline was solicitous for justice shown to employees. Here she writes to President von Bodelschwingh with regard to the salary of a teacher in the school for the blind: "Board for a male teacher estimated at 45 Thalers, 15 Shillings is too low, so that when the occasion arises I shall have to request an increase." In 1845 Pauline wrote to the Provincial Commission: "Efficient teachers must be paid well, otherwise it will be impossible to retain them for any length of time."

At the same time, Pauline dealt with situations that she found unacceptable in employees: "I regret that the gardener failed to adjust to the situation. I am of the opinion that you will have to tell him in a friendly and straightforward manner that he must not occupy himself so much with the girls. He will then realize that you took notice. If you definitely think that, in the long run, he will not be suitable, look around for someone else. If you have discussed the matter with the Director and you still wish to dismiss him after he has been there for a half year, tell him early enough so that he won't encounter difficulties."

In all her dealings Mother Pauline demonstrated prudence when it came to finances vs. the Sisters' health. Listen to her guidance in this matter as she speaks to Mother Gonzaga and Sr. Dominica in 1873: "I am sorry you overexerted yourself on the journey; you should have spared yourself even at the expense of more time and money. I am telling you this purposely, so that if God should send you to America, you do not overtax yourself in traveling but rather spend more money and spare your health. God bless your trip."

In that matter, every Sister was important. In a letter to Sr. Bertha in 1859, Mother Pauline wrote: "Be very prudent and sensible so that you recover as quickly as possible. It is preferable that you remain there as long as necessary because by traveling at this time of the year you could readily catch a cold. Do take good care of your health."

Integrity, prudence and charity seem to be bound together in this brief letter to Sr. Antonie in 1853: "Now, my dear little housekeeper, I should like to remind you to prepare good, wholesome, and tasty meals at all times. Consider that you are cooking for the Lord Himself, and that He will one day reward your efforts by inviting you to the heavenly banquet. Good, nutritious meals are necessary for the preservation of health; but at the same time do not overlook the need for economy which is in accord with holy poverty, and which is proper for religious." ✠

Prayer to Blessed Pauline

Blessed Pauline, God gave you the grace of a deep faith in His love. In difficulties and trials, you knew that you were enfolded in that love; more and more, God became the very center of your being.
Obtain for me the grace of experiencing the sustaining power of faith in my life and of knowing that I am loved by God. Help me to see my present need in the light of this faith and this love.
Blessed Pauline, I trust in your intercession with God.

Mother Pauline's basket

We Introduce Our Six Newest Companions

Text and photos contributed by Sr. M. Joanne Ladwig, SCC; Sr. Pauline Schafer, SCC; Sr. Mary Ann Warwick, SCC

Louisiana

Gaynell and Louis

Gaynell Marchand was introduced to the Companions of Pauline by her friend Aggie Jackson. Gaynell is a very devoted grandmother who volunteers to care for several of her grandchildren after school and on "free days". She is an active member of St. James Major Parish in Gentilly: a Eucharistic minister, lector, counter of money on Mondays, member of the Altar Society. Gaynell enthusiastically agreed to pick up other Companions for their meetings. She collects clothes for a center for abused women in New Orleans and for children in Africa. She generously brings food to the sick and provides transportation for them when needed. Gaynell's husband died in 1985. They had been married for 14 years.

Louis Flattmann joined the Companions of Pauline in New Orleans after being invited by Aggie Jackson and Gaynell Marchand. Louis, too, is active at St. James Major and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. In March 2017—after successfully healing from emergency surgery—Louis felt that he wanted to do something more with his life. He wanted to join the Companions of Pauline to have another avenue for doing good. Louis has always been a single man. He loves to work in his garden, collect religious articles, do home decorating and help with the KC's fish fries. Before he retired, Louis was employed as an accountant and sales clerk. Louis attends Mass daily and helps assist at the altar.

Michigan

Sandra, Peggy and Colleen

Peggy Braun followed in the footsteps of family members when she became a Companion of Pauline. The persons recommending Peggy remarked that she is faith-filled and an example for her children. She is also helpful in her parish, Most Holy Trinity in Fowler. She helps in school and with parish activities. Peggy is a caring person and one with whom it is fun to be.

