



Agape Center Offers Hope

She loves going to work each day. She knows that the work and mission of the Agape Community Center is important to her 22 colleagues, 700 volunteers and most of all the greater Berryland neighborhood residents and families on Milwaukee, Wisconsin's near Northwest side. Executive Director, Sister Patrice Colletti, SDS, said that building community in this Northwest Milwaukee neighborhood so everyone can thrive is the mission of Agape. "There is a comprehensive range of services to children, families and older adults," she explained.

The Center is sponsored by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. For Sister Patrice and her staff, the Center is more than a job; it is their ministry. The Center has meant varied things to many people since it was founded in 1986. Originally, it was a meal site several miles away. Today the nonprofit Center is located at 6100 N. 42nd Street in a building that accommodates its ever-expanding programs and activities.



Commodities distribution is a team effort at Agape. Pictured are, front row, from left, Kasandra Tarkington, family liaison; Sister Patrice Colletti, director; and back row, from left, volunteers Chris Dowry and Barbara McCaskill.

In order to respond to the needs of the neighborhood, the Center programs range from after-school tutoring, job training, technology classes, and athletic leagues for youth and adults and community meals three nights a week. Sister Patrice noted that the community meals are enjoyable in every respect. "Many people come for companionship as well as

Sister Patrice Colletti, SDS, is Executive Director of the Agape Community Center.



nutrition. The family-style meals are an excellent intergenerational way to share our lives and build community," Sister Patrice said.

There are also family movie nights, sewing classes, exercise classes, home repair sessions, a health clinic sponsored by Cardinal Stritch University's College of Nursing students, parent groups and financial literacy classes.

More than 1,200 adults, children and teens participate in Center activities each year. During the school year, the After School Program provides more than 500 neighborhood youth, ages 7-19, with homework help, enrichment activities and volunteer opportunities. This summer there will be chances for field trips and summer camps. For some of the children, it could be their first visit to the zoo and first experience of camping.

"The Center is a beautiful example of collaboration among the sponsors and religious congregations, the residents, volunteers and businesses. We are blessed with corporate generosity but the needs keep increasing, as do our financial challenges. Most of our neighbors are employed but struggle with making ends meet due to low-paying jobs. For all of our neighbors, there's a real desire to improve their families' lives. The Agape Community Center offers all of us hope for the future," Sister Patrice pointed out.

Save the Date

Woman of Faith • September 20 • 7 p.m.

*SDS Community House, 4311 North 100th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Hadley Terrace is a Dream Come True

"Today we look back to a dream, a gift from God, born on this soil in 1902, a dream that took new and modern direction ten years ago in 1997. All peoples build on hopes and dreams! All elders bring rich wisdom and life! May hope, dreams, wisdom and life continue to blossom on this holy ground in the heart of our city." This blessing from Provincial Sister Marion Etzel, SDS, epitomized the day of celebration on May 5 at Hadley Terrace Senior Apartments, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The event marked the tenth anniversary of the 60-apartment facility for low-income older adults sponsored by the Sisters of the Divine Savior and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Hadley Terrace is located at 3515 W. Hadley Street, Milwaukee. Sister Mary Jo Schmidt, SDS, and Sister Karlyn Cauley, SDS, have been residents of Hadley Terrace for years. Sister Mary Jo was also part of the original "dream team" who envisioned senior living apartments on the site decades ago.

"Yes, I like living here. Hadley Terrace fulfills the mission for which it was intended. All of us have a clean, comfortable, secure and affordable place to live. We form new friendships and have a variety of group activities. Many of us like to gather in the cozy corners to watch television and just be together. When I broke my shoulder, many of my neighbors dropped off baked goods and treats. The atmosphere here is so friendly," Sister Mary Jo explained.



Phyllis Venable, left, and Sister Mary Jo Schmidt, SDS, are second floor neighbors at Hadley Terrace.

focus



Dear Friends,

As I read this issue of the *Salvatorian News*, and as I reflect on the meaning of each story, I am deeply moved.

Sister Patrice Colletti, in a new springtime of ministry among the people of Milwaukee, uses her talents to be among the elderly and the young in ways that Salvatorian Sisters could not have even envisioned twenty years ago. At the same time, fellow Milwaukeean Sister Mary Jo Schmidt celebrates ten years of living and serving with the people at Hadley Terrace in urban Milwaukee. She comes full circle, returning now to the very meaningful holy ground where she began her journey as a Salvatorian Sister so many years ago.

With friends who partner with us, we know that we are international in who we are and in what we do. Sister Maria Trojestina, visiting with us for a few months, reminds us of our connectedness as humans throughout the world. We cannot stand passively, missing precious opportunities to be in solidarity with others who also share our human journey.

Of course, we cannot do it alone. Annually, at our *Together in Mission* event, we salute those who partner with us, especially in service to the poor. This year we especially remember the Kolb and the Witt Families. By their example, they collaborate with the Sisters in passion for mission. We are grateful.

Sister Marion Etzel, SDS

Sister Marion Etzel, SDS
Provincial Leader

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

SAVE
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Namiungo, Tanzania,
photo by Fr. Tom Tureman, SDS

Tanzanians Celebrate Jubilee

Tanzania is a beautiful country with incredible challenges. This year the Salvatorian Sisters are celebrating the 50th Jubilee of their mission in this African country. Sisters from the USA who served in Tanzania as teachers and nurses remember the people with great affection and respect.

Now they are also proud of the sixty-three Tanzanian Sisters who have worked so hard to serve the people as Salvatorians. God willing, the number of Sisters will continue to grow. Many more young Tanzanian women are currently studying to become Sisters. In addition, the leadership of the Sisters is also native Tanzanian.



Sister Maria Trojestina Abela, SDS, center front, and the Sisters of the New Bethany Community with whom she lived during her visit.

The needs in 1957 were many. The needs today are many. Tanzanian Sister Maria Trojestina Abela, SDS, recently visited the Sisters in Milwaukee,

Wisconsin, as part of an international educational program. Sister Maria Trojestina explained that the Sisters' focus is in southern Tanzania where they operate dispensaries, domestic schools, Montessori kindergartens and do pastoral work and serve as rural medical assistants.

Part of Sister Maria's ministry is visiting, praying with and encouraging families. She and her Salvatorian community of six Sisters till by hand-held hoe a seventeen-acre parcel of land. From this, they are able to sustain themselves and some of their neighbors as well. Adequate medical assistance, basic farming equipment, food and transportation are ongoing challenges. The Salvatorian Mission Warehouse in New Holstein, Wisconsin, has responded by sending medical supplies for decades to help the Sisters in their work.

So as Sister Maria Trojestina and the international Salvatorian Congregation celebrate the Tanzanian courage and spirit, we work together with them to face the incredible, never-ending struggle of the people.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who supported the Congo Education Fund during Lent 2007. You generously donated over \$20,000.

Couples Honored for Service

Gerri and Bob Kolb of Brookfield, Wisconsin, and Jeanette and Donald Witt of Portage, Wisconsin, were recently honored by the Sisters of the Divine Savior for their outstanding service to others.

The *Together in Mission* Award presentation took place on April 29, 2007, at the SDS Community House in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Left:
Gerri and Bob Kolb with Sister Beverly Heitke, SDS

Below:
Jeanette and Donald Witt



Alive in the Savior