Anna’s Place
Offering Hope and a Haven in Chester

Also in this issue:
- Bridge-Building Pioneer in Hispanic Ministry
- People & Places
- Foundation Annual Report
Commitment Statement

We recommit ourselves to “rebuilding the Church” by living the passion of the Gospel in the discerning spirit of our Franciscan charism and tradition.

We are willing to take the necessary risks to be a healing, compassionate presence in our violent world especially with women, children, and those who have no voice.

We desire to reflect this commitment in our dialogue with the entire Church, in our own governing structures, and in our relationship with one another as sister.

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, choose to live the Gospel in the prophetic spirit of Francis of Assisi and our Foundress Mother Francis Bachmann. With Jesus Christ as Brother, we live as sister with one another, with the entire human family and with all creation. Calling ourselves and one another to continuous conversion of heart, we commit ourselves to a life of contemplation, poverty and humility.

As vowed women of the Church, we respond with diverse gifts in a spirit of collaboration and of mutual service to the needs of others, especially the economically poor, the marginal and the oppressed. Seeking to participate in the Spirit’s action in the world, we direct our personal and corporate resources to the promotion of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Filled with trust in the goodness of God, we move forward.

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POINT OF VIEW

Rebuilding the Church—One Person at a Time

Eight centuries ago in the Italian town of Assisi, a young man named Francis knelt before a crucifix and heard Christ tell him: “Francis, go rebuild my church which is falling down.” Francis of Assisi responded to the call by building churches with brick and mortar. Later, Christ led him to understand the need to rebuild the Church one person at a time by fostering and nurturing hospitable relationships. He did this by welcoming people in need into his little house outside the city gates and by going out into the countryside as an itinerant preacher.

Recently I read the New York Times bestselling book, Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. The book describes Mortenson’s transition from a mountain-climber to a humanitarian committed to reducing poverty and educating young women in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The book’s title comes from a Balti proverb: “The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time you share tea, you are an honored guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family.”

The Balti native, Haji Ali, taught Mortenson to share three cups of tea, to slow down, and to make building relationships as important as building projects. The book has a powerful but simple message. As individuals, we have the power to change the world—one child or one school at a time.

This edition of Good News welcomes us to Anna’s Place, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. The center offers a welcoming and safe environment where people can socialize and learn together. People enter as strangers, become a community, and take the values they experience back to their homes and to their neighborhoods.

Sister Guadalupe Medina lives out the itinerant Franciscan ministry by traveling to meet the needs of our Hispanic brothers and sisters in Oregon. She meets people where they are, assesses their needs, shares her knowledge and skills with them, and affirms the gift that their rich heritage and faith is to the rebuilding of the Catholic Church in Oregon.

In our time, many neighborhoods, churches, and workplaces need rebuilding. If we make building relationships as important as building projects, we will find ways to make a difference—one person at a time.

Peace and all good!

Sister Esther Anderson, OSF
Congregational Minister

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Congregational Minister
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The purpose of Good News is to further the Gospel mission of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia by sharing the good news of the congregation with our friends, family, companions, and sisters. Through this publication, we hope to share the charism of our congregation and invite others to become involved in our mission.

Good News is published three times a year (spring, summer, winter) by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. We welcome your feedback and comments; correspondence should be addressed to Good News at address above.

Visit our website! www.osfphila.org

On the cover: Sister Julie McCole shares a laugh with Diane Dennis, a patron of Anna's Place in Chester, Pennsylvania.

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Rebecca Coleman is a naturally curious person who likes to learn new things and keep herself busy. What’s Rebecca’s solution for satisfying her curiosity and desire for learning? Anna’s Place in Chester, Pennsylvania. Located on the second floor of the former Immaculate Heart of Mary Grade School, the center offers Rebecca and other patrons a welcoming and safe environment where they can learn and socialize together.

Anna’s Place is a drop-in center that provides a variety of opportunities for personal growth including computer skills training, knitting and crocheting classes, arts and crafts, bingo games, and health education programs. The center, which opened in April 2009, also offers programs for children—a day camp, holiday parties, and free lunches in the summer.

Rebecca, who attended Immaculate Heart of Mary School, has been participating in the crocheting and computer classes and weekly bingo games since last year. “When I first went there, I really didn’t know how to get onto a website or do anything like that,” Rebecca said. “I learned to cut and paste, use spell check, and type a business letter. They taught me how to do a lot of things on the computer.” In fact, Rebecca liked the computer class so much that she asked her husband to buy a computer she could use at home. “If you don’t know about the computer, you’re going to be left in the dust,” she said.

