



### focus



Dear Friends,

Improving quality of life is a Salvatorian core value that underlies our mission and ministries, and unifies the stories in this issue. For our lead story, four of our U.S. Sisters reflect on their diverse pastoral ministries that nurture spiritual growth.

You'll also read excerpts from Sr. Liza Segleau's letter from Colombia, where she spent the summer readying her mind and heart to begin serving in Guatemala.

We also profile Dr. Kathleen Cepelka as our 2016 *Woman of Faith*. Her commitment to educational excellence is renewing hope for families in our struggling urban neighborhoods.

Our African Sisters share hope too, in their words of gratitude for support of their educational goals. Their words are meant for you, faithful companions in our mission to improve quality of life through your prayers and gifts.

Always remember, we're praying for you too.

Blessings in the Savior,

*S. Beverly Heitke, S.D.S.*

Sister Beverly Heitke, SDS  
Provincial Leader

## Salvatorian Sisters embrace the sacred privilege of pastoral care

*After many years serving in education, health care and social work, a number of our U.S. Sisters find a new calling in pastoral care. Their earlier work helps pave the way for this special ministry. Here we profile some of our Sisters engaged in outreach to souls in need.*



Sr. Pauline felt drawn immediately to her ministry of presence in the rural communities of Bear Creek and Clintonville, Wis.

**Sr. Pauline Feiner, SDS** calls her work in the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis. a ministry of presence. She explains it simply, "To listen and support, comfort and care, and just be there. In other words, to show people the goodness of a loving God."

Sr. Pauline assists as pastoral associate at St. Rose, Clintonville and St. Mary's, Bear Creek. She lives in the former rectory adjacent to St. Mary's, offering many opportunities to be present to Bear Creek villagers. Her typical week might include visits to hospitals and nursing homes, or home Communion calls. Offering grief support after attending wakes and funerals is also a piece of her ministry.

Once a month, Sr. Pauline oversees preparations for Sunday liturgies. While it might sound like it's just giving St. Mary's deacon a weekend off, she says the time is precious. "It gives me the chance to be one-on-one with parishioners, hear their stories, and enter into their lives. I'm privileged to be present and share with them."

In the wider community, Sr. Pauline helps prepare and serve free meals at Clintonville Community Center and distribute food donations at Ruby's Pantry. One aspect of her ministry especially close to her heart is teaching English as a Second Language to immigrants who live in Bear Creek. Sr. Pauline says, "It keeps me in touch with people in our area who suffer hunger and struggle with immigration issues. I trust that my presence makes a difference in their lives."

Every so often, Sr. Pauline's ministry of presence comes in the guise of homemade bakery goods, surplus produce from her garden, or fresh-picked berries from a nearby farm. "We Salvatorians strive to bring the goodness of our loving God by all ways and means."

When **Sister Jane Eschweiler, SDS** retired from the Jordan Ministry Team in Tucson, Ariz., she wanted to adapt her pastoral work to a hospital setting. Yet, she knew her own health wouldn't allow her to walk hospital halls to visit with patients. Sr. Jane felt God's creative Spirit at work when she was asked to help lead Eucharistic services in a Tucson hospital chapel carried to patients' rooms via closed-circuit TV. For Sr. Jane, it's golden, "Blending ministry to the sick with my preaching fervor." Plus, she says, "Since I've been a patient many times, I draw on what I'd want to hear spun off the Word of God."

Hospital ministry is part of what Sr. Jane calls her "freelance ministry package." She also provides spiritual direction for

# Faith and friendship entwine in prayer

Retired U.S. Air Force nurse, Elisabeth “Beth” O. still recalls a chief nurse telling her, “The road to heaven can be quite bumpy.” Beth says prayer lifted her over many bumps in her years of military service. In later years, she says she “relearned” the power of prayer through the Salvatorian Sisters.

