Each of us has some part to play

Now what? The triumph of the resurrection and resounding alleluias of Easter have faded. We are taken up by our workaday cares and the bewildering news of the refugee crisis, gun violence, scandals in the Catholic Church.

It is easy to be overwhelmed and paralyzed, as the apostles were in the days leading up to Pentecost. On Pentecost the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, which gave them the courage to begin proclaiming the Good News to the ends of the earth. They did not need to complete their mission that day, but they needed to act.

Blessed with the Holy Spirit, we may not be able to proclaim the Good News in multiple languages, but we can do something in the face of overwhelming need. No one person can solve the crises that plague us, but each person has a part to play, little as it may seem. As Teresa Maya, CCVI, past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) said, “The little that we can do needs to get done.”

Pat Jane Lily Debbie Mary Rose
In memoriam

Sister Mary Brenda Brady died Friday, May 24, 2019, at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. A Sister of Mercy for 63 years, she was 81 years old.

Sister Brenda entered the Community in Cincinnati, which was also her birthplace. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English history from Our Lady of Cincinnati and a master’s in elementary education from Xavier University.

She ministered in education, social services and community organizing. Among her ministries were Bethany House, the Peaslee Neighborhood Center and Power Inspires Progress, all in Cincinnati; Cincinnati Public Schools; Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati; and Alpha Boys’ School in Kingston, Jamaica.

Justice update

MEASURING POVERTY

The current federal measure for defining poverty is inadequate: In 1955 the definition of poverty was based primarily on the cost of food as a proportion of income, then periodically adjusted for inflation. Since 1955, other living expenses such as rent, child care and transportation, have risen to be a greater proportion of a family’s income. The poverty threshold should be adjusted to reflect this shift. A recent White House proposal involves a method of calculating annual adjustments to the poverty level that would cause many people to lose access to food stamps, housing subsidies, Medicaid, and other assistance. This policy would squeeze people out of the programs that help low-income families and individuals; those who are children, disabled, elderly and low wage workers. Redefining poverty doesn’t help put food on the table, keep a roof over families’ heads, pay for critical health care, or secure a better job. Click on the blue words below to read more:

Poverty line proposal

FACT OR MYTH?

As the 2020 elections approach, more TV ads, Facebook posts, Twitter feeds, etc., will be circulating statements about the candidates, their backgrounds and policies, and comments about the economy, the government and many other issues. Previously circulated myths will reappear. Circulating myths can have real consequences. The myth that a pizza parlor was a front for human trafficking caused a shooting in that restaurant. Circulating false information can change the outcome of an election. False information about immigrants or minority groups can lead to hate crimes. Checking out the facts is even more important in an election year, since political advertisements are not required to be factual. An attachment has a listing of websites for consultation. Click on the blue words below for more:

Fake or real news?
It’s now Gerety Hall

In recognition of Sister Jane Gerety’s service to Salve Regina University, University trustees dedicated Gerety Hall (formerly Wakehurst Hall) on Thursday, May 9, 2019.

Sister Jane, who has served as president of Salve Regina in Newport, Rhode Island, for a decade, is retiring from that position and moving back to Atlanta, Georgia. Previously she served in administration at Mercy Health Services and is returning to take on a position there again—a plan warmly welcomed by her many faithful friends in Atlanta.

Salve’s Board chair, Janet Robinson, honored Sister Jane for her commitment to curriculum expansion, which has brought diversity to the campus. Everyone gathered that day sported FOJ (Friends of Jane) buttons, applauding her as “the Students’ President.”

Sister Jane said she was honored to see her family name on a building on the campus, which also includes buildings dedicated to Sister Lucille McKillop and Sister Therese Antone, two Mercy predecessors.

Sister Betsy Linehan and Sister Augusta Reilly, two South Central Community members, joined the Salve community, along with Sister Jane’s family and a contingent of Atlanta friends for the unveiling of the “Gerety Hall” name.

In addition, Rhode Island’s Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse also gave moving tributes to Sister Jane on the U.S. Senate floor on Monday, May 20. Click on the blue words to view on YouTube: Sister Jane Gerety
Alpha Institute’s School of Music, which offers a comprehensive vocational music program for 16- to 22-year-olds.

In addition, on Saturday, May 11, 2019, the Alpha Boys Band received the Reggae 50 – Pioneer Award of Honour for their contribution to Jamaica’s music industry.

### Novitiate says thanks

The Institute Novitiate held a prayer service Sunday, May 19, 2019, for the Sisters of Mercy in the St. Louis, Missouri, area. Some 60 Sisters of Mercy attended the Sacred Concert. The service was planned by the Institute Novitiate with Sister Anne Marie Miller and Sister Eileen Campbell of the Institute Leadership Team, and Sister Mary Rose Bumpus from South Central’s Community Leadership Team. It provided an opportunity to thank the local sisters for their presence and support to the Institute Novitiate for the last 25 years in St. Louis and Laredo, Texas.

