



# Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's fall season 2015

Volume 8, Issue 4

## Amazing Grace: 1837-Now Open

Some 52 people attended our Grand Opening of this wonderful exhibit exploring the history of the various churches and religious organization in Ste. Marie over the years. St. Mary's pastor, **Fr. Al Kemme**, officially opened the exhibit with a blessing.

Eleven nuns from four separate orders attended, including Dominicans (2), Ursulines (8), and Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondolet (1) and the Sisters of Providence (2) from St.-Mary-of-the-Woods, Terre Haute, IN.

We were pleased that **Steve and Holly Hadra** from Fire House Ministries could join us. See the calendar below for a Nov. 1 tour of their facility, located in a house once owned by Priests of the Sacred Heart.

We also recognized the donations of two new trees on the Foundation House property – a beautiful Bald Cypress in memory of **Maurice Calvert**, from his family. Also, we learned that the maple tree in the front of the House now has a name - because the donor, **Glenn Picquet**, TX, always names his trees. He has named this one *Tante* (aunt in French) *Elizabeth*, in honor of his great grandmother Picquet. We hope *Tante Elizabeth* thrives in her new surroundings.

## For Your Calendar

**October 30 & 31**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. –

### **Workdays at the Foundation House**

**-Friday, Oct. 30** we will be preparing a mailing (*inside, sitting-down work!*). We used about 8 people last year and would welcome anyone who can spare a couple of hours. You can also do outside work if you prefer.

**-Saturday, Oct. 31** (*yes, you can dress for Halloween if you like!*) will be devoted to preparing the House for winter, both inside and outside. If weather permits, we may do some painting. Lunch provided on both days.

**Sunday, Nov. 1** – Meet at the Foundation House at 1 p.m. for a “field trip” to **Fire House Ministries, 103 N. Washington St.**, led by **Anne Ochs**, who lived for 18 years at the home that now houses this ministry. **Ministers Steve and Holly Hadra** will be making soap  
*Calendar continued.....*

for their mission of providing gallons of laundry soap to needy people of the area. Refreshments after the tour.

**Sunday, Nov. 1 and every first Sunday of the month, 1 – 3 p.m.**

Museum at the Foundation House OPEN for visitors. Don't miss the fascinating new exhibit, **Amazing Grace: 1837-Now**, about the history of churches in the Sainte Marie area.

**Friday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. - Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary's 11th Annual Wine Tasting.**

**\$10 donation** = a wine glass, wine tasting, finger foods and music by Heather & Marty. Fundraiser for the Auxiliary's many service projects.

## Hahn Family Patio Garden Dedication



Thank you to the **Jim & Dorothy Hahn family** who designated the Foundation as a place for friends/family to donate \$\$ after Dorothy's death. Since Dorothy loved her flower garden, we had a beautiful garden designed and planted around our new patio. The scene also includes a lovely bench, engraved with the words *In memory of Jim & Dorothy Hahn*. The garden was dedicated on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, prior to the grand opening of the

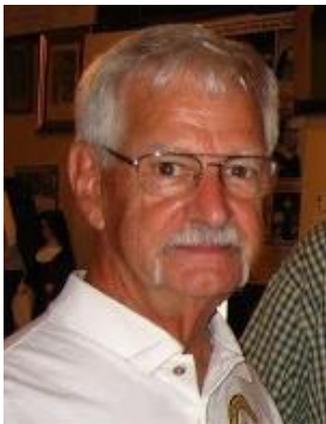
*Amazing Grace: 1837 - Now* exhibit. The “Hahn Kids” present were (pix: l – r): **Annette, Jim, Karen and Kathy**. Thanks for your continued support of the Sainte Marie Foundation! We depend on memorial gifts like these to keep us going!

## Follow Us on Facebook

Want to keep up with Sainte Marie on a timelier basis? Follow us on Facebook – Sainte Marie, IL – where Foundation Board member **Donna Keller** regularly posts updates of whatever is happening in Ste. Marie. Thanks for your help, Donna.

