

# The Vine

Volume 3, Issue 3  
Fall 2009

A newsletter of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

(John 15:5)

## Sisters' Mission: Spread the Kingdom of Love

During the funeral of the late Servant of God, John Paul II in 2005, the question was often raised by news commentators, "Who are those Sisters in the Pope's funeral procession?" The answer invariably was, "They are the Polish nuns who were aides to His Holiness." To be more specific, these were members of our religious family of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Congregation privileged to have served the Servant of God as secretaries, housekeepers and nurses throughout the years of his episcopate and pontificate.

More than a century before another Pole found himself in Rome (1866-68), a young doctoral student named Father Joseph Sebastian Pelczar, who heard the stirring words of Blessed Pius IX: "Be as torches burning in the fog." This zealous priest, the future Founder of our

throughout the world his vision of enkindling hearts with the burning torch of the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Imparting this vision to a new reli-

established the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Cresson, Pennsylvania. Today, Sisters of this Province are represented in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Swedesburg, Bridgeport, PA) and in the Dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown (Cresson and Munster Twp, PA), Wilmington (Wilmington, DE) and Mandeville, Jamaica (Maggotty).

Today our Sisters of the Sacred Heart Province are engaged in varied apostolic endeavors:

- Service to the elderly and needy, especially at our personal care home,



Sisters making annual retreat, August 2009, with retreatmaster, Fr. Dennis Carbonaro of Philadelphia.

religious family, in 1894 in Krakow, Poland, St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar (canonized in 2003) together with the Servant of God, Mother Klara Szczęсна, founded the Congregation of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, a contemplative-active community of pontifical right, affiliated with the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.

The Sisters' mission is to worship the Triune God in the Mystery of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and to spread the Kingdom of Love of this Heart by serving Christ in their

Congregation and Bishop of Przemyśl, Poland, could never have surmised that his spiritual daughters would follow him one day to Rome to serve in the papal household and that others would extend

neighbor particularly among girls, the poor, and the sick.

The Sisters first arrived in North America in 1959. With an increase in vocations, in 1987, the Congregation

John Paul II Manor;

- Teaching and catechesis in schools and parishes;
- Promotion of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in families;
- Cooperative initiatives with the members of our Lay Association, *Rays of Merciful Love*;
- Parish work as secretaries, organists, choir directors and sacristans;
- Work with the poor, unchurched, sick and dying;
- Work with children and youth, conducting retreats and summer camps;
- Helping all who seek our assistance, recalling the words of our Founder: "Love is born in the heart, expressed in words, but lives in deeds."

*Love is born in the heart, expressed in words, but lives in deeds.*

— Founder St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar

*Continued on page 6*



## Letter from Mother Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ Provincial Superior

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year we commemorate that fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the first Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on this Continent, as they came to establish themselves here and to serve at a Polish Vincentian Seminary of Erie, Pennsylvania. We are grateful to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for welcoming us here on American soil and for abundantly blessing us during this half century. God has truly graced us by allowing us to open convents in various places and to receive new vocations. Thus, in God's providential design the Sisters could be of service to so many, and this also through



the help of many good friends and benefactors such as yourselves.

We continually rely on your support, especially your prayers, and we are very grateful for all the good we can do together in establishing the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. With your assistance, the Sisters are reaching out to those who are in need, as you can see outlined in this issue of *The Vine*.

As summer days are shortened and autumn slowly arrives, the Sisters recall our recent times together: our annual 8-day retreat conducted this year by Fr. Dennis Carbonaro from Philadelphia; the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Sr. Mary Elizabeth Guidry and the perpetual profession of Sr. Maximilia Maria Trudeau; the reception of new candidates into the stages of our formation program; our 3-day workshop on dialogue in community conducted by the Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan; and the visit of Sr. Clare Marie Carriger, one of our Jamaican missionaries. The summer months also included summer camp conducted by our Sisters at St. Therese Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA; classes and ongoing formation conferences attended by some of our Sisters at

Franciscan University of Steubenville, our participation in vocation promotion events...and even more! We hope that these graces and joys from the Lord of the vineyard will continue to bear much fruit in our community life and in the places where we serve!

*...in each situation let us trustfully run to the most holy Virgin Mary as our Mother, and repeat often the invocation, Sweet Heart of Mary, be my refuge.*

Looking ahead to the coming month of October which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title as Queen of the Holy Rosary, we offer all our undertakings and concerns to the Divine Heart through the hands of Mary. As our Father Founder, St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar encourages us, in each situation let us trustfully run to the most holy Virgin Mary as our Mother, and repeat often the invocation, *Sweet Heart of Mary, be my refuge*. As we pray the rosary, we include all of you, your families and all your intentions, and let us especially pray together during this year of priesthood for all our priests, for their holiness and for many good vocations.

May God bless all of us and Mary, our Mother, watch over us!

