



Collaboration for Ministry Initiative

It is with great delight I share with you the Summer issue of the *Collaboration for Ministry Initiative (CMI)* newsletter. As I reflect on the past several months since I came into this role, I am deeply humbled by the warm and gracious welcome I have received.

My reflections draw me back to a quote I first read when I worked in campus ministry at Magnificat High School. Then principal Sister Mary Pat Cook, HM, gave a bookmark with this quote on it to everyone participating in the summer immersion retreats: “*Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes for the ground we are approaching is holy...*” Each time

“Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes for the ground we are approaching is holy...” – Anonymous

I traveled with students, whether it was to the inner-city of Cleveland or to struggling communities in El Salvador, this quote came alive to me as the resilient strength and beauty of the human spirit was revealed.

Still today this quote stays with me, for it is holy ground I stand upon and holy people I stand among. It is an honor to work with such a strong, passionate, dedicated group of inspiring women.

This issue focuses on diversity among and within ministries of women religious in northeast Ohio and the powerful witnesses sisters have been and continue to be as they strive to create a loving and just community for all. We are all made in the image and likeness of God with inherent dignity and worth, yet unfortunately, our fears get in the way of seeing each person as a gift from God. In April, Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND, gave the keynote address at *Amazing Grace: A Forum on Race*, the Diocese of Cleveland Racism Committee’s conference. She reminded us all that “God’s mission is to bring us together, to bring us to one table.”

As you read the myriad of activities featured, my hope is that you are as inspired as I am by the courage, faith, and action of women religious in Northeast Ohio.

In gratitude,
Erin McIntyre
Program Officer



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of Cleveland

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Grants

The Collaboration for Ministry Initiative and Saint Ann Legacy Grant Programs

Within the Religious Communities program area, there are two funding programs, *CMI* and *Saint Ann Legacy*. Currently, *CMI* is an invited grant program and the *Saint Ann Legacy Grant* is an open grant program to qualifying applicants. If you are interested in exploring funding for a program or project, the first step is to write a letter of inquiry describing the potential project. *For further information, please contact Erin McIntyre at emcintyre@socfcleveland.org or (216) 241-9300 ext. 232.*

Amazing Grace



A FORUM ON RACE
Amazing Grace
ENRICH. EMBRACE. EMPOWER.

A statewide educational forum addressing the current reality of racism was jointly hosted by the Office of Ministry to African American Catholics and the Diocese of Cleveland Racism Committee in April. The two-day conference, *Amazing Grace: A Forum on Race*, was beautifully and thoughtfully organized. Workshops and discussions empowered participants with tools to return to their communities to eradicate racism.

A highlight of the conference was a keynote address by Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND, titled *Breaking Barriers*. Sister Rita Mary eloquently shared her own experiences with cultural and racial diversity. Through her poignant stories, she illustrated, “grace is not a virtual gift, it is when you reach out to another, grace, amazing grace, is present.”



Sister Rita Mary noted that although great victories have been won, we continue to struggle to overcome prejudices. Participants were encouraged to, “go out in the deep, don’t be afraid.”

“Racism,” Sister Rita Mary said, “blinds us to the unique beauty in each person, to the human dignity present in each person given by God.” This conference focused on enriching, embracing, and empowering people of faith. Indeed, it did! Congratulations to the Office of Ministry to African American Catholics and the Diocesan Racism Committee on a powerful conference on this ever-pressing, important topic.

Grantee Spotlight

Collinwood Neighborhood

Written by Sister Mary Denis Maher, CSA

“To listen, to learn, to respond,” is the vision for the Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries, a collaborative project of a group of Catholic sisters and their lay co-workers,” explained Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec, OSU, the coordinator of the group.

