

WE CONNECT



Companions of Pauline and Sisters of Christian Charity
#18 Autumn 2017

Cover: Blessed Pauline's Basket of Healing and Love

Throughout Pauline's life – wherever she went – she carried this basket. It served as a handbag and contained supplies for the poor, such as medicine, food items and money.

Her basket symbolized Pauline's readiness to serve anyone. It also contained her prayer book and rosary which were a comfort to the sick and the poor.

The Sisters of Christian Charity carry on this legacy in their prayer and life-giving actions. They are present today in Germany, Italy, the United States, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and the Philippines.

The Life of Pauline von Mallinckrodt

CHAPTER III

The Ways of Divine Providence in Preparing Pauline for the Foundation of a New Order — Death of Her Father — Day Nursery — Institution for the Blind

(1834-1842)

As long as Herr von Mallinckrodt lived, the four children were happily united in a quaint little family circle. Pauline was the soul of the house. Her heart, which she had so courageously detached from the world, belonged to God, and her resolution to devote her life to the special service of God and her neighbor was firm, but she waited patiently, confident that God would point out to her the path which would lead her to the accomplishment of her design. Whilst thus faithfully carrying out the practices of a devout life, she carefully refrained from intruding them on her father, wishing to make the home as happy as she could for him and for her brothers and sister, for she feared that her predominant inclination to religious matters and her great love for the poor would alarm him, and that her intention to withdraw from the world would meet with his disapproval. Her father's attitude toward her at that time was a peculiar mixture of earnestness, through which he tried to discourage what he considered an excess of pious enthusiasm, and the most tender, loving consideration. The means, however, which he used to bring about in Pauline a change of mind, served in the hands of Providence to qualify the future foundress of a religious community for her calling.

Pauline was fond of traveling, especially in company with her relatives and friends, and also very fond of visiting them. Susceptible to the good and beautiful, her ready mind was quick to perceive whatever presented itself as useful and practical. In her "Memoir" she writes: "The visits which we were accustomed to make in spring or fall to our grand-

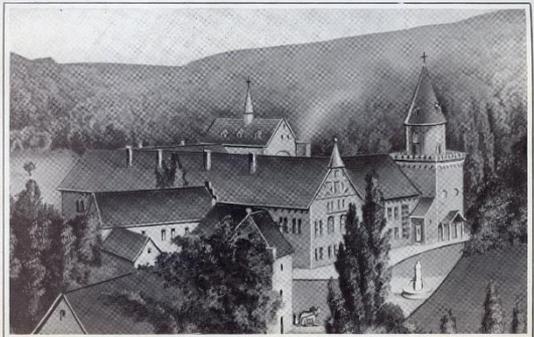
mother — my mother's mother — had a decidedly favorable influence upon me. This wise, pious, and venerable old lady lived in her country home near Paderborn, and her children and grandchildren frequently gathered around her. The pleasures of country life had the greatest charm for me. The walks through forests, through meadows and fields, the gathering of fruit, the harvest festival, the hunters' departure for their hunting expedition and their return at nightfall, all these rural pleasures I enjoyed very much. What was unnoticed by others, however, and what had a most beneficent effect upon me, was the intercourse with such virtuous, pious, and amiable persons as I found among my relatives. There, too, I became acquainted with the Franciscan Fathers, who sometimes visited my grandmother. Reverend Father Gossler was then at the Franciscan monastery in Paderborn, and by his piety, his intelligence, and his amiability, he so captivated my youthful mind that I made it a point to obtain the books of prayer and meditation written by him. In Aix-la-Chapelle I made daily use of these books, and great was the spiritual profit I derived from them, since they gradually led me to meditation and to a great veneration for the Blessed Sacrament." Further on she continues: "About a year after my mother's death (1835) my father's great kindness prompted him to afford me the pleasure of a trip to Paris which I made in company with Burgomaster Zurhell and wife, and Treasurer Pakenius and wife. We remained in the metropolis of France about three weeks, during which time we visited its art treasures, its places of historic note, buildings, palaces, and much else of the great and beautiful that is to be seen there. A year later, father had another great surprise in store for me. Bernard von Hartmann, a banker, my deceased mother's brother, and his wife came to Aix-la-Chapelle, intending to tour Belgium. Father permitted me to accompany them, to Liege, Namur, to the Meuse and Scheldt, to Brussels, Antwerp, Louvain, Ghent, Bruges, Ostend, over the Battlefield of Waterloo, etc." The travels here described were a means of enriching Pauline's mind with new knowledge, so useful to her in after years, and the

annual visits to Westphalia opened her connections with Paderborn, which was soon to be her permanent abode.