While Sister Anne Marie Miller was welcoming everyone, her cell phone rang, and she announced that she needed to take the call. She shared the conversation with those gathered in the chapel: It was Catherine McAuley calling to

### Musical fundraiser

An enthusiastic crowd gathered at The Haven in Kingston, Jamaica, on Friday, March 29, 2019, for a jam session and fundraiser for music education.

The jam session, featuring an all-star lineup of musicians including saxophonist Dean Fraser, capped a week-long series of workshops and master classes delivered by renowned drummer George “Spanky” McCurdy at the Alpha Institute (a Mercy ministry) and the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts. Students from both schools, along with others in the audience, had the opportunity to talk with Spanky, who has toured with Lauryn Hill, Lady Gaga, Jill Scott, Sean “Diddy” Combs, and other popular artists.

Proceeds from the jam session were donated to the scholarship fund for students at the Alpha Institute’s School of Music, which offers a comprehensive vocational music program for 16- to 22-year-olds.

In addition, on Saturday, May 11, 2019, the Alpha Boys Band received the Reggae 50 – Pioneer Award of Honour for their contribution to Jamaica’s music industry.

### Waving goodbye

Sisters in Baltimore, Maryland, held a farewell reception at Mercy Springwell on Sunday, May 26, 2019, for Sisters Mary Ann and Mary Eileen Wilhelm, who moved to Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama, on May 29, and for Sister Regina Werntz, who will move to Belmont, North Carolina, in early July. They enjoyed food (including a cake that read “Happy Trails”), drinks, stories and tributes to the three sisters. Here, Sister Sue Weetenkamp shares the Baltimore tradition of waving white handkerchiefs as sisters left for new ministries in August. Looking on (clockwise from left, foreground) are Sisters Paula Marie Phelan, Catherine Reichenberg, Jeremy Daigler, Maura McCartan, and Regina Werntz.

Sister Anne Marie Miller of the Institute Leadership Team pretends to take a call from Catherine McAuley during a prayer service organized by the Institute Novitiate in St. Louis, Missouri. The Novitiate will move to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, next year.
inquire about how the sisters in St. Louis were doing and how they engage in the works of Mercy.

From the chapel, there was a procession to the space outside Catherine’s Residence, the retirement convent, for a blessing of a newly planted tree. Then everyone gathered in the community room for a social.

Taking a spring ride

Sisters Marion Mordica, Michaelanne Estoup, Jonella Rhoda, and Dianne Ferguson took advantage of the beautiful weather Saturday, May 18, 2019, by taking a golf cart ride on the Mercy Center campus in St. Louis, Missouri. Native wildflowers, deer and bunnies, as well as campus visitors, were enjoying the weather also.

Sisters’ reflections

Sister Agnes Brueggen writes, in a reflection on the Ascension: “Shouts of joy at the loss of a treasured mentor? Joy in saying goodbye to a friend you may never again see on this earth? Glad that a loved one is moving far away? You must be kidding! Yet the Ascension

Scriptures do present an occasion to look anew at Easter Joy—hand in hand with departures. Perhaps it is that mysterious “joy of letting go” that often is attributed to Francis of Assisi? Or perhaps it is Jesus’ invitation to delve deeper into the sources of JOY he has promised?”

Click on the blue words below to read more:

Sisters of Mercy blog

On Saturday, June 8, visit the same site to read Sister Doris Gottemoeller’s reflection, “Imagine a Modern-Day Pentecost,” which begins: They were all gathered in one place together: Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Burundis, Kenyans, Sudanese, Americans, Vietnamese, Syrians, and Samoans. Suddenly, there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire space in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. But each one understood the leader in his or her native language.”

‘Sewing’ awareness

Ingrid Robinson, a Mercy associate and co-worker in Belmont, North Carolina, writes about the Haiti hygiene project on her blog, “‘Sewing’ menstrual awareness through the Haiti Hygiene Initiative Project.”

Ingrid explains how she got involved and says that volunteers in 11 states plus Guam now are making hygiene kits. She provides the pattern, samples, a how-to video, and written instructions. The volunteers mail her their completed
Executive Director, Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center | Fremont, Ohio

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center is seeking a full-time executive director, who is responsible for marketing, program development, community relations, and fundraising. The executive director oversees all daily activities and operations of the retreat center, including spiritual leadership, supervision of staff/volunteers and fiscal decisions, and delegates responsibilities as appropriate. Interested individuals should send a resume, cover letter and salary requirement to pines-retreatjobs@gmail.com by Friday, June 21, 2019.

