



South Central Community

eneews

WEEKLY COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

February 4, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

In Memoriam

Sister Mary Teresa O'Donnell dies in St. Louis, Missouri.

Catherine would go

Mercy medical team leaves for Haiti mission.

Reflections in verse

Sister Patricia Schnapp publishes her 50th poem.

CALENDAR

February 5

"Go Red Day" for the awareness of heart disease

February 19

Deadline to submit nominations for Institute Chapter delegates

Sisters of Mercy –
South Central Community
101 Mercy Drive
Belmont, NC 28012-2898
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Let's encourage each other to build compassionate, healthy hearts

The American Heart Association has declared Friday, February 5, 2010, "Go Red Day," a time to show your support for raising awareness of heart disease in women by wearing red clothing. We invite you to join in this effort to teach ourselves and others that heart disease is the number one killer of women and, if necessary, to make changes in your diet and exercise that will keep you heart healthy.

To learn more about simple steps you can take to improve your heart's health, we invite you to visit the website of the [American Heart Association](http://www.heart.org).

Of course, as women and men of Mercy, we also keep before us the need for compassionate hearts, compassion that needs tending and exercise as much as our physical hearts. Perhaps we could reach out to someone tomorrow who needs extra compassion from us and continue that extra effort throughout this American Heart Month.



Kathy Jane Tami Paetter Angela Barbara

In Memoriam



Sister Mary
Teresa O'Donnell

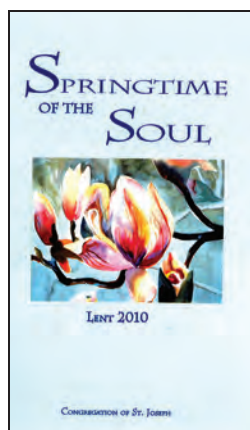
Sister Mary Teresa O'Donnell died peacefully on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at Catherine's Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. A Sister of Mercy for 58 years, she was 78 years old.

A nurse and healthcare administrator, Sister Mary Teresa held supervisory and administrative positions in hospitals in Laredo and Brownsville, Texas; Holy Angels Nursery and Coastal Family Health Center in Biloxi, Mississippi; and St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

In addition, she ministered as a pastoral assistant and director of religious education in parishes in Mississippi, Missouri, and Louisiana until 2006.

Sister Mary Teresa loved art and music, especially opera. She always was eager to introduce young women who visited Catherine's Residence to religious life and the charisma of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy.

Booklets for Lent on their way to you



Be sure to check your mail for your copy of *Springtime of the Soul*, a booklet of reflections for Lent.

The booklets were mailed to sisters and Mercy Associates this week.

This year, Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17, which is Ash Wednesday.

Medical team from Asheville goes to Haiti

A five-member medical team from Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation in Asheville, North Carolina, left for Haiti this morning on a 10-day mission to work in two hospitals in the Port-au-Prince area.

"We had talked about a mission trip, and a week later the earthquake happened, and it had our names on it," said Dr. Ellen Lawson, an emergency medicine physician.



The Mercy medical team bound for Haiti are (from back row left) Dr. Obie Cuento, emergency medicine physician; Brenda Cuento, X-ray technician; Claudine Cuento, nurse; Dr. Ellen Lawson, emergency medicine physician; and Pat Clackler, nurse. They flew to Haiti today.

Dr. Obie Cuento, whose specialty also is emergency medicine, added "God's hand is on it, and that's the reason why we're here."

The team works in urgent care centers in Asheville, and the staff there cancelled their service awards celebration to redirect that money to the trip. In addition, other physicians on the Asheville staff will donate their time to cover for Dr. Cuento and Dr. Lawson.

The medical team arrived in Belmont on Wednesday, February 3, where they spent the night. The sisters in Sacred Heart Convent blessed them before their departure for Charlotte/Douglas International Airport Thursday.



Sister Maria
Goretti Weldon

The Haiti-bound group carried 150 pounds of donated medicine, along with a surprising cargo of another sort in their suitcases: auto parts. A Baptist men's group already in Haiti contacted the Mercy team to say their mission workers are in desperate need of the parts to continue their efforts.

