

NEWS FROM THE NORTHSIDE

Number Fourteen

Fall 1994

Sisters of the Visitation, Minneapolis

INTRODUCING...

Visitation Neighbors

We promised in our last issue that you would be hearing more about our lay community that is an extension of our presence in North Minneapolis. Their title, Visitation Neighbors, expresses what they are about as they explore a new expression of our charism. Lorilee and Trish are completing three months of living in the duplex on 14th and Sheridan. We invited them to tell you about their experiences and hopes.

The Seeds of Tomorrow's Flowers

"All the Flowers of All the Tomorrows are in the seeds of today."

How true those words accompanying my graduation picture have become! And today if I had to say something in light of Visitation's flourishing hopes of building peace and unity in their neighborhood and for the individuals

they know, I would say the same thing.

Salesian Spirituality and the Christian values lived out by the Sisters on the North Side have a new expression in the neighborhood. Earlier this spring, the Sisters' vision for lay community life began materializing. As a new member of this lay community, I have

See Neighbors, page two



One Heart, One Spirit (L. to R.) Sisters Mary Virginia, Mary Margaret, Karen and Mary Frances with Trish and Lorilee on the occasion of her Missioning Ceremony.

Neighbors, cont. from page one

the great privilege of sharing life more closely with them. It is refreshing in a culture filled with rhetoric to be with women who express themselves with their very beings and presence. And

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what they live speaks much louder than words. The Sisters expose the vulnerable Christ to me.

I recently had the pleasure of listening to Sister Peronne Marie's lecture on 'Integration' at this year's Salesian Conference. It has not only been a significant reflection point for me, but a salient topic as I am aware of how the lay work and spiritual life the Sisters offer are opportunities to integrate values with living. My rich experiences in Guatemala have left life-long impressions on me, and were the catalyst for reassessing my culture and values. My desire to live more simply and deepen my interest in liberation theology, coupled with my past education submerged in the atmosphere and spirit of the Visitation, integrate into one beautiful portrait as I become a part of the North Side.

It is interesting how one becomes more integrated as an individual by embracing outside oneself someone who is wounded. By embracing such a person or another's situation of poverty, mysteriously perhaps, one grows capable of embracing one's own brokenness. A person finds she can love her own wounds instead of rejecting them. This is one way my economically poor friends have made me wealthy. Integrating the weak and strong points in my life — embracing all that comprises myself — is the usher to inner peace. Extrapolating from that, perhaps integrating our social worlds, embracing all parts and people that comprise it, can bring

peace in our social universe.

“Non scholae, sed vitae” is etched on the keychain I still use from my Vis high school years...I know it isn't just a slogan to the Sisters. They live every-day the wisdom of gentleness, peace, and love...the seeds of tomorrow's flowers.

—Lorilee Lambrecht

“To offer gentleness and peacefulness, if only for a moment”

The moment I met the Visitation Sisters, something deep within me leapt for joy. For me, they represent an integration of loving values and actions that I wish to live out in my life. They seem to capture the embrace of Mary and Elizabeth “pregnant with the love of God” in their incredible ability to embrace humanity in the depths of its pain, as well as in the heights of its joy. Their gentle love is powerful enough to conquer fear and their commitment to love is contagious! This powerful

charism of embracing others resonated within me.

After traveling extensively through the United States and living overseas, three words began to draw me to the Visitation Order and the North side: community, spiritual formation and family. I have a strong commitment to my family, and living in North Minneapolis allows me to share and involve them in my experiences and risks. As a person sensitive to equality and opportunity for all in our global community, North Minneapolis feels like home to me. I asked God to be obvious in showing me His will. Coincidentally planning a silent retreat at Mendota Visitation during a discernment weekend, meeting Sr. Marie Therese at the back door there, accidentally passing a school bus, and sanding floors at the Fremont Visitation were just a few of the foreshadowings that proved my encounters with the Visitation Sisters would continue.

VISITATION NEIGHBORS MISSION STATEMENT

We are an urban Christian community of lay women and men, desiring to deepen our relationship with God and our neighbors through sharing in the Gospel-based spirituality and ministry of the Visitation Monastery of North Minneapolis.

We hope to be part of the empowerment of persons in this “City of God” through:

- living in community;
- interrelating with the Visitation Community which is rooted in a vital tradition and established in the neighborhood;
- building life-giving relationships with each other and our neighbors;
- working as a team unified in values and Salesian spirituality;
- sharing our gifts in service;
- bridging socio-economic classes & racial structures.

I believe true peace is sharing my talents, my resources and myself with the place and the people to which my heart has drawn me. Never did I think my "wilderness" heart would be called to dwell in the center of the city. It is here where I have discovered real life — the very heart of pain, where escape is often not an option. And it is here where I have discovered the height, depth and breadth of God's

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North Minneapolis feels like home to me

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great love. The call has been radical for me, but obvious. I find only the fear of openness could keep me from following this crazy but life-giving love of God.

