

Proclaiming Hope

Called to be a healing presence

Spring
2018



When God Called, Sr. Kimberly Ann Kessler Answered
To Africa, With Love

Exploring the Depths of Our Charism
Of Global Concern: Human Trafficking



Sisters of the
Redeemer

Greetings from the *Sisters of the Redeemer*!

Dear Friends,



After a brief hiatus, we take up, once again, sharing news with you through *Proclaiming Hope*! I begin with my personal hope that the New Year has already brought good health and great happiness to you and your families. As we look forward with gratitude to the hope that springtime *proclaims*, we include in our prayers of thanks each of you and are so grateful for your support of our shared mission.

As I think about the purpose of our newsletter and compose this short greeting, I am contemplating the power of words. The childhood rhyme that reassured us that "words can never hurt me" is regrettably naïve. As we all well know, words can be deeply hurtful when carelessly chosen or, sadly, when purposely selected for their ability to harm. We are subject to this all too often through news broadcasts, social media and other sources of information stemming from our country and our world.

Our newsletter's two-word title, *Proclaiming Hope*, was chosen after a great deal of thought about what we hoped the publication would accomplish. It is our hope that this newsletter provides a gentle reminder that virtues like love, truth, generosity, and compassion are eternally flowing through our world, however obscured they may be by the sometimes louder noise of anger, ego, fear, and ignorance. It is our belief, and a central aspect of our faith, that hope exists at all times and in all places. And so, we use this newsletter, as well as the beauty of words and photos of our new website (www.RedeemerSisters.org), to proclaim the existence of hope, and to bring you news of people and events that demonstrate hope in action.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter. Whether or not your name or picture appears here, please know that when we proclaim hope, we are celebrating the unique and irreplaceable contribution that each of you makes to our shared mission and to our world.

Sr. Anne Marie Haas, CSR

Sr. Anne Marie Haas, CSR, Province Leader



"and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" Romans 5:5

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Sr. Mary David Kopczynski, CSR died peacefully at St. Joseph Manor on September 4, and returned to the Redeemer to whom she dedicated her life. A few months earlier Sr. Mary David celebrated her 50th Jubilee of Religious Profession.

Born in Trenton, NJ on April 24, 1945 she was given the name Patricia by her parents Helena and Edmund. She was the oldest of four children and the only daughter. In 1964, Sister entered the Congregation. Attracted to the Hebrew scripture story of the shepherd boy, David, she requested and was given the name Mary David. She tended to the sick and elderly as a Nurse's Aide and later as a Licensed Practical Nurse at St. Joseph Manor. Sr. Mary David had a great ability to reach beyond her own issues of health into the lives of others with a compassionate heart, a listening ear and a joyful spirit.

Sr. Mary David is deeply missed by us all. As we returned her home to her Redeemer we found comfort in the words of her Jubilee Motto:
"My Redeemer is mine and I am His."

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Sisters of the Redeemer



www.RedeemerSisters.org

When God Called, Sister Kimberly Ann Kessler Answered

Sister Kimberly Ann Kessler professed her Perpetual Vows as a Sister of the Redeemer on December 9 at the Redeemer Sisters' Chapel in Huntingdon Valley. Her journey as a Sister began long before the affiliate stage.

"Kim" grew up in Northeast Philadelphia. She studied at Manor Junior College and Arcadia College majoring in pre-physical therapy and psychology. At this time Kim began an internship with Holy Redeemer Health System. This internship led to a job in the Rehabilitation Department of St. Joseph Manor.

Kim was raised Presbyterian. Church was not something her family regularly attended but Christian values were important in her upbringing. Working at St. Joseph Manor she was first exposed to the Catholic faith through her work friend, Helen Vogt, and Sr. Bartholomew Proell, a Sister of the Redeemer.

Sr. Bartholomew invited Kim to Mass, prayer services and events with the Sisters. This was unfamiliar to Kim but she was interested in learning more.

