



"Bereft" and "Revealed"

AS Maria Karpinski, St. Paul, Minn.

Bereft and *revealed* are the topics that impacted me utterly from our August Franciscan retreat by Sister Sandra Schneiders on the Gospel of John's account of Christ's resurrection. I became a widow eight months ago,



and had no desire to be on retreat except to gain continuing education units for my chaplaincy profession. I imagined leaving retreat early due to discomfort.

Instead, by Wednesday (Feast of the Assumption) I was on a "pink cloud," never wanting to go back to the home where my spouse died under my care. Sister Sandra called this "revealed resurrection"—the time when our hearts feel lighter about our loved one that we lost to death.

Fortunately, Sister Sandra's book, *Written That You May Believe*, was required reading for my New Testament course when I was in school. On this retreat, I re-read her last chapter in which she wrote: "... the single individual who actually wrote the text (of John's Gospel) is a second-generation Johannine Christian and outstanding representative of the Johannine school, whose identity has been permanently disguised... there are some good reasons to consider female identity (as authorship)."

I considered the possibility of a femalewritten influence in John's text during every lecture from Sister Sandra which inflamed my heart. I reflected on God as mom working with us to help us mature. When Jesus said, "Pick up your mat," before he cured the crippled man it was like mom saying, "Pick up your things" (i.e., grow up to be a good steward of the planet). Unlike in the Synoptic Gospels where Jesus heals to alleviate their pain, John's Gospel invites healing action as a way to mature their souls.

Sister Sandra described the meaning of *bereft* by citing Mary Magdalene's desolation without Jesus, which leaves her completely without logic, thinking the man at the tomb is a gardener, not Jesus. She asks for Jesus's corpse, not realizing she cannot haul its dead weight—and what would she do with it? (This is how my grief felt on Thursday, like so many days.) Sister Sandra *(continued on page 6)*

Living the Gospel courageously ... with energy, spirit, peace.



Sunday, October 14 **11 AM**

You are invited to Associate Commitment Day! Join us for Mass, which includes new associate commitments, anniversary celebrations, renewals—all followed by a festive lunch. We hope you can join us! Please let Joan know if you are coming: 320.632.0693; jwingert@fslf.org

Applicants & Associates! You are invited to join the Franciscan Sisters in a meaningful and delightful event entitled, Living Today as Franciscans: Our Life and Mission. This community gathering is designed to deepen our relationship with one another, reflect on events in our world, and explore how we can best live as Franciscans in this world that God has gifted us.

We will offer two options of participating: **#1** Join us for the entire time from



Our Life and Mission

Tuesday, October 23 through Friday, October 26 OR #2 Join us for Wednesday, October 24 only

This day will focus especially on the Sister & Associate Relationship.



More details will be following in a letter. Meanwhile, save the dates for a marvelous event! Call Joan Wingert at 320.632.0669 or e-mail at jwingert@fslf.org for any questions.

My favorite Franciscan story AS Joan Wingert, Upsala, Minn.



Last month Sister Sharon Fyle celebrated 75 years as a Franciscan. She selected as her favorite story the meeting of Saint Francis and the leper.

"Francis had the luxury of a horse; the leper had nothing. I think Francis was



embarrassed that he had such riches. I think he got off his horse because he wanted to show that it was not beneath him to get down on the leper's level. Francis greeted him with the most intimate human act known—a kiss. And when the man extended his hand, Francis did not hesitate to give him money.

"I love this story because it tells me to look for Jesus in the poor, the needy, the marginalized, my sisters, all the people I care for and come into contact with. This includes the wealthy who also need care.

"I try to always see Jesus, regardless of appearance, wealth, honor, illness or what they look like physically. I ask myself, 'Do I touch people-show them they are worthy—with the same action as Francis and not see faults?'

"Seeing and touching people is so important, especially given the state of things in our country today: the upheaval in our government, the despair people experience and the rise of suicides among young people who are our future. I spent my life as a nurse, and eight years of that was spent in the emergency room. I saw a lot of

physical problems that could have been prevented. There are all kinds of hidden 'leprosies' that people are afflicted with. We all have sores and we all have bells that we ring to keep people away. My conversion in my actions and thoughts was to not judge a patient EVER but to always respect them and 'do no harm.'

"Francis walked in the footsteps of Jesus. He didn't want a rule, but instead wanted people to form their own conscience and have that direct one's actions.

"Every morning I spend time in prayer and I feel I have started my day well. But as the day goes on I ask myself, 'Did that prayer do any good? Did I change for the better? Did I respond like Francis and see Jesus in those I met and interacted with?" Many times I have to admit to myself that my prayer stayed up in my room! And I ask forgiveness and promise to try again tomorrow to walk like Francis who walked in the footsteps of Jesus. \bigtriangledown



United in the midst of crisis

AS Arlen Casco, Managua, Nicaragua

Since April 18, Nicaragua is experiencing one of the worst socio-political crises since the Revolution in the 70s. This crisis has resulted in many people wounded, missing or imprisoned, and the death of many children, youth and adults. According to organizations such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH), 317 people have been killed throughout the country.