Colleen Organek was eager to join the Companions of Pauline and she attended the required preparation meetings. Colleen was recommended by several people who know her well and testify to her eagerness to learn more about the Catholic faith and to help others in this effort. She is a good salesperson and doesn't give up in the face of adversity. Colleen is a member of St. Gerard's Parish in Lansing.

Sandra Smith is from St. Mary's Parish in Westphalia. She was eager to join our Companions of Pauline and was highly recommended by her Pastor, Father Eric Weber. Others remarked that Sandra is a very faithful Catholic. In her Covenant, Sandra pledged to pray the rosary daily and to attend weekday Masses frequently.

Illinois

Joanne

For several years, Joanne Styler felt an inner call to become a Companion of Pauline. After a few years of prayer and discernment and after completing her period of formation, Joanne joyfully proclaimed her Covenant as a Companion on June 3, 2017—the exact day of the 200th anniversary of Mother Pauline's birth. Joanne's love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament motivates her to demonstrate this love in serving the poor and caring for others. Joanne is currently the head of the Faith Formation Ministry at Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst. In her Covenant statement, Joanne wrote: "I agree to support the life and mission of the Congregation of the Sister of Christian Charity by witnessing to the presence of Blessed Pauline's spirit as I catechize the families in my Parish." ✝

Frequently Asked Questions

Text by Sr. Monica Cormier, SCC

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord…plans to give you a future full of hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"A glance into the future could really fill us with fear and fright, if we did not know the dear Lord still lives and will direct all for the best." (Mother Pauline, 1873)

YES! We would do it again!
Photo by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Only God knows just what our future holds, and according to Mother Pauline that is all that matters. So, what are we doing in the meantime? Well, sometimes we are visited by women of all ages who wonder just who we are and what we are about. Sometimes we meet women in parishes where we go to Mass. Sometimes we meet them at workshops and vocation fairs. Once in a while we are introduced to them through mutual friends and acquaintances. Here are some of the questions they ask.

Just recently Sr. M. Joanne Ladwig who lives in New Orleans, LA was visited by two women who are rediscovering their Catholic faith. They are also discerning whether or not God might be calling them to the religious life. One expressed both her attraction to the life and yet her uncertainty about why she would even be attracted. So, she asked Sr. Joanne an often-posed question: What was Sister's own vocation story and how did she know God was calling her? They were also very interested in our prayer life and community life. How does one learn to pray? Do you pray all day? What do you do with your time? What is community life like? What happens if you end up living with someone you don't like?

Relaxing at Abbeyfest -- a vocation fair in New Orleans.
Photo courtesy of Sr. M. Joanne Ladwig, SCC

For the Sisters of Christian Charity, prayer and community are very important aspects of our life. Mother Pauline herself wrote in 1849: *"Particular love of the Eucharist is a distinctive mark of our Congregation and the source of its joyous, youthful enthusiasm and vigor."*

Our Constitutions also attest to the centrality of prayer and community:

"In its deepest dimensions, all our religious life is prayer. It is our joyful, grateful response to God, who first loved us and is calling us to ever-deepening love." (Art. 10)

"Our characteristic spirit, charity, manifests itself first of all in our community living through the warmth of our loving concern and our appreciation of each other's gifts. We interpret each other's actions kindly, forgive one another's failures, and resolve in sincere dialogue whatever difficulties may arise." (Art. 29)

Another frequently asked question: If you had it to do all over again, would you still decide to become a Sister? My answer is a resounding "YES!" But ask any Sister of Christian Charity and you would get the same reply. We are always more than happy to have people know about us. We are open to answering questions, listening to individual stories and inviting into our homes. Drop us a line or visit our website: callscc@sccwilmette.org and www.sccwilmette.org

Maybe you know someone who is wondering about this Call in their life. Maybe you can be the person who introduces us. We are still here and we are still moving into our future! ✞

The Chilean Province Celebrates the Bicentennial

Text and Photos courtesy of Sr. Cecilia Poblete, SCC

In Chile, the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of Mother Pauline's birth were programmed in four parts of the country: from the regions in the North to those in the South. The main cities were Santiago, Concepción, Valdivia and Puerto Montt where we have the majority of our schools. We have close to 15.000 students in our 12 schools which go from pre-kindergarden through high school. There was also a celebration at our motherhouse in San Bernardo.

