



**SERVANTS OF THE HOLY HEART OF MARY
AFFILIATE HAPPENINGS
April 2024**

Province Affiliate Program News

Reserve The Dates!!!

Our Affiliate retreat is planned for Nazareth in Batavia on Saturday September 7, and at OHOS in Kankakee on Saturday November 9. Schedule is from 9 am start to 3 pm, followed by Mass for those who are able to stay. Lunch will be provided. Both retreats have the same presentations. On Saturday November 16, we will have a Zoom option with an abbreviated schedule. More information and sign up to come at a later date. Looking forward to having you join us!

Sr. Vicky Mobley

HOLY HEART OF MARY AFFILIATES, Batavia

Since last fall our affiliate group has been on pilgrimage together - thanks to the Journey Program. In March the Journey took us to a reflection on the death and resurrection of Jesus which coincided perfectly with the Lenten season. The April session on Pentecost will be a beautiful preparation for the actual feast.

We are delighted to accept two women into our affiliate orientation program: Anne Fuller is preparing for both the affiliate and the consecrated laity programs. Diane Rowe, a long-time friend of our community, will also become an affiliate. Help us welcome them with a little prayer for each of them.

Sr. Evelyn Varboncoeur

ST. ANNE AFFILIATES, Rockford

The affiliates and sisters meet the second Saturday of the month. At each meeting one of the affiliates leads us in an opening prayer. We then have a sharing of events and happenings in our lives. In February, we began our new book: *This is My Body* by Bishop Robert Barron. We have found that reading together out loud is the best way for us to share the material. As we read, we stop to point out important facts, ask questions or explanations and comment on what we're hearing. It is rather deep material, but we are finding it interesting and challenging.

In April, we had two women from the group KFACT: Keeping Families and Communities Together. Their group statement is: Empowering Girls Isn't an Option It's a Must! Connect with Us...Expose - Engage - Empower. This group works beginning with middle school girls who are at risk. They meet as groups within the school community and then move from there to individual mentoring of girls through high school helping them to rise above their challenges and risk factors. During the summer there are special events and trips to introduce the girls to places and events they may never experience without this group. They are a non-profit, non-governmental program that depends on donations and grants to continue their work.

Each month we as a group decide to which group we want to make a donation. This month we made our donation to KFACT.

The Sisters felt that the February Congregational Newsletter was so filled with information about Mother Foundress that we are making copies available to the affiliates. In the future we will share the Congregational Newsletter with them since there is so much information we want to share and this is an easy way to do that.

Sister Mary Kay Moran

HOLY FAMILY AFFILIATES, Kankakee

Our sharing is from the book "A Passion For Life" by Joan Chittister. Each chapter focuses upon a saint or other holy person. Last meeting we read about Simone Weil. To quote from the chapter: Simone prods us to always ask another question, to want a better life for everyone, to beware our inability to critique our own beliefs, and to remember our obligation to make good on our promises. She is an icon of the search for truth, and with a pure eye keeps her focus on the ultimate meaning of things, on the sacred in everyday life, on the mystical in the midst of the mundane. She is remembered for her personal pursuit of God. Simone describes her encounter with God as the unsuccessful attempt of two lovers to meet in two different places. "Each is there", she writes, "before the time, but each at a different place, and they wait and wait and wait". Even prayer and meditation she saw as an endless period of waiting rather than an experience of the divine". What a powerful model for us in these turbulent times.

Sr. Vicky Mobley

MUSTARD SEED AFFILIATES, On-line

Congratulations go out to Marcy Wasinski who earned her certification as a Life Coach from Indiana Wesleyan! Way to go Marcy, we are so grateful for you and all the lives that you will touch in this ministry.

We are now sharing from the book "Bread and Candlelight", and are learning much about our SSCM beginnings, all the little things that we did not know and that make us who we are in the SSCM family.

Sr. Vicky Mobley

MERCY AFFILIATES, Urbana

At our April meeting, the Mercy Affiliates will review the new affiliate handbook.

In May, we will officially welcome and commission our new affiliates and renew our own commitment. We do not meet in the summer.

Pam DeLey, Affiliate

ST. MARY AFFILIATES, Kankakee

Two of our Affiliates who were residing at Riverside Assisted Care have changed their residence.

Last October, Nancy Madigan went to Victory Center #306 at 29 North Broadway St., Joliet, 60435 to be closer to her son, who is only twenty minutes away. Nancy needed more assisted care as she is confined to her wheelchair. The building was at one time the Carmelite High School for boys. Nancy misses our meetings, but a taxi ride would be too far. We miss her too.

Colleen Kilbride fell and broke a hip. She is now in residence at Everglow Senior Living, 215 East Washington St. room 240, Pontiac, IL 61764. She is twenty minutes from her daughter and in a smaller facility. We miss Colleen as she was a good support for us using the Riverside facilities since we are no longer at St. Mary's Assisted Care. Colleen encouraged participation in a Scripture and Bible Study Group which now has six members that meet every other week.

Affiliate Angie Clement is presently at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet. Hopefully, she can recover and return to her loved St. Mary's in Beaverville. Prayers are requested for healing, if it be God's will.

Violeta DeCastro, another of our Affiliates, was born in the Philippines. She married Ben DeCastro and together they raised 7 children. They migrated to Chicago in 1968 and moved to Bourbonnais in 2008, where they joined Maternity BVM Church. She joined the OCIA there in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, which took place in June 2000 at St. Raymond Cathedral in Joliet. She was first invited to join the Holy Family Group but later joined the St. Mary Affiliates so as to carpool with two others. This summer, Violeta and her husband will meet family for a vacation in Hawaii and then travel to the Philippines, which they visit every year.

Sr. Mary Stella Schellenberger

ST. GALL AFFILIATES, Chicago

On March 25th we met as Affiliates at One Heart, One Soul. We discussed the 9-day novena to the foundress, Mother Moisan.

On April 11, Sr. Loretta gave a talk on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to many women. She gave us much to reflect on and reminded us to pray for the gifts that we need at our particular time.

Affiliate Alice Murray