

OutWord

Sisters of the Living Word Newsletter

Vol. 34, No. 2, Summer 2011

For more news, visit www.slw.org



Perpetual Vows: Lisa Polega, SLW



Assembly: SLW, Marilita Roy and Christella Carbaugh

ASSEMBLY 2011



SLW work at designing future

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A Word from Leadership

By Rita Worm, SLW



OutWORD is published three times a year for the families, friends and benefactors of the Sisters of the Living Word. Readers are encouraged to send Letters to the Editor to:

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Remember SLW in your will. Contact us regarding legacy planning options.

Occasions for celebration surround us each day of our lives. We can celebrate anything from the flowers and trees budding forth new life in spring to the many events that occur in the lives of the people around us throughout the year. God gives us something each day for which we can be grateful.

As the Sisters and Associates gathered this summer for our annual assembly, we had several special events on our agenda. We celebrated Sisters' jubilees and a profession of perpetual vows. We are grateful to God for the gifts of these Sisters which gave us cause for celebration.

The annual Grand Raffle on July 20 made the day special for four people. We extend our appreciation to all who participated in this event.

Due to our connection with National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), we began an ongoing study of ageing with a special presentation and discussion of how to meet the needs of our Community.

Assembly is always a special time of the year for us which brings us joy as we gather, always with the purpose of giving deeper meaning to our Living Word Mission.

Blessings to all of you who join in furthering that Mission.

New Membership

Theology on Tap

By Colette Fahrner, SLW

As a member of the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Office (CAVA), SLW, Colette Fahrner, participated in the summer program for young adult Catholics, Theology on Tap. This is an excellent way to meet young women interested in growing in their faith. Colette offered talks on one of her favorite prayer topics, *Finding God in our World*. Her assignments sent her to the far south of the diocese, to two college campuses and right back to St. James, Arlington Heights, IL. There were women at these meetings looking for religious communities and at least one joining a mission group for a year. There are women searching.

“Let’s meet them and introduce them to the Sisters of the Living Word” is Colette’s motto.



Colette Fahrner, SLW

Enhancing the SLW image

By Colette Fahrner, SLW

At the end of July, two groups met with SLW, Colette Fahrner and Kathleen Heer, co-directors of the New Membership Office, to redesign the SLW website and materials. There was lots of energy to make the website more eye-catching and have printed material carry the message in words and photos. Brigid Tembo, SLW Affiliate, found the Community through the website.

New Membership Committee members represent SLW and collaborate with a variety of populations in other regions. Rosaria Schlechter, SLW is involved in MN. SLW, Judiann Derhake, Jeannette Daniel and Vianney Moore find creative ventures in LA. SLW, Luanne Wilhelm, Barbara Hawken, and



SLW, Colette Fahrner and Kathleen Heer

Joanne Ingoglia are involved in IL and Kathleen Heer, SLW works with other vocation ministers in the Cleveland, OH area to make SLW known.

Leaning into Life's Unfolding

By Barbara Mass, SLW

“On July 19, 2011, my SLW Community, family and friends celebrated one of the most important events in my life, my profession of perpetual vows with the Sisters of the Living Word. This profession signifies my willingness, with God’s help, to lean into life’s unfolding revelation. I look forward to continuing this journey,” reflects Lisa Polega, SLW.

The Sisters of the Living Word celebrated with Lisa her profession of perpetual vows. Lisa came to the Community with a background in environmental business consulting. For a time she ministered in northern Mississippi helping clients develop small business opportunities in rural areas. She recently completed her Master of Arts in Theology/Christian Ethics which she is putting into practice as she ministers in the Peace & Social Justice Office of the Diocese of Joliet. Her focus is in the area of justice for immigrants. This summer Lisa shared



Lisa Polega, SLW professes her perpetual vows in the presence of members of the SLW Leadership Team, Mary Joel Curcio and Rita Worm.

some of her work with the Community at the SLW Assembly. Life’s unfolding keeps Lisa intent on the ministry of the Living Word.



Lisa and members of her family



Lisa signs her perpetual vows

Live in the Light

By Virginia Thoennes, SLW

On Sunday, July 17, the Sisters of the Living Word, Associates, family and friends gathered to celebrate the anniversaries of several SLW. *Live in the Light*, the theme chosen by those celebrating, was carried out in the music of the Liturgy and the reception that followed. Many of the participants remarked at the sense of joy shown in the faces of the Jubilarians and experienced by all.



50 years:
Barbara Mass, SLW

Jubilee was a wonderful celebration of God's faithful love. The Liturgy spoke very strongly of this. Surrounded by my Community, family and friends, I again renewed my vows to imitate the gift of fidelity that God has shown to me. Alleluia!



