

Mission

Volume 19 Number 3

October 10, 2007

A Publication of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield

Sisters celebrate golden, silver jubilees

Celebrating Golden Jubilees

Sister M. Joyce Culverwell
Sister Bette Gould
Sister Maureen Kervick
Sister Mary McGeer
Sister Mary Petisce
Sister Patricia Quinlan
Sister Mary M. Shea



Golden Jubilarians Sisters Mary M. Shea, Bette Gould, and Mary McGeer (seated) Maureen Kervick, Joyce Culverwell, Mary Petisce and Patricia Quinlan (standing).



Silver Jubilarians Sisters Mary Kate Birge, Carol Allan and Jeanne Branchaud

Celebrating Silver Jubilees

Sister Carol Allan
Sister Mary Kate Birge
Sister Jeanne Branchaud

Construction begins for senior residence

The official groundbreaking for Mont Marie Senior Residence took place, August 14. It progresses daily with new sights and sounds. Pictures are the best way to share this experience with readers.

One of the large meeting rooms, below.

In front of the building which will become the parking lot and main entrance, right.



Photos Jim Willemain
Wendy Hammerle
Ann Lynch, ssj



A scene from the third floor, right.



The official groundbreaking with Sisters Denise Granger and Mary Quinn at the far right.

HOPE applauds years of service in Gardner

Wendy Hammerle

Two Sisters of St. Joseph were recognized recently for their 40 years of community service in the Gardner area. Sr. Helen Shine and Sr. Nancy Welsh both received the Lucia Service Award given by the

House of Peace and Education known locally as HOPE House.



Sr. Helen's 38 years of service included several as Principal of Sacred

Hope House Founders are Sisters Helen Shine, (seated) Mary Frances Honnen, Maxyne Schneider and Nancy Welsh.

In Memoriam

Please remember the following in prayer:

- Sr. Mary Benedicta Cernauskas
- Sr. Elizabeth McKeown
- Donna Dwyer, Associate
- Marie Murphy, sister-in-law of Sr. Mary Ellen Murphy
- Jean Wilk, sister-in-law of Sr. Linda Wilk
- Mary Allan, mother of Sr. Carol Allan
- Edward Landry, father of Associate Linda Landry
- Larry Jette, nephew of Sr. Irene Magnant
- Eileen Reilly Lavelle, sister-in-law of Sr. Mary Lavelle

Heart School in Gardner, proprietor of Main Street's former St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop and prayer leader.

Sr. Nancy spent many of her 39 years of service teaching at Sacred Heart School, serving as pastoral minister at Sacred Heart and Holy Spirit parishes, and working on the staff of HOPE House. The two helped found HOPE in 1996 along with Sr. Mary Honnen, Sr. Maxyne Schneider and the late Sr. Mary Christopher Power who was on the Leadership Team at the time.

HOPE staff and volunteers provide programs of education, support, and job-skill training for women and children in the Greater Gardner area. For more information about the program go to www.hopegardner.org

Letter -- Letter -- Letter

Dear Sisters and Associates,

My family and I would like to thank you for the many cards, prayers, and donations made in my father's name. We know we were blessed to have him for 90 years. He was still golfing and bowling up to three years ago. We were all also gifted with having our own time to spend with him before he died. (Those of you who knew the family know we are many!)

Thank you again and God Bless.

Linda Landry, Associate

Mission is published monthly by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield as a source of communication within the Congregation. Readers are encouraged to submit articles which should be typed and sent to Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA 01040. E-mail acl@ssjspringfield.com

Ann Lynch, SSJ, editor

Communications Committee: *Sisters Angela Deady, Mary E. Harvey, Mary Lou Lacey, Ann Lynch, Elizabeth Matuszek, Paula Misitano, Patricia James Sweeney and Jeanne O'Shea.*

Weston features new products in Marketplace

Mary Lou Lacey, ssj

Building on its history of creative expansion, Weston Center for Women opened an on-site store, the Creative Works Gallery and Marketplace, on September 4, in one of the rooms on the first floor of Jubilee House at Mont Marie.