In 1840 Herr von Mallinckrodt retired from government service, and exchanged the noise and bustle of city life in Aix-la-Chapelle for the quiet and rest of his manor in Boeddeken, a small village near Paderborn, there to spend the evening of his life.

Pauline accompanied her father, while the two boys attended the university, and Bertha remained at an academy in Aix-la-Chapelle. The withdrawal of Herr von Mallinckrodt from office and from Aix-la-Chapelle, where he had been so esteemed on account of his integrity, was universally regretted. For Pauline, the separation from the city of her youth, from its churches, from her friends and from the poor, and among the latter particularly the old women of St. Stephen's for whom she and several of her associates had been caring, was not easy.

In Boeddeken everything was different from Aix-la-



THE MALLINCKRODT ESTATE AT BOEDEKEN

Boeddeken had been a time-honored cloister built by St. Meinolf. In the fifteenth century it was destroyed by fire, and re-erected by Augustinian Canons, in whose hands it remained up to the time of its secularization by the Government in 1803. The whole estate was converted into a public domain, and in order that it be divested of its religious character, the beautiful church connected with the monastery was destroyed, and the buildings remodeled. In this state Herr von Mallinckrodt purchased it.

The encumbrance was lifted by George von Mallinckrodt, who, as heir and successor to the domain, opened negotiations with the Apostolic See, and after his making the required compensation, the Church recognized his title to the possession.

Chapelle. The parish church to which Boeddeken belonged was at Wewelsburg, about two miles distant, and Pauline had to walk this distance day after day in order to remain faithful to her custom of daily holy communion. In her "Memoir" she writes: "It was very considerate of father to permit me to go to Wewelsburg every morning before breakfast, which made it possible for me to receive daily, as I had done in Aix-la-Chapelle. On leaving the church, the poor of the village would sometimes ask me to come into their dwellings and visit the sick, in want of a physician. From an able physician and surgeon in Aix-la-Chapelle and in one of the hospitals there I had acquired some knowledge of caring for the sick, and this, together with my little Boeddeken drug store, sometimes served as a comfort to the poor. Whenever their condition seemed to require other, more effective remedies, I called their attention to the fact that it would be better for them to consult a physician. On my return home I greeted father, and frequently met our relatives and friends still at breakfast, and we then chatted together for a little while. They often visited us, and spent days and weeks at our home."

During the winter months Herr von Mallinckrodt and Pauline lived in Paderborn. The conditions here more closely resembled those at Aix-la-Chapelle, and Pauline had greater opportunity to practice charity. There was a ladies' society founded by Father Gossler for tending the sick in their homes, and with her father's consent Pauline became a member. In 1840 this society opened a day nursery and placed it under Pauline's management. Poor children and those of laborers, from two to six years of age, were admitted, fed and cared for during the day, and occupied in pleasant and useful pastimes. In favorable weather, the greater part of the time was spent outdoors, and in the evening they returned to their parents. The love and care of the ladies of Paderborn for the sick and for poor children manifested itself in many edifying ways. Some remained at the bedside of patients during the night, others prepared soup for them, or furnished the society with linen, clothing,

and bedding, still others changed about in watching the children and in teaching them to pray and to knit. The example set by this organization was soon imitated in other cities, as Aix-la-Chapelle and Münster.

Of Pauline's interest in the day nursery, and of the gay life prevailing at Boeddeken when the family was re-united, the following letter written by her in October, 1841, to Professor Schlüter gives ample evidence. In addition to this, the letter throws such a clear light on her way of thinking, that it deserves to be published in full:

"For some days I have been in Münster, and regret very much that I am deprived of the pleasure of seeing you here. However, since your dear mother encouraged me to bid you 'Good day' in a letter, you will not, I trust, consider it presumptuous if I take advantage of this permission.