60 years:
Colette Fahrner, SLW

What I treasured most about my jubilee was a joyous experience to celebrate with family and friends. There were many treasured surprises from God and friends that made the day exceptionally special. But the thing I valued most was the realization that everyday is a jubilee day. I want to continue celebrating each day with family and friends God's extravagant love and blessings.



60 years:
Mary Imelda Fischer, SLW

What a wonderful surprise that so many of my family were there to celebrate with me. I am grateful to all who made the Liturgy so beautiful and to all who prepared the reception.



70 years:
Charlene Baller, SLW

Thank you to all who celebrated my 70th Jubilee with me. It was a glorious experience for me.



70 years:
Rosanne Stump, SLW

Celebrating my 70th jubilee was a beautiful experience for me. Spiritually, I have had a fulfilling journey. SLW, family, friends, students and co-workers have enriched my life and helped me to live in the Light of Christ. Each year my gratitude deepens.

Associates

At Assembly

By Carrie Miller, SLW

Associates from Chicagoland, Iowa, Midland, Texas, New Orleans and Wisconsin came together for their annual “Associate Day.” Through prayer and reflective activities, they shared the variety of ways they express the spirit and charism of Living Word. They also discussed what being an ASLW means to them and the ways they would like to see the Sister-Associate relationship strengthen and grow.

On Tuesday, the Associates joined the Sisters in exploring the possibilities of “what the Sisters of the Living Word and Associates will look like in the year 2021.”

Wednesday began with the Universal Prayer for Peace led by Mary Pat Wilkans, ASLW. The Associates then went to the Feed My Starving Children Center in Aurora to participate in preparing meals for the children of Haiti. Within two hours the seven Associates provided enough meals to feed 2610 people! Later the Associates joined the Sisters at the Center for special interest



Dianna Carlisle, ASLW places her candle for the Associate

groups focused on the justice issue of immigration, ministry on the American Indian reservation in South Dakota and the Spirituality of Ecology.

The days were blessed and all felt “it was so good to be here!”



Josette Buehlman, ASLW measures high protein food for the packets

Events

Carol Kelzer, ASLW with SLW, Mary Cornille and Colette Fahrner, at the Sioux City Retreat in April. Colette led the retreat around the theme of Spring. Carol renewed her commitment as an Associate of the Sisters of the Living Word.



Events

By Barbara Mass, SLW

The West Texas Associates gathered for retreat in April. The theme was new life and a new member of the group made her commitment. Emma Galindo, ASLW gives Isabel Gonzales her ASLW pin after the commitment ceremony.



Associates in Michigan gathered in April. Reflections on Mary at the Cross were presented with one of the Associates portraying Mary and prayers were offered. The day touched many hearts as it fit so well into the Lenten season and the beginning of the last holy days leading into the celebration of Easter.



The LA Associates gathered in late March. The reflections were led by Fr. Anthony Rigoli, OMI. The theme “finding peace in the midst of chaos” was planned by SLW and Associates. At the end of the day, Associates renewed their commitments to the spirit and mission of the Sisters of the Living Word. Elizabeth Hebert, SLW pauses with Associates, Pam Pecquet and Linda Strohmeyer.



July Assembly 2011

By Mary Joel Curcio, SLW

Living Word Sisters gathered July 18-22 for the Annual Assembly in Arlington Heights. The Assembly days provide time for conversation regarding the year's work pertaining to Community transformation and refounding. All of religious life is in the midst of profound transition and the Living Word Community is no exception. Together Sisters and Associates took that leap of faith into a journey toward transformative possibilities for the sake of spreading the Word of God and our Living Word Mission.



SLW Leadership Team, Rita Worm and Mary Joel Curcio, check notes before delivering their reports.



Mike Gibbs, SLW Financial Officer, and Dorothy Monikowski, SSJ-TOSF, facilitator, prepare for financial report.



SLW, Mary Ann Zrust, Jean Krieter, Marie McKenna and Lisa Polega, discuss a point on the agenda.



Mary Hopkins, OP presented the topic of Spirituality and Ageing.

July Assembly 2011

Small Group Reports



SLW, Stella Stacken and Theresa Weber (seated) and Joanne Fedewa and Sharon Glumb (standing), share the results of their group work.



SLW, Joanne Ingoglia, Joanne Fedewa, Marilita Roy, Jean Krieter and Barbara Mass design the future of SLW.

