

# ASC Associate News

U.S. Region - November 2011

## TOUCHING LIVES: CHAPLAIN MINISTRY AT ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL



I work part time as a chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Murphysboro. All the chaplains participate in a quarterly Memorial Service held in the chapel. The usual service consists of shared songs, scripture, a reflection on the scripture and lighting of a memorial candle for each family's loved one. Each family is invited to share a remembrance as we light the candles from the Easter Candle.

My role in the service is usually to light the candles as the families come forward, and maybe try to sing along with the musician. This time, however, Sr. Rachel had asked me to select the scripture reading and to share a reflection. And, she said, "Don't worry. There shouldn't be but about 5 or 6 people, since we didn't send out too many invitations."

Well, counting our pastor, Fr. Gary, who walked in just as Sr. Rachel was greeting everyone and thanking them for coming, and two other local pastors, there were 18 people in attendance. This wasn't the largest group we have had but, certainly more than the 5 or 6 that Sister 'promised' me. So, I was not to worry?

The long and the short of it was the floor didn't open up and the roof didn't cave in and I managed to give a short reflection on Psalm

146. I reminded those gathered with us that as our God was with the ancient Jewish people, He is also with us today; through the good times and the bad; especially during the rough times. Losing a dearly loved one can certainly be a rough time, as believers we all believe that Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ went to the Father to 'prepare a place for us'; to prepare for us a 'mansion in my Father's house' for each of us and our loved ones. That is where they are and where we hope to be one day with them.

Though my hands were sweaty and my throat was dry, I managed to share a short reflection without too much stage fright. And, afterwards, Sr. Rachel told me, "Next time you can do the entire service."

My answer? "Yes, Sister!"

*Ken Peterein*

*ASC Associate Ruma Area Co-Coordinator*

## HEARTS' AFIRE...BRIGHTENING CHRIST'S LIGHT



The Adorer Associates and ASC sisters of the Columbia Area were invited to explore the Christ-fire in their hearts during the Associate Gathering on March 26, 2011 as part of our theme this year of "Saying Our Yes to God".

Sister Angela Laquet, ASC, led the group through methods of fanning the flames of that fire through our relationships with God, nature and one another. The group was inspired by a reflective video, inviting them to examine the relationships in their lives which have enriched them, and guided along the journey of life.

The afternoon session brought forth ideas from the group sharing how St. Maria's Christ-light burned brightly during her time and through the ministry and mission of contemporary Adorers and Associates. Sr. Martha Wachtel, ASC, shared about the light of Christ she encountered during her years in Liberia. The day was full of sharing, storytelling, and brightening the light of Christ for the mission to serve our "dear neighbor".

During the closing prayer service, each participant gave the person next to her/him a votive candle while saying: "You are the Light of Christ to the world". We went forth to share the Light after praying our mission statement together.



*Sister Angela Laquet, ASC*  
*Sue Scott Dolan*  
*ASC Associate Area Co-Coordinator*

---

## BUILDING THE FAITH IN "ST JOSEPH'S" MONASTERY

I am the only associate here now. The two previous friends/associates are no longer here. One was transferred to another state prison; the other associate died an untimely death. Here at "St. Joseph's" on Saturday and Sunday we are blessed to have a weekly Mass, and a weekly communion service. I call this place the St. Joseph's Monastery (Joseph Harp correctional Center) because we can live the life of a monk here. I am the religious service coordinator for these services, as well as another monthly Catholic service. Volunteers come from three different parishes for these services. I select readers select and lead the songs and offer the prayers at the lay-led services. I am an extraordinary Eucharistic minister and I serve at Mass also.

I invite and encourage men to attend and participate in the life of the church here. I give them a "starter pack" which includes a Bible prayer booklet or cards, rosary, literature and schedule of the Catholic services. During the year, I write letters to Catholic organizations, seeking donations for booklets, brochures, pamphlets, books, whatever I can find to give to them to help them grow in their faith. I've written a few brochures myself, (when I couldn't find suitable materials), on the apostles creed, Baptism, God's will, angels, and the Precious Blood of Christ.

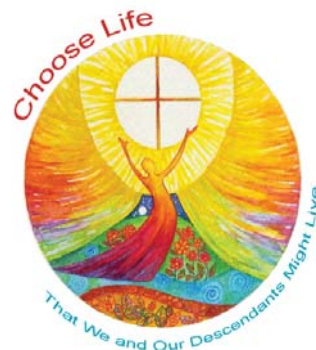
I lead a weekly 2 hour "Catholic Education Class" on my unit in the conference room. We are entering our seventh year soon! From commentaries I have read I type up some notes. Starting in a few weeks, I will begin our annual confirmation preparation class. I place a special emphasis on prayer, because as I tell the men repeatedly "The most important thing you are going to do today and every day is "PRAY." I use several prayers from the Adorers Precious Blood community prayer book in the class and also at our worship services. Who in the world would not want to share the Precious Blood of Christ spirituality?