Professor Christopher Bernard Schlüter, an intimate friend of the Mallinckrodt family, was a distinguished member of the board of professors of the Munster University. In the prime of his manhood he was stricken with blindness, but the loss of his eyesight did not compel him to give up his chair at the University. The allusion to suffering in Pauline's letter refers to this affliction.

Full correspondence between Professor Schlueter and Pauline and Bertha von Mallinckrodt was published in a biography of the Professor, from which the above letter and other extracts which will follow were drawn.

"Bertha and I had been planning to pay you an epistolary visit from Boeddeken, but were prevented from doing so by the many visitors we had and by other duties which kept us busy. At Boeddeken there were eight of us young girls, and you can scarcely imagine what a jolly set we were. Had you seen us playing tag and other games in the long halls of the chateau, you would, undoubtedly, have taken us for schoolgirls. One evening the party dressed up in a most comical manner; Bertha donned my brother's college gown, and chose my brother, who was playing lady, as her

partner, and when dancing began there was no end to the laughter. After tea, several of the young ladies who are fond of cards played whist with my brother. At the end of each game, to my greatest delight, the winners gave me the amount for the school.

"When in Paderborn it pleased me that I could take Bertha to see our day nursery, and that she was quite taken with the poor little ones; during her visit she was so kind as to help us with our Christmas presents. You are, no doubt, surprised that we think of Christmas in September, but one must begin early if eighty or ninety children are to be made happy. Boeddeken seems to have been transformed into a veritable knitting school — one little stocking after another is being finished. I hope that we shall be successful in arranging a concert, and that the proceeds will be sufficient to provide a warm dress for each child. Perhaps the parents, who are so eager to see their children happy on Christmas Eve, will also contribute their mite. The concert will undoubtedly be well attended, and oh! what joy there will be when on Christmas the little ones will no longer suffer from the cold. A large Christmas tree, with burning candles and cakes and fruit will not be wanting. Under the tree there will be the stable of Bethlehem and the manger, to which the shepherds hasten to adore the Savior.

"It is really a delight to be at Hartmann's here in Münster. Everyone is so pious and at the same time so intellectual, that the conversations are a balm for heart and mind. Sometimes, of course, we disagree in our opinions, and it is too bad that you are not here, that we might submit our points of doubt to you for decision. Once Wilderich (Baron von Ketteler) won a brilliant victory over me. I was so certain of my argument that I entered into a wager, but Father Kellermann (professor, and future bishop of Münster) decided in favor of Wilderich. I thought the latter was going too far in his argumentation, but I am heartily glad that I was wrong, for such a predestination, where the free will is not lost, and grace acts with an irresistible power on the will, is a

real masterpiece of God's mercy and love. What joy must He, who cares for His own here below with such exceeding goodness, have prepared for them beyond! In truth does the Apostle say: 'The sufferings of this time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come, that shall be revealed to us.' Could God look at the sufferings of His children (when it is hard even for us), if He did not see farther than we? The soul becomes more pure and free from earthly alloy through suffering until it is like a radiant crystal, and then God quickly takes it out of this valley of tears, in order that no stain disfigure it anew. It is man's duty to love, and nowhere does love grow more than in affliction. That is the crucial test. Happy, happy he who stands it!"

Among the poor children Pauline considered the doubly poor, the blind, worthy of special love and care. It may be said that she was led to this work through her acquaintance with Doctor Herman Schmidt, the family physician and friend, whose wife had been one of her schoolmates at St. Leonard's. This excellent man, who took such great interest in all charitable work, had earnestly recommended these poor unfortunates to Pauline's charity, and had promised her his support. Pauline's sympathetic heart was won at once, and the thought of alleviating the sad lot of the poor blind children would not leave her. At this time the bishop of Paderborn turned over gratis to the day nursery several rooms of the former Capuchin monastery, and there was room left for the admission of some blind children. Doctor Schmidt applied to the president of Westphalia for the names of the most needy blind children of the province. Out of the great number seven were chosen, and, with permission of the bishop, they were given a home in the monastery. Pauline had obtained her father's consent to assist in founding this institution for the blind, and bore the expenses, as far as possible, with the money which he put at her disposal. In the Third Annual Report of the Ladies' Society, published toward the end of 1842, the day nursery receives mention as follows: "The greater part of the expenses of this thriving institution which includes nearly all

the poor children of the city, aged from two to six years, and which has connected with it an institution for the blind, and a knitting school for the dismissed six-year-old children who must attend school, is covered by a deserving lady, Pauline von Mallinckrodt, from her own means." The beginning of the asylum for the blind was small, it is true, but under God's protection this field of labor developed into the present flourishing Provincial School for the Blind, which, as well as the day nursery, is still under the direction of Pauline's spiritual daughters.

