



South Central Community

eneWS

WEEKLY COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

February 3, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

In Memoriam

Sister Mary Lucita Barthes and Sister Mary Johanna Crabtree die this week.

Unique ministry

St. John Bosco Children's School combines the beauty of academics with the practicality of trades.

Audrey's path

Our second year candidate shares her path to Mercy on the Institute's blog.

CALENDAR

February 18-20

Meeting for sisters and associates "Moving Forward: Exploring Two Calls." [Click here](#) for information.

February 25-26

Local Area Gatherings for:
– Baltimore, MD/Washington D.C./Pennsylvania;
– Barling, AR/Central Arkansas/Springfield, MO/Rogers, AR/Kansas
– Guam

Sisters of Mercy –
South Central Community
101 Mercy Drive
Belmont, NC 28012-2898
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Reports, conversations essential as we shape future as Community

World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, is being transferred to this coming Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church ...

— Website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

World Day of Consecrated Life comes in the midst of a great deal of work in our Community:

- The recently distributed Gatherings and Circles Committee Report that synthesized the thoughts and reflections of 52 Mercy Circles on the meaning of "acting in solidarity with the economically poor and the claim Acts of Chapter have on us as members;"
- Loop Three conversations in preparation for the Institute Chapter in June;
- The ILT's Accountability Report in preparation for their mega-conference calls with us; and
- Preparation for South Central Spring Gatherings in Local Area Communities.

Each of those reports and conversations is essential for us as we open our hearts and minds to the work of the Spirit among us, shaping us as we shape our future.

While we engage in that work, it is good to ask ourselves: "As our life of consecration is highlighted by others, what are we doing to make more visible for others the life of consecration we lead and the works of mercy we do ... not to draw attention to ourselves, but to the Reign of God made visible on this earth?"

This weekend is the discernment weekend for Institute Leadership, and we ask that you hold all of our participating sisters in prayer. Many blessings for you and with much gratitude for this Community of Mercy,

Kathy Jane Tani — Sister Angela Barbara

In Memoriam



Sister Mary Lucita Barthes

Sister Mary Lucita Barthes died peacefully on Sunday, January 30, 2011, at Catherine McAuley Convent in Barling, Arkansas, where sisters and staff were gathered in prayer.

A Sister of Mercy for 62 years, Sister Lucita was 80 years old.

For 20 years, her ministry was education in a number of schools in Mississippi. Because of a physical disability that made teaching increasingly difficult, she began serving in healthcare in 1968 as a clerk in hospitals in Missouri and Mississippi. Sister Lucita's ministry in healthcare spanned two decades.

Although confined to a wheelchair for 40 years, Sister Lucita was peaceful and contented and had a contagious laugh that she freely shared. She loved life and all its beauty, especially that of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Sister Mary Johanna Crabtree

Sister Mary Johanna Crabtree died peacefully on Monday, January 31, 2011, at Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama, after several years of declining health.

Sister Johanna was 86 years old and Sister of Mercy for 69.

An elementary teacher and principal for many years, she ministered in education for more than 50 years, primarily in her home state of Alabama. She served as director of education for the Archdiocese of Mobile for a decade and was instrumental in the accreditation of the first school there.

Sister Johanna loved children and was extremely dedicated to their education. In addition, she loved music and was still singing solos at the convent as recently as New Year's Eve. One of her greatest pleasures was Auburn University football, and her favorite team won the national championship before she died.

Ministry profile: St. John Bosco Children's Home

For more than 50 years, St. John Bosco Children's Home in Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica, has educated boys and taught them vocational skills that will help them provide for themselves and their families. St. John Bosco, which opened in 1960 as a residential home for needy boys, serves 160 students ages 6 to 18. Since its inception, the home has combined practical training in trades with traditional classroom education.



While focusing on traditional classroom lessons, St. John Bosco provides education in trades, such as preparing and selling meats.

Today, St. John Bosco, remains a residential home, offers classes from kindergarten through grade 5 and an adolescent development program to prepare students for trade training. Because most of the boys who come to St. John Bosco through the Family Court System are functionally illiterate, the school focuses on remedial learning to ensure that students will be able to read and write before leaving the school.

In addition to receiving a small amount of support from the Jamaican government as well as grants, the school generates income through projects such as the Butcher Training & Retail Store; the Catering Department and

Dish Rental Project; the Animal Husbandry Project; and the Farming and Greenhouse Technology Project.