Sister Maria Goretti Weldon, who is director of mission and values for Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation said another team probably will go to Haiti after the first group returns. "They're going where Catherine McAuley would go if she were here today."

Additional funds go to the Haiti relief effort

The Community Leadership Team is sending \$4,000 to Sister Rosemary Sabino of the Mid-Atlantic Community who works with Catholic legal services in Miami, Florida.

The organization is attempting to register thousands of Haitians in the U.S. for temporary protection status but must complete the task in 180 days. The funds from South Central will help hire additional staff.

Full report on Institute meeting now online

To read a complete report on the recent ILC meeting in Potomac, Maryland, be sure to read today's issue of [Mercy Now](#).

Don't forget deadline

Sisters, please remember to submit your nominations for Institute Chapter delegates by Friday, February 19, 2010. We prefer you submit them online by [clicking here](#).

If you prefer to submit your nominations by other means, please contact Sister Support Services at support@mercysc.org or 1.866.HAV.MERCY (1.866.428.6372).

Update on Gatherings, Mercy Circles coming

Sisters, please check your *mercysc.org* e-mail account tomorrow (Friday, February 5, 2010) for a special message from the Gatherings and Circles Committee of the South Central Community.

Best wishes to you, Sister Marguerite

We ask you to join us in sending our support to Sister Marguerite Fortier who has officially completed the transfer of her Mercy membership to the Mid-Atlantic Community. She also is dealing with serious health issues so let us keep her in our hearts and prayers.

Finance updates

BE ON LOOKOUT FOR FRAUDULENT E-MAILS

Sisters, please be aware that at least one sister has received a fraudulent e-mail from someone claiming to represent Fifth Third Bank and requesting sensitive information. The e-mail contained the bank's logo.

Fifth Third Bank reminds you it will never use e-mail or links within e-mails to ask you to supply, verify, or update information such as login IDs and passwords or to enroll you in a fraud protection service. Responding to those e-mails may allow the downloading of harmful viruses to your computer. Fifth Third Bank uses e-mail to send general updates only.

Sister reaches milestone as published poet



Sister Patricia Schnapp

Sister Patricia Schnapp has been writing poetry her entire life, and in 1998, she began publishing her work. Twelve years later, she has published her 50th poem, "Gaudete Sunday in Advent," in a recent issue of *Review for Religious*.

Sister Patricia finds inspiration in her private morning reflection on the Office and the day's Gospel.

When she realized that many of her reflections were taking the form of free verse poetry, on a whim, she submitted a poem to *Sisters Today*, a religious journal that is no longer in print. Since the publication of that first poem, her poems have appeared in *Review for Religious* and *National Catholic Reporter*, as well as *America*. In 2000, the Catholic Press Association awarded her first place for Best Poetry for "How Often Shall We Forgive."

Sister Patricia has taught for 50 years, the last 23 at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan. An associate professor of English, she teaches literature, writing and composition. In addition to teaching at Siena Heights, she volunteers at a local prison, leading a short-story discussion group. "Gaudete Sunday in Advent" is attached to today's *enews*.

Justice updates

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ON BOARD



Sister Joan Serda

Sister Joan Serda accepted the volunteer position of associate director of justice effective Monday, February 1, 2010. She will devote 10-15 hours per week to her new role while working from home in Macon, Georgia. She joins Sister Rose Marie Tresp, director of justice, as part of the South Central Community's justice ministry.

MYTHS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS AND CRIME

Recent research has shown that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native born Americans. Although the undocumented immigrant population doubled from 1994 to 2005, violent crime dropped by 34 percent and property crimes decreased by 32 percent overall. For more information [read here](#) or [here](#).

Today's Attachments

- Directory changes for February 4, 2010.
- "Gaudete Sunday in Advent" by Sister Patricia Schnapp.

We invite you to get in the habit...

...of submitting story ideas for *enews*. We include items as space and time allow. Please send your submissions to Myra Joines, communications director, at mjoines@mercysc.org.

Our weekly deadline is Tuesday at noon Eastern Time. Please remember to identify anyone in photos from left to right. Thanks.