



That all may  
know the Savior

# SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

## Salvatorian News

### *Walk with us*

I believe leadership is a call – from God and our Province. So, despite loving 20 years of ministering in California on behalf of human trafficking survivors and immigrant refugees, Sister Sheila Novak and I headed back to Milwaukee. Our call is to guide our SDS ministries to respond to today's urgent needs.

Some of these needs include outreach to marginalized women, care for creation, undoing structural racism and furthering the efforts of our sisters around the world. I count on the collaboration of our donors, who help us send resources to where they are most needed.

Back home, I've enjoyed our Jubilee celebration, diocesan mission appeal kick-off dinner, and helping select our **2022 Woman of Faith**, Anne Haines. Flip to Page 2 to read about her commitment to establish the St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic Worker House in Milwaukee. We look forward to honoring Anne at our annual **Award Presentation & Reception** in person and via livestream on September 22. Her ministry is especially close to my heart; she is in the 'sisterhood' of women furthering the cause of anti-human trafficking.

As I reorient myself in the area, I hope to collaborate with people like Anne who stand with the vulnerable. I also have to unpack my winter coat and boots in preparation for our famous Wisconsin winters.



God's Blessings,

*S. Jean Schafer SDS*

Sister Jean Schafer, SDS  
Provincial Leader

## SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

### PROVINCIAL TEAM

#### 2022-2025

*Sr. Sheila  
Novak,  
SDS*



*Sr. Mary  
Evelyn  
Zimbauer,  
SDS*



*Sr. Patrice Colletti, SDS*



*Sr. Jean Schafer, SDS*



*Sr. Mary Lee Grady, SDS*

**S**erving on the Sisters of the Divine Savior U.S. Provincial Team is a call from God and your community of sisters. Members of our 2022-2025 Leadership Team possess the trust and support of their sisters and a willingness to guide their community toward new horizons.

Newly elected Provincial, **Sister Jean Schafer, SDS**, is rather familiar with leadership. In the 1980s, she served on an experienced Provincial Team, and from 1989-2002, she witnessed the compassionate nature of Salvatorian Sisters while serving as international leader in Rome. She reflects, "I was gifted in those periods to know sisters in many countries. I came to appreciate the rich wisdom of cultures and saw the miracles our sisters performed in impoverished settings. I saw firsthand how colonialization helped and hindered peoples. I experienced that, despite tensions among world governments, people are truly good and desirous of the same simple things we all hope for."

After her time on the international Generalate, she worked for over 20 years to further the cause of anti-human trafficking. Sr. Jean's gift of imagining solutions for issues big and small made her an effective advocate for survivors of exploitation and will guide her through unexpected situations that arise in Leadership. She says, "My role is to keep the spiritual dimension before us – the 'why' of our life. My focus

# 2022 Woman of Faith

creates community for survivors of sexual exploitation through prayer and work

Devotion to service, courage, and commitment are the building blocks of Frank Miller's nomination of Anne Haines for our 2022 Woman of Faith Award. Frank and Anne's friendship began in 2016 after he heard her speak at an Eat, Drink, and Be Catholic event in Milwaukee. Anne was sharing her deep admiration for Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, and her example of living the Catholic faith without compromise.

"Listening to Anne, I realized she was a woman of exceptional faith. Since that meeting, I've come to know how deeply she believes in living her faith..."

Anne, at the time, was working for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and would soon serve as Executive Director/Episcopal Representative for the Archdiocese's Urban Initiative Milwaukee. One of the Initiative's goals was to build a community and religious center in the 53206 zip code – one of the most incarcerated in the U.S. Anne spent three years developing relationships with community members in this area, but unfortunately, COVID-19 shut the project down. Saddened by the dashing of one

dream, Anne decided to pursue another: opening a Catholic Worker House to serve Milwaukee's most vulnerable.

Relying on the expertise and experience of friends and colleagues, Anne established the St. Bakhita Catholic Worker House – named after the patron saint of survivors of human trafficking and slavery. A gift from the Capuchins Franciscan, the aptly named House has two goals: model the Eight Beatitudes Jesus gave in his Sermon

on the Mount and, in partnership with the Franciscan

Peacemakers Clare

Community, provide survivors of sexual exploitation with a residential community.

"For Anne, the Beatitudes are not hyperbole. They are not aspirational goals. They are her mission statement, and they have guided her actions for years," Frank says.

Frank now serves as Secretary/Treasurer on St. Bakhita's board of directors along with John Cary as Board President. Both remain inspired by Anne's commitment to caring, loving, and serving. "It is an honor to call Anne a friend," John says, "and it is a true honor to work

with her while witnessing her role of servant leadership. I have often referred

to her as 'a Saint walking this earth.' She is uncomfortable with this moniker as you might expect but she lives up to it through her caring actions."

