

Companions IN PRAYER



Sisters of St. Clare
Saginaw, MI

Summer 2009

In this newsletter, we'd like to share with you our prayer and support during these difficult economic times.

Do Not Be Afraid

This past year has been filled with challenges for everyone.

We have watched the struggling housing market as well as the loss of jobs and industries that have been the mainstay for many generations of Michigan families.

Since we are women called to a special vocation of prayer for the needs of our local community and world, we remember these struggles and losses in our daily prayers.

About a week ago, these economic challenges hit close to home for us.

Our neighbor knocked on the door to see us. He explained that his house was in foreclosure, and he came to say good-bye. With his simple knock on our door, the newspaper headlines and our prayers for the world suddenly became personal and had the face of our neighbor who was part of our daily lives.

Throughout the rest of that day, I found myself glancing over at his house and watching our friends

loading up their family belongings on the moving trucks. As I watched, I felt a deep sadness and sense of loss. Although I wasn't the one moving, I have experienced the anxiety and fear that comes with change. Their move reminded me of times, some expected and some unexpected, when I have had to move. I always found the unexpected moves the most traumatic.



During the past year, I have often heard quoted President Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous words about fear. In his Inaugural address in March 1933, he reminded our people who were suffering from economic depression, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

My parents lived through those hard times as did some of the sisters with whom I now live. They all have stories of loss, change, moving, and living with the unknown. Their stories tell me that it took both a strong faith and courage to get through those hard times. Their strength was their faith based on their love of God, their family, their friends, and their community.

That faith lives in me today. It is a faith and belief that is spoken of in the Hebrew Scriptures and throughout the New Testament.

In the 43rd chapter of the Book of the Prophet

continued on reverse

Isaiah, God speaks to the Israelites about his steadfast and enduring love for them in the midst of change and struggle. I find hope in these words: "Israel, don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I am the God who saves you. I want you to know me, to trust me, and understand that I alone am God....only I can rescue you."

God reminded the Israelites about his steadfast love for them in the midst of struggle. We share in that steadfast love of God. The more I trust in God, the more I understand that only God gives me, and all of us, the safety and security we desire during these troubled times.

We need to hear God saying to each of us, "don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I am the God who saves you. I want you to know me, to trust me, and to understand that I alone am God. Only I can rescue you."

Since our last Newsletter



Along with other religious women from the diocese, we recently celebrated in a special Mass at St. Mary Cathedral the long and distinguished vocations of two our sisters, Sr. Bernadone (70 years) and Sr. Laurene (60 years). In addition, Sr. Dianne turned 65 in June and completed her rite of passage through

the Social Security process, while Sr. Laura will turn 60 in September.

On July 28, 2009, Sr. Dianne had the honor of officially welcoming Bishop Joseph Cistone to our diocese in the name of the Poor Clare community at his installation Mass. Bishop Cistone was appointed the new bishop of Saginaw, on May 28, 2009, succeeding Bishop Carlson, who was named Archbishop of St Louis, Missouri.

New Website

Please check out our new web site. It can be accessed at www.srsclare.com. There you will see that all our greeting cards are available at the Gift Store. You can easily order them through PayPal or through the mail with the order form.



We invite you to send us your prayer requests at: <http://srsclare.com/prayer-request>, and visit our weekly Sunday Journal at: <http://srsclare.com/practice-of-prayer/sunday-journal>.

Sr. Laura and Sisters

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WE ARE PRAYING WITH AND FOR YOU.