Back in 2010, Beth turned to the Sisters of the Divine Savior to pray for her recently deceased father, Joseph, and her brother Mark, as he battled melanoma. “I wrote to the Sisters and they were incredibly kind and reassuring.” When Mark died in 2011, Beth reached out to us again. “I received a lovely note from Sr. Marie (Ensslin) that I will hold in my heart forever.” In 2014, the Salvatorian Sisters prayed for Beth’s younger brother John, during his recuperation from surgery and radiation after a cancer diagnosis.

Beth says, “Every time I request prayers for my sister, Joann, she feels truly ‘lifted up’. SDS prayers for my family and dear friend, Mary mean everything to me.” That dear friend is Mary G., a former flight nurse in the Vietnam War. Beth met Mary while enrolled in an Air Force nursing management course in 1976.

“All my classmates respected Mary as an instructor who encouraged us to do our very best and support our fellow Air Force nurses and leaders.” In the ‘80s, Mary and Beth became friends while stationed at Travis Air Force Base. Beth recalls, “When Mary suddenly became ill with rheumatoid arthritis, it was an honor to help with her nursing care.” Five years after Mary was medically retired from the Air Force, Beth retired and moved into Mary’s home in Ft. Worth, Texas to help care for her.

Beth talks about the blessing of prayers offered in her friend’s name. “When Mary suffered from sepsis two years ago, the Sisters’



Beth, right, met Mary while enrolled in an Air Force nursing management course in 1976.

prayers were nothing short of a miracle. We thank God for the Sisters.”

Faithfully, Beth and Mary donate online to the Sisters of the Divine Savior every month. They always mention a special intention for our Apostolate of Prayer Ministry. Beth says, “All the handwritten notes from the Sisters are uplifting and help to strengthen our faith. I am amazed at all the SDS ministries around the world, and our help is very much needed to support their work.” ☮

**Donating online to the Sisters of the Divine Savior is a secure and convenient way to support our ministries.**

You can designate your gift for a specific need; honor or remember a loved one; and ask for prayers for your special intentions. Go to:

<http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/donate/>



## Easy reading

Every month, our **eNews** includes a timely prayer, and makes it easy to send your special intentions for our Apostolate of Prayer Ministry. We also feature news tidbits, and share photos or videos about our Sisters.

**View a sample and sign up for our eNews at**  
<http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/news/>

### SDS Mission Advancement Office

4311 N. 100th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53222-1393

[missionadvancement@salvatoriansisters.org](mailto:missionadvancement@salvatoriansisters.org)

Lori Land  
Director of Mission Advancement

Jan Penlesky  
Director of Communications/PR

Anne Kirschmann  
Mission Advancement Associate

Lora Rosenbaum  
Grant Development Associate



## The sacred privilege of pastoral care *continued from page 1*



In prison ministry, Sr. Jane says, “I always come away with a heart full for the privilege of meeting such real, grateful people.”

deacons-to-be, and prepares lay ministry candidates for the sprawling Diocese of Tucson. Sr. Jane is inspired by the generosity and openness prospective deacons and lay ministers bring to formation. She also finds her age and experience vital to her work. “In the course of formation, they face fears of inadequacy or doubt. I can help them sort out reasonable fear from the ‘OMG!’ that always comes with vocational choice. Another joy is helping them discover their growing spirituality. It’s freeing for them and satisfying for me.”

Sr. Jane’s prison ministry often has the same effect. Several times a month, she visits women at a county jail and men at a facility northwest of Tucson. Sr. Jane sees these places as fertile ground. “Incarcerated people are in a unique position of having time to think about what really matters in life, experience the consequences of their actions, and consciously plan what they want their future to be.” She says, “Many folks are changed in prison. They are transformed by grace, and I love being part of that mystery. It gives me hope.”

### **Sister Carol Marie Haag, SDS**

knows that feeling of hope. When she began volunteering at Milwaukee County Children’s Detention Center (CDC) she questioned if she had what it takes. Her former employer, who was a permanent deacon, asked her to join the volunteer ministry informally known as Team CDC. He felt her high school teaching experience was a plus.