It's hard to believe two and half years have passed, where I have been visioning, praying, waiting and risking as well as sharing in the seasons of life on the North side. The vision of a lay Christian community has been a dream shared by many on the North Side. This particular community vision was nurtured and awakened by the faithful prayers and guidance of neighbors, friends, Sr. Jean Thuerauf and the Visitation Sisters.

—Trish Kloeckl

We are thankful to the Visitation Order for affirming us in a spiritual expression which is life-giving and suitable to us at this "present moment" in our lives. It offers an opportunity to live as a committed lay person and be supported by an established religious community, rich in experience and wisdom. Their rootedness in Christ allows us to branch out and freely love in uniquely different but complementary ways. Our hope is for this lay community to radiate the Visitation charism and the all-embracing love of Christ with gentleness, simplicity and courage!

**If you are interested in exploring membership in our community contact us (612-522-7493) or the Visitation Sisters (612-521-6113). □*

UPDATE:

Celebrating a Harvest of Blessings

It was not only our garden that provided food for our table; we were nourished time and again over these months through...

OUR COMMUNITY LIFE: Trish and Lorilee, co-foundresses of our lay community, joined us for prayer, "neighboring" and study as they settled into their new home and explored ways to expand our Visitation presence on the North Side; our stability and their fresh perspective provide fertile ground for the Harvest of the Holy Spirit in new expressions! Sue Menke, a young woman discerning her vocation, entered wholeheartedly into our life during her five week stay with us. We, the children and families, AND the garden miss her! Several others have shown interest in sharing life with us and with our lay community. Please join us in prayer as the unfolding of God's plan continues.

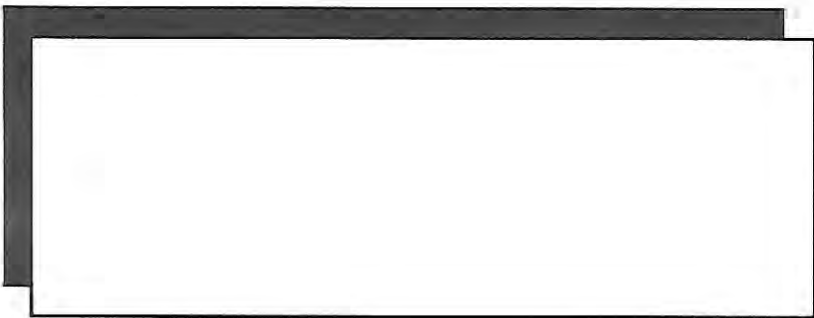
OUR NEIGHBORS: The Harvest of hard work, love and peace is all around us (in an area often portrayed as dangerous)... In Almeida as her three young sons witnessed her graduation from college... In Wayne, our neighbor, as he held and embraced with Christ's own peace a man in a violent rage on our corner. (The man had just received word that his nephew had been shot to death)... in women and men working on their recovery from drug and alcohol addiction who join us to praise the Lord in our chapel... in the children and families as they enjoyed outings provided by our many friends and volunteers... in the celebrations of the lives of loved ones

gone on to the Great Harvest: Mátyás Andahazy, six month old son of Kriztina and Marius, and Herb Auer, husband of Rita... in the sheer joy of a neighborhood child who learned to read this summer using our HOOKED ON PHONICS Program.

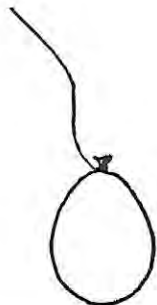
ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Our Salesian Family held its annual conference at St. Thomas University in St. Paul. That event was a perfect sequel to the gatherings at our monastery exploring our spiritual roots which we dubbed: "Salesian Circle." Camp de Sales awakened leadership potential in Vincent, a neighborhood teenager who attended... We felt affirmed and gratified as Sr. Mary Margaret returned from a meeting in Washington D.C. convened to acquaint Fr. Lopez Guy, S.J., with the American Visitation. Father, as Religious Assistant, is our liaison with the Holy See. He was pleased to know that our Federation is providing a Visitation presence among poor and marginalized persons.

AND IN ANTICIPATED EVENTS: Karen and Pat Mascia have generously offered to prepare a repeat menu of HOT DAGOS and trimmings for those who helped us move on November 11, 1989... If you were among the 50, DO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 11, 1994, AT 5:00 P.M. We'll have Mass followed by the Feast. The Harvesting continues!

We ask your prayerful remembrance of us as we make our annual retreat from September 12-21.



Fifth Anniversary Edition



Address correction requested

Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis
1527 Fremont Ave. N.
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The Sisters of the Visitation of Minneapolis

invite you to an OPEN HOUSE

*in honor of the fifth anniversary
of our foundation*

*Sunday, October 2, 1994
1-5 p.m.*

*Evening Prayer with guests at 5 p.m.
will conclude the reception*