In the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

*Sr. Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ*

Mother Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ  
Provincial Superior

To contact us:



SISTER SERVANTS  
OF THE MOST SACRED HEART  
OF JESUS

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Visit us on our website

[www.sacredheartsisters.org](http://www.sacredheartsisters.org)

## Our Lay Associate Program – Rays of Merciful Love

Our Lord said in 1675 to Saint Margaret Mary: “Behold this Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming itself, in order to testify to its love. In return, I receive from the greater part only ingratitude by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this sacrament of love.”

In response to this call of the Lord for love and reparation, on Mercy Sunday in 2009, our Sisters initiated *Rays of Merciful Love*, an association of lay persons who desire to share in the spirituality and charism of our Congregation.

If you feel called to respond to our Lord’s appeal, then perhaps God is asking you to prayerfully consider becoming a Lay Associate of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

### The Rays of Merciful Love:

- 1) Join in the spirit of prayer and praise to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus;
- 2) Offer reparation to this Most Sacred Heart for sins;
- 3) Reveal God’s mercy and love through a more faithful commitment to the Christian life: prayer, works of mercy and penance;
- 4) Meet bi-monthly with other Lay Associates and the Director.

For more information, please contact:

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### IRA Tax Free Giving Available Again This Year

- The IRA owner must be at least 70 1/2 years-old
- Charitable gifts must be completed by December 31, 2008
- Gifts must be made in an outright manner – gifts to fund gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts do not qualify
- A maximum of \$100,000 per donor may be given
- The distribution must be made directly from the trustee of the IRA to the charitable recipient
- A gift from your IRA counts toward your minimum annual distribution requirement

Source: Internal Revenue Service

## Save the Date

Over the past few years many have come to know the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus through their newsletter *The Vine*. Now you will have an opportunity to meet these Sisters up close and personal. On February 13, 2010, a “Getting to Know the Sisters” dinner/auction will be held at St. Francis University John F. Kennedy Center, in Loretto, Pennsylvania.

Catered by the University’s Torvian Hall Dining Services, the dinner will feature a special presentation about the life and varied apostolates of the Sisters in the United States, a silent and live auction, dinner music and remarks by Mother Ryszarda.

Tables of eight are available with your dinner choice of filet mignon or salmon grilled filet. Tickets are \$100 a person or \$175 a couple. For tables totaling a sponsorship of \$1,000, a Sacred Heart Sister or priest can grace your table. Wine and cheese reception begins at 6 p.m., dinner following at 7 p.m. Call (814) 886-7961 for reservations.

Won’t you come out and make this a complete success for these wonderful Sisters? This event promises to be a delightful and memorable evening for all! See you there!

**Mrs. Betty Sloan, Dinner Committee Chair**



Please  
remember us when making  
or revising your will.

Our name is:  
Sister Servants of the  
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our federal ID number is:  
75-236-912

**FROM OUR JAMAICAN MISSION POST**

## *Continuing to Evangelize, Heal and Teach*

Greetings from our Sisters in Maggotty Jamaica! With the generous assistance of many dear benefactors and volunteers, the apostolate at Holy Spirit Mission continues and develops.

### **Spreading the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart**

Our Sisters continue our catechism classes to spread the light of the Gospel in the West Indies and, in addition to work at our clinic, we visit the poor and sick in their homes in the outlying villages.

Our parish was blessed this past Easter with thirteen new members received into the Church through baptism! Of these, ten received First Penance and Holy Communion on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 14, 2009. It is hoped that their courageous witness of embracing the faith will lead others into the Church.

### **Holy Spirit Mission Has New Clinic and Factory**

Holy Spirit Mission anticipates the completion of two major projects this year: a new clinic and sausage factory! Both projects were funded by generous individuals and organizations from around the world, including the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI's own mission fund, Cor Unum.



**The construction of the Sisters' new clinic and the parish sausage factory at the Jamaican mission.**

Our new clinic will provide better care for the numerous patients who come to us for help. We rejoice that the new clinic will have running water, as well as a large roofed waiting area, two exam rooms, offices, a storage area, pharmacy, therapy room and dental office.

Since July of 2008, several doctors and other medical personnel have given of their time and skills to help our patients. We are hoping and seeking physicians who can come for an extended time of service of six months or more. We ask you to keep this intention in your prayer.

The sausage factory, the dream



**Providing lunch for children at the parish community center, Maggotty, Jamaica.**

of the mission's founder and pastor, Father Marek Bzinkowski, will provide employment for many and will encourage initiative in the local people to support themselves and their families in this region, one of the poorest on the island.

Both facilities will be blessed and dedicated on October 10, 2009, at which one of the guests will be the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honourable Bruce Golding.