The celebration in **Concepción** was very similar to that in Santiago. The four high schools of the región participated. The musical band of our students of Talcahuano went in front of all the students marching along the streets of the city until they all processed into the cathedral where the Archbishop celebrated the Eucharist.

In **Santiago**, the main event was the Eucharist in the largest and most historic church of Maipú. The main celebrant was Cardinal Ricardo Ezzatti, SDB.

In **Valdivia** we had a solemn Eucharist in the Coliseum (a large sports arena) where 5,000 people can be seated. A number of students were in charge of the flags representing the countries where our Sisters are working. The choir, accompanied by instruments, was formed by 60 teachers, parents and students. At the back of the arena was a huge image of our dear Mother Pauline, beautifully ornamented. The celebrant was our Bishop, with five other priests, six deacons and about 25 altar boys and girls. Our high schools in this city are Inmaculada Concepción Institute and Our Lady of Carmel.

All the city authorities were present, a large number of parents, more than 2000 students along with teachers, staff, former students, members of the Mother Pauline Group and the four Sisters of our convent. In the Bishop's homily, he remembered what Jesus said at the wedding in Cana: "The feast we are celebrating invites us to look at the Lord, like Mary did, by putting our trust in Him, and like the servants of the Gospel and Mother Pauline have done, to do whatever He is demanding us to do."

In both of our schools in **Puerto Montt** they had a special program before June 3. A pilgrimage was made to Ancud, the first foundation of the Chilean province. Students, staff, parents and former students walked in Mother Pauline's steps. They went to the place where Mother Pauline arrived in 1879, the convent where she lived when visiting, the school where our Sisters had been working. The whole group crossed the ocean from the continent to the large island of Chiloe for this occasion.

The other event was a religious visit to the cemetery in Puerto Varas where our first Sisters were buried. There the group had a special liturgical prayer and mentioned the names of all of the deceased Sisters buried there. ✞

San Bernardo In the Motherhouse we gave special importance to our celebration. One of the activities was a recognition of our employees who have been with the Sisters (working and living) for 30, 40 or more years. Their loyalty and service had to be recognized publicly. Three of the oldest of them from each school were invited to the Motherhouse for three days. The Sisters cared for them and prepared a special program for each day: Eucharist, visits, meals, gifts, many photos, etc. There were 44 that gathered. Mother Pauline was well known to them and they knew this event was linked to the 200th anniversary of her birthday.

Coming to Learn

Text and photos by Sr. Mary Clement Eiden, SCC

Top photo: artifacts and photos about Investing and Vows Ceremonies in earlier years intrigued the students.
Below: a group of students at a replica of Mother Pauline's grave, created for the 100th anniversary of the Congregation in 1949.

The students enjoyed their noon meal with the Sisters.

Josephinum High School was founded by the Sisters of Christian Charity in 1890. In the late 1980s the school began to develop in new ways. Eventually a three-way partnership was formed by the SCCs, the Board of Directors and the Religious of the Sacred Heart. At present, Sr. Carol Bredenkamp is the only SCC at the Jo. Sister does not want the students to forget the SCC foundation and history of the school. For the past three years, she has been organizing "tours" for the freshman. They come to our Regional Center and to Sacred Heart Convent to learn about Mother Pauline and the SCCs.

This year a total of 59 students (accompanied by staff members) visited on three different mornings in September. At Sacred Heart Convent, the girls were divided into two groups. One group had a tour of the archives with Sr. Anastasia Sanford. Here they could see history through a variety of photos, artifacts and the replica of the grave of Mother Pauline. Meanwhile, in the conference room, the other group had a presentation on discerning a vocation and then visited chapel. After about 45 minutes the groups switched locations. The visit ended in the dining room where the Josephinum group and the Sisters were able to have some good conversations over dinner. ✞

The old Josephinum building (far right) was completed in 1890; the 1906 addition is in the foreground. Photo courtesy of the Western Region Archives.

Sr. Marianne Schwer

quietly left this earth on April 23, 2017 at the age of 87. Marianne Schwer was born on August 13, 1929 in St. Louis, MO. Marianne attended St. Boniface School—from kindergarten to the 8th grade—where she was taught by the Sisters of Christian Charity. Marianne entered the convent on February 27, 1948. On August 21 of 1949 she became a novice and was given the name Sister Rosaire. She made her first vows on August 21, 1951.

