

Dynamic Movement of the Spirit

Celebrate and nurture our deepening relationships with our friends and associates

— Provincial Mandate 2008

Special points of interest:

- Share a reflection on a passage of St. Paul (see pg. 3). Do you have News? Do you have suggestions for future Newsletters? Do you have feedback for us about this Newsletter? Contact:

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Celebrating Our Charism

Chapter Assembly July 2-11, 2008

Amid the challenging work, much rejoicing, laughter, prayer and stories filled the air!

Canada/USA Province met for the Chapter Assembly in Caledon, Ontario. Sr. Darlene DaMong of the General Council in Rome attended. Joining twenty-nine Sisters were five friends and associates: Kay Walkup, mission co-ordinator and Stephanie Pino-



Dressman, campus minister of the Sion Kansas City School; Barbra Goetz, teacher from Sion École Billingue School in Montreal; Rev. Kathleen Rusnak, member of Sion's Relation and Encounter Committee and Rev. Murray Wat-

son, long time Sion collaborator.

The overall theme of the Chapter was Sion Charism. The various areas across the Province brought decorated boxes signifying their story about the Charism. They were presented at the opening liturgy amid our friends and the stories were celebrated throughout the meeting.

During the Assembly a new three year mandate was developed. Each area wrote a project of life related to the mandate. Re-configuration of the eight provinces to three regions was discussed with a report sent to Rome. A new leadership team



was elected: Mary Babic and Jackie Chenard who will choose two or three consultors to join them from a list approved by the Assembly and those will to be involved in major decision making.

An associate, Kay Walkup's commented: "What a wonderful sense of community! It was great to connect with so many fine women on a deeper level".



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Chapter Mandate 2008-2011

Anchored to God's Heart and bursting with passion for our Charism, we commit ourselves to:

- Strengthen our local areas and faithfully live out our projects of life
- Celebrate and nurture our deepening relationships with our friends and associates
- Honour and support one another in the process of discernment affirmed at this Chapter

Come Daughter of Sion

Celebration of Audrey Doetzel's 50th Anniversary of Profession

"Come Daughter of Sion, Sing and Shout for Joy" was sung by the composer, Sr. Darlene DaMong as Audrey celebrated 50 years of commitment. Family, friends, and all the Sisters at Chapter celebrated at the Eucharistic Liturgy officiated by Father Murray Watson on July 8. Audrey gave the homily speaking of her life's journey with great transparency and emotion. It expressed what was sung in one of the hymns: "I am what I bring from yesterday. I am who I



am today. I am who I am for all the days to come". The choir and musicians helped give a full expression of joy. A great exchange followed with a grand reception.

Associates : A Vital Part of Sion

An International Team for Associates and Friends of Sion

A new international team was recently named and their first meeting was April 18-19 in Jerusalem. The General Leadership Team expressed their gratitude for those persons with whom we journey and who share and live "the charism of the Sisters of Sion in its threefold commitment to the Church, to the Jewish people and to a world of justice, peace and love".

The international team comprise Sisters May Babic, Flor Quesada, Ivete Holthman and Teresa Brittain. Two associates will join the team within the year.

The fourfold task already begun:

To research, report and suggest ways of consolidating the richness that already exists

To enable the various expressions with persons, groups and institutions to be further developed

To develop a plan of formation on the level of the Congregation, which could be adapted to the reality of each province as needed

To encourage provinces to develop, according to their realities, groups of associates.



Friends and Associates at the Chapter

I want you all to have Hearts Bigger Than The Whole World

Kansas City Sion College Grads Volunteer Here and Abroad



In Sion and high school in Kansas City, students are required to do

service hours volunteering in the city and elsewhere, such as cleanup for the Katrina disaster. Many students continue on during and after College in programs like the Jesuit Volunteer Corps which requires them to live simply and to work in social justice.

