

NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

Visions

NOVEMBER 2017

www.olvm.org

VACUUM CLEANER
WING

2 HR
PARKING
8:00 AM
TO 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY TO
FRIDAY



NON-VIOLENT LIVING:

Finding ways to
help heal the Earth



Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a community of women religious founded in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein. The Victory Noll Motherhouse is located in Huntington, Indiana.

Victory Noll Sisters:

- Proclaim the Word of God
- Stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression
- Foster justice
- Promote the development of leaders

WHAT'S INSIDE

3 Reflection
OLVM Sister explores the spirituality of non-violent living

4 Road to recovery
Organization offers recovery for teen victims of sex trafficking

6 Raising awareness
Sisters take part in weeklong Campaign Nonviolence events

8 Making efforts to heal
Group provides comfort in wake of neighborhood violence

10 Learning together
Boards join for collaborative retreat at Victory Noll Center

ON THE COVER

OLVM Sisters join with students and other community members for a Peace Walk through downtown Huntington on Sept. 21.

PHOTO BY PAUL SIEGFRIED

Over our 90-plus years as a congregation, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters have striven to meet the temporal as well as the Spiritual needs of the people among whom we have lived and ministered. That work is based on the values of standing with those who live in poverty and oppression, proclaiming the Gospel, fostering justice

PERSPECTIVES ALONG THE JOURNEY

and working to form leaders to move God's mission into the future. In this issue of Visions, the focus is on how we are continuing to meet the needs of others. Supported in part by the John Joseph Sigstein Foundation, Ascent 121 (Page 4) helps teens who are victims of human trafficking. The Victory Noll Sisters took part in events during the nationwide Campaign Nonviolence in September (Page 6), experiencing examples of following the call to live Gospel lives of non-violence. Sr. Rose Ann Kaiser has a reflection (Page 3) and Joyce Racine writes about the healing that takes place after a violent act (Page 8). As we come close to the end of the year, we count each of you among our blessings and continue to hold each of you in our prayers. ❖

OLVM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Mary Jo Nelson
Sister Lucille Martiny *Sister Ginger Downey*

Visions is published three times a year by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

Editor: Paul Siegfried

Leadership Team Liaison: Sr. Ginger Downey

Please help us in keeping our mailing list current.

If your address changes, please let us know by contacting us:

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Attn: Visions

1900 W. Park Drive

Huntington, IN 46750-8957

or reach us by e-mail: info@olvms.org



Blessed are the Peacemakers

The spirituality of non-violent living

By Sister Rose Ann Kaiser, OLVM

The foundation of all non-violent living exists for us through our participation in the Love Relationship of the Holy Trinity in which we live and move and have our Being. Jesus prayed that our Oneness with the Trinity be the Unity that sets us free and enables us to enter into non-violent living as Jesus did.

Jesus repeats himself constantly in many different ways in the gospels on how to live non-violently. See especially the Beatitudes and the prayer of Jesus for his disciples in John 17: 20 – 26:

“I pray that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one, as we are one — I living in them, you living in me — that their unity may be complete. So shall the world know that you sent me, and that you loved them as you loved me ... To them I have revealed your name, and I will continue to reveal it so that your love for me may live in them, and I may live in them.”

St. Paul was able to see the implication of what it means to be caught up into the life of the Trinity -- it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, Jesuit poet, describes our identity as other Christs in his poem “As Kingfishers Catch Fire.” He writes that we act in God’s eye what in God’s eye we are — Christ, lovely in limbs, lovely in eyes not his — to the Father, through the features of human faces. We must not hesitate to claim and live our way into this identity if we are to live non-violently. It means being caught up in the unconditional love of God manifested in, through and with Jesus. What is the nature of this Love that makes all this possible?

Cynthia Bourgeault points to the following poem by Rumi, the great Sufi mystic, citing it as the Jesus Trajectory in her book, *The Wisdom Jesus*, because almost better than anything in Christian Scripture, it describes the way Jesus lived his life as Lover.

