

NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

Visions

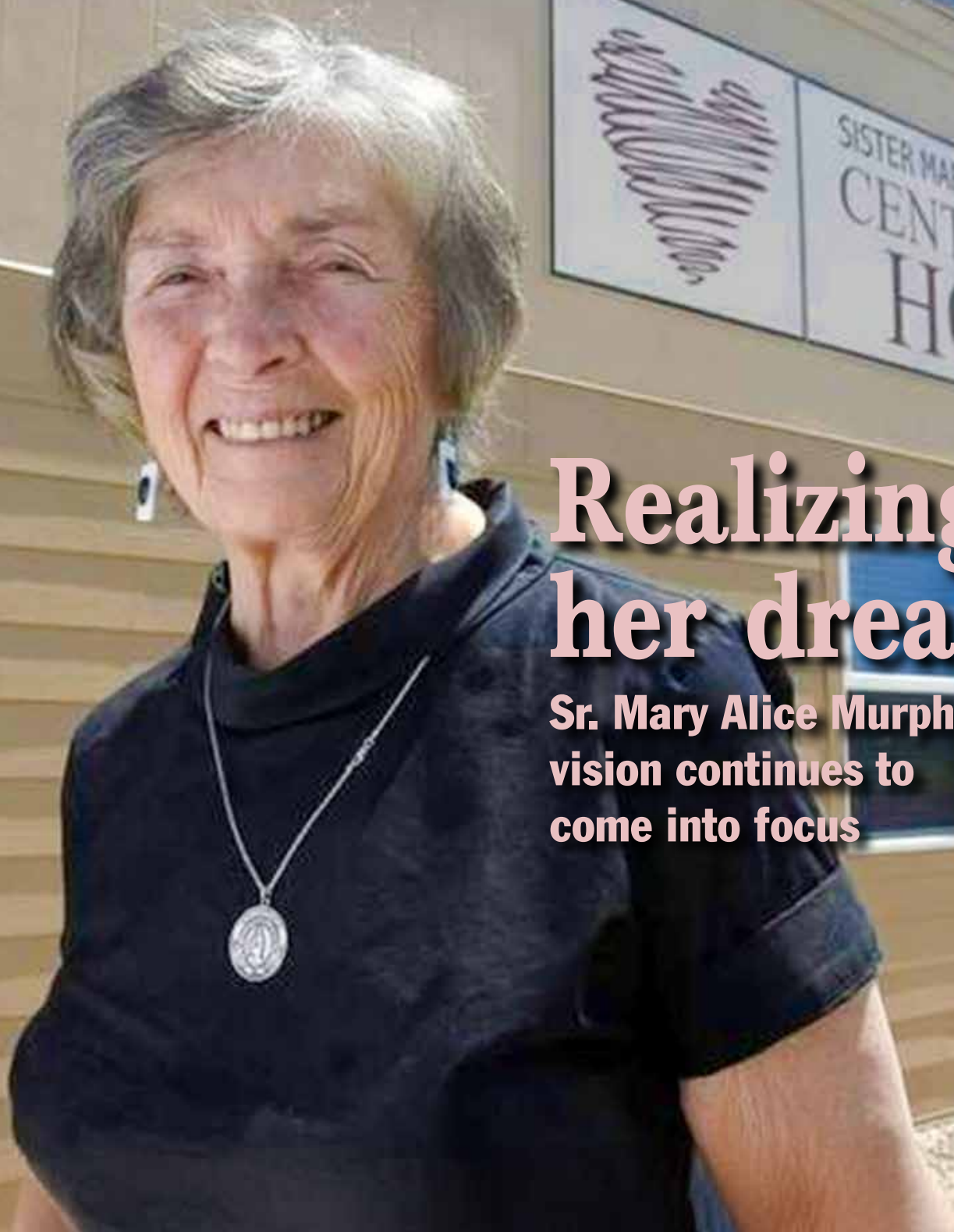
September 2024

www.olvm.org



Realizing her dream

**Sr. Mary Alice Murphy's
vision continues to
come into focus**





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

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ON THE COVER

Sister Mary Alice Murphy stands in front of her namesake Murphy Center for Hope in Fort Collins, Colo. when it opened in 2009 to provide services to the homeless and those in need.

