

"That all may know the Savior"



SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

Salvatorian News

SPRING 2010

"WE KNOW YOU LOVE US"

Sister Jane Eschweiler, SDS, and Sister Virginia Honish, SDS, spent four weeks in December 2009 in rural Masasi, Tanzania. They were missioned to teach English to Tanzanian Sisters preparing for national exams, all of which are in English. In order to continue their educational process, the students must pass several national exams. The North American educators learned how to adapt to electricity interruptions, heat, insects, and classes with students from ages 15-40 whose native tongue is Swahili and with varied skill sets.

Sister Virginia experienced global community in different ways. "Every morning we began our class with a prayer. The daily Scripture readings of the Church contributed to our sense of unity as global people. Each day, Sister Jane taught the students a hymn in English. When they all chimed in with 'We are a pilgrim people, we are the Church of God..,' I truly experienced being the Church of God, not the Church of the USA or the Church of Africa, etc."

RIGHT: Father Lazarus, SDS, Provincial Superior of Tanzania for the Salvatorian Fathers/Brothers and Sister Elice Mchopa, Unit Superior in Tanzania for the Salvatorian Sisters, visited with Sisters Jane Eschweiler, SDS, far left, and Virginia Honish, SDS, far right.

Sister Jane connected with the Sisters' global mission when they visited Lupaso and Lukeledi, where US Salvatorian men and women served as missionaries in the 1960s and 1970s. "The universal desire 'that all know the fullness of life' is lived in the dispensaries, and in Masasi at the secondary school, now government operated, just as we live it in a variety of ways here in the United States," she pointed out.

Another moment of global mission and collaboration occurred with a Christmas Eve delivery of supplies from the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse in New Holstein, Wisconsin.

At the end of their time in Tanzania, Sisters Virginia and Jane did not know how to measure the improvement the Sisters had made in written and spoken English. As the educators were



considering this, one of the Tanzanian Sisters with whom they lived with in community said, "We know you love us."

Sister Jane said, "Sister Virginia and I were stunned. As we were trying to assess our progress, Sister Jacinta taught us that we had communicated a far more important value than knowledge. And we felt the same way about them. We were accepted and loved in ways too numerous to count."



ABOVE: Sister Amani, far right, assists students Agnes, Sister Liberata and Candidate Apronia with a class assignment.

LEFT: Sisters Jane Eschweiler, far left, and Virginia Honish, far right, taught an English class composed of Sisters of the Divine Savior, Candidates studying to be Sisters, and girls living in the hostel on the Sisters' property.



focus

Education is Vital to the Filipino People

Dear Friends,

What is your favorite sign of spring?

- A crocus peeking through the snow?
- Coloring Easter eggs with the kids?
- Holy Saturday's celebration of fire, light?
- Or perhaps, simply the smell of fresh earth carried on a warm southerly breeze?

After years of living near the equator where light and darkness equally divide the 24 hours, a sign of spring I enjoy is the advancing daylight hours. Gradually, the dark winter slips away as we inch toward the long days of summer. Each spring day is just a little longer; just a little brighter. I sense new life breaking through winter's icy darkness.

New life is the recurring theme you will find in this issue of the *Salvatorian News*. We, Sisters of the Divine Savior, rejoice in the life experienced in our new members who are presently in training. You will meet them in these pages. You will also hear two of our veteran teachers recount their adventures in Tanzania this past December. Read how Sr. Virginia Honish and Sr. Jane Eschweiler piloted our Tanzanian Educational Initiative by conducting English classes for our young Tanzanian Salvatorian Sisters. This cooperative venture carries the hope that our hands-on involvement will evoke new life in both the students and the teachers. It also bears the seed of growing ministry effectiveness for our Tanzanian Sisters among their own people. You will also read about new life extending to our education and parish programs in the Philippines, which gives the Filipino children and their families success for a brighter future.

Thanks to all of you who collaborate with us in these and other life-giving efforts. You are another sign of spring. We rely on your partnership, value your friendship, and invite your continued generosity.

God bless you,

S. Carol Thresher, SDS

Sister Carol Thresher, SDS
Provincial Leader

Our mission as Sisters of the Divine Savior is to make known the goodness and kindness of Jesus, 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. Being part of an international congregation enables us to better understand what it means to be part of the Universal Catholic Church. Since 1888, our mission has been apostolic with ministries focusing on the poor.

