



Repairers of the Breach: A Community of Faith



“The day I entered those doors, my life changed. Those are some miracle doors! MacCanon Brown had her arms outstretched and said, ‘Welcome.’ I was invited to share a meal, take a shower and offered clean clothes. I learned I was somebody. I was worth something. Today, I thank God for this Center. We are a family and I’m in the best place in the world. God is here!” exclaims Pam, a Repairers of the Breach “miracle.”

MacCanon Brown is the executive director of Repairers of the Breach. Often called a lifesaver, she readily acknowledges, “The Center is not about me, but a world of we’s.” It is Milwaukee, Wisconsin’s only daytime shelter and resource center for homeless adults where homeless persons are members—not clients. “Our founders, staff, volunteers, board of directors, members and friends all have worked to provide a safe, positive living room environment.”

Brown credits her parents, a “24/7 pastoral team” in the United Methodist Church, as powerful role models. Her mother, Verla, is her guiding light. She is proud of her two sisters, four grown children and five grandchildren. She claims, as her extended family, the homeless community who affectionately call her “Sister.”

An Iowa native, her diverse background includes publishing four books; most recently, *End Hunger!* After moving to Milwaukee, she experienced a profound personal crisis and became a recipient of services offered to the homeless. Through attending St. Ben’s Meal Program, Brown was invited to St. Ben’s Parish and later awarded a scholarship to the Benedict Institute, an urban ministries course. She responded to the Catholic Social Teachings and the life and writings of Dorothy Day by converting to Catholicism. After her crisis, she made a vow to help homeless persons. Soon after she was invited to a board meeting of the newly formed Repairers of the Breach organization.



Volunteers and Members have formed a team ministry at Repairers of the Breach.

Today the scope of Center programs includes an educational program, recovery support, job counseling, a free telephone and message center, mail service, help obtaining birth certificates, as well as linkages to other social service agencies. Plans to renovate the facility include a medical clinic to better serve people in crisis.

“We are faith-driven, not money-driven,” Brown explains. “Over 320 faith communities support us across many faith traditions. We do not accept government funding and have never been in debt. We look to people of faith to understand our work. All of us involved with Repairers of the Breach experience the power of mutual transformation. We believe in one another and are a family, a community of faith.”

W O M A N O F F A I T H MacCanon Brown

Thursday, September 20, 2007 • 7 p.m.

SDS Community House • 4311 North 100th Street • Milwaukee

Open to the public. • No charge.

Please call 414-466-7414 by September 17 to make a reservation.

Sister Nelda Hernandez Professes Perpetual Vows

When Sister Nelda Hernandez, SDS, made her perpetual profession of vows recently, it was a joyous occasion that brought together her family, friends and Salvatorian Sisters. Many of those dear to her were gathered to celebrate her formal vowed commitment. Sister Nelda traveled from Wyoming to Wisconsin eight years ago to begin the formation process as a woman religious. Now the community of friends gathered to rejoice in the gift that is Sister Nelda.

“I think of all people who enter our lives as gifts. I bring all the people and parts of my life from before and add them to all those with whom I live and minister. There is this wonderful energy because everyone reflects God,” she said.

Sister Nelda said she was attracted to the Congregation’s variety of ministries, its internationality and connection to the Salvatorian Priests and Brothers and Lay Salvatorians. “I felt that I could serve in whatever way I was called. Whatever we Salvatorians do, we are connected and do together. When I pray, I pray with the voices of thousands of Salvatorians throughout the world.”

Sister Nelda has been the communications coordinator for St. Gregory the Great Parish and School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for five years. She holds baccalaureate degrees in music and English and a Master of Arts in English. “I love what I am doing at St. Greg’s,” she pointed out. She also cantors at St. Greg’s. In addition, she sings in her parish choir at St. John Vianney Parish, Brookfield, and the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Choir. “Music is at the heart of my life and spirit,” she noted.

She enjoys reading, writing and wants to learn Italian. It will happen because she works hard to make her dreams a reality.



Photo: Sister Patrice Colletti, SDS



focus

Dear Friends,

In this issue of *Salvatorian News*, we look forward and we look back, as we reflect on a summer filled with special moments.