Helen told Kim she needed to tell Sr. Bartholomew that she was not Catholic. Helen knew Sr. Bartholomew was under the impression that Kim was Catholic. At dinner with the Sisters, Kim was asked what parish she was from. Her response was: "I'm not from any parish. I'm not Catholic!".

Sr. Bartholomew saw something in Kim that she did not see in herself. She helped Kim with the process of becoming Catholic at Our Lady of Calvary Church. Sr. Bartholomew knew God was calling Kim to become a Sister.

Sr. Kim recalls "There was a yearning from within my heart and soul and I wanted to grow deeper in prayer. This was foreign and scary to me, it was a mystery. I kept questioning my prayer life and my faith. What did I know about praying and attending Mass regularly? But, God kept drawing me back to the Sisters and I wanted to be with them."

When Kim visited the Sisters' Motherhouse in Germany she realized God was truly calling her to life as a Sister, particularly as a Sister of the Redeemer. She began the process of applying to the Congregation and began initial formation in 2006.

Sr. Kim's family initially had a difficult time understanding what it meant to become a Sister and why she was choosing this life. During her years of formation and education they began to accept her calling. Her father, sister, brother, their spouses, children, relatives and many friends were there to support her on the day she professed Perpetual Vows.

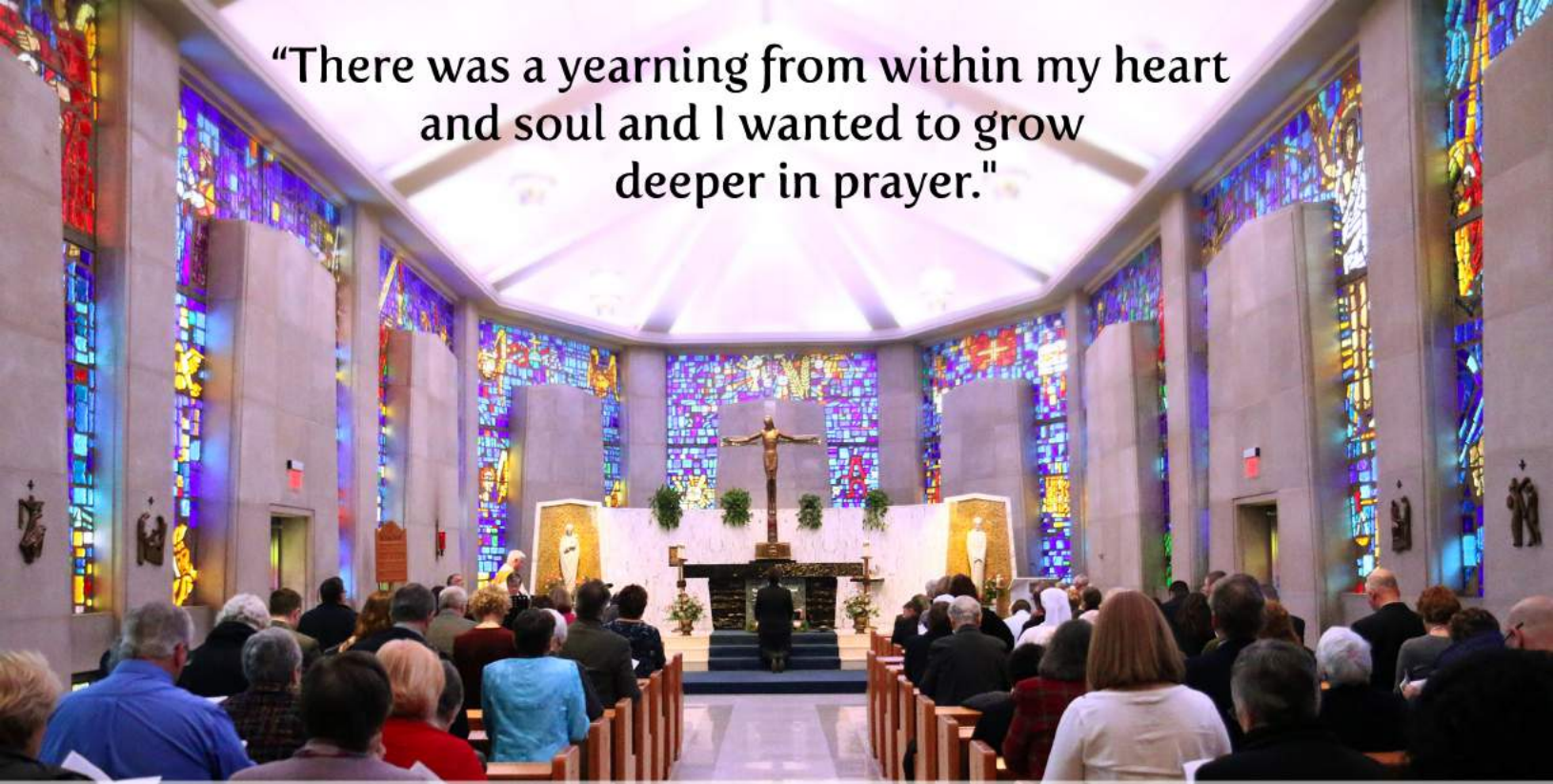
Although her mother, Diane, may not have been there, she passed away six years ago, she was looking down upon her. The ring placed on Sr. Kim's finger during her vows, signifying her 'Yes' to religious life forever, was her mother's wedding ring and holds great significance.



