

# Sisters Celebrate Jubilees

*Called, Chosen, Gifted* was the theme of Salvatorians marking their jubilees of religious profession. A Mass of Thanksgiving was offered at the Sacred Heart School of Theology Chapel in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. Sisters Alice Gindt and Marie Ensslin celebrated their 50th jubilee of religious profession.

Other Jubilarians include (from left): 60th: Sisters Miriam Cerletty, Mary Jo Schmidt, and Maureen Hopkins; and 40th: Sisters Karlyn Cauley and Betty Vetter. The Sisters have served as teachers, nurses, missionaries, respite care workers, artists and as vocation ministers.

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## Lay Salvatorians Led Area Peace Exchange

Pat Spoerl was watching a television program when she first learned about the Ulster Project. Founder Kerry Waterstone, a Church of Ireland minister, explained that the exchange program gave Protestant and Catholic children from Northern Ireland a chance to visit North American families and see that peoples of different faith traditions could live in peace.

Across a distant ocean, between two countries marked by religious and political differences, Pat Spoerl and Kerry Waterstone met twenty-five years ago. The impact of this meeting for children and families in Northern Ireland and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was immense, with ripple effects that are still unfolding.

Pat and Marge Didier were members



Pat Spoerl, left, Sister Mary Frost and Joe Spoerl enjoy Salvatorian gatherings.

of a neighborhood prayer group and decided to lay the foundation for a Milwaukee Ulster Project. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the organization in Milwaukee. Pat recalled how her husband, Joe, helped with the finances, paid for Mr. Waterstone's airfare and supported the effort completely. Early on, Pat and Marge met Sister Maureen Hopkins, SDS, of the Milwaukee Archdiocese's Ecumenical Office. The women sought approval to meet with area pastors and ministers.

"I am Irish by heritage, but this was not an ethnic thing, but a Christian response to all the conflict in that area. Marge, Joe and I thought we would try to do one small thing to help bring peace to Northern Ireland," Pat said.

The Ulster Project today involves about 16 youths for a five-week visit each summer in the Milwaukee area. There are picnics and opportunities for serious discussions, as they get to know one another and the host families. "We know that the kids will be forever changed by what they have experienced here in the United States. Their parents and the kids do not want



"The best part of my involvement has been getting to know the inherent goodness of people of many different faiths in my own Milwaukee community," Pat said. After meeting Sister Maureen, Pat and Joe decided to become Lay Salvatorians. "I so appreciate the gift of faith and being part of the Salvatorian Family is one of the greatest gifts I have received. Every time Joe and I leave one of the Salvatorian activities, we turn to each other in unison and comment how nice everyone is."

Pat added, "It is a constant source of inspiration to me that my chance viewing of a TV show would bring about the many blessings in my life and the lives of all who are involved in the Ulster Project. Of course, I don't really think it was a 'chance viewing.' It is part of God's plan for my life."

# Salvatorian News



*Sisters of the Divine Savior*

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## Let Us Rejoice!

Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS, made her Perpetual Vows with the Sisters of the Divine Savior on June 27. It was a day of joy and thanksgiving for Sister Ellen, her family and the Community. She was drawn to our Congregation because of our collaboration with Salvatorian priests, brothers and lay members, because of our internationality and our mission to make a loving God known by all ways and means.

She was born in Michigan and grew up in New York. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Sister Ellen served as an attorney with the United States Judge Advocate Corps in Missouri, Illinois and Korea, as well as the federal

government in Kentucky. In April 2004, she graduated with a Master's in Theology from the Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin.

Sister Ellen currently ministers with the Diocese of Phoenix Tribunal as an auditor, procurator-advocate, and office supervisor.

"My formation journey has been a time of growth and transition as I have met and become a member of the Salvatorian Family. I felt called to religious life and am grateful for a personal and flexible formation process. I ask that you hold me in prayer and I will do the same for you. Please pray that the Lord will give me the strength, guidance and support that I will need to go where I am needed," she stated.