Sue Koehler, working at Innocence Project New Orleans, a non profit law firm who get wrongfully convicted out of prison, says that it was a transformative experience. "It taught me to love at a deeper level by allowing me to be the face of God to those society teaches us to fear. I go forward now to work in solidarity with the poor and marginalized."

"I was challenged to learn a lot about my character and different outlooks," says Sarah Reintjes. She spent a year at Perry School Community in the heart of Washington D.C. teaching in an after school program



and coaching soccer and basketball.

Returning from a clinical experience in the mountains of the Dominican Republic, Cara

Theodore Ratisbonne. Founder

Walkup lived with a family and worked in an International Christian Ignatian-inspired collaborative health and education program.

Mark Munninghoff, a graduate of Sion Locust School in 1999, volunteered for a year coordinating volunteer services and donations at Lakeview Food Pantry in Chicago. He was deeply involved in food distribution, home delivery to the sick and the elderly. He lived on \$80. A month.

The list of volunteering for a year spans many but here are a few: teaching in Tanzania (Jessie Bullock), doing an internship in a crowded government hospital that lacks many resources in Mexico (Katie McNany), working on a project to prevent women being sold into slavery (Elyse Rohrer), starting a free sports clinic, Athletes United, for 100 low income children using Dartmouth's facilities. (Becky Poskin)

Sojourn in the Land of the Bible

“And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem”

Center for Biblical Learning, sponsored by the Sisters of Zion, is situated in the heart of the Old City, Jerusalem - Ecce Homo on via Dolorosa. The program enables the participants to explore in a new and deeper way the critical and familiar quotation:

“ But YOU...
Who do you say that I am?
“ Matt. 16:15



Emphasis is placed on Biblical study, excursions, deeper understanding of

Jesus, Jewish roots of Christianity, Christian roots in Jewish tradition, familiarization with the land and people of today.

Four Month Program: January 27 – May14, 2009 (Easter break)

One Month Program – June 3 -30, 2009 – Rediscover Jesus in the Land of with Luke

25 Day Program – September 7 – October 1, 2009 – In the Footsteps of Jesus

For more information:
www.biblicalformation.com

A Catalyst for an Awakening And Exploration of One's Faith

For the past 25 years, Marge Zdunich has taught thousands of teachers in Religious Education to meet requirements in Ontario. There are four strands of formation: Scripture, sacraments, ethics and faith formation. Over the years, Marge has been course director in all four sections.



More recently, she has chosen Scripture primarily. This past summer, she focused on Wisdom Literature and the Gospel of John. Rabbi Michael Dolgin was invited to present the Jewish reading and interpretation of major themes in the three books attributed to Solomon. This opened the door for teachers to see a new way of learning.

Many of these teachers are young Catholics and Marge hopes that these studies could be an awakening and exploration of their own faith questions and spiritual development.

Trips to the Holy Land

Sponsored by the Catholic Biblical Program of Canada (CBPC) led by Sr. Jocelyn Monette, Director of CBPC:

2009 Pilgrimages to the Holy Land (10 days)

- February 15 – 24
- April 20 – 29

Contact Jocelyn: 416 406-4398 or email:jocmon@sympatico.ca

Website: www.cbpc.org

Opportunities to Volunteer at Sion—Check out:

Ecce Homo in the Old City, Jerusalem – www.eccehomoconvent.com

Sr. Rita Kammermeyer – ritakammermeyer@netscape.net

Evry, Grandbourg, France – Sr. Marie Lise – miadou@wanadoo.fr

A Labyrinth of Peace at Former Sion School in Moose Jaw

Sisters Juliana Heisler and Kay MacDonald attended the inauguration of the [Labyrinth of Peace](http://www.labyrinthofpeace.ca/) at Vanier High School (formerly Sion) in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. It is created inside the old Convent garden entrance creating a park with the old trees. As one prayerfully goes along the circular path, it can become a Journey in Hope, in Peace. It is open to the public (24 hours) and is consciously ecumenical and/or multi-faith following the inspiration of Sion's school and mission. There is a CD text and music which can be loaned out at various stores to be used on the journey. This labyrinth is becoming a place

Jubilee Year Dedicated to St. Paul



The year 2008-09 has been designated as a Holy Year dedicated to St. Paul. Pope Benedict proclaimed the Pauline Holy Year on the eve of the Feast of St. Paul's Feast shared with St. Peter on June 29, 2008. St. Paul was the great missionary to the Gentiles.

