



Since the early days of our foundation in Assisi, the Sisters of St. Clare have always had a strong commitment to contemplative prayer; that commitment continues today. In addition, in response to the current needs of the church here in Florida, we are focused on:

Evangelization: RCIA, Small Christian Communities, Generations of Faith, Catholics Coming Home and other similar faith formation activities.

Pastoral Ministries: Eucharist to the Homebound, Bereavement, Ministering to the Divorced and Separated, Social Justice and Outreach Ministries.

Youth Ministries

EMPOWERING THOSE TO WHOM WE MINISTER

Good News

FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. CLARE, FLORIDA REGION

NEW REGIONAL LEADER ELECTED

In accordance with our Congregation's constitution, elections were held in January. Sr. Phyllis Shaughnessy was elected to serve as Florida Regional Leader for two (2) years and will collaborate with the Abbess General on apostolic and administrative activities throughout the Florida Region. Although Sr. Phyllis is the first Regional Leader to be born in the United States - she was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida - during her Formation she had assignments in California and Ireland and later went to El Salvador where she spent twelve (12) years doing missionary work there while that country was in the midst of a civil war.

On her return to the USA in 1992 Sr. Phyllis was involved in the establishment of a house of Formation for novices. After that, she served in Parish ministry at Espiritu Santo in Safety Harbor, and she currently serves at St. Jude Cathedral in St. Petersburg where her parish ministries include working with parish youth and organizing retreats for many groups - including the handicapped - throughout the St. Petersburg Diocese. In spite of a full schedule Sr. Phyllis says that she is energized by her new challenge and will continue with her parish ministry as before. She asks for your prayers as she takes on her new responsibility.

The Sisters would like to thank Sr. Lucia Brady who has served as Regional Leader for the past nine (9) years. Sr. Lucia acknowledges that

some of the most challenging experiences were also very gratifying. "Caring for Sr. Josephine Rooney, who died in 2002 and for Sr. Cecilia McDonnell, who died in 2004 was an amazingly spiritual experience. I am also grateful for the support I have enjoyed while serving as Regional from all the Sisters, from my pastor, Msgr. Brendan Muldoon, from parish leaders and from the community in general".

Sr. Lucia joined the Sisters of St. Clare in Newry, Ireland. After College she taught in St. Clare's Primary school in Cavan for nine years and was Principal there for a further nine years. In 1988 under the auspices of the Episcopal Commission for Emigrants in Ireland and Catholic Charities of New York she came to New York where she ministered to the undocumented Irish Immigrants. On coming to Florida in 1990 she ministered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Holiday Florida and since 1997 has been Pastoral Assistant at St. Jerome Parish in Largo. She serves on the Commission for Religious of the Diocese and the board of ASAP, an organization dedicated to assisting the homeless and underprivileged in Pinellas county.

You can learn more about each of the Sisters in the Florida Region by visiting www.sistersofstclare.org/album.php. and clicking on the image of a particular Sister.



Sr. Phyllis Shaughnessy



Sr. Lucia Brady





Sisters of St. Clare



New IRA Law Provides a Golden Opportunity for Donors.

A new law which will expire at the end of 2007, provides a tax-advantaged way our friends can partner financially in our ministries. If you are over age 70, you can easily "roll over" any amount (up to \$100,000) directly from your IRA to the Sisters of St. Clare. The amount will qualify as a charitable distribution and will also count toward the required minimum distribution from your IRA for 2007. Most importantly, the distribution will not risk an increase of your tax bracket or the taxation of your Social Security benefits. For more information, please visit www.sistersofstclare.org/gift.php#link2 and be sure to check with your financial and tax advisors.

May the Lord be with you always.



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OPENS IN DECEMBER

We have established a Development Office which, through its volunteer staff, will help the Sisters address the challenges presented by the decline in the number of new vocations and the aging of the existing members of the Congregation. If you are willing to contribute your ideas, your talent or your

time, please call the Development Office at (727) 593-8195 or write us at osc@sistersofstclare.com. Most of all, please pray for the success of the Development office efforts so that we may be able to continue our mission as Sisters of St. Clare.



Volunteers work to assemble the Sisters' 2007 Calendar. Please call us at (727) 593-8195 if you have not received our complimentary calendar.

IN MEMORIAM

Several of our friends passed away recently: Mike Brennan - September 5, 2006; Diane Geary, daughter of our long-time friends Mike and Mary Geary - October 30, 2006; Joan Barrett, sister of Nora Hunt - January 11, 2007; and, Michael McHarg, brother-in-law of Sr. Kathleen Luger - January 28, 2007.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

YOUR HELP - THANK YOU

Many people have asked how they can help. First, we ask for your prayers. Please be assured of our prayers for you as we begin the Lenten season. We invite you to send us your prayer intentions in the enclosed envelope.

difference in our lives and the lives of those we serve. Please consider remembering the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Clare (Florida), Inc. (our legal name) in your Wills.

Many people - including anonymous donors - have also partnered financially in our ministries. We appreciate your continued generosity. Your gifts make a

Volunteers knowledgeable in financial matters advised us that there are ways of giving that may be beneficial to our donors. Please visit our website for more information - sistersofstclare.org.php

empowering those to whom we minister
Sisters of St. Clare, Florida Region / 11235 Apache Place / Largo, FL 33774 / (727)593-8195 / www.sistersofstclare.org