In 1842 Pauline had for the first time the grace to make the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. The retreat, which was held in an orphanage near Brackel, was conducted by Father Tewes, pastor at Dringenberg. After its close Pauline returned to Paderborn, little thinking that the strength and grace which she had received during those days of pious seclusion would soon be needed to uphold her in one of the greatest afflictions of her life. On reaching home she found her father suffering from jaundice, which soon developed into a fatal illness. This time Pauline was not alone at his bedside, as she had been at her mother's, since all four children shared the care of their dearly beloved father until he breathed his last. Herr von Mallinckrodt died while they knelt in prayer at his deathbed, in April 1842. Pauline looked upon it as a great grace that she had been permitted to be at her father's side during his last illness, and his death affected her the more keenly, the nearer she had been to him in life. Her filial love extended beyond the grave, and showed itself in a loving care for the eternal rest of the dear departed. She was consoled by the thought that in spirit and through baptism her father had been a member of the Church, and that by his good will and his sincerity of purpose, the error and prejudice which birth and education had caused in his mind did not deprive him of salvation, but that he found a merciful Judge.

Thus Pauline fulfilled to the end the duties of the Fourth Commandment toward both her parents, at the cost of the

greatest possible sacrifice. Indeed, the postponement of her entrance into the religious life was a great sacrifice for her, made bearable only through her great filial love and through daily acts of resignation to the holy will of God. Her resolution to consecrate herself entirely to God had not wavered. In a letter previously quoted she wrote to Louise Hensel: "Until now my duties toward father and brothers and sister have kept me in the world; however, if it pleases God, I may now soon follow His call and let Bertha take my place. I cannot yet determine the time, but leave it all to the Lord. He has guided me with the most fatherly love in the past — He will not fail to do so in the future, and will surely point out to me the moment when I may enjoy the happiness of belonging entirely to Him."

Pauline was touched by the sympathy and love which their friends manifested to the family in their bereavement, especially by the love and affection shown her and Bertha by Doctor and Mrs. Schmidt. She writes: "In every way they gave us proofs of their kindness; we made frequent visits to their home; heart and mind found enjoyment there, and the intercourse with such a thorough business man, experienced as he was in organizing charitable institutions, was of great benefit to me. Noticing the interest we took in his plans and in the reports of his literary work, he often condescended to give us little talks about the practical side of charity. I asked his advice in my little affairs and accounts pertaining to the charitable institutions with which I was connected, and thus I received from him, the skilled teacher, an excellent business training, the importance of which I realized only later when I had entered upon the vocation to which God had called me. Thus the Lord disposes all things according to His goodness, and His guidance is always wise."



Celebrations Around the Region

The Companions of Pauline of the Western Region have been celebrating activities to honor Mother Pauline on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of her birth. These occasions of joy and celebration have been a tribute to the spirit of Mother Pauline and the Companions of Pauline.

Louisiana

The Sisters in New Orleans invited the public to join them in several events that took place in parishes where the Sisters of Christian Charity formerly lived and ministered.

April 30 – an 11:00 a.m. Mass at Transfiguration (formerly St. Raphael Church and the site of St. Raphael School where the SCCs served from 1948-1999).

Cake designed by
S. Mary Kim, SCC



Alden Haggdorn, one of the leaders of Friends of St. Henry Church, carries the cake.



May 12 – a 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Henry Church. The five concelebrants were: Fr. Pat Williams, Fr. Douglas Brougher, Fr. Pat Wattigny, Fr. Mark Lomax and Msgr. Henry Engelbrecht (seated). The Mass was followed by a reception in the former convent. The SCCs were at St. Henry from 1873-1973.

Louisiana (New Orleans) continued



June 3, Fr. Michael J. Schneller, Pastor, celebrated a 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church. The SCCs ministered in this school from 1874-1996.

On June 6, Gaynell Marchand and Louis Flattmann made their Covenant as Companions of Pauline.



