WE ARE CALLED TO BE AN ATTENTIVE PRESENCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER, ALL OF GOD’S PEOPLE AND CREATION. (2018-2023)

ASSOCIATES AND COORDINATORS AT THE ASSEMBLY IN JUNE.
Back row: left to right: Margaret McDonald, ASLW, Mary Pat Wilkans, ASLW, Donna Williams, SLW, Marilita Roy, SLW, Mary Cornille, SLW. Front row: Carol Kelzer, ASLW, Josette Buehlman, ASLW, Linda Nicholas, ASLW, Joanne Fedewa, SLW.
A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

In June, thirty eight Sisters and several Associates gathered at our Center for our annual Assembly. Through times of prayer, discussion, presentations, and fun, together we heard God beckoning us from the future, and experienced the blessings of communion with one another.

In light of the fact that religious life throughout the country, and in fact, globally, is in the midst of transformation, in an evolving state of newness, SLW Leadership presented to the Community a vision of what lies before us, and what calls for our attention as we move into the future.

We reaffirmed our commitment to being a part of the newness of Religious Life, and could describe ourselves as: standing in faith . . . even as we discover new and different ways of being Living Words into the future; standing together—as a beacon for others.

We stand firmly in gratitude for our call and we stand proud for what our courage has led us to be for one another, for the Church, society and the world!

We stand unshaken in our solidarity with the poor, oppressed, and marginalized, and we stand with perseverance in advocacy for the changing of laws—so hope and new life will be a gift we offer to people and all creation from this moment forward!

We stand in openness and hope, listening to the God who calls us from the future, lighting the path for us each step of the way!

We stand in these ways—and more—because we stand in the surety of God who loves us limitlessly and has plans for us—undoubtedly!

We always count on the empowering presence and limitless love of the Living Word alive within, among, and through us.

The Living Word spirit and charism of bringing hope, effecting change, empowering people, and blessing Earth in many and varied ways, shows that the “power of God at work within us can do more than we could ask or imagine.” (Eph.3)

Thank you, dear readers and supporters, for your part in joining us to make this flow of grace happen. You are appreciated and are held always in our prayer!

Blessings of the Living Word!

Carrie Miller, SLW

P.S. Have you visited our website lately and seen our new video?
RELIGIOUS COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

By Sharon Glumb, SLW and Kim Boyce-Hagerty

The Wisconsin Religious Collaborative is a membership organization designed to allow religious institutes to assist each other in providing needed internal management services through collaboration, sharing of personnel or programs or through seeking and sharing the services of outside vendors. The collaboration is designed to free leadership of religious institutes to focus on mission and ministry.

The Sisters of the Living Word are members of the WRC, with Sharon Glumb, SLW serving on the Board. The other eight congregations of Wisconsin are the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond du Lac; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse; Servants of Mary, Ladysmith; Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa; Sisters of the Divine Savior, Milwaukee; Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Merrill; Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis; and Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross, Green Bay. They vary in size from 200 to 22.

After visiting the member congregations and much discussion, Lyn Korte, the Executive Director, and the WRC prioritized seven initiatives for development within the next six months.

• **Resource Library** – Collection of tools and templates available at WRCollaborative.org.

• **Staffing and Management Program** – Models, processes, and procedures with a portal for available resources and requests.

• **Assessment Package** – Self-audit kit for institutes to evaluate current status, trends, and future direction.

• **Pastoral Care Program** – Employees to be shared across institutes in need of pastoral care, including companionship, assistance through transitions, counseling, and care.

• **Health Agency Collective** – Partnership with designated agencies with negotiated rates based on a collective of institutes, as well as managing local logistics and care needs.

• **Ongoing Formation Portal** – Comprehensive slate of programming, speakers and sessions, recommended reading, discussion guides, and programs developed centrally and executed locally.

• **Social Justice Portal** – Activities and programs tied to LCWR priorities and including levels of participation plus measure and reporting on impact and involvement.

Other initiatives will be studied in the future. The new website, www.WRCollaborative.org will be up and running soon.

We thank Chioma Ahanihu, SLW for serving on the OutWORD editorial board for the last few years. We wish her well as she continues her studies at Catholic Theological Union and ministers through Catholic Charities.
Coming together from various corners of the country for the annual Assembly of the Sisters of the Living Word, it is always a treasure renewing acquaintances and exchanging the variety of experiences in one’s life over the past year. Such was the assembling of the SLW as they gathered from June 17–21.

