

THE FLAME



NEWS & EVENTS FROM THE CENACLE (NOW AT 3800 W. PETERSON AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60659)

WINTER/SPRING 2022

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prepared in the first week of January

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Dear Friends,

By the time you read this we will be into a new year. My hope is that blessings and graces in abundance may abound for you and for all your loved ones in 2022.

For us as Cenacle Sisters of the North American Province, we are into a new phase of growth. The retreat house on Fullerton has been sold and all of us have moved on to new addresses and the challenge of living out our charism in a different setting. There are nine of us living at Resurrection Village, which is across the street from Resurrection Hospital and not far from O'Hare International Airport. In my wildest imaginings, I never thought that I would end up living in an apartment. It has been a challenge.



So far, I have locked myself out no less than six times and am embarrassed to have to call for someone to come and unlock my door. . .again! Our washer and dryer set up is coin operated and until I got used to it I was ready to do the laundry but had no quarters to do so, having forgotten to get the change needed from the Bistro or from the front desk. I could go on and on. . .

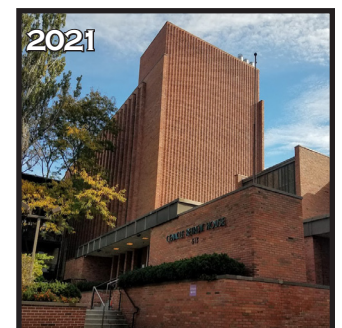
During the past six months, I have come to realize that the beautiful chapel we had at the retreat house is gone as is everything else at that location. I still grieve but the reality is that God is no longer there for me. . . he is here at Resurrection Village. God is showing me how to live Cenacle charism in a new situation, how to process new experiences, how to treasure and relish all the new and wonderful people I am meeting and getting to know.

Most of you have found yourselves in similar circumstances: having to sell the family home, having to move because of a new job, illness or other situation. Whatever it is you and I face, let us remember that we have choices. We can dwell and wallow in past memories or we can do healthy grieving and move on to living each day to the best of our ability.

Let this new year be a time when we count our blessings and not our crosses, when we spread joy and not gloom. Wherever we live let us choose to be a positive presence to those around us. . . a positive presence to our troubled world. Amen! Alleluia!

Marquerite Gautreau

On March 17, 1920 the Cenacle Sisters took possession of 513 W. Fullerton Parkway in Chicago. On November 1, 2021 the property sold, the keys handed over to a new owner, who plans to redevelop the property and its parcels (similar to the buildings the Sisters first saw in 1920). For more information on the sale, move, and divestment please read the story on the back cover.



"I saw written as in letters of gold this word Goodness.. I saw it, I say, written on all creatures... all bore this name of goodness."

— St. Therese Couderc, r.c.

Reaching out electronically...

In addition to the Flame, our mailed newsletter every February, June, and October, we send periodic e-newsletters that contain timely notes from the Province, new retreats, or other pertinent updates from the Sisters. You can visit our website to sign-up for e-notifications or you can indicate your interest by emailing us at: ministry@cenaclesisters.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Central to the Cenacle Sisters' charism is the ministry of prayer. Please submit all prayer requests to cenaclesisters.org/prayer/ so that the Sisters might join you in prayer.



Legal Name:

North American Province of the
Congregation of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Inc.

DBA Name:

Cenacle Sisters NAP

EIN/Tax Identification:

36-2739137

For charitable giving or contact information:

Sr. Janice Bemowski, r.c. — Treasurer
Mark Piper — Ministry & Mission Advancement

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Chicago, IL 60659-3116

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If you receive multiple copies of this newsletter or do not wish to receive it in the future please let us know. It will not hurt our feelings and will save both paper and postage. Thank you for your interest in the Cenacle. We hope to continue our relationship with you for years to come.

Mark Piper — Editor
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Ministerial Offerings in the Coming Months

for a complete list of our retreats and ongoing programs please visit our website

www.cenaclesisters.org



claiming your faith in a broken church

Date: Feb. 22, 2022 — 5:00 - 7:00 PM Central

Panelists: **Kerry Campbell** (Raised Catholic Podcast); **Karen Kiefer** (Boston College); **Mike Lewis** (founder/editor of the site Where Peter Is)

Description: Heeding the words of Pope Francis to be a “listening church,” this live event is a two-hour dialogue among Catholics who hear, see, and stand in solidarity with those who are struggling with church. Registrants are able to ask each of the knowledgeable and Gospel-driven panelists questions. All are welcome; all shall be charitable and respectful as Christ commands.