Sr. Rosaire's first ministry was that of grade school teacher. Her first assignment was in New Orleans, LA. In 1970 Sr. Marianne (as she was known now) returned to the Chicago area, teaching in Niles and Prospect Heights, IL. After teaching for five years in New Ulm, MN, Sr. Marianne returned to the motherhouse. She served as Registrar at Mallinckrodt College from 1980-1990. In 1992 Sr. Marianne was sent to St. Louis where she worked at St. Vincent Home as secretary. In 1994 her new work of pastoral ministry saw her in Española, NM; Green Valley, AZ; and Cimarron, NM. When Sister returned to Wilmette in 2008 she served as part-time receptionist at Sacred Heart Convet, wrote the house annals and joined the staff of BREAD BROKEN. Although her health was failing, it was only in 2016 that she ceded her duties to other Sisters.

The wake for Sr. Marianne took place at Sacred Heart Convent on Thursday, April 27th. On Friday the funeral Mass was held in the convent chapel. Sister is buried at Maria Immaculata Cemetery. ✞

Sr. Renee Miller

died peacefully on September 20, 2017. She was 101 years old. Hester Miller was born on June 17, 1916 in Evanston, IL. In 1931 Hester enrolled at Mallinckrodt High School; this was where she met the Sisters of Christian Charity.

On August 21, 1936, Hester became a novice and was given the name Sister René (many years later the spelling was changed to Renee). After pronouncing her first vows on August 21, 1938, Sr. René was sent to teach at St. Joseph School in LeMars, IA. The ministry listing in her file describes her duties as "grade school teacher; sacristan"; the latter activity would continue throughout her entire life. On August 20, 1944 she pronounced her perpetual vows. Sister's ministries—in later years it included volunteering in a hospital and sewing, as well as the duties of sacristan— saw her in St. Louis, MO; Detroit, MI; New Ulm, MN; Chicago, Palatine and Wilmette, IL.

In 2001 Sr. Renee retired from active ministry, but continued helping with light duties. The Sisters who lived with her at Sacred Heart Convent commented that Sister was always happy and cheerful.

The wake for Sr. Renee took place on Thursday, September 21st at Sacred Heart Convent. Fr. David Streit, SVD, celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. the next day. He and a group of Sisters accompanied Sr. Renee's coffin to Maria Immaculata Cemetery. ✞

In Memoriam

Sr. Myra Beltz, SCC

October 11, 2017

(obituary will appear in Summer 2018 issue)

W. James Clavey
Father of Rev. James Clavey,
former Pastor of SCC

Jay Crawford
brother-in-law of
Sr. Consuela Chase

Regina Currall
sister of
Sr. Mary Thecla Malawey (dec.)

Marion Deville
brother-in-law of
Sr. Francetta Scherer

Rev. Robert Pawell, OFM
friend of SCC

Gene Torborg
brother of
Sr. Mary Cecilia Torborg

Now is the time of trouble and toil. But precious will it be when, at the end of our life, the Master says, "I will give the laborers their pay."

(Pauline von Mallinckrodt)

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My Experience of *Pauline 200*

Text by Sr. Dolores Bozif, SCC
Photo by Sr. Juliana Miska, SCC

Pauline 200 was a time to do something different, a time to pray and grow in love for our community by being with and working with Sisters from different Regions and Provinces. It was a joy to see how Mother Pauline's spirit bound us together as one Community. It was enriching. Even without knowing Spanish, we could work together and share about our daily activities. All of us brought ourselves with our varied personalities and gifts. We ranged in age from 31 to 75 and shared our backgrounds, experiences and ministries.

Our summer experience dealt with different kinds of poverty. We did not visit homes and work directly with the materially poor. However, we were with the children and adults and talked with them, prayed with them, encouraged and supported them in their prayer life and other areas. We saw how the food pantry in the area worked, but I was drawn to the people who picked through the donated clothing left at the food pantry. I think what most touched me was a family who did not have much but wanted the Sisters to join them for a meal to celebrate their son's birthday. They made it a real feast —including the cake. This made me more conscious of the worries and concerns that so many people have; it made me grateful for what I have. ✞

Sr. Dolores takes her turn in the kitchen.