## We Get Mail

Sr. **Ann Casper**, Executive Director of Mission Advancement, who attended the Grand Opening of the *Amazing Grace* exhibit on Sept. 5, along with Sr. **Denise Wilkinson**, General Superior of the Sisters of Providence, St-Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, wrote: *We enjoyed everything about the [Grand Opening] event, but especially meeting so many of you who volunteer your time and talent to the Foundation. The Village of Ste. Marie is fortunate to have so many dedicated to keeping the town alive, even to the watering of the gorgeous petunias on Main Street. Thank you for inviting us. And encourage people to visit the Woods and our Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Shrine. We have Mass at 11 a.m. on Sunday followed by a wonderful brunch available to the public. Check <http://spsmw.org> for directions, as well as information about the brunch.*



**Richard Cameron**, (at left), Glenwood, wrote: *I thought that the new exhibit was GREAT. You all did a great job.*

Richard attended the St. Mary's Picnic with his brother, **Mike**, from Marshall, IL and sister **Peg Cochran**, Wheeler, as well as their spouses. They spent a long time on Sunday admiring every-

thing in the new exhibit. As many of you may remember, their father, **Jud**, manually rang the bells at St. Mary's for many, many years. Wish we had a pix!

We also received notes from **Sr. Marianne Nolan**, **Sr. Ruthanne Huss** and **Sr. Ancilla Caulfield** Dominicans, Springfield, IL who really wanted to attend the Grand Opening but had other commitments. *I have fond memories of my time in Ste. Marie*, said Sr. Marianne.

## Cork and Pork Festival A Success!

(Pix: Our favorite retired SM teacher, Eufala Bigard, at the Cork and Pork Fest on July 25.)



The Cork & Pork Festival fundraiser was a huge success with crowds estimated at over 2000. People enjoyed wine tasting, live bands, cold beverages and

delicious pork. Over 1000 pounds of pork were consumed!

Monies distributed from the Cork & Pork Festival went to: The Sainte Marie Foundation \$4000; The Sainte Marie American Legion Post 932 family - \$3000 for handicap bathrooms upstairs since they now have a lift; \$500 to the Sainte Marie Helpful Little Hands 4-H Club for help with cleanup; \$500 to the Newton Community High School football team for help with setup; \$500 to St. Mary's Church for the use of their tents and other equipment; \$100 to the Dundas Ruritan for the use of their picnic tables. The Jasper County Pork Producers were paid \$4000 for cooking all day, and for the use of their grills, gas, equipment, utensils, etc. and the help of their members and associate members from Jasper, Clay and Effingham counties.

**The 2016 Cork & Pork Festival will be Saturday, July 23, 2016, starting at 11.30 am. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

## Transitions

**-Teresa Spitzer Slack**, 96, Grayslake. Survived by children **Elizabeth and Michael**; 3 grandchildren

**-Mary Ellen Spannagel Wagner**, 84, Newton.

**-Imelda Strelka**, 79, Newton. Survived by daughters: **Maria (David) Reis, Janet McDaniel, Gina Westrey**; 4 grandchildren

**-Marge Barthelme**, 92. Survived by children **Janyce (Tom) Rubsam, Ed, Robert, Marsha Boyle, John & Tom**; 11 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren

**-Julius Reis**, 92. Survived by children, **Randy (Mary Sue) Reis, Greg (Lisa) Reis, and Sharon (David) Ade**; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Could you donate some garden tools?

We need pruners, clippers, rake, hoe, shovels (used are fine!) – so that when we have a workday, we have tools for our volunteers. Call landscape chair **Sue Hunzinger Wheat 618-455-3234**.

## We Hate To Keep Reminding You!

Yes, we depend on donations to survive! Many of you have done that consistently, and we greatly appreciate your help! Our 2014-15 fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, and we will soon be preparing our Annual Report. Make sure your name is listed there as a donor! If you can't work as a volunteer, we are depending on you for a donation. All of our work is done by volunteers (we have no paid staff!). Our address is **P. O. Box 186, Ste. Marie, IL 62459**.

## To Book the Foundation House

Call Ron or Carolyn Kirts 618-455-3153.

### Ste. Marie Open Golfers Are Gems!

Thanks again to the Ste. Marie Open golfers who donated over \$550 to the Foundation after their big event this past summer. We soooo appreciate their generosity which helps keep our Foundation thriving each year.

### Ring Those Bells

Two bells are featured in the Amazing Grace exhibit.



