

"That all may know the Savior"



SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

Salvatorian News

SPRING 2009

Improving Quality of Life

Tanzania: US Sisters Pledge Additional Support for Continuing Education

In 1957, Sisters from the United States traveled to Tanzania, East Africa, to help the people of this impoverished country begin to improve their physical, emotional and spiritual lives. Over the past 50 years, Sisters have worked tirelessly in and around Masasi, Tanzania, operating dispensaries (small clinics where medical aid is distributed), kindergartens, primary schools and providing vocational training for the community.

Recently, the North American Province of SDS raised money to begin sending the Tanzanian Sisters to secondary schools, in an effort to better their education and help them more effectively minister to the people. Tanzanian secondary schools operate on the British education system, requiring completion of four years of class work, akin to high school in the United States. Because of US fundraising efforts, 19 Sisters are about to complete their first year of continued education.

As a requirement to continue into the next year of schooling, students take a mandatory exam at the end of each school year. While daily instruction is done in Kiswahili, the state-sponsored exams are given in English, a language many of our native Sisters do not speak on a regular basis. In fact, for many of them, Kiswahili is a second language, as the many villages and tribes throughout Tanzania speak varying dialects as different from each other as Spanish and French.

Completion of secondary schooling opens a door for these Sisters to study at University and finish additional professional training, which will have a large impact on the sustained effectiveness of their mission work.

For example, training in basic laboratory testing and first aid allows these Tanzanian Sisters to accurately diagnose and treat illnesses such as malaria and parasitic infections, as well as better educate the community about preventative practices and improved hygiene. Better treatment also improves the productivity of farming and labor in this region, and helps communities become more self-sufficient. In addition, burn injuries from open cooking flames are a very serious – and very common – problem in this region, especially in small children. The ability to treat these injuries in a timely and comprehensive way staves off infection and further medical care.

Higher education for Sisters in Tanzania also improves the education standards of everyone in the country. As teachers in elementary schools, Sisters

provide the initial learning experience for many Tanzanian children, most of whom have traditionally failed to complete even their elementary education. Setting a higher goal for these students based on the achievement of their teachers helps to slowly establish new expectations for future generations.

As a result, the North American Province is introducing its *Tanzanian English Education Initiative*. With the help of donors and supporters, Sisters from the United States will travel to Tanzania to tutor their African colleagues in English. Beginning in October of 2009, two Sisters will make the trip to Masasi and spend a month teaching English to 25-30 Tanzanian Sisters looking to complete higher education. The program is projected to continue with visits until the need is fulfilled.

Sisters in Tanzania operate dispensaries, elementary schools and provide vocational training.





focus

Dear Friends,

It always amazes me how, even in times of bad economic forecasts, there is no bankruptcy of ideas and passion for the mission among us Sisters of the Divine Savior. This current issue of *Salvatorian News* is yet one more example of how the Sisters continue in their faith journey to widen their vision and create new ways to be present among the peoples of our world.

Our core values, highlighted in this issue, guide every mission decision we make. Improving quality of life, collaborating, promoting justice, serving in solidarity with the poor, and, more than ever, responsible stewardship, are principles that we not only live by, but also instill in those we touch through our various ministries. These principles are the heart of Jesus' teachings, and, as women striving to make known the goodness of the Savior, they are also God's calling to us.

Your support, with every prayer and gift, means much to us. Thank you for making it happen! God bless you.

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

Serving in Solidarity with the Poor

The Cathedral Center: A Milwaukee Mission Confronting Homelessness

The number of homeless in our country is staggering. The Sisters of the Divine Savior and their collaborators have committed to reaching out to women and families of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area by helping to prepare and serve meals at The Cathedral Center on a regular basis. We are able to make this commitment because of the many helping hands and caring hearts of our volunteers.

"Our volunteer efforts take us out of our comfortable offices and away from our desks and connect us directly to some of the neediest people in our area. We have faces and names for the poor and we try to start with where they are. Our awareness and understanding of many issues involving the poor are heightened," explained Sister Judy Sullivan, SDS. She and Sister Karlyn Cauley, SDS, coordinate the Congregation's meal efforts and volunteers.