*Love is recklessness, not reason.
Reason seeks a profit.
Love comes on strong, consuming herself, unabashed.
Yet in the midst of suffering,*

*Love proceeds like a millstone
hard-surfaced and straight forward.
Having died to self-interest
she risks everything and asks for nothing.
Love gambles away every gift God bestows.*

Cynthia goes on to explain that Jesus certainly called us to die to self, but his idea of dying to self was not through inner renunciation or guarding the purity of his being, but through radically squandering everything he had and was. She writes how “John the Baptist’s disciples were horrified because he banqueted, drank and danced. The pharisees were horrified because he healed on the Sabbath and kept company with women and disreputables, people known to be impure. Boundaries meant nothing to him; he walked right through them. What seemed disconcerting to nearly everybody was the messy, freewheeling largeness of his spirit. Abundance and a generosity bordering on extravagant seemed to be the signatures of both his teaching and his personal style.”

Today, surrounded by the violence of wars, poverty, racism, and environmental destruction on every side, we are called to live as freely and abundantly as Jesus lived, bringing hope and healing through the love relationships that are the heritage of our Oneness and Union with the Trinity. Science has enabled us to see that the physical structure of the universe is based on relationships, our love connections with all creation and especially with one another. We are called to challenge today’s culture of violence for a new culture whose foundation is the power of love at work in the world. We are surrounded by opportunities to do this by joining together with others right where we live. We can also take advantage of so many other kinds of opportunities by working with social justice groups through social media that connects us as global citizens across the world, addressing injustices wherever they are. Ultimately all this is possible through our relationships as sons and daughters of the One Trinitarian God, sisters and brothers of Jesus the Christ.

Come, Spirit of Love, give us the mind of Jesus. Teach us the wisdom of God.

Come, Spirit of Love, give us the heart of Jesus. Teach us the compassion, the mercy, the generosity and abundance of God. ❖



Photo provided

Activity kits are made by volunteers and provided to teen survivors of human trafficking who are in recovery with Indianapolis-based Ascent 121.

Offering a road to recovery

Agency provides healing for teens, raises awareness

By Megan McGuire
Chief Executive Officer, Ascent 121

Katie was 14. She grew up in and out of foster care. Mom was incarcerated for dealing narcotics. Dad was gone. Katie ran away from home and foster care over and over. On one of her runs, she was at a gas station looking for food. A man pulled up in a car. He told Katie that he was a music video producer looking for backup dancers. He said she was pretty and invited her to dance in his videos. She got into his car and they headed off together. It turned out he was a pimp. He held her in an apartment and sold her online for commercial sex. Katie had to service 5-10 men every day. She was violently beaten, drugged and sexually assaulted. After several months, Katie was rescued by law enforcement and was placed with Ascent 121 for recovery.*

**Name changed to protect her privacy. Her story is shared with her permission. For her safety, please do not share her story on social media.*

Meet Ascent 121

Ascent 121 provides long-term trauma recovery for Indiana teen survivors of sex trafficking and their families. Teens participate in individual, group and family therapy. Our recovery options primarily serve central Indiana, though we are licensed to accept kids from throughout the state. Most of the participants are teenage girls but we also see some boys and, especially heartbreaking, some kids as young as ten or eleven. Most spend six to twelve months in our clinical care, and then continue with Aftercare for as long as they need it. In 2016, we served 110 kids. We are on track for a significant increase in 2017.



We are a faith-based agency named after Psalm 121: 1-2. Kids in our care have the option to attend church on Sundays and to attend weekly discipleship. To learn more about our work, this video features commentary

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Photos provided

Several therapies are offered to survivors and families, including equine therapy (left). Outreach efforts included a day at the Indiana Statehouse (center). A local church provided an awareness presentation (right).

from an adult survivor and one of our therapists.

Ascent 121 raises awareness in the community through presentations for civic groups, schools and churches. Each year over 4,000 people attend our events.

Understanding Sex Trafficking

When thinking about sex trafficking, most people imagine that it only happens on the other side of the world. But the reality is, hundreds of vulnerable kids across Indiana are sold for commercial sex every year:

- They represent a cross section of racial, socio-economic and geographic backgrounds
- Most kids are sold through websites
- They work either in homes or small hotels
- 100% have a history of drug abuse

One of the most common misconceptions about domestic trafficking is how kids get involved. Most of the kids we see were drawn in by someone they love or someone they trust. Often it is a family member or an older guy playing the role of daddy or boyfriend. Traffickers prey on the vulnerability of teenagers. They often recruit them in public places like schools, shopping malls, libraries or through social media.