To set a tone for each day some staff from the Congregation of St. Joseph led the Community in creative prayer, invoking the Spirit for guidance and direction. Although the Sisters spent quality time on business and decision-making items, there was a lighter side programmed to round out both business and creativity during the Assembly.

One experience was visiting the Sisters at Resurrection Life Center, where some SLW reside for a variety of health issues. It was apparent that a Living Word spirit and aliveness was present between residents and visitors. We then visited Resurrection Retirement Community on the same property. Some SLW reside there in individual apartments, joining together for prayer and meals, thus enabling them to retain a form of community life.

Another novel feature was the inclusion of optional sessions in which Sisters chose an experience that interested them or was new and different. The Unfolding Story, a video, put one in touch with the marvels of the Universe, a topic in which we are getting more and more interested. Kathleen Heer, SLW tapped into the creative dimension of one’s life, offering the opportunity of making a “reflective stone,” surprising both the creator of the piece as well as onlookers. Sharon Glumb, SLW, led a session about the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative.

Since Assembly time is also the occasion of honoring Jubilarians, a special dinner and presentation was held one evening in their honor. The “Purple Shirts” provided entertainment by means of readings, poetry, and other creative recitations which were enjoyed and appreciated by all.

At the end of the Assembly each Sister was commissioned in fulfillment of SLW mission, “to reflect and affirm the Word in the world, the Word who continually frees the oppressed and gives new life.” This final communal act sent forth each SLW to the place and community to which she has been called for 2019–2020.
Gratefully Celebrating God’s Faithful Love
By Donna M. Williams, SLW

“Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice! Alleluia!” Luanne Wilhelm, SLW opened the Reflection for the Jubilee celebration for five Sisters whose combined years of ministry total 340 years.

Stella Stacken, SLW spent over fifty of her 75 years in ministry as an educator. She told Barbara Mass, SLW, “When I was asked to do difficult ministries, I put my trust in God. I know God loves me and like Mary who was asked to accept difficult things, I did it because of that faithful love. Community life is an example of the beautiful and the difficult. The grace of community is the support and companionship and I learned to grow in prayer and to accept the goodness of other Sisters.”

Theresa Weber’s, SLW 75 years of ministry included housekeeping for the Sisters, then House Mother to 8 and 9-year-old boys in Normandy, Missouri. Her greatest contribution was her unconditional service to the poor of Detroit for 41 years, especially in St. Elizabeth Parish.

Rosalie Erdmann, SLW says: “70 years! It’s a time to pause, to thank, to celebrate, to give praise for God’s faithful love. The older I get, the more I realize how blest I am. Through my call to religious life I have touched thousands of lives. In return, my life has been so enriched!”

Angela Ashbey, SLW spoke with Marilita Roy, SLW about 60 years as teacher, pastoral minister, coach, Bible Study facilitator and activist. “God has taken good care of me in the high, high ups and the way, way downers! In all the ministries God has done marvelous things for and to me!”

Joanne Ginter, SLW wrote: “The 60th anniversary gemstone is the diamond. The diamond is multi-faceted revealing its beauty as it is held up to the light. As I hold my diamond of ministries as teacher, pastoral minister, school secretary and volunteer to the light, I see loving and supportive people, especially my religious community. They are a reflection of the Light, with friends—including Associates and co-workers—revealing the brightness of God’s faithful love.” 💛
In Part I of *SLW on the Front Lines of Mission in Mississippi* we followed the missioners from 1990–2000. We join SLW Mary Ann Grausam, Joel Curcio, Colette Fahrner, and Sharon Glumb, who were moving to Holly Springs.

In 2002 Mary Ann and Joel collaborated with Sacred Heart Southern Missions (SHSM) to provide social services to two counties. Mary Ann’s ministry was pastoral and hands-on. She chaired the Marshall County Community Development Corporation Board which operates a homeless shelter and food pantry. The Sisters, all avid gardeners, were able to contribute produce to the food pantry. Joel’s new ministry was Program Manager of SHSM. She supervised employees, directed the Economic Alternatives Office, served on the board for the Mississippi Micro-Enterprise Association Network and as secretary of the SHSM Housing Corporation Board. Sharon was chaplain for Hospice South of Marshall County and moved back into campus ministry at the Diocese of Jackson. Eventually she joined the Memphis Diocese as Director of Campus Ministry, serving Rhodes College and the University of Tennessee Science Center, until she was elected to Congregational Leadership in 2013.