Formed out of *Women with Spirit Now*, and initially funded by a \$20,000 grant from the foundation’s *Collaboration for Ministry Initiative* grant program,

sisters from the Ursulines, Humility of Mary, Notre Dame, Congregation of St. Joseph, and Charity of St. Augustine, along with laity from colleges, schools and parishes, are responding to unmet needs of people of the Collinwood area. Drawing from suggestions gathered at resident listening sessions, programs have ranged from talks for the elderly, painting classes, music and prayer, to Doula assistance for pregnant teens. Summer programs include a cancer survivors group for women, crocheting prayer shawls for neighboring nursing home residents, cooking with kids, and a group for teen girls. A special feature of the painting and the crocheting classes is that former residents of Joseph’s Home and a woman’s shelter are teaching the classes.

The majority of these programs take place at the house at 15706 St. Clair Ave., where references for various other needs can be provided. Summer hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call (216)407-1836. Open houses for the religious communities, civic leaders, and donors have been held and other events are planned for the neighborhood, with activities for children in the summer.

“To listen, to learn, to respond.”

– Vision for the
Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries



Sister Joan Gallagher, CSA,
and Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec,
OSU



Building Awareness

Sister Carol Rittner, RSM, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy and distinguished professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, spoke to a sold out crowd at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage on May 1. The author of numerous books and essays about the Holocaust and other genocides, Sister Carol lectured on the topic of the book she co-edited, *Different Voices: Women and the Holocaust*. She lifted the voices and realities of women in the Holocaust and challenged all of us in attendance to continue to forge ahead, asking important questions and continuing to build bridges between faith communities.



Sister Carol (pictured in back row, fourth from left) with members of the Maltz Museum, women religious, and Foundation staff and friends.

the Holocaust. Through these women's initiative, creativity, and courage, the exhibit demonstrated that human beings are strong enough, even in the most difficult of circumstances, to maintain those values which are the foundation of humanity: motherhood, friendship, faith, and love.

The Maltz Museum exhibit, *Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust*, was the first exhibition to focus exclusively on Jewish women and their experiences in

Gatherings

The CMI team at the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina held a two-day planning session in February to map out their 2013 work plan. This is an exciting year for them as they celebrate 10 years of CMI in South Carolina! Members and partners of the *Initiative* in Cleveland joined in on this engaging and energizing session.

On March 8, over 500 students from the 21 Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Cleveland gathered for Catholic Schools for Peace and Justice (CSPJ)'s annual summit. This year's theme was *Breaking Barriers: Making the Invisible... Visible* and the event included a keynote address by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, workshops, and a celebration of the Eucharist. In the March 15 issue of the *Universe Bulletin*, Bishop Lennon reflected on his participation in the summit saying, "in my opinion the event... was a huge success for the Diocesan Social Action Office of Catholic Charities under the leadership of Sister Kathleen Ryan, SND." Thank you Sister Kathleen and all those who planned the event. Congratulations on 10 years of convening and servant leadership!

The *Women with Spirit Now* steering committee gathered on March 19 at Cuvilly House, the youth ministry center of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The focus of this meeting was to update the committee on the collaborations that grew out of the October 2012 convocation. Additionally, an invitation was extended to lay members of the collaborations to gain their insight.

Recognition

The Diversity Center's 2013 Humanitarian Award

Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, president and CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System, was honored at The Diversity Center's 58th Annual Humanitarian Award Dinner last December 2012, for the work she has done for diversity and inclusion in health care.



Since 1949, The Diversity Center has honored men and women of outstanding dedication and community service in our region. Nominees exhibit an extensive record of involvement in civic, charitable, volunteer, and professional organizations. Each nominee has contributed to the improvement of human relations among diverse groups in Northeast Ohio.

"The Diversity Center is dedicated to building communities where all are connected, respected, and valued. This vision is truly aligned with the healing mission of the Sisters of Charity Health System to serve all of God's people," said Sister Judith Ann. "I am so very grateful and humbled to be honored with the Humanitarian Award." Sister Judith Ann accepted the award on behalf of the Sisters of Charity Health System and also accepted the award on behalf the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the sponsoring congregation of the health system and its ministries. In her remarks, Sister Judith Ann noted the sisters' legacy of service to build a strong community and a just society, which began in 1851 when the first Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine came to Cleveland from France and became the city's first public health nurses.

