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Week of Oct. 1, 2012

Chicago News



Mercy Day at Saint Xavier University

By Sister Joy Clough

At Saint Xavier University in Chicago, Mercy Day falls during Homecoming Week. This year we did a new thing. For maximum impact, we combined the two: our traditional Mass of the Holy Spirit and our annual observance of Mercy Day. The result was Spirit of Mercy Day being celebrated on Sept. 26. We chose Wednesday because presence on campus is highest that day. Noon classes were canceled so all could attend the special Eucharistic Liturgy. As people exited the chapel, they received M&Ms - that is, Mission & Mercy cookies. There were table tents on the tables to explain the day, and the University newspaper carried a quiz about campus places named for Sisters of Mercy.

At 3:30 p.m., we held our traditional Leadership Commissioning ceremony. Held outdoors at our Academy Bell (a cast iron bell saved from Saint Xavier's downtown location after the Chicago Fire in 1871), representatives of all university constituents from sponsors to students were called forth and blessed. The emphasis here falls on students, with an officer rep from each student organization being commissioned. Each person received a small gift and got to ring the bell.

At 4 p.m., we held "Meet Some Mercy Sisters" – an opportunity for students to meet informally over pizza with Sister of Mercy guests. This year, we invited some of our senior sisters who impressed a student and a faculty member who did research last year at our retirement center. Sisters who work at SXU were also included.

At 6 p.m., student, faculty, alumni, and staff volunteers gathered in the diner to make bag lunches for area homeless shelters. This is a project of the Alumni Affairs Office that usually results in over 300 lunches delivered to those shelters.

“Musical Mystery Tour”

Provena McAuley Manor and Provena Fox Knoll will hold their 7th Annual Fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 2, 6:30 p.m., at Piper’s Hall, Aurora. A table has been purchased for Sisters who would like to attend. Please RSVP to Mary Jo Valenti at 773-779-6011 x3816 or mvalenti@mercywmw.org by Oct. 22 .

St. Catherine Residence

St. Catherine Residence will hold their 4th Annual Community Breakfast on Thursday, Nov. 8, 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at the Italian Conference Center, 631 East Chicago St., Milwaukee, WI. Tickets will be purchased for Sisters who would like to attend. Please contact Mary Jo Valenti at 773-779-6011 x3816 or mvalenti@mercywmw.org by Oct. 22 if you are interested.

Reminder: Happy Birthday, Sister Solina!

Mercy Convent invites all sisters and associates to Sister Solina Hicks’ 100th birthday party on Thursday, Oct. 25, 3-4 p.m. Please RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 18, to Eileen Sheehan at esheehan@mercywmw.org or 773-881-5059. For invitation, [click here](#).

Medicare Drug Plans 2013

NOTE: If you receive your medical benefits through your current employer or as a pension benefit, this information does not apply to you and no response is needed.

As announced in last week’s *Messenger*, plans for choosing a Medicare D plan for 2013 are underway. Same as last year, a survey will be used again to obtain an updated prescription drug list from all who have an email address on file at the central office. For those who do not have access to electronic messaging, look for a mailing regarding this important yearly update. If you have difficulty with completing the survey or would prefer a hard copy reminder, please make this request by leaving a message for Sister Dolores Zurek at 773-779-6011 X3818 anytime, night or day!

Things to keep in mind as you complete your drug list:

- Some plans have contracted with certain pharmacy chains to offer cost-sharing benefits. It is important to list your preferred pharmacy. Drug plan insurance companies are paying closer attention to network vs. non-network pharmacies. Every effort will be made to enroll each person in the plan with the best deal for the medications needed and the pharmacy preferred.
- Be as specific as possible with the details for each medication. If you use a medication on an ‘as needed/PRN’ basis, please indicate an average for the refills needed for one year.
- If you have received an exception for a medication from your plan this year, please indicate that in your response.
- Call Sister Dolores Zurek at 773-779-6011 X3818 with any questions or concerns.
- A response at your earliest convenience will be greatly appreciated!

Cardinal Roger Mahony To Address U.S. Immigration Policy, Catholic Social Teaching

Sisters and associates are invited to hear Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony speak at Saint Xavier University on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m., in the Butler

Reception Room. In a presentation entitled: *I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me*, Mahony will discuss current U.S. immigration policy and practices in the context of Catholic social teaching.

Cardinal Mahony brings significant experience and strong convictions to the topic of immigration. A Los Angeles native, he has served in several California dioceses. He holds a master's degree in social work, was the first chairman of the State of California's Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and has served on a number of relevant U.S. Catholic Bishops' committees, including Migration and Refugees & Domestic Policy.

Though he retired as archbishop of Los Angeles in 2011, Cardinal Mahony continues to be an active proponent of comprehensive immigration reform, seeking justice and respect for the rights of all individuals. His work aligns with the Mercy Critical Concern for immigration. *I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me* is a Catholic Colloquium lecture sponsored by the Office for University Mission and Heritage. The lecture is free and open to the public.