**Sister Superior Emila Malczak and Sister Clare Marie Carriger prepare medicines for patients of our clinic.**

### **Teaching for a Better Tomorrow**

To improve the lives of Jamaican women who struggle to provide for their families, our Mission conducts weekly sewing classes at our convent. Two American volunteers began this sewing instruction for about twenty women. This year's quilting and candlewicking classes were met with great enthusiasm for the finished pieces. Presently, the classes continue weekly under the supervision of local Jamaican women.

Computer classes with certification are offered at the Mission by a lay missionary, Marta Socha. Our Sisters continue to teach English classes and reading to children and adults.

### **Cooperators with Us**

Thank you for joining us in our mission through your financial help and support, by your donations of needed items, and most especially by your daily prayers for missionaries and all those whom we serve. We are relying upon you and trust that God will reward you.

## *Sister Maximilia Maria Trudeau, SSCJ, Professes Perpetual Vows*



*“For the Greater Glory  
of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus...  
I vow for all my life  
chastity, poverty and obedience.”*



On August 15, 2009, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Sister Maximilia Maria Trudeau, SSCJ professed perpetual vows of chastity, poverty and obedience in our Congregation at a solemn Mass of Religious Profession held at St. Francis Xavier Church, Cresson, Pennsylvania.

The Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Francis Spilka, OFM, Conv., as Diocesan Vicar for Religious and Delegate of our Bishop, the Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, was principal Celebrant for Sister’s profession. He was joined by many guest clergy, among them, visitors from Sister’s home parish, Father John Barbella and Deacon Enock Berluche, as well as the Franciscan Friars, TOR from Loretto, PA and diocesan clergy. Sister’s vows were received by Mother Provincial Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ.

Besides her religious family in attendance, many of Sister’s family members came to participate in this celebration, afterwards attending a reception at our novitiate house in Munster Township, PA.

*We congratulate Sister for her dedication to  
God and pray for abundant blessings upon her  
in her religious vocation.*



# Annual Appeal Allows Sisters to Help Others

By Robert J. Allen

This issue of *The Vine* is both an exposé of the wonderful apostolic work being provided by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and your invitation to be an extension of these ministries.

The Annual Appeal is presented once a year in the fall to ask for your financial and prayerful support of the Sisters. It is never glamorous or uplifting to do little things, but often necessary. The light and water bills must be paid; the heat and telephone must be working.

But who can afford these basic costs if the Sisters are going about caring for the poor, the sick, the disadvantaged or the spiritual needs of those who are in their care? This is why the response from

*This is why the response from those who choose to be part of these corporal works of mercy is so vital to the ongoing efforts of helping the Sisters to help others in their name.*

those who choose to be part of these corporal works of mercy is so vital to the ongoing efforts of helping the Sisters to help others in their name.

We all have God's call to be active in the Church, but few can accept the daily life of sacrifice and self-denial. Yet, this is what we are doing when we hear the cry of the poor and through our own sacrificial giving support of the Sisters and their mission.

Saint Luke in his gospel 6:36-38 says, "Give and gifts will be given you." So today as you consider how you may want to actively support the Sisters, consider an offering to God as a donation to the less fortunate.

## Sisters' Mission: Spread the Kingdom of Love — *Continued from page 1*



Sisters helping the residents at our John Paul II Manor, Cresson, PA.

As Servants who remain before the Heart of Jesus in loving contemplation, adoration and intercessory prayer, the Sisters witness to the Lord's unlimited love in our daily community life and contact with others. As the visible sign of our religious consecration, we wear a full habit with scapular and veil, rosary, Franciscan cord, crucifix, and ring.

As was previously mentioned, we are grateful to God for the blessing and privilege that our Sisters served the

late Holy Father, John Paul II for so many years. We revere the Servant of God John Paul II as a second father after our Founders, treasuring his words addressed on the centennial of our Congregation's founding:

"It is necessary that you, as a living part of the universal Church would be able continually to read the "signs of the times," that you would be also able with open "eyes of faith" to perceive the needs of today's man and share with him his joys, concerns and sadness. The more you are filled with God, the more clearly you will show him to the

world and the much more effective will be your part in the difficult work of evangelization. To Mary, Mother of

Christ, I entrust the future of your Congregation and I bless you from my heart."

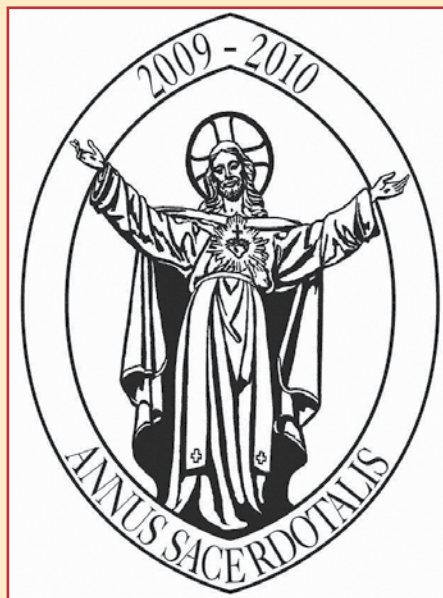


Sister Mary Barbara Hoyt and Sister Mary Joseph Calore provide music for the Holy Mass at local parishes.