Sr. Kimberly's father John embraces her after she professes her vows.

For more information on the formation process visit www.RedeemerSisters.org/vocations/formation

"There was a yearning from within my heart
and soul and I wanted to grow
deeper in prayer."



Sr. Kimberly is the Director of Vocations for the Sisters of the Redeemer and enjoys accompanying others who are exploring their call. She also serves as a Pastoral Care Associate at Holy Redeemer Hospital and St. Joseph Manor and is a healing presence to those she ministers to and with.





Welcome Home!

In response to the influx of refugees to Europe over the past few years, our Sisters in Germany continue to reach out directly to those who have traveled long and dangerous roads in the hope of a better life for themselves and their children. The most recent form of this outreach has been to create a home at our Motherhouse in Würzburg, Germany for those seeking more permanent housing. The space, renovated and prepared to provide dignity, safety and security to those in need of shelter was blessed last November 2017 by Würzburg's Auxiliary Bishop Ulrich Boom. The area can accommodate 60 refugees and is planned to offer a longer housing solution rather than that provided by emergency shelters. The Sisters, their staff and volunteers welcome the infirm, pregnant women, families and very vulnerable people as they are known for provision of quality services to the most ill. Sister Monika Edinger, General Superior, shared: "We are glad that we can help the people in accordance with the spirituality of the Sisters of the Redeemer: By our love for life, Redemption becomes visible".



*The work of justice will be peace; the effect of justice, calm and security forever.
My people will live in peaceful country, in secure dwellings and quiet resting places.
Isaiah 32:17-18*





To Africa,

With Love

Sisters profess vows in the presence of Bishop Titus Mdoe, Bishop of Tanzania, and Sr. Monika Edinger (left), General Superior, in the Chapel of the Regional House in Mtwara, Tanzania.

In October of 2017 Sister Anne Marie Haas, Province Leader, and Michael Laign, President and CEO of Holy Redeemer Health System, traveled to East Africa to spend time with the Sisters of the Redeemer in Tanzania. Joining General Superior, Sr. Monika Edinger, and Martin Stapper, Administrator of the Sisters' hospitals in Germany, they were led to various ministry sites by Sr. Tadea Mpanda, Regional Superior of Tanzania. The group visited places founded and managed by the Sisters including schools and health centers.

The purpose of the trip was to see the ministries and to learn from the Tanzanian people their ways of providing education and health care as well as to listen to their needs and hopes for the future. Inspired by the strength and creativity of the Tanzanian people, Michael Laign commented: "I'm so amazed at how much they do with so little". The Sisters have done "much with so little" for 60 years. In August they will celebrate the founding of this mission in 1958 by the German Sisters of the Redeemer.