For example, in the Philippines, the Sisters of the Divine Savior are ministering in the areas of pastoral care, social work, elementary and high school education, formation of leadership, Christian communities and working with women and children's groups. We minister in five different communities, including Manila and Cebu City. So many in the Philippines struggle for their very existence. The gross national income per capita (as of 2008) was \$1,890, with many people falling below the poverty line.

Education is vital to the Filipino people and our SDS ministries address the needs of the children and their

families ravaged by poverty. There are 89 elementary students enrolled in the Salvatorian School in Cebu City. Many school families live in ramshackle homes, usually as squatters; they experience a lack of food and sometimes decent clothing. Many of the parents are jobless and some must scavenge for food or to earn a few pennies a day.

In 2001, the Sisters of the Divine Savior initiated the Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children (SPCC). It is a parish/community-based child protection program implemented in two dioceses. The parishes that SPCC is serving are very poor, densely populated parishes with about 65% or more of the population living in poverty. In the Diocese of Novaliches, the Sisters serve three parishes and in the Archdiocese of Cebu City, we now serve two parishes. The SPCC ministers to children who are experiencing abuse and provides counseling, social and psycho-social services and legal assistance. The goal is to help break the culture of silence and the cycle of abuse by working with individuals, families and the parish faith community in the prevention and intervention of abuse cases.

The SPCC also includes two additional programs for students. One program helps students in the elementary grades and high school with financial assistance for their books, uniforms and academic projects. The other program helps parents or guardians start small businesses and better provide for the basic needs of the families.

The schools and SPCC's programs strive, through education, to provide opportunities for the children and their families to be lifted out of poverty. They provide a foundation that will help the children to be leaders for their generation.



Sister Alona Onag, SDS, is the principal of the Salvatorian School in Cebu City. Through education, our Sisters confront the ravages of poverty, and bring hope to the students and families.



Candidate ~ Postulant ~ Novice ~

The Road to Religious Life

Temporary Vows ~ Perpetual Vows

Each month the novices look forward to volunteering at the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse in New Holstein, Wisconsin. They are, from left, Sisters Mary Kestell, Janice Hartman and Debbie Breese.

The good news from our New Membership Team is that there are currently three women in formation to become vowed women religious. Currently, they are in the Novitiate which is the third part of a five part process listed above.

Novice: *Our Salvatorian Novitiate is a two-year program. During the first, or canonical year, the focus is on prayer, spirituality, community life, study of the vows, our Salvatorian charism and history, and some limited apostolic activity. During the second, or apostolic year, our novices live and work in various other Salvatorian communities. The entire Novitiate period leads the novice to make a public commitment as a Salvatorian with the profession of poverty, chastity and obedience in our Congregation.*

Each novice is a unique individual, and they agree that their formation experiences have been positive. All of them have described the formation process as a gift. The first year novices are: Sisters Debbie Breese, Janice Hartman and Mary Kestell. They have families, varied personal and professional experiences and a deep desire to serve others and make a difference. The novices all share a deep love of Jesus and the providence of God.

The Novitiate is a time to center on prayer, community and ministry. The novices' calendars are marked by classes ranging from prayer to Scripture and Church history to Salvatorian spirituality. Each day begins with personal prayer, then communal prayer and Mass at a local church and evening prayer. During the latter, they integrate prayers for all Salvatorian benefactors and their intentions.

"I believe that God called me here. I had belonged to a Marian Movement and worked as a music teacher in the Milwaukee Archdiocese for years. My faith has always been important to me. It has deepened during the last two years of

formation and I have experienced interior healing and insights. I can say that I am open to what will come and have placed it all in God's and the Blessed Mother's hands," stated Sister Mary Kestell, SDS.

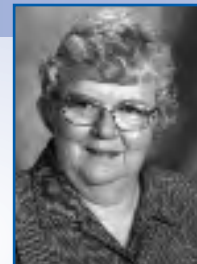
Sister Mary explained the busy Novitiate schedule. On Tuesdays, they join other novices and directors for intercommunity classes and sessions in Techny, Illinois. The group includes over forty novices from every continent and their directors. "It is a wonderful example of the universal Church and we are thankful to have friends from all over the world," commented Sister Mary.

On Wednesday evenings, the novices and their local community participate in the Just Faith program at St. Dominic's Parish in Brookfield, Wisconsin. "There are fourteen of us, including two lawyers, a physical therapist, and a hospice chaplain. We have many books and articles to read and discuss about the Church's Gospel teaching on justice and peace issues," said Sister Debbie Breese, SDS.

