

Bringing the Pieces and Colors Together

KALEID SCOPE

A Newsletter for Glenmary Sisters' Adopters and Prayer Associates



Caruthersville, Missouri

Sister Darlene: Greetings! I have just gotten in from my daily morning walk with Izzie. This is my favorite time of the day. It is very quiet and peaceful, allowing me time to think and enjoy the beauty of the world around me. This tranquility can be shattered in an instant if a squirrel or cat runs across our path - you would have to experience the bark/squeal of Izzie to understand. She can raise the dead!!

Many things have happened since the last time we met here on these pages of Kaleidoscope. I do believe I left you with the joyful celebration of our two new members, Pam and Justine. Pam, who will be missioned here in Pemiscot County, came for a visit and some initial nesting the first week in September. We attended a two-day workshop for training GED instructors. Pam is now a Certified GED instructor for Missouri. We are working with the Cape Girardeau Adult Education Program to start a Fast Track GED class here in Pemiscot County. This program will target those students who need only a review of the materials prior to taking the test. It is a 6-week class which will meet one evening a week. The superintendent of the Caruthersville schools has agreed to provide space in the Middle School to hold the class. We are very excited about this program and have already begun evaluating potential students.

September 13 was a very special day. The girls in the Confirmation class I taught were Confirmed. They are wonderful young women and it was a blessing to make this journey with them.

Izzie and I joined the other Sisters in Owensboro for the PumpkinFest. This is always a fun time and it was wonderful again this year. Sister Kathleen and I were able to go on retreat the last week of September. I always look forward to this time.

Life is not always filled with joyful days. My precious step-mother Betty developed pneumonia the end of September.

She was on a respirator for 2 weeks and improved enough to be removed from it. Within a week her condition worsened and she went home to her Lord the morning of October 12. Justine and I, along with our family, were blessed to be at her side. She was a beautiful and loving Christian woman. I loved her dearly and will miss her.

Several of the other Sisters and I traveled to St. Meinrad to attend a presentation on Glenmary given by the Glenmary Men. This was a very enjoyable time not only for us but I believe it was also for the seminarians at St. Meinrad. Pam and I welcomed Glenmary priest Fr. Dave Glockner and novices Eric and Clive to Caruthersville. I have been working with a family who lives in a very small trailer. Prior to the tornado they had added an additional room onto the trailer. The work was never completed and what had been done needed repairs. They are desperate for the space due to the health problems of one of the sons. Fr. Dave and the guys volunteered to hang the insulation. They did such a good job. We really enjoyed their visit. The next week we welcomed Br. Joe Steen and Jason who is a brother candidate. They, along with Pam, worked hard hanging the drywall. The room looks spectacular. I can never thank them enough for their kindness.

I am working with a group of women to form a girls club for disadvantaged African American girls. One of my main roles will be to help them form a book club. I am very excited about this and am in the process of identifying some great books with positive messages.

We continue the GED tutoring, work at the Steele food pantry/clothes closet, working with the ministerial alliance, ministering to those that call for help and of course attending the various community meetings here. Well, I must bring this to a close. I look forward to meeting you here next time. I pray you all have a very blessed Thanksgiving!



Izzie: I have had a wonderful time the past few months. I am so excited to have Pam here. She gets down on the floor and plays with me. She didn't get mad when I stole her sock. Actually, I borrowed it for some solo play and then returned it. I now know that

stealing is not good and it makes God sad. I hope she and Sr. Darlene will understand when I ask for things in the future. It was so good to see my best friend Sr. Bernadette when we went to Owensboro for PumpkinFest. I also enjoyed some long walks in the park. They have lots of squirrels!! The best part of October was spending a week with Sr. B while Sr. Darlene was in Ga. It was treat heaven and the back rubs are grrrrreat! I now have a new job when I am at the Mother House. It seems that when the Sisters' Council is meeting in the basement, everyone upstairs is a little shy about disturbing them with messages. When in town, I am the official Council Courier. The Sisters upstairs will attach messages to my harness and I deliver them downstairs. I don't know what they are afraid of. I am always greeted with big smiles, and a good back rub. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am really looking forward to trying this turkey everyone is talking about. I have never had turkey before. Wow, maybe I will get to chase it before dinner!!

always grateful. Be assured of my prayers and gratitude for you.