Sharon writes, “In 2015, while serving in Congregational Leadership I received a grant from the Catholic Volunteer Network’s initiative, ‘From Service to Sisterhood,’ to create a vocation discernment opportunity in northern Mississippi. This Hands-ON + Hearts-IN Program is a weeklong experience where women interested in religious life can live and work with vocation ministers from various congregations. It’s co-sponsored with the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association and Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Walls.”

SLW Colette Fahrner joined SHSM in 2006 and served until 2010 as a Lay Ecclesial Minister at St. Francis parish in Booneville. From 2010 to 2016 Colette served as Director of New Membership and would travel to Walls to work with student volunteers at Sacred Heart Center. Retirement in 2016 afforded Colette the freedom to return to Holly Springs. She taught in a college Literacy Program, helped the Humane Society with a feral cat problem, joined a religious education committee and ministered at St. Joseph Parish in liturgical roles.

SLW Kristine Vorenkamp ministered with the Glenmary Home Missioners in Northeast Mississippi from 1999–2005 as the Coordinator of the Catholic Outreach Center for IHM Catholic Church in Houston. Kristine worked in Vardaman, Mississippi’s Sweet Potato Capital. As one of the few Spanish-speaking ministers in the area, her interpretation skills were needed. She led Sunday worship without a priest twice a month, transported women to appointments, led funerals, ran a Bible School and classes, organized prayer events and celebrations, and taught English as a Second Language to the farm workers. Projects that she helped to put in motion are still flourishing: a Catholic Charities branch, her trained catechists lead classes, and some field workers’ children graduated high school and attend college.

SLW Lynda Rink ministered at Our Lady of Fatima Church as Director of Religious Education in Biloxi from 1995–2000.

In Boonville, SLW Genevieve Shea, then in her late eighties, helped Colette organize religious books at the parish and prepared Mexican children for their First Confession and Communion.

In 2013, SLW Barbara Mass and Brigid Tembo were catechists in the Holly Springs Summer
Bible School using materials developed by SLW Jeannette Daniel and Judiann Derhake. In working with the Scripture stories, they "... had a chance to bring the Word to children and to enjoy the beautifully developed projects for each story," Barbara remarked.

Each of these Sister’s ministries served Mississippi in the front lines where the need was crucial. They were not afraid to roll up their sleeves and labor side by side in the trenches of poverty and need. Their dedication to the SLW Mission statement to free the oppressed and bring new life have a lasting impact in the hearts of the communities they touched.
Born on All Saints Day, Caroline Compretta has had the spirit of Jesus and the Living Word mission in her heart from the start. Growing up in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, her family worshiped weekly at the Newman Center Church. On her birthdays her parents took her to Mass to receive a blessing. By the time she attended Millsaps College in Jackson, Caroline was open to the mission and charism of Jesus which drives the community of the Sisters of the Living Word—that of new life, especially for the poor and oppressed.

She met campus minister Sharon Glumb, SLW at Millsaps. Caroline describes Sharon as “so open and joyful—always had a plan for everyone and met us where we were.” Sharon arranged for Sunday night Mass with snacks and conversation afterward.

As an assistant to Sr. Sharon, Caroline helped with the Catholic Campus Ministry Program serving Belhaven College, Millsaps College and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. When Caroline visited the Living Word Center to help with marketing and design, she said, “I met so many Sisters, each unique. They were so kind and joyful, committed to God and to the Word. We went out to an Italian restaurant and had a great time. Best of all were the chapel services. I could tell that God was so alive here.”

Caroline lived in a Jackson Volunteer House that served at Stewpot, a volunteer program for college graduates who commit to living in community, praying together, and working for the marginalized, a life-shaping experience. Caroline earned her masters and doctorate in anthropology from the University of Kentucky. She and her husband Jonathan live in Jackson with their three sons.

Still living the charism of new life, Caroline works at the University of Mississippi Medical Center part-time in preventive medicine and part-time in bioethics and community based research, writing grants about neighborhood barriers to exercise and healthy living.