"Diversity and inclusion are important to the Sisters of Charity Health System and the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine because of our core value of respect for the dignity of the human person, which we so firmly believe in," said Sister Miriam Erb, CSA, congregational leader of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Watch a short video on Sister Judith Ann and the awards by searching "Sister Judith Ann Karam" at www.youtube.com or clicking on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com>.

PROGRESS & PROMISE

SISTERS SERVING NORTHEAST OHIO

The Foundation's Religious Communities ad hoc committee met in April and spent time reflecting on the past three years of *Progress & Promise: Sisters Serving Northeast Ohio* through a visual presentation produced by Diane Adams (art direction and production) and Donna Nickel (research and writing). Diane and Donna have been with *Progress & Promise* since its inception in 2010 and we are grateful for their partnership.

The moving video, titled *Reflections*, captured the breadth and depth of *Progress & Promise* and allowed the committee to reflect on the incredible accomplishments and significance of the exhibit and book thus far. This opportunity generated rich discussion around what *Progress & Promise* has ignited and what possibilities lie ahead.

The impact of *Progress & Promise: Sisters Serving Northeast Ohio* is far-reaching and continues to engage both religious and laity – initiating conversations, ministries, and missions. “Local conversations” were hosted in Akron, Cleveland, and Youngstown. The purpose of this project, led by Dr. Natalie Weaver, PhD, Chair of the Religious Studies Department at Ursuline College, was to lead 12 conversations throughout Northeast Ohio, focusing on themes and stories in the *Progress & Promise* book.



Planning ahead & staying connected

August 23, 2013: *Catholic Community Connection* will be hosting its Annual Symposium on Friday, August 23 at John Carroll University (JCU). The keynote speaker will be Dr. Edward Hahnenberg, Breen Chair of Catholic Systemic Theology at JCU, focusing on *50 Years of Vatican II's Document on the Church & the World: Implications for Catholic Social Ministries*. Additionally, there will be presentations on engagement with parishes, neighborhoods and society. There is no charge for this all-day event (light breakfast and lunch provided). For additional information, call (216) 377-4358 or (216) 377-4360.

September 27-28, 2013: This Fall, *Ursuline College* is hosting *The Impact of Vatican II on Women Religious in the United States: A Symposium* on their campus located in Pepper Pike, Ohio. The keynote address will be given by Sister Karen Kennelly, CSJ, and breakout sessions will be led by women religious from across the U.S. Opening the event will be a presentation on *Progress & Promise*.

October 11-12, 2013: *Leadership for a New Day (LFND)* is an outreach project of the Conference of Religious Leadership of the Diocese of Cleveland. LFND explores dimensions of mission and vision, relational skill-building, and leadership tasks through diverse activities and mentoring sessions. Applications are being accepted now for emerging Catholic/Christian leaders between the ages of 20 and 40 years old. The first workshop is scheduled for October 11-12 at the Jesuit Retreat House. For additional information, please contact Sister Joanne Buckman, OSU, and the Core Committee at lfndcle.marketing@gmail.com or explore the LFND website at <https://sites.google.com/site/lfndcle/>

October 26, 2013: The *Intergenerational Convocation*, born out of the *Women with Spirit Now* convocation in October 2012, will convene on Saturday, October 26 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Magnificat High School. The focus of the convocation is *Anchors and Innovators with a Heart of Mission*. Join the conversation with Catholic women and men in their 20s and 30s, women religious, and lay leaders who are dedicated to living the Gospel in daily life.

We want to hear from you!

Share with us news
about your congregation
or ministry and what you
would like to see in the next
issue. Please contact
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or (216) 241-9300 ext. 232
with your thoughts, ideas
and news.