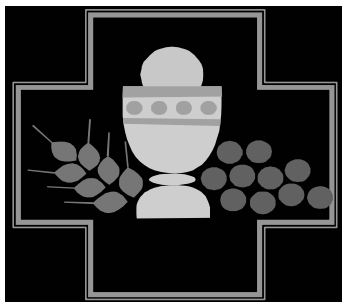


Message from the Director



As Branches on the Vine...

Dear Companions of Pauline,

As you receive this letter, the Sisters will be beginning our new year in ministry, so we say to you, "Happy New Year!" I trust that your summer was a wonderful one, despite the incredible heat.

During this month of August, we have several special occasions which we like to call "the Big Days." On August 14, our temporary professed Sisters will renew their vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience. They do this each year for six years until the time for perpetual profession. I always think it is so wonderful that these women, after the challenges of the year, are ready once again to give themselves completely to the Lord.

On August 15, after six years of temporary profession, one of our Sisters will make her perpetual profession. These are our "marriage vows" to the Lord. This is forever!

On August 21, most of our Sisters celebrate their anniversary of being received into the novitiate or "investing". (Some of our older Sisters were invested on June 29.) As you remember, August 21 is our founding day, the day on which Pauline von Mallinckrodt and her three companions received the habit of the Sisters of Christian Charity and the title "Sister". This year, 22 of our Sisters are celebrating milestone anniversaries or "jubilees". Their total years of service are 1,340 years! What a gift to the Church!

I invite you to join us in spirit as we celebrate these "big days". Know that you, our Companions of Pauline, will be in our special prayers and we ask your prayers for us.

In this mailing, you will receive an updated copy of the directory. Please check your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. If corrections need to be made, please let me know.

Also, this year, in place of our annual retreat, we are inviting you to participate in our SCC Fall Assembly. The schedule is on the back of this newsletter. I really hope you are able to attend. You are invited for the entire day. However, I know many of you live at a distance. If you can be here by 10 AM for the first conference, you can come then. You are also welcome to leave at any "break" in the afternoon, but know that you are invited to remain for supper. It is important that we know how many will attend, so please send your response back to me by September 5.

If you have any questions about any of this, please either contact your local coordinator or myself. We are very excited about the prospect of your sharing this part of SCC life with us.

May Mother Pauline be a companion to all of us as we continue to serve the Lord.

Lovingly,
Sister Joseph

International Meeting of Sisters and Associates--continued

I would like now to share with you what were for me two of the most thought provoking ideas presented by Sister Adalberta.

Let me set the stage for the first idea. At the beginning of the retreat before receiving the holy habit in 1849, Father Tewes asked Mother Pauline and her three companions to consider: "Am I destined for this Congregation; does God want me to serve Him in this Community?" These questions are significant for each Companion here today. You may not have thought of yourself as being "destined for this Congregation," but most likely you have done some kind of service that is related to the Community, and some may have worked directly with Sisters in a local ministry of the Congregation. Sister Adalberta told us that the invitation to live out our lives as married, single or ordained, according to the charism of Mother Pauline, **is a call from God** as certain as the vocation of each Sister of Christian Charity to live a consecrated life in this Congregation. Within our primary vocation, we respond to God's call by imitating Mother Pauline as we feed our children, do the laundry, support and care for our spouse, work at our jobs, and minister to our parishioners.

Sister Adalberta told us that the understanding of Mother Pauline's charism has undergone a change over the years. It is no longer viewed as the exclusive possession of the Sisters, but is a gift for the world, to be shared and lived by anyone who has been drawn to Mother Pauline and whose spirit has resonated with hers. It reminded me of the way a tuning fork, once struck, will cause a nearby tuning fork of the same pitch to vibrate. We have been touched by something in Mother Pauline's life, and we are the living vibrations of her intense love of God and love for His children. That is the challenge to each Companion--live her spirit, share her charism in the nooks and crannies of life where the Sisters cannot be present.

And what are the elements of her charism? The Sisters know this well, but it is worth repeating until it is known by heart. Sister Adalberta gave us a meditation on each element:

- union with God in love
- total surrender to Him
- seeking His will alone
- living the Christ-mystery fully
- giving Christ's love to EVERYONE
- in cheerful, whole-hearted service

The second topic presented by Sister Adalberta that seemed very significant to me was that in some locations the Associates are the sole presence of the Congregation, and in many more locations we will be the ones to keep alive the spirit and charism of Mother Pauline in the future after the Sisters are no longer there. The graph Sister presented was an eye-opener to me.

