

Companions IN PRAYER



Sisters of St. Clare
Saginaw, MI

Organizing Our Memories

This year in October, we celebrate 25 years since Bishop Untener invited us to minister in the diocese of Saginaw. As part of our celebration, we decided to organize our boxes of letters, photos, and documents that we have gathered over the past 25 years. You may have some of these types of storage boxes collecting memories of your life waiting for your attention as well.

We were surprised to find that as we worked on the photos and papers many memories came back to us, including many incidents that we had forgotten. We did not expect the deep feelings we would have. Sometimes there were tears of both sadness and joy, and other times we experienced overwhelming gratitude as we paused to remember the past.

We discovered, while organizing and filing the papers, that we felt a strong desire to visit our original monastery in Minneapolis. It has been 21 years since both our Saginaw group of sisters and our original Minneapolis sisters have all been together. Sister Bernie, our oldest sister here in Saginaw is 97; Sister Anne our oldest sister in Minneapolis is 102. We knew that we had a short window of opportunity for a reunion! In the past Sister Bernie and Sister Anne would call each other weekly after we moved to Michigan. However, hearing loss for both of them became a problem, and so their calls to each other stopped.

And so it was that on Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19, 2015, the four of us flew back to the monastery in Minneapolis for a brief and much anticipated reunion. When our two elder sisters saw each other they fell into each other's arms. We saw before our eyes a glimpse of what our heavenly reunion will be like with our loved

ones. We used our time to catch up on each other's lives and to share precious memories.

We saw many changes in our sisters in Minneapolis, and they saw many changes in us. We saw a reflection in each other of how much we have aged. We realized that we came to Saginaw 25 years younger than we are now. We came full of hope in our future, and our hopes have been fulfilled as we got to know the Saginaw parish members in their needs and their joys. For us, our life in Saginaw has been a sacred journey. Our hearts were broken when Bishop Untener died; however, our commitment was and is to be *Companions in Prayer*, and so we remain here in Saginaw and are discovering a new future filled with hope.



Sister Anne and Sister Bernie

Although we are meeting the inevitable challenges of aging, we cherish our ministry of prayer in Saginaw and treasure each other and our friends and *Companions in Prayer* in the Parishes more each day. In our youth, we looked forward into an unknown future with excitement and anxiety, wondering if we could meet the challenges. Now we look back and can see God's hand guiding us through these past 25 years. Now we walk with faith and trust into the future.

We have only half finished organizing our boxes of papers, photos and documents. However, we decided to let them be for now so that we can savor these memories. We'll return to finish this work another day.

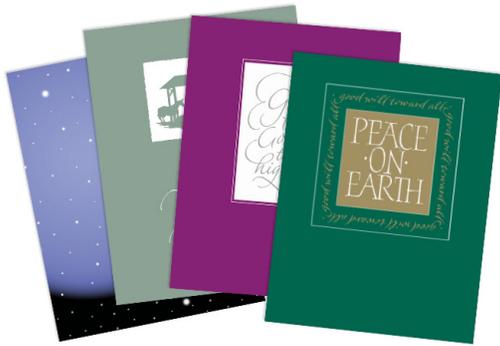
(We are interested in your thoughts. Let us know at: <http://srsclare.com/about-us/companions-in-prayer-newsletter>)

Sr. Laura and Sisters

Coming Soon

Our fall 2015 brochure will be in the mail soon. Please consider our Christmas card selections when ordering your greeting cards this year. Your purchase and donations help support our mission as *Companions in Prayer*.

A special note to our faithful friends: this will be our last year of creating Christmas cards and mailing a brochure. Over the last 20 years we have featured over 50 original designs to express the wonder and awe of the season. We will turn our focus towards creating scripture reflections and seasonal devotions for our website.



However, this final year, we are introducing four **Christmas cards**: *Peace on Earth, The Miracle has just begun!, It came upon a midnight clear...*, and

Glory to God in the highest. You may view them on our website at: <http://srsclare.com/our-gift-store/gift-store>. Our website includes an order form for mailing (<http://srsclare.com/our-gift-store/order-form>) or credit card through PayPal.

The brochure also features our popular **Fragrant Blessing Oil**, as well as our **Sympathy, Thank you** and **Special Occasion** cards. Our **Special Occasion** cards offer support and prayers for those you care about; <http://srsclare.com/our-gift-store/gift-store>.

Thank you so much for all the support that you have given us over the years by ordering our cards and fragrant oil and by your other donations. Always remember that we are here to be your *Companions in Prayer*.

Feast of St. Clare August 11

Sometimes at the end of July and the beginning of August, we hear a faint sound of crickets during the day and early evening. For us, that is the first signal that the feast of St. Clare is coming. August 11 is the day we remember the gift of her call and of our vocation.

During our sorting and organizing that I described earlier in the newsletter, we found worship aids from our celebration on August 11, 1993 at St. Mary's Cathedral here in Saginaw when we celebrated the 800th anniversary of St. Clare's birth. With a full church, we prayed Vespers and introduced our Fragrant Blessing Oil.

We also came across our program from the Taizé prayer service to celebrate our 20th anniversary in the diocese that was held at St. John Vianney on August 11, 2011. Bishop Cistone led the opening prayer. During the service we collected prayer requests from the people that we included in our daily prayers throughout the anniversary year. The video of the Taizé prayer can be seen on our website at: <http://srsclare.com/practice-of-prayer/media>.

For our 25th anniversary we will treasure these memories and continue our prayers for the diocese. We invite you to send us your prayer requests through our web site or email address: prayer@srsclare.com so that we can pray with you.

As the feast of St. Clare comes closer and the cricket songs get louder, we will be thanking God for you in our life. Please remember us in your prayers.

Sisters of St. Clare
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Please remember us in your charitable giving.

You are not alone
WE ARE PRAYING WITH AND FOR YOU.