Lenten Day of Prayer: Charcoal Beginnings

Date: March 3, 2022 — 10:00 - 2:00 PM Central

Facilitator: Luciana Duce-Dugan, MFA (Cenacle Associate)

Description: On the day following Ash Wednesday, when our foreheads might still have a smudge of the reminder of our dust, Luciana Duce-Dugan uses that symbolism and meaning to open us up to our Lenten Journey through the medium of charcoal drawing. There is very limited space available for this program. The facilitator will provide an art supply list to registrants. Open to all; no formal drawing/art training required.

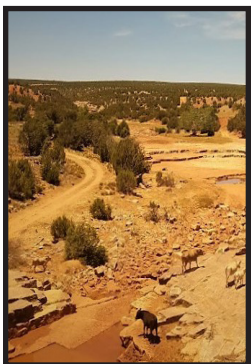


Hearts Renewed

Date: March 16, 2022 — 10:30 - 12:00 PM Central

Facilitator: Joan McGovern

Description: The season of Lent is one of preparation, transformation and how we receive God's grace into our hearts. We are encouraged to break free of the bonds of material necessity so we can redirect our efforts toward spiritual renewal. Say, “Yes” to the divine invitation and realign yourself. This is a 90-minute online retreat which includes retreatant sharing. The suggested minimum offering is \$25.00.



To Serve & Be Served

Date: April 13, 2022 — 10:30 - 12:00 PM Central

Facilitator: Joan McGovern

Description: During the season of Lent, recalling Jesus' 40 days in the desert, we are invited by God to give love away, which is at the core of serving another and being served. It is that Lenten transformation of the heart. Can we give ourselves permission to allow God to serve us? Through our shared experiences we will discover the graces ever present in our lives. This is a 90-minute online retreat which includes retreatant sharing. Minimum offering of \$25.00.

COVID-19, GUESTS, and OUR NEW LOCATION

Since moving into our new Provincial Headquarters (pictured at the bottom of page 3) it has been our hope to host small groups or spiritual direction on site. However, as tenants of the Felician Sisters Convent with a large residential population we are unable to safely host you our friends at this time. We hope in our next edition of *The Flame* (June) we can outline our in-person Covid-19 policies and perhaps announce on site opportunities. Until then: (1) pray for an end to the pandemic, and (2) heeding the words of Pope Francis, please get vaccinated (or boosted) as an, “act of love.” We miss you. We look forward to gathering in person very soon.

Elderly Appeal

There will not be a separate, mailed, Elderly Appeal this spring. However, if you'd like to make a donation to this fund, which is separate from General Donations, you may visit our website donation page and select “Elderly Appeal,” from the *Donation Fund Name* options.



Collage as Mystery:

Discovering & Uncovering a Deeper Story

Date: April 21 & April 22, 2022 — 10:00 - 2:00 PM Central Time, each day

Facilitator: Luciana Duce-Dugan, MFA (Cenacle Associate)

Description: Creating a collage is part creative, part personal, and part spiritual. Join experienced art and spiritual retreat director Luciana Duce-Dugan as she guides registrants through this playful and meaningful process. No experience or art skills needed! Space is limited to 12 registrants for this retreat.



On Becoming

Date: April 30, 2022 — 12:30 - 2:30 PM Central Time

Facilitator: Patricia J. Pickett, DMin.

Description: This is an interactive program (it accommodates all types of differently-abled persons). By telling the story of Sr. Thea Bowman, participants are encouraged to dream about their own “becoming,” and will explore the process of becoming who God wants us to become — no matter our age or station in life. Registrants will receive a package in the mail, from the facilitator, in advance of the program.

Vocations, Celebrations & Discernment

Sr. Rose Hoover, r.c. has a self-guided online vocation retreat on our website.

March 8 - 14, 2022 is National Catholic Sister Week.

Questions about vocations and the Cenacle Community may be sent to: vocations@cenaclesisters.org



CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK

Spiritual Direction

Interested in discerning God in your life? Spiritual Direction provided by a Cenacle Sister may be of value to you. Contact ministry@cenaclesisters.org for more information.

Christian Meditation

Sister Anelie Arao, r.c., leads a weekly meditation group online. All are welcome. Please visit “Ongoing Programs” on our website to learn more.