Millen, Georgia

Sister Mary Ellen: In early September, Sr. Aida and I traveled to Owensboro for council meetings. After the meetings we went to Missouri to visit with our Sisters there. It was a short visit but we really enjoyed it. Then we headed back to Ga. Recently we started meeting once monthly with two other Sisters from other communities and a lay missionary who work in our mission areas. We have a meal together and share about how things are going with each of us. I attended the annual Meet Me at the Pole, a student-led prayer which takes place around the flagpole at school. I am also keeping busy with my usual work with religion classes, the Thrift Shop, and the Make A Difference program. I also try to help people with any needs that come along.



Frenchburg, Kentucky

Sister Kathleen: Greetings from eastern Kentucky! The past few months have been busy but so rewarding. Again, I had that wonderful group of volunteers from Chicago. They were all adults, dedicated and very happy meeting the needy folks. This group keeps coming back with their prayerful attitude and wonderful sense of humor. They built porches, ramps, and have already lined up a special job for next year at a home where a woman needs an extension built on to her poor but humble dwelling. Right now the bathroom is in bad shape and hopefully they can make it more livable. This woman cried when we told her the plans. She is helping her daughter and two grandchildren who need much attention. I had a mission appeal in Lanesville, Indiana, and it was a great experience. I also took time out for a 6-day retreat to relax and time for prayer.

There are several families who have major problems. One mother needed help with her utility bills. Her daughter, age 24, spent some time in rehab due to addiction with alcohol. Now she is taking her to a facility in Bowling Green to follow up on treatment. This mother was in tears as she felt so bad asking for help. I assured her of our prayers and continued support and gave her some money for gasoline to take her daughter to Bowling Green. Also, she and the whole family are on our Christmas list. Another woman is taking care of a few of her grandchildren due to a bad situation with drugs. God bless our sheriff and his staff. They are very involved in finding the big guys who are pushing drugs. Without your support, we could never help so many people and they are



Owensboro, Kentucky

Sister Sharon: As I sit down to write this note in order to catch you up on all that I have been about in the last few months and am looking forward to in the near future, I can't help but wonder, if Jesus had as many meetings with his disciples as we in religious life, especially those of us in leadership, tend to have. Over the last few months, it seems that I have gone from meeting to meeting, which most likely won't be of too much interest to you, but I will highlight the more important ones. In September, I attended the Home Mission Leadership Conference which I find very beneficial, as it emerged several years ago from the recognition that the issues and needs of the home missions are very different from those of the foreign missions. In October, the Sisters came in from the missions for our Fall Community Days which begins with a day of prayer and reflection, then has a couple of business days sprinkled in and usually ends with our "mission sending" during morning prayer of the last day. In November, Bishop Gainer of the Lexington Diocese met with me and other major superiors who have members ministering in Eastern Ky. We were able to hear from their vocation department about the efforts the diocese is making in helping young men and women listen to how God may be calling them to serve the church. Just last week we had our November council meetings and on it goes...I think I will stop here, as I am reminded of the words of one of our Glenmary priests, Fr. Mike Kerin, "If I die and wake up in a meeting, I will know I didn't make it to heaven."