Sr. Anne Marie and Michael visited the Redeemer pre-primary and primary school in Chamazi, an area of Dar es Salaam the former capital and largest city of Tanzania. Due to a recent addition to the school, it now provides education up to the seventh grade. It was a great joy for the guests to witness the growth of the school and to spend time being inspired by the students' presentations.

While there, Sr. Anne Marie and Michael were blessed to attend the Perpetual Profession of two Sisters, along with the First Profession and Renewal of Vows of other young Tanzanian women. Also during this time, the unexpected death of Sr. Hannelore Pfeffer occurred. Sister was the first German Sister of the Redeemer to die in Tanzania. Her funeral and burial were prepared solely by the local Parish and villagers from areas where Sister had served. Her life was celebrated with honor with Bishop Titus Mdoe presiding.

The Redeemer Congregation looks forward to continuing to tell the story of the Sisters in Tanzania and hopes to extend the opportunity to friends and benefactors to further support and experience the beauty of the Redeemer presence in East Africa. In August of this year, Sisters Ellen Marvel and Kim Kessler will attend the blessing of the new addition to the school in Chamazi as well as celebrate with the Sisters for their 60th Anniversary.

Exploring the Depths of Our Charism



Three Sisters of the Redeemer, two Redeemer Associates and Fr. Joseph Driscoll, member of the Holy Redeemer Ministries Sponsor Board, traveled to Würzburg, Germany and Oberbronn, France from July 28 through August 5, 2017. While in France, the group participated in the International Committee on Redeemer Identity, Charism and Spirituality, which focused on the original foundation of the Congregation. Fr. Joe, Srs. Anita Bolton and Kimberly Kessler along with Redeemer Associates Rose Fisher and Anna Marie Kozakowski met Sister Anne Marie Haas in Germany where they visited the Motherhouse and spent time with the Sisters there.

After two days in Germany the group traveled to Oberbronn, France to join the Committee which took place over the course of four days. They were joined by Sisters and laity from Germany and Tanzania. It was important that the laity were included because the mission of the Sisters and the mission of the laity are seen as one.

"There was a complete peace that came over me" shared Anna Marie Kozakowski reflecting on her experience. While there with her companions, she kept thinking "this is what the kingdom of God is". When the committee began, Anna Marie said she was worried about the language barrier. Translators interpreted after each person spoke since there were people from four different countries participating. During the time of interpretation, she was able to write key points of interest down that she knows she would have lost had she not had those moments of pause. The language barrier "became a blessing".

Sr. Katarina Kristofova, a Sister of the Divine Redeemer and postulator of Mother Alphonse Maria Eppinger's beatification, facilitated the event. Sisters of the Most Holy Savior, Sisters of the Divine Redeemer and Sisters of the Redeemer are the three orders that were founded under Mother Alphonse Maria. All three Congregations enthusiastically anticipate their Foundress' beatification later this year.

During their time the committee explored what inspired the heart of their Foundress to carry out works of mercy and how they can continue to share as Sisters and lay ministers in everyday life. The purpose was to study and reflect together in a deeper way and to identify and relate their charism and spirituality to current times. This collaborative effort includes partners in mission in the United States, Tanzania, and Germany. The committee reached their goal of creating a better understanding of the Redeemer Charism and Spirituality.

Sr. Anita Bolton feels it was a gift to have the lay women and Fr. Joe participating on the journey. "My heart is grateful for the experience of participating in our International Committee. The vivifying presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit were with us during our days of reflection, learning, sharing and praying" she said of the whole experience.

Redeemer Ministry Corps

Celebrates While Continuing To Grow



Left to Right- Betty Jablonski, Sr. Rubina Schiller, Anita Bolton, Regina Toscani 1982/1983



Regina Scheller 2017/2018

In August the Missioning Mass of Redeemer Ministry Corps' newest volunteer commemorated the 35th anniversary of the Redeemer Ministry Corps (RMC) program. The program began in 1982 with the Sister's vision of working collaboratively with the laity who wish to commit themselves to the Charism of the Sisters for a year of service, faith exploration and community living. Today, Redeemer Ministry Corps continues to invite women and men who desire to be a caring, comforting and healing presence to those in need through service in healthcare, social services, education and care for the environment.