Another participant in the class, Milton Porter, also had no prior computer experience. “There’s no such thing as an age limit on learning and I never want to stop learning,” he said. Milton, who also attended Immaculate Heart of Mary School, discovered Anna’s Place at a recent alumni reunion held at the school. “Anna’s Place gives me something positive to do,” he added. “Tuesdays and Thursdays don’t come around fast enough for me. It’s been loads of fun.”

Although there are six computers in the classroom, Sister Maria Orlandini, program director at Anna’s Place, said the participants usually receive individual instruction because of the differences in their continued on page 6
Peter Benson learns proper hand position on the keyboard during Sister Maria Orlandini’s computer class. Peter is especially familiar with this learning environment because he is a graduate of the former Immaculate Heart of Mary School where the center is now located.

Sister Maria Orlandini, program director at Anna’s Place, teaches Rebecca Coleman how to use the mouse during a recent computer class. The computer training has been one of the most popular programs offered at the center. Participants receive a certificate of achievement at the end of the 12-week session.
skill levels with the computer. “It’s a one-to-one learning environment so they can learn at their own pace,” she said. “We’re empowering them to feel good about themselves, helping them to feel worthy, to have a sense of accomplishment.”

Everyone who completes the 12-week computer training receives a certificate of achievement to acknowledge their accomplishment. “For many, this is the first certificate of achievement they ever received,” Sister Julie said. “They want to go right home and frame it. It’s extremely important to them because it specifies what they learned during those 12 weeks.”

Learning to Crochet

Crocheting lessons offer another interesting way for patrons to gain a new skill and to socialize. Sister Rose Christopher Sheridan, a volunteer, visits every other week to teach crocheting. She begins by teaching her students how to do a single crochet stitch and double crochet stitch so they can then follow a pattern. “They can take what they learn here and practice at home in between classes,” Sister Rose Christopher said. “I enjoy giving them a chance to learn something they’ve never done before and I like to see their joy when they create something beautiful.”

Diane Pryor, who has been coming to the center since last fall, is currently creating a scarf with colorful bands of red, white, and black. “Crocheting is something I always wanted to learn and now I’m doing it,” Diane said. “The sisters are very loving and patient. They make it a joy to be here.”

Creating Community in a Welcoming Environment

Sister Maria said the goals of every program are twofold: learning while creating a sense of community. “We have a break in the classes where patrons talk and get to know one another,” she said. “Everything we do helps to create a sense of belonging. They love the classes and I have a great time helping them, too.”

Creating a welcoming environment is important to the sisters who serve at the center. “It’s a place where we welcome the stranger but
they’re not strangers for very long,” said Sister Julie McCole, director of Anna’s Place. “It’s in tune with our Franciscan spirit of hospitality.” Sister Julie noted that the people are eager to be welcoming to others and they have developed a sense of ownership of Anna’s Place. “We very much feel like we’re sister and brother there.”

Diane Lovett, a regular at the center, appreciates the warm atmosphere the sisters have created at Anna’s Place. “They just open up their arms to you,” she said. “Whatever it is that you need, they’re there to try to help you and point you in the right direction to get help. You just have to love all of them.”

Rebecca agreed. “The sisters make you feel at home and inspire you to want to be a part of activities,” she said. “They also make me wonder what I would have done if I hadn’t met them.”

During the past year, Sister Maria and Sister Julie have learned a lot about serving the people who come to Anna’s Place. One key lesson comes from the opportunity of ministering to people on an individual basis. “St. Francis always said, ‘We build the Church one person at a time’ and Anna’s Place is an example of that,” Sister Julie said. “We’re building the Church by just being face-to-face with one another, knowing that we are forever looking into the face of Christ.”

Newest Ministry a Haven in Chester

Anna’s Place, the newest sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, is named after Maria Anna Boll Bachmann, foundress of the Franciscan religious congregation. Anna, a German immigrant living in Philadelphia, became a widow when her husband Anthony was tragically killed while she was pregnant with their fourth child.

Sister Julie agrees that Anna Bachmann is a good patron for the center because she was a mother with small children who struggled with prejudice as a German woman in Philadelphia. “We felt that we would be blessed under Anna’s guidance and I feel her presence here,” Sister Julie said.