SHARE A REFLECTION on a Passage from Paul's letters:

Choose a passage and share your reflection in 100 words or less and email it to Sr. Kay MacDonald - macdonald-kay@shaw.com or mail it to her at: #114 – 3104 Louise Place, Saskatoon, SK S7J 5J8. Please give your name and address. Selections will be made and posted in the newsletters and WEB during the year.

of interest in the city. The blessing was done by the Bishop. As special honored guests, Juliana and Kay helped to cut the ribbon.

Sister Kay remarked that this is a wonderful example of the continuation of Sion's charism carried forward by the laity as we see today in our present and former schools.

<http://www.labyrinthofpeace.ca/>

A Reunion of Three Who Entered Together in 1951

Rosaleen Zdunich (Edmonton), Juliana Heisler (Saskatoon) and Stephanie Schmidts (Chicago) spent an afternoon and dinner after being separated as a group for nearly 55 years. There was much sharing of ministries: Jules, years in

education and now a parish administrator in Saskatoon, Rosaleen, foundress of the Interfaith Center in Edmonton and Stephanie, an educator in Kansas City and now director of an inner city tutor mentor program in Chicago. There was

much laughter and enjoyment that July day especially about the Novitiate years.



Distance Learning Masters Program in Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv

A brief history: After 50 years of suppression of the Church in Ukraine, it is flourishing again.

The largest of the Eastern Rite Churches, the Ukrainian Catholic Church has five million members but only one institution of learning.

Originally the Catholic University was founded in 1928 but was closed by the Soviets in



1944. Nevertheless, Catholics worshiped underground and a Church in exile was in Rome.

After the fall of Communism, the Ukrainian Catholic University was re-founded in 1994 in Lviv. In 2002 it was inaugurated as the first Catholic University in the territory of the former Soviet Union.

It has educated 1500 students, plus 300 in summer.

www.ucu.edu.ua.

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies (IES) was created in 2004 and dedicated to Christian unity. The long distance Masters' Program involves partnerships with an international ecumenical community of teachers and learners. It involves 18 noted ecumenists from US and Europe.

Visit www.iesdistance.org.ua for more information.

Book Corner

The Book of Negroes by Lawrence Hill, a Canadian author, tells the life story of an 11 year old African girl taken in slavery. Eventually the British kept a book of those slaves who helped them for a year during the American Revolution and thus they earned their freedom, 3000 went to Nova Scotia and other Canadian places as well.

The Bookseller of Kabul by Anne Seierstad is an intimate glimpse of a traditional Afghan family both at the time of the Taliban and after. Interwoven is a portrait of the women's status in Afghanistan.

A Crime So Monstrous by E. Benjamin Skinner. Skinner infiltrated trafficking networks

and slave trade: child slavery in Haiti, sex trafficking in Romania, debt bondage in India and forced servitude in North America. It is a sobering political Tale (America Magazine—August 18, 2008)



My Charism Story (Ellen Mooney)

Greetings from Central America! Thanks for the opportunity to contribute my story. Here, in all sincerity, is my "Confession" fashioned after the model of St. Augustine's great testimony to the work of God in his life, a "confession" in one of its two spiritual meanings, that is, "to praise and glorify God in an exercise in self knowledge and true humility in the atmosphere of grace and reconciliation."