Photo provided

Over my 16 years as Communications Coordinator for Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, I've been able to interact with each of the Sisters, even if it has just been for a little bit of time.

PERSPECTIVES ALONG THE JOURNEY

That includes Sr. Mary Alice Murphy, who lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. She doesn't get around as easily these days, but I've enjoyed talking with her on the phone, over Zoom, or on those few occasions when she was able to make it back to the Motherhouse in Huntington.

A few years ago, my wife and I were travelling to Colorado for vacation, and we made a point to stop at the Sr. Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope in Fort Collins. I knew about the Center and had written about it, so I took the opportunity to see first hand the work that was going on there.

It was 106 degrees in Fort Collins that day, so getting a chance to get cool inside the Center, and then sit in the shade in the Murphy Garden provided a welcome respite and comfort.

I thought about those in the area who are experiencing homelessness, food insecurity or other life crises, and how the Murphy Center is there to help provide a range of services for people in need. For me, it was just a cool place on a hot day. For others, it is a life-saving and life-changing resource.

Sr. Mary Alice has made it her life's work to stand alongside those in need. Her ministry has changed the trajectory in the lives of thousands of individuals and families, providing hope for the future in all of us. ❖

— Paul Siegfried

CONGREGATION LEADER

Sr. Jenny Howard, SP

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

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Carrying forward the mission

As you read through these pages of this September issue of the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Visions newsletter, I believe it will be evident how the life and the mission of the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters continues with vibrancy and care through their presence, and in collaboration with their many partners in mission and ministry...partners like yourself.

The Our Lady of Victory Mission Statement proclaims:



Sr. Jenny Howard, SP
Congregation Leader

We, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, rooted in a Marian and missionary spirituality

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

Our lives are marked by the core values of

- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Justice
- ❖ Simplicity
- ❖ Adaptability

The Constitutions of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, in the section under Charism and Mission, speaks of “*meeting modern needs with modern means*”... a challenge presented by their founder Father John Joseph Sigstein.

Throughout these past 102 years, the focus of the mission of the OLVN Sisters has always been to serve those in need and on the margins of society. What seems evident in the life and ministry of these women is that the focus of the mission is not only to assist in meeting direct needs, but also working towards changing the unjust systems in our society today.

Although the number of Victory Noll Sisters is fewer, the energy and passion for the mission continues by reaching out and collaborating with other partners in carrying forward the OLVN mission and values. Thank you for being one of those missionary partners.

In the summer of 2022, at the time of the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters 100th Anniversary, the Sisters created a special video entitled “To The Poorest First: The Journey of the Victory Noll Sisters.”

It can be found on the Victory Noll website at www.olvm.org. Each time I view the video I am inspired not only by the ministry of the OLVN Sisters in the past by being a presence with persons experiencing poverty and living on the margins of society, but also the creative and collaborative ways in which the OLVN Sisters engage today with others, partners like yourself, to carry forward the mission God has entrusted to them. ❖





Photo provided

Guests arriving at the Murphy Center in Fort Collins, Colo., are greeted by a board listing some of the more than 40 services the center provides. A new medical clinic opened in March.

Completing the vision

Medical center final piece of Sr. Mary Alice Murphy's plan for serving homeless

Living the mission statement of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters to stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression, Sr. Mary Alice Murphy has spent her 75 years of religious life advocating for a population marginalized by society and working to provide basic services to those experiencing homelessness.

In her adopted hometown of Fort Collins, Colorado, Sr. Mary Alice had a vision to create a centralized facility where the poor and unhoused could find assistance all in one place. That dream turned into the Murphy Center for Hope, which opened in 2009. For the last 15 years, the Murphy Center has worked to offer those basic services. Those in need have access to more than 40 services provided by nearly 20 agencies.

The one service missing from that original plan



Photo provided

Sr. Mary Alice Murphy (third from left) joins in the ribbon cutting of the new medical clinic at the Murphy Center on March 28.





Photo provided

Medical assistants set up one of the three exam rooms in the new medical clinic at the Murphy Center. The clinic provides a critical health resource for the poor and unhoused in the area.

was to provide health care, but space and financial concerns limited the expansion. This past March, her vision became reality as the Murphy Center for Hope opened its first medical clinic.