In the last 2 years, six men have been confirmed! So far I have 4 candidates ready to start this year. My favorite subject is early Church history, so you can be assured everyone gets plenty of this in the class. While all these things in themselves help build up the kingdom, the one thing that is the most important-is my prayers for the men here. I constantly intercede for a variety of issues in each man's life; their physical & mental health, family members, safety, appeals in court, parole hearings, for their faith to increase and for them to share their love of God with others. Nothing a person does is worth anything if it is not accompanied by prayer.

Please remember us in your prayers.

*Ron Patrick Haney*  
*ASC Associate*

Thank you to those of you that attended the Assembly in October. Once again it was a wonderful time to share with the Sisters and other Associates. Out of the assembly came a beautiful statement/prayer to encompass how the community expresses our vision. It was very clear that in the wording "Adorers" includes the entire family, Sisters, Sojourners and Associates, so please incorporate it into your lives and prayer as you wish.



*“Out of an awareness of our own brokenness and the wounds of the world, we Adorers choose life for ourselves and others by being a compassionate presence wherever need touches our heart.”*

*Adorers of the Blood of Christ  
Assembly October 2011*

---

### A TYPICAL WEEK WITH EXTRAORDINARY WORK

A typical week at St. Thomas More Parish and University Center will find Associate Janice Wilson serving Mass and then laundering the cassocks of the Altar Servers, administering the Eucharist, helping the clients of St. Vincent de Paul, changing the candles in the chapel and volunteering in the parish office.

Janice's favorite activity is being an altar server. She feels "like that I am right there when the bread and wine are turned into the blood and body of Christ. It brings 'just a lot of closeness.'"

It is not unusual for Janice to serve at least two masses a week – not including weddings and funerals. After the last Mass on Sunday, she checks the cassocks and surplices to see if they need repairing before she launders them and returns them for the next Mass.

On the rare times she isn't being an Altar server, Janice serves as an Eucharistic Minister handing out the body or blood of Christ to parishioners.

The clients of the St. Vincent De Paul Society also benefit from her work. Some weeks she returns phone calls and schedules home visits. Other weeks she visits clients and helps them find the assistance they need.

Somehow Janice finds time to make sure the candles in the chapel are stocked and the parishioners offerings are entered into the accounting system.

Janice truly exemplifies the Adorers call to practice Christ's redeeming love.



*Janne O'Donnell  
ASC Associate – Norman, Oklahoma*

## RUMA ASSOCIATES MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BOLIVIA AND CLOSE TO HOME



Several Groups of Associates are using the book *The Life and Ministry of Rev. John Merlini, C.P.P.S.* by Sister Loretta Gegen, ASC for discussion. Associate Darlene Beardslee (SEMO local leader) prepares and shares discussion questions for all groups to use.



The Mission Team of The Alto are off to Camata for a week of catechesis in the country. Sister Sharon Van Horn, ASC accompanies four ASC Associates to St James Parish where they will help the local catechists to deepen their faith and be a vibrant presence among the poor. The Base Church Communities in Camata and surrounding areas are animated by lay catechists. They await with joyful anticipation the Team and an ordained minister to celebrate Eucharist and the Sacraments in their Communities four times a year.

## ONE OF THE MINISTRIES OF ST. THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY CHURCH IN NORMAN, OK.

Kairos is an inter-denominational Christian Prison Ministry. We minister to those who are incarcerated and their families and friends.

There are three divisions: Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside: and Torch. Kairos Inside is for those who are in prison; Kairos Outside is for women who are friends or family or former women inmates. Torch is for Juvenile inmates and requires weekly mentoring.

Kairos Outside is the one with which I, Liz Gilmore, am most familiar. I and my three ASC Associate daughters, Jane Hoelting, Betsy Hunter, and Susan Titus are involved mostly with Kairos Outside. Jan and myself are at present on the Advisory Council. Betsy just finished a three year commitment on the Council. Susan attends the "Closing" (graduations) whenever possible. Jane is accredited preparing prayer services and corresponds with some of the inmates who attend the prayer services.



Twice a year we have a retreat for these Kairos women at which we show them God's love by giving them non-judgmental and unconditional love. We show them our own vulnerability and show them how God has helped us in our own lives. As Adorers of the Blood of Christ we know Christ is the leader and compassionate healer.

Tom Koszoru an Associate Adorer of the Blood of Christ loves to minister to juvenile offenders, boys and girls, as part of Kairos known as Torch.

