



## NEWS from the Northside

### Twenty Five Years of Friendship

*Editor's Note: Over the years we have formed many close relationships with our neighbors, many of whom welcomed us to this community. Our friend Dave Nimmer, retired reporter, editor and professor, accepted our invitation to interview one couple we have grown to love and cherish. See back page for a photo from the wedding day.*

When Patty and Paul Rattler got married on June 4, 2005, the ceremony was at the Visitation Monastery on Fremont Avenue in Minneapolis. In attendance were the couple's eight children, a handful of relatives and the six Visitation Sisters.

The Sisters planned the wedding, arranged for the judge (a Hennepin District jurist friend of theirs), got a blue and white wedding cake and presented the couple with an appropriate "paper" gift – including napkins, paper towels and toilet paper.

But the biggest and best gift from the "Vis" Sisters, according to Patty and Paul, was their constant, compassionate and consistent support since the family came to Minneapolis from Chicago in 2002. They were trying to escape the violence and find a more hopeful and peaceful life.

**Q: How did you first meet the Sisters?**

A – Patty: A couple of our kids came home with apples they said they got from these nuns who lived nearby. Then one day Sister Karen came over to our place riding a bicycle. I'm not going to forget that. It was summertime and the Sisters told us they would try to help us. Without them we really would have been struggling.

**Q: What do the Sisters do for you, give to you?**

A – Paul: First of all, they kind of let me know I'm important to them. They always ask about the family. They helped me get a job at CUB (grocery on West Broadway). Once the CUB guy knew I was recommended by the nuns, he said, "You got the job." And the Sisters arranged for transportation to my old job during the bus strike. If



they couldn't take me, they found someone who could.

**Q: What did they do for your children?**

A – Paul: They've helped the kids have a right attitude, rather than saying, "I'm not going to do this." No, the Sisters talk about going around the neighborhood and picking up trash and stuff. You mention the Sisters to our kids and their eyes light up.

**Q: How would you describe the**

**Sisters to strangers?**

A – Patty: First of all they're always smiling. They're looking for ways to make your life easier. For instance, they've taken our kids to Valley Fair and to the zoo.

A – Paul: These are women you can be honest with, to talk about your problems; you can open up to them because you can trust them.

**Q: What do you give to, have in common with, the Sisters?**

A – Patty: Well, Sister Katherine and I share almost the same birthday. So, I always try to call her and all of us get to the phone to sing Happy Birthday.

A – Paul: My gift to them is to do a good job – at CUB and with my family. I want 'em to know I'm honest, I work hard, that I'm trying my best.

The Rattler's best is good enough for the Sisters. Four of the kids have graduated from high school and the youngest will be attending Henry High this fall. And Paul, who started at CUB as a janitor, is now the manager of the deli.



News from the Northside is published three times a year by Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis, 1527 Fremont Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55411 612-521-6113

We are an urban monastic community. Please contact us for more information about our way of life.

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You can read the newsletter online at our website. If you prefer this format, please contact the Sisters at [vmonastery@aol.com](mailto:vmonastery@aol.com).

## Mary the Mother of Jesus, Companion for My Journey

by S. Karen Mohan

The scriptural theme of walking, journeying or setting out is a familiar New Testament motif. But it was providential to me that the news of my cancer diagnosis coincided with the Luke 1:39 passage of Mary “setting out” to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. This was the Gospel reading for the feast of the Assumption and the day I first met my oncologist and surgeon. That morning I prayed that Mary would accompany me on this new journey toward healing. And that she did! In fact, she “showed up” all the way through my chemotherapy! Seven of my fourteen chemotherapy treatments coincided with commemorations of the Mother of Jesus. I got the message ... and I pass it on to you so you can join me in thanking her.

Ten months later, I am cancer free, and I am companionship others who are currently in treatment, just as many friends did for me. I benefited from the prayer of many and from the advances in medical research. Much of that research comes from funds raised from annual “Walks for the Cure.”

Two friends, Lisa Gilsdorf Rosenfield and Mary Gilsdorf Moore, approached me with their desire to “Walk for the Cure” in my honor during the upcoming 60-mile, 3-day Walk-a-Thon that will take place in the Twin Cities at the end of August. Their father, Bob Gilsdorf, has been our trusted financial advisor and friend for 25 years.

Lisa and Mary are calling their walk, “Team Karen!” Each participant in the Walk-a-thon needs to raise \$2300 before August 20. If you would like to support “Team Karen” and help raise money for cancer research, it would be a tangible way of joining me to thank God for the gift of renewed health.



Those interested can go to Lisa and Mary’s links on the Susan G. Komen website. There you can read what motivates them to undertake this walk for the second time.