On a different note, we had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the North American Martyrs (also known as Founder's Day among Glenmarians) with several of the Glenmary men's candidates, novices, members under temporary oaths, and their directors. In the early years of Glenmary, our founder, Fr. Bishop, would organize what he called a "big boom" on this feast, bringing the men and women together for Mass and a meal together in honor of St. Isaac Jogues and his companions who died bringing the Gospel message to the Native Americans of this land. We also attended a wonderful day and a half seminar on home mission ministry at St. Meinrad Seminary given by the president of the Glenmary Men's community, Fr. Dan Dorsey, second vice president, Fr. Mike Kerin, and former president Fr. Jerry Dorn. Two of their seminarians, Aaron and Crispin, organized it and invited us to attend. We truly enjoy the on-going connection that we have with our "Glenmary brothers." Speaking of which our pre-candidate Toni Aragon, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Catherine and I are looking forward to joining several of them and some of their aspirants for a Thanksgiving meal at the Gasper River Diocesan Youth Camp this year. It should prove to be a great time.

With the mention of Thanksgiving, it is hard to believe, but Advent is right around the corner. As I have said in the past, this has become one of my favorite seasons since it is a reminder for us to slow down and take stock of what is important. This seems especially important as the business world and others are working so hard to take "Christ" out of Christmas. If we can find ways to keep our focus removed from the material to the spiritual, hopefully that will never happen. I love the symbolism of the greenery and advent wreaths. We have also taken up the tradition of putting up and Advent tree, both in our reception area and our Chapel. The one in Chapel has only lights and the special prayer requests from our donors. As I mentioned in the recent letter I sent out, we are asking our donors to send in special prayer requests on the paper ornaments that were enclosed in the recent Christmas letter to our friends. If you did not receive your letter and would like to send in a prayer request feel free to do so and we will make sure it gets hung on the tree as well. We will hold these requests in our hearts and prayers in a very special way during the season of waiting. God's promise will unfold in a surprising way as Christmas Day draws near. May you and your loved ones know of His love and presence as well as His blessing today and always.



Sister Rosemary: As we approach the end of fall and look forward with different feelings to winter and the end of this year, we are also looking forward to the end of our Church year and the beginning of our new Church year with Advent. It is a season of looking forward to the birth of Jesus, a time of joy with the gift of peace. The birth of Jesus

was quickly followed by an unsuccessful attempt on his life. That came later. Now we face the same human problems that were experienced then, only in many ways larger. But we face them having been redeemed, knowing that in our own baptism we have been born anew in the life of Jesus and can look forward to the joy of unending life with God.

As we look forward to this we are also dealing with the ups and downs of daily life. I had a real "down" in September. I was walking back from the cathedral after Mass with our candidate, Pam Hageman. We were talking and I had turned my head toward her while my feet kept going straight. I did not notice the slab of cement that had been raised by tree roots. I stumbled and fell. So plans that day were changed to time in the emergency room for the setting of broken bones in my wrist. It called for quite a change for the next six weeks, getting adjusted to one hand and arm trying to do what ordinarily required two. My independent spirit was severely challenged. It was humbling to have to ask for assistance with so many ordinary things. And not being able to drive where I needed to go was hard for me. I am afraid I did not make great strides in the virtue of patience. Physically I have had much healing and now I feel sorrow for those persons who cannot look forward to healing. Let us pray that God will give them much spiritual and emotional strength in their daily suffering.

Pam Hageman and Justine Presley entered our community in August. As their director I spent much time with them in Owensboro and now that they are in our missions (Pam in Caruthersville, Mo. and Justine in Smithland, Ky), I see them from time to time. They have quite an adjustment to make as they change their style of life with community living. Also, now they are experiencing the purpose of our Glenmary community, trying to help others come to a deeper knowledge of God and His love through our different ways of serving them.

I am so grateful to you and for you as you make it possible for us to help others. And I pray that you will have a sense of God's presence in your life so that whatever Christmas holds for you this year that you will have the gift of peace. A blessed Christmas and 2010.