Open to the public, the Gallery will feature many items such as cutting boards, cheese boards, mugs, mouse pads, coast-



Sisters Eleanor Spring and Shirley Campbell look over the merchandise. Photos by Ann Lynch, ssj

Group provides resources

The Life Planning Committee would like to thank you for your responses to our recent survey. We received about 130 responses. After studying the responses we did not have an overwhelming interest in any one or two of the topics. For this reason the committee has decided that it would not have a special Life Planning Day in the spring of 2008.

In an effort to continue our Life Planning support we will work on putting a resource list together that addresses the three most popular interest areas that came from the surveys. We will publish this on First Class in the fall.

In the meantime we will focus our efforts by contributing to our celebration of our 125th anniversary of our presence as the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Diocese of Springfield.

ers, and plaques. Customers may choose from an array of artistic digital images or may submit their own photographs to personalize items. Weston's popular line of screen-printed aprons, tote bags, gym uniforms and shirts, including best-selling Irish shirts, will continue to be available.

To celebrate the opening of the Gallery, the 2007 special edition of Irish sweatshirts will be available at a 50 per cent discount until October 1, and \$5.00 will be deducted from all other crew sweatshirts.

Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call Weston at 533-3022.

Fifteen years ago when Weston Center for Women was founded by SSJs Shirley Campbell and Eleanor Spring, Jubilee House became a haven to women recovering from drug or alcohol abuse. These women come to Weston each day to create a new future through rehabilitation services and the healing process of work.

All are invited to visit the Gallery and see Weston's expanded line of shirts, bags, and aprons, as well as creative new gift items. In addition, keep Weston in mind for holiday shopping as special products and sales will be announced.



Archives preserve records, bring history to life

Angela Deady, ssj

Once upon a time....,"that very familiar opening line to so many stories, could be completed in so many ways by Sister Kathleen Kirley, Archivist of the Congregation.

"Once upon a time in 1875....once upon a time in Rutland, Vermont, once upon a time in a little French village... once upon a time in Fall River... Holyoke...Black Tickle... Springfield... Kenya...once upon a time in the mind of God."

The Archive Center of the community is located on the lower floor of Mont Marie. Countless hours could be spent in that quiet location reading about the long ago history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the founding of the Vermont community, the Fall River Community and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield.

The organization of the material is similar to the organization of any library material. Information is cataloged, indexed and "finding aids" are available to help in the research of the many questions that are routinely asked of Sister Kathleen. The "finding aids" cover a variety of topics to help minimize the task of research. Some of those topics are: government, spirituality, personnel, education, ministries, formation, retirement, chapters.

In addition to material concerning the historical foundation of the community, another section of the Archive Center contains audio/visual material of congregational meetings, chapters, community gatherings. Still another section is devoted to photographs. Photos are

also cataloged and indexed according to year, location, special occasions.

Of course, there is an area which contains biographical information on all deceased sisters and associates. This section contains each member's family history, assignments, ministries, awards and other information.

Sister Kathleen gives all the credit for the good order of the community's archival material to her predecessors: Sisters Helen Maria, Rita Morey and Mary Lavelle, who continues to volunteer in the Archives. Sister Kathleen is also very grateful for the daily assistance of Sisters Annette Chagnon and Jeanne O'Shea. Sister Annette files and catalogs all audio/visual material and Sister Jeanne does the time consuming work of indexing all publications of *Mission*, the community newspaper.

It is a great privilege and certainly a great responsibility to be the archivist of a community, to be the "Keeper of the Story." And Sister Kathleen fulfills that role, that ministry, with grace and quiet dedication.

"Once upon a time" is the beginning of so many unending stories . Once upon a time on a holy hill....



Residents of Mont Marie Health Care Center enjoy at treat in celebration of the new awnings on the patio. **Photo by Ann Lynch, ssj**

SSJ reads books for sight-impaired

Mary Lou Lacey, ssj

Valley Radio Reading Service (VRRS) is a free, nonprofit radio broadcasting service for people who are blind and print-impaired. It broadcasts 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year.

How can an organization do this? With the help of over 100 volunteers, among them Marilyn Logan, ssj.

Since 2001, on Wednesday mornings Marilyn has traveled to VRRS Radio Studio on Federal Street, Springfield to read live for two hours. She and teammate Kay Life alternate reading local or suburban articles from the *Springfield Republican*, beginning with the weather, lottery numbers, sports scores and standings, and most of the local news on page one. They continue with the first two sections. It is up to the readers to choose what they will read.