Missouri (St. Louis)

On June 13, S. Mary Ann Eultgen (coordinator), Darlene Johnson (lay leader) and the Companions of Pauline – inspired by Blessed Pauline’s love for the blind – visited the blind women at Mary Culver Home in Kirkwood, where they entertained the women and served refreshments.



Missouri (St. Louis) continued

On July 12, a special Mass in Honor of Mother Pauline was celebrated at St. Vincent Home for Children. The Mass was followed by a reception.



Betty Hartman served as organist as her husband Bob looks on.

On June 18, the front parlor at St. Vincent Home was refurbished and dedicated in honor of Blessed Pauline. S. Mary Ann Eultgen gave a presentation about Blessed Pauline and led the group in prayer during the dedication ceremony.

Missouri (Fulton)



June 3: S. Dolores Bozif joined the Companions of Pauline in Fulton, MO for Mass. The Companions had a plaque made for the portrait of Blessed Pauline and the years of service of the SCCs in Fulton (1992-2008).

L-R: Cathy Harris, S. Dolores, Joyce Vandeloecht, Rose Vandeloecht, Brenda Kempker and Mary Lou Landers.

Michigan (Fowler, Westphalia, Burton)

S. Pauline and S. Caroline Schafer met with the Companions of Pauline in Michigan several times during July 2017 for special formation sessions to help the three new Companions – Sandra Smith, Peggy Braun, Colleen Organek – prepare their Covenant forms.



On July 20 the Sisters and the Companions of Pauline gathered at the former convent at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Fowler, Michigan, for the covenant Ceremony of the three new members. Afterwards, they celebrated the event with a special party in honor of Blessed Pauline's 200th birthday.

*Minnesota – Burnsville, Chaska, Cologne,
Minneapolis & Waconia*

Alice Wickenhauser, Lorna Stelten, Kathy Gerding.
Kneeling: staff member Chery Stern. Jean Ramsdell, Rita Burwell and Kathy Kerber (whose remarks appear below.).



On May 24, the Companions of Pauline in Minnesota spent the day at Joseph's Coat, a

center whose mission is to connect givers with those in need. Donations include clothes for adults and children, as well as household and personal hygiene items. The staff at Joseph's Coat know their clients well, and extend a helping hand to help these people who have fallen on hard times, needing a helping hand to get back on their feet. One client observed, "People here helped me restore my dignity and they don't even know it".

We decided to spend our time at Joseph's Coat on a 'shopping day'. One Companion, who had recently lost her husband, wanted to donate his clothes to help someone else get back on their feet. The staff at Joseph's Coat suggested that we bring treats and get to know the people who shop there. We decided to bring cookies. Between the staff and the shoppers it was hard to tell who enjoyed the cookies more!

We listened to the shoppers' stories and they asked why we were here. We told them about Mother Pauline and how it would have been her 200th birthday. They listened to the story about the blind children and how she cared for them so many years ago. The shoppers' eyes shone brightly as they smiled.

One said, “and I am blind, too. Bless her.” They were grateful for Mother Pauline and for our gift to honor them and her.

It is amazing what a simple gesture of sharing clothes and a cookie can do to restore a person’s dignity and bring joy to all!

Illinois – Chicago-area

The Companions of Pauline in Illinois are looking forward to a Regional Mass in honor of Blessed Pauline on September 24 at St. Joseph Church in Wilmette.

On June 3, Joanne Styler pronounced her Covenant as a Companion of Pauline in the chapel of Sacred Heart Convent (Wilmette, IL).



Pauline 200 in Chicago

The third *Pauline 200* project took place in Chicago, IL from July 9-29. As with the other projects, the goal was for the participants to be spiritually renewed in the charism of Mother Pauline, to share a ministry among the needy and to experience an international community. S. Joanne Bednar, general councilor, and S. Juliana Miska, the “point person” for the Western Region were with the group to facilitate and coordinate activities.

The group lived at Josephinum Convent and worked primarily at Our Lady of Mercy. Fr. Nick Desmond, pastor,

had invited the group to do mission work among his parishioners. During the first week, the Sisters were immersed in the *Totus Tuus* program working hand in hand with seminarians and other volunteers. Each weekday there was a morning session for grade-school youngsters and an evening session for high school students and adults.