Lisa Metz, theology chair at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School (DSHA), is also inspired by her friend's loving and hospitable nature. She says, "Anne doesn't look at her work as needing to fix people because they are broken. Instead, she sees the beauty in each and every individual. She embodies the idea of accompaniment, something that Pope Francis challenges us to do."

In fact, Anne so firmly believes in community and accompaniment that she forfeited a stable job and a comfortable house to move into the St. Bakhita House as its full-time director in May 2022. A move her support system, composed of six adult children and plenty of friends, recognize as a testimony to the courage faith provides. This courage, says Dr. Katie Pickart, director of Salvatorian Service at DSHA, was evident in Anne while collaborating with her for the students' 2021 Advent project benefiting St. Bakhita House.

"Anne has taken the leap. She has followed God's call for her life at every turn, and as she changes lives for the better, she has been fashioned into a radiant woman of faith," says Katie. Frank echoes this sentiment, "Anne once advised me, 'Commitment makes you happy.' Anne has committed to living the gospel. She has committed to emulating the lives of two of the 20th century's holiest women, Dorothy Day and St. Josephine Bakhita. Most of all she has committed to joining belief and action, love and community, hope and help. All day and every day."

Learn more at [bakhitahouse.org](https://bakhitahouse.org)



Anne Haines

*"Throughout motherhood, my twenty-year career as an educator, and my time serving the archdiocese, the idea to open a Catholic Worker House kept hounding me. I wanted to open the House right away, but my brother reminded me that there is a season for all callings."*



# Sister Bakhita enjoys the sights and sounds of Milwaukee

**Sister Bakhita Ndokole, SDS** first met U.S. Salvatorians in an English as a Second Language (ESL) Immersion Program led by Sister Jenada Fanetti, SDS and Lay Salvatorian Sue Haertel in Tanzania. It's a program that changed her life and, ultimately, brought her to the United States this summer for more immersive ESL classes.

Under the expert tutelage of former teachers, Salvatorian Sisters Margaret Bosch, Marion Etzel, Mary Jo Stoffel, and Clarice Steinfeldt, Sr. Bakhita attended English lessons almost every day. Sr. Marion says, "Sr. Bakhita was a wonderful student. Even at an early hour, she was always ready for class. Eager to learn anything I taught her. We galloped through several books covering nature, animals, and Winnie the Pooh. She liked it all. She practiced speaking, reading, and writing. The time went so fast."

Sr. Margaret also enjoyed instructing Sr. Bakhita and only had kind things to say about her former student: "What has given me much joy while teaching and living in community with Sr. Bakhita is her growing confidence. It



is evident in her willingness to reach out to other Sisters and even telling jokes every once in a while. I will miss her smile."

Sr. Bakhita's language immersion went beyond the classroom to include diocesan mission appeal visits and outings throughout Milwaukee with her new friends. Accompanied by experienced mission appeal



sisters, she visited six parishes throughout the Midwest to thank parishioners for their support of our international missions. Following a mission appeal in the Green Bay area, she observed, "One American parish is not like another American parish. Some sing and others pray silently. They are all nice places to visit."

Although six times smaller than Tanzania's biggest city, Dar es Saalam, Sr. Bakhita enjoyed plenty of adventures in Milwaukee. She tasted sweet treats at Leon's Frozen Custard and the Wisconsin State Fair, gazed at the unique plants and animals at the Domes and Zoo, and spent many meals in the company of her U.S. sisters. Sister Liz Christensen, SDS says, "When S. Bakhita arrived in July she seemed shy and reluctant to talk - as I would be if I had just arrived in Tanzania to learn Swahili. Now I consider her a friend who is self-assured, funny, and generous. While staying at Salvatorian Sisters Residence she committed herself helping our less abled Sisters. She was also willing to try any food and discovered her liking of bacon and doughnut holes. I miss spending time with her but I look forward to keeping in touch via email."





# Counting Your Blessings

## Blessing God's people & the earth

Thanks to your support of the Masasi Farm Project, farmers in Tanzania have nutrients for their crops, an education in organic farming, and plenty to share with their neighbors. Your generous gifts ranging from \$1 to \$5,000 will cover the costs of educational workshops, tree seedlings, and vegetable seeds. It is a true blessing to witness your commitment to caring for God's creation. As Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home proclaims, "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."



## In Memoriam

**Sister Jane Eschweiler, SDS**, began her ministry as an English teacher at several Milwaukee schools before realizing her growing desire to teach the Word. She found the greatest satisfaction in parish pastoral work and adult faith formation in Michigan, Mississippi, Wisconsin, and in her 13 years serving on the Jordan Ministry Team (JMT) in Tucson, Arizona. She referred to the JMT's commitment to training laity for ministry as "an investment in the future of our Church." Sr. Jane was professed 53 years when she died on June 9, 2022.