We look forward to our annual Woman of Faith evening in September. MacCanon Brown, strong woman of faith who makes a daily difference by her life, will honor us with her presence and her story. We invite you to join us as we celebrate her witness of faith.

We look back to a beautiful late June day in which eight Salvatorian Sisters renewed their commitments for 50, 40 and 25 years, along with other members of the Salvatorian Family. Our Jubilarians, working collaboratively with you, are our precious resource. Their inspiring stories of service, the pride of their family members and the strength of the Salvatorian Family gathered in joyful celebration made our summer days memorable.

In July, we rejoiced over the perpetual vow commitment of Sister Nelda Hernandez, a woman God has inspired to walk with us in faith, to share life and ministry as a Salvatorian Sister. We are happy for her faithful "yes."

July gave us another gift of life. Ava Cizek, newly appointed Director of Development for the Sisters, brings seasoned gifts and leadership skills to help us in our ministry of service to you.

May you also be blessed during this beautiful time of life.

Sister Marion Etzel, SDS
Sister Marion Etzel, SDS
Provincial Leader

SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

4311 North 100th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222-1393
414.466.7414 414.466.4335 (Fax)
Email: SDSDev@salvatoriansisters.org

Visit our province web site:
www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org

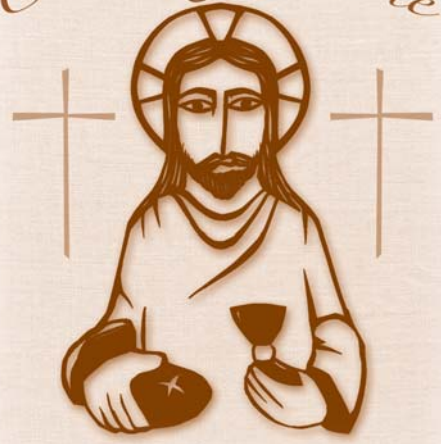
Please help inform and support our anti-human trafficking efforts.



JUBILEE 2007

Called by Name

Called by Name was the theme of Salvatorians marking their jubilees of religious profession this year. The Sisters have ministered in education, health care, food service, pastoral care, finance and administration. They represent 340 years of service to the Catholic Church. Family and friends attended a Mass of Thanksgiving and reception. The Golden Salvatorian Jubilarians are: Sisters Rita Barman, Florence Demers, Pauline Feiner, Beverly Heitke and Virginia Honish. Other Jubilarians are: Sister Kathleen Dooley, SDS, 40th Jubilee, and Silver Jubilarians are Sisters Mildred Lotzer, SDS, and Patricia Russell, SDS.



“What are we really celebrating today?”

A lavish God, who calls us precious and glorious—who is always with us—who sees us through our most difficult moment—who frees us, strengthens us—who glories in all the good we are. Thank you, Jubilarians, for how your lives have inspired us, have reminded us of the God we all follow—of what God can do in us and with us! Your faithfulness enkindles our own call to be faithful. Now that is really something to celebrate! ”

— Excerpts from *Jubilee Reflection* by Sister Sheila Novak, SDS



LEFT: Sister Mildred Lotzer is a Silver Jubilarian.



RIGHT: Sister Patricia Russell, left, celebrated her 25th and Sister Kathleen Dooley, right, her 40th Jubilee.



ABOVE: Golden SDS Jubilarians are, from left: Sisters Beverly Heitke, Florence Demers, Rita Barman, Pauline Feiner and Virginia Honish.

Please visit www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org/news/events/06-07jub.htm for more photos and Sisters' ministry information.

Ava Cizek Named SDS Development Director

Ava Cizek has been named the Director of Development for the Sisters of the Divine Savior (SDS). Her mission advancement responsibilities are for the SDS North American Province and the St. Anne's Salvatorian Campus in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ms. Cizek has experience in event management, volunteer management (five fundraising committees and three advisory councils), public relations, newsletter publications, securing major gifts and corporate sponsorships. She received her bachelor's degree in Community Service Administration from the City University of New York, Herbert H. Lehman College in Bronx, New York.

“I am passionate about caring for those who are disadvantaged. I believe strongly in the dignity of each individual and will incorporate the core values of the Sisters of the Divine Savior, as we work together in mission,” she explained.



SDS Development Director
Ava Cizek