"Our listeners are mostly older people who are blind or legally blind," Marilyn notes, "but we want something for everyone, so we choose a variety of stories, including letters to the editor and at least one op-ed piece. We read from most of the Plus sections for Hampden County, and also include Northampton and Amherst."

The second hour begins with obituaries. Marilyn and Kay edit and prepare these at home to be sure of covering the many notices, and each reads half of them. They also select national news stories, and, of course include Dear Abby, Horoscopes, and Today in History.

In prepared background material, Director Kevin Durocher notes that VRRS includes material, live or recorded, from such sources as the *West Springfield Record*, *Reminder Publications*, *The Journal Register* and *The Valley Advocate*. "In addi-

tion, we are producing more and more thematic programs," Mr. Durocher points out. These programs, comprised of material from several publications, include Health News, Disability News, Senior News, Westfield News, Weekend, and Agawam News, each on a different day at a regular time."

The local office is an affiliate of the award-winning Massachusetts Reading Network. The Flagship Service is in Marshfield and provides programming to all six affiliates. Forty-five hours per week of programming is produced in the Springfield studio. Mr. Durocher says, "We exist so our many family members, neighbors and friends who are blind and print-impaired are able to stay in touch with the community."

It seems evident that volunteers play a crucial role in this service. Many have worked for 25 years.

At a time when Marilyn was looking for suitable volunteer work, she came across a copy of *Tracings*, a periodical published by the Sisters of Providence. There she read about a sister volunteering with VRRS and felt that she had found an answer to her search.

"Volunteers are needed and welcomed," Marilyn notes. "Not all read live," she explains. "Many record books and items to be aired at another time. Some do computer work, and many help organize an annual book sale in East Longmeadow in May.

"For me," she says, "on a personal level, I think it's another way of helping people who need specific service. I feel good that even in retirement years I can offer a ministry to others. And it's fun!"

Ministries of Associates reflect SSJ goals,

Sr. Barbara Faille

God said to Noah. .. "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you..." How often we have read these familiar words that signify something wonderful had happened between them. God became a part of Noah's life and mission and Noah, for his part, proclaimed the bond that would unite them. Noah seemed very clear with the concept of a covenant, a spoken word invested with the power of a bond which transcended any legal contract.

In our own time the announcement of an SSJ Associate's covenant is duly published and, in time, celebrated. Yet, it is difficult to appreciate fully how deeply committed each Associate is unless we experience the ministry and life of these special women and men. On Mission Day all who heard Associate **Eileen Kirk** articulate her lived experiences and her pilgrimage to LePuy came to a deep appreciation of her covenant, her bond with community and with her God. Later in the day, **Marissa Brown** spoke her covenant through her music and, once again, all delighted in another of her gifts as an Associate.

Unlike the three canonical vows of the Sisters, each Associate's covenant identifies the gifts and the bond each individual Associate makes with God in light of the charism of the community. Each covenant of all our Associates invites us to a deeper reflection which leads to a greater appreciation.

God said to Noah, "This is a sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you.. .I will set a [rain]bow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." What a wonderful rainbow of gifts

the community of the Sisters of Saint Joseph share with each and all of its 86 Associates. The Berkshires is an area enriched by such shared gifts. Surely, these twelve women and men are a constant source of spiritual and ministerial energy for their parishes and their civic communities but they also bring the charism of the "great love of God which unites neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God" to everyone they meet and to whom they minister.

Associate **Shirley Tremblay**, an active member of Sacred Heart Parish, devotes her days to many hidden acts of kindness among her neighbors. Her ministry as a board member and volunteer for the Christian Center engages her in service to the poor who come to the Center for food, clothing and education. Shirley spoke in her covenant, "my covenant with the Sisters of Saint Joseph will enable me to continue with greater strength on the path of God's call, focusing on working with others, assisting them in their needs, providing a political force where needed to improve social situations and sharing God's great love daily." Her advocacy for the needy children of the Pittsfield community includes hours of devoted service.

Alma Schilling who devotes herself to caring for adults who are mentally and physically dependent spoke her covenant which concluded "I will incorporate the spirit of the charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph into my entire life, helping the 'dear neighbor' as the Holy Spirit leads me." As a parishioner of St. Charles Parish, Alma arranges her very few leisure hours around the choir practices and liturgy of her parish and delights in using her voice as an instrument of praise and prayer.