Read about Sister Jane here: [sistersofthedivinesavior.org/in-memoriam](https://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/in-memoriam)

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## Easy reading

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

To sign up, visit  
[sistersofthedivinesavior.org](https://sistersofthedivinesavior.org)  
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The Sisters of the Divine Savior invite you to join us in honoring

**ANNE HAINES**

Founder, *St. Bakhita Catholic Worker House*

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022**  
**7:00 PM CDT**

**SDS Community House**

**4311 North 100th Street, Milwaukee**

*Award Presentation followed by Reception and Refreshments*

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**RSVP by September 16** to attend this free event:

[sistersofthedivinesavior.org/woman-of-faith](https://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/woman-of-faith)

[missionadvancement@salvatoriansisters.org](mailto:missionadvancement@salvatoriansisters.org) | (414) 466-7414

Can't attend? Join us at [youtu.be/mx1AIUphrIc](https://youtu.be/mx1AIUphrIc)

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**Special Thanks to our partners for this event**

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could be explained by questions I came across recently that fit so well for a Sister of the Divine Savior – not ‘What would Jesus do?’ but ‘What did Jesus do.’ and ‘What is Jesus doing?’ These questions take us back to the gospel and help us look for ways to further social transformation in our day-to-day ministries.”

**Sister Mary Lee Grady, SDS**, Vicarress, says leadership is about making difficult decisions everyone may not understand. But she says, “It’s easier to make a hard choice if you’ve spent time listening to your fellow sisters and centering your service to the Province.” Prior to her election to the Team, Sr. Mary Lee served as co-director of New Membership – a role she will continue in tandem with her administrative responsibilities. “My commitment to New Membership is grounded in my belief in the Salvatorian way of life,” she says, “I enjoy the collaboration it brings to the Salvatorian Family.”

Outside of vocations and administrative work, her life consists of spending time with family and friends, swimming, enjoying the great outdoors, and singing in the Archdiocesan choir. She also finds great joy in living in community with several Salvatorian Sisters. She says, “I want to live in community with women who want to serve God as I do. It’s a way to live out our baptismal commitment to others who share the same deep values of community and prayer.”

**Sister Mary Evelyn Zimbauer, SDS**, Provincial Counsitor, wants to serve with an

### Top initiatives of our 2022-2025 Leadership Team

“I hope we can continue to strengthen our connections to our global Congregation and to support our Generalate in as many ways as we are able. Through social media we hope to grow closer to our sisters around the world and thus support them in prayer and by other means. I would also hope to invite women to collaborate with us and share with them the richness and relevance of our Salvatorian spirituality – that unique set of values which spurs us on to make our world a more loving place for everyone. Collaborating with others to address social justice issues such as care for creation, undoing structural racism, helping marginalized women and immigrants to have a voice in our society and achieve their dreams – these are foci I hope we can address.”

- Sister Jean Schafer, United States Provincial Leader

open mind and caring heart during her time on the Leadership Team. Her sensitivity to the needs of a whole person, body and spirit, comes from her life-long ministry as a nurse. A perspective she hopes will benefit the Team: “I hope to help provide an environment where everyone can thrive and together we can better serve each other, God, and God’s people.”

On occasion, Sr. Mary Evelyn flexes her healthcare muscles as a first aid responder at Milwaukee events and a weekend on-call nurse for her fellow Sisters. She also loves connecting with nature through gardening and says, “The joy of being close to nature really nurtures my spirit and it delights me to enjoy the fruits of the earth.”

**Sister Sheila Novak, SDS**, Provincial Counsitor, hopes fostering a listening and gentle presence amongst her sisters will

help her meet them in their current stages of life. She says, “Leadership is a call to be sister (with a small s) in the best sense of that word. Sisters are there for each other, responding to requests and needs and giving

support as needed. Sisters can be counted on. It is also a forum to look ahead and name future efforts and priorities – to help shape what is yet to be.”

Although focused on the priorities of her Province, she is also devoting time to making Milwaukee her home again after 19 years away. In her quest to relearn the city, she plans on joining an outreach program that benefits from her past experiences in teaching, formation and pastoral work, and working with survivors of human trafficking. She welcomes new friends and connections along the way.

Creativity, intelligence, problem-solving, and a good sense of humor make **Sister Patrice Colletti, SDS**, Provincial Counsitor, a qualified member of our Leadership Team. She says “... all my ministries, since early adulthood, have been ministries of service to folks ‘at the margins’ of our society, or ministries of leading organizations who serve folks ‘at the margins’... Those ministries have taught me that leadership truly benefits from teamwork and collaboration.”

In the next year, Sr. Patrice looks forward to envisioning a new and different future for our Congregation. As the only Team Member not based in Milwaukee, she will remotely manage her responsibilities from Sisseton, South Dakota where she teaches at Tiospa Zina Tribal School. Even with her days split between science projects and Team meetings, she still finds time for computer building and repairing, photography, and service dog training. In fact, in the coming months, we hope to share more about the special pup who will help Sr. Patrice perform manual tasks and alert her to sounds she cannot hear.



*Our 2022 Chapter meeting centered around the election of our new Team, making decisions for the future, and trusting God.*