John Paul II Manor, a residential assistance care center conducted by our Sisters.

## *Come, Follow Me!*



### **Prayer for Priests**

Ever-living God and Father of us all,  
you give to your Church the Priesthood of your Son, Jesus,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
you provide holy priests for a holy people.

We pray for all our priests,  
who announce the Word of God  
and celebrate the Sacraments,  
for those who are young and those who are old,  
for those who serve in difficult and trying circumstances,  
for those who are faithful and those who are faltering, and  
for those who have died.

We entrust all our priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
that they may persevere with fidelity  
to you and to your Church.

With Saint John Vianney, patron of priests,  
we pray that our priests may never fail to lead us to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Used with Permission*

On August 14, 2009, the feast of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, Sister Tere-sita (Katherine Julissa Major-Campsie) (below right) was received into our novitiate. Together with her new patron, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Sister received the novitiate garb, white veil, and rosary.



It was also our joy that a new candidate, Sr. Brigid Prosser (above left), entered our community and was received to aspirancy on August 19, 2009, the feast of St. John Eudes. We pray that both of them will continue to grow in holiness and persevere in the call of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

### **Please Send Us**

#### **Your E-Mail Address!**

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus need your e-mail address. Why?

There are many exciting special events and information for you to receive. Because postage is expensive, we would like to inform you of some things via e-mail. Please be assured, we will **NOT** share your e-mail address.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

E-mail:

## *Second Annual Golf Tournament Enjoyed by All*

To benefit their mission and works, the Sacred Heart Sisters held their Second Annual Golf Tournament, THE INVITATIONAL, on Friday September 11, 2009, at the Summit Country Club, Cresson, Pennsylvania.

Despite threatening rain, the golfers were able to hit the green this year and persevered to the finish, with the first INVITATIONAL CUP going to Cresson's Saint Aloysius Parish won by its team: Jack Calandra, Quintin Dziabo, Adam Moreland, and Fran Nazit

The Sacred Heart Sisters are so very grateful to all our dear friends who planned such an event : to Ward Prostejovsky, Richard Prostejovsky, and Tiger Trimbath, and to so many others who participated in or supported in any way The Invitational 2009 to make this year such a successful and enjoyable event for all. Be assured of our prayers and may God bless you!

In particular we thank the following:

### ***SPECIAL ANGELS OF ASSISTANCE***

MAINLINE PHARMACY  
RESTA HOME HEALTH  
REZK MEDICAL SUPPLY  
JACK, JENNY & PAUL CALANDRA  
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JAMES DRUG STORE  
THE TRIMBATH FAMILY  
ROBERT J. ALLEN  
SUMMIT COUNTRY CLUB  
IRON MASTERS COUNTRY CLUB  
THOMAS AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY  
EBENSBURG YAMAHA

### ***Tee Sponsors***

St. Aloysius Parish • Ralph J. Albarano & Sons, Inc. • Attorney Tim Burns, Ebensburg • Cambria County Federal Savings and Loan • Cresson Steel Company • DeGol Carpeting, Duncansville • 1st Summit Bank • James Drug Store • Jennmar Corporation • Kline Kimlin, CPA • Knights of Columbus 551, Altoona, PA • Knights of Columbus, St Anne Council, 4259 • Next Financial • Mark Petryshak Construction • Portage Service Center • PEROVE Wealth Management • Mony Servinsky Jewelers • Gary Sefchok & Associates • Mark Serenko Funeral Home, Portage • Stager Store • Stepping Stones • St. Francis University • St. Stanislaus Kostka Brotherhood • Wilkinson Bus Lines, Inc.

### ***In Kind Donations***

Amici's • Bedford Springs Golf Course • Ebensburg Country Club • Glen Garry Golf Links • Immergrun Golf Course • Iron Masters, Roaring Springs • Lena's Restaurant • Mount Aloysius College • Oakbrook Golf Course • Scotch Valley Country Club • Sinking Valley Country Club • Summit Country Club • Sunnehanna Country Club • Windber Country Club • Valenty Bottled Water



**St. Aloysius Parish takes the gold!**



**Off with a bang!**



**A "hole" lot of fun.**

### *Thank you!*

We would like to express our thank you to all those who remembered the Sisters on their trip to the store in purchasing needed paper products. Please know how helpful this is for us. We always appreciate your donation of:

- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- 8 x 11 White Paper
- Address Labels
- #10 Envelopes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Plates.

*Be assured of our prayers that  
God will reward your kindness.*