Sister Ellen Sinclair, left, publicly makes a lifelong commitment with the SDS-W while Sister Marion Etzel, Provincial Leader, right, receives the vows.

## New Membership Team Named

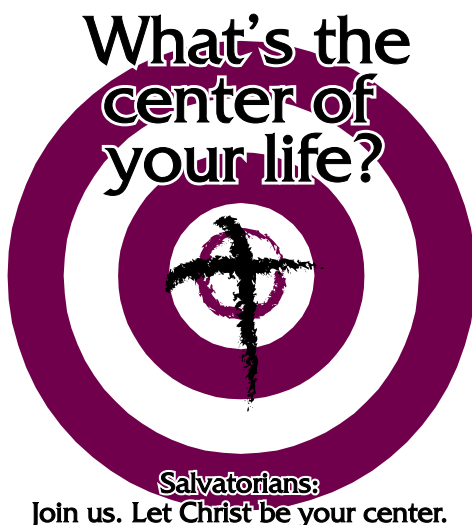
The SDS-W Leadership recently announced a three-person New Membership Team. The Team Members are: Sisters Karlyn Cauley, Mary Lee Grady and Carol Jean Zais. The Sisters will continue in their present ministries as artist, counselor and teacher, respectively, while, at the same time, serve on the initial formation team. Each member of this Team brings unique and individual gifts, but they all share a wealth of experience, vision, energy, sense of humor and a deep faith.

Every Sister of the Divine Savior

is part of the Vocations ministry. In the past two years, three Sisters celebrated their perpetual vows and in the next two years, two more members look forward to this milestone.

The Team emphasized that they will explore creative ways to be welcoming and inclusive to women of all cultures. "I know we are always in a growth spirit, whether old or young," said Sister Karlyn.

*Visit [SDSSisters.org](http://SDSSisters.org) to learn more about the Vocations Ministry.*



# Focus

One of the reasons I cherish my membership with the Sisters of the Divine Savior is because we are an international group who, in 2004, chose as a theme for an international meeting, "Salvatorian Women-Nurturing Our Passionate Love for God Who Hears the Cry of the Poor." What a challenge! What a goal for all people of good will who seek life!

During this past July, I had the privilege of being present at a meeting in Rome of SDS-W Sister leaders from 28 countries. Together, we pondered the meaning of this theme for our own lives and for the lives of the people with whom and for whom we serve. It was truly a graced time for me and an opportunity to discover how our Sisters on all continents of the earth continue to realize the dream that Father Francis Jordan and Blessed Mary of the Apostles had for all of us and for the Church.

As we prayed and shared, I could not escape the call to live more authentically in a world in need of justice and peace. In the many languages that we spoke, the seeking of justice and peace became a familiar theme. The cry of the poor and how the Sisters respond to that cry was described over and over again.

We in the United States do whatever we can to broaden our vision and to invite others to join us. One of our blessings is to be surrounded by persons who continue to inspire us in their own dedication to justice and peace efforts. May we all continue to explore what it means to be a people of justice and peace.

Thank you for your friendship and support!

*Sister Marion Etzel*

Sister Marion Etzel, SDS  
Provincial Leader



Sister Marion Etzel, SDS

## "If You Want Peace, Work for Justice"

*Pope Paul VI*

Living the mission of the Sisters of the Divine Savior means working for justice and peace in varied ways. Every year, the Sisters are missioned to make their part of the world a better place. This might mean working to improve the lives of the young, the elderly, the vulnerable and the marginalized.

Sister Elaine Czarnecki, SDS, is the Justice and Peace Coordinator for the USA Province of the Sisters of the Divine Savior. Sister Elaine serves to educate and to offer opportunities for Salvatorian Sisters to live Gospel values through increased action in response to local, national and global justice issues.

"The office seeks to impact systemic issues related to war, racism, healthcare, environment, jobs, genocide and other significant social justice problems. As an international Congregation, our Sisters embrace diversity and are concerned about varied issues. Current international priorities focus on the dignity of women. So, we are addressing human trafficking and slavery which are multinational businesses," Sister Elaine pointed out.