Sister Aida: I've been busy helping a woman get out of a domestic violence situation. She is safe with family now and has a protective order, so her situation is much improved. I've also taken a lot of people to the hospital and doctors' appointments. The Glenmary Sisters held our Community Days in mid-

October in Owensboro. It was really nice. We had a good time together and the talks by Msgr. Powers were very inspiring. There were also some sad times because of the passing of Sr. Darlene's step-mother. We were all hurting with her. Back home in Millen, the parishes of Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Bernadette in Millen had a picnic together. Parishioners, including English- and Spanish-speaking members of both parishes, attended. There was lots of good food and everyone had a good time; many asked when they could get together again. Sr. Mary Ellen and I will start getting together for lunch and sharing with a couple of Sisters from different communities who work nearby. We joined the local Glenmary men - Fr. Ed, Fr. John, and Br. Virgil in Swainsboro - to celebrate Glenmary's Founders Day on October 19, which is the Feast of the North American Martyrs. Sr. Janet and Sr. Mary, who work with the Glenmary men in different missions, were there as well. We had Mass and lunch, then a meeting afterward. During October I prayed the rosary in different homes in the evenings. I am looking forward to visiting my family in Puerto Rico in November.



Smithland, Kentucky

Sister Ellen Frances: "That they all might be one, even as You Father are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in us, so that the whole world may believe that you

sent me." (John 17:20-22)

It has been one of the basic foundations of being in Glenmary that we strive to understand and encourage true ecumenism. We take the words of John Paul II very seriously: "**The Church is not a reality closed in upon herself. Rather, she is permanently open to missionary and ecumenical endeavors, for she is sent into the world to announce and witness, to make present and spread the mystery of communion which is essential to her, and to gather all people and all things into Christ, so as to be for all an 'inseparable sacrament of unity.'**" (Ut Unum Sint: 5)

We not only work with other denominations through inter-faith committees, but we make every effort to attend services of other denominations—meet with the people—and help dispel incorrect ideas about Catholics. For myself—my relationship with people of other denominations is essential since our Catholic population is less than 1%, and less than 1% of

those work with the poor with us.

The benefit of Glenmary's ecumenical heritage was brought home—in a very real way—recently. For the past few weeks, I have been suffering from Shingles. During the first two days, Justine, one of our candidates, was here with me. However, she had to leave because of a family emergency. That left me alone—but not really. At the very worst moments of the disease—I was cared for by three wonderful Christians—one was non denominational, one was Methodist, and one was Southern Baptist. There was always someone with me—ministering to me. It was a true ecumenical experience. (And believe me, don't knock home remedies...they do work!)

The Kentucky Bishops wrote a pastoral letter several years ago called: "A People Made One." In one section, they addressed the issue that exists in most of Kentucky—that is that Catholics are a Religious Minority. "**The very fact of being a religious minority often provides unique opportunities to display the rich spiritual heritage that is ours. When it is necessary to rely solely on what we are and what we value as followers of Christ, and when the love of Christ for others is the primary factor in forming relationships, then we are able to see how being a religious minority need not leave us feeling as powerless as at first seems to be the case.**"

As I relied heavily on these three women during my illness—I rely on them to help in our work with the poor.

We continue to be blessed in our work. At the PumpkinFest, several youth that I had met at VBS this past summer came and donated their time. The sister of the head of the Smithland Chamber—whom I had only met twice—came with her husband and sold pumpkins with the Guild. The Glenmary Guild continues to overwhelm me with their generosity and hard work. They are an outstanding group of people who are truly reliable.

The Knights of Columbus from Indianapolis made their annual fall trip loaded down with clothes and furniture for the poor in Livingston County. Not only did they bring much needed donations, but while here worked hard on the house and the yard.

I also want to acknowledge the wonderful generosity of our friend in Florida...who continues to send school supplies, knitted goods, etc.

We have started to plan for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We expect a much larger number of families who will need it. The number of new enrollees at **Helping Hands** increases on an average of 10 per month. At present (November) there are 325 families requesting food baskets this Christmas...and the list is not complete.

