



South Central Community

# eneWS

WEEKLY COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

August 4, 2011

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Suscipe and ocean breeze**  
Sisters gather for a Suscipe Retreat on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**Merciless legislation**  
Catholic bishops join with Episcopal and Methodist bishops in a suit opposing Alabama's anti-immigration law.

## CALENDAR

**August 18-19**  
Assembly Steering Committee meeting in Belmont

**August 19-20**  
Joint meeting of the Assembly Steering Committee, the Gatherings and Circles Committee and the CLT in Belmont

Sisters of Mercy –  
South Central Community  
101 Mercy Drive  
Belmont, NC 28012-2898  
704.829.5260  
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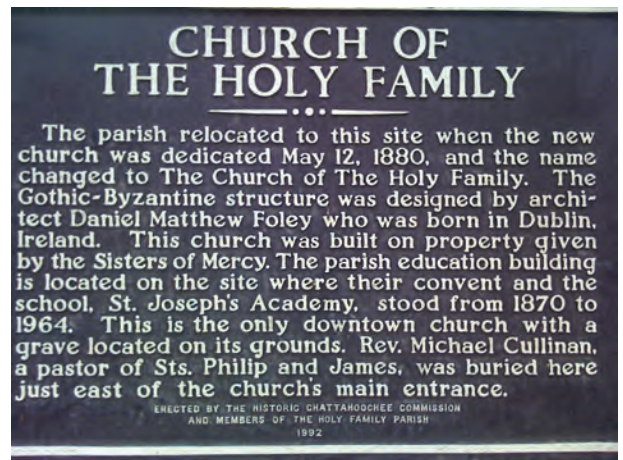
Click on the icons below to follow the Sisters of Mercy on Facebook and Twitter.



## What marker will we leave?

Earlier this week, a staff member at Mercy Administration Center walked down the hall and on his cell phone asked "Do you know where the Sisters of Mercy are?" He was probably trying to give driving directions to someone.

Throughout South Central, there are historical markers indicating where the Sisters of Mercy have been. For example, the first sisters in Columbus, Georgia, arrived in 1862. In some places such as the Church of the Holy Family in Columbus there are markers of the past. The education ministry the sisters started there continues with lay leadership, while the sisters are present today in social and pastoral ministries. The spirit and influence of the first sisters and their successors continue to be visible in the lives and welcoming hospitality of the people.



We have reaped the rewards of successes in establishing schools, hospitals and systems to address the needs of the times. We continue to discern what new needs might be calling to us.

In your Local Area Community, what marker will the Sisters of Mercy and the people read in 2062?

*You, O God, have done great things for us. You give us all that we need for life, and you sustain us on the path of Mercy to which you have called us. May we always perceive your guiding hand.*

— From the Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy

*Kathy Jane Tani — Pauletta Angela Barbara*

## Mercy in the news

One of the sisters who is continuing the Mercy presence in Columbus, Georgia, is Sister Magaret Downing. She recently talked with the *Ledger-Enquirer* there about her decision to become a Sister of Mercy, encouraging others to consider vocations, and her life in Columbus.

Read the interview and view her photo [here](#).

## Sisters gather on coast for Suscipe Retreat



Among those taking part in the Suscipe Retreat on the Mississippi Gulf Coast were (from left) Sister Pat Connolly, Sister Valentina Sheridan, Sister Rita May Killian, Sister Susan Harris and Sister Barbara Murray.

“My God, I am Yours for time and eternity ... “ is the phrase that animated the minds and hearts of 42 Sisters of Mercy who attended the Suscipe Retreat on the Mississippi Gulf Coast Sunday, July 10-Sunday, July 17, 2011.

In addition to South Central sisters, four Irish sisters who are ministering on the coast joined the retreat.

Sister Katherine Doyle of the West Midwest Community led the group through faith sharing, praying, input and opportunities to learn from one another. In addition, Sister Regina Werntz taught the group to sing her rendition of the Suscipe. Sister Katherine and Sister Pat Kennedy, who were Institute Chapter delegates, shared their perspectives on the days in Chicago.

## Justice update

### ALABAMA BISHOPS SUE STATE OVER LAW

The Catholic bishops of Alabama have joined Episcopalian and United Methodist bishops in filing suit in Federal Court to stop the enforcement of a state law that the bishops call “the nation’s most merciless anti-immigration legislation.”

The bishops’ suit asserts that the law prevents the free exercise of religion. It prohibits a broad range of actions that would assist undocumented immigrants such as giving them rides to church or a doctor; allowing attendance at church study or support groups; giving food, clothing or financial assistance; or allowing them to learn English.

Bishop Robert Baker of Mobile noted that the new law “interferes with the Biblical imperative of hospitality which our churches have adopted and encoded in various documents of governance. It aims to shut the doors of our churches and social ministries, against our wills, to a whole class of people, denying them access to such basic human needs as food, clothing, shelter, and, most importantly, worship of God.”