Who buys a 14-year-old for sex? National statistics support what we see: mostly middle-aged, white-collar professional, married men. This is a cultural issue. Our society has reached a time where sex is used to sell everything from cars and clothing to video games and fast food. Women are objectified and free pornography is just a click away. The result: a wildly profitable global commercial sex trade which frequently victimizes children.



Photo provided

The clinical team at Ascent 121 includes Erin Jenkins, Amanda Schreier, Alexa Tabb, Megan Jessup, Aiesha Ward, Teresa Bradley, Trisha Prickett and Hugh Hanlin.

What can you do to help?

There are many ways that the community can participate in supporting Ascent 121's work. Due to the severity of trauma endured by our clients, volunteers do not serve them directly. However, our website includes a long list of ways to support survivors, including activity kits or letters of encouragement, raising funds and awareness. If you live in the greater Indianapolis area, we invite you to join us for a Prayer Journey. This event takes place on the third Saturday of each month and is an excellent way to learn more about trafficking in Indianapolis and the work of our agency. The greatest thing that people can do to be helpful is become a monthly sponsor of Ascent 121 or an agency in your area. To sign up for our newsletter or to join our Prayer Team, visit Ascent121.org. ❖

***NOTE:** Ascent 121 is one of the agencies receiving grants from OLV's John Joseph Sigstein Foundation.*

Prayers for the world

As part of their regular Wednesdays for the World prayer service, the OLVM Sisters joined the nationwide Campaign Nonviolence to protest racism, war, poverty, and environmental destruction. During the Sept. 20 service, Sisters and guests viewed a slideshow bringing to light the worst of what is happening in the world as well as the best of the world is capable of being. ❖

PHOTOS BY PAUL SIEGFRIED





Walking for peace

The OLVM Sisters joined with students and other community members for a Peace Walk through downtown Huntington on Sept. 21. There were five stations along the walk that addressed economic and political injustices, war, racism and inequality. There was also communal time of prayer and reflection. ❖



PHOTOS BY PAUL SIEGFRIED



Photo provided

Members of the Peace and Justice Commission of Allen County gather at the site of a violent death in Fort Wayne. The group works to offer comfort to all the victims of violence.

Finding hope amidst sorrow

Group brings comfort to neighborhoods impacted by violence

By Joyce Noll Racine
OLVM Covenant Associate

At 12:15 on too many Saturday afternoons, members of the Peace and Justice Commission of Allen County can be seen knocking on doors near the site of a violent death to clarify our purpose in coming and to invite neighbors to join us as we pray. We hand them a card explaining why we come:

“We come today to reclaim this place for the God of mercy and understanding. We come to seek comfort for those who mourn. We come to pray that God’s Spirit may bring healing to those whose hearts are broken. We come to commit to the Life Everlasting the person whose life we mourn today. We come to pray that all involved in the death of another may know God’s presence in their pain and sorrow.”

Generally, we hold Heal the Land services within two weeks of a homicide, giving time to notify the families of the victims and to invite them and their friends to join us as we pray and remember their loved one. We hold them as close to the location of the homicide as possible while still being sensitive to the requests of families and neighbors.

Often no one among those gathered knew the person, but we do know the victim was a member of our human family. We come together to pray for all the victims of violence including those who commit violence. The man in a suit in the picture was sitting next to the murder victim at that site when a stranger came around the side of the house, shot and killed the man just two feet from him and fled back the way he had come.

Violent death affects so many lives — the person killed, the killer, those who witness the act, families and friends of both the murdered and murderer, neighbors who have been robbed of their

NON-VIOLENT LIVING



Photos provided

Meeting at the site where a person had been murdered, a Heal the Land prayer service is held with residents of the neighborhood and families of the victims to bring comfort and to reclaim the land to God, goodness and life.

sense of security and co-workers haunted by lack of understanding who ask the often unanswered question, “Why?” All are victims.

A Heal the Land community prayer service identifies the victim, includes prayer with scripture, singing a version of Amazing Grace specifically adapted for these sad circumstances, a sharing of information about the victim, the circumstances of death and, if known, the perpetrator of the crime, and sprinkling of blessed holy water to reclaim and rededicate the land to God, goodness and life. One of the neighbors a couple of years ago was attending a service with her 8-year-old son. After the sprinkling of holy water she asked if we would sprinkle her

son so his heart would be changed. She asked him to tell us what he wanted to be when he grew up. The boy proudly proclaimed “I want to be a gang banger because they get all the money and cars and stuff.” We gave her the vial of holy water and prayed and cried with her as she blessed and sprinkled her son. Before leaving we each spoke individually with her son and prayed that his mind and heart would awaken the realization in him that his mother’s love was worth far more than fancy cars and money.

