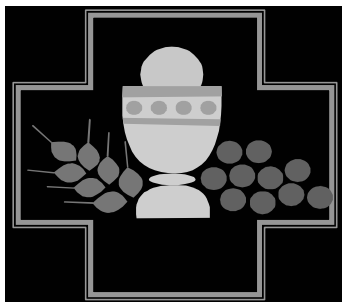


Message from the Director



As Branches on the Vine...

COMPANIONS OF PAULINE

Dear Companions of Pauline,

May the peace, joy and love of the Risen Jesus be yours most abundantly this Easter season. That will be my special prayer for you.

I had the joy of seeing many of you on our Covenant Day, April 26. It was a very special day, as always. All present and all present in spirit, welcomed four new associates as Companions of Pauline:

Camp Hill

Tien-Hui "Cindy" Chu

Mendham

Maria Seliga

Metuchen

Rosemarie Bonk

Monroe Township

Maranda Noonan

Joining us for the day were members of the SCC Leadership Team from our North American Western Province. I was especially grateful for their presence, since their Provincial Secretary, Sister Mary Ann Warwick, is a coordinator of their Companions and has been very helpful to me personally in my role as director.

The presence and prayers of all made the day a memorable one as we celebrated the 160th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Christian Charity in 1849. Students of Assumption College for Sisters entertained us with song and dance. Sisters and Companions reflected on our 160 year heritage interspersed with songs traditional in the Congregation.

I have frequently said, "Covenant Day is my favorite day next to Christmas!" All of us together, vowed members and associate members, cherish and carry the spirit of Mother Pauline to our own corners of the world. In Mother Pauline's own words, we say together:

God does all things well.

Let us therefore praise and bless Him

at all times

and cheerfully continue our way through life.

ALLELUIA!

With love and prayer,

Sister Joseph, SCC

Life of Mother Pauline

A Glimpse into the Soul of Pauline von Mallinckrodt as She Discerns Her Vocation

*Taken from Mother Pauline
League Notes,
Volume 6 #2, November 1946*

Enlightened from above, Pauline now made the firm resolve to dedicate her life to God. Though still living in the world, because of her family obligations, Pauline was less and less of the world. In her difficult position, she sought and found strength in the practice of works of charity. Above all, did she seek solace and courage in frequent, and later, daily Holy Communion. Even this latter practice was a sore trial to Pauline, for her attractions in this matter were not in harmony with the generally accepted views of that day. Besides, Herr von Mallinckrodt's attitude of mind, together with the social obligations of his position, acted as another irritant.

But the Eucharistic Christ taught Pauline the art of selfless living and gave her strength to preserve a cheerful and buoyant spirit amid the annoying demands of social life. Furthermore, through her contact with the Divine Lover of men, she felt drawn more and more to help the most destitute of her fellow-beings. In 1837, in partnership with Anna von Lommessen and other friends, Pauline established a school for poor children in Aix-la-Chapelle. Two years later, she organized a society for women to aid poor sick people in their homes. After her return with her father to the family estate at Boeddeken, Pauline opened a

Just because the congregation lacks human support, just because God alone is its sole Objective and the Source of its strength and hope—for these very reasons I have no fear regarding its existence....

day nursery at Paderborn.

But Pauline's zeal was not yet satisfied. Her tender heart now reached out toward poor blind children, whom she mothered with the utmost care and solicitude. Soon steps were taken for the founding of a blind asylum, but before Pauline's hopes were to be realized in this regard, there were great obstacles to be overcome and many wearisome journeys to be made. Finally, in December of 1844, Pauline secured corporation rights for the Institute from the king, Frederick William IV.

While Pauline's plans for harboring her poor and blind children were maturing, she was thinking seriously of joining a religious community that would take over her work of charity. Her intention, however, of entering with the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent, was strongly opposed by her brothers. A passage in her autobiography reveals Pauline's feelings regarding this circumstance:

It seemed as though I were never again to enjoy peace of soul. I had induced my brothers and sister to break up our happy family life.... Now that the fate of my poor blind children was in jeopardy, a fierce struggle rose within me.

Thwarted in purpose, Pauline had recourse to two other sisterhoods: the Religious of the Sacred Heart at Conflans, Paris, and the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus at Aix-la-Chapelle. But again, conflicting circum-

stances made her proposal impossible.