Breakout Sessions



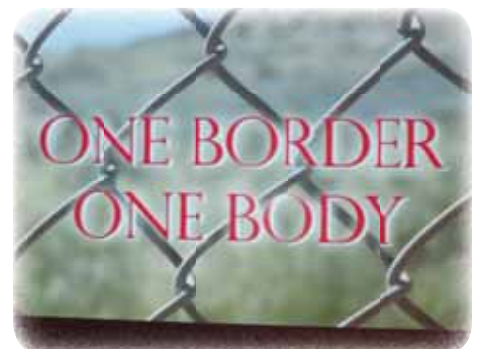
Elaine Tworek, SLW leads the discussion after showing a DVD about her ministry in South Dakota.



SLW Associates demonstrate their vision of the future for Associates.



SLW, Elizabeth Hebert, Vianney Moore and Eileen Geimer, discuss the effects on how and where food is produced.



One Border, One Body was the DVD regarding immigration issues.

SLW Awards

By Margaret McDonald

Commitment to Greatness

*"To the Community of the Sisters of the Living Word
With sincere gratitude for your outstanding commitment,
Compassion and service to Catholic education."
St. Gregory the Great High School, May 26, 2011*

The SLW were honored along with the Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC) at a Visions of Greatness ceremony at St. Gregory's, Chicago. Luanne Wilhelm, SLW and Janice Boyer, SCC accepted the award for their respective community.

In his address, Assistant Principal George Isaacson said, "Since the first days of St. Gregory the Great High School, religious women from these communities have been dedicated to shaping the hearts and minds of thousands of young men and women. In deep gratitude, we recognize their incredible contribution to this beloved school. This award recognizes the embodiment of the tenets of the St. Gregory the Great High School Commitment to Greatness: hopefulness and respect; diversity and justice; honesty and peace."



Luanne Wilhelm, SLW and Janice Boyer, SCC hold the Vision of Greatness Awards

The SLW have strong ties with St. Gregory. A number of the Sisters are graduates of the high school and more have taught there, served as principals or as counselors.

Julie Billiard Students: Art Experience

Kathleen Heer, SLW, the art therapy teacher at Julie Billiard School for special needs children in Lyndhurst, OH, told of a wonderful accomplishment by the students. The children participated in an art experience through the Cleveland Clinic called *Explorers*, an hour-long presentation by a healthcare professional. In the following weeks, the children gave artistic expression to what they learned. Artwork was judged by an independent panel of professional

artists. Julie Billiard students submitted 37 pieces of art and won 12 of the 63 top prizes for this year! The prize winning artwork will be displayed at the Great Lakes Science Center through Labor Day, will be featured in a special publication and there is a monetary award. Congratulations to the students, to Kathleen and to all the faculty of the school.



Julie Billiard student and his prize winning work.

Meet the Living Word Staff

By Margaret McDonald

Chris Kanalas

In a recent interview, SLW Joanne Fedewa was describing her tenure on the SLW Leadership Team. “Back then, we didn’t have a Chris Kanalas to make sure everything got done right and on time”, she commented.

Chris is the embodiment of organization to the Sisters and all who do business with them. Her computer skills probably surpass Steve Jobs’ and she’s pretty good with a screwdriver on any piece of stubborn equipment. Chris has been Office Manager at the SLW Center since December of 2003, overseeing supplies and systems and office functions.

Her experience in managing non-for-profit offices goes back many years, when she served as Executive Secretary for the National Association of Power Engineers, a position that honed her publishing skills and introduced her to the wide world of computers. She continues to take computer courses online in the evenings.

From NAPE, Chris took a position at the Auxiliary of the American Veterinary Medical Association. When she worked with the AVM Auxiliary she was already comfortable with computers, but she feels it was in this position that her meeting planning skills really developed.



Chris Kanalas, Office Manager

Chris has raised two sons, both of whom are married; she has a treasured five-year-old grandson, Joshua, in the area. Her round-trip commute to the SLW Center each day takes two hours so she listens to books on tape to pass the time. She enjoys working in her garden and when she can find the time she volunteers at a local cat shelter. A number of cats and kittens have been known to go home with her often talking family and friends into adoptions.

Chris says a major benefit of working for the Sisters is that they have great respect for their employees and appreciate all that the staff does for them.

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Donation period from March 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011

We, the Sisters of the Living Word, are deeply grateful to each of you, our benefactors, for your friendship, your prayer, your interest and generous support of the mission and ministries of our Community. Your financial assistance continues to help us *"to bring the light of Christ to those in darkness, to make a home for Christ in the hearts of those who have been deprived of Him, to nourish into fuller life the Christ-life in all"* (SLW Constitutions). In this issue of *OutWord* we would like to recognize by various categories your partnership with us in mission.