‘Nuns and nones’

What happens when millennial “nones” move into a convent? They find out they have more in common than one could ever imagine.

A New York Times story shows how a group of non-religious young people lived for six months in community with Sisters of Mercy in Burlingame, California. Click on the blue words below to read the story:

Ministry opportunities

Association Coordinator | Belmont, North Carolina

The Mercy Association coordinator (a new position) will assist the director of association in developing outreach materials, planning departmental projects, drawing up design plans, locating materials, and calculating project costs. The coordinator also will perform a variety of administrative and support duties such as, but not limited to, maintaining files, responding to requests, coordinating monthly mailings, preparing meeting materials, and supporting the director. Applicants should contact Patricia Manzi, director of Human Resources, at pmanzi@mercysc.org. A more detailed position description is included with today’s attachments.

Today’s attachments

- Directory changes for June 6, 2019
- Fact Check and related Websites
- Position description for association coordinator

Send us your news

The next issue of Community eNews will be published Thursday, June 20, 2019. Send your news and photos to Beth Thompson, writer/ communications strategist, by Friday, June 14.
### South Central Directory Updates

#### June 6, 2019

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Email updates to: ms2support@sistersofmercy.samanage.com
Fact Check and Other Websites

All of these websites factcheck politicians and candidates from both parties. Their sources of funding and mission can be accessed at their “about” tab.

These two websites are independent non-profit free sites.
Fact Check at http://www.factcheck.org/
Politifact at http://www.politifact.com/

These two websites are run by their respective newspapers. Your access may be limited without a subscription to the paper.
Washington Post Fact Checker:
New York Times Fact Checker:
https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/fact-checks

Snopes: http://www.snopes.com/ - While Snopes has some political stuff, it is more in the urban myth style. Was a submarine found in the desert? Was Obama sworn into office on the Koran? Were Bernie Sanders’ parents Holocaust survivors? Did George W. Bush refuse to sell his house to African-Americans? Do Thieves armed with "code grabbers" break into cars by recording signals sent by remote keyless entry devices?

Vote Smart: www.votesmart.org This site is not a fact check site; rather it researches the issues; then matches the statements made by politicians and those running for office on those issues. The site also includes state level politicians and candidates. A short video on the site explains the mission and methodology of Vote Smart.

FAIR: Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting: www.fair.org Reports on the treatment of issues in the media and has been offering well-documented criticism of media bias and censorship since 1986. FAIR will often critique the reporting of national newspapers such as the New York Times.

Media Matters for America: https://www.mediamatters.org Systematically monitors a cross section of print, broadcast, cable, radio, and Internet media outlets for conservative misinformation - news or commentary that is not accurate, reliable, or credible
The following websites may be helpful in researching a particular issue that you are interested in finding out more information and to get a different or more in-depth analysis than the mainstream media.

Catholic Websites with reports outside the mainstream media outlets

Maryknoll Global Concerns: http://maryknollogc.org/
This is an excellent site for articles about issues in other countries and for analysis of important debates about public policy in the United Nations, the U.S. and other governments, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and the corporate world.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.usccb.org
This website has information on over 20 Catholic social justice issues, such as trafficking, immigration, global poverty, global trade, human rights, torture, etc. Many Catholics are unaware of the many justice issues included in this website.

Jesuit Social Research Institute: http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/
While the emphasis of this website is on the Gulf States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Florida, many of the articles are applicable to issues in other US states. There is also an excellent set of articles connecting Catholic Social Justice to a number of current issues such as taxes, government, criminal justice, etc.

Education for Justice Newsletter https://educationforjustice.org/ is a project of the Ignatian Solidarity Network. This site gives access to factsheets, prayer services, etc. on many social justice issues. If you wish to research the resources on this site or to get their monthly newsletter, e-mail rresp@mercysc.org since it requires a password to access.

Catholic Climate Covenant https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/
In 2006, to address growing ecological awareness and the need to implement Catholic social teaching on ecology within the US Church, the USCCB helped form Catholic Climate Covenant. We are grounded in the Church's deep history of teaching on creation, ecology, and the poor. Caring for creation and caring for the poor have been a part of the Catholic story since the beginning.
**Catholics Mobilizing Against the Death Penalty**
https://catholicsmobilizing.org
Catholic Mobilizing Network is a national organization that mobilizes Catholics and all people of goodwill to value life over death, to end the use of the death penalty, to transform the U.S. criminal justice system from punitive to restorative, and to build capacity in U.S. society to engage in restorative practices.

**Pax Christi USA** https://paxchristiusa.org/
Grounded in the Gospel and Catholic social teaching, Pax Christi USA (PCUSA) is a membership organization that rejects war, preparation for war, every form of violence and domination, and personal and systemic racism. As PCUSA, a section of Pax Christi International, we are a Catholic peace and justice movement that seeks to model the Peace of Christ in our witness to the mandate of the nonviolence of the Cross.