Eileen O'Grady, a long-time SSJ Associate from North Adams, shares com-

show diverse applications of our charism

munity with Sr. Eunice Tassone and also shares in the ministry of the COTY mission to youth. Eileen's desire is "to seek association with a community that has a clear sense of mission, that directs its energy and resources to something greater than itself." Her presence as a parishioner of St. Anthony/St. Francis parishes brings a farther presence of the Sisters of St. Joseph to an area long served by the SSJ community.

Grasping the simplicity yet the depth of Mother St John's admonition to her Sisters, **Nancy Prezenik** said, "I have come to know the meaning of 'the more...'" and, certainly, Nancy, a parishioner of Holy Family Parish, portrays that. She ministers in her parish as Eucharistic Minister, a lector and volunteer in the office each week, as a festival chairwoman and project coordinator, while also participating in hours of devoted time of Eucharistic Adoration and in area prayer groups.

One of the newest Associates, **Jim Murphy**, also a Sacred Heart parishioner, wrote, "I desire to live out the charism of the Congregation by my prayerful living, my constant learning and my every-day being as an extension of Christ to others through my works of mercy." Jim prayerfully brings the Eucharist to shut-ins in the Berkshires during the summer and, also, continues his ministry in Florida during the winter months. A student of Church history, Jim centers his day on the works of mercy and the richness of the Church as it touches his daily life.

The needs of spiritual care as well as health care are the focus of two North Adams SSJ Associates, **Linda Landry** and **Mary Baillargeon** of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Caring for elderly and infirm parents followed many years of teaching at St.

Agnes School in Dalton for **Linda**. Dedicated to the daily needs of her parents while fulfilling the demands of teaching, Linda, nevertheless, wished to deepen her own spirituality. Through her covenant Linda renewed her deep desire to be one with her God as she stated, "It is important to my own spiritual growth to be affiliated with women who share similar ideals and goals."

Mary Baillargeon lives in North Adams, but for ten years she ministered to the infirm at the Mont Marie Health Care Center. Now, at the North Adams Hospital she ministers as a certified nursing assistant, bringing her caring skills and smile to many. Mary continues to devote many hours of volunteer service to the Mont Marie Health Care patients during her vacation time. Her covenant promised, "I offer my hands for the continuation of our mission."

Tucked away in the folding hills of Cheshire, the hidden ministry of Associate **Alice Johnson** reveals itself to the elderly with whom Alice visits to bring Eucharist and caring. Often driving the infirm to appointments she leaves a tasty and nutritional treat as well as a smile when she departs. Active as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary of the Assumption, she serves her parish faithfully. Alice spoke in her covenant, "At this time in my life, I would like to walk softly, speak gently, listen intently, love spiritually and laugh joyously. By deepening my prayer life and extending my ministry to the needy I will live out my covenant."

Many Associates such as **Teresa Giardina** find themselves focused on the injustices of this world and sense their power in the written word. An advocate for the poor, Teresa wrote, "I am fired by a

Continued on page 9

Associates -- Continued from page seven

passion for the poor and for social justice. This passion resonates with the charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph." Early in life Teresa learned of the SSJ charism sharing in the religious vocation of her sister, Sister Mary Corley. Now she writes to political leaders about social injustices, campaigns for local leaders who are one with the poor. As a parishioner of Mt. Carmel Parish, Teresa takes an active role in the parish council and in other works of mercy and service.

Parenting five children never kept **Mary and Bill Moesley** from ministry in the Church or in their community of Lanesborough.

Now, as a permanent deacon, Bill devotes himself to service in St. Charles Parish, the Berkshire House of Correction, teaching RCIA and visiting the sick in hospitals and nursing homes. Bill wrote, "Through my association with the Sisters of Saint Joseph, I am more aware of how important my ministry as a deacon is. Like the SSJs, I wish to be of service to others."

