

# As Branches on the Vine...

## Message from the Director

Dear Companions of Pauline,

I hope and pray that you are enjoying your summer which is going all too quickly. It is a blessed time for a slower pace in which one can savor quiet moments and enjoy nature.

In this newsletter, you will meet the remaining groups of Companions of Pauline. I hope you have enjoyed reading about your own "Branch on the Vine" as well as the others. As I read them, I am overwhelmed with the goodness of each Companion and inspired by the way each is trying to live the charism of Blessed Pauline.

When you meet this year in your local groups, your coordinator will be explaining that for the next two years, we will be exploring the General Chapter document which each of you has received. Interwoven in the themes will be a deeper study of the history, spirituality, and ministries of the congregation. The local coordinators and I are working up a program that we think you will find enriching and enjoyable. You will be hearing more about this from them.

As always, I am sending your annual updated Directory, thanks to the technology expertise of S. Helen James Peck. Please check to see if your name, address and phone number are correct. If not, please contact me.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to thank you all for the outpouring of love and support on the occasion of the death of my mother. Her life story is enclosed in this mailing. Let us keep each other in our prayers.

Lovingly,

*Sister Joseph*

## Meet the Companions of Pauline: Allentown Branch

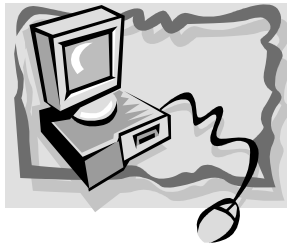
### **Coordinators Sister Charlene Verbetich and Sister Mary Julius Dashner write:**

Sister Carmela Wzykowski began the Companions of Pauline about ten years ago with approximately five Companions. When Sister Carmela left Allentown in January, 2006, Sister Charlene became moderator.

On the Thursday before First Friday of each month, the Companions join the Sisters in the Convent Chapel for a Eucharistic prayer service which includes Benediction and evening prayer. This is followed either by discussing readings on Blessed Pauline or viewing the DVD on Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical. Several of our Companions are involved in Church ministry—attending daily Mass, cleaning the altar/sacristy, some are lectors, Eucharistic ministers, or PREP teacher of First Eucharist Class. When Our Lady Help of Christians has our Bereavement Mass, the Companions serve as greeters and also stay for the gathering afterwards and share their time with the family members.

Our Companions of Pauline are very spiritual, love Blessed Pauline and bring joy wherever they go. Companions of Pauline from the Allentown area are:

Maria Andreas  
Fay Andrew  
Patricia Boyer  
Adnery de la Rosa  
Frances Figura  
Nancy Heffentrager  
Jacqueline Klase  
Mary Jane Kochanasz  
Martha Lopez  
Dolores Misgerd  
Ann Marie Nonnemaker  
Mary O'Neill  
Mary Psarsky  
Mary Sebesta  
Dolores Shankweiler  
Ellen Shott  
Ellen Sincavage  
Linda Smith  
Margaret Stibrany  
Rosalia Velazquez  
Mary Ann Williamson



## Prayer Corner



Please remember in prayer our recently deceased:

Thomas Hurley,  
son of Companion of Pauline Catherine Hurley

Cecilia Spring, Companion of Pauline  
and mother of Sister Joseph Spring

Sister Germaine Dougherty, Holy Family Convent, Danville

Sister Dolorette Schieler, Holy Family Convent Danville

Sister Angelene Nelson, Holy Family Convent, Danville,

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace!

**If you have an e-mail address and it is not listed in the directory, please send it to Sister Joseph at:**

**srjoseph@scceast.org**

## Camp Hill Branch

**Coordinators Sister Carmela Wyzkowski, Sister Ann Marie Kase, and Sister Maria Nicholson write:**

The activities of the Companions of Pauline are like a new commencement. Sister Maria Nicholson, Sister Ann Marie Kase and Sister Carmela Wyzkowski picked up where Sister Cecilia Hock left off. Our meetings begin with an introduction of prayer and usually a reading or letter of Mother Pauline.

Each associate has been encouraged to take a maxim of Mother Pauline from the little red book, *Pauline von Malinckrodt: Prayers and Thoughts*. They try to use this prayer daily as a trigger for deeper prayer with Mother Pauline throughout the month to come. Letters of Mother Pauline to her grandmother are taken for discussion. These are used with the purpose to enter more deeply into the prayer life of Mother Pauline.

Some of the activities of the associates these past months have been making Prayer Shawls, gathering clothes for needy children of our mission school, and collecting Pennies for Pauline. These in turn are sent to our South American mission.

A special Rosary Project was initiated. Rosaries have been donated to us and various kinds of rosary pamphlets. These are made into packets and put out for the people to take when they come into the hospital to register for some type of medical tests. This project has been very successful. Hundreds of Rosary packets have been taken by our outpatient visitors. People of various faiths have been interested in learning how to pray Mary's rosary.