Pauline 200

Chicago, IL

July 9-29, 2017



S. Dolores



S. Maria de la Cruz



S. Maria Ingrid



S. Anna



S. Maria Ester



S. Angela Maria



S. Regina



The second and third weeks focused on ways to develop actions that would meet discovered needs. Fr. Nick offered the Sisters the opportunity to attend various meetings that are a vital part of parish life such as parish, finance and liturgical councils. The Sisters also helped at St. Luke's food pantry, and had a presentation about poverty as it exists in the United States.

Weekends were free for activities that promoted community, culture and fun.

Novena in Honor of Mother Pauline

Now that we have celebrated the 200th birthday of Blessed Pauline on June 3, 2017, we suggest that you continue to keep a novena in honor of Mother Pauline each month for all the intentions of the Sisters of Christian Charity and the Companions of Pauline around the world. You are free to choose the nine days of the month and the prayer(s) you will pray. Here are a few suggestions:

- † Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt! The accomplishment of God's will was a guiding principle of your life. Pray for us, that by listening to God's word we may be granted light for our everyday decisions.

- † Blessed Pauline, our Mother! You persevered in your YES to the Lord even in the darkest moments of your life. Through your intercession obtain for us the grace to entrust ourselves unreservedly to God's guidance.

- † Blessed Pauline, our mother! During your life you were available for God and for the service of the poor. Obtain for us a heart open to every need we meet.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...



As a faithful volunteer at Sacred Heart Convent **Arlene Kmiecik** drove the Sisters to doctor appointments and recreational outings. She also made numerous trips to the Wilmette Public Library to pick up books for the Sisters and later return them. For several years Arlene and her husband Hank, together with some of their friends

treated the Sisters to an annual Ice Cream Social.

When Arlene pronounced her Covenant in 1994 she joyfully expressed her desire to become a Companion of Pauline: “Since we are all called to love and serve the Lord, I want to be among those who, led by Mother Pauline’s charism, strive to lead lives of deeper meaning and spirituality.”

Arlene was born in Evanston, IL on July 1, 1934. She and Hank were married on November 8, 1952 and the couple was blessed with five children. Arlene was an active member of St. Joseph Parish in Wilmette for many years as a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the parish’s Women’s Club and serving meals after funerals and parish events.

Arlene’s peaceful death on March 30, 2017 echoed the words of Mother Pauline, “A happy death, leading to an everlasting union with Christ, is the goal of our earthly pilgrimage.”

... and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.



Becoming a Companion of Pauline

If you know someone who wants information about becoming a Companion of Pauline, please contact

Sister Pauline Schafer, SCC

Sacred Heart Convent
2221 Elmwood Avenue
Wilmette IL 60091-1435

Phone: (847) 251-3770 email: paulinescc@hotmail.com



Support the Canonization Process of Blessed Pauline

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we beseech you in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of his Immaculate Mother Mary, glorify yourself in Blessed Pauline and grant that she may soon be proclaimed a saint.

Amen.

Father in heaven, lead us in the way of love as you led Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. Open our hearts to others that, loving them as your Son commanded, we may be one with them in your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**



Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt Canonization Fund

We are grateful to everyone who has given a personal donation to support the Blessed Pauline canonization fund. We are not the only ones working on this project, but we are glad to do our part to support it. Checks should be made to:

Sisters of Christian Charity – Canonization Fund

Please mail the checks in care of:

Sister Janice Boyer, SCC
2041 Elmwood Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091-1431

Wow! We're 30 years old!!!

Did you know that 2018 is the year we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the beginning of the Companions of Pauline Program.

We invite you to send your suggestions for how to celebrate our 30th anniversary year. Please write to:

Sister Pauline Schafer, SCC
Sacred Heart Convent
2221 Elmwood Avenue
Wilmette IL 60091-1435

or

Sister Mary Ann Warwick, SCC
srmaryann@sccwilmette.org



Maxim of Blessed Pauline

Let us always keep our gaze on Jesus, impress Jesus interiorly and exteriorly on our whole being, on our thoughts, words and actions. In all that the day brings, immediately look to Jesus. -1853

A Prayer in Honor of Mother Pauline

Sacred Heart of Jesus, show your miraculous power through the intercession of Blessed Pauline.