Mary Moesley fulfills her promise, her bond with her God. She wrote, "I saw endless hours of giving in the Sisters...." Giving of herself constantly, Mary is involved in many parish ministries including bereavement, hospitality, Martha/Mary service, RCIA, religious education, jail ministry and the hospital gift shop. She wrote, "I hope to be able to be more prayerful in my everyday life and to be more of a help to my neighbor wherever they may be." To the fulfillment of her covenant she devotes countless hours of service to her church, to her community and to children.

Associate **Mary Catherine Murphy**, another parishioner of Sacred Heart

Parish, grasped the Ignatian spirituality so readily during her initial instruction having shared the vocation of her brother, James, a Jesuit priest. Her ministry as teacher and adjustment counselor to the underprivileged provided her frame of reference for her study of the Maxims, the SSJ charism and the mission of "uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God." Mary Catherine wrote, "In forming this covenant, I will, with the help of God's grace, endeavor to be accepting of God's Will for me, never afraid because God is with me." Mary Catherine has committed herself in her retirement years to a life of prayer as a daily communicant, a volunteer in parish endeavors such as the St. Vincent de Paul ministry and a faithful volunteer to the Berkshire Historical Society at Melville's home, Arrowhead.

Years ago, the Dameans, wrote a song of a loving relationship in which they sang, "a rainbow holds a promise." What better way can we perceive the presence of Associates in community, the gifts they share and the future we share with one another as Sisters and Associates of the community of the great love of God. Throughout Scripture God makes a covenant with those chosen to share a prophetic message, a heroic leadership, or a humble sacrifice for the good of "the dear neighbor."

The Sisters and Associates of St. Joseph have joined their song as one voice, vows and covenants together, with the desire to "lose ourselves in giving." Our God who created the rainbow inspired the closing line of this song, "...a rainbow promises life to you." The covenant of each Associate such as highlighted here is repeated in the minds and hearts of all who create the beauty of our rainbow of gifts shared in this "community of the great love of God."

SRI focuses on systemic change at work

Roberta Mulcahy, ssj

Recently the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), a government agency that regulates and supervises the securities industry, issued proposed rules for public comment that opens the door to eroding shareholder rights. These new rules will make it difficult for shareholders to file resolutions with corporations where we own stocks under Rule 14a-8. That Rule allows us the opportunity to raise vital issues such as human rights, climate change, and CEO pay, among others.

The Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), of which our Congregation is a member and through whom we co-file resolutions under Rule 14a-8, has asked us to call, e-mail and write to SEC to voice our concern about the roll-back of shareholder rights. In the name of our Congregation, the Socially Responsible Investing Office (SRI) has acted on this request from ICCR. Feel free to add your voice to our action.

In articulating our justice goal years ago, we committed ourselves to work for justice through systemic change in all

institutions. Our involvement in the financial institutions where we place our investments (stocks, cash or funds) gives us an opportunity to work toward systemic change by voting over 100 proxies, by co-filing with other shareholders on food, oil, human rights and other justice issues, and by responding to requests from organizations such as ICCR to make our voices heard.

The work of systemic change in the area of finance is certainly a challenge and one the SRI community welcomes as it continues to call corporations to accountability for the effect our invested money has on social, environmental and governance resolutions.

Our SSJ financial Philosophy and Policy for investing our money guides Clare Lorzatti, our CFO, our financial managers, and ourselves. Our social justice “screens” for our managers are clearly stated in the philosophy. We invite you to read our Philosophy and Policy available on First Class in our Secondary Book and send us your comments.

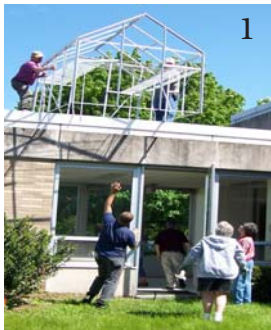
SEED recycles greenhouse

The greenhouse, given to Cathy Coyne, ssj, for her jubilee, which has been the herb courtyard at the Mont recently journeyed to St. Thomas School, West Springfield.

When Cathy moved to Newport, RI, in June she wanted to recycle the greenhouse to someone who would really use it.

A delighted Jean Schneider, ssj, came with her tools to take it apart and bring it to the ecological courtyard she has created at St. Thomas but workers at the Mont had another idea -- up and over!

How it was done and its new location are pictured here.



Polar sea ice areas cry out for preservation

Ann Lynch, ssj

The following article is excerpted from the Summer 2007 issue of Earth Island Journal. Let us ponder what is happening to our Earth.