She is an intelligent modern young woman who hears the Living Word. While an Associate, Caroline has never made the commitment ceremony, although she would like to. It may happen as a cyber-ceremony.

The Living Word Community is blessed to have Caroline, and all our Associates and prayer partners—all whom Pope Francis calls our charismatic family.
Since 1978, the Sisters of the Living Word have awarded annual Ministry Grants. This year nine social service agencies or schools applied for and were awarded grants between $250 and $1,000. These are:

**Interfaith Action**, Evanston, Illinois ($500.00) to serve hungry and homeless people and to promote social justice.

**Amate**, Archdiocese of Chicago ($300) to help support Social Justice Leadership Development Training for college graduates donating a year of service in the Chicago area.

**Northside Learning Center High School**, Chicago ($250) to help buy new uniforms for students participating in the Special Olympics.

**Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants**, Chicago ($1,000) allowing them to provide pastoral care to people in immigration detention, to those being deported, and to people seeking asylum.

**Our Lady of Tepeyac High School**, Chicago ($1,000) to assist college bound girls, through their College Readiness Program, to visit universities.

**Associates/Flint Project for Poor Women**, Flint, Michigan ($500) to allow SLW Associates to provide women in the area from Christ the King’s food and supply pantry with personal needs products that they can’t normally afford.

**Employee Assistance Program of Catholic Charities**, Chicago ($600) to assist clients in emergency situations especially with the purchase of beds and other household items through their connection with the non-profit The Furniture Bank. The Furniture Bank provides an entire needy household with furniture for only $50.

**Small Sums**, St. Paul, Minnesota ($500) to purchase 29 pairs of non-slip shoes for homeless workers to give them a better chance at getting a job.

**Faith Community Homes**, Arlington Heights, Illinois ($500) for new mattresses for families without furniture.

I was inspired by the connection of the high school and our SLW mission. It’s about giving hope through opportunities for continuing college education as well as personal character development.

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-Carrie Miller, SLW

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Students from Our Lady of Tepeyac, Chicago, Illinois
Bitter Jester Studios (BJS) is the multi Emmy-winning production company that was hired by the Sisters of the Living Word (SLW) to write, direct and produce a modern and cutting edge video to share with their friends, benefactors, and the world-at-large. They hoped for a video that would tell the story of the Sisters’ bold past, interwoven with their timeless mission of bringing new life to people who are poor and oppressed, along with their core values. It turns out that Nic DeGrazia and Dan Kullman, the creative team and owners of BJS, “hit it out of the park” with a heroically humble and harmonious homage to the legacy of the Sisters of the Living Word. The experience was fascinating and awe-inspiring for all involved.

Watch the video on the website at www.slw.org or on YouTube.

Following is an interview with Dan and Nic who said they have been doing this work long enough (18 years) to know when they have a good project. They agree that the Sisters of the Living Word have been one their best clients ever. Let’s find out how this project evolved.

Nic, would you please tell us how the concept of the video came to be?

NIC: The Sisters came to us with a general concept of moving in a new direction which was both creative and abstract. We were able to flesh that out as a group and then Dan and I thoughtfully executed the ideas and concepts.

DAN: We wanted to film in a regal, historic, non-dated environment–some place that spoke of...
ancient majesty—so I approached Jason Smith of Lake Forest who provided us with their home to use for most of the video. Then we had the challenge of scheduling as much filming in one day as possible!

NIC: The video succeeds in a building that in 100 years will still have the same “museum quality” look.

The Sisters who were asked to be a part of this video—Sisters Chioma Ahanu, Mary Nicholas Eiden, Sharon Glomb, Carrie Miller, Georgene Schumacher and Kris Vorenkamp—weren’t enamored with the idea of performing yet you and your crew put them at ease. How did this happen?

DAN: Nic and I took the Sisters out to dinner before the filming began to get to know them and allow them to get to know and feel comfortable with us. That meeting also informed the selection of the crew. This gave us a good sense of how we wanted to interact and set the tone.

NIC: Being on a set is intimidating so breaking bread is important. Dan and I become the stable part of the film making process for the talent.

Once on set, I explained that the SLW gave me the words with which I wrote the script so there was nothing new for them to learn—just be themselves.