**Justice for Immigrants** www.justiceforimmigrants.org
The JFI campaign’s primary objectives are: 1) To educate the public, especially the Catholic community, about Church teaching on migration; 2) To create political will for just and humane immigration reform; and 3) to Advocate for dignified and fair reforms in immigration and refugee laws and policies that reflect the principles enunciated by the bishops.

**Non-Catholic Websites with reports outside the mainstream media outlets**

**Brennan Center for Justice** https://www.brennancenter.org/
The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law is a nonpartisan law and policy institute that works to hold our political institutions and laws accountable to the twin American ideals of democracy and equal justice for all from voting rights to campaign finance reform, from ending mass incarceration to preserving Constitutional protection in the fight against terrorism.

**Democracy Now** https://www.democracynow.org/
Democracy Now! produces a daily, global, independent news hour hosted by award-winning journalists Amy Goodman and Juan González. Our reporting includes breaking daily news headlines and in-depth interviews with people on the front lines of the world’s most pressing issues. On Democracy Now!,

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you’ll hear a diversity of voices speaking for themselves, providing a unique and sometimes provocative perspective on global events.

Feminists for Life  http://www.feministsforlife.org/
Feminists for Life of America recognizes that abortion is a reflection that our society has failed to meet the needs of women. We are dedicated to systematically eliminating the root causes that drive women to abortion — primarily lack of practical resources and support — through holistic, woman-centered solutions. Women deserve better® than abortion.

South Central Justice Office: All are welcome to contact the South Central Justice office for assistance in fact checking or for research on an issue of particular interest. Contact Sister Rose Marie rtesp@mercysc.org or Sister Mary Schmuck mschmuck@mercysc.org
South Central Community
*** INTERNAL POSTING NOTICE ***

Association Coordinator
Date: June 4, 2019

This document communicates the availability of the new position of Association Coordinator for the Association Department

Overview: Mercy Associates are women and men who hear and respond to a call from God – an invitation to Gospel holiness lived through sharing in the mission of Mercy. They desire to walk with and care for those who are poor, sick, and uneducated. Associates, while maintaining individual lifestyles, seek to embody the spirit of Mercy in partnership with the Community of the Sisters of Mercy through a mutual covenant. As identified by foundress Catherine McAuley, the mission of Mercy is central for Associates, who share in ministry, prayer, community and friendship. (Mercy Associate Identity Statement, affirmed 10/2010)

Position Summary
The Mercy Association Coordinator is a dynamic individual who will demonstrate responsibility in developing outreach materials, assist in planning departmental projects, assist in drawing up design plans, locating materials, and assist with calculating project costs. The incumbent will also perform a variety of administrative and support duties such as, but not limited to, maintaining files, responding to requests, coordinating monthly mailings, preparing meeting materials and supporting the director.

Position Responsibilities:
- Creates specific strategies for easier and effective execution of projects
- Intercedes tasks assigned to project workers as instructed by the director
- Intermediates between the director and other workers to persevere through projects with changing objectives, deliverables and timelines to ensure proper project execution
- Writes letters and send them to appropriate bodies, and receive incoming emails for timely task management
• Maintains associate files both electronically and hard copy to include address changes, removing and adding new associates; Mercy Source 2 and Constant Contact
• Supports the director in communications to associates and sisters
• Responds to requests from associates, sisters and Institute entities for mailings, pin and pendants, formation booklets, journals and other Association publications for the Community
• Manages and updates the initial covenant and renewal process
• Acts as a resource for local leaders
• Coordinates monthly mailings to associates both electronically and hard copy
• Prepares materials for associate meetings (copying, creating name tags, organizing folders) as directed
• Provides support for meetings which may include scheduling accommodations and coordinating transportation and meals
• Provides general clerical support for the director
• Performs all other job-related duties as assigned

Position Qualifications:

Required
• Bachelor’s degree and at least 3-years of administrative experience or equivalent combination of related education and experience
• Ability to cultivate effective working relationships with a broad range of internal and external contacts
• Solid computer skills with knowledge of Microsoft Office including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and online database software applications
• Attention to detail in composing, typing and proofing materials, establishing priorities and timeline management.
• Ability to work independently with limited supervision

Preferred
• Prior experience in a non-profit or religious organization
• Understanding and appreciation of the traditions and culture associated with the Sisters of Mercy
• Familiarity with the Catholic Church structures and teaching
Process

- Position will be posted internally from June 4 through June 12
- Requests for additional information about this position should be directed to Patricia Manzi by Wednesday, June 12. All requests will be handled confidentially.