“For many, climate change is a dire threat to the planet’s biological systems; for others, it is an exciting opportunity for increased global development. Reduced polar sea ice would allow for the opening of the Northwest Passage through the Arctic Ocean, the long-sought Holy Grail of world transport. Allowing ships to bypass the Panama Canal, an ice-free northern sea would turn the Arctic Ocean into a major marine highway and tanker route.

Proposals to open up the Arctic seas to oil drilling would also alter its nature. The US Geological Survey estimates that up to 25 percent of global oil and gas reserves may lie in the Arctic zone. Russia and Norway are currently developing their oil and gas fields in the Barents Sea. Russia is exploring the Kara Sea and has its eyes set on the Eastern Siberian Sea as well. Canada is exploring potential oil deposits at the heart of bowhead whale summer feeding sites in the Beaufort Sea’s Mackenzie Delta, and is expanding offshore development near the Arctic Islands.

These seas are one of the world’s most valuable seascapes. Rich in unique birds, fish, and marine mammals, and Arctic culture – a world that should be treasured not sacrificed...

What sets the Arctic apart is sea ice. The global importance of ice is increasingly recognized as scientists study the effects of climate change, in Arctic waters, ice functions to keep water temperatures stable, reduce storms, and keep the

planet cool by reflecting the sun’s rays. Particularly important is the sea ice edge. ...

A host of year-round and summer season birds also call the ice edge home, a place where they can gorge on plankton, fish, and sea floor prey. Some, such as the Arctic tern and shorttailed shearwater, travel thousands of miles from their breeding habitats in the Southern Hemisphere to relish the productivity of the Arctic. Making the longest known flight of any bird, the Bar-tailed godwit, a small shorebird, flies non-stop to New Zealand for winter - a 6,800-mile one-way trip.

With the sea ice melting significantly faster than predicted, scientists are now suggesting that the planet could lose the Arctic ice cap in less than 50 years. For Arctic species, changes are occurring too quickly to allow adaptation. Oil and gas exploration and development will only make matters worse...

Three hundred miles of undersea pipelines pose another risk. Ice keels, large pieces of ice that gouge the sea floor, could pummel the pipes. A pipeline leak that goes undetected for months would cause extensive pollution. Oil spills that occur in winter could not be cleaned up until the summer open water season. It is not known what the oil would do under the ice.

Oil spills are another concern. Skimming and containing oil when the sea has even a small amount of ice is impossible; oil could only be cleaned up if the seas were ice-free and calm.

Drilling the Arctic seas would be saying we do not care about this unique place, the creatures who live there and our Earth itself.

Golf Classic event offers fun, raises funds

Paula Misitano, ssj

In late August, Mont Marie Health Care Center held its Eleventh Annual Sisters of Saint Joseph Golf Classic. It proved to be a day of near perfect weather, fun and competition, friendly get-together, and a near Hole-in-One.

The Golf Classic is organized and run through the Health Care Center which benefits from the proceeds. In the past, these monies have been applied toward the purchase of much needed items for the Health Care. Some items included: a nurse call-bell system, electric beds, patio furniture, retro-fitting the elevator, and a handicapped accessible van. This year, the proceeds will be put toward a new communication system, part of a larger project fondly called the "front door project."

Each year, the net profit grows because of the support of many. The net profit this year amounted to close to \$57,000. This year, the tournament ran on August 27th at the Springfield Country Club. The morning saw 61 golfers tee off and the afternoon welcomed 135 golfing enthusiasts. In addition, many volunteers help in a variety of ways and allow the day to progress smoothly and efficiently. Major sponsors (Gold, Silver or Bronze) provide financial support while other donors contribute prizes for the raffle.

A Silent Auction was initiated three years ago and each year the proceeds have increased. Through the generosity of many, some auction items included Red Sox tickets, weekends on the Cape and in Wells, Maine, and two special gourmet dinners at Mont Marie. In addition, Hole-in-One prizes are an added

incentive for the golfers — a spa, a set of golf clubs, a Sea Ray boat, a car — could be won, while for those who prefer something in a shade of green, a \$25,000 prize is offered for the first morning and first afternoon player to accomplish a Hole-In-One. This year, one of the golfers came v-e-r-y c-l-o-s-e to winning a Sea Ray Boat. Perhaps next year!