Only one other way lay open now, and a loving Providence was guiding Pauline in that direction. The decision came from Pauline's teacher in childhood and spiritual guide during adolescence, Dr. Claessens, Auxiliary Bishop of Cologne. He advised her to obtain the blessing of the recently appointed Bishop Drepper of Paderborn for the establishment of a new religious congregation.

With sincere joy Bishop Drepper acquiesced in the decision reached by the Bishop of Cologne. Pauline, as her memoirs reveal, had not expected this outcome. But the more she thought of it, the more she felt convinced that it was a divine commission. Its execution, however, was a daring venture. On the part of Pauline, it meant facing the prejudice aroused in Paderborn at the failure of a similar undertaking. Moreover, it entailed many burdensome negotiations with the Prussian government for permission to establish a religious congregation. But Pauline courageously set herself to the task, and after three months was able to submit to the Rt. Rev. Bishop the royal decree sanctioning the foundation.

With holy fortitude and joy, Pauline now anticipated the day of her espousals with her soul's Beloved. At last she had attained the goal! With a fearlessness born of trust, she wrote in her retreat notes, during the spiritual exercises preceding the day of her religious reception:

Just because the congregation lacks human support, just because God alone is its sole Objective and the Source of its strength and hope—for these very reasons I have no fear regarding its existence...He Himself will direct everything toward a happy and glorious end.

In our August issue, we will read the account of Mother Pauline's founding of the congregation. This date marks the 160th Anniversary!



Prayer Corner



Please keep in your prayers the recently deceased:

Robert Schuler,
brother of Companion of Pauline
Charles Schuler

Philip Eck,
brother of Companion of Pauline
Pauline Steinbacher

Jaime Quizon,
father and father-in-law of
Companions of Pauline
Albert and Maria Quizon

ALSO

Please pray for the recovery of
Nicholas Colesanti,
husband of Companion of Pauline
Phyllis Colesanti

For those Companions, unable to attend Covenant Day, we invite you to renew your Covenant either with your local group or individually, according to your circumstances. This is the ceremony we used with some modifications:

Leader 1: God our Creator, you called us by name, we belong to you. Help us to believe in your truth, hope in your mercy, and love all people as you call us to love. Let our lives give joy to you and encouragement to one another. May our efforts to live in love give you praise today and everyday of our lives through all eternity. Amen.

All: Grant, O Jesus, that your image be formed in me, that I live only from you and in you and with you and through you – you the Vine and I the branch. Help me that all my views and opinions so resemble yours that others, as it were, see Christ in me. Let me be as patient as you, humble as you, loving as you. In my resemblance to you, Jesus, my model, my brother, consists all holiness.

(Prayer of Mother Pauline, 1849)

Sisters of Christian Charity: The Sisters of Christian Charity enthusiastically welcome you as we journey together in faith, hope, and love. We share with you the richness of our charism and the spirit of our foundress Pauline von Mallinckrodt. The spiritual bond which unites us will strengthen and foster the kingdom of God here on earth as we are transformed into his image and likeness.

Companions of Pauline: In response to the invitation, I desire to live a deeply Eucharistic life of holiness in and for the church. I joyfully embrace the vision and charism of Pauline von Mallinckrodt and seek to deepen Gospel

values, while remaining in my present life style.

Leader 2: From the center of our being we praise you, our Lord and God, for the beautiful experience that you have given us.

All: This time has inflamed our hearts, renewed our dreams, and enabled us to see with eyes divine. We heard your ancient call within the words and events of this time; your call to personal holiness and perfection, the invitation to prayer and spirituality, the challenge of the kingdom and the church.

Leader 3: As the disciples of your Son were set afire by your Divine Spirit on Pentecost, this sacred time has encouraged us to greatness within the scope of our simple lives.

All: What has happened has truly shaped our hearts. May the activities of our hearts bear witness to the great grace in the day to day world to which we return. May this time of spiritual experience become part of the fabric of our lives. May we build upon it with daily prayer and spiritual life. Nourished by prayer, reading, thought and action, may the seeds of this time take root and flower in a life-song of glory to you, Our Lord and our God. Amen.



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

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srjoseph@scceast.org

