



That all may  
know the Savior

# SISTERS OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR

## Salvatorian News

*Walk  
with us*



Our Salvatorian Sisters' community remains vigilant in both prayers and precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Our efforts to protect our most vulnerable sisters and their caregivers, as well as our Community House staff are working. We continue to pray for compassionate guidance from the medical experts, safety for selfless health care workers, and comfort for everyone who suffers from the virus.

You have been one of our greatest sources of support during the last six months. Your inquiries about our welfare and your prayers bring us grace in abundance. It's that grace that keeps us moving forward as we celebrate our Jubilarians, honor our 20th Annual Woman of Faith, and carry on to strengthen support for our ministries.

We feel especially blessed by the gifts we continue to receive to support our work here and around the world. Your concerns for personal health, safety and financial security have not overshadowed the face of Christ in God's neediest people. We know each gesture of generosity comes from a place of deep love and trust, and we are so very grateful you continue to walk with us.

In our Savior's name,

*S. Beverly Heitke, S.D.S.*  
Sister Beverly Heitke, SDS  
Provincial Leader

## We search for new footing in a changing world

In early October, we'll launch the final era of our digital time line celebrating our 125th anniversary of arrival in the USA. Here, Sister Carol Thresher, SDS previews Era 5 milestones from the year 2000 to the present.

With arrival of the new millennium in 2000, Salvatorian Sisters were already five years into our second century on USA soil. Our lives were radically different from those of our first three sisters who landed at Ellis Island in 1895. Still, Salvatorian Sisters are compelled forward today with the same apostolic fervor that fueled our pioneer sisters. Though separated by more than 100 years, we share their vision to be apostles for the new times that are emerging before us.

By 2000, the Sisters of the Divine Savior Congregation had become a "global village." Today our North American Province works in tandem with our sisters from countries once known as mission lands. Together we embody the goodness and kindness of the Savior who urges us forward to live out our mission through diverse ministries inspired by ever-changing needs.

Twenty years ago, our North American Province leaders formed a Sponsorship Corporation of adept lay persons to guide our sisters who serve as Sponsorship Coordinators for our institutional ministries. Ever since, lay women and men entrusted with the Salvatorian mission continue to break new ground. They creatively direct oversight and long-range planning for these ministries, often into an unmapped future.

In 2020, we continue to be challenged to serve in new ways. Sometimes it means letting go of traditional ministries. Painful as letting go can be, we cherish heartfelt memories as we forge ahead and take on new commitments. Our twenty-first century missionary work includes serving on the board of the non-governmental agency UNANIMA International; teaching at a tribal school of the Lakota people in South Dakota; and walking with survivors of human trafficking. Yes, the times and needs are radically different, but the apostolic fire that drives our Salvatorian presence burns as brightly as ever.

The world is changing and Salvatorian religious life in the USA is changing with it. Our 125th Anniversary time line of milestones from 2000 to present day, shares how our sisters continue to be shaped by the "Refiner's fire" (Malachi 3:2+). Our passion for mission still burns within us. Its flame illumines our path forward. We follow the light, trusting that Divine Providence will lovingly shape the future and point to our presence in it.

  
**YEARS ON FIRE**  
*Passion for Mission*  
**125 Years**

# Companions in Mission

Fifty years ago last April, **Russ and Irene H.** exchanged their marriage vows at St. Pius X Church in Wauwatosa, Wis. The Salvatorian parish has been their home parish ever since.

Sitting in a Pius pew back in 1989, Russ and Irene heard Sister Carol Thresher, SDS speak about the Sisters of the Divine Savior worldwide missions. The couple was especially touched by the dedication and love Sr. Carol expressed for people living in the favelas of São Paulo, Brazil, where she served for 18 years. Listening to how Sr. Carol opened her heart to Brazil's impoverished people inspired Russ and Irene to open their hearts with their first gift to support our Salvatorian Sisters' missions there.

Since then, Russ and Irene's friendship with the Sisters of the Divine Savior has entwined with their generosity. When Irene received rehabilitation services at St. Anne's Salvatorian Campus in 2011, they came to know our sisters who served there. After Irene died last January, it was their faithful friendship with the sisters that inspired Russ to fulfill a desire the couple shared, by naming the Sisters of the Divine Savior in his trust. Years earlier, Russ and Irene had taken their support to a deeper level with their pledge of a monthly gift. Russ continues that commitment today as a Mission Well Charter Member.

*"We were always impressed with the desire of the Brazilian people to gain a better life through living a Christian life."*

— Russ H.

Apostolic Circle Member and  
Mission Well Charter Member



Russ and Irene worked for many years, he as a Milwaukee County corrections officer, and she as a medical technologist. The couple also shared a love for travel that included trips to Kenya, Russia, Spain, Portugal and the Holy Land. When they weren't traveling the world, they always felt at home at St. Pius. Russ doesn't need to think long and hard about what makes his Salvatorian parish so special. "It's very simple," he says, "It's a caring, loving community."

*Our Apostolic Circle recognizes the generosity of Russ and Irene H. and other friends who name the Sisters of the Divine Savior in their will or estate. With their consent, we list Apostolic Circle members on a plaque at our Community House in Milwaukee. Each year, we remember them at Mass at our Motherhouse in Rome, near our founding site in Tivoli, Italy. For information on leaving a legacy gift, contact Lori Graff at [graffl@salvatoriansisters.org](mailto:graffl@salvatoriansisters.org) or 414-466-7414.*

## Counting Your Blessings

*Promises are powerful!*

Your recent gifts ranging from \$1 to \$10,000 will help fund construction of a new science lab and computer lab at our Salvator School in the DR Congo. With an average gift of \$188, you have shown us how many hearts together can fulfill

the promise to lift future generations out of poverty and dependency through education.