The day is a busy one with much activity, a lot of laughter, and even some serious golfing! Competition and "just having a good time" co-exist and, at the end of the day, "wait until next year" becomes the mantra. Each year familiar faces return to try their luck and offer support. However, there is always room for new faces and new friends. Consider joining us in '08 and come be the one to get that "Hole-in-One" prize. Whatever your choice of participation, we guarantee a splendid day.

Global Warming Film

Watch for '11th Hour'

Leonardo DiCaprio has just produced a documentary on global warming. The film was created using over 150 hours of interviews with some of the brightest minds on the planet, including physicist Stephen Hawking and Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai.

Through interviews and beautiful footage of the environment, *The 11th Hour* demonstrates how human beings have created the climate crisis and related environmental crises, and shows that we have the means to solve them.

The 11th Hour is both a portrait of a planet and a source of hope and solutions.

Watch for it in a theater near you.

LCWR meeting becomes topic for Team Talk

Denise Granger, ssj

During four steamy days in August, Mary Quinn and I attended the Leadership Assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in Kansas City. Housed in the Hyatt Crown Plaza along with hundreds of other women who, like us, are privileged to serve as congregational leaders, we engaged in a schedule that offered inspiring prayer and liturgy, educational and challenging speakers and conversation with sisters from across the country - all enfolded in a generous dose of Mid-western hospitality.

I came away encouraged by the quality and depth of the presentations and invigorated by the courage I sensed in those around me to be deliberately about the mission in spite of – or is it because of? – the disheartening state of our world, country, and church.

The theme “*The Next Frontier: Religious Life at the Edge of Tomorrow*” framed our prayer and the speakers’ content. Laurie Brink, OP, gave the keynote address and the speakers included John Allen from NCR and CNN, Simone Campbell, SSS, from Network, Fran Ferder, FSPA, who works with victims of abuse, and Lynn Levo, CSJ from St. Luke’s Institute. We purchased audio compact discs of each of their presentations and a call to Pam Lasante will reserve any or all of them.

Mary Quinn heard John Allen on megatrends in the Church for the 21st century and I heard Lynn Levo’s presentation “Leading in the No Where Between Two Somewheres: Tending the Embers and Fanning the Sparks of New Flames.” While Lynn’s title seems somewhat elaborate, her presentation was excellent. We both thought that Mary Dacey’s Presidential Address was so good that we purchased the DVD. It is also available for borrowing from Pam.

Summarizing the speakers’ content would take a lot of space and you can access their presentations easily. For me, much of what we know and have articulated was confirmed: religious life is in a transition period – a time

requiring deep reflection, focus on the mission, faith in God and one another. Even though our numbers are small we are certainly not as small as when our congregations were founded – numbers are not that critical. The work of women in religious communities is: knowing ourselves and what we are about so thoroughly that the mission is crystal clear and serves as the motivator for all we do.

Speakers indicated that women in religious congregations might be one of the few groups that have the credibility with the people of God to speak the truth to the men who control the current Church. Addressing the Assembly, John Allen said in essence “that the hierarchical Church isn’t going to change in the near future. Say what you need to say and move on” to do what you do best – living and working for unity, peace, and justice.

Thirty-four women had been nominated for president and all but J. Lora Dambroski, OSF, removed their names after a period of discernment. One of the nominees who was at my table said that, although she really prayed and discerned about leaving her name in, she decided against it because she didn’t feel she could give the LCWR job the time it deserved given the reality of her congregational responsibilities. Those sentiments, not the lack of willingness, seemed to be the pervading reason that potential leaders withdrew. The implications surrounding this leadership issue and possible ways to address it are on the agendas of the 15 LCWR Regions at their fall meetings.

The Assembly presented the LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award to Joan Chittister, OSB. In her characteristically challenging style, Joan said “Religious life is at a crossroads. Has it died or is it simply being born anew? The problem is that the answers to all those questions depend on you and me. They depend as never before on the fresh, new, creative leadership we bring to the crossroads. And it all comes down to the quality and the strength of the light within us. Most of all, it depends on whose light we ourselves are following and what lights we ourselves seek to ignite and leave behind.” Joan’s address is also available at the Mont.