ICDI Concert Set for November

from Sisters JoAnn Persch and Pat Murphy

Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI) will hold a benefit concert on Sunday, Nov. 4, at Chapel of the Congregation of St. Joseph, LaGrange Park, IL. Performers will be Sister Kathy Sherman, CSJ, performing original social justice songs; Father Mike Shanahan, playing Latino classics on the piano; and Holy Cross Marimba Band with spirited music by Chicago youth.

As co-ministers in the struggle for immigrant justice, we value your support and dedication. We are especially asking for your support of this event. The money raised will go toward program costs for the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants. Please share this information with your family, friends and communities. Encourage them to come with you to the concert and learn more about who we are and what we do. We look forward to sharing this wonderful event with you and your friends! To learn more, see: <http://www.icua.org/concert4immigrants> or [click here](#).

Letter of Gratitude

To my dear Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Associates, Companions in Mercy and staff members in the Chicago area,

Thank you so much for your loving and enthusiastic support leading up to and during the world premiere week of *Band of Sisters*. I can't tell you how much it meant to me and to my sister, Pat Fishman (co-producer), to see the smiling faces of so many Mercy friends at all the screenings. How great it was of Saint Xavier University to offer a bus so people could ride together on the first night. Thank you Mary Jo Valenti, Avis Clendenen and Margaret Schroeder for organizing.

Thank you to the community for all the publicity, and thank you to everyone for spreading the word to your friends. I think we did pretty well with five nights sold out! For anyone who

wants to see the film, a lot of local screenings are coming up. Details to follow. And you can always check the website at www.bandofsistersmovie.com for the latest news.

You have all been so good to me, and I can't thank you enough. With love, admiration and gratitude,

Mary Fishman
Producer/Director of BAND OF SISTERS

Reminder: Daystar

"SHINE," Daystar's Annual Event will be held Thursday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m., at the Doubletree by Hilton in Milwaukee, WI. A table has been purchased for sisters who would like to attend. If you are interested, please contact Mary Jo Valenti at mvalenti@mercywmw.org or 773-779-6011 x3816 by Friday (Oct. 5).

Reminder: Liturgy for the Deceased Sisters

The annual Liturgy for the Deceased Sisters will be celebrated on Sunday, Nov. 11. Sisters and associates are needed to serve on the planning committee. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Jo Valenti at mvalenti@mercywmw.org or 773-779-6011 x3816. A planning meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m., at Mercy Meeting Place.

Reminder: Invitation to Our Associates



Mercy Convent would like to invite any **two associates to one** of our 2012 seasonal cookouts which are being held as follows:

Monday, Oct. 8

Monday, Nov. 5

Time: Snacks and Drinks: 4:30 p.m.; Supper: 5 p.m.

Place: Sisters Dining Room, 10044 South Central Park

(Enter at Mercy Convent South Door where the switchboard is located. Park along the sides of the lot.)

ASSOCIATES

Please call Sister Margie at 773-881-5164 to reserve your place now for any ONE of the above dates. We'd love to have you join us!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Oct. 2 - Mercy Housing fundraiser, "MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER" celebrating 25 years, 3 p.m., Swissotel, 323 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, contact Sister Margaret Johnson, 773-779-6011 x3827 or visit www.MercyHousing.org/MovingForwardTogether

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Annual Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associate Retreat Day, Carmelite Center, Darien, IL, noon

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Corazón a Corazón's 10th anniversary featuring Dan Schutte, 3 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Hyde Park, 5472 S. Kimbark, Chicago; for tickets, see: <http://www.corazon-chicago.org>

Saturday, Oct. 13 - Chicago 1 Consultation Network Mother McAuley High School

Friday, Oct. 19 - Institute Anti-Racism Workshop

Saturday, Oct. 20 - Chicago 2 Consultation Network Mercy Hospital

Sunday, Nov. 11 - Mass for the Deceased

Tuesday, Nov. 27 - *Band of Sisters* film at Saint Xavier University, 6:30 p.m., see:
www.bandofsistersmovie.com

Saturday, Dec. 1 - Growing in Wisdom, Age and Grace, "Waiting in Joyful Hope," Father Pat McGrath, 9:30-11:45 a.m., Mercy Convent/location to be announced

Reminder: Mercy Meeting Place News

When you call the office at 773-779-6011, you will reach the automated phone system until a new receptionist is hired. Please see staff office extensions below. (You can also refer to your red directory.)

S. Joella Cunnane	x3828	jcunnane@mercywmw.org
S. Margaret Johnson	x3827	mjohnson@mercywmw.org
S. Kathleen McClelland	x3812	kmcclelland@mercywmw.org
Carol Miller	x3844	cmiller@mercywmw.org
S. Pat M. Murphy	x3846	
Nancy Pepper	x3820	npepper@mercywmw.org
S. JoAnn Persch	x3846	jpersch@mercywmw.org
Mary Jo Valenti	x3816	mvalenti@mercywmw.org
S. Dolores Zurek	x3818	dzurek@mercywmw.org

Got News?

If so, please send it to wmwchicago@mercywmw.org. Deadline for the weekly news is end of day Friday. Photos are welcome!