Homeward Alliance, which operates the Murphy Center, received a \$1 million COVID-relief grant from Colorado’s Larimer County to fund the expansion. They will work with SummitStone Health Partners to offer medical services to the unhoused population. SummitStone has been offering behavioral health care to the Murphy Center, but now is expanding its services.

The grant from Larimer County allowed for the construction of the health clinic and for funding services through 2026. Going forward, Medicare and Medicaid payments are expected to allow for sustained support.

A ribbon-cutting event was held on March 28.

For Sr. Mary Alice, the ability to provide medical services completes her original plan for the center.

“It was somewhat in response to a pastor who once said to me ‘Why do we send the poorest people all over town to get the services they need?’ And most of the time they would have to walk, because they didn’t have the money,” she says. “When we first started to think about it, what we wanted was to have a representative of different agencies in one spot, that it would be a one-stop shop for all the different needs the homeless have, including medical. That was the hardest one to do, because it was going to be costly, and you were going to have to have screen-



Photos provided

Above, a Murphy Center volunteer checks in a guest. Below, guests to the Center can receive meals and supplies at the food pantry. The Center provides access to more than 40 services from 20 agencies.



ing rooms and personnel. So that had to be put off because we didn’t have the funds.”

The new clinic includes three exam rooms, a waiting room and a bathroom. Staff includes a physician’s assistant, medical assistants and care coordinators. It is open on Monday mornings for walk-in patients. Appointments can be made for three days during the week. The goal is to help better manage chronic conditions and to get medical treatment early enough to prevent conditions turning life-threatening.

“It’s a combination of urgent care facility and a primary care provider. We see a lot of acute illnesses during flu season and such. We see a lot of wounds, issues with feet from people walking around all day, lots of just the physical toll homelessness takes on the body,” says David Rout, Executive Director of Homeward Alliance. “People who are homeless, and lower-income people in general, don’t access primary preventative care as often as people who are housed. The result of that is poor short-term and long-term outcomes, and a higher mortality rate among those who are homeless.”



Photos provided

Many homeless wait until a problem becomes severe, or they rely on hospital emergency departments, which had often been their only option. Preventative care among the unhoused is almost non-existent. Services provided by the clinic can reduce those visits to the ER, which are also the most expensive places to go for care.

The homeless population suffer from illness and death at a higher rate than the general population. During the height of the COVID pandemic in 2020 through 2021, inequities in access to care were highlighted. While most of the deaths were not from COVID, the homeless were dying from chronic conditions left untreated, when preventative care was limited during shutdowns. Access to early care could have saved lives.

“They can’t be given the same kind of counsel as people who are housed,” says Sr. Mary Alice. “If a doctor tells you to go home and rest for three days and gives you the medicine, they have no home to go to. I think this will be tailored to their needs. I think it’s a great addition.”

The Murphy Center serves about 150 guests each day for various services. In its first two months of operation, the new medical clinic is seeing around 60 patients a month, with numbers expected to rise as word expands through the community. There is also a trust factor for those hesitant to seek medical service. But the reputation of the Murphy Center and the multiple services they provide helps create

The Murphy Garden (top) not only provides a safe refuge, but it also includes a variety of native flowering species that provide raspberries, gooseberries, plums and herbs. Below, the Center serves as a day shelter, which is critical during extreme weather times, including difficult Colorado winters.



that trust.

“The Murphy Center has been a fixture of the community for 15 years. Not that we’re perfect, but we’ve been a trusted site. And SummitStone has been building trust in the community for decades,” says Rout. “The Murphy Center enjoys robust commu-

nity support. Hundreds of people volunteer at the Murphy Center every year. It is widely viewed as a community asset, benefitting the entire community.”

Sr. Mary Alice says it is also important for those seeking services be received in a caring, non-judgmental manner.

“Calling them ‘guests’ isn’t just a name,” she says. “The people at the center try to treat people with real dignity. Homeless often feel looked down upon. So to be treated with dignity the moment you walk in is a real help.”

Sr. Mary Alice arrived in Fort Collins in 1983. From the very start she saw people in need.

“Churches were getting quite a few requests for food, and there was no place in town for people to go for food,” she says. “In the first year, people didn’t think there was a real need. I told them that the only way you show there is a need is to provide a service, and if the people come, that will tell you. You had to prove there was a problem that wasn’t necessarily visible.”

