

# Heartbeats

Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

November, 2017

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Kankakee, Illinois

## Community Goals Reflect Unity in Diversity

### Fundamental Code 166

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The goals of each of our communities must be rooted in the aim of the Institute confided to us by our founders and approved by the Church. These goals embrace three dimensions of life: prayer, community, apostolic service. Our community goals will provide the basis for our sharing of faith, mutual challenge, and scheduled evaluations.

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Over the decades, we have taken the creation of goals as a given for the beginning of every new community year. Communities hand in their goals. The Council discusses goals. The Province Leader writes a letter of affirmation. The community reviews the goals periodically and, hopefully, sends reviews to the Province Leader. Yet there seemed to be one thing missing...the celebration and sharing of goals among all of us.

At the Missioning Service in August, Sr. Carol asked that the growth in Trinitarian Love and community would be part of all communities' considerations. Here are a few of the creative ways our communities have answered this request. The list touches on the spirit that permeates all our communities and reveals a limited number of ways we establish unity in diversity. We live "one heart and one soul".

St. Mary's Community goals included to, "invite other SSCMs in our area to share our monthly retreat day." The result is that communities in the Kankakee area come together regularly to discuss Bread and Candlelight, the history of the US province. Sr. Agnes supplies the discussion questions. Also, St. Mary's "encourages our sisters in other regions". As Sisters Carol and Marie-Ange learned when they were in Canada, the letter of support sent to the Canadian provinces made a teary and

## PRESENCE

The Eternal One who speaks, "I AM" calls us into being--- that we, too, can say, "I am".

We "BE" because I AM speaks...

Our "esse" reflects the essence of the ESSE of I AM.

We dare to BE at hand, now here, now there, "praeesse," that is, to *be* before the ONE. To answer, "Present!" when our name is called.

What mystery, and audacity resides within that word...

our **presence** but pure gift of love that I AM begets to each.

Sr. Mary K. Himens, sscm

grateful impression on those who received it.

Our own Martha and Mary, of Community of Our Lady, state our focus well when they write: “There will be times that we might need to be the ‘Martha’ and other times we might need to be the ‘Mary’.” Contemplation in action is their theme and St. Teresa of Calcutta’s prayer, A Simple Path, is prayed each Sunday to set the tone for the activities and challenges of the week ahead.

The women of Our Lady of Grace hold the strong desire to form “a community of friends” among themselves. Their goals indicate a strong path to realize this vision: Sharing of the Heart, spending time together centered on ways to get to know each other better and a creative approach to their prayer in common.

The goals of Sacred Heart Community reflect the many needs and activities of that mission area. Marybeth and Dorothee wish to strengthen their community bonds by striving for “collaboration, dialogue, openness” in “moments of enjoyment, forgiveness and simplicity” as they “share about our days, our plans, our needs, our feelings in a spirit of love and care.” Witnessing to our charism is a prime motivating factor for them.

The women of Holy Heart of Mary reflect a variety of ways our charism is lived: vowed membership, a candidate for vows, a Servant Companion, a lay woman living ‘the Moisan Way’ (limited life with and in community). In themselves, this community is a model of innovation whose desire is to “be transformed into a loving presence to each other.” Their means include educational input from books and tapes by Thomas Merton and Richard Rohr. Guest speakers Linda Hatton and Agnes Cunningham will speak on prayer, sharing and habitas. Community members will become even more respectful by “not correcting, judging or being thorny to each other”.

The Sisters of St. Anne Community are deepening their community life by developing the first three points included in the orientation “cultivate the culture of encounter.” They will strengthen vocation outreach by inviting some of the eighth grade religion class and other classes into their home for prayer and discussion. They will spend time each month relaxing together without T.V. and during Advent and Lent, they will set aside Wednesday evenings as non-T.V. time. Engaging with all of creation, the group will read and share information on Laudato Si.

Mercy Community is a laboratory for future leadership. You will recall they are living

“superior-less”. According to the Fundamental Code, there are duties and, by extension, services that a local leader gives. After discernment earlier this year, they requested to share those services among themselves. As an offshoot of this task, they wish to cultivate a culture of encounter. Some of the special ways they are living this hope include, “celebrating birthdays and feast days,” using a reflective praying of the Our Father at Vespers each day and “accepting one another’s abilities, as well as having the freedom to accept our own limitations in order to embrace the joy of living as the Spirit leads...”.

After reading snippets of the goals that impel us to better life and service, it is proudly we remember that “where one of us is, all of us are”. This article is presented with the hope that it will show the work of the Holy Spirit in our communities and spur us on to ask one another, “how is it going for you”?

We Remember, We Celebrate,  
We Believe,  
\*11-20-16...  
Kathleen Marie Rickelman  
\*12-15-16...  
Johanna Murphy  
\*3-24-17...  
Jerome Marie Menard  
\*7-20-17...  
Francis Marie Schaffer  
\*7-26-17...  
Inga Frank  
\*9-03-17...  
Patricia Kieffer