In the Western Province there are only 59 Sisters, but 153 Companions. In Minnesota, Michigan and New Orleans where the Sisters no longer live and work, there are faithful clusters of Companions of Pauline who meet monthly, keep in touch with the Community, and carry on the spirit of Mother Pauline in a variety of volunteer ministries.

In Uruguay and Argentina there are only 28 Sisters, but 84 "Damas Paulinas" as we are known in those countries. Sister Adalberta asked us to think about and plan, and take back to our local groups and local convents the mandate to spread the Associate movement--to involve fellow teachers in the schools where the Sisters still teach, to form groups of students --to plant seeds BEFORE a convent is closed or a ministry is entrusted to others, so that the memory and spirit of Mother Pauline will be kept alive.

In Germany, where the fingerprints of Mother Pauline could be found even today, schools and institutions are no longer staffed by Sisters. Even the first ministry--the blind institute--no longer has a Sister working there. It is

run by lay staff. Sister Adalberta told us that it is critical that the Sisters of the Congregation realize that the legacy of Mother Pauline will die if it is not deliberately preserved, and one indispensable instrument for this preservation is the growth and development of the Associate program. The Eastern Province is not faced with the same immediate urgency as are the West, Germany and South America, but every Sister here today has experienced the painful results of some form of cutting back. Sister Adalberta encourages every Sister to consider how she can get involved in or support the Associate program, to ensure that the spirit and charism of Mother Pauline will live on into the future.

Those are two of the concepts presented by Sr. Adalberta that seemed most significant to me: that the invitation to be a Companion is a call from God, and that the Associates have a significant role in preserving the memory, spirit and charism of Mother Pauline, particularly in those areas where the Sisters have withdrawn from ministry.

And finally, let me share a very personal experience. I had the opportunity to spend time alone in Mother Pauline's bedroom while no one else was around. I sat on the steps of the little landing near her bed, the steps she climbed to reach her washbasin and hang up her habit. I tried to recall every detail I could remember about her last hours. This was the room in which she looked for the last time upon the faces of the Sisters, closed her eyes, and beheld the face of God. I will never forget how very real her presence was to me. I said "Mother Pauline, I will be talking to your Companions when I return. What would YOU say to them? Two thoughts materialized:

- God's love already fills your hearts. Let it flow out, all the time, to everyone— wherever you are.
- Make people happy. Pass on the joy that is in you. Always find a way to make others happy.

It is truly a great grace that we can assist in spreading the Kingdom of God in a very concrete way by living the spirit of Mother Pauline.

—By Companion of Pauline, Judy Fischer



Prayer Corner



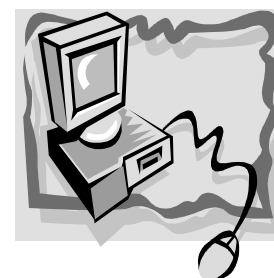
Please remember in your prayers the following who went home to their eternal reward since our last newsletter:

Rest of the soul of Gerald,
brother of Companion Ros Stefanelli

Sister Janice Borst
Sister Mary Renee Nelson

If you have an e-mail address and it is not listed in the directory, please send it to Sister Joseph at:

srjoseph@sceast.org



SCC Fall Assembly

Mendham, NJ
September 25, 2010

Schedule

9:00-9:45	Theological Reflection (Prayer)
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:15	Cane but Able: Living Whole and Holy (Jim Siberski, MS)
11:30	Liturgy (Rev. Dennis Weezorski)
12:30-1:45	Dinner
1:45-3:15	Jim Siberski—Continued
3:15-3:30	Break
3:30-4:15	Jim Siberski—Questions and Answers
4:30	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
5:00	Vespers
5:30	Supper

Yes, I will attend the SCC Fall Assembly.

I will remain for supper at 5:30.

Name

Phone

Please return by September 5 to:
Sister Joseph, SCC
Mallinckrodt Convent
350 Bernardsville Road
Mendham, NJ 07945