Although Anna’s Place opened in April 2009, plans for this outreach ministry began in 2004. A planning committee, led by Sister Mary Peter Kerner, conducted research to determine the needs of the residents of Chester, a city that has been economically depressed for decades. Sister Mary Peter, who served as director of Anna’s Place until 2008, oversaw the site selection for the ministry and repair work on the school building.

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Named director in 2008, Sister Julie continued the preparations for opening Anna’s Place, which has become an oasis for the mainly older African American residents of Chester. “We offer a safe environment for neighbors to gather a few hours a day to learn new things and socialize with one another,” she said. “It’s a little haven in the middle of a troubled part of the city.”

Source of Hope and Encouragement

Despite its socio-economic problems, Chester has experienced revitalization in recent years with development projects along the Delaware River waterfront including a Harrah’s Casino and PPL Park, a new major league soccer stadium. These projects have sparked hope for new employment opportunities for residents and increased revenues for the city.

Anna’s Place is certainly another source of hope for Chester residents. It has added another Catholic presence to the former Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and School, which is located on the west side of Chester near the Commodore Barry Bridge. While Anna’s Place offers programs in the school, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters operate a food pantry and clothes closet in the basement of the nearby church building. “The Church needs to be reaching out in different areas of the city,” said Msgr. Joseph McLoone, pastor of St. Katharine Drexel Parish, located on the east side of Chester. “Anna’s Place and the food pantry create a Catholic presence in another section of the city and I think they put a human face on the Church. It’s a great collaboration.”

Sister Julie affirms the value of collaborating with St. Katharine’s to offer this ecumenical ministry. “St. Francis had a deep love for those who are poor and we’re carrying on the tradition of standing together with our brothers and our sisters,” she said. “The people have a deep faith in God and they are full of hope.”

“We offer a safe environment for neighbors to gather a few hours a day to learn new things and socialize with one another,” she said. “It’s a little haven in the middle of a troubled part of the city.”
Looking Toward the Future

While Anna’s Place has only been open for a year, there are promising signs for the future of this ministry. The computer classes have been so successful that Sister Virginia recently secured a $10,000 grant that will be used to buy additional computers. The Sisters of St. Francis Foundation also raised more than $3,000 from last year’s golf tournament that will go toward the purchase of a van to transport patrons to and from Anna’s Place. Sharon Tracy, the foundation’s director of events and special projects, is working on obtaining a grant to pay for the remainder of the cost of the van.

Another positive aspect of this ministry is the ongoing support that volunteers give to the center. With the small staff at Anna’s Place, Sister Julie said she relies on volunteers from local parishes who assist with bingo and other events. The sisters and the Companions in Mission are among the many volunteers who provide homemade soup, sandwich staples, and desserts for the Soup and Sandwich program. The student athletes from Neumann University help organize activities at the children’s holiday parties. “We really couldn’t do as much as we do without our dedicated volunteers,” she acknowledged. “They’re an extension of what we do here.”

Sister Julie is looking forward to more people getting to know Anna’s Place and participating in the programs offered there.

“Our hope is that we will really grow into a loving and supportive community in Chester so people can come and feel that they are accepted, treated with respect, and given hope,” she said. The hope is that the feeling of community being developed within the walls of Anna’s Place will spread into the streets—that patrons can take what they learn there and pass it on.

For more information or comments on this article, contact goodnews@osfphila.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP…

- Anna’s Place could not survive without the time and commitment of its many volunteers. Volunteer your time at an organization such as this in your town or city. Maybe you can help with bingo games, make homemade soup or baked goods, serve meals, or teach a class.

- Donate printer paper, paper products, ground coffee, and unused gift cards for gasoline, office supply stores, or grocery stores—simple useful items that could make a tremendous difference to the center. A need exists also for items to be used as bingo prizes. Contact Sister Julie at Anna’s Place, (484) 361-5900, to make donation arrangements.

- Make a cash donation to the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and designate your contribution for Anna’s Place in Chester to help support the community-building efforts and learning opportunities available there.

- Many people have suffered in the current economy. Pray for those who are poor or underserved.