On the writing side, I was a bit nervous and insecure about tackling the material; not nervous about my ability, but this was not a topic I had written about or filmed. The material from the SLW and Josette was rich and insightful.

Once the script is written and we’re on set, I am the one interviewing the talent in front of the camera. The charism of the Sisters is not overbearing and they were so easy to work with because they live that charism. There were many, many takes yet the SLW were open to the guidance and encouragement they received.

How did you feel about the project as it was taking place?

NIC: Everyone was so humble and respectful. The actual filming was a real collaboration of BJS and the SLW. Dan and I were also aware that this video was going to be different from others in that we hoped it would become a visual, lyrical poem, and I think that was accomplished.

Do you think you’ll submit the Sisters’ video for an Emmy?

NIC: We are definitely submitting this to the Emmy’s! We have a good shot at a nomination. It’s an engaging, comfortable, perfect piece that showcases the charism of the SLW and the creative work of BJS.

Continue reading this article online at www.slw.org.
Jazz Brunch 2019 celebrated the Sisters of the Living Word on April 28, 2019 and the Sisters of the Living Word acknowledged Faith Community Homes with their Partners in Mission Award and Margaret McDonald, ASLW as Volunteer of the Year!

We are grateful to all of our friends and benefactors who attended the Jazz Brunch. The new feature added this year was mobile bidding which was received very well by the majority of the guests. They were also able to use mobile devices to buy raffle tickets and support the Sisters in their volunteer ministries through the Live Auction.

Gary Colabuono served as the emcee. The Elmhurst College Jazz Ensemble entertained while attendees dined on a Prime Rib brunch. The premiere of the Living Word video was shown and Nic DeGrazia, the producer, writer and director from Bitter Jester Studios told the crowd how pleased he was to work with a bold and daring group of women religious. Read more on pages 10-11.

We thank our sponsors:
Jazz Trio: Glenn and Josette Buehlman, ASLW and the Crary Family Legacy Fund
Saxophone: Gerald and Denise Fitzgerald, Jr.
Trumpet: Addolorata Villa
Clarinet: Clerics of St. Viator, Gary and Patty Colabuono, Flood Brothers Disposal Co. and Village Bank & Trust
Drums: CMIT Solutions, Lauterburg & Oehler Funeral Home, LifeStyle Options, Miller Cooper & Company and St. James Parish

The event wouldn't have been possible without the hardworking committee, sponsors, ad patrons, and contributors of auction items and gift cards. A hearty thanks to all!

Carrie Miller, SLW awards the Volunteer of the Year award to Margaret McDonald, ASLW.

The Partners in Mission Award was presented to Faith Community Homes. L-R Charles Warner, the Executive Director of Faith Community Homes, Carrie Miller, SLW, and Kris Vorenkamp, SLW.
In Gratitude and Thanks

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SOAR!

We gratefully acknowledge Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) for their grant to install livestreaming technology at the Living Word Center. This technology will connect the Sisters of the Living Word who are unable to travel to the Center which in turn will allow their participation in matters concerning the Community. Thank you SOAR!

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charity to donate to, directing
payments via credit card or bank
draft. It’s a direct transaction
between the donor and the charity,
so the charity knows who the
donor is, and the charity issues the
acknowledgement receipt.
The Sisters of the Living Word were blessed with bequests from two dear Iowa friends of SLW Rosalie Erdmann, Stella Stacken, and the late Helen Saffert.

Jean Sitzmann lived in LeMars, working as a medical transcriptionist for years at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City. She also cared for her parents. After they passed away Jean and her brother Earl moved to Sioux City, home of their sister Lois Hardy and brother Fr. Richard.

Sr. Rosalie knew Lois and Rick (Fr. Richard) for over 50 years. Lois was the Bishop Heelan registrar for 32 years where Sr. Rosalie taught (1976–2004). After retiring, Sr. Rosalie volunteered at Mercy where Fr. Richard was chaplain. Weaving this circle of friends tighter, Lois’s niece Angie married Sr. Rosalie’s nephew Dave! During the last five years of Jean’s life she was able to spend more time with Lois and consequently with Sr. Rosalie. Before that anytime Sr. Rosalie traveled to LeMars, she brought Lois to visit her sister. It was Jean’s wish that her bequest help fund the Sisters’ retirement fund.