Sister Karlyn agrees, "In the past 12 years, I have lived in an African-American neighborhood and served at the Shelter. Both of these experiences have helped me to understand how our Sisters must draw close to the marginalized people in our city."

"When it is our turn, the Sisters and our volunteers prepare and serve simple

evening meals for the guests. We lead a prayer suitable for children and then serve. Every person is so grateful, it is heartwarming. We have invited others to help on our Center nights —Salvatorian women in formation, priests and brothers; faculty, students and parents of Divine Savior Holy Angels High School; and our Community House colleagues. This is a true collaborative effort of many concerned people," Sister Karlyn said.

Some images of the guests will be forever seared in the Sisters' memories: the woman with three children, the youngest just four days old; the elderly woman completely alone; the Dad with custody of children; the college students whose financial aid had been dropped or delayed.

All of these men, women and children were guests at The Cathedral Center on frigid winter nights. The Center is located on the St. John the Evangelist Parish campus. It is a nonsectarian agency supported by Milwaukee area churches and organizations as an outreach to homeless women and families. The Sisters of the Divine Savior volunteer on a regular basis at The Center.

The Cathedral Center hours are early evening until 7:45 a.m. the next day and is intended as a temporary emergency solution. Agencies on the first floor of the Center help the families and single women to find permanent and transitional housing, educational services and job training. Some of the guests will go to Repairers of the Breach, the city's only daytime shelter for tutoring, to make phone calls and/or to prepare for job interviews.



Cathedral Shelter volunteers include, from left, Sisters Karlyn Cauley, SDS, Judy Sullivan, SDS, and Rita Barman, SDS.

Responsible Stewardship

Repairers of the Breach: Sister Strives to Promote Sustainable Change

Every Tuesday afternoon Sister Denise Demulling, SDS, visits Repairers of the Breach, Milwaukee's only daytime homeless shelter. She is a reading teacher/tutor for men and women who are trying to improve their life skills and are searching for jobs. In order to accomplish these goals, they are working to earn their GEDs. When she leaves, many will say, "Will I see you next week?" She happily answers in the affirmative and knows that what she and all the other volunteers are doing does make a difference.

"Reading is wonderful. It opens avenues for these men and women; it builds self-confidence. There is a bonding that occurs between the volunteers and these homeless men and women. When they are at the Repairers of the Breach, they have a warm place to stay during the day and simple meals. There is counseling available, a telephone, and showers. The Shelter provides a safety net and, when the weather is as cold as this winter, it is sometimes a matter of life and death. Area churches and organizations help with sandwiches and soups," she explained.

MacCanon Brown, Executive Director of Repairers of the Breach, explains. "On average, 150 homeless

women and men visit the Center each day searching for some guidance and support. Because of the severity of this winter, the Shelter has been open thirty-one nights when the wind chill reached 10 degrees or below. We would have anywhere from 15 to 55 guests. Our volunteers and donors provide a constellation of resources but also aid our members' emotional healing. Each week we see the success of our efforts as members obtain employment and housing, enter recovery programs, reunite with family members—each step bringing us closer to our vision where homelessness does not exist. The volunteers help our members to claim their own solutions and offer hope in the process. Sister Denise typifies many of our volunteers because she brings a spirit of compassion and solidarity to the homeless she meets."

This March, a medical clinic will open its doors next door to the Shelter. Every Wednesday afternoon, Milwaukee School of Engineering nursing students will be available, and on Friday afternoons, students from the Medical School of Wisconsin will provide services.

When you enter the Center at 1335 Vliet Street, there is a large living room

with couches and chairs on the first floor and a small serving space for meals. The downstairs level is set up with tables and as a classroom for tutoring and teaching. "Each person is tested when they first come, so we know what level they are at," Sister Denise said.

Sister Denise's first visit to the Shelter involved delivering donations of needed items such as towels, jackets and blankets. She saw men and women, young and old with practically nothing and wondered, "How can I help?" She had been looking for an opportunity to help others directly and could not imagine a group that needed her attention more. Sister Denise's earlier ministries included teaching in Catholic elementary schools in Maryland, Maine, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Then she was a teacher and advocate for the hearing impaired through the CESA (Cooperative Educational Service Agency) in the Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin region; and as Activities Director at St. Anne's Salvatorian Campus, Milwaukee.