She proved there was a problem, and a need. She often advocated for the poor and homeless at city council meetings. The plan for creating a one-stop center providing multiple services evolved over time.

“The wonderful thing about Fort Collins has been that agencies are wanting to work together, and that’s unusual. Therefore, we get a lot done because people aren’t worrying about guarding their territory,” she says. “Often, they are vying for the same amount of resource dollars, and most times it’s not that plentiful.”



Photo provided

Sr. Mary Alice Murphy, OLVM, chats with guests at one of the community events at the Murphy Center.

While many individuals and agencies contribute to the success of the center and to the newest expansion of the medical clinic, Rout says Sr. Mary Alice is still the driving force.

“Sister is one of the most profoundly amazing people I’ve ever met. I feel blessed to know her. Nothing at the Murphy Center, nothing when it comes to homelessness happens without her name, her presence, her voice being involved in some way. She is everything when it comes to homelessness in Fort Collins,” he says. “We wouldn’t have gotten this funding without the credibility the Murphy Center has, and the center wouldn’t have that credibility without Sister’s name and vision being attached to it. When she speaks, people listen. I’ve been to dozens of city council meetings, and when she is there and speaks, it is a different meeting. All eyes are on her waiting to

hear what she has to say. To this day, she is so knowledgeable and has a technical expertise when it comes to homelessness. She can command a room the way I’ve never seen. The short answer is, this clinic would not exist without Sister.”

At the age of 92, Sr. Mary Alice has scaled back her daily involvement at the center named for her. She says she has taken on the role of cheerleader, but still attends several events each year and helps out where she can. She says she knows the center is in good hands going forward.

“What’s been remarkable is the younger people who have dedicated their lives to working with the homeless, and that has my admiration,” she says. “They could be doing other things that could be more lucrative, but they are truly motivated by helping others, and that’s wonderful to see in today’s world.” ❖



‘He whom you serve is the Lord’

Living hospitably means extending love of neighbor to all in need

By Sr. Beaty Haines
OLVM Social Justice Coordinator

One of the core values of the Victory Noll Sisters is hospitality. We declare this in the very beginning of our Constitutions or rule of life under the section entitled “Mission:” “We live simply and hospitably among the people.” What does it mean to live hospitably? The Greek word for hospitality is “philoxenia.” If the word is broken down, “philo” means “love, openness or affinity” and “xenia” means “for the stranger.”

St. Paul encourages hospitality in Romans 12:9-13 in the context of loving others:

“ *Your love must be sincere. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers and sisters. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit; he whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of the of God’s holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. ”*

Some may say that this seems reasonable if we are talking about people we know, people who are basically like us, but the stranger, the foreigner? That’s another story. Often in the Gospels people turned away from Jesus and his teaching when it seemed too difficult or even impossible. Jesus’ teaching, however, is clear. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Fr. Daniel G. Groody, in his book “A Theology of Migration” also challenges us to extend our love of neighbor. “To limit compassion to the borders of one’s nationality, church, and family is to fragment our common bonds, deprive those in need, and demean our humanity.”

It seems to me that the virtue of hospitality is more important today than ever as we hear so much more about creating barriers than we do about “encountering people,” as Pope Francis urges to do. Sometimes a barrier is created to provide security, which is a very human need, to feel secure and safe. Fear, however, can distance us from others, especially those who look or think differently than we do. The more we feel threatened or fearful, the more likely we are to create a barrier, which can be an ideology, a group or even a fence.

Our challenge is to see one another as God sees us, not as threats but actually as brothers and sisters. We are called to relate, not isolate. In so many ways, however, we have been “cut off” from others and even pitted against one another. Labels are used not only to identify but to separate and even worse, to foster hate or harm toward others.

The following is an example of the influence a label or a word to describe others can have. Fr. Groody suggests that if the term alien, which is often used to identify a non-citizen, is to be used at all, “...it would be descriptive not of those who lack political documentation but of those who have so disconnected themselves from God and others that they are incapable of seeing in the vulnerable stranger a mirror of themselves, a reflection of Christ, and call to love as God loves.”