**Donna Keller and Mike Hartrich** found the small bell (at left: Former server **Bill Schwartz, Chicago, rings it**). that once hung at the sacristy door at St. Mary's – rung at the beginning of a service by a server, signaling that everyone was to stand and greet the pastor as he emerged. Thanks to a little handyman work from **John**

**Lybarger**, the bell (on loan from St. Mary's) now hangs on the Museum Room entrance door –and former servers can't resist ringing it!!

The other bell has a more complicated story. Several months ago, Foundation president **Pat Reis** received a call from a former SCJ brother who had served at the Mission House/Novitiate for the last six years before it closed (in 1972). He wanted to talk about his years in SM where he worked as the maintenance director for the facility. At one point in the conversation, he suddenly said, "I have only one regret – I gave away a brass bell that you should have in your exhibit."

When Pat learned it was given to a local person, she said she would follow up and see if that person would loan the bell for the exhibit. *Long story shortened:* with the help of numerous people, we now have the bell (which had been sold to a collector), donated to us by a thoughtful person who believed that it really "belonged in Ste. Marie," but wanted to remain anonymous. We learned that the very lovely base was made in recent years by Ste. Marie's own **Shane Mashburn** at his machine shop – another good reason it belongs in SM!

But here's *the rest of the story*. When Pat called the former SCJ brother to report that the Foundation now had the bell, she innocently asked, "And was this bell used to call the novitiates to prayer or meals or classes?"

"Oh, no," was the answer. "It lay in a corner for the whole six years that I was there. I never heard it ring."

Well, you CAN hear it ring in our exhibit! The story that came with the bell was that it was donated to a SCJ priest by a captain who saved it when his war ship was destroyed. It's a beauty of a bell, with a loud clear ring. We love having it at the Foundation House, despite our expectations that it played a bigger role at the Novitiate than it actually did. Thanks to all who helped bring it *back home*. (See **pix of the Mission House Bell** below)

### Co-Curator Comments on the New Exhibit

From **Mike Hartrich**:

*While putting this exhibit together, what we (co-curator **Donna Keller** and my wife **Teresa**) found most fascinating was the diversity of items that we were able to acquire -- from early nuns' habits to a bishop's miter and cassock to the tabernacle from St. Valentine church to old mass missals in German and French to several baptismal certificates dating as far back as 1875 to a piece of the communion rail dating back to the 1930's. Many pictures dating from 1905-to-present were loaned to us. Visitors found the posters detailing the names and pictures of nuns who taught in Ste. Marie, as well as the many girls who joined various orders through the years, very interesting.*

*The most common question has been "Where did you find all of these things?" Our answer is that many, many people have been very generous in sharing their things that pertain to our history. A trip through the museum and the entire Foundation House will give you a sense of the history of the surrounding area from 1837 to the present. We thank everyone who responded to our requests for items. We couldn't have done it without you.*



Musicians (l-r) **Rose Gangloff, Judy Helregel Millsap and Tony Madlem** perform at the Grand Opening on Sept. 5. The **Mission House Bell** (see story at left) is pictured at lower center. (Pix by **Maxine Calvert**)

Sainte Marie Foundation  
P.O. Box 186  
Sainte Marie, IL 62459



On the weekend of July 24 - 26, **Rev. Wayne Jenkins, SCJ USA Province Archivist (Pix: 2nd from right)** from the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Hales Corners, WI, visited Ste. Marie (along with two other SCJ priests from the Philippines and an SCJ seminary student), celebrating the Sunday, 8 a.m. mass at St. Mary's.

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, [patreisprpr@yahoo.com](mailto:patreisprpr@yahoo.com). The Foundation is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, duly recognized as an Illinois charitable corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Do you have a Sainte Marie story you would like to share? Write your own and/or contact Pat Reis [patreisprpr@yahoo.com](mailto:patreisprpr@yahoo.com). We reserve the right to edit.



### **The Old Chicken House at the Foundation House**

*Before: Fall 2013*

It looked as if it were going to fall down, this old building that **Ron Kirts** called “the chicken house,” when we took over the property in 2008. It leaned a bit to the south. The doors were practically non-existent. The south side was covered with old plywood, as the siding had deteriorated. Over the years, we took some precautionary measures (straightening the building by adding structural supports inside, changing the rusted tin roof with roofing we removed from the back of the House, etc.). This summer we finally completed its renovation.