There are times the sheer number of issues can overwhelm an

individual.

Sister Elaine offers small but specific actions that anyone can do: write or call a legislator; watch a television program and read to become better informed; visit a featured website. "I believe in the power of one. We also try to provide opportunities to discuss issues of national and international concern," Sister Elaine said.

She has been a political advocate for many years. She was a teacher and principal at Divine Savior High School in Milwaukee, and served as a hospital chaplain at Divine Savior Hospital in Portage, Wisconsin. She helped found a girls' school in Masasi, Tanzania, and worked in social services in the Mississippi Delta for years.

"I am one of the consciousness raising persons for the Province. I urge people to read and know the issues. I believe that we are national and global citizens. I believe that we can bring about change if we are aware and informed. I try not to bring my own personal opinions or judgments to this ministry, but to respect the decision and conscience of others. Each day I renew my commitment to peacemaking in the spirit of hope."



*See [www.SDSSisters.org](http://www.SDSSisters.org) for links to issues that are of concern to SDS-W.*

Sisters Elaine Czarnecki, left and Patrice Colletti, find information on the internet.

# Patricia Parks is a Woman of Faith

Long before lay ministry was common, Pat and Jim Parks were living it. She was a young mom and teacher and he was a youthful dad and lawyer when the letters started coming. Her sister, Madre Miguel, a BVM nun, had gone to Ecuador to work at the Working Boys' Center in Quito. She wrote to the couple about the children, the poverty and then about Raul. He was without any family at age five and working the streets to survive. Pat and Jim had a child the same age and could not imagine what life for Raul was like. Even though they did not have



much to send, they began to regularly donate to the Center.

That was 1967. Today Pat has served as Volunteer Recruitment and Development Director for the Center for over three decades. The Parks' have ten children, three of whom were adopted from Ecuador, and many grandchildren.

We commend Pat, her husband, Jim, and their multicultural family for extraordinary effort on behalf of the international ministry of the Church.

The extended Parks Family now includes their dear friend Father

John Halligan, S.J., who founded the Center and today coordinates it with Sister Miguel.

Father started the Center in the attic of the Compania, a Jesuit church in Quito, with about 250 street children, or shoeshine boys, who worked to support their families.

Today the Center boasts a grade school, trade school, medical and dental clinics and a small shopping mall featuring furniture, bakery and a beauty salon. The Center's trade school is the best in Ecuador and the students train at the Center's businesses. Over 2,000 people receive three meals each day, except Sunday, when the Center is closed. As Center members learn and grow stronger, they gradually work their way out the cycle of grinding poverty. With steady saving accounts, they can provide decent housing for their families.

Pat will never forget her first trip to Quito. "Padre and I visited a little old woman, Maria, who had lived her entire life in a mud dugout in the ground. As she was dying, someone took her to a tin shack so she could die with dignity. As he anointed her, I was overwhelmed with the circumstances of her life. After you visit the Center, it is never hard to ask for money or find more to give of yourself," she pointed out.

Today, Pat has a national computerized database. "This is a far cry from the years when Jim, the kids and I did all the stuffing, sorting and stamping. But we are just as involved



Jim and Pat Parks, top right, visit a Working Boys' Center classroom.

as ever because the number of people that come to the Center keeps growing," Pat said.

Pat leads mission trips to Quito for people of the Milwaukee area. Lay Salvatorian Tom Hunt nominated Pat for the Women of Faith Award after joining her in a group mission trip. Visitors reflect on third world poverty and how Christians can respond. "The trips are about a week and include a home visit to a family enrolled in the Center. Everyone is so moved during the visit as they experience the reality of the third world. But they also experience the friendliness of the people and the hope that the Center offers," Pat explained.

Pat and Jim are proud that their family continues its work for the Center. "Our kids love and live the mission. This was God's plan so we could help make a difference."

## *Women of Faith Award Presentation and Lecture*

Thursday, October 14, 7 p.m.

SDS Community House

4311 North 100th Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Please use North Entrance.

Free, but reservations requested.

Call 414.466.7414 by October 11.