Sister Susan Frazer has served at St. John Bosco since 1977 and as the director since 1982; Sister Miriam Krusling has been involved in the ministry for 16 years. Mercy Associate Marcia Tai Chun chairs the board. They, along with 43 other staff members, make up the dedicated people serving disadvantaged boys from the streets of Jamaica.

Learn more about St. John Bosco Children’s Home at <http://boscohome.tripod.com>.

Writer shares her experience at The Well

A writer for *Lake Norman Currents*, a magazine that serves an area north of Charlotte, North Carolina, recently shared her first person account of visiting Well of Mercy and meeting Sister Brigid McCarthy and Sister Donna Marie Vaillancourt.



To read the story by Lee McCracken and enjoy her color photos of the retreat center, [click here](#).

Justice updates

RACISM AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To deepen our response to the unrecognized and unreconciled racism, past and present, within our community ...
- Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy

For the past two years, the Anti-Racism Transformation Team of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy has been working to design processes to address this Critical Concern.

“The Anti-Racism Team has been a very humbling experience for which I am grateful. The training made me look at racism with a new perspective,” says Mercy Associate Alice Jones. “After two weeks of intense training, I’ve come to realize that I had been unaware of the unseen privileges that I and all European-Americans benefit by in our society.”

Black History Month is a celebration and reminder of the struggle for equality of African-Americans as well as their contributions to American society. But Black History Month also reminds us that any form of racism is an evil that all of us must work to eradicate because it divides the human family and blots out the image of God.

For a list of audio-visual resources about racism that you can use with groups in schools, parishes, convents and other settings, e-mail Sister Rose Marie Tresp, director of justice, at rtresp@mercysc.org.

Audrey’s path to Mercy religious life

Audrey Abbata, who is in her second year as a candidate in our South Central Community, has written “Finding your life’s path,” which is posted on the Institute’s blog [here](#).

Widowed and with a successful career she recently left, she talks about her journey to Mercy. The Institute reports that Audrey’s story generated brisk response on Twitter, and you may wish to share her blog with others.

Sister Corlita’s guide on reverencing Earth

As we celebrate World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on Sunday, February 6, and reflect on vocations and our Mercy life, Sister Mary Corlita Bonnarens offers us a prayer service on our Critical Concern to reverence Earth. To read her Mercy Spirituality Reflection Guide [click here](#).

She includes this quote from Teilhard de Chardin: “The deeper I descend into myself the more I find God

at the heart of my being. I begin to see how the Kingdom of God and cosmic love may be reconciled; the bosom of Mother Earth is in some way the bosom of God.”

Ministry opportunity

Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Birmingham, Alabama, is looking for candidates for the newly created position of pastoral associate. It will be the parish’s first full-time staff member. A pastoral theology degree and experience working within a parish are required. For a full job description contact stmarkrc@bellsouth.net. Resumes are due by Tuesday, March 1, 2011, to that e-mail account or to Search Committee, P.O. Box 380396, Birmingham, AL 35238.

Today’s Attachments

Directory Changes for February 3, 2011.

Double check details

Stories we receive for *enews* frequently are missing the “Five Ws,” so we encourage you to run this check list in your mind—who, what, where, when and why.

We select stories based on the thoroughness of the information you provide and the quality of the photos, as well as space and editing time, which may vary from week to week.

Please send your stories to Myra Joines, communications director, at mjoines@mercysc.org by Tuesday at noon Eastern Standard Time.

Directory Changes – February 1, 2011

First Name	Last Name	Correction	Section	Page(s)*	New Information
Mary Lucita	Barthes	Remove listing	Sisters	39	RIP 1/30/2011
Mary Johanna	Crabtree	Remove listing	Sisters	60	RIP 1/31/2011
Martha	Allegri	Add associate	Associates	167	ALLEGRI, MARTHA 21805 Linn Ridge Dr Fairhope, AL 36532 251-928-1862 (home) 251-621-0882 (work) 251-751-7159 (mobile) callegri@bellsouth.net
Lisa	Dudick	Remove listing	Associates	185	Did not renew
Celia	Hylton	New address	Associates	191	7650 128 th Street Sebastian, FL 32958
Mary Kay	Polys	Add associate	Associates	208	POLYS, MARY KAY 7146 Stillwater Blvd Spanish Fort, AL 36527-9071 251-621-5965 (home) 215-344-0514 (mobile) mkpolys@bellsouth.net