The economy has also been affected and has setback the development of our country by several years. Many people have chosen to migrate to other countries in search of security or employment opportunities to solve the economic crisis that has affected a lot of families. There are thousands of people who have lost their jobs.

These have been very painful months not only for mothers who lost a son or daughter, or for those whose children returned to them after being beaten, but also for those who still await answers about their missing children and for those of us who enter into the pain each is experiencing.

The ideological divisions have been a historic stronghold in our country, which is why, in the wake of the socio-political crisis, many factions have emerged even among members of the same family who have different opinions and perspectives of the conflict.

The outlook is not altogether discouraging because many sectors of civil society, religions and creeds are united in order to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis through a national dialogue. In this dialogue there is a lot of unity on the part of several sectors of the population, but to date they have not reached a consensus with the government authorities. June was one of the most difficult months



Faithful Fool Daysy Medrano and ASs Fernando Navarro and Arlen Casco

for our community. The neighborhoods where our associates live were very affected by the insecurity and violence that was generated by the lack of protection by the authorities. We had to remain in our homes to be safe and protect our lives. Above all, we had to avoid going out at night because those hours were (and still are) times of the greatest danger and insecurity. (continued on p. 5)

We felt (and still feel) fear for our relatives who return in the

United...continued

afternoon from their jobs because, despite the violence and insecurity in the streets, many companies did not suspend their work.

These have been dark times in our country, affecting our psyche, our lives and our social environment. It has been difficult to meet, embrace, share our fears, sorrows, joys, etc., in these difficult times. Still, we know that our Franciscan Community is present: We feel the spiritual link and the prayers that come from every sector (United States, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela) and from everyone here in the community of Nicaragua. That is what has kept us strong and hopeful that God will bring a new era to every Nicaraguan. There will come consolation, justice and, above all, a true peace for our nation.

I have seen the tears and sufferings of families with no regard to age, religion, politics, beliefs. We have all been affected by violence. We long for peace to reign in our country. $\overline{\mathcal{T}}$



Paul Nieman January 4, 1930 — July 26, 2018

We are saddened by the loss of Associate Paul Nieman, but we know and rejoice in the knowledge that God has welcomed him home.

May he rest in peace.

"Bereft"...continued from page 1



Noti Me Tangere ("Do not cling to me"), James Jacques Joseph (1836-1902)

said, "The Johannine Community, living 100 years after Christ, wrote John's text to address the needs of people who would never see Jesus or his resurrection but would be invited to believe in it. The first three Gospels set the Church's hierarchical structure; John's text was written with no superiors, no people in charge, and the resurrection of Christ is revealed through us, the Children of God, made so by Christ's love for us on the Cross."

And then I got a taste of this Johannine medicine myself: That same day, bereft, I locked my keys in my car. Geri Dietz invited me to believe in the resurrection on my bereft retreat day. Her compassionate face told me I would be cared for and waited with me until my keys were free.

Sister Sandra said, "Only in John's text do we know there is no mention of the word, "sin." The only "sin" is if Thomas insisted on refusing to believe Jesus was alive. Thomas does long for his physical friend Jesus, and there is nothing wrong in that. And he eventually believes Jesus is now Sacred Presence that is real when he states, 'My Lord and My God.'" My own sin would be to insist that the nuns on retreat could not know my grief. In my fear I anticipated looks of rejection—silly, but real for me.

I decided to let myself be in grief for the rest of the retreat. I found my time spent in relationship with the sisters since 2010 (earlier with some) afforded me a natural sense of safety. I am moved by many sisters who are/were bereft from the death of beloved sisters. At the end of the retreat, their invitation to visit soon *revealed* the Resurrected Christ loving not only my heart but all of me, even in my *bereft* state.

As Sister Sandra stated: "Resurrection is in us now to serve one another by forgiveness, love by inclusion, and care so deeply we hold fast or grab on to each other through the tides of life." \overline{T}



Franciscan Ritual of Transitus Wednesday, October 3, 7 PM Sacred Heart Chapel

Feast of St. Francis Liturgy Thursday, October 4, 11 AM Bishop Donald Kettler, presiding Sacred Heart Chapel

You are invited to stay for Thursday lunch! Please call the <u>Convent receptionist</u> to be added to the list: 320-632-2981



The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. (Nahum 1:7)

- For AS Jennie Schlumperger who will have hip replacement surgery September 10: for peace and less anxiety as well as a good recovery with no complications.
- That AS Luis Ortega may find a job soon. Also for the health of his daughter, Aithana, and for better working relationships for her mother, Liss.
- For peace of mind for AP Marie Popp's parents as they need to move from their home into an assisted-living facility.
- For health for ASs: Fabiola Ávila, Giovanni López, Iris Prieto, Lady Borja, Oswaldo Dávida, Rosa Benites, Petita Ramírez, Norma Salazar, Luz María Martínez, Lucía de la Ese, Gadys Arreaga and Cristina de Padilla.
- For AS Claudia Barnier, for total healing from cataract surgery.
- For a new job for AS Yessenia Vallejo.
- In thanksgiving that AS Phyllis Dobis's knee surgery went well. She asks prayers that her daughter, Jill, will find life-giving and economically sustaining employment after suddenly being laid off.
- For AS Mary Pull who has a very unusual intestine problem, that her rehab for this will be effective.
- For continued healing for AP Sheila Gardner following hip surgery.
- AS Judy Virnig requests prayers for her brother, Jerry, who needs surgery but has to

get heart issues resolved first, and for healing for her sister who had surgery recently.