Micah 6:8 “(This is) what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God.” ❖

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING



John Joseph Sigstein Foundation Board of Directors

Front row (from left): Marta Hernandez-Sayeed, Sr. Clarita Trujillo, Sr. Lucille Martinez, Treasa Moran, Maria Covarrubias, Sr. Lucy Regalado. Back row: Brother Michael Gosch, Sr. Jeanette Halbach, Pamela Pranger, Sr. Rose Ann Kaiser, Keith Lawson, Barbara Ault, Martha Mullins, Mario Martinez. Not pictured is Deacon Richard Kijewski.

Fellowship & growth

Members of the boards of directors of the John Joseph Sigstein Foundation and Victory Noll Center joined for a combined weekend retreat in September at Victory Noll. The retreat was facilitated by Sr. Kit Gray, CSJ. The OLVM Leadership Team and staff of Victory Noll Center also took part in the retreat. ❖



IN GRATITUDE TO OUR BENEFACTORS

Contributions from September 2016-October 2017

*Through your generous contributions, you support Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
in their mission to proclaim the Word of God
and stand in Solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression.
The Victory Noll Sisters thank you and continue to keep all of you in our prayers.*

BEQUESTS

Philip & Joan Butler Trust
Cronen Living Trust
Roy John Rihn Estate
Robert & Josephine
Schrimpf Trust
Marguerita M Waters Trust

DONATIONS

A. Allen memorial
Phil Andorfer family
Peggy Avila
Ronald Bathrick
Elizabeth Bauer
Barbara Bice
Mary Jo Bill
Jeanne Blach
Barbara Bobrowski memorial
Dolores Bradway
Paul Cummings
Patrick DelPonte
R. DeMeulenaere
A. Deuel memorial
Carol Dombrowski
Lois Dow
Phyllis J Drilling
Walter DuVall
Aida Engleheart
J. Fimbres
Micaela Flores
Charles Fuld
Helen Gallagher

Doris Garback memorial
Cynthia Gibson
Gilbert Gomez
Mary Gonzalez
James Halbach
Joseph Halbach honor
Charlotte Hedges
B. Henry memorial
Lucy Hines
T. Janczewski
Rosemary Janousek
Richard Justice
Magdalen Kaelin
Monica Keenan memorial
Carolyn Klohe memorial
J. Kostka family
Agnes Leistico
L. Lipparelli
Y. Lopez family
Kevin Luechtefeld
Sanjuano Luera
Carlos Maeztu memorial
Mary Ellen Mahoney
memorial
Nancy Mason memorial
Jane Massaro
Jean McNamara
M. Moehring
Pat Ness
Vuong Nguyen
Anne O'Hara memorial
Joanne OBrien

Mary Ochoa
Robert Perl
Christina Pulice
Christina Blanca Regalado
John Riede
Elaine Rock memorial
Mary Runkel
A. Salcido
L.V. Sanchez
Santa Cruz Catholic School
Janet Schaefer
Robert C. Schrimpf
Seraphic Mass Association
Sean Shelley
Eileen Shelton
J. Silliman
St Anthony's Marian
Guild memorial
St Charles Borromeo
Catholic Church
Joan Staley
J. Tassia memorial
Marie Tassia memorial
J. Taylor memorial
C. Weber
West memorial
Brian Wethington
Patricia Wiedower
Theresa Wojak
Michael Y.
Judith Yasunaga
Rosemarie Young memorial



OUR LADY OF VICTORY
MISSIONARY SISTERS
1900 W. PARK DRIVE
HUNTINGTON, IN 46750-8957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Visions FROM THE VICTORY NOLL ARCHIVES



From their beginning, the Victory Noll Sisters have been on the front lines of social issues. In their mission statement, they vow to stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression, and to foster justice where they see unjust situations. The photo at left shows the Sisters in Indiana Harbor handing out bread and food to those in need during the Great Depression. ❖