Share with us the good news of what you did! Call or email us with the action(s) you took: (610) 558-7726, goodnews@osfphila.org.
DELAWARE

At the Ministry of Caring’s (MOC) Annual Recognition Banquet, Sister Corda Marie Bergbauer received the Caring Bowl Award honoring individuals who have “given countless hours of service to the poor…who are an inspiration to all who know them.” Father Ronald Giannone, OFM Cap, acknowledged Sister Corda’s ongoing commitment to the MOC that began with her offer to provide sisters to staff Mary Mother of Hope House in 1977 and continued over the years in the work of the many sisters who have served the ministry. “For the relationship you started 33 years ago and for your continued love, friendship, and the kindness you have shown to me, we honor you…and all the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia,” he said.

PENNSYLVANIA

Most children learn about dental care at an early age. At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Doylestown, Sister Thomasann Quinn’s sixth graders are carrying that knowledge beyond themselves. The students donated money for materials to make dental care kits for the Mother Bachmann Maternity Clinic in Bensalem. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of these children, new clients at the clinic not only learn about the connection between the mother’s dental hygiene and the growing fetus, but each mother also receives a gift of tooth paste, dental floss, and toothbrushes all wrapped in a baby bib!

PENNSYLVANIA

Sisters Esther Anderson and Theodore Klingseisen received honors from Neumann University recently. Sister Esther received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters because of her “exemplary service to her congregation and to Neumann, her dedicated ministry to healthcare and education, and her excellence in leadership of all the organizations with which she is involved.” Sister Theodore received the Presidential Humanitarian Award “for her lifelong support of students and their successes.” In addition to her many years as dean of students, Sister Theodore started the girls’ volleyball and basketball teams and arranged area-wide forensic tournaments.

WHO ARE THE ‘SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA’?

Through this section we hope to share a glimpse of our congregation and the individuals who make real its mission.

CALIFORNIA

Sister Maureen Duignan and her coworkers at East Bay Sanctuary (EBS) continue their advocacy for refugees. The Refugee Rights Political Asylum Program has won 1,100 political asylum cases. Because these cases also include dependents, in reality more than 6,000 refugees have escaped the “chains that held them bound”—the struggle, violence, and pain that forced them to flee to the U.S. The outcome is that these individuals are now either citizens or are on the road to citizenship. EBS also continues its work with Haiti, raising funds for the children of political prisoners and for schools.
MARYLAND

One of The Catholic High School of Baltimore’s newest students arrived from Haiti after the January earthquake. Giliane LaFontant, 13, was outdoors when the quake began and witnessed much of the devastation. To save her daughter from the pain of living through Haiti’s rebuilding and to avoid a lapse in her education, Giliane’s mother contacted relatives in Baltimore. Tricia Matthews, a cousin, offered the young woman a home and enrolled her in TCHS. Members of the Catholic High community provided uniforms and other school essentials. The Sisters of St. Francis covered tuition for the remainder of this school year. “We are pleased to welcome Giliane to our school community,” said President Dr. Barbara Nazelrod. “We’re confident that she will quickly acclimate to our school and culture and do well academically. Having Giliane here brings to life for us the horrible tragedy and devastation of Haiti.”

NEW JERSEY

Each year when St. Catherine Parish in Ringwood holds its Photo, Art, and Poetry Exhibit, Sister Matthew Cola is on hand to help organize the event. The program identifies her as the “Odds and Ends Coordinator, School Liaison, etc., etc.” A well chosen description! Sister Matthew is one who sees work to be done—and does it—whether it be receiving entries, making sure they’re identified correctly, encouraging students, etc., etc. An artist herself, she also contributed three of her own paintings this year: “San Damiano Cloister, Assisi,” “From Mt. St. Francis Window,” and “Sunset over the Lake.”

WASHINGTON

When St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor celebrated its first anniversary, hospital leaders wanted to do something to honor the legacy of the Sisters of St. Francis who had been in the forefront of healthcare in the Tacoma area. At the anniversary celebration, Jon Flora, president of the Franciscan Foundation, presented the sisters with a replica of the statue of St. Anthony which stands in the hospital’s lobby. Like the original, the replica is made of solid bronze. The 18-inch statue now graces the foyer of St. Ann Convent, the congregation’s retirement residence in Tacoma. Standing near a fountain donated by Franciscan Health Systems, the statue is one of several symbols that remind the sisters of those with whom they ministered over the years and whom they continue to remember in prayer.