"From the very beginning, I felt welcomed by the Salvatorian community. I try to see the face of God in the faces of the friends around me and in my colleagues. That face is always one of love. I am a different person than when I entered and have a better understanding of my religion and myself. I am extremely happy and have found a peace I have never known before. This is a lifelong dream come true," Sister Debbie pointed out.

"When I first met the SDS, I asked if there was an age limit for entrance. I had nine adult children and many grandchildren. I was a convert and had

Novice Director Sister Carol Jean Zais, SDS, feels fortunate to be part of the formation process with these three women. "At the present time, we have been blessed with three women who are in the canonical year of novitiate. For me, it is a joy and privilege to accompany them on their journey. As a community, we have experienced much joy and energy with these three novices."



been active in my parish, but thought I might be too old to become a Sister. I have felt such great support and am ready to go wherever there is a need, like working with the very young or with older adults. I pray that God helps me to do whatever He wants me to do. All day long, I say 'thank you.' I have appreciated the time for prayer and studying. It has all been such a gift," Sister Janice explained.

Every Friday, the Sisters work at different ministry sites. Sister Debbie prepares food, cleans, files, and helps with mailings at the TymeOut Retreat Center. Sister Mary tutors and helps with enrichment classes at St. Gabriel's School near their Monches, Wisconsin community, while Sister Janice tags and prices children's and women's clothing at a St. Vincent de Paul store in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Their weekends include time for chores, seeing family and friends and sharing moments as a community. "During the weekend, we enjoy playing cards, board games, or watching a movie. I knew we had formed our own community when we all started to laugh our heads off one night after someone's funny story. We had all bonded," Sister Debbie said.

Art Studio Celebrates 25th Year

The Art Studio is celebrating its 25th anniversary and all are invited to visit and experience this unique place. The artists are, Salvatorian Sisters Karlyn Cauley, SDS, and Clarice Steinfeldt, SDS, and Sister Doris Klein, CSA. In addition, Art Studio Business Manager, Barbara Braatz, offers personalized matting and framing. The Studio is located on the third floor of Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, 4257 N. 100th Street, Milwaukee.

“Our Art Studio introduces people to the Sisters of the Divine Savior and our mission. It is a welcoming, reflective space where people find some quiet during a busy life; they can see artists at work and receive services for matting and framing of the pieces they bring here as well. A visit to the Art Studio of 14 rooms becomes a comfortable introduction to Sisters they have never met. We have

created relationships with many of our clients and share the special moments of their lives through our art work. I hope my ministry as an artist brings joy and beauty into their lives, homes and businesses,” Sister Karlyn said.

Sister Clarice also tries to bring joy into people’s lives. “Each piece I do as a visual artist is an original and the spectrum includes papercuttings, candles, baskets and Christmas ornaments.” Sister Clarice is a member of the Guild of American Papercutters. Earlier ministries included: elementary teacher and principal; former principal of Divine Savior High School (now Divine Savior Holy Angels High School); and provincial administration.

Please call so we can offer a personalized tour of the Art Studio, 414.461.6446. We would like you to experience the peace and beauty of the Art Studio.



GoodSearch & GoodShop



GoodSearch

GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50% of its revenue to the charities designated by its users. You can use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it’s powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. So, the next time you are browsing the Internet, go to www.goodsearch.com, select the Sisters of the Divine Savior as your designated charity and let the searching begin!

GoodShop

Shop online at www.goodshop.com, and a percentage of your purchases will support the Sisters of the Divine Savior. GoodShop is an online mall of world-class merchants including Home Depot, Best Buy, Kohl’s, Target, Macy’s, Expedia.com, eBay, Amazon.com, and many more. So, whether you are searching for the perfect gift or just doing some everyday shopping – go to www.goodshop.com, select the Sisters of the Divine Savior as your designated charity and let the spending begin!

SAVE THE DATES

Together in Mission

June 21, 2010 • 5 p.m.

Woman of Faith

October 14, 2010 • 7 p.m.

SDS and Technology Become Friends...

- Become a fan of SDS on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com and search for Sisters of the Divine Savior.
- SDS is working on sending blessings, updates and news flashes via email. If you’d like to receive email communications, please send your email address to sdsdev@salvatoriansisters.org.
- Did you know that *Salvatorian News* is available in electronic format? Visit www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org, click on news & events and then newsletter.

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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.