Tom states, I will never forget any of my Torch ministries. At my first Torch, I saw a young woman with faded scars that reached from both edges of her eyes and mouth to both of her ears. Someone carved her at a young age. Only God can transform the weight of this cruel abuse on a person's body and soul. I watched her praise God at the closing, and I said "YES" to this ministry forever."

Other St. Thomas More Associate Adorers support Kairos with prayers, redemptive suffering and monetary giving.



*Liz Gilmore*  
ASC Associate - Norman, OK

## WHAT ARE NU ASSOCIATES DOING FOR THE KINGDOM?



What have YOU done for the Kingdom? Wow, that's a loaded question! Our first instinct as Associates is to back away from responding to it. After all, we go about living our daily lives – we go to work, we care for our families, we attend Church and church activities – all pretty humdrum and ordinary efforts. Doesn't EVERYONE do that?

Lately in our monthly meetings the NU Associates have been talking about our spirituality and our responsibility as members of the Christian community. As ASC Associates, our handbook tells us we are called to say our "Yes" in solidarity with others who have spoken their "Yes". We know that sometimes "Yes" can be huge and remarkable (giving one's life for one's faith; founding a religious community; taking a public stand against abortion). But our sponsor, Sister Sophia Kammer, assures us that it's also fine when our "Yes" is small and very personal.

NU Associates speak their "Yes" daily in large and small ways. Associate Conni Carney admits that she often makes sacrifices (such as giving up sweets) as a spiritual offering for those in need, folks on the University prayer request list, special needs children and their families, the elderly, etc. She is constantly looking for ways to improve her knowledge of the ASC mission and way of life; reading and reflecting on the life of St. Maria de Mattias.

An example of a very personal "Yes" is exemplified by Carm Ludlow, an Associate in our group who cares for her grandchild while his parents work. She is able to 'lighten the load' for her children while continuing to volunteer at Newman one day every week.

A way for many of us to serve others was the NUMANA event at Newman, packaging meals to be sent to less fortunate families. Associate Joan Purkey chose this way to help. In addition, she collects and donates books to the library in Reading, KS, where a tornado on May 21<sup>st</sup> destroyed the community school.

Personally I have tried to include more time for introspection into my daily schedule; examining my interactions with other employees and the students we serve, watching carefully for ways to be kinder, less judgmental and more worthy of the sacrifice Christ made for me. I find myself trying to be a better example for my children and grandchildren, "preaching at" them less, and hoping to model for them the behavior that might bring us all closer to Jesus.

Someday, perhaps, God will choose someone from our group to serve the Kingdom in a dramatic way. If that never happens, though, we know we still have the opportunity to honor the Precious Blood daily with our devotion and our willingness to do the small things we can to make life easier for those who need our help. How fortunate we are!

*Linda Sabala*

*ASC Associate - Newman University, Wichita, KS*

---

## JUNE WARD MAKES HER COVENANT COMMITMENT

On August 6, 2011, in the presence of the Sisters and Associates, the Columbia Center Adorer Associates welcomed June Ward into their ranks through her Covenant Commitment as an "official" Associate. June is a resident of Harrisburg, PA. She is a member of *Our Lady of the Precious Blood Associate Group* in Harrisburg, and a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish. Along with eight others in the Harrisburg Group, she has been studying the life and times of St. Maria De Mattias, St. Gaspar, and Father Merlini. By means of this study, she has grown in Precious Blood spirituality; and in the knowledge of the lives of our founders.

In her Covenant Commitment, June professed her ministry to our 'dear neighbor' by continuing service to her neighbors by aiding them in whatever areas they may need help. She drives them to appointments; takes them grocery shopping or picks up their groceries; and assists them if they have fallen and are in need of some type of medical attention. She also ministers to all the faithful at the Eucharistic Liturgies by praising the Lord in song. She daily prays the Liturgy of the hours and regularly attends Daily Mass and prays many of the Precious Blood prayers.

We wish June God's blessings on her Covenant Commitment and God's continued support as an ASC Associate.

*Juanita Mason-Fegley*

*Servant Leader, Harrisburg, Pa*





*With deepest gratitude for the many ways we touch the lives of our dear neighbor everyday just as Maria did.*

## DATE TO REMEMBER

The submission deadline for any items for the next newsletter will be

**May 15, 2011**

Theme is: What is happening in your area?

Please send articles and pictures



*If you would like a colored copy of the newsletter, go to the Adorers web site, [www.adorers.org](http://www.adorers.org), click on Associates and you will find the newsletter there, along with previous issues.*

*Editor: S. Angie Houska, ASC*

*Production Manager: Lori Benge ~ Proofreader: Associate Office ~ Distribution: S. Sophia Kammer, ASC*



U.S. Region ~ Associate Program  
1165 SW. Blvd  
Wichita, KS 67213