Fr. Donald Ries, St. Boniface pastor, also provided for the Sisters through a bequest. Sisters Rosalie, Stella, and Helen lived and worshiped at St. Boniface. Sr. Rosalie worked at Bishop Heelan, while Sr. Helen served St. Boniface as principal and Sr. Stella as a teacher (1975–1998). Sr. Rosalie said Fr. Donald was very good to the Sisters. When the convent caught fire, he invited the Sisters to live in the rectory until other arrangements could be made. Sr. Stella says he was always pleasant and gave his time to take care of the spiritual needs of his parish. After Sr. Rosalie retired she volunteered in hospital ministry and also at St. Boniface. Before moving to Chicago she had a lunch date with Fr. Donald which had to be postponed. One week later he passed away, leaving Sr. Rosalie and his parishioners stunned by this loss.
Memorials

Demetrios Baenen  
Ms. Maritsa Baenen
Helen Bajkowski, ASLW  
Mary Louise Coccimiglio, SLW 
Mary Cornille, SLW  
Ms. Carol L. Kelzer, ASLW 
Barbara Mass, SLW  
Rosaria Schlechter, SLW  
Stella Stacken, SLW
Donna Barker  
Ms. Anne M. Barker
Evelyn Biebl  
Mary Cornille, SLW
Arthur J. Boyd  
Mrs. Jean Boyd
Henrica Buckert, SCC  
Mary Cornille, SLW
Berthina Campbell  
Mr. Jack Campbell
Helen Cico  
Mrs. Ruby Stephens
Bill Clancy  
Mary Cornille, SLW
Marilyn Crump  
Mr. and Mrs. Wangles
Joan Doyle  
Mrs. Ruby Stephens
Dr. Warren Ferrand, DDS  
Mr. Roy M. Bowes
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Haas  
Mr. and Mrs. Tony R. Mandina 
Ms. Victoria Romaguera  
Ms. Leslie D. Schroth
Ron Gibson  
Mary Louise Coccimiglio, SLW  
Joanne Grib, SLW  
Barbara Mass, SLW  
Rosaria Schlechter, SLW  
Stella Stacken, SLW
Mary Ann Grausam, SLW  
Ms. Phyllis Czarnecki
Sr. Bridie Kelly, OSM  
Mrs. Frances McPartlin
Erick Klick  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Boyce-Hagerty
Joseph Lazzara  
Anonymous
Elizabeth Lennon  
Mrs. Margaret A. McDonald, ASLW
Geri Lipke  
Joanne M. Fedewa, SLW  
Carolyn Miller, SLW  
Kristine Vorenkamp, SLW
David Mastroianni  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Boyce-Hagerty  
Joanne Fedewa, SLW  
Joanne Grib, SLW  
Barbara Mass, SLW  
Carolyn Miller, SLW  
Rosaria Schlechter, SLW  
Stella Stacken, SLW
Larry Mason  
Mrs. Shirley A. Mueller
Arlysse Jean Michaelis  
Ms. Jacqueline B. Mosio
Dolores Moore  
Colette J. Fahrner, SLW
Lois Nichols  
Rosalie Erdmann, SLW
Grace Rief, SLW  
Mr. and Mrs. John Guest, Jr.  
Ms. Carol L. Kelzer, ASLW  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher B. Rief  
Mr. Jerome M. Rief  
Mr. Philip Rief  
Ms. Suzan Rief  
Mr. and Mrs. David Ringstead  
Ms. Sally Sammons, ASLW
Lynda Rink, SLW  
Mr. and Mrs. Mirl Bergeron, ASLW
Angel L. Rivera, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Boyce-Hagerty
Peter Schmidt  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cieplik  
Mary Cornille, SLW

Many thanks to all who supported the Sisters of the Living Word through the John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity fundraiser. 2,091 number of “birdies” were made.
In a world full of “things,” it’s a wonderful expression of celebration to share thoughts and prayers through the Living Word cards created by SLW Kathleen Heer.

1
We can send you an assortment of cards, which include five designs: Birthday, Honorarium, Get Well, In Gratitude, and Memorial.

2
You send the card or we will personalize for you and send “snail mail” style. When the card is used, send the enrollment envelope and your free will offering to SLW.

3
Recipients are remembered at Mass every Tuesday and in the daily prayers of the Sisters of the Living Word. All donors receive an acknowledgment of their request and donation.

