



## Candidate Introductions

### **Susan Whitney**

I met the Salvatorians in Tucson, Arizona where I attended catechist certification classes offered by Jordan Ministry. Sr. Jane Eschweiler's teaching skills impressed me, as did her ability to engage people and facilitate a greater understanding of our faith. Over the next two years I discerned a vocation to religious life and began to consider the Sisters of the Divine Savior. Seven months later, I left my ministry as Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Liturgical Ministries coordinator, packed my car, drove to Milwaukee and entered the candidature two days later, on September 14th. I began part-time work with S.E.T. Ministry, Inc., a non-profit organization that offers programs for families, those who are homeless, and elderly and disabled in low-income housing. This ministry was born from the desire to help the underserved and needy, with the initial collaboration of religious congregations. It has evolved into a grant and contribution-supported comprehensive ministry that serves many throughout the City of Milwaukee. In addition to working at S.E.T., I hope to finish my Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministries through St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota in 2010.

### **Colleen Casey**

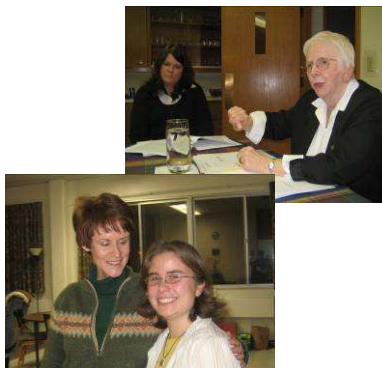
I am a native Wisconsinite who lived in Florida for 18 years, married and had two daughters who are now 23 and 26, divorced and moved back to Wisconsin. My first grandson is now seven months old. I started corresponding with the sisters in January 2009, visited a few times and attended the National Assembly in June. During that time, I noticed that the entire Salvatorian family was working together to help people with both material and spiritual needs. I believe that to truly love someone means to desire the best and highest thing for them – heaven. I saw SDS helping people to get to heaven, which is what attracted me to the community. Currently in the mornings I volunteer at Silver Spring Neighborhood Center updating newsletters and promotional materials for their development team. In the afternoons, I volunteer at Mother of Good Counsel Parish helping in the office with anything that needs to be done.

As candidates we are discerning whether the Salvatorian community is a good fit for us and the community is discerning whether we are a good fit for them. We have one evening class weekly, generally facilitated by Sr. Mary Lee. Sr. Mary Frost is teaching us a scripture course on the Book of Revelations. Sr. Carol Thresher has taught us a class on Salvatorian Spirituality.



Susan Whitney

Colleen Casey



Sr. Mary Lee, Fr. Joe Lubrano,  
Colleen Casey

## Candidate Introductions (continued)

We attend an intercommunity pre-novitiate retreat weekend each month at Sienna Center in Racine, Wisconsin. The topics for these weekends are: Transitions, Culture (especially the culture of Religious Life), Discernment, Community Living/Conflict Management, Intimacy/Sexuality and Praying our Symbols. We have a class with the Salvatorian men's candidates once a month and Sr. Mary Lee and Fr. Joe Lubrano lead that. We are learning to balance community life and prayer, school, ministry and family. We hope to become Postulants in February as our next step in growing into Salvatorian religious life. Our title will change from Candidate to Postulant, but everything else will stay the same. It is a year of transitions, growth and incorporation.

## Novitiate News

It is hard to believe that almost four months of our Novitiate year are complete. We often comment that the time is moving so quickly. Many of you have asked how our Novitiate Program is going and how our Novices are doing. I've asked our Novices to write about what occupies our days. I can tell you that each of them is very dedicated and demonstrates a lot of enthusiasm for our Salvatorian life. We are all happy that Sister Judy Sullivan accepted the invitation to live at Monches. She is the photographer behind our pictures.



Visiting with Sr. Rozilde



Our Salvatorian Heritage Tour of St. Nazianz



Our first big Snow!



St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor

## Novitiate Program of Classes

We are grateful and fortunate to have this year of study and learning. Our days in novitiate are filled with experiences, reading, discussion, new insights, and reflection. Our classes cover diverse topics which often connect with each other and this is fascinating as well. Our bi-weekly novitiate classes with Sister Carol Jean have touched on various aspects and the essence of prayer. We also have been studying the Spiritual Diary and life of Fr. Jordan (biography by Fr. Timotheus). During a two-day session each month, Sister Carol Thresher has been introducing us to Salvatorian history, charism, and mission. The exercises for spiritual deepening that we are to do between sessions are beautiful and enlightening. Sister Mary Frost covers both Church History (using a book by Fr. Alfred McBride, O Praem) and Scripture ("The Great Adventure Series" by Jeff Cavins) in her classes with us.