For 2017/2018, Redeemer Ministry Corps welcomed Regina Scheller to serve for the year as Activities Assistant at St. Joseph Manor. Regina joins us from Germany and is following in the footsteps of 127 former volunteers.

It does not stop there, the Mission and Charism of the Sisters continue to live on in the RMC volunteers well after their year of service. Many RMCs have continued on in the healthcare profession, social services and education. Some continue to work at the sites in which they have served. Others have become Redeemer Associates and Sisters of the Redeemer.

Many alumni have left their time as a RMC with a greater understanding of the value of the ministry of presence. Kathleen Ogle, volunteer 2000/2001, completed the program saying "I will take with me many good memories of the people I met and my experiences here. The biggest challenge I faced was learning how to be with people who are in physical, emotional and/or spiritual pain. I learned that while there may not be anything I can do to change the circumstances, my willingness to be present to and walk with the person who is suffering could make a big difference".

Applications for the 2018/2019 volunteers are now being accepted through June 5. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Redeemer Ministry Corps program visit our website for more information, www.hrmcorps.org.

Redeemer Ministry Corps has expanded their long-term volunteer opportunity to offer a short-term Summer Garden Internship beginning this summer. This opportunity is available to students 18 years of age and older. It provides hands-on experience to care for the earth through service at Redeemer Valley Garden. Interns will serve in the garden for three weeks, learn about sustainable growing practices and have a chance to grow spiritually and live together in community. Applications are due April 1, 2018. Program information and application details can be found on our website, www.hrmcorps.org/ministries/summer-garden-internship.



Sister Ernesta Huth, C.S.R.

*First Redeemer Sister Missionary in
Tanzania Celebrates 90th Birthday
and 65th Jubilee of Religious Profession*



Sr. Ernesta was born on February 26, 1928 in the village of Kahl, Bavaria. She professed her first vows as a Sister of the Redeemer on March 6, 1953. In 1957, Sr. Ernesta was among the first from a small number of Sisters from Germany who went to Tanzania, where the Benedictine Brothers were serving.

When it was time for the Sisters to return to Germany, as it was never planned that the Sisters would stay, Sr. Ernesta expressed a desire to remain in Tanzania and her request was granted. After a brief return to Germany, Sr. Ernesta, who had previously learned to speak English, traveled to Ndanda to learn Swahili.

When Sr. Ernesta returned once again to Tanzania and the village of Luagala, there was a house but no furnishings for the Sisters. The Bishop of Ndanda, with the help of a Benedictine Brother and members of the local community, provided furnishings. The house was suitable for occupation in August of the following year, when three more Sisters arrived from Germany to serve. The development of the mission was so rapid that it was overwhelming not only for the Sisters but also for the older villagers.

Sr. Ernesta remarked that there was a noticeable difference between the first students and the current students in the schools of the Sisters. In the beginning, there was little to no education in the area; only four students were literate. No one else in the village could read or write.

Sister would ask the students if they understood what she was saying. While they replied that they did understand, they were unable to tell her what she had said. Sr. Ernesta then realized that the students did well with handwork, such as braiding reeds into mats for sleeping. Sr. Ernesta fondly recalls such times and misses them.

The school minister of the area allowed three teachers to come to the school to teach Swahili, English and mathematics. This raised the students' level of education. The school minister allowed students who did well on examinations to begin training as teachers. Many of these students continue as teachers today.

Sr. Ernesta recalled that more than 200 former students returned to the school on the occasion of the 25th jubilee of its foundation. She noted that this celebration was important to them and that they enjoyed spending time in the place where they had been educated.

Sister fondly recalls her many years in Africa and continues to bring much joy to the lives of her students past and present, including young Tanzanian Sisters for whom she served as Formation Director.