- For AS Lois Willett's friend Kristi Nasby who has been diagnosed with encephalitis.
- For AP Ramona Fedor, that she has a quick recovery from cataract surgery.
- Let us continue to pray for a peaceful solution to the situation in Nicaragua. May God protect the families and friends of our associates in Managua who have had leading roles in the protests against the government. Also pray for those who have begun to migrate from the country.
- For the Catholic Church in this time of great pain and scandal: for honesty and healing, for repentance and reconciliation as once again we, like Francis, hear God's call to "rebuild my church."



I give them eternal life. (John 10)

 For Edgar Fuentes (ASs Martha Fuentes and Ramón Zamora's son, and AS Karen Zamora's brother), who died on August 11th in Nicaragua.

September 2018 A Rose to the Living

Birthdays -- Sisters

- 3 S Gert Brixius
- 3 S Pat Forster
- 3 SM Sharon Fyle
- 4 S Mary Zirbes
- 5 SM Julien Dirkes
- 10 S Mary Lou Eltgroth
- 12 S Carol Schmit
- 15 S Beatrice Eichten
- 20 S Cordy Korkowski
- 25 S Sharon Fitzpatrick
- 28 S Mary Dumonceaux

A Prayer for the Dead

1/2000 S Helen Mrosla 3/2009 S Camille Squillace 4/1978 SM.Agnes Soenneker 5/1914 SM.Joseph Rauch 6/1990 SM.Cyrene Schirmers 6/2012 AS Bonnie Przybilla 7/1946 SM.Bernadette Haggerty 10/1996 SM.Avelline Kuefler 10/2017 SM Matthias Gangl 11/1950 SM.Gregory Vos 12/2012 SM.Claudia Boras 14/2008 S Mary Kalis 14/2009 AS Leona Horak 14/2013 SM Kathleen Kelly 16/1979 SM.Michael Ramler 17/1927 SM.Ferdinand Boyer 17/2017 S Mary Dulski 18/1955 SM.Ambrose Gagnon 18/1988 AS Bob Reynolds 18/2005 SM.Redempta White

Feastdays

- 1 S Ruth Lentner
- 8 S Louise McKigney
- 8 SM Maurita Niedzielski
- 8 S Joyce Piotrowski
- 15 S Mary Lou Eltgroth
- 24 SM Mercita Pipp
- 25 S Cleone Renner
- 29 S Michelle L'Allier

18/2013 AS Angélica Bucheli 19/1981 SM.Jude Godfrey 19/1986 SM Kateri Conley 19/2005 SM.Jeremia Trutwin 20/1993 SM.Giovanni Becker 21/2005 AS Carolyn Worster 21/2015 AS Rita Kovar 23/2009 SM Roberta Zimmer 23/2013 AS Betty Bodnar Belanger 23/2016 S Latona Kalis 24/2008 SM.Lois Christen 24/2013 AS Dolores Harlson 25/2011 SM.Felix Mushel 26/2014 AS Ursula Thompson 28/1917 SM.Magdalene Michaud 28/2013 SM Jeanne Winter 28/2017 AS Joan Siefert 29/1965 SM.Teresa Hurrle 30/2016 AS Kathleen Webskowski

Birthdays --Associates / Applicants

- 4 Nancy Nord
- 5 Alice Blake
- 5 Jeff Odendahl
- 7 Nancy Maloney
- 9 Denis L. Paul
- 10 Shirley Hagen
- 10 Stephanie "Luna" Luna
- 13 Carmen Arellano
- 15 Mary Jane Flynn
- 15 Netchie D T Patterson-Sampson
- 17 Lola (Dolores) Espinoza
- 17 Maureen Gertken
- 18 Glahecer Baque
- 19 June Doble-Johnson
- 19 Deb Kalahar
- 21 Steven Good
- 21 Vicky Phillips
- 22 América Figueroa
- 24 Mercedes Gonzalez
- 26 Robyn Gray
- 27 Fabiola Ávila de Loarte
- 27 LuAnn Trutwin
- 29 Rosanne Fischer
- 29 Karen Schellinger
- 29 Vilma Zambrano

"Go green" in 2018! Receive The Associate via email! Contact Joan (jwingert@fslf.org) to try a sample issue or be added to the list!