The links are:

[www.the3day.org/goto/lisarosenfield](http://www.the3day.org/goto/lisarosenfield)

[www.the3day.org/goto/marymoore](http://www.the3day.org/goto/marymoore)

**GO,TEAM, GO!**

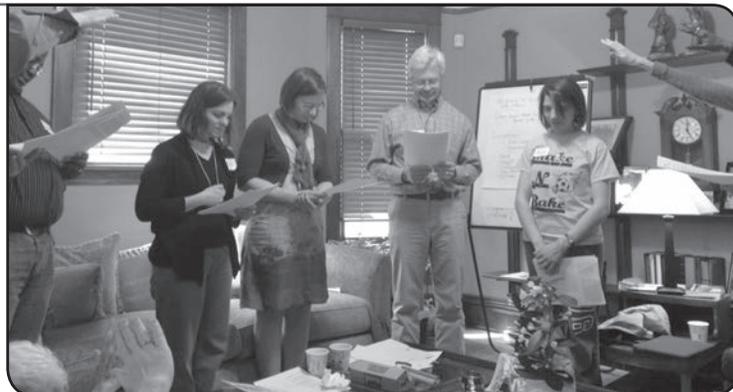
## After 25 years, there are NO STRANGERS AT OUR DOOR

by S. Mary Virginia Schmidt

This is the end of a very trying year: surgeries are healed, broken bones mended, cancer-free status celebrated, a brutal winter survived. It is all hard to recall as we watch the full-leafed trees blowing in the wind and see our garden fully planted with flowers and vegetables. During all this time our Saturday morning prayer was always enhanced by Lisa, Anna and Linda; our Wednesday morning Mass was regularly attended by about 25 people; Jody Johnson spent Wednesdays with us helping with door ministry and many other things. As is our monastic tradition we had many women come to make a quiet retreat with us.

Sister Mary Mao, a Catholic Sister from China who has been studying in the U.S. for several years and has lived with us for the past 2 years while she completes her degree in Marriage and Family Counseling, is now doing her practicum in New York for two months. She will return to Minneapolis to defend her thesis and graduate before returning to China and her religious community.

We have had several responses to our Visitation



Welcoming our newest Visitation Companions.

Engagement: The Visitation Companions has welcomed five new members who were mentored together: Anna Dourgarian, Tammy Thompson, Bryce Johnson, Corein Brown, Christy Schmidt. That brings the membership to 20. Brenda Lissenby has visited us and applied to our Monastic Immersion Experience, that invites a woman to live with us for 6 months to a year. Maria Sison who is discerning a religious vocation, spent the month of May with us. These Engagements usually lead to long-term relationships.

We find now that even those we welcomed in earlier days as strangers have become our good friends.

## Catholic Youth Camp (CYC) by S. Mary Frances Reis

THANK YOU, THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU!

We are so deeply grateful to the generous benefactors who, over the past 18 years, have made this unique camping experience a much anticipated week-long summer adventure for some 1,000+ young people in our community! They have met the Creator in the great outdoors, reveled in swimming, boating, fishing, arts, crafts, dance, drama, archery, great food, etc., and just plain fun! One child even told me with serene joy, "I met Jesus in my cabin....he showed me a beautiful garden and introduced me to the Father!" (We have a budding mystic in our midst, and he went to camp again this year for the 5th season!) Some of our campers have gone on to participate in two teen programs: Leaders in Training and Counselors in Training, and from

there have worked at the Camp or used those skills elsewhere.

It is with heavy hearts that we received the news that this may be the last summer for Catholic Youth Camp—in its 67th year! The debt keeps growing, and it just feels as if the staff and Board are crawling out of a financial hole each year to make ends meet.

The process of discernment about the fate of the camp has been an excruciating one that the dedicated CYC Board of Trustees, under the able leadership of John Breon, has had to grapple with. Recently John wrote,

*"Our camp's stated mission is to provide a fun, faith filled week at camp for all who desire, including those that may not be able to afford the opportunity. This typically leads to losing \$100,000 on an operating basis every year. We are the only faith-based Catholic Camp in*

*the United States not directly associated with a diocese or parish. CYC receives a lot of moral and spiritual support from the MSP Archdiocese but nothing financial. Therefore the board works hard every year raising funds. The debt to the bank is not too large at \$150,000, but it is making the organization assess its ongoing purpose."*

So...If you happen to know a billionaire, let us know! This camp cannot be replaced! And PRAY that there may be a way that future Northside kids will have an opportunity similar to this one. Camp Director Natalie King will be employed by the Camp in the upcoming year to explore, if necessary, other possibilities with our families, as well as other families associated with the Camp. Visit the camp website to see the greatest camp ever in process: [www.cycamp.org](http://www.cycamp.org).

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"God is not only in the place in which you are, but God is, in a most particular manner, in your heart and in the very center of your spirit."

—St. Francis de Sales



### **Celebrating 25 Years of Friendships**

June 4, 2005. Paul and Patty Rattler enjoy some wedding cake. The Visitation Sisters hosted Patty and Paul Rattler's wedding at the Fremont house in 2005. In celebration of 25 years of the Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis, we're telling stories about friendships made along the way.

**Read more on page 1.**

*Save the Date!*



**Capri Theater**  
Saturday,  
October 4, 2014  
5:30-7:30 PM

Details coming soon! We hope you can join the celebration.