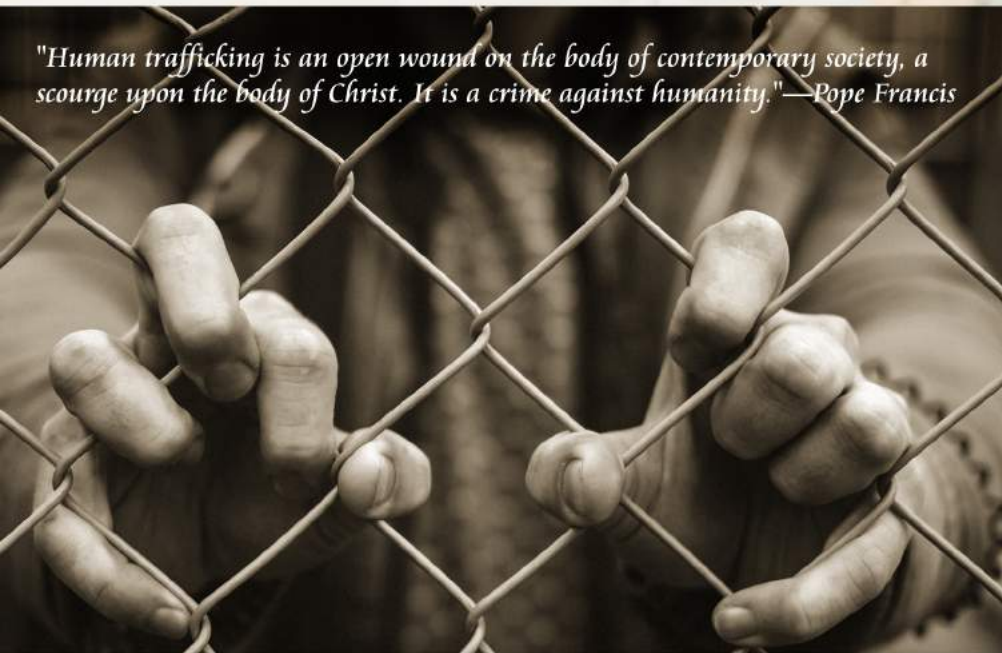
If you would like to make a donation in honor of Sr. Ernesta's 90th birthday and 65th Jubilee of Religious Profession or the 60th anniversary of the mission in Tanzania, please see the attached envelope.



Of Global Concern

Human Trafficking

"Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity."—Pope Francis



Oh God, we didn't see them.
But you did—
The hundreds and thousands of human beings
Trafficked each year to join the millions who are trapped in
modern day slavery.
Under terrible conditions, they work in factories, plow fields,
harvest crops, work quarries, fill brothels, clean homes, and
haul water.

Many are children with tiny fingers for weaving rugs
and small shoulders for bearing rifles.
Their labor is forced, their bodies beaten, their faces hidden
from those who don't really want to see them.

But you see them all, God of the poor.
You hear their cry and you answer
by opening our eyes, and breaking our hearts
and loosening our tongues to insist:

No mas. No more.

Amen

A mandate set forth by our
Congregational General Chapter of 2013
centered on determining ways to raise
awareness and to educate Sisters and
partners-in-mission on the sin of human
trafficking. Referred to as modern day
slavery, this disease infecting the global
community is fixed on viewing human
beings as property to be used and abused
under duress and coercion.

Education on human trafficking is
available from various sources. Please
take time to read these or other resources
that will increase your awareness and
knowledge of how and where persons,
often young children, are being bought
and sold at the hands of evil perpetrators.
You may be surprised to learn that this
occurs very close to home.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline
(1-888-373-7888)
www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/
www.crs.org/get-involved/learn/slavery-and-human-trafficking
www.ssnd.org
www.PolarisProject.org
www.acf.hhs.gov/otip
www.StopHumanTrafficking.org





Sisters of the Redeemer

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Watercolor on Canvas by Sr. Ana Dura 2018. A Sister of the original Congregation of Mother Alphonse Maria Eppinger offers hospitality to a mother and her young children at a convent in France.

www.RedeemerSisters.org