EL SALVADOR

Sisters Christine Still and Maria Orlandini were part of the SHARE Foundation’s delegation at events commemorating the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero. During the early days of their pilgrimage, the sisters witnessed the devastation caused by the flooding of the Acelhuate River, stayed with host families in Guarila, and met with individuals whose way of life is being threatened by mining practices. As the actual anniversary approached, they visited Archbishop Romero’s home as well as the scene of his assassination, prayed quietly at the memorial wall at Parque Cuscatlan, and attended Mass at the cathedral. At an event at the airport marking the unveiling of a painting of Archbishop Romero, President Funes apologized for the role the government played in the murder of Archbishop Romero. A copy of the apology is posted next to the painting.

In various towns in El Salvador, the pilgrims viewed murals like this one in San Isidro that celebrates the life of Archbishop Romero and expresses the people’s hopes for the future of their country.
Sister Guadalupe Medina talks with parents about the importance of passing on the Catholic faith and traditions to their children during a one-day retreat held at Sacred Heart Parish in Klamath Falls, Oregon. While Sister Guadalupe usually speaks at parishes in the Archdiocese of Portland, she occasionally travels outside the archdiocese. Sacred Heart Parish is located in the Diocese of Baker.

Bridge-Building Pioneer in Hispanic Ministry
St. Francis of Assisi was a beloved itinerant preacher in the 13th century who traveled many miles practicing and proclaiming Gospel living. The same can be said about Sister Guadalupe Medina who, in the 21st century, travels across Oregon teaching Hispanic Catholics about their faith.

Born in Mission, Texas, Sister Guadalupe said her parents, who were migrant workers, moved from Texas to Oregon to make a better life for their family. Everyone in her family worked in the fields, even the youngest children. “As soon as we were old enough to walk, we were out in the fields with the rest of the family,” Sister Guadalupe said. “I remember helping to pick cotton in Texas and my dad would say, ‘I don’t care if it takes you all day—just keep those little hands moving.’”

As the only one in her family to graduate from high school, Sister Guadalupe added, “My brothers and sisters sacrificed by dropping out of school so I could have the opportunity to go,” she said. “I’m standing on their shoulders.”

With her Mexican-American heritage and personal experience with the challenges that migrants face in the United States, Sister Guadalupe is a natural fit for this itinerant ministry. During her six years as the pastoral associate at St. Matthew Parish in Hillsboro, Oregon, she often got requests from the Archdiocese of Portland to go to various parishes and speak with Hispanic Catholics. “I thought, ‘Maybe I’m being called to something different,’” she said. “That’s why I resigned from parish ministry.”

Catechism class with parents of first communicants offers another rewarding opportunity of involvement for Sister Guadalupe. “They’re finding it enriching because they’re learning,” she said. “It’s gratifying to see their enthusiasm and getting them to enter into dialogue with their children by sharing their faith.”

David Esquivel has been attending catechism classes for almost two years at St. Vincent Parish in Salem, Oregon. He appreciates the way Sister Guadalupe explains the teachings of the Church. “She makes the information easy to understand,” he said. “I had a lot of questions about my beliefs and she has helped me understand more about my Catholic faith. She’s always there to point me in the right direction. I’ve started reading the Bible more because of her.”

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Going with the Flow

Sister Guadalupe enjoys her ministry in multiple parishes and has learned the importance of flexibility. She often is unsure how many people will show up for a class, where she will be meeting with parishioners, or what topic she will be presenting. “I’ve learned to go with the flow,” she said. “That’s one of the gifts of this ministry.”

Another challenge is that Sister Guadalupe may only visit a parish once a week or once a month. “That’s one of my hardest challenges, to be there for a day or for a couple of hours and not have the time to follow up with the families,” she said. “When people see me there, they expect that I’m going to be there day in and day out. That’s not the case.”

Regardless of the time Sister Guadalupe spends at a parish, she makes an impact on Hispanic Catholics. Sheila Scott, director of religious education at St. Vincent Parish, said Sister Guadalupe’s work at her parish is important because the Hispanic community has a lot of respect for her. “She’s so sweet and gentle but she’s also firm in saying, ‘This is the way things are to be done,’” Sheila said.

The fact that Hispanic Catholics regard religious sisters and priests as authority figures is a part of their culture, Sister Guadalupe explained. “They look up to priests and sisters as people who will help them and guide them,” she said. “It’s embedded in their culture and passed on from generation to generation.” She also noted that Hispanic Catholics often call her maestra (teacher) or madre (mother), which signifies their deep respect for her as a religious sister.