From time to time we team leaders make a donation to the Organization, *Food For The Poor*. This organization then feeds the poor, neglected children of Haiti with the money that comes from various sources. Our Pauline Companions have been mindful of our Sisters in Danville. In their gener-

ous spirit they purchase items of practical use as little gifts for the Sisters.

Once our meeting draws to a close we socialize with the other Sisters over some coffee and delicious pastry. We conclude the meeting by praying Evening Praise before the Blessed Sacrament.

Our Meetings are usually held on the Second Sunday of the month unless some major event calls for us to make a change. We count on any number between eight - ten to attend the meetings. Three of these members participated in the Covenant Day in April. Presently we have one new member preparing to make her Covenant in April of 2009.

Companions of Pauline from the Camp Hill area are:

Agnes AhMyaw  
Anna May Egresitz  
Theresa Fraticelli  
Audrey Funk  
Mary Leftwich  
Ann Marie Logudic  
Angela Long  
Catherine MacAdaam  
Eleanor McIntyre  
Joan Moore  
Patricia Scarangella  
Dolores Smith  
Geraldine Vitenty



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## Williamsport Branch

### **Coordinators Sister Carmelita Smith and Sister Anna Marie Ziegler write:**

The Companions of Pauline in Williamsport were formed around the same time as the program began in our Eastern Province, 1995. Sister Romaine Streit brought the women together and began monthly meetings in the homes of the Associates, as they were then called. Upon Sister Romaine's transfer from the area, Sister Carmelita Smith took on the role of coordinator.

These women are very active in a number of charitable and service ministries. Several Companions have opted to share their personal experiences.

**Phyllis Colesanti:** Several Companions of Pauline from Williamsport have been active volunteers at North Central Sight Services, which provides assistance to the blind and visually impaired, as well as, programs for the prevention of blindness. I started out as a "radio reader" of the local newspaper, covering not only local but also national and international news. This is accomplished over closed circuit radio. Now I have moved on to the prevention of blindness program and have been trained to do vision screenings for acuity, peripheral vision, depth perception, and color blindness. Participating in these screenings at nursery schools, senior centers, health fairs, high schools and businesses, and retirement complexes, has been a very moving and heart-warming experience. More importantly, it has given me a deeper glimpse into the heart of Mother Pauline and her love for the blind and visually impaired. And what a beautiful, God-loving heart I found!

**Wilhelmina Ulsamer:** For the past 10+ years, I have enjoyed being a part of the Companions of Pauline. Being a member has spiritually enhanced my relationship with the Lord. Although I had been a cantor in my church and actively involved in the RCIA program years before I became a Companion, the spiritual aspects of this group have greatly helped me in these ministries. I especially look forward to our breaking and sharing of "the Word of God" at each meeting. This sharing has greatly increased my faith and brought me into a deeper relationship with my Savior and King. Now I can say that I not only have a deep faith in God, but I feel that I am "living" that faith.

I find that every little thing that I accomplish in life has a much greater meaning since I've been a part of this group. I have been a choir member since a teenager, but now, praising God with my voice has a new meaning to me. As a lay steward at my church for many, many years in the kitchen, as a cook, I find that the menial tasks have a greater significance when "living my faith". Since 1973, when Roe v. Wade made abortion legal in our country, I have been actively involved in the pro-life movement. Over the years, I joined in several pro-life activities and continue to do so even now. I share all the

important pro-life news and local activities with the Companions of Pauline, hoping they, too, will want to join in these much needed pro-life forces in our country. When it comes to pro-life, I am politically active in writing letters and post cards and casting my vote. Being a Companion gives me confidence that I am doing my Christian duty—my work on earth for God's little ones.

**Elaine Porch:** Every day presents a new opportunity to serve the Lord. In my perspective, it is primarily through our interactions with others that we ourselves grow in spirit. Allow me to list some of the ways in which I interact with others. I gather religious items for the leader of the religious education youth group. There is also a need for used clothing, so for many years, my friend and I have been collecting clothing and seeing that it is distributed appropriately. The Sisters who conduct the stamp ministry also utilize my help. The sale of these stamps helps to purchase personal items for nursing home residents.

Bringing the Eucharist to the homebound is very rewarding. I also assist at parish functions. At church we make pierogies that are sold to benefit our building fund for the new church. When a special need arises, my friend and I are right there to assist. I also am a member of the team of "radio readers" for North Central Sight Services. A creative outlet of mine is writing poetry. The following poem was published in a Salesian Missions Booklet:

### **My Prayer**

Open my eyes , Lord  
That I might see  
The world with greater clarity.  
Open my heart, Lord  
So I might learn  
To care for others with more concern.  
Open my ears, Lord  
And I will catch  
The subtle sounds of silent distress.  
And then, my Lord  
Help me to be  
A steadfast follower of Thee.