There have been, at least, two providential invitations in my life: the first, my formation at Sion where I lived for 19 years; and the second invitation, to live and work in Central America for 24 years. This latter came about not long after my Mom's death on January 20, 1984. (Some time before that, our family discovered the truth of my mom's ancestry, i.e. that she had been born in Brooklyn, N.Y. of Jewish parents, a secret she had kept from us for many years.) So, in the plan of God, Sion and its mission to the people of God...and that call for me to go to a poor third world country, came together.

In this "confession", these are the highlights as they relate to Sion. Arriving in Nicaragua in 1984, my reconnection with Sion came through Sr. Bertalina, with whom I had lived in community in Moose Jaw Sion. One Sunday at Mass in a Nica Church, I turned around for the greeting of peace, and there she was! This reconnection with Sion was also strengthened through friendship with Sr. Ana Maria Murcia. With her, I was able to become involved in

Barrio work. Again, it was through two Sions, Sr. Ana Maria and Sr. Hilda, that in 1986, I legally adopted two orphaned Nicaraguan children, ages 10 and 12. They have been indescribable "regales de Dios" (gifts of God) and still are the warp and woof of my life, now both married and parents.

From 1984-1993, I taught English at the American Nicaraguan International School and became involved in sensitizing many of my students to social justice issues and a project to help the barrio poor. (It darn near got me fired, too, but God saved me from such a fate!) Each Friday, after classes, my students and I went to Rene Cisneros, and El Recreo to tutor poor children in reading and math. It was a life-changing experience for many of the ANS students, the majority of whom lived in the wealthy enclaves of Managua. Without Sion, I would not have had that barrio connection.

Sometime before 1993, I decided to bring Juana (19) and Antonio (17) to Canada to learn English and acquire a job skill. Well, "the best laid plans of mice and men etc." Juana decided to stay in Nicaragua. She was in love. It was impossible to help her to see that, to a very real extent, her future was at stake. So, without her, Antonio and I flew to Saskatoon, where Antonio learned English and where Sr.

Beth was so good to us. Then because I could not find work, we moved to Calgary and with Theresa Murphy's help, I subbed in the Catholic Schools while Antonio finished H.S. and worked at Walmart!!

In 2000, Antonio and I drove from Calgary, Alberta to Nicaragua, a journey of faith, for sure. Those are some of the nuts and bolts of the workings of God's providence for us.

In 2002, I was hired by Ave Maria University here in San Marcos, where for three years, I taught English and Communications. Juana's relationship had broken down, and so I offered her work as my secretary, but my job, and hers, too, came to a sudden and dramatic end after a whistleblower crisis involving U finances. A number of injustices occurred. At the moment, I supplement my Canadian pension with editing for the University. But it is a constant struggle. Still we are fortunate, for exam-

ple, my small church community in Calgary has just given Antonio a two-year scholarship to study Computer maintenance so that he can become Nica certified. Antonio and Juana (now married) are job searching, an uphill battle, because while there is lots of work, low salaries are the great institutional sin of the society.

Minimum wage in most sectors: \$100.00 per mo. (Forgot to tell you that Antonio got married a year after our return.)

The question: how does anyone survive, not just physically, but

spiritually, under such conditions? A great help for many is the proclamation of the Latino bishops concerning "God's preferential option for the poor" encompassing not only the unjustly deprived of this earth but also those who come to their assistance. It is an incomparable grace to live among people of faith and to witness how they love and look after one another against great odds. Yes, "sin abounds, but grace is present in even more abundance." And I owe Sion many thanks for its emphasis on the importance of a prayer life. Opportunities for God's work are endless e.g. I am in the process of preparing Antonio's son, Marcos (6) for his first confession and communion ...in Spanish!

Notwithstanding Sion's gifts to me, and since this is a "confession," in the Augustinian tradition, I continually ask my Father's pardon for the great sin of my life which was not trusting Him enough when I was at Sion, and where so many things seemed to go so wrong for me. But God, in Jesus, raises us up each day from death to life. I pray to those blessed Sionians (Noreen, Winifred, Gertrudine etc.) who lived lives of such fidelity and dedicated love, and I deeply admire those still at Sion.