So what are we called to do as Christians in our present Church and World reality? How do we live in a fractured World, often divided from one another? We need reminders that we are all part of one human family. One day my sister told me a story that has stayed with me, about a conversation she had with our dad when she was a youngster. He spent his early days as a child in the early 1900’s in Chicago in a neighborhood that was mixed Irish and Black. Living in an all-white town in Indiana, my sister was curious and asked Dad what it was like to live among Blacks. His response was very simple and profound. “They love their children just like we do.”

If we look around we can see many sparks of hope and evidence that people are good and hospitable toward one another, whether friend or stranger, black or white, Protestant or Catholic, Citizen or Undocumented, Republican or Democrat. We can recognize and proclaim heroic acts of self-giving love, whether near or far—as a source of hope. For example, we see this love of neighbor and the stranger:

- when someone spontaneously puts aside their natural instinct for self preservation and risks their life for another at the time of disaster, like a flood or fire;
- when a person comes upon an accident and endangers themselves in order to save the life of another;
- in those along our southern border who go into the desert to provide water to those who have endured great suffering in search of a better life;
- in those who work in shelters and food banks in our towns and cities.

Each of us as Christians are called to practice the virtue of hospitality, whatever our circumstances, in simple, daily and meaningful ways. We are also challenged, by God’s transforming grace, to look for ways where we can grow more hospitable by examining our openness to, and concern for, those who are different from us in their ideas, circumstances, nationality, culture, religion or politics. As St. Paul admonishes, “Look on the needs of God’s holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality.” ❖

Jubilarians 2024



Sr. Lucille Martinez addresses the congregation during her 60th Jubilee celebration in May at Heritage Pointe Chapel in Warren.

Sister Lucille Martinez, a native of Chimayo, N.M, celebrated her 60th Jubilee May 24 at Heritage Pointe of Warren, Ind.

She entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on August 5, 1964. Her mission work has taken her to parishes in California, Arizona, Michigan, New Mexico and Indiana.

Sr. Lucille has served in leadership with the Victory Noll Sisters, and her ministry work has been focused on assisting the migrant population, including working at the U.S.-Mexico border helping to provide services to immigrant communities.



Sr. Guadalupe Aguilar-Huanca's 25th Jubilee was celebrated in August in the former OLV Chapel in Huntington.

Sister Guadalupe Aguilar-Huanca was born in La Paz, Bolivia, and first met the Victory Noll Sisters at the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters mission in Oruro, Bolivia. She entered OLVM on February 11, 1999. She celebrated her 25th Jubilee on August 5 in the former OLV Chapel in Huntington, Ind.

She is certified as a nurse and home health care assistant and earned her degree in Applied Science as a Gerontology Specialist. Sr. Lupita has worked at nursing homes and for an assisted living community in engaging programming for people with memory loss. ❖



Sr. Lucille earns ‘Golden Pen’ honor

In April, Sr. Lucille Martinez submitted a letter to the editor to the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette entitled "Immigrants deserve our compassion" which was published on April 20. In the letter she recounted her personal experiences working at the United States-Mexico border as a volunteer at Annunciation House in El Paso, Tex., and with the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Mexico. She told the migrants' stories of fleeing the dangers in their home countries and trying to find freedom and safety for their families.

In her letter, Sr. Lucille called for elected leaders to work toward immigration reform that can also respect the human rights and dignity of those seeking a better life in America. The editors at the Journal Gazette selected Sr. Lucille's submission as April's "Golden Pen" winner as the most effective letter to the editor for the month. Her letter was reprinted on May 18 and included a short story about Sr. Lucille and her life and work as a Victory Noll Sister.

Her letter is reprinted here: ❖

“ As a Catholic Sister who recently volunteered at the U.S.-Mexico border, I am saddened and discouraged by recent coverage in the media of the increases in the number of migrants trying to cross the border. The labels used to describe the immigration challenge as “floods of migrants,” people “storming” the border, immigration as an “invasion” can only cause American voters to become frightened and see this humanitarian challenge as a crisis to be eradicated.