Salvator School Administrator Sister Judith Kakudji, SDS shares her gratitude as she reminds us, "Our young people are the hope and future for our town of Kolwezi and our country."

**Thank you for building with us  
to fulfill the promise!**



## MISSION WELL



*Take your giving  
to a deeper level*

Mission Well is an opportunity to deepen your support for the Sisters of the Divine Savior and our life-giving ministries by making charitable giving part of your monthly budget. The ripple effect of monthly giving helps ensure sustainable funding to:

- care for our retired sisters
- support our sisters serving in the U.S.
- enhance our collaboration with SDS global missions

**Become a Mission Well Charter Member by enrolling in 2020.**

**Learn more at: [sistersofthedivinesavior.org/mission-well](https://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/mission-well)  
or contact Lori Graff at  
[graffl@salvatoriansisters.org](mailto:graffl@salvatoriansisters.org) or (414) 466-7414.**



# Celebrating 2020 Jubilarians

**75 years, top right:** Sister Margaret Bosch, SDS

**70 years, middle row, left to right:**

Sister Maria Elena Arias, SDS; Sister Jean Marie Hauck, SDS;  
Sister Teresa Rebholz, SDS; Sister Patricia Wieloch, SDS

**65 years, bottom row, left to right:**

Sister Denise Demulling, SDS; Sister Margaret Hansknecht, SDS;  
Sister De Paul Schafer, SDS; Sister Joan Wagner, SDS



Read about our Jubilarians here: [sistersofthedivinesavior.org/jubilee-celebrations](https://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/jubilee-celebrations)



You can send Jubilee greetings c/o:

Mission Advancement Office • 4311 N. 100th St. • Milwaukee, WI 53222 or [missionadvancement@salvatoriansisters.org](mailto:missionadvancement@salvatoriansisters.org)

A gift to support our mission is a meaningful way to honor a Jubilarian. You can mail your donation to the address above, or donate online: [sistersofthedivinesavior.org/donate-tribute](https://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/donate-tribute)

## SDS Mission Advancement Office

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## In Memoriam

**Sister Marie Ensslin, SDS** (formerly Mary Richard) was professed 65 years when she died on March 21, 2020. She regarded her ministry in education as a blessing. Sr. Marie strived for creativity to make learning fun and accessible for her students, whether she was teaching math, rhythm band, square dancing or computer classes.

Read about Sister Marie here:

[sistersofthedivinesavior.org/in-memoriam](https://sistersofthedivinesavior.org/in-memoriam)

## 20th Annual Woman of Faith Award

# Deep faith imbues Carla Del Pozo's presence to others

Eight words buried deep in Carla Del Pozo's nomination as our 2020 Woman of Faith put all her achievements into perspective: "Carla is very committed to her spiritual journey."

Sister Madeline Gianforte, CSA nominated Carla for her work at CORE El Centro, a natural healing center that offers alternative healthcare options to Milwaukee's low-income community. CORE's mission is to create access for all, build community and inspire people to wholeness – in body, mind and spirit. Carla's personal mission dovetails perfectly: inspire others to be their best selves.

Carla joined CORE's staff six years ago. Since then, Development Director Sister Pat Bogenschuetz, CSA has seen integrity emerge as a hallmark in Carla's decisions and interactions with clients, staff and agency partners.

"I have witnessed her integrity in writing grant reports that reflect transparency in what we've been able to accomplish, as well as in challenges we've yet to meet. As a fellow staff member, I see her leadership and her mentoring of the people she manages. She advocates for the clients' highest quality of care and the staff's optimal working environment."

Sister Pat describes Carla as "a woman of strength and vulnerability" who holds people accountable with warmth and compassion. Carla serves CORE clients as a licensed acupuncturist, but Sr. Madeline points to her vision, management skills and commitment to the mission that set her apart. As Director of Clinical Services, Carla mentors her co-workers to develop as leaders in their own right.

Ten years ago, DeAnn Cortes came to know Carla when she was coordinating Hispanic Ministry at St. Patrick's Parish in Whitewater, Wis. DeAnn was struck by Carla's care for and "chemistry" with the Latinx people she served. "When Carla was ready to transition to Milwaukee, I was impressed with the level of discernment she engaged in before making her decision. Carla seems to not only put critical

*"There's something special about Carla; a groundedness and graciousness rooted in her relationship with Christ."*

– Sister Pat Bogenschuetz, CSA, CORE El Centro



thinking, reflection and prayer into practice, but also was keenly in touch to discern the movement and call of spirit in her life. I knew her gentle gifts of compassionate connection and care would thrive in the dedicated service she would offer CORE clients."

DeAnn describes Carla as "a living embodiment of a woman of faith" as she seeks to enrich others' lives through spiritual direction, intuitive guidance and

mentorship." Sister Madeline echoes that description, sharing that Carla developed a new service known as Life Accompaniment to focus on the spiritual needs of CORE's clients. Says Sister Madeline, "She has a deep hunger to connect with the Divine and witnesses this in her daily activities with family, at work and at play. Her commitment, dedication and love for life is contagious. She truly is a woman of faith."

Learn about CORE El Centro at [core-elcentro.org](https://core-elcentro.org)



## WOMAN OF Faith AWARD

Please join us to honor

**Carla Del Pozo**

Director of Clinical Services — CORE El Centro

**Virtual Event**

Join us for livestream coverage at

[facebook.com/SistersoftheDivineSavior](https://facebook.com/SistersoftheDivineSavior)

**Thursday, September 24, 2020**

**7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time**

*If you're not able to join us Thursday evening,  
you can watch the video on our website at*

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

Questions? Call our Mission Advancement Office at 414-466-7414