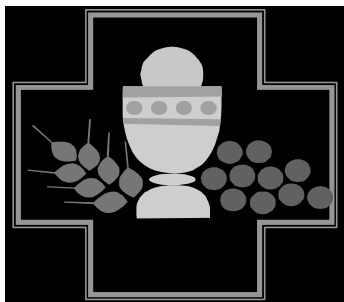


Message from the Director



As Branches on the Vine...

Dear Companions of Pauline,

My prayers and best wishes are with you for a blessed and grace-filled New Year. May the new decade be a new beginning for all of us—a beginning of deeper faith, more profound hope, and a greater love. Wouldn't that be the wish of Mother Pauline for us?

As you receive this newsletter, I will be packing for our international meeting of Coordinators and Companions of Pauline. This meeting will begin on February 22 and end on March 6. The meetings during the first week will be held in Rome and the second week in Paderborn. Sister Adalberta has told us that we will have business meetings in the morning and in the afternoon, we will visit the sites sacred to Mother Pauline. I ask your prayers during this time, since I have been asked to chair these meetings. It is both a privilege and a daunting task for me.

You can be sure that Companion of Pauline Judy Fischer and I will take a lot of pictures to share with you on Covenant Day and most importantly, will pray for you at each of these holy places. I will be carrying the Companions of Pauline directory with me and will place it, where and when appropriate, when we venerate these sites. So you can see, you will be present with us. When we are in Paderborn, we will each be bringing in some way the names of all our Companions to place at the grave of Mother Pauline. If you remember, your coordinator asked you to sign your name to a purple circle. Each group of Companions is formed into a bunch of grapes which will be attached to a vine... "as branches on the vine." Each province is doing something different to represent their Companions. Again, I will be sure to take a picture so that you can see this.

If you have any ideas and/or concerns you would want addressed, please feel free to contact me. Some of the things we will be learning and discussing are the statistics about the various SCC provinces, exploration of our SCC charism, learning of the title and format of the associates of each province, formation in each province regarding the associates for Sisters, coordinators, and the associates themselves, ideas for meetings, and discussion of how best to network with other provinces. Yes, we will be back by March 7!!!!

God be with all of you in a special way. Let us keep each other in prayer.

Love,

Sister Joseph Spring, S.C.C.

The Novitiate Year of Mother Pauline and Her Three Companions--continued

Mother Pauline Negotiates with Civil Authorities

The difficulties existing between the authorities at Dortmund and Arnsberg had not yet been settled during the summer of 1850, as can be seen from Pauline's notes. It was only through the intervention of Herr von Bodleschwingh, the President of Muenster at that time, to whom Pauline appealed for mediation, that the question was finally settled in October in favor of the Sisters with government approval.

While they were in retreat before they received the holy habit, Mother Pauline was actively engaged with plans for Dortmund. Sister Mathilde was really the only one concerned for the present – she had passed the teachers' examination successfully in 1846 and of her Mother Pauline writes:

Mathilde may not go alone to Dortmund; for a young girl to be all alone in a strange city is unbecoming, is too dangerous, and can lead to no good. To stand alone, with no one with whom to take counsel, she must, of necessity, confer with seculars and thus lose the true religious spirit. If it is God's Will, then all will turn out well and He Himself will assign the right person for Dortmund; if it is not His holy Will, then may all plans miscarry and I shall relinquish Dortmund for His sake.

We have already seen with what difficulties and inconveniences the little community carried on its activities in caring for the children entrusted to its care and can readily understand how sincerely Pauline desired to acquire a suitable home for the blind asylum. She had already applied to the authorities in Muenster stressing this need, even before she founded the congregation. She emphasized her request and supported it by stating that she would be willing to go from door to door

begging, with the permission of the Most Reverend Bishop, if funds were not available by other means. As though to buoy up her own hopes and courage she wrote:

If the Reverend Chaplain, Father Ruland, collected 7,000 to 8,000 talers in Westphalia for a church in Berlin, should I have misgivings that He will supply what is lacking for the dear blind children? Place all your trust in Him with a confidence that will move mountains, with a confidence that pierces the deepest recesses of His Heart. If the project is according to His Holy Will, He will incline all hearts in our favor, so that they will agree to the building and also provide the means.