*After: Chicken House Fall 2015*

The chicken house/small barn at the back of the Foundation House property has new siding and window on its south side plus three new doors. Thanks to an anonymous generous donor who paid for gutters and professional painting. And our landscape chair, **Sue Wheat**, put in some plantings. It all looks smashing! This is one of our last outdoor projects. Now we start re-painting the house trim and windows – an old house is *never quite finished!*

**Thanks to our volunteer mowers who keep the property looking so nice: Bill Hartrich, Bob Helregel, George Kirts, Jack Thompson – and Robert Rumpff who had to take most of the season off for some heart surgery. Get well soon, Robert!**

# Bonus Pages for E-mail Subscribers

These pages are only sent to e-mail subscribers. If you have family or friends who receive the printed version, you might copy these pages for them. Or better yet, if they have e-mail, send us their e-mail addresses, and we will send it to them directly. Thank you for saving us the postage \$\$ it would cost to mail this to you.

Sainte Marie Foundation Newsletter *continued*.....

## Way Back in 2008



While searching for another picture, I found this May 30, 2008, picture from our first workday at the Foundation House. And, oh, how those kids have grown! Note the dilapidated chicken house on the right – which as of this summer has been restored!

Front Row (sitting): (l-r) **Brady Reis, John E. Michl, Carolyn Keller, Maurice Calvert** (deceased) and **Clayton Reis**, now a freshman at Lake Land College (kneeling).

Back Row: (l-r) **Ron Kirts, Jack Thompson, John Michl** (deceased), **Maxine Calvert, Marge Thompson** and **Anna Lou Stone** (now a resident of The Hollybrook, Newton).

Others who also worked that day included **Dakota and Jack Michl, Gracie Hartrich, Annette Lynch, Bill Hartrich** (then mayor) and the photographer, **Pat Reis**.

I remember that we had a huge bonfire in the backyard where we burned trash and dead limbs. It burned so long and hard that we even toasted marshmallows that evening on the hot coals! (**Pat Reis, Editor**)

## A Visit to Ste. Marie, Illinois



*Excerpts from Father Patrick Gutib, SCJ, Philippines (pictured at left)*

*(From Editor Pat Reis: Sometimes it is interesting to learn how outsiders view our little community. This essay, from a Filipino priest who visited SM over the weekend of July 24-26 as a guest of Father Wayne Jenkins, of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Hales Corners, WI, provides us with such an opportunity.)*

Significant events that happen in one's life are worthy of remembering. For me, my visit to Ste. Marie, IL, is a great example for that. Ste. Marie, where the first Novitiate House of the SCJ (Priests of the Sacred Heart) US Province once was, holds important memories for SCJ members who did their seminary formation from the 1920's to the 1970's. Thus, it is worth visiting the place to see and reflect how the Province has grown from those times. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to visit this place. Recently, during our visit, there were three things that interested me: the place, the community, and the SCJ old novitiate house.

I believe it was not only the daily novitiate activities that have impacted the lives of SCJs who lived in Ste. Marie, but the beautiful and tranquil place as well. Nevertheless, I could not imagine how the place looked in those days. But as we drove from Decatur to Ste. Marie, I was amazed by the vastness of lands. The corn and soybean fields seemed like an ocean that runs on and on. Besides, I could rarely see houses in the middle of the fields, unlike in the Philippines. So I pondered how the people transport their products, or if there was any train in the area. I tried to imagine how the seminarians spent their days farming and raising the livestock for their food. It must have been tough work. I also wondered how they spent their recreation or day off. Indeed, Ste. Marie has typical countryside ambience, which is quiet and calm. It manifests a simple way of life. Its tranquility is apt for a novitiate formation – a good place to be silent and alone with God.

Another thing that I liked most during the visit was the people. I appreciate very much how they strive hard to keep their community united. During the mass on Saturday evening, I was surprised by the large number of people who came to Church. The Church of Ste. Marie Parish was full. I was not expecting such attendance. Moreover, the people were accommodating and hospitable. They were approachable, so it was easy to talk to them. Some of them even shared about some SCJ that they knew.

