WE’VE GOT THINGS COVERED

Last month, we mentioned that we were starting something called Project Compassion. Our kickoff event was a diaper drive for St. Joseph-St. Vincent’s Home. St. Vincent Home in the Tacony section of Philadelphia had been an orphanage for many years and now serves as a resource center and living spaces for young, single women who are pregnant or have recently had a baby. We collected diapers and baby wipes to give to these young mom’s who made the courageous choice to give their babies a chance at life. We wanted to do this as a co-worker project, but did invite our neighbors in our building. Our Sisters and Associates heard about it, and wanted to help with the effort, too. Through everyone’s generosity we collected 56 packages of baby wipes, and 3,968 baby diapers! (Approximately 48 packages). We were blown away by the response!

In case you are curious, this is what that many diapers looks like!

A LOT of LITTLE BOTTOMS will be CLEAN and DRY for the next few MONTHS!

Farewell to Sister Mary Charlotte Barton

Sister Mary Charlotte Barton recently made the decision to retire after a long, landmark career in education, community leadership and most recently as Archivist and Assistant Archivist. Sisters don’t really retire, they move into another ministry and for Sister Mary Charlotte, this will be a time focused on praying for the needs of the world, and her special Grey Nun friends and Associates, with hopefully some fun and relaxing thrown in for good balance! We will miss your presence in our offices, your infectious chuckle, and twinkling eyes, as well as your wisdom and unmatched Institutional memory. God Speed!
GNSHappenings...

ANNUAL RETREAT INFORMATION:
Retreat Schedules are coming into the main office. Sr. Ceil or Mary Elizabeth may be able to assist you if you need further information. Most of these places have weekend and 6-8 day retreats. Opportunities may be found on websites:
- Cranaleith Spiritual Center, Philadelphia: www.cranaleith.org or call: 215-934-6206 (limited overnight accommodations)
- Franciscan Spiritual Center, Aston, PA: www.fscaston.org or call: 610-558-5377
- Mother Boniface Spirituality Center, Philadelphia: www.msbt.org or call: 267-350-1830
- San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, New Jersey: www.sanalfonsoretreats.org or call: 732-222-2731
- St. Mary by-the-Sea, Cape May, NJ: www.stmary@ssjphila.org or call: 609-884-8708 (not able to accommodate people with wheelchairs or walkers)
- St. Raphaela Center, Haverford, PA: www.straphaelacenter.org or call: 610-642-5715 (no elevator, limited first floor rooms)
- Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, Mt. Pocono, PA: www.villaourlady.com or call: 570-839-1027
- The Jesuit Center, Wernersville, PA: www.jesuitcenter.org or call: 610-678-8085

Eco-Spirituality Weekend
The Retreat will take place in Clark's Summit, PA on June 22 to 24. This year’s retreat will be the 20th annual effort to learn, pray, discuss and plan actions on behalf of our environment. The retreat is open to all. For more information, please contact Sheila Stone.

Project Compassion
We have more “You’ve Been Caught” cards available and hope you have found opportunities to distribute them in your daily comings and goings. If you were wondering how they’d be received, Sister Anne Boyer relayed the following story:
I gave a “you were caught…” card to one of my transport girls (high school)….Lisa was so pleased with it that next time I saw her, she showed me that she had put it on her phone. She said, “I really like this.”

Buffalo
Sister Barbara Harrington, in conjunction with her ministry at the local parish is participating in the preparation process for V Encuentro, a national consultation of the Bishops with Catholic Hispanics. Locally in Buffalo there was a Parish Encuentro. Next month, the Diocesan level, then regional (all of New York State) and, finally the National Encuentro. Please keep these discussions in your prayers as Dioceses and Archdioceses progress through the listening and gathering process.

Sister Ellie Martinez will offer an afternoon program, 12 Steps for Everyone: How and Why They Work in Everyday Life on March 3 from 12:30 to 3:30 at Sacred Heart Center. The program is designed to be a positive approach to full and healthy living.

Young At Heart
at D’YOUVILLE
A day of reflection and prayer presented by the Grey Nuns of Sacred Heart and Friends will take place on March 24, from 9 am to 3:30 pm. To register or for more information, please contact Arlene. All are welcome!