“I prayed a lot about his request,” Sr. Carol Marie says, “But I couldn’t say yes or no until I tried it.” Now it’s been four years and Sr.

Carol Marie has found her place. She says, “I didn’t plan it this way. It was the Holy Spirit.”

Sr. Carol Marie comes to the CDC with at least two talking points on a Scripture reading to help break the ice. Slowly, teens join the conversation. She says faith-sharing puts everyone on the same level, just one person to another.

“We know they come to meetings to get out of the cell block. Even so,” she says, “they’re willing to read Scripture and share with us. At the end of our time together, we ask if anyone has something to ask the Lord. They usually pray for their upcoming court dates and often for family members.”



Sr. Carol Marie asks the Holy Spirit for inspiration in her work with troubled teens. “After all, I haven’t walked a mile in these kids’ shoes.”

“I am in awe of how transparent they can be about what brought them to the CDC.” Sometimes, the kids ask why the volunteers keep coming back. Sr. Carol Marie tells them, “As a teacher, I had 50 minutes to help 34 students learn to type, but I never got to ask about their relationship with the Lord.”

She recalls one boy who came to their gatherings month after month for more than a year. “I could see a gradual change in him and he accepted responsibility for what he did.” Sr. Carol Marie says she doesn’t change the lives of the young people she serves. She says, “I am most certain it is the Divine Savior and Holy Spirit who give these kids the courage to change.” But she knows this ministry has changed her heart.

**Sister Darlene Pienschke, SDS** stays mindful of the Salvatorian mission to make known the goodness and kindness of the Savior, no matter what each new day brings. It helps her focus on caring for the spiritual

needs of residents at St. Anne’s Salvatorian Campus in Milwaukee.

“At St. Anne’s, I try to foster the compassion of God’s love among residents in the skilled care and assisted living areas. And, extend it to their families, and our staff and volunteers who share in our mission,” says Sr. Darlene.

As a former missionary in the Amazon basin, Sr. Darlene established health teams, practiced midwifery, and taught and published herbal remedies, while serving villagers who had no access to conventional medical care. She also provided pastoral care to people in the impoverished “favelas” of Sao Paulo, Brazil and rural areas. Before joining St. Anne’s team as Director of Mission and Spiritual Care in 2011, Sr. Darlene had spent 20 years in Tucson, most recently as a full-time hospice nurse.

Returning to Wisconsin brought Sr. Darlene full circle, back to her roots where she was born and raised and began her life as a Salvatorian. She calls her work at St. Anne’s a companioning ministry.



Sr. Darlene draws on years of clinical and managerial experience as coordinator of St. Anne’s new Salvatorian Pastoral Team. Together with SDS Fathers Alan Wagner, left, and Arturo Ysmael, she focuses on residents’ spiritual needs as they deal with issues of aging and declining health.

“For me, it’s about journeying alongside others and respecting all aspects of their human spirit. At times, I find I need to be still so I can be attentive to emotional and spiritual pain, and respond tenderly to the disorder and confusion brought on by illness or hardship. Other times, companioning engages us in the joy and laughter of life. There are so many dimensions to caring for each other’s hearts.” ☪

# You help hopes and dreams become vital ministries

When U.S. Salvatorian Sister Jenada Fanetti ministered in Tanzania earlier this summer, she asked local Sisters to share their hopes and dreams for serving their beloved African people. They also shared their gratitude for your gifts to support their professional studies. Your generosity to our May appeal will help their dreams become vital ministries. 🇺🇸



**Sr. Pelida Kalinga, SDS**

I have a special heart for children. Our children love to sing and dance. Music makes the children very joyful, so I want to have the skills to teach them many songs. It is also a good way to teach them about God and our faith. With your support, my dream of being a teacher will be realized. May God protect you and bless you for your kindness.



**Sr. Ann Lilly, SDS**

In my heart I know I want to continue my studies to be a clinical officer. I could then help people more than just being a doctor assistant. Sometimes people come with a problem and I don't have the knowledge to help them. My dream is to someday be a doctor. I hope someday you come to Tanzania and meet the Sisters who you helped. I am praying for all the people who helped me.