Once a week on Tuesdays, we travel to Techny, IL to the conference center of the Divine Word Missionaries. Our intercommunity novitiate (ICN) gatherings include seventy-two directors and novices from eighteen communities. We are from six continents of the world and Oceania, so this is an incredible experience of the universal Church. Four times a year, we gather at Sienna Center in Racine, WI for three-day sessions as well. The topics presented thus far have been:

Transitions and Discernment (Fr. Don Loskot, SDS)  
Myers Briggs Typology (Sister Fran Glowinski, OSF)  
Intercultural Living (Fr. Gary Riebe-Estella, SVD)  
Family of Origin/Family Systems (Sister Bea Eichten, OSF)  
Human Relations Skills (Mary Butler)  
History of Religious Life (Fr. Scott Jones, SDS)  
Enneagram Typology (Sister Theresa Kastner, MM)  
Eucharist (Fr. Richard Fragomeni)  
Biblical Foundations to the Vowed Life (Fr. Don Senior, CP)  
Poverty for Life (Fr. Tony Gittins, CSSP)  
Poverty (Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM Cap)

On Wednesday evenings, we have also been participating in "JustFaith" at St. Dominic Parish in Brookfield. This is a thirty-week program on the social teachings of the Church. Our group includes people from several parishes and of varied backgrounds, so this makes for thought-provoking discussions about the assigned readings and issues presented. Four times during the year, there are immersion experiences. Our first was a trip to St. Ben's in Milwaukee, where we were introduced to the Capuchins' work. We then had the opportunity to eat a meal and to converse with the homeless there. This life experience made a deep impression on all those involved and provided much for future reflection.

## Prayer in Novitiate

As Novices, we have been given much time and training for our prayer lives. During our first month in Novitiate classes with Sr. Carol Jean, we studied Prayer; using books and articles by such authors as: Sr. Joyce Rupp, Joseph F Schmidt, Francis J Ring, SJ and Joseph M. McClosky, SJ. In our Rule of Life, we found prayer in Chapter 8 of our Constitution and General Statutes. These studies all helped to strengthen and guide us in our prayer lives. They also dispelled many misconceptions that we may have had about prayer.

Our days in the Novitiate begin with personal prayer, then common morning prayer. Next we attend mass together at one of several churches in our area. Sr. Mary Kestell sings in the choir and cantors at Blessed Theresa of Calcutta Parish in North Lake. Sr. Debbie Breese is a minister of the cup there. Sr. Janice Hartman fills in, when she is asked, for the services at Techny. We pray evening prayer in common, integrating prayers for all Salvatorian benefactors and their intentions; the Monches parish prayer intentions; and all our Salvatorians, especially our ill, and our departed. One day each month, we have a Desert Day. This whole day is devoted to individual prayer. We really look forward to this opportunity.

In November, we began studying Fr. Jordan with Sr. Carol Thresher and in our Novitiate classes with Sr. Carol Jean. Our founder grounded his life in study of the Bible and prayer. Fr. Jordan's Salvatorian Spirituality and zeal for souls are and will always be inspirations for us as we continue in our prayer life.

## Ministry and Mission Go Hand and Hand

The novices end their week with ministry. We have all found ministry in our local area. Sr. Mary Kestell has a very interesting ministry. She helps in the bookstore at Holy Hill with tagging items and putting them on the shelf for sale in the store.

Sr. Janice Hartman helps in the back room of the St. Vincent de Paul store in Oconomowoc, helping to size and tag children's clothes for sale in the store.

Sr. Debbie Breese ministers at the TymeOut retreat center for teens. Debbie helps to prepare the meals, clean the kitchen and lunchroom. She helps with the dorm rooms to clean and straighten them for the next group of teens. She also works in the office on a mailing or helping with files.

Once a month, we work at our Salvatorian Mission Warehouse in New Holstein. It is very rewarding to be able to help in this ministry and the people who work at the Warehouse are the best!



Ministry at the Mission Warehouse