Sandi Belleque, director of religious education at Sacred Heart-St. Louis Parish in Gervais, Oregon, appreciates the fact that Sister Guadalupe is teaching a monthly catechism class for the parents of first communicants in the parish. “Sister Guadalupe is just so personable and welcoming,” Sandi said. “The parents enjoy her classes. She has been a godsend for our parish.”

Called to Protect

In addition to offering catechism classes, Sister Guadalupe fills another important role in her itinerant ministry—presenting the Called to Protect program in Spanish to Hispanic parents across the archdiocese. The program teaches parents to be aware of signs that may indicate a child has been abused. Parents learn techniques to teach their children to protect themselves from abuse.

Cathy Shannon, director of the archdiocesan Office for Child Protection/Victim Assistance, asked Sister Guadalupe to be a Called to Protect trainer because of her pastoral experience and her ability to discuss this difficult topic with Hispanic parents. “She’s a very good teacher and connects really well with people,” Cathy said. “People come away feeling that they’ve learned something that was useful to them and that they were respected as individuals. When she’s finished, parents are anxious to know more about how to keep their children safe.”

The director noted that Sister Guadalupe listens to the concerns of parents and is willing to answer their questions individually or in a group setting. “They feel comfortable coming up and talking with her afterward,” she added. “She doesn’t shy away from the hard topics

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- Make a direct donation to the Sisters of St. Francis in support of the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Milwaukee, Oregon, to financially support Sister Guadalupe’s ministry to Hispanic Catholics.
- Do you speak Spanish? Volunteer to help with Hispanic ministry programs in your local parish or diocese.
- Call your U.S. Senators and ask them to support comprehensive immigration reform. For information on how to contact your senator, call (202) 224-3121 or visit their website at www.senate.gov. Learn more about immigration reform through organizations such as the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: www.nnirr.org.
- Pray for Hispanic families who are separated due to immigration issues and for families who are affected by domestic violence.

Share with us the good news of what you did!
Call or email us with the action(s) you took: (610) 558-7726, goodnews@osfphila.org.
and she speaks with truthfulness and compassion. I can’t say enough about the gifts that she brings to this ministry.”

While some parishes in the archdiocese have paid for Sister Guadalupe’s services, Joy Wallace, director of development at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Milwaukie, Oregon—where Sister Guadalupe has served as the Hispanic Spiritual Minister—recently obtained a grant that covers the stipends that parishes usually give to Sister Guadalupe. That financial assistance is invaluable to Cathy Shannon. “I’m glad the center is willing to support her financially in this ministry,” Cathy said. “I find what she does so valuable and I would really be at a loss if she had not been able to take on this important role.”

Meeting the Needs of Hispanic Catholics

Raul Velazquez, director of the archdiocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, calls Sister Guadalupe “a pioneer in Hispanic ministry in the archdiocese” and values her as a person who builds bridges with the growing Hispanic population. “She has helped Hispanic Catholics to develop a sense of belonging and to understand how they can be more actively integrated in their communities,” Raul said. “She has been one of those teachers that parishes are looking for because of her sensitivity to Hispanic people.”

Raul said there are about 20 Spanish-speaking religious sisters and priests ministering to Hispanic Catholics in the archdiocese but Sister Guadalupe is the only one who travels to multiple parishes. Given the increasing demand for outreach to the Hispanic community, Raul’s office coordinates training of Spanish-speaking catechists and liturgical ministers, provides a formation program for Hispanic youth ministers, and counsels pastors who want to begin a Hispanic ministry program in their parishes. Currently there are approximately 35 lay people who work in Hispanic ministry and 54 of the 124 parishes in the archdiocese have a ministry to Hispanic Catholics.

Cathy Shannon added that Sister Guadalupe has had a tremendous impact on Hispanic Catholics because of her Mexican-American heritage and her understanding of the needs of this community. “She is someone they are comfortable with, someone who is knowledgeable, and someone who will meet people where they are,” Cathy said. “She just seems to be a calming presence in the midst of the community.”