Besides taking care of their faith, they also take care of their history. They have a foundation called "Sainte Marie Foundation", which I was also able to visit. It is a house that was made into a little museum. In that house are many different artifacts given by the residents of Ste. Marie since the founding of the place by the Picquet family back in 1837. There are also historical items from different religious communities who have lived in the area, including the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Having visited this little museum, I felt enriched by the artifacts and the history. I thought that someday, we will also be collecting important items and documents to preserve the history of the SCJ Philippine Region. Hence, I admire so much their community for their simplicity and the will to preserve their own history.

Lastly, the old novitiate house also added a significant experience during the visit. The once active SCJ Novitiate House of Ste. Marie is now turned into an office for Special Education. Since the right wing of the building burned down in the 70's, the novitiate formation has been moved to another city. However, there were not many changes to the building aside from the slight deterioration. When I entered, I saw some of the parts remained the same, like the laundry area, the library and the wooden refrigerators, but they are not used anymore. The bigger rooms were already converted into small offices, others into stockrooms. Nonetheless, being in that building gave me a glimpse of what the seminary formation used to be. Certainly, the Ste. Marie novitiate is precious, especially to those who lived in it. Yet, it is not only the house that keeps memories but also the entire compound, from the yard to the barn where seminarians once labored for their food. This house had borne religious men who must be grateful

for having been formed in such environment. I realized then that the time will come when our seminary houses in the Philippines may come to an end, but before that finale arrives, they must produce many SCJ religious like the Ste. Marie novitiate house has.

I had a wonderful visit to Ste. Marie. The place, the people, and the old novitiate house have enriched my stay in the area. The experience has enlivened as well my hope for the SCJ Philippine Region as we progress in our ministry. For now, we have a few memorable and significant events that have to be treasured; yet, we will have more as we continue to grow and actualize our vision. Then one day, we will also long to visit those places and people again. (Summer 2015 by Rev. Patrick Gutib, SCJ)

### Pictures from the Grand Opening Event on Sept. 5, 2015



**Sister Phyllis Schenk**, Illiopolis resident, Dominican and former Lay Pastoral Administrator at St. Mary's, talks to **Scott Calvert** of Newton, at the Sept. 5 Grand Opening event. (Pix by Maxine Calvert)



**Mike Hartrich** adjusts the beretta on one of the mannequins in the Foundation House museum's current exhibit. The beretta was loaned to the Foundation by the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Hales Corners, WI – just one of the many artifacts that **SCJ Archivist Rev. Wayne Jenkins** arranged for us to borrow.



**Father Robert Spriggs**, (at left above) former St. Mary's Pastor, is back in SM for the summer, offering Sunday Mass at 8 a.m., which the parish has not had for many years. Fr. Spriggs joined us at the Grand Opening, along with St. Mary's Pastor, **Fr. Allen Kemme**, above right. (Pix by Maxine Calvert)



The exhibit notebooks -- containing pictures, relevant copies of information from the various orders and other historical materials -- were very popular during the two day Grand Opening events. "We need to just sit here for hours to digest all this," said one visitor! (Pix by Maxine Calvert)

**Nuns who attended the Grand Opening on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015 – Pix by Donna Keller**



**Sisters of Providence  
Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods:  
Sr. Ann Casper (l) & Sr. Denise  
Wilkinson (r)**

**Dominicans of Springfield in Illinois  
Sr. Julia Theobald (l) & Sr. Phyllis  
Marie Schenk (r)**



**Ursuline Sisters left to right: Sr. Theresa Sarich, Sr. Pauline  
Larch; Sr. Betty Carpenter; Sr. Maria Goretti Hotop; Sr.  
Colette Jokerst and Sr. Marian Pelikan**

**Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet:  
Sr. Jane Behlmann**

## New Addition at the Foundation House



Thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Tom Madsen** of Newton for the addition of this very beautiful, antique, baby grand player piano that they donated to the Foundation. Although the player part (the drawer that comes out below the keyboard) does not currently work, we are hoping to find a technician who might work on it for us. Any suggestions from our readers as to whom we might contact??? The piano cabinet is beautifully carved (see below) -- and we think it is a piece that the Picquets might have had in their homes over 100 years ago.

### **Piano Legs Detail**