In reference to the collection she adds the additional note:

Miss Rath and I will humbly go from door to door and accept cheerfully and with the greatest respect the smallest donations of the poor, like unto the widow's mite, that called down God's blessing upon it; and for the contributions of the wealthier class we shall thank so sincerely that their gift of love shall bring joy to their very souls.

In order to further the building plan, Pauline made a trip to Muenster and with the assistance of her kindly disposed friend, President Bodleschwingh, succeeded in obtaining the permission to build October 1849. How many consultations, discussions and negotiations with the authorities and the contractors were then necessary! At last in May 1850, work was begun on the new building after the site had been blessed by the Right Rev. Vicar General Boekamp. Mother Pauline was ever on the alert that the terms of the contract were adhered to, and spurred the contractor and his

workmen on with such success that the framework of the building was completed in the fall, even before Mother Pauline and her companions made their first holy vows. The customary treat (*Richtfest*) was not overlooked.

A noteworthy and interesting incident occurred during the months of March and April 1850, the novitiate year. Luise Hensel, in conjunction with Miss Auguste von Cordier, sought to persuade Mother Pauline to found a convent on the island of Nonnenwerth on the Rhine River. According to their plans and suggestions, Mother Pauline was to transfer the direction of the blind asylum and the convent at Paderborn to Sister Maria Rath and to come to them as the superior of a new congregation. Pauline turned down the proposal very decidedly – she will not be unfaithful to the duty entrusted to her care by Holy Mother Church. In a letter written to Luise Hensel, April 16, 1850, Miss von Cordier expresses her regret and disappointment at Pauline’s rejection of their plan as follows:

Your lovable personality, with all of the spiritual wealth that God has bestowed upon you, would have been a great blessing and a source of immense pleasure to me. However, I do realize and understand and must painfully admit, that you cannot and may not deviate a hair’s breadth from the path you have taken. I can only find consolation in this sacrifice of my heart’s desire, to have ____, in preference to anyone else, with us as superior, in the realization that such is the will of God. Though deprived of the consolation of having you with us in person, we can, nevertheless, always be united in spirit. . . .



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Companions of Pauline Covenant Day

**Mallinckrodt Convent
Mendham
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010**

Schedule

10:00 AM	Arrival
11:00 AM	Liturgy
	Dinner
	Program



VALENTINE THOUGHTS OF BLESSED PAULINE

The foundation of all perfection is a deep, profound humility and sincere LOVE of neighbor flowing from the love of God.
(August 1858 to S. Xaveria)

Only then will my love of neighbor be genuine if it flows from the wellspring of the LOVE of God. If I LOVE people because of their talents, their kindness, then this LOVE does not deserve the name of Christian Charity.
(Retreat 1843)

LOVE conquers all. May you possess this holy love toward all. Beg God to give you the LOVE you need, because this holy LOVE and solicitude must embrace all, all persons. "By this LOVE you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples." (John 13:35)
(July 7, 1877 to S. Agnes)

LOVE of the children is the best instructor in their upbringing. Only to one who loves children may they be entrusted. LOVE in the heart, LOVE in the tone of voice, LOVE in our conduct toward them—that attracts them to us and draws down God's blessing upon us and them.
(July 11, 1851 to S. Mathilde)



Prayer Corner



Please remember in your prayers the following Sisters who went home to their eternal reward since our last newsletter:

Sister Virginia Jansen
Sister Elise Kerekes
Sister Mary Gerard Gebler
Sister Mary Vianney Kaeser
Sister Veronica Utz
Sister Mariella Moore

Also keep in your prayers Catherine Loch, mother of Companion of Pauline, Father Richard Loch, who went home to heaven in January.

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