Carrying out the Franciscan Charism

Working with the poor and marginalized gives Sister Guadalupe the opportunity to fulfill the Franciscan charism of taking the Gospel message wherever it is needed. This itinerant ministry also allows her to continue the long tradition of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia serving in Oregon and the Northwest. When Sister Guadalupe entered the congregation in the early 1970s, Franciscan Sisters Maria Inez Gonzalez and Maria Santos were ministering to Hispanic Catholics in Oregon. “I’m proud and honored to be able to follow in their footsteps,” Sister Guadalupe said. “They opened the road and I’m following them.”

She is also honored to work with the Hispanic people and to be a witness to their strong faith in God. “Their faith runs deep,” Sister Guadalupe said. “They have that burning desire to learn and to do the best they can with the little resources they have. It’s a privilege to work with them.”

For more information or comments on this article, contact goodnews@osfphila.org.
Everyone has within a piece of good news.
—Anne Frank (adapted)

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With hearts filled with gratitude
The Sisters of St. Francis

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2009 Annual Report
SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION

In preparing this annual report, we are touched by the reality that a good steward is the caretaker of God’s many gifts. You have been a gift to us despite the financial struggles of these days. Both those we serve and our sisters are grateful for your gifts and we thank God each day for your support. This report shows you how your funds are received.

Total Donations: $2,711,313.01

Restricted: $1,498,474.42 (55%)
Unrestricted: $1,212,838.59 (45%)

Sources of Donations: Raffle, Golf Outing, Direct Mail Appeals, Good News, Memorial Gifts, Memorial Cards, Estates and Inheritances, and Capital Campaign Pledges.

(Because we are in the midst of a capital campaign, some funds given in FY 2009 were pledges that will be paid over the next five years.)

It is because of the support of our generous donors that our retired sisters like Sister Francis Paula Bader are provided with quality care, accessibility, privacy, a strong sense of community, and the knowledge that they are valued and loved.
Our mission is to serve the needs of others, especially those who are economically poor, marginal, and oppressed. Our donors allow us to support missions like St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia which provides food, clothing, and shelter to those who are homeless.

For over 150 years, our sisters have regarded education as a sacred responsibility. The Catholic High School of Baltimore instills young women with the confidence, skills, and spiritual values necessary to meet the challenges of an evolving world. Support for our educational ministries helps to shape the world for years to come.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia assume operational costs of the foundation; therefore, every dollar that our donors give is used solely for the ministries and retirement. All funds that are received in a fiscal year are disbursed at the end of that fiscal year.

**Distribution of Ministry: Unrestricted**

1. Retirement $614,901 (43%)
2. Transitions $10,000 (1%)
3. Mission Fund $600,000 (42%)
4. Religious Charitable Trust $200,000 (14%)

**Distribution of Ministry: Restricted**

5. TCHS $483,650 (47%)
6. Retirement Fund $336,318 (32.7%)
   - Retirement 38%, Assisi House 19%, St. Ann Convent 43%
7. Shelter & Social Ministries $96,386 (9.4%)
8. St. Ann Chapel $47,800 (4.6%)
9. Education $41,211 (4%)
10. Health Care $5,105 (0.5%)
11. Memorial Garden $4,460 (0.4%)
12. Parish Ministries $3,800 (0.4%)
13. Spiritual Ministries $3,497 (0.3%)
14. Foreign Ministries $3,480 (0.3%)
15. Other $2,295 (0.2%)
16. OLA and OLA Chapel $1,520 (0.1%)

**Explanation of Restricted Categories**

- **TCHS**: Large campaign gift to The Catholic High School of Baltimore; Retirement Fund: Distribution to retirement residences on the East (Assisi House, Aston, PA) and the West Coast (St. Ann Convent, Tacoma, WA) and to the general retirement fund; Shelter & Social Ministries: Beacon of Light, Benedictine Academy, Bernardine Center, Carline Project, Corpus Christi Food Pantry, St. Francis Inn (Phila.), Hispanic Ministry (PA and OR), Human Trafficking, Ministry of Caring, St. Mary’s Franciscan Shelter, St. Joseph Family Center, and Discretionary Fund for the Poor; St. Ann Chapel: Campaign Gifts; Education: Drexel Neumann Academy, Most Pure Heart of Mary School, and Neumann University; Health Care: Mother Bachman Maternity Center, St. Joseph Medical Center (Towson); Memorial Garden: Pergola, Trees, Benches, and Bricks; Parish Ministries: Emmitsburg, Sr. Loretta Schaeff, and St. Anthony Baltimore; Spiritual Ministries: Franciscan Spiritual Center, Aston, PA, Foreign Ministries: Africa and Haiti; Other: Companions, Vocations, Assisi House Equipment, and Red Hill Farm; OLA and OLA Chapel: Aston.