The request for toys for children from underprivileged families has increased tremendously. There are over 75 families who have signed up for toys at present.

Our work with Protective Services continues. Sr. Bernadette donated a tote full of crocheted blankets she made for the children who have to be removed from their homes...usually related to drug activity.



Retired

Sister Bernadette: I have been keeping myself quite busy lately, working feverishly with my crochet and knitting needles. I'm working hard to make the beautiful shawls, lap blankets, winter

scarves and hot pads that we give to the needy and sell as a fundraiser at our PumpkinFest. These items seem to have become my trademark and it makes me so happy to know they are helping to keep someone warm in the winter.

Just recently, I had a day outing to Evansville to surprise Sr. Catherine. After sharing a very joyful reunion, we attended Mass together. Excusing myself after Mass, I returned to Owensboro, but stopped along the way at Wendy's to have my favorite hamburger.

The week of November 9th was a busy week. Glenmary Council members were in to meet and visit. The Sisters always seem to have little needs that I am sure to fix! When Sr. Darlene visits, I always have the pleasure of keeping company with Izzie. Izzie seems to enjoy her visits with me; maybe it is the "special treats" and love that I give.

I never seem to tire when it comes to tasks at the Mission. Special chores, which I have secrets of how to accomplish, come in handy when it is time to clean the candle holders, and helping with the kitchen chores never seems to slow me down. Friday my time is spent preparing fliers for other church members. I do try to keep myself busy but still find time to fit in a couple of games of solitaire on my computer before the day is done. My love and devotion to God have not slowed down or wavered. All of the other events in my life, no doubt, take second place.



Sister Catherine: Fall has begun and trees are beginning to turn many colors in Kentucky and Indiana. A Glenmary Priest died in Cincinnati. He was Pastor in Beaver Dam, Ky when I was in Morgantown, Ky. He had been in ill health for some time so it was a blessing. I went with our Sisters to the Wake and Funeral in August. The PumpkinFest is over and I think it was a great success but it was the last one the Glenmary Sisters will have. Another non-profit organization has taken it over. Prior to that, I was busy gathering things to sell at our booth and then went to work at the booth. When it ended, I returned to Evansville for a few weeks. I have also been busy making Christmas Cards out of used ones. I go to an Art Class at Seton Residence every Wed. afternoon for 2 hours. I painted a lighthouse scene and did a pencil drawing of a sparrow. It is in the showcase now.

Some Daughters of Charity took me along with them to an outing in Evansville on Franklin Street. We ate our lunch there and had a choice of 2 items from a long list. I chose frog legs and a hot fudge sundae! yummy. The following weekend there was a family day picnic at the barn on the property for us. On Sat. Oct 10, I came to Owensboro, Ky for the Glenmary Sisters' Community Days. The first day was a day of silence and prayer; 2 conferences by Msgr Powers. The remainder of the days were meetings - business and planning for the future. The Sisters left on Friday to go to their missions in Frenchburg, Ky and Millen, Ga. Last but not least, we enjoyed a celebration of the Feast of the North American Martyrs with the Glenmary men at St. Meinrad's, In. On Mon., we had an outdoor Mass and lunch on the lawn at the city park. Then the Sisters and Candidates returned to Owensboro. On Tues. we returned to Ferdinand, In to stay overnight with the Benedictine Sisters there; had supper and a talk by a Glenmary Priest and on Wed. we had Mass and lunch plus another talk. After that the Smithland, Ky Sisters took me back to Evansville, In where I returned to my regular routine at Seton Residence.

I went to Owensboro on Tues. before Thanksgiving and helped prepare for our joint Thanksgiving Dinner with the Glenmary Men at Gasper River, Ky. We had a great time. Now I'm back in Evansville and looking forward to going back to Owensboro for Christmas! May God bless all who read this with a most blessed Christmas Day and Season.



Angels of Glad Tidings



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