**Doris Puderbaugh:** In 1995 I began to read to the blind at the North Central Sight Services. Due to a conflict with my volunteer work at Muncy Valley Hospital, I recruited and formed a team to read on the radio so that we could assure good attendance. My team reads the local newspaper for two hours, (9:00 – 11:00 AM). We are happy to do this for the visually impaired. We, who are Companions of Pauline, think of her. As a little girl on the way to school, Pauline picked up the glass so the blind children would not get injured, and as an adult, she established a school for the blind.

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At Resurrection Parish in Muncy, I serve as a lector and I am on the planning committee for our new church building, which is currently being constructed.

I help with the Women's Organization, making pierogies, summer festival, Christmas Bazaar, as well as counting church collections. At our local library, I have been asked to participate in reading to preschool children, and I will start doing this very soon.

Needless to say, being a member of the Companions of Pauline has enriched my spiritual life. Meeting with the Sisters and the Companions is an inspiring experience for me. I appreciate this opportunity so much.

**Pauline Steinbacher (On a lighter note):** It was Saturday and the first day of fishing season in Bastress, near Williamsport. For several weeks, my grandson, who is 12 years old, has been asking if the fish were up from the bottom of the pond. He called quite early one morning and asked if he could fish. When he walked from his home, five minutes away, he brought his friend, Tyler, who is also 12 years old. They were on their own with their fishing rods, and I checked at the window often. Before long, five boys had gathered at the pond. One smaller boy was having a grand time swinging from a rope, off the bank. The others were all into the fishing scene.

It was a very successful fishing day and they asked if they could eat their catch. I said, "I will fry the fish, if you clean them." I gave the fish a final inspection before placing them on the grill. There were three boys left to eat the six nice fish, and they really enjoyed them. This scene will be repeated when my two grandsons come from the city to visit. They are ages 8 and 11. There are also two more grandsons, 4 mos. and 8 mos. It will be a while before I fry their fish, but I hope I have the joy of doing the same for them. My one and only granddaughter is thirteen. She likes to come to breakfast and get transportation to the mall. She lets the boys enjoy the fishing.

**Judy Fischer:** Judy wrote a wonderful reflection about her joy in translating some of Luise Hensel's poems. This will be a "feature article" in the November newsletter.

Companions of Pauline in the Williamsport area are:

Ruth Adams  
Dorothy Beckman  
Phyllis Colesanti  
Judy Fischer  
Betty Lou George  
Elaine Porch  
Doris Puderbaugh  
Dorothy Sommers  
Cynthia Steinbacher  
Pauline Steinbacher  
Wilhelmina Ulsamer

## Metuchen Branch

**Coordinator Sister Maria Lan Nguyen writes:** This was Sister Maria Electa's dream, to begin the Companions of Pauline here in Metuchen. Unfortunately, Sister was unable to fulfill this dream because of her illness. Here I am continuing her dream. In September I met some men and women and asked if they would be interested in becoming Companions of Pauline. With God's grace, a good number of men and women responded generously and wanted to know more about Mother Pauline and her charism.

We meet once a month, usually on the last Saturday. The first week we got to know each other and introduced what being a Companion of Pauline is all about. Sister Joseph also came and gave a beautiful presentation on the Companions of Pauline around the world. Each member received the book called "the Woman Who Couldn't Be Stopped" and they were amazed how Mother Pauline could do all that by herself. Next meeting, Sister Joseph presented a wonderful slide presentation on Mother Pauline's charism and history of the congregation.

The Companions of Pauline had the opportunity to make a Lenten Retreat at the Motherhouse with Sister Mary Edward. We were very fortunate to have Sister Mary Edward speak to all of us on Mother Pauline's love for the Blessed Sacrament. We were all filled with much grace and blessings even though the day was gloomy, but our hearts continued to shine throughout the day. On another day, we meditated and reflected on Mary and how she surrendered her "YES" to Jesus with total trust. We want to imitate Mary's "YES", too, without any hesitation.

We commit ourselves to following in Mother Pauline's footsteps by visiting the Blessed Sacrament and praying for many vocations, especially to the Sisters of Christian Charity. The Companions of Pauline not only love and participate in the Church in varied ways, but they also very generously respond to the needs of the soldiers in Iraq and in varied places. We thank everyone for their support and kindness.

We want to welcome Lee Ann Burke to our Metuchen group. We congratulate Kathy and John Burke on their new arrival, little Brian Xavier Burke, born Friday, June 13 at 12:53 am, 9 pounds, 13 ounces!

The Companions of Pauline in the Metuchen area are:

Rose Bonk (in preparation)  
Lee Ann Burke  
John and Kathleen Burke  
Jo Flanigan  
Katalin Grof  
Patricia Lapointe  
Ann Major  
Doris Primich  
Manuel and Nuvia Ryes  
Cheryl Saggese  
Lucy Scotti  
Alfredo and Maria Quizon