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**In Memoriam**

- **Sister Rose Cecilia Case**
  - February 14, 2010
- **Sister Margaret Hudon (Sister Patricia Francis)**
  - February 15, 2010
- **Sister Alma Francis Collins**
  - February 21, 2010
- **Sister Edward Paul Colliton**
  - May 19, 2010
Dan Jordan has had a long history with the Sisters of St. Francis. He attended St. Joseph Academy in Pendleton, Oregon. Sister Annette Finlayson, who taught Dan, influenced many of his later choices. Some 30 years after high school graduation, Dan received a phone call from Sister Annette. “It’s pay back time, Dan,” she said, inviting him to serve on the Board of Directors for St. Joseph Family Center (SJFC).

For the next nine years Dan helped SJFC evolve into a vibrant place for safe and compassionate healing of hearts and spirits through both the counseling program and the growth of the Spirit in the spirituality program. Sister Elaine Thaden, Director of St. Joseph Family Center, appreciated Dan’s gift of thinking outside-the-box. “He brought to the board a huge experience in social services and planning for social justice,” she noted. Drawn to the Healing Arts and Hospitality Program, Dan eventually talked Sisters Elaine Thaden and Celeste Crine into starting the Spirituality and Healing Arts Committee for the Franciscan Place, a program of retreats, conferences, and spiritual direction. “It’s a place where people can step apart from their busy lives, explore their spiritual journey, and see how these two paths can be in harmony,” Dan explained.

Dan’s career in social service positions always seemed to wend its way back to Spokane. It was there he met Sheri, his wife of 25 years. They married and raised their family there. Daughter Taylor and her husband Jason are about to make Dan and Sheri grandparents and their son Luke is beginning his college studies at Washington State University. Dan and Sheri continue working to help others find a better life. “It’s like church every day,” smiled Dan. For Dan it was not ‘What do you want to be’ but ‘Who do you want to be.’ Service comes naturally. “I’ve always done what I was good at and have always loved doing what I was meant to do and be.”

“I see the Sisters of St. Francis less as nuns and more as my favorite people—people who reflect harmony and unity in all of life,” confessed Dan. He also gives credit to the Jesuit influences in his life. “They pursued social justice with a passion. Together the Franciscans and the Jesuits are powerful influences.” He translates this influence into his life’s work and in particular to his service at the Franciscan Place. A dual role is at work—personal spiritual growth and building a place where the spiritual growth of others can happen. There is excitement in experiencing the movement of the Spirit in Dan’s lay vocation.
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Theology and Drama?
In Sister Mary Craig’s classes, this combination of theology and drama works well. Utilizing a grant from the congregation’s Mission Fund to subsidize a theater program in her classes, Sister Mary and her students at Little Flower High School in Philadelphia use acting techniques and skills to teach moral decision-making. Students consider contemporary moral issues and, using acting, improvisation, skits, and imagination, determine ways to integrate moral concepts into their own lives. One of Sister Mary’s former students utilized these techniques to create a monologue that was chosen by Temple University and several other theater programs.

Sharing our Charism—a Big Event
Well before this year’s Charism Day actually arrived, planners at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, Pennsylvania, had to look for a change of venue. Because of the popularity of the speaker, Immaculée Ilibagiza, registrations far outpaced the center’s capacity. Collaboration with Neumann University allowed the center to use the newly opened Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development. Immaculée’s popularity grew out of her book, Left to Tell, which relates the story of the Rwandan Holocaust. Most of her family members were murdered. A 22-year old college student at the time, Immaculée survived by hiding for 91 days with seven other women in a small bathroom. Rather than preaching revenge, however, both her books and her presentations tell a story of compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

As Immaculée spoke, the close to 1,000 individuals seated in the Mirenda Center at Neumann University fell silent.

Immaculée, who lives in the United States with her husband and two children, shares her story of conversion, forgiveness, and reconciliation around the world.

One of our earliest Hispanic ministries was developed far from home in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico. Sisters gave out medals to the children to reward them for attending “doctrina” or for learning how to make the Sign of the Cross. On page 12, read about Sister Guadalupe Medina who is helping to shape the Catholic Hispanic community in Oregon today.