

As Branches on the Vine...

Message from the Director

Dear Companions of Pauline,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in the Novena in Preparation for Pentecost. I will be praying for you in a special way that the Holy Spirit will give each of us an increase of the Seven Gifts of the Spirit.

Since I last wrote, we have journeyed through Lent and celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus. It is during this time after Easter that we traditionally renew our Covenant as Companions of Pauline and welcome new Companions into our group. This year, we welcome 28 new members.

Numbers are not important, but what is so enlivening to our Sisters is that these new Companions are so eager to grow in devotion to Mother Pauline and to live and spread her charism. Together, associates and vowed members of the Sisters of Christian Charity, are truly "Companions on the Journey" as we live and make visible the love of Christ in the world.

Each day you are all remembered in the prayers of the Sisters. I ask you to pray for us, too.

Lovingly,

Sister Joseph

Meet the Companions

Pittston Branch

Coordinators Sister Carol Makravitz and Sister Esther Falzone write:

As moderators of the group, we began the year with an organizational meeting of the Companions. Each of the Companions received an invitation to come share the Scriptures and discuss our hopes, ideas, and activities for the upcoming year.

On the third Thursday of each month the Companions are invited to pray Vespers with the Sisters in the Convent at St. Mary's Assumption. Each of the Companions purchased the Office of Shorter Christian Prayer for their personal use and on the occasion of praying together each month.

On the first Thursday of each month the Community of Oblates of St. Joseph hold a Holy Hour with rosary and Benediction for the intentions of vocations to the religious life. The Companions agreed to attend this Holy Hour monthly to pray for vocations and include the Sisters of Christian Charity. This year, Father Paul, the Provincial of

the Oblates decided to ask various religious in the area to talk about their call to religious life during the Holy Hour. Sister Esther was privileged to talk at the February Holy Hour.

At our last meeting on February 24 we were honored to have Sister Joseph Spring give a Power Point presentation to the Companions on the life of Mother Pauline as seen through the pictures she took on the occasion of Spiritual Renewal in Rome and Germany. Fortunately, it was also experienced by Sister Carol and Sister Esther who were able to add to the discussion. Afterwards all enjoyed refreshments and some great comaraderie together.

The Pittston Companions of Pauline include:

Mary Gertrude Ankenbrand
Michael Booth
Mary Boylan
Eileen Casper
Bea Ellis

Bill Ellis
Marie Fearick
Maureen Heffner
Joanne McHale
Judy Samartzis



Wilkes-Barre Branch

Coordinator Sister John Marie Hickl writes:

When the Wilkes-Barre Area Branch of Companions of Pauline was formed in 1991, Sister Andrea Weidner was asked to be the coordinator. At that time, there were not only Companions from Wilkes-Barre who were members, but also three fine women from Hazleton who were part of the group. However, as time went on, distance became a problem, and since there was only one driver from the Hazleton group, it was necessary that these three women could no longer attend the meetings that Sister Andrea held.

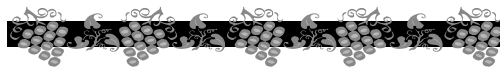
Then, in 2006 Sister Andrea was asked by Sister Adalberta if she would be willing to be transferred to Rome to work in Campo Santo with our Sisters from Germany. Sister did accept the position and left in September of 2006 for Rome. Sister John Marie Hickl became Coordinator of the Wilkes-Barre group which now consists of eight Companions—a wonderful and prayer-filled group of men and women.

We meet every other month, spend time in prayer and adoration in Chapel, and then meet for sharing. The highlight of the year occurs on Holy Thursday evening when the Companions meet

and share our Seder Meal. It is a time that each Companion feels a special bond with the Sisters and each other.

Companions from the Wilkes-Barre Area are:

Mary Berger
Cindy Gardner
Marilyn Grant
Joan Kwak
Catherine Macey
John Macey
Arthur McCluskey
Joan Ott
Carol Piotroski
Kathleen Reiss



If you have e-mail and are not receiving our communications electronically, please e-mail

Sister Joseph at:

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Danville Branch

Coordinators Sister Joanne Maria Powers and Sister Margaretann Guiton write:

The Sisters at Holy Family Convent, Danville, had been expressing the desire to start a group of Companions. About three years ago, Sister Joanne Maria put an invitation in the St. Joseph Church bulletin inviting interested women to attend an afternoon of information about Mother Pauline and the Companions. Four to five women showed interest and were willing to attend the first formal meeting of the Companions of Pauline.