**Sr. Rosemary Elisa, SDS**

I feel happy about my education because now I can help many young people have a productive life. Through this program, they are developing skills to support their families in the future. I am grateful to be educated and now prepared to help these children. I pray for you daily. God bless you for making it possible for me to go to school.

## Giving appreciated stock multiplies the benefits

Your gift of securities to the Sisters of the Divine Savior provides you an opportunity to support our mission while realizing personal financial benefits. Donating securities that have increased in value and been held for more than a year, offer the same income tax savings as you would receive if you write us a check. But here's an added benefit: reducing or even eliminating capital gains taxes on the transfer of those securities.

With your gift, together we can bring the love and kindness of Jesus to others. For more information on gifts of stock, bonds or mutual funds, contact Lori Land at [landl@salvatoriansisters.org](mailto:landl@salvatoriansisters.org) or 414-466-7414.



## Our Mission As Sisters of the Divine Savior

Make known the goodness and kindness of Jesus, Savior of the world, and foster 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 improve quality of life in our world with a preferential option for the poor.



# A letter home

*In mid-July, Sister Liza Segleau, SDS shared some of her experiences since arriving in Colombia. She spent the summer there with three Salvatorian Sisters from South America, who will join her in our Guatemala initiative in September. We only have space for a few excerpts of Sr. Liza's letter, but they'll give you a feel for her new venture thus far. 🇨🇴*

Dear friends back home,

Our Sisters at Divine Savior High School in Suba (Colombia) were very welcoming. The first morning I headed to the kitchen to find something to eat, two Sisters were graciously waiting for me. Apparently they had brushed up on their English, which they used to greet me. I froze, not expecting to hear English. They froze, thinking perhaps they used the wrong sentences. I greeted them in Spanish and they both looked very puzzled. One Sister said, "Sister Nubia did not tell us she spoke Spanish, did she?" I burst out laughing and said in Spanish, "I guess she forgot that detail! It is quite the honor to meet you, even though all three of us are a bit confused." We all laughed. We had a great breakfast together followed by a tour of the high school, and just hanging out for the day. Today, I just ran into the two Sisters and we laughed remembering our encounter.

Of our group of four missionaries headed to Guatemala, I was first to arrive. I remained in Suba until the 10th of June. The two Brazilian Sisters were scheduled to arrive early that morning. I anxiously headed to the airport with Sr. Nubia to pick them up. The three of us settled in the Provincial House to meet up with our fourth member from Colombia, but that was not to happen until the 14th, so the three of us used the time to get to know each other.

On the 14th, our fourth member would join us for the bus trip to Chia, Colombia, where the Sisters own a piece of property — Villa Salvatoriana. This small farm was purchased back in the founding days of the Province. It holds lots of history for the Sisters and I was privileged to hear some of the stories.



Meet our Salvatorian Guatemala Community: Sr. Yenfa from Colombia (back), Sisters Vera (left) and Jovelina from Brazil, and me.



*Sitting in a small, cozy chapel at Villa Salvatoriana, there is no way not to feel the loving gaze of Blessed Mother Mary and Father Jordan—larger than life, stained glass windows.*  
— S. Liza

Our community of four settled into our new temporary home. That same evening, we figured out we had a mouse in our kitchen. It was not all bad news — it gave us something to solve together. We decided to not give the mouse a name because our ultimate goal was to get rid of the critter. The stinker found a way into our refrigerator and developed very fine tastes for corn, bread and of course, our cheese (I wondered if it would like some wine with that!). Apparently, it also knew mouse first aid. We left poison out, which milk products could neutralize. The mouse would eat the poison and then go in the refrigerator to eat either cheese or butter. So...the battle of wills wouldn't end any time soon.