Sister Denise knows that the hopes and dreams of the Center's members extend to her as well. The members have taught her about the issue of homelessness and put human faces and names to a layered and complex issue. "When I walk into the Center, we greet each other in the "living room" and we know each other by name. I don't just think "homeless" anymore, I think of each by their names. They are my friends. Helping at the Center is a priority and blessing for me."

Sister Denise Demulling, SDS, right, helps Brenda to improve her reading skills.



Collaborating to Promote Justice

Public Awareness Is Key to Confronting Human Trafficking

Amazingly, slavery still exists today and owning a slave is cheaper than ever. At the same time, the global trade in human beings is the second most lucrative “business” generating 32 billion dollars annually. This slavery exists in every country, including the United States. Women, men and children work in factories, fields, restaurants, hotels, homes and in the sex industry. By 2008, all three branches of the Salvatorian Family, brothers and priests, lay, and sisters, have taken a corporate stance against human trafficking. “The issue has cried out for our response and Salvatorians Sisters have made anti-human trafficking a focus of our global mission since 2001,” explained Sister Jean Schafer, SDS. “Unfortunately, the victims are all but invisible unless we are educated and made aware of the issue.”

Sisters Jean and Sheila Novak, SDS, of California and Sister Patrice Colletti, SDS, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have

each worked in their regions and nationally to present workshops and raise awareness of this complex issue with audiences that range from churches, law enforcement and government officers to high school and college students.

Sister Patrice initiated an international web portal, www.sdssisters.org/slavery, Sister Jean writes and offers a monthly e-newsletter, *Stop Trafficking* and Sister Sheila founded and coordinates two anti-human trafficking coalitions that enable resource agencies to network on behalf of victims. The three Sisters know that they face great challenges but are encouraged by the state and federal laws in place today that address human trafficking. A decade ago most of these laws were nonexistent and now all but several states have policies in place. “If there’s awareness, you can use the systems effectively for systematic change. We have a mantra—awareness,



To learn more about efforts against Human Trafficking, please visit
www.sdssisters.org/slavery
and the home page of
www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org
and read the *Stop Trafficking* newsletter.

Photo: Kay Chernush for the U.S. State Department

advocacy, action, abolition,” Sister Patrice stated.

“It is heartening to see the different ways Sisters have spread the word,” commented Sister Sheila. “For example, for the January 11th National Awareness Day of Human Trafficking, Sisters prepared and distributed information leaflets, held a media viewing session followed by a discussion and spoke at local parishes. The collective efforts of all of us together, doing what we can, will ultimately make a difference.”

Congratulations, Sister Mary Ruth



Sister Mary Ruth Dittman, SDS, has received a Special Tribute from the Phoenix Region Catholic Charities. She is being honored for a lifetime commitment to charity and justice and will receive the

award at an April 14 dinner. Sister Mary Ruth has volunteered with premature and other infants at Children’s Hospital and for the last several years at Los Niños Hospital. She is a compassionate presence to families grieving the loss of a child. Several times each month she prays outside abortion clinics and most Thursdays prays at a local cemetery as indigent persons are buried. “These ministries fill my life. God has been so good to me,” she said.

Planned Giving

Charitable bequests, written into a will or trust, make a lasting legacy. Such planned gifts are a powerful way to preserve the mission of the Sisters of the Divine Savior at home and globally. For more information about leaving a planned gift to the Sisters, please contact Lora Rosenbaum at (414) 466-7414. Please feel free to notify us if you have already designated a future gift.

Thank you for your continued support!

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Mission Statement

Our mission as the Sisters of the Divine Savior is to make known the goodness and kindness of Jesus, the Savior of the world, and to foster an awareness of a loving God among peoples in whatever place and by whatever means the Spirit of God inspires.

As women of faith striving to be given over to the Father and open to all peoples, we collaborate to promote justice and to improve the quality of life in our world with a preferential option for the poor.

Sponsored Institutions

Divine Savior Healthcare, Portage
 Divine Savior Holy Angels, Milwaukee
 Hadley Terrace Apartments, Milwaukee
 St. Anne’s Salvatorian Campus, Milwaukee