We began with the study of the charism of Mother Pauline. Sister Joanne Maria and Sister Margaretann, coordinators, shared the discussions. After our first year, we had one member, Helen Mertz, who made her commitment at the ceremony in Mendham. That same year, Ceil Spring renewed her commitment at Holy Family Convent. Then in our second year, Gloria Bookmiller made her commitment in Mendham.

This year, we reviewed the praying of the Divine Office and studied the encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI—*Deus Caritas Est*. Sister Mary Schmidt was our guest lecturer comparing the life of Mother Pauline with this encyclical. Four more members will be making their commitment this year: Darlene Holdren, Jeanne Mayan, Dorothy Wroblewski and Patricia Dubb. Two others will, hopefully, make their commitment the following year: Lori Fraser and Rita Matlock.

Our Companions of Pauline thirst for spiritual knowledge. They are an example to us all.

Companions from Danville are:

Gloria Bookmiller	Lori Fraser
Patricia Dubb	(in preparation)
Darlene Holdren	Rita Matlock
Jeanne Mayan	(in preparation)
Helen Mertz	
Dorothy Wroblewski	

JOY IN ACTION

Some Anecdotes from the Life of Blessed Pauline

One of her favorite educational maxims: “Cultivate and preserve a cheerful spirit among those entrusted to us.” One day a group of musicians from Brussels marched through the village and into the park of Mont St. Guibert. The girls, always eager for a dance, were not slow to take advantage of the enticing music. One class, however, was detained by the teacher because of a poorly prepared French lesson. Mother Pauline interceded for them so they, too, might enjoy the occasion. **(Sister Agnes Schmittiel)**

A story from NY: One day a few girls, among them myself, had to sit after school as punishment. Suddenly the door opened and we thought our teacher was coming, but we were astonished when we saw our Rev. Pastor and two Sisters. When the Pastor asked why we were still there, we told him we had to stay after school. Rev. Mother showed her tenderheartedness and love for children and immediately asked the Pastor to let us go home, as we would certainly be good. And as she turned to us she said lovingly, “Now little children, go home.” When the Rev. Pastor told us that in the fall Sisters from this order were coming, we were delighted with the idea. Never will I forget the loving, kind face of this good Mother, although I was only nine years old at the time. Since I lived only two doors from the school, I ran home as fast as I could and related everything to mother. Everybody, mother and we children, full of curiosity, stood at the window. We wanted to see the saintly lady, as we called her. From that time on, I wanted to be a Sister. **(Sister Philomena Schmittiel)**



New Companions of Pauline

Allentown:
Margaret Stibrany

Danville:
Patricia Dubb
Darlene Holdren
Jeanne Mayan
Dorothy Wroblewski

Mendham:
Cynthia Kaiser Haidri

Monroe Township:
Debbie Amabile
Jean Ebinger

Metuchen:
John Burke
Kathleen Burke
Joseph Flanigan
Katalin Grof
Patricia LaPointe
Ann Major
Alfred Quizon
Maria Quizon
Manuel Reyes
Nuvia Reyes
Cheryl Saggese
Lucy Scotti

Ocean City:
Mickey Flynn
Madeleine Lamb
Maureen Murray
Lucille Worley
Carol Waite

Pittston:
Maureen Heffren

Wilkes-Barre:
Cindy Gardner

WilliamSPORT:
Ruth Adams



Prayer Corner



Please remember in prayer our recently deceased:

Companion of Pauline
Ruth Saenger, Mendham group

Sister Louisette Giotis, Camp Hill
Sister Carolyn Stopper, Camp Hill
Sister Eileen Hauptly, Danville

William Gardner, husband of
Companion-to-be
Cindy Gardner

Frank Loch, brother of Companion
Rev. Richard Loch

Msgr. Lawrence Overbaugh,
brother of Companion Joyce Groft

Rev. Ralph Shurer, O.S.A., brother
of Sister Maria Assumpta, Sister
Mary Agnes, and Companion
Dorothy Beckman

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

Save the Date

**Companions of Pauline
Retreat Day**

Motherhouse

October 11, 2008

**“My Hands at Work,
My Heart with God”**