North to Alaska!
While others head South to escape the cold, Sisters Diane Bardol and Ceil Cosgrove took a short jaunt to Kodiak, AK from Feb. 16-24. During their time, Sister Diane, virtually a native, showed Sister Ceil, the newbie, the highlights of this amazing area. In addition to some sightseeing and fun, they also gave a retreat for St. Mary’s Parish, met the students including a tour of their school, participated in a showing and discussion of Cracking the Codes, and presented to the medical staff and others at Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center on the mission and history of the GNSH in Kodiak and our connection to the charism of St. Marguerite. Sounds like they may need a vacation from their vacation! Thank you Sisters for keeping our connections to Kodiak alive and growing!
A huge thank you to everyone who responded to the request to write to students attending the “Give Your Heart Away Weekend” in North Carolina. The letters were displayed for the students and campus ministers to read. They were a huge hit and the kids were obviously touched and grateful for your notes and prayers for the weekend. *(This was one of the efforts we undertook as part of Project Compassion. The results of two other projects can be found on page 2 under GNSHappenings.)*

Sixty students attended the Give Your Heart Away weekend of Service and Retreat. Maryellen Glackin accompanied a group of 4 who served at Purple Ribbon Thrift Store. Purple Ribbon was begun by a woman who escaped a domestic violence situation when only to discover that she was pregnant. She was so grateful to the program that allowed her to stay through her pregnancy, that she decided to open the thrift store as a way to give back. The staff members and volunteers are all survivors of domestic violence. Despite the tedious work of sorting and hanging clothing donations, the students who spent their service day at Purple Ribbon were deeply moved by the experience. Pictures from the weekend will be available on our Flickr page.

Prior to the Weekend, Maryellen and Sister Pat Pepitone, RSM were able to visit 2 campus ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte, UNC Charlotte and Davidson. We enjoyed a home cooked meal with the students and had an opportunity to talk about religious life in general and our particular Congregations. The students asked some very good questions and seemed glad for the opportunity to hear about the unique call to religious life for both women and men.

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**Thank You Note**

Dear Sisters and Eileen (Dickerson),

My deep thanks to you all for the Novena of Monthly Masses, prayers and good works of all the sisters for my brother, Bill Rich. He was a GNSH student for eight years at Christ the King and as I, was instilled with the gifts of the Church and passed them along to his four children and grandchildren. He was a good man, always honest and giving to the core and a caring and loving ‘little brother’ to me– We will certainly miss him but grateful he is now at peace.

My thanks and love to all,

Mary Ellen Howley
Atlanta, GA

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**MONTHLY QUOTE**

*A good Catholic meddles in politics.*

Pope Francis, 2013

Sister Simone Campbell, above, is a Sister of Social Service. As Executive Director of Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice she is a leading voice for compassionate legislation in Washington.
March Reflection

Prayer for:

Gracious and all-loving God, we thank you that You call us to be one with You and to be, in every way of life, doers of Your Word and not hearers only. In this National Catholic Sisters Week, we celebrate women religious who consecrate their lives in poverty, celibacy and obedience. We thank you for their character, courage and commitment to live in solidarity with those who live in poverty and suffer violence in everyday living. Your love and grace inspire them. Their joy and total generosity inspire us. Together they form a “global sisterhood” whose network of prayer and ministry call all of us to broader and deeper understanding and communal responsibility for the common good of our Earth community.

May their powerful stories ignite the hearts of girls and women today to answer your call to live a life dedicated to the common good through living in community and sharing ministry. May religious life abound in vitality so that the boundless power of your love and care will be known more and more throughout our world. In every way of living we are all called to be poor in spirit, faithful in heart, and obedient to Your Love. Strengthen in each of us a deeper commitment to our own calling, that all may be one with each other and with You. We ask this in Jesus’ name and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

National Catholic Sisters Week is celebrated March 8-14.

Scheduled Executions for March 2018
15: Michael Eggers, AL
15: Carlton Gary, GA
20: Russell Bucklew, MO
27: Rosendo Rodriguez, TX

Death Penalty Information
National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty
“All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to fight not only for the abolition of the death penalty, whether legal or illegal, and in all its forms, but also in order to improve prison conditions, with respect for the human dignity of the people deprived of their freedom” - Pope Francis #Pledge4Mercy

Catholic Mobilizing Network wants YOU to take action and ask for clemency for those scheduled to die by the death penalty. They have recently updated their website with more opportunities for advocacy. Be sure to take a look! Current Death Penalty information is also available HERE.

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Creating a Compassionate World

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CALENDAR

March
3  Congregational Day in Philadelphia
    Buffalo: 12 Steps for Everyone
8-14 National Catholic Sisters Week
10  Congregational Day in Buffalo
17  St. Patrick’s Day
20,21,22  Leadership Meetings
24  Young at Heart, D’Youville College

FUTURE DATES

April
1  Easter Sunday
8-13 GNSH Chapter 2018
20  Leadership Meeting
28  GNSH Jubilee 2018

June
8  Feast of the Sacred Heart Celebration
22-24 20th Eco-spirituality Weekend

July 1: Installation of New GNSH Leaders