Sister Deborah Kennedy, vice president for mission at Mercy Medical in Daphne, Alabama, says “I’m encouraged that our church leadership is taking such a public stance on this issue particularly in uniting with the leadership of other faith traditions. The bishops exhibited wisdom in speaking to this matter from their own area of expertise, the realm of the ministry of the Christian church.”

A news release announcing the suit is attached to today’s *enews*.

## Call for papers

The newsletter *Religious Law and Consultation* has announced an online, ongoing conversation about emergent religious life. Currently, the newsletter is calling for papers to start the conversation. Preference will be given to religious under age 60 and responders under the age of 40.

Learn more [here](#).

## Garden grows with helping hands



*Phyllis Mueller (left) from the South Central Finance Department spent time Saturday, July 30, 2011, weeding flower beds around Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, North Carolina. Although back on her feet after a fall in which she broke her knee cap, Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin can't kneel yet. But she's looking forward to weeding again next summer!*

## Photo tip: Those pesky windows

Whether you're a professional or an amateur photographer, taking photos in a room with windows is tricky. Try closing the window blinds or draperies. If there aren't any we recommend that you position yourself with the windows behind you. Otherwise, there's a good chance the light will bleach or obscure the subject of your photos. Good luck!

## Today's attachments

- Directory changes for August 4, 2011.
- News release about law suit to halt anti-immigration law.

## Please send stories

Please remember to send your stories and photos for *enews* to Myra Joines, communications director, at [mjoines@mercysc.org](mailto:mjoines@mercysc.org) by Tuesday at noon Eastern Daylight Time. Thanks.

**Directory Changes – Aug 2, 2011**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Correction</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Page(s)*</b>	<b>New Information</b>
Sr. Maura	Barga	New residence address	Sisters	37	McAuley Convent 1768 Cedar Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45224-2802
Sr. Jane	Davis	New ministry	Sisters	60	Medical Records Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine 1460 Baytree Drive Palm Bay, FL 32905-3900 321-914-0915
Sr. Betty	Elmer	New residence address	Sisters	66	516 SW 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Oklahoma City, OK 73109-3512
Sr. Carmen	Hrametz	New residence address	Sisters	88	McAuley Convent 1768 Cedar Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45224-2802
Sr. Clara	Kelly	New ministry	Sisters	93	Medical Director Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine 1460 Baytree Drive Palm Bay, FL 32905-3900 321-914-0915
Sr. Moira	Kenny	New ministry address	Sisters	93	South Texas Civil Rights Project 1017 W. Hackberry Alamo, TX 78516
Sr. Margaret	Wharton	New residence address	Sisters	158	218 Rodgers Forge Rd., Apt B Baltimore, MD 21212-1222
Sr. Amelia	Zepeda	New residence address	Sisters	163	449 West Jefferson Ave., Apt. A St. Louis, MO 63122-4056

Ron	Pangan	New address	Associates	204	Santa Barbara Catholic School 274 W. Santa Barbara Ave., Suite A Dededo, Guam 96929
Lincoln	Sigwald	New address	Associates	214	6110 Woodbridge Road Charlotte, NC 28227-3037

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### **Alabama Churches Unite to Halt Anti-Immigration Law**

Birmingham – Today the leaders of the Episcopal, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches of Alabama filed suit in federal court to stop the enforcement of Alabama’s Anti-Immigration Law because it prevents the free exercise of religion. The bishops called the new law “the nation’s most merciless anti-immigration legislation.”

Bishop Henry N. Parsley, Jr., of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama; Bishop William H. Willimon, of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church; Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, of the Mobile Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church in Alabama; and Bishop Robert J. Baker, of the Birmingham Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church in Alabama, have joined together as plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit. Some 338,000 Alabama residents are members of Episcopal, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches in the state.

Augusta Dowd, an attorney representing Bishop Parsley, said, “These religious leaders seek relief because the law will prohibit, under threat of criminal prosecution, Alabama citizens from exercising their First Amendment right to freely practice their Christian faith.” Archbishop Rodi said “that ‘the love of Christ impels us’ (2 Cor. 5) to live our Christian faith. No law is just which prevents the proclamation of the Gospel message, the baptizing of believers, or love shown to a neighbor in need.”

Members of Alabama’s Episcopal, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches are committed to welcoming strangers. They engage daily in hundreds of ministries throughout the state providing meals, housing, transportation and educational activities such as daycare, English language classes and other services. Bishop Baker noted that the new law “interferes with the Biblical imperative of hospitality which our churches have adopted and encoded in various documents of governance. It aims to shut the doors of our churches and social ministries, against our wills, to a whole class of people, denying them access to such basic human needs as food, clothing, shelter, and, most importantly, worship of God.”

Bishop Willimon said, “To forbid members of Alabama’s faith communities from providing these charitable services will violate their sincere religious belief in helping others without reservation.”

“We do need sensible immigration reform,” said Bishop Parsley, “but the new Anti-Immigration Act criminalizes the Church’s mission.”