It was my privilege to accompany migrants as they arrived at the border. As a volunteer at Annunciation House in El Paso and at Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Mexico, I witnessed families arriving at the border hoping for the same things that we all value as U.S. citizens; a safe place for their children, the freedom to pursue work without fear of extortion or government control, and a place where their families can grow and thrive in peace. During my stay at Kino, I met and spoke with many families. One particular family had been forced to leave their home by members of organized crime. The father had been threatened with death if he did not join the organization. When he refused, they threatened to kidnap his two young sons. Fearful his sons would be kidnapped and he would be killed, Alberto and his family were forced to flee to Nogales. Leaving behind their house, land, and all their possessions, they arrived at Kino with only a few personal items they could carry in their backpacks. This was a familiar story that I heard over and over again as I listened to the migrants and why they had left their country.

The Catholic Church's position is that border management is a necessary component of any immigration system. Sometimes the methods used by the government can undermine the human rights and dignity of the individual. We can all agree that we need a comprehensive immigration reform. Since our elected officials cannot agree on one immigration reform bill, maybe we can all encourage them to work toward an incremental approach to reform the system. I can only feel compassion for those millions of DREAMERS who have been in limbo for about 10 years.

We are presently experiencing a dark period in our nation's immigration history. Our immigrant brothers and sisters are being exploited and politicized. In spite of the dehumanizing rhetoric and abusive labeling to describe our migrants, the mission and responsibility of Christians remains: to “welcome the stranger,” as Christ has instructed, will not change. ”



Sr. Lucille Martinez (right) helps a family fill out paperwork during her time working with migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.



Beginnings of a new forest

In 2017, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters sold nearly 100 acres of open and wooded land on their campus to ACRES Land Trust. ACRES is maintaining and preserving the area in its current natural state, matching with the OLV M Sisters' Land Ethic that calls for care for the Earth.

In early April, ACRES planted more than 16,000 sapling trees in the open field areas. A total of 18 different species of trees were planted. The different types were mixed throughout the planting in case any one section suffered damage that it wouldn't be of just one type, and there would still be a diversity of species in the new forest. Nearly all the species are native to Indiana and this area.

Earlier in the spring, ACRES removed a number of flowering Bradford Pear trees, which are considered a non-native invasive species that can out-compete the native trees. ❖



SPECIES OF TREES PLANTED

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Black Walnut | Black Cherry |
| Burr Oak | Sugar Maple |
| White Oak | Pin Oak |
| Chinquapin Oak | Persimmon |
| Tulip | Sweetgum |
| Red Oak | Red Bud |
| Shagbark Hickory | Black Chokeberry |
| Swamp White Oak | Common Chokeberry |
| Sycamore | Hazelnut |

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR BENEFACTORS

Contributions from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

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

MEMORIALS

Joanna Baade
for Tiffany Keplinger
Catherine Corsaro
for Sister Paula Wellnitz
Karen Davis
for Chuck Musante
Mary Duncan
for Chuck Musante
Susan Jenco
for Chrysostom Deliman
Carolyn Klohe
for Sister Carolyn Issenman
Janet Schaefer
for Sister Clarice May
Eugene Schramka
for Sister Ann Therese Plum
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Rosemarie Young
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OLVM Archives

The Society of Missionary Catechists operated a health clinic and later a soup kitchen in a remodeled school in Las Vegas, N.M. during the Great Depression. The Catechists lived in the upper level with 14 dormitory-style beds.

Benefactor left a lasting impact

By Jeff Hoffman
OLVM Archivist

The early members of the Society of Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory carried out Father John Joseph Sigstein's mission to serve the "poorest of the poor" by meeting their spiritual and physical needs.

Those needs became more prevalent during the Great Depression. In Las Vegas, New Mexico, the Catechists — who later were renamed Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters — began a clinic, but needed funds to keep it operating. In order to obtain funds, Catechist Genevieve Sullivan was elected to canvass

businesses in town. One of the businesses she approached was the law office of Louis Iffeld.

Iffeld came to the United States from Germany to escape compulsory military service in his home country. He arrived in New Mexico where he joined the family mercantile trade. Initially reluctant to help support the Catechists, he was won over by their love for the poor. Iffeld, who was Jewish, eventually provided \$250 a month to their efforts, with the decision on how it was spent to be determined by the Catechists,

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** Following the completion of OLVM's year-long Centennial Celebration in 2022, Victory Noll Archivist Jeff Hoffman continues his historical look at significant events and individuals from the congregation's first 100 years.*

even though he was not Catholic.