For more information visit the website under the Donate > Living Word Cards tab at slw.org or call:

Margaret Mei
847-577-5972 ext. 226
ASSOCIATES AND PARTNERS IN PRAYER GATHERINGS
by Kim Boyce-Hagerty

SLW Joanne Fedewa and Donna Williams drove to Flint, Michigan in May to join the Michigan Associates for a retreat hosted at Christ the King parish where Fr. Phil Schmitter, ASLW is pastor. Margaret Verdun, ASLW coordinated the retreat. The theme was Heaven on Earth. A recommitment ceremony for the Associates was held after the retreat.

The West Texas Associates gather monthly for a meal and an evening of community and prayer. They have been reading and reflecting on the book *Boundless Compassion* by Joyce Rupp.

The Iowa Prayer Partners meet monthly to share their faith. They ask for prayers for their continued growth.

Some interested women from West Zambia, Africa, are in the formation process to become Partners in Prayer. They meet monthly and communicate with Donna Williams, SLW through Skype. In May they were sharing what they could do to help “free the oppressed and bring new life.” They are considering choosing a family to help become self-sustaining.

This summer the Arlington Heights Associates celebrated Sue Geimer, ASLW being awarded a Masters’ Degree in Special Education after three years of study in addition to her full time teaching position at St. Raymond School in Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

The Chillicothe, Illinois Associates were visited by Margaret McDonald, ASLW, Barbara Mass, SLW and Joanne Fedewa, SLW in May. Marj McAllister, ASLW hosted, and they were joined by other ASLW for lunch with a scripture lesson prepared by Sr. Barb. They also visited St. Edward’s Church and School, where the SLW worked in the past.

The Minnesota Sisters and Associates met at the home of Sue Tellers, ASLW in May. They gather every six weeks or so to pray, read and reflect on Scripture, and share how God is working in their lives and where God’s help is needed.
Each year the Sisters of the Living Word celebrate their 1975 founding as a congregation. Summerfest was held at the Living Word Center on August 11 and 85 people gathered for brats, hot dogs, chips, ice cream and watermelon and to have their faces painted by Kathleen Heer, SLW. The music of the Banjo Buddies added a nice note to the day.

IN MEMORIAM: HELEN BAJKOWSKI, ASLW

Helen M. Bajkowski, an ASLW for 22 years, died on June 26, 2019. She and her late husband Stanley had 8 children, 12 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Barbara Aretz, ASLW from West Texas wrote this about Helen:

Helen's compassion and gifts held both beauty and challenge. Her association with the Sisters of the Living Word was very important to her and filled her adult life with deep purpose and respect. I met her at the 2005 Assembly where she approached all in attendance with nonjudgment and unconditional love. Her spirit shined through in everything she did.

Her spirit and sheltering friendship, along with others, inspired me to make my commitment as an ASLW the following year. She touched many of the West Texas Associates’ lives with her courage and endless strength. We will think of her often and pray for her intercession in our daily struggles of life. She is at peace, her faith now supporting others who are hurting and in pain; guiding them to know the shelter of God. ☧

SLW NOTES!

Rebekah McFarland, Archivist, shown here on the left with Jeannine Randolph, SLW, has been elected to a 2-year position to the Steering Committee for Chicago Area Archivists.

SLW Jeannette Daniel and Judiann Derhake by a poster showing the many areas of the world where people have purchased their Living Word Crafts.

The Stuber family enjoyed Founder’s Day. l-r: Front: Ben, Anna, Sophia, Carol, Joanne Fedewa, SLW. Back: Jim

SUMMERFEST!

Each year the Sisters of the Living Word celebrate their 1975 founding as a congregation. Summerfest was held at the Living Word Center on August 11 and 85 people gathered for brats, hot dogs, chips, ice cream and watermelon and to have their faces painted by Kathleen Heer, SLW. The music of the Banjo Buddies added a nice note to the day. ☧
The Sisters of the Living Word can benefit others through your everyday purchases.

Let’s say you stop at the grocery store and your total purchase is $27.68. This purchase is automatically rounded up to the next dollar... $28.00. You just made a small donation of 32 cents to the SLW. All the spare change combines to have a big impact on the lives of those we serve. Learn more at: www.slw.org/CatholicCent

You may round up, make a one-time or monthly donation. Internet access is necessary to sign up.