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Our hope for you is firm, for we know that as you share in the sufferings, you also share in the encouragement. 2 Corinthians 1:7

By Robin Romero Sbornden, ASLW

As sure as we're born, we will also die - we are all sojourners. During the journey we can take comfort in Scripture: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*
John 3:16

When we are dying, I believe, God sometimes brings people into our lives to remind us of these words and bring us comfort. I also believe the dying bring wisdom and a comforting glimpse into the next world. Cardinal Bernardin encompassed both the dying and ministry to the dying. As cancer ravaged his body, he ministered to other cancer patients, sharing his faith and praying with and for them. Three weeks before his death he finished his memoir, *The Gift of Peace*.

Sisters of the Living Word, Joanne Fedewa (MI), Jeannine Randolph (IL), Georgene Schumacher (TX), and Rita Worm (MN) minister to the terminally ill in various capacities, but all are companions to the dying.

When asked to reflect on her experience in her ministry Joanne wrote, "On entering the Hospice Center, a 'sacredness' is felt. In being God's instrument through listening to stories, reading Scripture and praying with the residents, wishes become realities. Recently one resident shared his story of his Catholic family, yet he had not been baptized. As a Native American he was preparing for his death praying to the Great Spirit to forgive all who trespassed against him. His honesty touched my heart! He desired to be baptized and this celebration of NEW LIFE made him extremely happy."

Rita visits the homebound, the sick and the elderly in Healthcare Centers. "Each time that we can extend a kind word or a loving smile to any person, but especially those in Healthcare Centers, we are doing the work of God. We all long to be connected with one another. A visit to someone who is sick or alone bridges that connection and brings joy."

"I love working in hospice as a massage therapist", says Jeannine. "I meet people who know they will die, but they also have a peace and calm." Inspired by an encounter with one of her dying clients, Jeannine is currently attending classes in Clinical Pastoral Education.

Georgene is a hospice chaplain. In the Hospice El Paso newsletter, she was asked her opinion of why chaplaincy as a hospice service is so important. She responded, "I feel chaplaincy gives the patient the opportunity to realize and prepare for the final leg of becoming as human as they can, before they move on. Family and friends become more fully human by simply having loved the patient and they become even more human for having experienced the loss of that loved one."

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✦ **John Stella**
 Veronica Hoffmann, SLW
 Rosaria Schlechter, SLW

Grand Raffle Winner

Thank you for sharing in the SLW spirit and mission. Your participation in the Grand Raffle will assist us in our ministries. Following are this year's winners:

Prize	Winner	Resident State
First Prize/\$7,000	Marcie Kelzer	Minnesota
Second Prize/\$2,000	Barbara Chifici	Louisiana
Third Prize/\$500	Sr. Nancy Murray, OP	Michigan
Fourth Prize/\$500	Cornille Family	Illinois



Carol Kelzer, ASLW, explains that the Grand Raffle first prize winner is her sister-in-law.

✦ David Tigan

Veronica Hoffmann, SLW
Rosaria Schlechter, SLW

✦ Winnie Tomlin

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cooper

✦ Leonard Tworek

SLW Community
SLW Community/Sheridan Road
Robin Romero Shornden

✦ Lillian Vargulich

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Richmond

✦ Elaine Vossen

Rosaria Schlechter, SLW

✦ Ron Winslow

Rosaria Schlechter, SLW

✦ Sr. Geroldine Zangl

SLW Community

By law, without their permission, we cannot print names provided by donors of those who are ill or hospitalized. Therefore, to ensure their privacy, we will no longer print the last names of individuals in need of healing prayers.

Healing

Donations were made for prayers of healing for the following:

♥ Alice and Jerome

Veronica Hoffmann, SLW
Rosaria Schlechter, SLW

♥ Bob

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leyden

♥ Ludi

Colette Fahrner

♥ Nancy

SLW Community

♥ Ray

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♥ Rita

Joan Vanni

Honorariums

Donations were made in honor of the following

★ Rev. Darrio Bocoutti

Mary Ann Zrust, SLW

★ Mr. and Mrs. David French

SLW Community

★ Mary Kay Geimer

Mr. and Mrs. William Lee

★ Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neuman

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★ Archbishop John Vlazny

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★ Mary David Walganbach, OSB

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Birthdays

Donations were made in celebration of the following birthdays:

♠ Alba Goebel

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 18 — Peace Prayer, Living Word Center

October 16 — Prayer of the Season, Living Word Center

October 22 — Pasta Party, St Gregory, Chicago

November 13 — Memorial Mass, Living Word Center

December 3 — Advent Reflection, Living Word Center