Centering Prayer

Led by Cenacle Associate, Jackie Herbach, Centering Prayer is hosted online by the Cenacle. To join this 50 minute, free, prayer group please visit “Ongoing Programs” on our website.

Mission Advancement:

Easy ways to be a part of the Sisters' Ministry

~ Check to see if your employer has a Matching Gift program. This will allow you to double your generosity to the Cenacle Sisters NAP.

~ When you have a birthday, anniversary, or any other celebration ask friends and family to give a gift to the Cenacle in honor of the big event. We will send you, and the donor, a big thank you and pray for the intention.

~ When you are making estate plans consider including the Cenacle in your will. This is a gift which allows you to be part of the future of the Cenacle for years to come.

~ Consider signing up for our Monthly Giving Program. This is an easy way to be a part of the Sister's ministry. The enclosed envelope has all the details.

Ad Multos Annos

2021 brought jubilee celebrations to three Cenacle Sisters in our North American Province:

Platinum Jubilarians

(1951 - 2021 / 70 years)

Sr. Annette Mattle, r.c.

Sr. Mary Florence Walsh, r.c.



Diamond Jubilarian

(1961 - 2021 / 60 years)

Sr. Susan Arcaro, r.c.

Please remember these Sisters, and all Cenacle Sisters as they continue enlivening the Gospel of Christ through their religious life of being a contemplative presence, visible and accessible to the People of God.

Please visit our YouTube page: youtube.com/user/cenaclesisters



Commemorating her 60th Jubilee, StoryDrive recorded an interview with Sr. Susan detailing her vocation to religious life within the Cenacle.

View it, “like” it, share it!





Divesting of the Chicago Cenacle Retreat & Conference Center

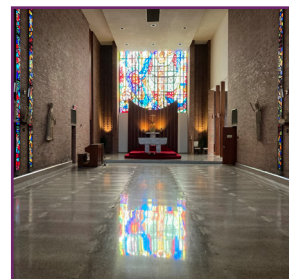
Donating and repurposing our furnishings for worthy ministries

There are no unsacred places; only sacred places
— Wendell Berry (paraphrased)

Silent or directed retreats. Spiritual Direction. Outside groups or hosted meetings. Sunday Mass. While the Sisters arrived at 513 W. Fullerton in 1920, the building most associated with the Cenacle ministries in Chicago was built between 1966-1967. Hundreds of thousands of people entered this 88-bed retreat center. Many came to regard it as a sacred place. Sitting in the chapel as the bursting beams of early morning light would slant in through stained glass, one may have felt a holy presence. Walking in the courtyard could bring an inner stillness and serenity. Guest rooms facilitated silence and contemplation — in the midst of the city.

Because, “the earth is the Lord’s and all it contains” (Ps. 24:1), we realize, of course, that every place is a sacred place, not just those locations that hold special places in our hearts or memories, including the home we just sold and vacated. What places like the Cenacle offered was a distinctive environment that served to awaken that reality more fully in us; a sacred place that pointed to the goodness of all of our lives and our *good* God.

We are pleased that that service continues in other spaces now, as we donated or repurposed thousands of furnishings and belongings. It was no small task to empty this 450,000 square foot space! Pews in the main chapel? Off to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Beds and bedding? Off to transitional housing for women, like Margaret’s Village or other retreat Centers like Cabrini in Des Plaines or the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels on the West Side of Chicago. We are most grateful to the organizations (listed to the right) that received our gifts so that in one sense our retreat center, or at least its sacred mission, may live on, with them, and with those they serve. Special thanks to the Fenwick High School football team for their assistance in moving out hundreds of end tables, desks, lamps, and dinnerware.



Images from top to bottom:
First, staging the contents;
Second, moving them;
Third, praying our
Good-bye.

Donation Destinations

Please keep these wonderful organizations in your prayers.

- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat Center
- Bethany House
- Cabrini Retreat Center
- Church of Our Saviour
- Felician Sisters
- Felines & Canines
- Goodwill
- Humble Design
- La Salle Manor
- Margaret’s Village
- Midwest Augustinians (St. Clare House)
- Midwest Augustinians (St. Rita Parish)
- Mission of Our Lady of the Angels
- Mount Sinai Resale Shop
- Old St. Mary’s Catholic Church
- Old Town School of Folk Music
- Open Books
- PAWS Animal Shelter
- Restore
- Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Sisters of Mercy (mission in El Salvador)
- St. Theresa’s Catholic Church
- Stemper Company
- Theological Book Network
- University of Dayton c/o the Roesch Library