As the Great Depression continued Fr. Michael Dumarest approached the Catechists to see if they could start a soup kitchen. He had obtained some big steam pots, which allowed the Catechists to make soup with the bones they begged for. They added whatever vegetables that were available. Iffeld had stepped away from the mercantile portion of the family business to concentrate on their raising of livestock, which included sheep and cattle. When the Catechists were running low on meat he would provide a dozen sheep from one of his ranches to be killed and dressed. He also talked his brother into providing \$100 worth of groceries each month for the Catechists to distribute. They also received 50 tons of flour from the Red Cross for distribution. Local restaurants donated leftovers to supplement the aid they were able to provide.



Louis Iffeld

Iffeld's contribution to the people of Las Vegas continued after his death. The Auxilio de Don Carlos was a fund set up to be administered by the Catechists for the benefit of the people of Las Vegas. The Victory Noll Sisters continued to oversee the fund while they remained in Las Vegas. In 1965, \$250 was designated to be used for medical bills. Eventually the amount was raised to \$500. Of this \$125 went to pay bills at Las Vegas Hospital and another \$125 went towards accounts payable at St. Anthony's Hospital. Monthly payments were made to three local pharmacies for prescriptions to those who needed assistance. Assistance was also provided to cover various doctors' bills.

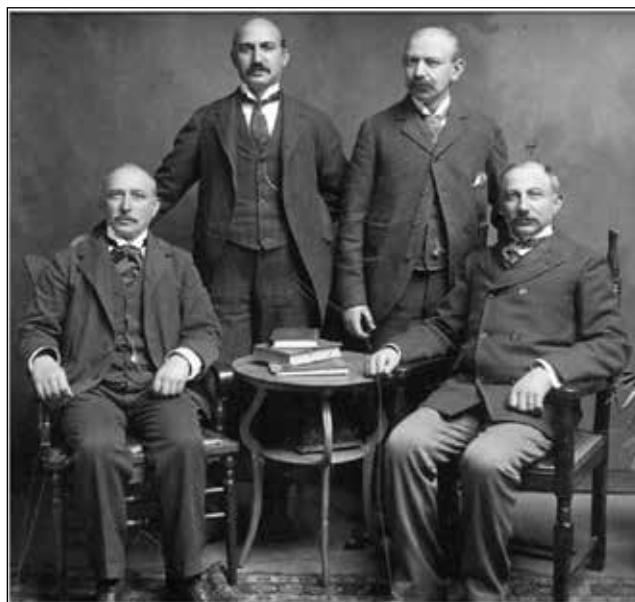
There was very little left over each month, if any. Help was only provided to those most urgent cases. Each application was checked with the local welfare office and health department in order that aid was not duplicated. The applicants were also checked to see if they were eligible for aid through social security and veteran's benefits. This allowed help to be provided to those who could not get aid in other ways.

When Sr. Elizabeth Ann Clifford was writing the first volume of *The Story of Victory Noll* in the late 1970's, she found several people who declared that their children survived due to the life-changing services provided by the Catechists during the Great Assistance. ❖



New Mexico Jewish Historical Society

Charles Iffeld owned the large mercantile business in downtown Las Vegas, N.M. His son, Louis, ran a law office next door. Louis was an early benefactor to the Society of Missionary Catechists during the Great Depression.



New Mexico Jewish Historical Society

The Iffelds were in the mercantile trade in early New Mexico history. They came to New Mexico to avoid the compulsory military service in the recent unification of Germany. Charles set up his business in Las Vegas and was followed by his brothers. Louis would later become a lawyer and leave the family business and become a sheep and cattle rancher.



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Visions

FROM THE VICTORY NOLL ARCHIVES



A favorite phrase of OLV M Founder Father John Joseph Sigstein was “Meet modern needs with modern means.” In 1922, the need for his Society of Missionary Catechists in New Mexico was to find the best ways to serve the people, who were spread across miles and miles in the wide-open state. The means came in the form of an automobile, which was a relatively new conveyance. The idea of Catholic Sisters driving was also quite unusual. But the car meant the catechists could reach more people more quickly. In this photo, Sr. Marie Benes crank-starts the first Ford owned by the Society while Sr. Julia Doyle waits to drive to an outlying mission from Watrous, New Mexico. ❖