Our common language is Spanish, however, our two Brazilian Sisters are still working on their Spanish. They receive daily Spanish lessons from Salvatorian Sister Marta. After hearing me do a long reading from the Old Testament, Sister Marta kindly informed me that I was excused from Spanish class. Some days they laugh so much in class, I truly want to join them to see what I'm missing! For now, our conversations are slow, repetitive and can get quite silly. Moments together can get quiet until someone bursts out laughing for no reason at all. Laughter can help with the process for sure. We have committed to learn each others' language (English and Portuguese), but not until we are more settled in Guatemala.

Our schedule will change towards the end of July and into August. Next week we'll have a three-day workshop with Jose A. Flores, a former Salvatorian. He will share with us his knowledge in anthropology of the indigenous people of Colombia. After his class we will prepare for our travels to a Pacific coastal region called Chocó.

Take care and God bless,

S. Liza



Read more updates from Sr. Liza at  
<http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/category/blog/>

# 2016 Woman of Faith is “in love with the service of God”

Kathleen A. Cepelka, Ph.D., has made a mark on education over four decades as a teacher, principal and associate dean. Now, as superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, she's building a spirit of community to improve education outcomes in urban Catholic schools that have been struggling to serve families with scarce socio-economic resources.

The Sisters of the Divine Savior will present our 2016 *Woman of Faith* Award to recognize Dr. Cepelka's leadership in launching Seton Catholic Schools. Ellen Bartel, president of Milwaukee's Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, nominated Dr. Cepelka for the award. She describes Kathleen's lifelong commitment to Catholic education as “unrivalled,” and says Seton would not have become reality “without Dr. Cepelka's vision and ability to bring others to believe it must be possible.” Ellen observes, “In every setting and with all people, Kathleen leads with faith as her foundation.”

Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listeck endorsed Ellen's nomination of Kathleen. He credits Dr. Cepelka's leadership with inspiring a cadre of community leaders to focus attention on the dire needs of urban families. William Henk, dean of Marquette University's College of Education also endorsed Kathleen saying, “Dr. Cepelka has rejuvenated our Catholic schools in uncommon ways.” Dean Henk recalls a treasure trove of Kathleen's memorable quotes from her years as associate dean, but none more powerful than her saying, “I'm in love with the service of God.”

To Kathleen, serving God through Seton Schools is a matter of justice to ensure quality education for all children to reach their God-given potential. Kathleen says, “Good enough isn't good enough. Seton

*“Every year we wait, thousands of children are being deprived of the chance for success.”*

— Kathleen Cepelka



is about giving these children the best we have.” Its simply stated mission couldn't be more daunting: *To prepare Seton graduates academically and spiritually for high school and beyond.* Seton gives families with very few resources access to a network of high-performing K-8 urban Catholic schools. Kathleen stresses the word *families* and describes her vision for Seton as an “intergenerational” model. She says, “We're not just caring for children ‘in the seats’ but their families too.”

Seton's model for Catholic education goes way beyond folding 26 urban schools into a new 501(c) (3) corporation. Shared resources and administrative efficiencies are critical to Seton's success, but they are the means to a much more vital end: evangelization of faith and educational

excellence. Seton leadership is working closely with the St. Clare Center of Cardinal Stritch University and Marquette University's Institute of Catholic Leadership to enhance professional development for Seton faculty and staff. Kathleen attributes the potential for Seton Schools to the quality of its leadership all around. She says, “It would not be possible without the A-level team being hired and serving on the board.”

As the first nine schools launch under the Seton banner this fall, there are many more pieces to fit into place. But Kathleen knows there's no time to lose. Her question, “If not now, when?” keeps her reimagining what Milwaukee's urban Catholic schools can be. ➡

Read about our *Woman of Faith* Award at <http://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/about-us/wof/>



## WOMAN OF Faith AWARD

Please join us to honor  
**Kathleen A. Cepelka, Ph.D.**

Superintendent of Schools – Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
*Helping children reach their potential by revitalizing urban Catholic schools*

**Thursday, September 15, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.**

**SDS Community House • 4311 N. 100th Street, Milwaukee**

**Please register for this free event by September 9.**

Go online: [www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org/2016wof](http://www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org/2016wof) Or call: 414-466-7414